



Taiko rhythms, Sunday

Mayu, Kai and Hero will be performing with Byron Taiko Drummers as part of this Sunday's annual Matsuri Japan Byron Bay Festival. Master drummer, Ryuji, will also feature. This free traditional cultural festival includes food and market stalls, and runs from 2pm until 8pm at the Byron YAC, located at 1 Gilmore Crescent, Byron. Photo Jeff 'Tapping And Thwacking Since 1986' Dawson

Every effort made

Paul Bibby

Whale strandings, like the one that occurred at Seven Mile Beach last weekend, are likely to become more common because of the growth in the east coast humpback population, a rescue and research organisation says.

The stranding and subsequent death of the 30-tonne mammal produced widespread distress and concern within the local community, including questions about why the stranding occurred, and what was done to try and save it.

In an interview with ABC North Coast on Monday morning, Skippy Love from the Organisation for the Rescue and Research of Cetaceans in Australia (ORRCA), said there were likely to be more such incidents in the future.

'As you're seeing the increasing numbers, which is fantastic to see as part of the [population's] recovery, you're going to see increased cases of strandings,' Ms Love said.

'They're the closest they've been

to the shore in 13 years.

'The water's also clearer than it's been in recent years - we've had the floods and the fires polluting the waters. The animals want to take the quickest route on their migration and that's taking them closer to the shore this year.'

Medical cause suspected

Ms Love said that it was not known why the whale, estimated to be between five and ten years old, became stranded, but that a medical cause was suspected.

'No one can say for sure, and each case is individual,' she said.

'But when it's a single mammal like this, it's quite often a result of sickness or injury, and I think clearly this animal was compromised. It could have died from natural causes. The animal was in good body condition, so you'd have to think there was some kind of internal medical condition. We all come to the end of our time.'

Foundation and Head
► Continued on page 3

Local water strategy released

The NSW Labor government released its *Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy* on Tuesday, in which it describes 'a clear vision for the future of sustainable water from Tweed Heads to Evans Head, Kyogle to Casino, Lismore to Byron Bay and everywhere in between'.

The press release by Minister for Water and the North Coast, Rose Jackson, claims the framework was 'developed through extensive planning and consultation' and the strategy's key priorities over the next 20 years and beyond were 'safeguarding town water supplies, boosting the resilience of natural

systems, improving river connectivity and delivering better First Nations outcomes'.

According to the document, available at water.dpie.nsw.gov.au, 25 actions were developed to 'help to improve the Far North Coast's readiness to adapt to a more variable climate'.

Population growth biggest impact

As for how climate change will impact the region, the strategy says, 'Intense storm events could become more frequent; however, it is uncertain if the severity of

associated flooding will also increase. Storm surges and inundation of low-lying areas could also increase'.

And on page 53, the strategy says, 'Over the next 40 years, population growth in the Far North Coast is likely to have a greater impact on water supply security than climate change'.

Seven 'key challenges' that are the initial focus for the region are: 'Declining catchment and river health; competition for low flows; saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources; Aboriginal people's rights and access to water; water security for industries in

► Continued on page 3



Many agencies quickly responded at Seven Mile Beach after a Humpback beached itself on Saturday. Carig Parry Photography

Council compromises on car park housing plan ► p7

North Coast news ► p8

Catherine Cusack unpacks the Gladys Trap ► p10



Arts in focus in this week's feature ► p22

Culture, music, cinema - be entertained with Seven ► p25

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Pictured: Marissa Treichel and the Cassettes.
Photo: Alex Moffat Clarke



www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Nearly \$13k raised for Fletcher St Cottage

As the sun was rising on Saturday's Gold Coast half marathon; Byron Bay's very own 'Off The Street On Our Feet' team crossed the finishing line.

As reported last week, a group of locals who have experienced homelessness firsthand trained for the event to raise much needed funds for Byron's Fletcher Street Cottage and to break stereotypes around homelessness. As an essential service, the cottage receives no ongoing government funding.

Co-organiser Mathew Broster told *The Echo*, 'What I witnessed, felt and lived through during those 21 kilometres, was like nothing I've ever experienced in my entire life.'

'At different stages, there were tears of pride, inspiration and joy. The emotions,



From left: team leader, service user and organiser, Mathew Broster; with Robert De Castella (considered as Australia's greatest marathon runner) and Fletcher Street Cottage service user, Rhys Marin. Photo Indigenous Marathon Foundation

the meaningful connections and the unspoken moments – where I could barely speak – were all part of the conclusion to this 11-week journey.'

Broster said he was incredibly inspired by his fellow runners.

'Like so many of us, I've had pre-conceived, conditioned, and programmed responses to those experiencing homelessness. I now realise it is all nonsense. Some of the most beautiful moments I have ever

experienced were during Saturday's half marathon, and as for seeing raw strength, determination, and stamina, it was all revealed in such an epic way. For that, I am so proud!'

'The Fletcher Street Cottage would like to send out a huge thank you for all the community support, and collaboration for helping us successfully raise almost \$13,000 for our cottage.

'Another huge thank you goes out to the Byron Bay Runners Club, for not only holding "Off The Street On Our Feet" accountable for 36 training runs, but for all your coaching, leadership, empowerment and especially for your friendship and counselling.'

For more information on Fletcher Street Cottage, or to donate, visit www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au.

More misleading statements from NRRC

Aslan Shand & Hans Lovejoy

Last week, the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) was subsumed into the NSW Reconstruction Authority, which is 'dedicated to disaster prevention, preparedness, recovery, and reconstruction'.

It follows the dissolution of the similarly inept Resilience NSW in November last year, after the 2022 NSW Flood Inquiry found it was ineffective.

Both the outgoing NRRC and Reconstruction Authority report to NSW Planning Minister, Paul Scully and

Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib MP, thus avoiding parliamentary and public scrutiny.

Further to the unfolding NRRC debacle, NSW Reconstruction Authority CEO, Simon Draper, last week contradicted statements by NRRC CEO, David Witherdin, around what was initially promised.

At his first meeting with the community on November 4, 2022, Witherdin said they were 'predicting that there will be around 2,000 offers to buy properties in the highest risk areas, approximately 2,000 offers to raise houses and another 2,000 offers for retrofitting'.

Questioned on the rewriting of the government's commitment, Mr Draper told a media briefing on June 27, 'If you're going to buy back 2,000 homes, you would

need about \$1.3 billion. That figure was never announced by the government.'

In fact, the government announced a figure of \$1.5B at the time. This was recently pointed out by the seven mayors and three MPS across the Northern Rivers, when they wrote to NSW Premier, Chris Minns, calling for the second tranche of funding that was promised by the previous coalition government, and supported by Labor at the time.

As previously reported, Minns did not appear across the details when asked by Sydney journalists, and said he wanted the first tranche of funding (\$700M) to be spent first, despite that not being enough to fund the entire project.

Meanwhile, the NRRC have avoided naming the members

of a newly formed appeals panel, who will adjudicate disputes with home owners rejected from the NRRC's Resilient Homes Program.

Anon appeals panel

When asked 'who is on the panel, and what are they paid?', a spokesperson told *The Echo* the panel is independent, and 'a mixture of senior executives from the NSW government, who are not connected to NRRC or the Resilient Homes Program.' Some members will be 'compensated', the NRRC said, but they did not say how much.

The Echo is still seeking answers from MP Paul Scully, who is one minister responsible for NRRC. *The Echo* has asked whether Scully believes the NRRC 'has acted in good faith with the North Coast community'.

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Prep time for Splendour!

While the Splendour headliners usually get all the attention, a consistent theme throughout the festival's 22-year history is the imaginative, interactive artworks by Andy Forbes. His team have been tormenting and corrupting the impressionable, festival-going youth across the nation, with acts such as The Church of 2 Hands and a Chicken, The Pickles Family Funeral Parlour, The Tent of Miracles, and Santa's little SweatShop. Pictured with Andy is co-collaborator, Arabella Vargas. Photo Jeff 'Tormented Since 1986' Dawson

Byron business awards for Aug

The Byron Business Chamber have announced the 2023 Byron Business Awards, which will be 'a prestigious event that recognises and celebrates outstanding growth, entrepreneurship, and success across the Byron Shire'.

A regional awards gala dinner is planned for Saturday, October 21. Entries are now open, and the closing date is Monday July 24. Finalists will be announced Monday, August 7.

Organisers say the awards offer an opportunity for brand awareness, collaborations and partnerships 'that can propel your business forward'.

To get involved, visit byronbay.awardsplatform.com.



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Cr Pugh mute on his claims around good governance

Hans Lovejoy

Councillor, Asren Pugh (Labor), is yet to reply to *Echo* questions around his accusation that the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) lacks detail and public consultation on their development plans, while also leading a secret vote on Council's own 'affordable housing' development plans at their last meeting.

Within the same Council meeting of June 22, Cr Pugh was successful in moving two motions – one that was critical of the NRRC's land strategy, and another, which



Councillor Asren Pugh (Labor). Photo supplied

originated in a confidential meeting, that discussed developing a busy Mullum car park into 'affordable housing'.

Council's GM, Mark Arnold, rejected *The Echo's* request for associated documents to be publicly available on its affordable housing project, a position supported by Mayor Michael Lyon.

This is despite asking for the documents to have commercial in confidence information redacted.

The Echo asked, 'Why the Council secrecy, Asren?'

'Is it acceptable to be telling the NRRC there is a lack of details around their housing plans, when Council is doing basically the same? How is this not hypocritical?'

The Echo also asked, 'Do

you agree that competent and honest councillors should be able to argue their case and vote in public at all times, and should be able to refrain from blurting out sensitive commercial in confidence information?'

'As an elected councillor, can you please show honesty and integrity with this important matter, and ensure there will be efforts made to "consult with, and bring the community along, in the development and implementation of [the] housing strategy" – your own words'.

A response will be published by *The Echo* if received from Cr Pugh.



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Regional Water Strategy released by NSW Labor govt

► Continued from page 1 the Far North Coast; water security for towns and communities in the Far North Coast; and flood risks to individuals, businesses and communities'.

While groundwater is identified as 'an important source of water for towns and industries', the strategy admits 'We have a limited understanding of coastal

groundwater systems. In particular, we have knowledge gaps on aquifer capacities and on how reliable these groundwater resources are during dry periods'.

The Tweed-Brunswick Coastal Sands groundwater table, located in Tyagrah, is still included in the strategy, along with other identified sources in other shires.

There was no reference

to the controversial Dunoon Dam proposal within the three-part document.

Actions in the strategy include: 'Better supporting local councils to provide secure and affordable water supply systems to towns and improve flood risk management; delivering a river rehabilitation program to enhance the health and water quality of the region's

rivers as well as boosting native fish passage; finding innovative water supply options such as recycled water and managed aquifer recharge; investigating improved use and understanding of groundwater resources; and 'collaborating with First Nations groups to improve Aboriginal businesses, opportunities and cultural outcomes'.

Whale deaths could become more common

► Continued from page 1 Veterinarian at the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital (BBWH), Dr Bree Talbot, told *The Echo* that everything had been done to save the mammal, and then to reduce its suffering, as part of a multi-agency response, involving the BBWH, the NSW Parks and Wildlife Service, ORCCA and experts from Seaworld.

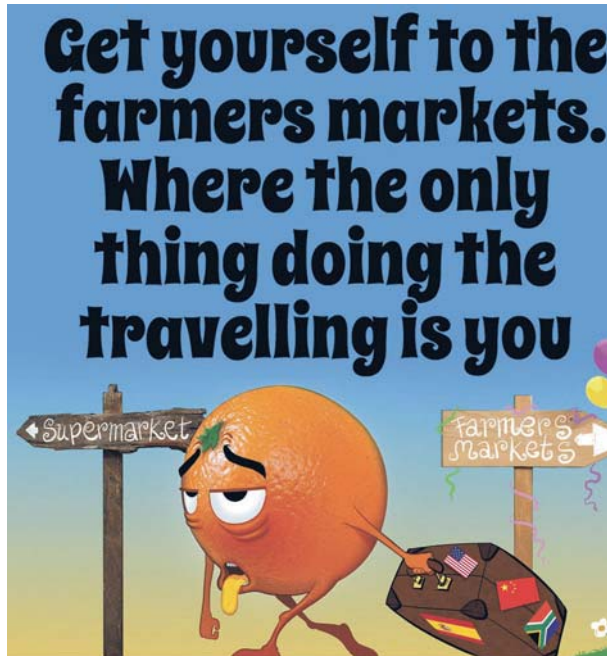
'We all worked together to keep the animal cool – putting water on him with wet towels – providing anti-anxiety/stress medication, and taking blood to analyse how well the animal's body was coping with the event. This helps guide the vets on what the prognosis is for the whale.'

'National Parks co-ordinated with Ballina Council to

help get heavy machinery in to try to move the sand?'

With the rescue attempt proving unsuccessful, the focus of the response shifted to burying the creature in a way that reflected both the traditional practices of the Nyanybal custodians, and the need to ensure public safety and environmental integrity.

With a junior surfing competition, the Skullcandy Oz Groms, due to kick off in Lennox Head on Thursday, it was important to move the dead animal away from the beach where it could attract sharks. In keeping with these considerations, the whale was buried behind the dunes at a depth that was intended to prevent leaching.



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'Yes' campaign launches across the nation

At the start of NAIDOC week (July 2-9), supporters gathered around the country on Sunday to kick off a campaign to support a 'Yes' vote for constitutional recognition and a Voice to parliament at the upcoming referendum.

According to www.pm.gov.au, the upcoming referendum will ask voters to approve the proposed alteration to the Constitution: 'A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.'

New chapter

If adopted, a new chapter (IX) and section (129) will be included in the Constitution:

'In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

'1 There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;

'2 The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;



'Yes' supporters gathered at the Lighthouse on the weekend. Photo supplied

'3 The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.'

Byron Shire groups

Around 30 'Yes' supporters in Byron Bay gathered at the lighthouse for the first 'Yes' to hit Australia.

And in Brunswick Heads, around 80 'Yes' supporters

gathered on the beach to form a YES with their bodies.

Mullumbimby 'Yes' organiser for Richmond, Elia Haugh, was thrilled by the turnout.

'The energy was so positive, inspiring and ready for action!', Elia told *The Echo*.

'This is a moment for us to come together as a community: to acknowledge the 65,000 years of continuous culture and connection to Country, to show we are ready to really listen to a First

Nations Voice and voices, to offer our deep respect for Elders past, present and future through action as well as words.

'We will be holding a Yes Conversations workshop later this month, having stalls at markets and events, and coming together at Brunswick Beach again at 3pm on the first Sunday of every month until the referendum takes place.

'Sign up at yes23.com.au to get involved!'

Artwork on the table for Byron basketball court

Paul Bibby

A basketball court near the centre of Byron Bay would be turned into a giant original artwork under a proposal being considered by Byron Shire Council.

Council has received a proposal from local contemporary artist, Laith McGregor, to transform the little-used court, which lies in the Byron recreation grounds on Tenynson Street.

Under the plan, McGregor, a former winner of the Robert Jacks Drawing Prize, would work with Art Courts Australia to create a dynamic artwork on the surface of the court that is integrated with the existing line markings.

Local youth would be included in the creation of the work, at both the design and implementation phases.

Council's Arts and Culture Officer, Melitta Firth, said in a report on the proposal to Council's Arts and Creative Industries Committee, 'The benefits of reinvigorating the court include increased community use, opportunity for engagement with youth in creation of the work and

creating an iconic artwork by a leading contemporary artist at scale in the heart of Byron Bay.'

'Council is also currently investigating upgrades to this area, considering the proximity to the newly opened Sandhills Estate Skate Park, Jarjumirr Park.

'This project could complement planned upgrades and improve amenity of the area.

'The artist proposes developing three concept designs based on the history of the site, for approval by the Committee, allowing local youth to be involved in the design trajectory, and potentially in the outer margins of the court painting.'

Council would need to allocate an estimated \$36,280 from its public art and arts & culture budgets to fund the project.

The surfaces have been stress tested and are reportedly durable and tolerate different forms of traffic, including heavy machinery.

Nevertheless, it is estimated that an annual budget of \$2,000 is required for pressure cleaning and touch ups.



Expression of Interest to supply catering to Byron Shire Council

We are putting together a list of businesses interested in supplying catering for Council meetings and events for the next 12 months.

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Emerging art on show at the YAC



ARTCAFE artists, from left: Holly, Jax, Malaika and Florence. Photo Jeff Dawson

Last Friday, Byron Youth Service (BYS) hosted an evening in its Hivery Youth Gallery to celebrate the launch of *The Artist Cookbook*, and the opening of the group art exhibition, 'Bridge to Avidity.'

The event showcased an impressive collection of paintings, craft, digital arts, and sculptures from the talented emerging artists of ARTCAFE.

The Artist Cookbook was crafted by participants of ARTCAFE, who are young artists on a journey into the realms of food and art culture.

Under the expert guidance of experienced chef and artist, Karma Barnes, participants explored the intersection between food and art creation, and themes such as identity, fantasy, and wellbeing through creativity.

The exhibition will continue until July 14.

YAC activities

There are also other activities at the Youth Activities Centre (YAC), including a community barber, YAC radio, music, and free

creative workshops in ceramics and zines.

A motorcycle restoration project is also underway, with a 4-stroke Honda XR250R being rebuilt by young people under the supervision of an industry professional.

Also, on Wednesdays from 3.30pm, the Mullum Youth Cottage hosts the Mullum Mooves project.

The YAC is located at 1 Gilmore Crescent, Byron Bay.

For more information, visit www.bys.org.au

Alarm raised over increase in koalas killed by cars

The leading koala conservation organisation in the Northern Rivers say it is 'deeply concerned about the alarming rise in the number of koalas hit and killed by cars in the region'.

Friends of the Koala is urging the public to exercise heightened caution while driving, to avoid further harm to all wildlife.

Save these numbers

A spokesperson said, 'If you see a koala that looks injured, dead or is close to a road, call the 24/7 rescue team on 6622 1233 immediately'.

'Save this number, and the phone numbers of Northern Rivers wildlife rescue organisations in your phone, so you are ready to report any sightings: Northern Rivers Wildlife Carers 6628 1866, WIRES 1300 094 737, and Tweed Valley Wildlife Carers 6672 4789.

'Over the past month, Friends of the Koala has witnessed a distressing surge in koala car hits across the Northern Rivers, with six koalas dying just this week'.

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Council compromises on car park housing plan

Paul Bibby

Mayor Michael Lyon has confirmed that Byron Council will 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.

In a decision made during confidential session at last week's Council meeting, all but one councillor (Greens Cr Duncan Dey) voted in favour of an amended tender process for Council-owned land at 57 Station Street.

Council has been pursuing the plan, located between Milk & Honey Pizza and the former Hoopers restaurant, for 32 one and two-bedroom affordable 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 over the entire site, and offset the losses with extra parking on the periphery of town.

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



Council are moving ahead with selling off public land in Mullum's CBD to a private 'affordable housing' developer.

However, with the housing providers effectively rejecting this proposal, Council has decided to compromise by offering full ownership of the land, in return for an agreement that the site will be used for affordable housing in perpetuity.

General Manager, Mark Arnold, has been given delegated authority to conduct the entire tender process.

Two units slated for Council staff accom

Cr Lyon said that, as part of the deal, Council will take ownership of two units once the block has been built.

These will be used to provide housing for new Council staff trying to get a toe-hold in the Shire's incredibly tight housing market.

'The provisions of the Local Government Act state that we can't dispose of

Council assets for less than their value,' Cr Lyon said.

'So, we're offering it in a way that meets our obligations under the Act.

'A successful tenderer will be required to transfer two of the units back to the Council. We will use those units to provide transitional housing to new staff.

'There are a lot of jobs that we have struggled to fill because the prospective staff can't find anywhere in the area to live. So this will help to address that problem.'

Council has also 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.

Some community members have questioned the selection of the land opposite Tony Carsburg for parking, pointing out that this is not in keeping with the Mullumbimby Masterplan.

'The gateway [into town] is an opportunity to reflect Mullumbimby's green image and establish varied living forms and opportunities within walking distance of the town centre,' the Masterplan states.

Not aligned to town masterplan

However, Cr Lyon said that Council had stuck to the plan as much as possible given the changing circumstances created by the 2022 floods.

'The Masterplan does envisage parking on the periphery of the town, so this is consistent with that goal,' Cr Lyon said. 'We will be creating two-to-three times the parking that is currently available in the Station St car park - we're looking at around 150 spaces being created,' he said.

'So overall there will be a net gain in parking.'

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Echo

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

Flood recovery art show in Ballina

The Northern Rivers Community Gallery and Ignite Studios are inviting the community to the Commemorative Flood Recovery Community Art Exhibition, showing till 9 July and see some amazing original work made by local creatives.

New family law support service

Families impacted by domestic violence and involved in family law proceedings in the regions, including services in locations at Lismore and Coffs Harbour, will have improved access to support as part of a major project expansion.

Will a change to the rates system in Tweed make land valuations fairer?

The effect of recent land valuations between the coast and hinterland was highlighted at last week's Tweed Shire Council meeting with Mayor Chris Cherry bringing a Notice of Motion to examine different ways the rates system could be adjusted to compensate for the disparity.

Nolan and Elliot to and fro over Tweets and housing

In what appears to be an early start to the battle for the seat of Richmond in 2025, Greens Candidate Mandy Nolan has responded to a Tweet by the sitting Member for Richmond Justine Elliot saying the Tweet is inaccurate.

Celebrating innovative local health projects

The Northern New South Wales Local Health District recently held its annual awards ceremony to celebrate innovative local health projects.

NRRC Appeals Panel independent say NRRC

Questions have been raised about the independence of the appeals process for those properties and houses that do not receive assistance from the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation's (NRRC) Resilient Homes Program.

www.echo.net.au

Tweed Council to tackle housing affordability

Aslan Shand

Finding a place to live that is affordable was on last week's Tweed Shire Council's agenda with Mayor Chris Cherry moving a successful Notice of Motion (NoM) to investigate 'an Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme for the Tweed Shire'.

'Tweed Shire has the very, very unfortunate statistic of having the highest increase in homelessness in NSW, in a recent technical paper from last year when a statewide street count was done just prior to "the great flood"', said the mayor.

'We have a massive problem with affordability in our Shire and we can't sit by and not do anything about it'.

During the debate, Cr Rhiannon Brinsmead asked 'what is affordable housing?' pointing out that, 'what is considered affordable for some is really out of reach for others'.

Under the NSW state government's affordable housing SEPP, developers are able to increase the coverage of the site with the

buildings (floor/space ratio) and can reduce the provision of car parks. They are then required to rent out the affordable housing at 80 per cent of market value 'for at least 15 years'. After 15 years the 'affordable housing' returns to the market rate.

However, for many, the so-called 'affordable housing' is still not accessible, with some affordable housing rentals in the region requiring potential renters to have a minimum income of \$100,000 a year to even apply for it.

The NoM specifically highlighted both the Kings Forest and Cobaki development sites, which will provide approximately 20,000 lots for development to be released over the next 20 years. Both sites are being developed by Leda Holdings Pty Ltd.

The motion also sought to create 'a public register of all land that is Council or state-owned in the Tweed Shire that is currently residentially zoned or within a transport corridor/ road reserve'.

Cr Cherry said this was specifically trying to bring the rail corridor into consideration.

Ballina's NAIDOC Celebration Walk not dampened by rain

Photo & story David Lowe

Monday morning saw the temporary closure of River Street in Ballina, for the annual NAIDOC Celebration Walk. The theme of NAIDOC this year is 'For Our Elders'.

Despite the rain, which grew heavier, hundreds of people walked from the park near the RSL Club to the Visitors Centre, for a flag-raising and short ceremony, before morning tea and a barbecue.

The route took the reverse direction of the ANZAC march, and had some parallels with that event, including the mixture of joy and sorrow and a minute's silence before the raising of the flags.



All smiles after 2023 NAIDOC Celebration Walk in Ballina.

Many jarjums joined the march this year, along with their Elders, some of whom travelled in buses at the front, led by a police escort.

'NAIDOC to me is always special,' said MC Les Moran. 'It allows us to showcase

our culture, our history, our language; and to teach our young ones so that they, have something in the future.

NAIDOC celebrations continue all this week across the nation.

Goonellabah Industrial Estate opens

On Monday, Lismore Mayor Steve Krieg joined NSW MP for Lismore, Janelle Saffin, and Federal Member for Page, Kevin Hogan, to open the \$14.2 million Goonellabah Employment Lands project.

The project is 'designed

to unlock the Goonellabah Industrial Estate to spur investment and create more local jobs by extending Oliver Avenue to link with the Bruxner Highway'.

Works included the construction of the Oliver Avenue link, including a new

bridge, a new roundabout and a new public car park.

Lismore City Council say they secured \$11 million from the NSW Government, \$2 million from the Australian government, and contributed \$1.17 million for the project.

Let's talk about anxiety event, July 20

A free forum focussing on conditions of anxiety will be held at the Ballina Byron Island Resort and Conference Centre on July 20 from 5.30 till 8pm.

Presented by the WayAhead Mental Health Association NSW, organisers say, 'this informative forum boasts an excellent range of speakers'.

'Our clinically trained psychologist, Monique Shipp, will address all types of anxiety, including general anxiety, social phobias, panic

attacks, as well as obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD) and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and answer your more in-depth questions in a Q&A session'.

Organisers say there will be real-life stories of people and their carers coping with anxiety, and connections and services offered for those who need it. Ticket reservations are recommended: to book, visit <https://tinyurl.com/3vym4mej>.

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Byron High School students hold Positive Change Market, July 29

Sophie Ferns-Wright

Byron Bay High School is running a recycling event to reduce consumption in relation to fast fashion.

This is the initiative of a team from a year ten Geography class. The market will be hosted on Saturday, July 29 on the school's grounds, from 8am till 12pm.

Entry cost is only a gold coin donation and to book your very own stall, it is only \$25.

As adolescents, we are incredibly aware of the devastating effects climate change will have on our future, and so by creating the Positive Change Market, we hope to help encourage sustainability and limit waste.

We are fundraising money for extracurricular opportunities, and the local charity Zero Emissions as an extension of our support for local sustainable businesses.

Stalls are available to book (\$25) on our website <https://positivechangebbhs.wixsite.com/positivechange/tickets>.

Bring secondhand pre-loved clean clothing you'd like to sell.

The concept is to reuse, recycle and regenerate items not being used, creating more space at home, while encouraging recycling for our environmental health.

Each year, 27 per cent of Australia's waste goes straight to landfill, and by participating in this event you, as an individual, are reducing the amount of pollution in our atmosphere.

There will be a variety of stalls with preloved and recycled gear, from kids to adults and so much more.

Fabulous food, with vegan options, including sushi, bacon and egg rolls, snow cones and, of course, a sausage sizzle! To add to the atmosphere, live music will be performed by the school's talented musicians.

Stall holders wanted

Don't miss out, it is fun throughout!

Put the date in your diaries. Book a stall, or just come along for a sensational Saturday!

■ Sophie Ferns-Wright is a Byron Bay High School student.

Glorious words and pictures for Book Fair



Harriet Leong and her mum, Sooky, check some of the antiquarian children's books at last weekend's Friends of Byron Library Book Fair. Another happy book lover told *The Echo* they were very pleased to find a copy of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* for just \$6! Photo Jeff 'Book Ends' Dawson

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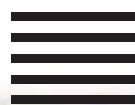
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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #04 • July 5, 2023

Unpacking the Gladys Trap

I met former NSW Premier, Gladys Berejiklian, when we were working for NSW Liberal Opposition Leader, Peter Collins, in 1996.

I was policy director, and she was research officer – we shared an office in the leader’s suite, next door to the kitchen, where we made morning coffee, waiting impatiently for clunky computers to power up.

She was my friend, who referred to me for two decades as her mentor.

At the time, Gladys was tasked with ringing MPs’ offices to deliver instructions from the leader.

I sat next to her with every phone call. She began tentatively with: ‘I am so sorry to disturb you’. She was blushing and awkward. Eventually, I said to her ‘Glad, you shouldn’t start every phone call with an apology. It’s giving them the impression the message is not important. Yes, we need to be respectful, but don’t make them feel like they are giving you a favour by talking to you’.

‘You will end up with them treating you as an inferior’.

When Gladys started her education, she was the only Armenian in her school, and she didn’t speak any English. Her success highlights the value of public school education, and shows how determination and diligence can overcome personal challenges.

Gladys did conquer all, and grew up to become the pride of Sydney’s close-knit Armenian community.

She confided in me the sense of duty this brought, and that she could only marry an Armenian boy. Anyone else would be a massive disappointment to her parents. Surely, there was someone she might meet who was both Armenian and who she might love?

We cannot know the future. But Gladys, aged in her mid 20s, was completely certain. Why?

‘Because it’s such a small community, and I already know all of them – there isn’t anyone to change my mind’.

It was a startling revelation. She had pretty much ruled herself out of having her own family, and turned instead to her Liberal peers for her personal identity.

And she did forge amazing friendships and alliances. She was witty, humble and incredibly hardworking



‘Nefarious characters she pleased and appeased on the way up, got the return on their investment. It came at a cost, and tainted her leadership’.

Catherine Cusack

– pouring herself into politics and taking advice from power brokers.

Everyone loved Gladys, she was a warrior for the Liberals, and she didn’t dabble in the dark arts of leaking and destroying people; so she was trusted.

The problem is honest, smart, dedicated Gladys never seemed to grasp the power of her own popularity.

What the public saw of Gladys was completely legit. She is the de-escalator of conflict, getting on with the job that drama-averse men particularly appreciate.

But when it came to her premiership, Gladys fell into a trap.

Nefarious characters she pleased and appeased on the way up got the return on their investment. It came at a cost, and tainted her leadership.

One moment at the ICAC hearings encapsulated the ‘Gladys Trap’.

She was asked about her intervention to award grants to the Wagga Wagga electorate of her secret lover, disgraced Liberal MP, Daryl Maguire.

She was asked about the integrity of her decisions with the grants, given they failed the merit test, which is a requirement.

Gladys insisted that all the grant decisions had integrity.

‘I have always acted with integrity’, she told the ICAC hearings.

Pressed further, she expanded, ‘I have a duty to the public, and a duty to the government’.

When she refers to ‘government’, of course, she means the Liberal and National parties. It was her job to lead them to victory at the next election.

This is about power, and what fear of losing it can do to a person with it.

What Gladys did, at least in her own mind, was conveniently conflate the public interest with the LNP’s political interests, on the basis she is beholden to those party colleagues who made her leader.

Many of her past decisions that

bewildered me suddenly made sense.

This included dumping Gillian Skinner, who was a successful and respectful health minister, to make room for factional allies – all of them men. This reduced the number of women in Cabinet. She also appointed two male presiding officers in parliament. These decisions exacerbated the ‘women problem’ in the Liberal Party.

The logic of ‘I have a duty to reelect the government’ justifies almost anything. She can look you in the eye and say the decisions were ‘based on merit’.

It turns out the merit was not defined in the public interest at all – it was just her view that she was the best person to lead the government.

Because these decisions didn’t fatten her own bank account, she continued to claim ‘integrity’ – something I know the younger version of Gladys would never have done. It seems to have been a navigation tool she developed for hard choices as leader.

Listening to her incredible evidence to ICAC, I momentarily glimpsed my former friend, recalling her first days at school without any English – desperate to fit in, to please, and to make something of herself.

I do believe she was exploited, not just by Daryl Maguire, but by those who wanted her to follow the ‘two duties’ culture. As premier, it was her responsibility to recognise this as incompatible and stand up to it.

Wilful blindness is a dangerous trap at the top. Whether it was the captain of the *Titan* ignoring advice, the aborted Russian Coup, or the long-awaited release of the ICAC report, where Gladys allowed her friends to cloud her judgement – in every case, a leaders’ wilful blindness to difficult truths inflicts consequences and costs.

■ Catherine Cusack is a former Liberal MLC and is based in Lennox Head.

Do you trust ‘affordable housing’?

With a recent media release by Council claiming Byron is now the hotspot for homelessness, Mayor Michael Lyon used the opportunity to pivot to his obsession: ‘Council is doing everything it can to generate more affordable housing’.

He also mentioned social housing is needed, but ‘affordable housing’ is a completely different beast, and does not relate much to homelessness.

As reported on page 7, Council are so desperate to house their own staff they are trying to sell off public land in return to accommodate them. Is it good governance to pick winners like that?

Anyway, those familiar with this topic know that when developed under the NSW government’s SEPP, ‘affordable housing’, is a broken system and does not deliver much in the way of affordability.

It’s a false promise.

Cr Lyon went on to say, ‘We have introduced planning and development provisions that support affordable housing, such as rezoning of Council-owned land to enable this use, and implementation of the affordable housing contributions policy and scheme to support the development of permanent affordable and diverse housing’.

Given the metrics that underpin ‘affordable housing’ are known not to be fit for purpose, *The Echo* sought assurances from Council planning staff that it could be considered a solution, ‘given the Housing SEPP is not in-perpetuity, and only requires a small percentage of the development’s footprint to be tied to ‘affordable housing?’

Shannon Burt, Director Sustainable Environment and Economy, replied, ‘The Housing SEPP provides for a range of housing development types, including developments of \$75-million or more, and developments of this scale have not been built in the Byron Shire to

date. Council has always maintained that we cannot fix the problem of affordable housing, but we do what we can, in a range of ways, to target or encourage the creation of affordable housing’.

In other words, there is no guarantee anything developed under the ‘affordable housing’ SEPP will deliver.

Do we, the community, trust this Council to ‘target or encourage the creation of affordable housing’ in a responsible, open and inclusive way?

If you want to provide ‘affordable housing’ to the community, you need to be transparent and demonstrate it will actually work.

Given Cr Lyon’s vague statements around rezoning Council-owned land, *The Echo* also asked Council staff: ‘Where exactly Council-owned land has been rezoned for affordable housing, and what are the locations for potential rezonings?’

Staff referred to a page on Council’s website: <https://tinyurl.com/yew4s8w8>.

The page contains meetings held, policy, and four ‘affordable housing’ projects. Two of these have been abandoned.

A large flood-prone plot of Mullum land called Lot 22 near the high school will ‘not progress’ at this time, while the other planning proposal ‘not going ahead’ is getting ‘temporary tiny housing happening on Council land’.

The only two ‘affordable housing’ projects on the books are the Mullum car park and disused Mullum Railway Corridor. Details around both are vague, and there are still no assurances it will benefit those who genuinely need affordable housing. At this stage, Council’s only hope is its 83-page *Affordable Housing Contributions Policy*, which will help supply ‘affordable rental housing’ when land is upzoned in Mullum, Bangalow and Byron.

Hans Lovejoy, editor



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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor

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

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

‘The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.’

– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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The Voice

I'm looking forward to the referendum for an Aboriginal Voice to Parliament later this year. However, I am amazed at the total lack of information being shared in the mainstream media.

Nowhere have I seen or read any reporting about the actual wording of that most important question that we will vote upon come October/November. Why is this?

Not all have access to the internet, especially those of the older generations who rely on print and TV media for their information.

I am hoping that your publication can begin reporting about the Voice along with wording of the constitutional change and highlight its simplicity and ease of understanding.

Jo Hayward
Evans Head

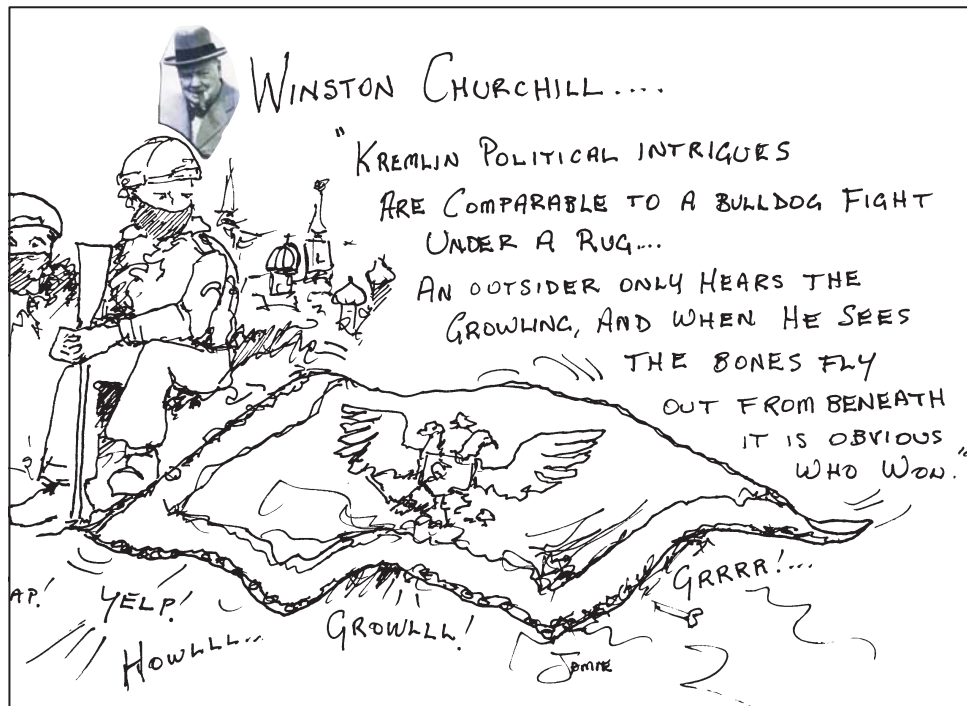
Referendum wording

I implore you to publish the wording of the coming referendum in its minimal entirety. Here it is:

The question

'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?



Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

The proposed alteration to the constitution:

'Chapter IX Recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples 129 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice.

In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:

- 1: There shall be a body, to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
- 2: The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the

Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;

3: The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.'

The wording of this very simple, humble, and harmless request sells itself. Without the knowledge

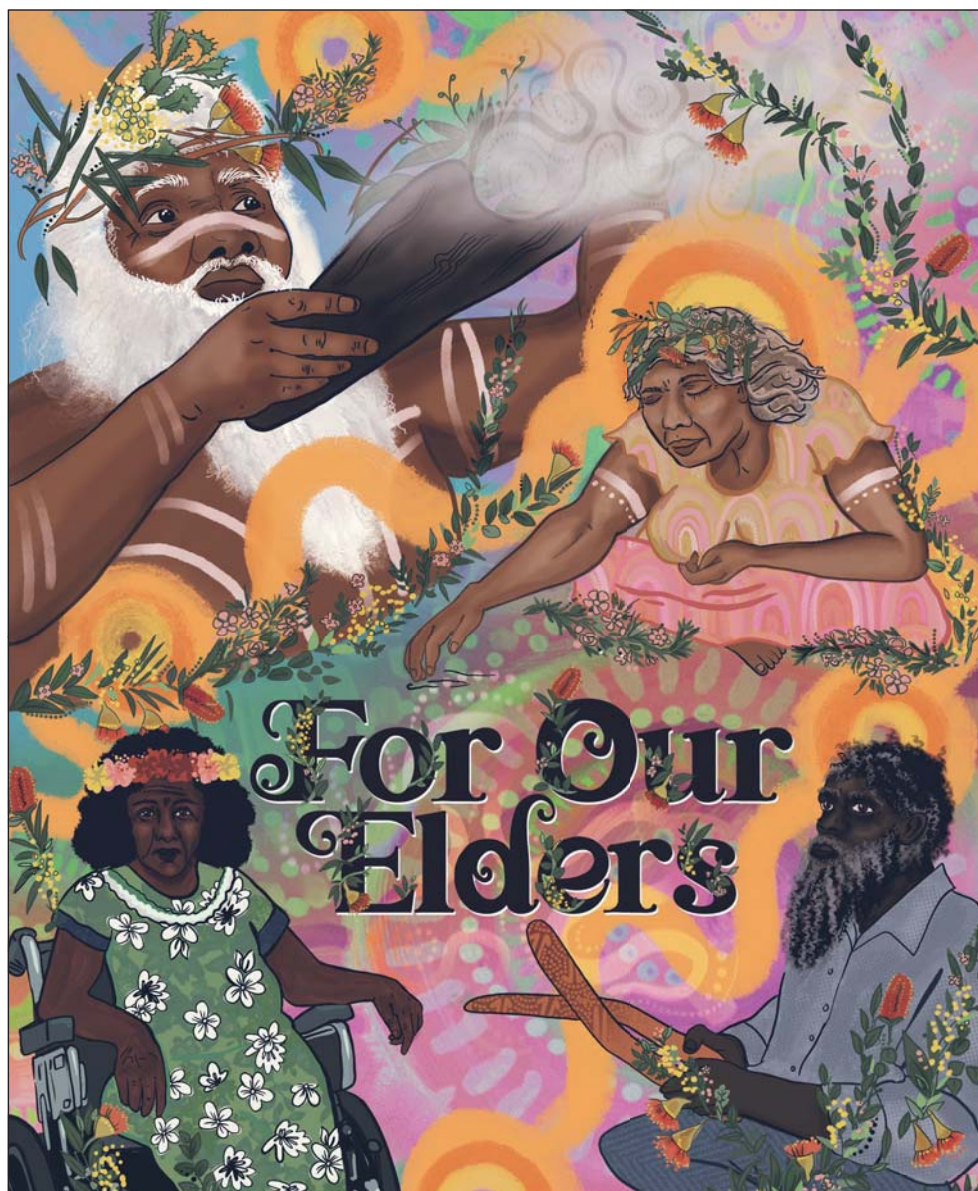
of this wording, irrelevant nonsense and hateful questions can be thrown about to discredit this referendum. You don't need to have a law degree to realise that the questions thrown about by the opposition are easily resolved by the logic in the above wording.

Perry Cornish
Meerschaum Vale

▶ More letters on page 12

Letters to the Editor

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



NAIDOC Week
2-9 JULY 2023

#NAIDOC2023 #ForOurElders

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For Our Elders, Bobbi Lockyer

Where there is knowledge there are our Elders. Our Elders paved the pathways for us, taught us our knowledge, our history, they passed down their art, stories and wisdom. Our Elders are the foundation of our communities and role models for our children. With this poster I wanted to showcase how important our Elders are in passing down traditions and culture to our children and future.

Aboriginal Flag designed by Mr Harold Thomas. Torres Strait Islander Flag reproduced by kind permission of the Torres Strait Island Regional Council, designed by the late Mr Bernard Namok.



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The spirit of busking and the responsibilities of buskers and Council

■ I agree that there needs to be some regulation around busking, but the current problem seems to be between two extremes; the ferals and other no-talents who set up on the footpath for the day with their loud backing 'muzac', and the bureaucrats who have no sensibility regarding real musicians. Both probably never had music lessons in their lives.

I saw a guy go for a coffee, leaving his amp booming, and it was preferable without him banging his goddamn drum. I felt sorry for the shop assistants.

Then there are the out-of-towners who arrive around music festival time and hog the sought-after places all day, who always turn their often-unbalanced amps up so loud the sound bleeds down the street, mingling with the guy on the next corner; the cacophony making it unpleasant to walk down the street.

I remember thirty years ago going for an audition with my band to get our buskers' licence. We actually had to play to someone, then paid a nominal amount and walked out proudly with

our licence. We were good musicians and people loved us. We felt that we added to the good vibe in our town. And the little bit of money we made supplemented our meagre incomes as musicians, who, let's face it, aren't exactly the best paid workers in the country. Requiring musicians to take out a \$20M public liability insurance policy would stop the music in the streets dead.

As shown in *The Echo* last week, The Codgers fronted by Jerry De Munga played regularly on Saturday mornings from 11am-12 noon, and many people would come to town especially to hear them. On the streets there was a polite, unspoken protocol to only play for an hour and then give the next person a go. People stopped to listen, take photos and dance in the street. It was joyous.

Richard Neville once walked by and said to his friend: 'I want to join that band!' Many of the members came from Vince and the Vipers, with Vince Beck leading, until his death, making it a 40+ year institution. Sometimes other musicians, often famous, would step in and play with them. If there

was a limit of four musicians then much good music could never have happened.

The hoops that Mr Johnstone wants musicians to jump through to get their golden ticket makes me wonder if he wants to wipe music off the face of our Shire. And that would be tragic. Surely he can do better than the current draft policy?

Magenta Appel-Pye
Mullumbimby

■ I paid for a busker's licence some years ago from Byron Council and read the four sheets of rules. I had to display a photo with my name on it, so I built a frame to support it. I had to make sure no member of the public fell over my 5mm mic cable, so I made a cover for it and fixed it to one side. As I was using battery power, and it and associated equipment was a bit bulky, I made a stand at the rear to hide it. I needed something to lean my guitars and cases against, so I erected a light frame on my right, and as it looked a bit weird, I made one for my left. In case of rain, I fixed some Polytarp on top.

Busking in free-wheeling, loving, community-focussed

Byron Bay was looking pretty good. But Council wanted me to be extra careful, so I rang an insurance company and was pleased to only have to pay \$50 per week for public liability insurance.

I found a place to perform on Jonson Street, under The Balcony, but Council didn't approve of that, so I moved in front of a bank. I discovered that there were buskers under The Balcony every night and as I never heard of Council checking up, I lost that opportunity.

When I stepped back from the bank and objectively viewed my safe busking place, I saw it had walls and a roof. Good grief! It looked just like a shop! I thought that was funny until I realised Council really didn't have a clue about busking, but they sure knew how to enforce shops' and houses' requirements. So, they were on the money there!

Recently, after a Bluesfest, I saw hugely popular Tash Sultana performing for an hour, on Jonson St, giving back to an appreciative audience. If the current proposal for a busking policy gets any support, next time Tash busks, she'll have to:

erect a board to display her insurance, her ID and photo; not repeat any hook line more than twice (as it will be deemed 'repetitive in nature'); and I hope, be ready to stand to attention when she gets interviewed by a Council inspector.

Raphael Lee Cass
Byron Bay

■ The jazz police have been causing havoc in the Tweed. Shocked to the core I was when I read that Byron Council has some sort of policy outlawing busking in the Byron Shire. Don't folks know that it is such a powerful 'language' that it is indeed the last sense to leave the human being.

My jazz-singing girlfriend shared a story confirming the need for us to nurture our musical souls. She sang her heart out at a Manly festival. Afterwards, a very conservative woman came and thanked her. To her, the music was life-changing. She'd been so depressed before she left to hear the music she'd packed all of her things, written a note and intended to 'neatly commit suicide' that evening. She faced the realisation that she

was in need of more music. There would be no suicide!

Another singer has started in a choir in the Tweed named 'Inspire'. It is packed with folks suffering from dementia. At a recent concert a lovely man with a deep tenor voice sang an Italian love song to his beloved wife.

I shared a remarkable moment with a dying woman. Her eyes were closed in deep sleep. I sang 'I cannot give you anything but love'. To my amazement her eyes opened and she sang the rest of the song with love.

I read that Hitler so hated jazz he even outlawed it. Maybe history could have been different if he sang and discovered soul, song and universal love... Byron is foolish outlawing song in the streets. No! It must not happen! So much has been destroyed already... why song?

Thanks to darling Councilor Cate Coorey who is saying 'No' to this life-destroying 'policy' and who sang beautifully a farewell song to Mary Gardner. So soul satisfying. From my soul I heard Mary sing back.

Jo 'sing everywhere' Faith
Newtown

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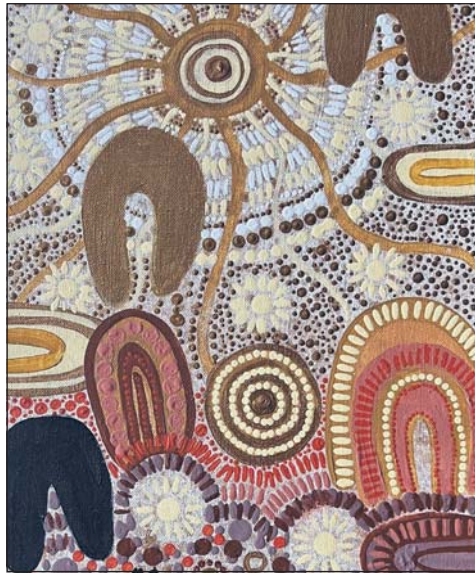


For our Elders

National NAIDOC Week – Sunday 2 July 2023 to Sunday 9 July



For our elders we keep the old ways – collecting bush medicine and knowledge for healing and joy. Belle Budden



For our elders we shine – overcoming all darkness and fear, tapping into Country we stand strong so we can bring our light into the world. Belle Budden

Belle Budden

Each year National NAIDOC Week celebrations are held across Australia in the first week of July (Sunday to Sunday), to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The theme for NAIDOC Week in 2023 is 'For Our Elders'.

Elders have an essential role in First Nations culture and communities. Across every generation, our Elders have played, and continue to play, an important role and hold a prominent place in our communities and families. Our Elders are cultural knowledge holders, trailblazers, nurturers, advocates, teachers, survivors, leaders, hard workers and our loved ones.

Respect for Elders

This year's theme provides an opportunity for all Australians to pay our respects to the Elders we've lost, and to those who continue fighting for us across all our Nations, and we pay homage to them. It is also an opportunity to learn more about the lives of our Elders and the significance they hold in our communities.

What is an Elder?

In First Nations communities our Elders are our leaders and are held in the highest respect. An Elder is not just someone of senior years, an Elder is someone who has the responsibility of leadership and decision making that has come from

a lifetime of dedication and service to Country, community, or culture or a combination of those. We don't vote them in and out of the position of Eldership, it's a role they earn through a lifetime of accumulation of knowledge and trust.

It is important to acknowledge the hardships of our Elders today as they lived before the 1967 referendum. This was when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples were recognised as Australian citizens. Before 1967, most First Nations Australians were classed as wards of the state and forced to live on reserves or 'missions'. There were few ways to escape this oppression; one was to apply for exemption to live independently.

Aggressive assimilation

Applying for exemption was a policy imposed by state governments on our people that was one of many acts of aggressive assimilation. The policy was enacted through an 'exemption' clause included in Aboriginal 'Protection' Acts passed by all states except Victoria and Tasmania. The Aboriginal Protection Act(s) allowed the government to control the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. However, exemption clauses allowed government administrators to declare some individual Indigenous people, who were somehow judged to be worthy, 'exempt' from this legislation. This meant they

were no longer under control of the legislation, but it also meant that they were not supposed to have contact with non-exempt Aboriginal people anymore.

Our Elders survived the Aboriginal Protection Act, forced removal, missions, and exemption – and many more acts of dispossession and oppression and the social and economic disadvantage that resulted from these acts.

Despite this, and many other hardships, our Elders continued to fight for the rights of our people, to protect our Country and our culture. The struggles of our Elders help to move us forward today. The equality we continue to fight for is found in their fight. Their tenacity and strength has carried the survival of our people. This year we celebrate the achievements of our Elders and their continued legacy of advancement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Get on board

On Wednesday 5 July, 11am–4pm in Mullumbimby at St John's Primary there is a celebration day acknowledging and paying respect to our Elders (check social media for further information or wet weather plans). Friday 8 July the Tweed NAIDOC Week Committee are holding a march starting 9.30am at the Tweed Heads Civic Centre.

■ Belle Budden also created the artwork in this week's Echo masthead.

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See page 37



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NATIONAL GRANTS PROGRAM

This project received grant funding from WIRES through their annual National Grants Program. For more information go to www.wires.org.au/NGP

www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Duncan Dey for mayor

I agree wholeheartedly with R Whelan in last week's *Echo*.

It's about time the Byron Shire Council started serving the constituents whom they are supposed to represent instead of the self-serving actions we see from councillors.

Apart from Duncan Dey, councillors appear to be career politicians, only interested in what's in it for them. According to the urban dictionary, a career politician is 'a person who approaches politics as a profession. A person who's in politics to make money and/or to have power. For them, making the world a better place is secondary or immaterial'.

Week after week, *The Echo*, which seems to be the only outlet for the people's voice, cites examples of unacceptable behaviours and attitudes of councillors.

We need people working for us that actually care about the area and the people who live here.

The Lyon has had its Dey.

Aaron Cook
Ocean Shores

Real world

A year ago politicians were presenting rosy possibilities to people who lost their houses in the floods. Now reality has been revealed... the assistance has been cut, the wealthiest people in the world (Australians) can't afford the repair bill.

We can thank the climate/emissions deniers. They, and their bullshit, delayed strong climate action for twenty years. Some of them are reading my words now. *Shame!* Some of them had their houses destroyed or damaged in the floods.

One wonders what they are thinking, 'Oh that was a one in one-thousand-year flood' a 'natural catastrophe'. Ain't nothin' natural about human-generated carbon emissions!

Our winter rain is feeding the forests for a fiery spring and summer. Fires, floods, famine, hyperthermia, the carnage won't stop when the emissions stop, like some bewildered politicians etc seem to believe. It will only stop the climate disasters from getting even worse (provided we haven't gone over a tipping point).

Natural forest growth and decay will take at least 100,000 years to sequester the excessive CO₂. That includes the assumption that all global ancient forests are fully remediated... hahaha, bad joke. Of course, I don't want to discourage tree planters from getting down and dirty, but planting rocks is more important... keep reading!

The main solutions are for everyone to minimise their carbon emissions and maximise their carbon sequestration. It is an emergency, isn't it?

Electrify everything ASAP! Including primary, secondary, and tertiary industries! Globally! Solar-ly! Put all your money into de-emissioning your work and home life.

Next, you can also offset emissions and sequester carbon with industries like climeworks.com. That's what we really need to shrink: the 100,000 years of hell in front of us. Read that link, to get their rocks in your head!

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Litter galore

Sad to see Ballina Council mowed the sides of the Lennox/Ballina road without doing a litter pickup. It's now a micro-plastic waterway/ocean blight and eyesore.

Difficult work, but surely worth the time.

Wally Hueneke
Byron Bay

Professor Klaas Woldring

I am writing to thank Professor Woldring for his very interesting article about the Australian Constitution. I know nothing about such matters, but to hear how out-of-date it is, is disturbing. And yet it suggests vast potential for reform and improvement.

I thought, for example, how interesting was the

information that Cabinet ministers don't necessarily have to be MPs. How illuminating.

Perhaps the whole business is like those jobs we all have around the place, like cleaning the windows, that we know need doing but it always ends up at the bottom of the list because the bathroom really needs to be done first, and after that, we've run out of energy!

Perhaps there needs to be established a working group charged with just the job of constitutional reform, and at each time just a particular aspect, e.g. the position of women and issues of equality between the sexes, and be given a set period of time to sort it. If only!

Virginia White
Goonellabah

*Electrify everything ASAP!
Including primary, secondary, and tertiary industries!
Globally! Solar-ly! Put all your money into de-emissioning your work and home life.*

Local dollars

When it comes to the holiday letting problem in the Byron Shire it's hard to put it into a few paragraphs, not to mention the flood impact on availability of homes.

As locals we've had to move to the Tweed Shire. When the pandemic hit, homes in Mullum doubled in price and if you didn't own your home then, it became impossible. As locals – business owners, shop workers – we don't have the income to pay a million-dollar mortgage. We don't have the income to pay \$1,000 a week in rent for a basic home, and we don't have the adrenal strength to rent a flooded dwelling for a bit cheaper.

A local realtor said they get daily calls from investors with some asking how many homes they can buy for their six million dollars. The system allows it, and they don't know or care that these homes are desperately needed as shelter for locals.

Town has been struggling since the flood. Business is down 30-40 per cent for our computer shop and for the clothes shop I work in. Tourism dollars? They don't seem to be benefitting anyone but the people raking in the rent from their Airbnbs. Many local shops struggle to find staff. Half the time they're not able to open to make 'tourism dollars'.

What about 'local dollars'? The ones that keep essential businesses afloat? These are the dollars that

keep small towns alive. But there are hardly any locals anymore. Too many houses are being saved as holiday homes so there are no homes for locals to live in.

With fewer homes available, rents become ridiculously expensive. When homes are so expensive that people on minimum wage can't afford to live in the area, you have no staff living in the area to hire, or local families for that matter.

Allowing Airbnb to destroy a community all because of these illusive 'tourism dollars' is a bit like destroying a natural habitat to mine it and say you're 'creating jobs'. It's a very short-sighted view that only benefits a handful of people. It damages the lives of many more.

It's nonsensical that houses can be used as a commodity to enrich those who are wealthy enough to not need them for what they are intended as – shelter.

On the human hierarchy of needs, shelter is right at the base, along with food. It's not a luxury. Without shelter we can't survive. And yet, here we are, collecting properties like it's a game of Monopoly.

Thank goodness we have a determined Council that has a heart and common sense. Bring on this 60-day holiday letting cap.

S Buob
Pottsville

Cold-hearted compliance

Way back in 1969, my girlfriend and I drove from Sydney to Darwin in our Mini Moke, (an open-topped off-roader built on a Mini Minor chassis). It was late at night as we drove through Byron township to where the road ended at The Pass and pitched our small tent.

Then we snuggled down to sleep, just in time, because it started raining heavily.

Half an hour later we were jolted awake by the thrum of a diesel ute with its headlights shining green through the tent fabric. A man's voice boomed out: 'If you're not out of here in half an hour, there's a \$50 fine – and if you're still here in the morning it'll be another \$50!'. A hundred dollars was a lot of money back in '69, so in the pouring rain we packed our sodden tent and drove on to Stoker's Siding, spending an uncomfortable night sitting up in the car trying to get some sleep.

Nowhere else on the entire six-week journey of free camping did we encounter the cold-hearted

► **Continued on page 17**

2023 festival looks to the future with wild imagination

Byron Writers Festival 2023 is looking to the future with its inspiring new program themed 'Wild Imagination', bringing more than 120 writers and big thinkers together at Bangalow Showground this 11-13 August.

In another wild move, this year the festival experience is designed around five themed venues – Deep Dives, Ideas Salon, Imaginarium, Mind Spa and Play Zone – that encourage audiences to explore the program according to their mood and interests.

Reflecting on the theme of this year's festival, CEO & Artistic Director Zoë Pollock said 'As humans, our imagination is our superpower. It has set us apart, enabled us to create and transform the world. As the climate crisis is teaching us, we must harness it more than ever.'

'The moment for our creativity to rise and for us to embrace the wild within is upon us. We must reconnect with nature and re-establish our sense of being as intertwined with all living things.'

Festival Keynote: Wild Imagination

So, what does it mean to imagine with wild abandon? In this year's festival keynote, 'Wild Imagination', being held in the Imaginarium (A&I Hall) on Friday 11 August at 7pm, a lineup of original thinkers will unleash their imaginations to envision possibilities for our future.

Featuring Kevin Jared Hosein, Gabriel Krauze, Ellen van Neerven, Jess Scully and Grace Tame, with a special performance by Emily Lubitz, Janet Swain & After the Flood Choir, this event is guaranteed to have audiences inspired to explore their wildness within. Tickets for this evening event are sold separately via www.byronwritersfestival.com/feature-events.

Not sure where to go from there? Read on for a handpicked selection



The festival keynote, 'Wild Imagination' will feature headline guests from the festival including pictured: Grace Tame, Gabriel Krauze, Kevin Jared Hosein, Ellen van Neerven, Jess Scully and Emily Lubitz.

of not-to-be-missed sessions that fully embody 'Wild Imagination'.

Connecting with nature

'The Elements', with Robbie Arnott, Debra Dank and Maggie MacKellar, will explore how landscape, the seasons and the nature of life cycles are the driving forces in our lives, and 'Inner Wilds: Acknowledging the Animal Within' will see Robbie Arnott, Ben Hobson and Kayte Nunn examine the curious question, are humans ever truly in control of their actions?

Continuing to spotlight our connection to nature, 'Green

Imaginations' will have Eliza Henry-Jones and Mark Smith discussing how fiction can spark the energy we need to create positive change in the world.

Creative expression

Creativity and 'Wild Imagination' go hand-in-hand in 'What if everything we imagine comes true?', where historian Michelle Arrow and novelists Grace Chan and Shankari Chandran come together to describe how their approaches to writing allow them to imagine – and reimagine – past, present and future.

In 'Wild Notes' two acclaimed songwriters – Bertie Blackman, whose memoir *Bohemian Negligence* describes her upbringing as daughter of renowned Australian artist Charles Blackman, and Eliza Hull, a singer/pianist who advocates for people with disabilities through her books – discuss how they harness their craft.

The need for artistic expression in difficult times is discussed in depth with Briohny Doyle and Gail Jones in 'When Feeling Becomes Form', and the session 'Fragile Minds', featuring Ahona Guha, Jonathan Seidler and David Stavanger, who

explore the big question 'is mental fragility necessary for creativity and is it part of our inner wildness?'

Resistance and healing

'Inner Wilds: Calming the Storm', featuring Brigid Delany, Ahona Guha and James Kirby, will discuss how worry and trauma can be transformed into compassion, leading to a more peaceful way of being.

Storytellers Maxine Beneba Clarke, Bebe Backhouse and Nakiah Lui discuss with poet Cheryl Leavy what 'Black Joy', an expression of resistance and healing, means to them.

Looking to the future

Artificial Intelligence is a hot topic right now, and important questions such as 'can virtual reality replace our bodily selves' and 'how bad is the sexism embedded in evolving technologies' will be discussed in 'Ethics of AI', when authors Grace Chan, Suneel Jethani and Tracey Spicer explore the wild frontier of our future.

'Imagine a Green Future' looks ahead with curiosity, as experts Jeff Goodell, Ben Roche and Jess Scully speak to the question 'what could our future look like if we pull off the transition to a circular economy?'

This year Byron Writers Festival 2023 invites you to step away from the everyday, immerse yourself in a world of ideas and stories, and let your imagination run wild!

■ A festival pass gives you access to all sessions in the festival program on your chosen day or days. Explore program further at www.byronwritersfestival.com/festival.

Byron Writers Festival ticket guide

At Byron Writers Festival 2023, there's an option for everyone to enjoy the stories, discussion and debate that make up the program.

Wondering which ticket to choose? Here's a quick ticket guide.

All tickets are available at: www.byronwritersfestival.com/tickets

3-Day Pass

A 3-Day Pass gives you access to all sessions happening in the main festival program on Friday 11, Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 August. It's a great choice if you would like to fully immerse yourself in the program and take the time to soak up all that the festival has to offer.

1-Day Pass

A 1-Day Pass gives you access to sessions happening in the main festival program for your chosen day – Friday, Saturday or Sunday. It's the best choice if you have limited time but still want the 'festival' experience.

Saturday PM Under 35s Pass

The new Saturday PM Under 35s Pass gives access to the main festival program on Saturday 12 August from 2pm for just \$35 (twelve sessions to choose from!) This ticket is designed for younger audiences aged 35 and under who want to get a taste of the festival experience, but can't commit to a whole day.

Kids Big Day Out Pass

The Kids Big Day Out Pass admits one child and one adult to the Kids Big Day Out marquee at the festival on Sunday 13 August. This pass is for adults who wish to accompany their children to the kids program only.



Sunday Family Pass

The Sunday Family Pass admits one child and two adults to the festival site on Sunday 13 August. This pass is a great option if you love the idea of sharing the Kids Big Day Out program with your children but also wish to catch other sessions in the main program.

Feature Events, Workshops and Satellite Events

A program of separately ticketed Feature Events, Workshops and Satellite Events takes place during festival week and address the key themes of the 2023 festival. Check them out online, or in the printed program.

Wiradjuri woman, Brenda Matthews, is carrying the healing story into the future

Aslan Shand

Brenda Matthews, a Wiradjuri woman, and her six siblings were removed from her parents in 1973; Brenda was two, and her eldest sister eight. Brenda was placed with a family near Sydney and her siblings were placed in other foster families and institutions. Yet they are not considered part of the stolen generations because they were removed four years after the Aborigines Protection Act was repealed in New South Wales. Therefore, she and her siblings are not entitled to any compensation or recognition for what happened to them and their family.

'The Act changed but they didn't,' she told *The Echo*.

It took Brenda's parents five years to get all their children returned. They had been living out west but decided to move to Newcastle to fight for their children.

'Mum and dad fought hard to get all their children back,' said Brenda.

'They managed to get them back, two by two, over a period of five or six years. There were five girls and my eldest sister was eight when she was removed and gone for three years.'

Brenda says when she was finally returned to her parents 'I felt like they looked like a family. I felt like I was intruding on their family. I didn't know that my siblings had also been



Brenda Matthews.

taken away at that time. We never really talked about it, it was too hurtful.'

Brenda's search for her white family led to the book and then making of *The Last Daughter*, where she explores the challenges and experience of finding her white family and bringing her two families together.

Since 2012 Brenda and her husband Mark have been hosting cultural camps, taking teenagers on Country.

Reconnection

'Me and my husband did culture camps where I started sharing my story. And sharing my story became what it is now,' she told *The Echo*.

'Sharing story in our culture has been around for a long time. Sharing my truth, my story, that's what we do,' explained Brenda.



All seven of Nana's children were removed in 1973.

Through exploring her story Brenda was finally able to find and reunite with her foster parents, Mac and Connie Ockers, 40 years after she was returned to her birth parents.

'Returning to my white family was scary at first, because I was frightened that they didn't want to know me or they didn't want anything to do with me. But when I overcame the fear and reached out, I realised that they had been looking for me too. And it was amazing when I did return. They are awesome people, and the love and acceptance my white mum and dad have shown and continue to show me is beautiful. I'm so grateful they accepted me into their family, that day back in 1973.'

By reconnecting with her white family and bringing her two sets of parents together she was able to

create healing and understanding.

'Recreating the scene of mum and dad having their children being taken away, sharing out of love and forgiveness, has brought the healing I have needed. For me to understand my story, truthfully, and out of love for both sides.

'I think people can relate to it. It is not just my story, it's a universal story - the hurt and pain - I realised reconciliation had to start with myself. I brought my parents on both sides together and there was reconciliation within themselves. We were all hurt, and we can all be healed through telling our stories.'

Brenda is a mother, a grandmother, a storyteller, a writer, a speaker, an Indigenous director and co-founder for Learning Circle Australia, and she is hoping that 'others can walk with me on this journey'.



Mac and Connie Ockers were Brenda's foster parents for five years. Photos supplied

'We start with ourselves and our own stories - who am I, where are we going as individuals? Then, where are we going as a nation? It seems to be such a divisive story at the moment, we have to ask "where is home" and find the answer within. Humans can relate to that. We all have a story that ties us to this country. We can all be part of carrying the healing story into the future for the next generation,' she said.

■ If you would like to bring together a group or the mob to watch *The Last Daughter* you can get a licence through Fanforce or go onto *The Last Daughter* website (www.thelastdaughter.com.au) to arrange a private screening. Or find it on Netflix where it was released on 3 July. The book is available at bookshops and via Brenda's website: www.brendamatthews.com.au.

Recovery Support Services At MDNC Are Here To Help



Over 4,000 Northern Rivers Residents who registered for the Resilient Homes Programs are currently being notified via phone by Service NSW (from Monday 26th June 2023 onwards) in relation to their ineligibility for this stage of the Resilient Homes Program.

After a long and anxious wait, the phone calls are a devastating blow to our flood-impacted community. Our MDNC Recovery Support Services (RSS) team is here to help if you need support with the appeals process, advocating with NRRC on your behalf or support with your recovery in general, such as with grants, advocacy and psycho-social support.

How to access RSS support

E: intake.rss@mdnc.org.au

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Or visit MDNC between 9.30am-4pm

Our hearts are very much with our beloved community at this difficult time. Don't hesitate to reach out and ask for help.



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► Continued from page 14

reception we got in Byron. These days I sometimes walk my dogs near the Brunz sports fields. For months there have been four vans camped under the trees in the car park, where the van owners could use the toilet and water facilities of the nearby sports club.

One of the vans was the home of a really nice woman in her 60s and another was a wonderful old bloke who loved spinning yarns. I realised, with the present housing crisis, people are doing whatever it takes to find a place to call home, and I was delighted to see our Council were allowing them to live their lives in peace. But the same week *The Echo* reported on Byron Council's proposed 'compliance officer recruitment', the vans had been moved on. Why? They were clean-living; there are no nearby houses. It was just the compliance officers 'doing their job'!

In some ways Byron can seem so progressive, but sometimes it can be quite heartless.

The housing crisis is a bit like the climate change crisis – lots of talk, but not nearly enough happening!

Michael Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek

Byron land values

Dear Minister,

Like other property owners in NSW I have received a Notice of Valuation for our home in Byron Bay. It shows a savage revaluation of its unimproved value.

To say that I am disappointed is putting it mildly. Politicians, such as yourself, and other public servants tend to forget that your primary role is to serve the public. Instead, you aid and abet the ridiculous escalation in real estate prices, which is blighting the lives of millions of your fellow Australians. The recent Robodebt scandal has destroyed any illusion that public servants are automatically on the side of the average citizen. Similarly, the appalling revelations about the actions of the various state Public Guardians, stretching over decades, are chilling.

The problem for us is that our Byron Council rates are calculated on land value. Our rates were already humongously high. Theoretically, it makes sense to link rates to land value, but theories tend to break down. I know of at least two families, just in our street, forced to sell and move away from neighbours, family and friends because

they could no longer afford the rates on their properties. We don't want to sell our home and have no intention of doing so.

But your Valuer General, Stewart McLachlan* has calculated our land value at \$5,000,000. It is simply crazy and unacceptable. I have perused the basis of the calculations available on the Valuer General website and they are absurd, although I must complement those involved on the dazzling brilliance of their bureaucratic. A promised phone call replying to my enquiries never happened. Apparently, I fell off the end of the queue. It is generally recognised that property prices in our area, Byron Bay, have fallen by 20–25 per cent since Mr Mclachlan's staff made their assessments in the middle of 2022. The recent collapse in holiday rentals indicates a similar contraction.

Make no mistake, your inaction on the issue of land valuations in NSW is contributing to complex social harms. By accepting the diabolical escalation in real estate prices, driven by greed and wild speculation, you are contributing to the misery and confusion of thousands of respectable home owners.

Peter Thompson
Byron Bay

■ Ed: The current Valuer General, Sally Dale, was appointed on 1/6/2023. The previous acting Valuer General was Josh Ethington (from October 2022). Prior to that the Valuer General was Dr David Parker. Stewart Mclachlan is CEO of Valuation NSW which values on behalf of the Valuer General, NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) and other agencies.

Sunflower

Re your letter (21/6/23). On the back page of *The Echo* (22/7/23) there was an article about Alibaba trading in child and baby sex abuse dolls – some as small as 65cm, the size of a six-month-old baby. Sick, disgusting, depraved bastards.

Some time ago on the ABC there was a program 'about women'. I'm very aware that the world is male centric, but when I hear how the first rape laws came into being I was absolutely furious. Really not sure how long ago these first laws came into being.

If a woman was raped; some bloke's mother or sister or female cousin, it

wasn't a crime because she'd been raped, it was a property crime against *him*; *his property* had been damaged.

You know what I reckon Sunflower – fuck that! To me, all females and all males are equal and there's no way I've ever been some bloke's property – never was, never will be.

Stand up for your rights all of you girls and stay strong.

Hannah Grace
Ocean Shores

Defund Ukraine war

One can't rely on Russians or politicians for accurate information on the war, instead, the best information comes from people suitably qualified and experienced in actually fighting wars; retired senior military officers.

Two such military officers are former UN weapons inspector and USA Intelligence

Officer, Scott Ritter, who helped plan Operation Desert Storm, and secondly, Colonel Douglas McGregor, who was a tank commander and strategist in the Gulf War and who was a Senior

Advisor to the Acting Secretary of Defence in 2020.

Recently, Colonel McGregor said: 'if we continue... to drag the Ukrainians down this path with us, we will all end up in hell together'. Scott Ritter said: 'We are committing (mass) suicide as we speak and people need to wake up and understand that the policies that USA and NATO are pursuing now, are policies guaranteed to result in a Russian use of nuclear weapons.'

Meanwhile, a new US senate resolution says: 'Any use of a tactical nuclear weapon by Russia, would require an Article 5 response'

meaning NATO would join the war against Russia.

To those who hate Donald Trump, remember, he said he would stop the war by cutting its funding.

Peter Olson
Goonengerry

Rail line's future

It was very interesting to read the article in last week's *Echo*. I well remember a meeting held in Murwillumbah where Byron Mayor, Michael Lyon, said that Byron had four million visitors a year and needed a light rail to help take tourists away from the town. Apart from shutting the town off from the tourists, there were very few alternatives.

Things seem to have changed since then, from what I read. A bike track will do nothing to alleviate this problem. Cr Pugh seems

to be pushing for an environmental impact study... because of the devastation a light rail proposal would cause to local ecological communities. From his words I would guess that this demand most certainly would not apply to a rail trail. Of course, a rail trail would require no clearing of the regrowth?

On the Tweed section, Hazzel Bros were straight in with their positracks, excavator trucks to rip up the rail lines and sleepers to create Tweed's rail trail. I would contend that not interfering with the existing rail line infrastructure would cause much less ecological damage than building the proposed rail trail for an insignificant minority group, and would benefit the majority.

Mike Yarrow
Byangum

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www.nobones.co



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

Signature cocktails, and casual dining with ocean views.
Happy Hour | Tues – Sat from 4–6pm.
\$8 loft wine or lager, \$10 spritzes, \$14 margaritas & \$30 house wine bottle
Half price deli board & \$2.50 fresh oysters
Espresso Martini Nights | Tues – Sat 9pm–close,
2 for \$25 Classic Espresso Martini.
Open Tuesday to Saturday from 4pm.




The Italian Byron Bay
21, 108 Jonson St, Byron Bay
Open Monday to Saturday
5.30pm to late
5633 1216
www.theitalianbyronbay.com


The Italian Byron Bay provides a bustling, atmospheric restaurant, dishing up contemporary inspired Italian cuisine and some of Byron's finest cocktails and wines.
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY. BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE BY PHONE OR THROUGH OUR WEBSITE. WALK-INS VERY WELCOME.



Legend Pizza
Serving Byron Bay for 30 years.
Open 7 days.
Delivery from Suffolk to Ewingsdale.
2/3 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
6685 5700
www.legendpizza.com.au

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
5614 8656
Proudly Bundjalung owned & operated.

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



Barrio Eatery & Bar
1 Porter Street, North Byron
Mon–Wed: 7am–3pm
Thurs–Sat: 7am–10pm
www.barriobyronbay.com.au @barriobyronbay
0411 323 165

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



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


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

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.



Yaman Mullumbimby
62 Stuart St, Mullumbimby
6684 3778
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



The Empire
20 Burringbar St, Mullum
6684 2306

Open for brunch and lunch
FB/Insta: EmpireMullum
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.





Harvest
18–22 Old Pacific Highway
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



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson
E: lizzijackson@gmail.com
P: 0414 895 441
GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR

Sample Festival 2 Sept



Sample Food Festival returns to Bangalow on Saturday 2 September, 2023, to celebrate the region's vibrant, resilient and innovate local food economy. This 11th Sample Food Festival will showcase a selection of the region's best restaurants, brewers, distilleries, artisans and producers who put on an impressive array of tasting plates and refreshments to satisfy even the most discerning palates. This year, Director Rose Taylor says the festival, which promises to be 'more diverse and exciting' than ever before, will be moving into the main circle of the Bangalow Showground and will feature additional curated spaces to be enjoyed in a comfortable and relaxed environment. Pre-purchased tickets are \$5 per adult + booking fee (children 16 years and under, free) at samplefoodevents.com

Good Life



Main pic: Samphire. Top, Barilla Saltbush. Bottom, Karkalla.

Grow native foods

Rebecca Barnes from Playing With Fire, the native foods stall at Mullumbimby and New Brighton Farmers Markets, has these tips on what native foods we can grow in a small garden:

‘When talking about our native foods, people think about our amazing rainforest fruits and spices, like finger limes, Davidson’s plums and lemon myrtle, but did you know Australia has a plethora of easy-to-grow plants with salty flavours? These can be used as a direct salt replacement, condiment or seasoning. And most of these are small ground covers and shrubs – perfect for small spaces and container gardens! Some grow along the coastal fringe and others are from the arid regions, so there’s sure to be one to suit your space.’

SUCCULENTS

‘In arid and semi-arid environments native succulents can provide lifesaving water and food with their salty juicy leaves. They also grow naturally along the coastal fringe with some varieties producing melon-like fruits. The leaves are great additions to salads and stirfries and they all grow well in containers. Use well-drained soil, and mulch with mineral-rich seaweed!’

Samphire is a common name for 43 species of salt marsh plants that have crunchy edible shoots.

Karkalla, aka pigface or yuli, grows in the coastal sand dunes with a few varieties growing inland.

Seablite is a seaside herb that is a type of amaranth growing on salt lakes and coastal marshes. The leaves, stems, shoots and seeds are all edible.

Sea Purslane loves a wetter spot – pick and eat.

SALTBUSHES

‘Species of Atriplex are known as saltbushes – most grow in the arid interior but some are from coastal areas. There are about 40

species of small shrubs, usually with grey/silver foliage: they are drought tolerant, fire-retardant and super delicious! You can use fresh leaves in salads, stir fries, batters and roasts (perfect for lamb).

Old Man Saltbush is a large silver-foliaged plant suitable for full sun or part shade.

Barilla Saltbush, aka coastal saltbush, has a mineral-rich flavour reminiscent of sage. Its long, slender, pastel-coloured leaves look beautiful in the garden.

Marsh Saltbush is perfect for a hanging basket with pale pink stems and small leaves.’

You can find Rebecca, from Playing with Fire, every Tuesday at New Brighton Farmers Market, 8–11am and every Friday at Mullum Farmers Market, 7–11am.

This week at 8am Belle Budden will Acknowledge Country, talk about the significance of NAIDOC Week and this year’s theme ‘For Our Elders’, tell some stories, and dance at Mullum Farmers Market.

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!!

LENNOXPIZZA.COM @LENNOXPIZZA

Throw open the brewery gates!



Stone & Wood’s mini beer festival, Mur’bah Open Day, is back for another year at their Murwillumbah Brewery on Saturday, 5 August.

Welcoming locals and beer lovers from all over, Mur’bah Open Day is a celebration of community, great music, good food, and of course fresh beer straight from the source.

The only day of year the brewery opens to the public, Mur’bah Open Day gives punters the chance to peek behind the curtain of the Stone & Wood engine room, with staff guiding festival goers through the site on tours throughout the day.

Running from 11am–5pm, Mur’bah Open Day is an event for the whole family and is

viewed by the people at Stone & Wood as a chance to give back to the amazing community that supports them.

Entry to the festival is by gold coin donation with all profits going towards an amazing local cause: Wedgetail Retreat.

Wedgetail Retreat provide free palliative care to the Northern Rivers community, giving locals and their families a warm and welcoming environment to call home. Operating without government funding, Wedgetail relies on the support of its community to keep its doors open and continue with the excellent care they provide.

Stay tuned for more details on their music and food lineups.

VAGA BOND

BYRON BAY

Plant-based goodness cafe. Awesome coffee, smoothies to dream about & delicious cakes and treats baked in-house. All milks available.

Outside seating available or lounge on the lawn in the shade of the poinciana.

Open 6.30am–3pm, Monday to Saturday, & Sunday 8am–2pm.

Shop 33-34 Habitat Porter Street, Byron Bay @vagabondbyronbay



School Holidays

BALLOON ALOFT

Winter is a fine time to go ballooning and see the clear skies and great views of the Northern Rivers hinterland. Our region, from the sprawling green hills to the coastal plains, is a delight for the senses, especially drenched in golden light at sunrise.

For families, couples and groups alike, hot air ballooning offers a great opportunity to get outdoors and truly spend quality time together.

Your experience begins by meeting at The Farm Byron Bay, followed by a one hour flight and delicious breakfast afterwards at Three Blue Ducks restaurant.

The friendly Balloon Aloft crew and fully qualified pilots will make your morning absolutely magic.

Bookings can be made at www.balloonaloft.com



BYRON COMMUNITY THEATRE

Stuck for stuff to do with the kids now that the weather is a bit cold?

Well, head to the Byron Theatre to wear the little people out with heaps of movement, fun, drama and culture these winter holidays with two fabulous shows.

On Wednesday 5 July, there is the Kids Disco Party with Shorty Brown. Shorty is Byron's very own clown icon, and the Shire's most in-demand children's entertainer. Join Shorty for hot tunes, prizes and surprises for

this Bluelight Disco comeback. On Tuesday 11 July, come see *Hamlet: Prince of Skidmark* by The Listies. The Listies—maestros of children's entertainment, have pulled apart Shakespeare's classic and glued it back together with hilarious costumes, loads of silliness and plenty of interactivity for the young people in their audiences.

www.byroncentre.com.au
69 Jonson St, Byron Bay
02 6685 6807



Bright Lights Performance School

Celebrating 20 amazing years of drama and Musical Theatre with three spectacular anniversary shows

Byron Theatre
Saturday 15 – Sunday 16 July

Tickets available at byroncentre.com.au
The Sunday show will be followed at 4pm by a reunion gathering at the Byron Bay Services Club.



BRIGHT LIGHTS PERFORMANCE SCHOOL

This year, Bright Lights Performance School is celebrating 20 amazing years of drama and musical theatre with three brilliant performances. Their spectacular Anniversary Shows are to be held in the Byron Theatre on Saturday and Sunday 15 and 16 July. Tickets are available from the Byron Bay Community Centre's website. Their Sunday show is followed at 4pm by a reunion gathering at the Byron Bay Services Club.

If you enjoy song, dance and comedy join them to revisit some of the highlights and bring back fond memories for so many of their students. Even if you have not been a Bright Lights student they would love you to attend the show and witness the talent and emotion of this special event.

byroncentre.com.au

BYRON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

School holidays are tricky for some families because some of us still have to work while the kids are wanting to get out and have adventures!

So these school holidays the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary is running 'Puggles Kids Club' service, open to primary school children, ages 5 to 12.

The Byron Wildlife Sanctuary has partnered with Rug Rats, a local family-based agency providing care to all things kids. Carers are working professionals who specialise in a variety of children's services and have their WWCC, Applied First Aid, including children's first aid training, anaphylaxis and asthma, all with extensive professional experience.

The program runs from 8am through to 5pm sharp.

Numbers are strictly limited, so book in early to avoid disappointment.

www.byronbaywildlifesanctuary.com.au
419 Hinterland Way, Knockrow

SWING IT

Based in Ballina, locally owned and operated Swing It Driving Range and Mini Golf is a quality practise facility for the serious golfer, as well as a family entertainment venue.

After significant post-flood renovations, Swing It proudly boasts a new clubhouse decked out with licensed kiosk and state-of-the-art indoor golf simulator, and of course a beautiful golf course. Book the virtual golf simulator to play on almost any course in the world (in air-conditioned comfort), smash some balls around on the driving range, or play some mini golf.

Locals and tourists are invited to hone their existing skills or simply just have fun!

Bookings are not required for the driving range, but are essential for the golf simulator.

Open 10-5pm Tue, Wed and Sun.
10-8pm Thu, Fri and Sat.
Closed Mondays.

02 6686 7542
119 Smith Drive, West Ballina
www.swingitballina.com.au



THE LISTIES

HAMLET

PRINCE OF SKIDMARK

'In short, it's hilarious'
SYDNEY MORNING HERALD

TIX FROM \$25

FAMILY FUN!

JULY 11 - 11am & 3pm
BYRON THEATRE
byrontheatre.com

Limited spots available!

*ages 5 to 12!

Puggles Kids Club!

School Holiday Care

8:00am to 5:00pm
\$30 per child

- Crafts & Activities
- Movies
- Access to the Sanctuary and Keeper Talks
- Bottle of water or juice Popper and a piece of fruit

Leave the kids with us these school holidays!

Bookings online only!

Swing It
DRIVING RANGE & MINI GOLF

MINI GOLF UNDER LIGHTS

THURSDAY-FRIDAY-SATURDAY
UNTIL 8PM

LICENSED KIOSK SERVING HOT FOOD

- PIES ▪ HOT DOGS
- SAUSAGE ROLLS

+16 BAY DRIVING RANGE ▪ INDOOR SIMULATOR
▪ GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE
▪ GROUP BOOKINGS ▪ MEMBERSHIPS

119 SMITH DR, WEST BALLINA NSW 2478 swingitballina.com.au 02 6686 7542

the arts

Anthony J. Walker is an award-winning artist from the Yiman, Ghungalu and Gurreng Gurreng peoples of Central Queensland. Having originally trained as a Park Ranger, Walker seeks to raise awareness about the preservation of native flora and fauna. Growing up on the Sunshine Coast and living in Byron Bay for around 30 years, he draws inspiration from the landscape and coastlines of Southern Queensland, Northern New South Wales and his grandparents' Country.

His solo exhibition 'Cavanbah' is currently on display at Lone Goat Gallery and explores the central theme of 'Caring for Country'. Through vibrant paintings that vividly express his impression of the Northern Rivers region, particularly the region's recognisable coastline, Walker invites us to reflect on our own relationship with the area's land, sea, and waterways.

By immersion in the works, we are encouraged to reconnect with the natural world, embrace our roles as environmental stewards, and actively contribute to safeguarding the ancient landscapes we inhabit, following in the footsteps of the First Nations custodians who have cared for Country for millennia.

Exhibition continues until the 22 July, Wed to Sat 10am-4pm.
www.lonegoatgallery.com

Artist in focus



Anthony J. Walker - Cavanbah



Anthony J. Walker

Byron Writers Festival workshops

Unleash your wild imagination, sink your teeth into your craft and learn from the best with a Byron Writers Festival workshop.

This series of half and full-day sessions are facilitated by authors appearing on the 2023 Festival program and cover a range of genres including 'Exploring Imagination' with Heather Rose, 'Laugh Lines' with Mandy Nolan, 'Personal Essay' with Briohny Doyle, 'Writing YA' with Mark Smith, and more!

Workshops take place in Byron Bay from Monday 7 to Friday 11 August, prior to the Festival weekend.

Spaces are filling fast, so book now via byronwritersfestival.com/festival-workshops to confirm your spot.

The launch of *Mystic Ridge*

Come and have a glass of wine and celebrate the launch of *Mystic Ridge* with author Lucy Lever. *Mystic Ridge* is possibly the first ever rural romcom inspired by the people and environs of Mullumbimby, featuring unlikely environmental activist and Tarot reader Claire, who has to fight to save her rainforest home from a mega wellness centre development.

All are welcome to the launch, at The Bookshop, Mullumbimby, Friday July 7, 5.30-6.30pm. Lucy Lever will be in conversation with Alan Close.

More info and free tickets at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mullumbimby-launch-of-mystic-ridge-tickets-633787715117>.

2023 olive cotton award for photographic portraiture



Finalists Exhibition 14 July – 24 September 2023

2023 Olive Cotton Award Finalist Dane Beesley, *Home* 2022 © The artist.

Open Wed – Sun 10am – 5pm | 2 Mistral Road, Murwillumbah South
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au | [f](https://www.facebook.com/tweedregionalgallery) [i](https://www.instagram.com/tweedregionalgallery) [tweedregionalgallery](https://www.tweedregionalgallery.com.au)

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

FRIENDS Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre Inc.

NSW

The Olive Cotton Award is funded by the family of Olive Cotton with additional purchase awards funded by the Friends of Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre Inc. Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

2023 BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL

WILD IMAGINATION


FESTIVAL WORKSHOPS

Tuesday 8 – Friday 11 August

Facilitated by authors appearing on the 2023 Festival program including...



SPACES FILLING FAST - BOOK NOW




YOU'RE INVITED TO THE LAUNCH OF MULLUMBIMBY INSPIRED RURAL ROMANCE, *MYSTIC RIDGE*.

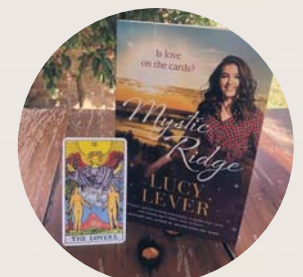
Author **Lucy Lever** will be in conversation with **Alan Close**.

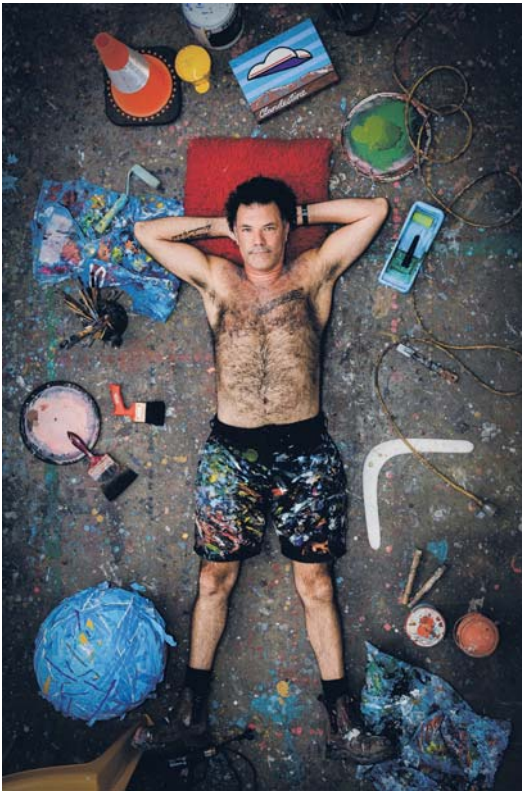
Friday July 7, 5.30-6.30pm
 @The Bookshop, Mullumbimby.

Book your free ticket here:

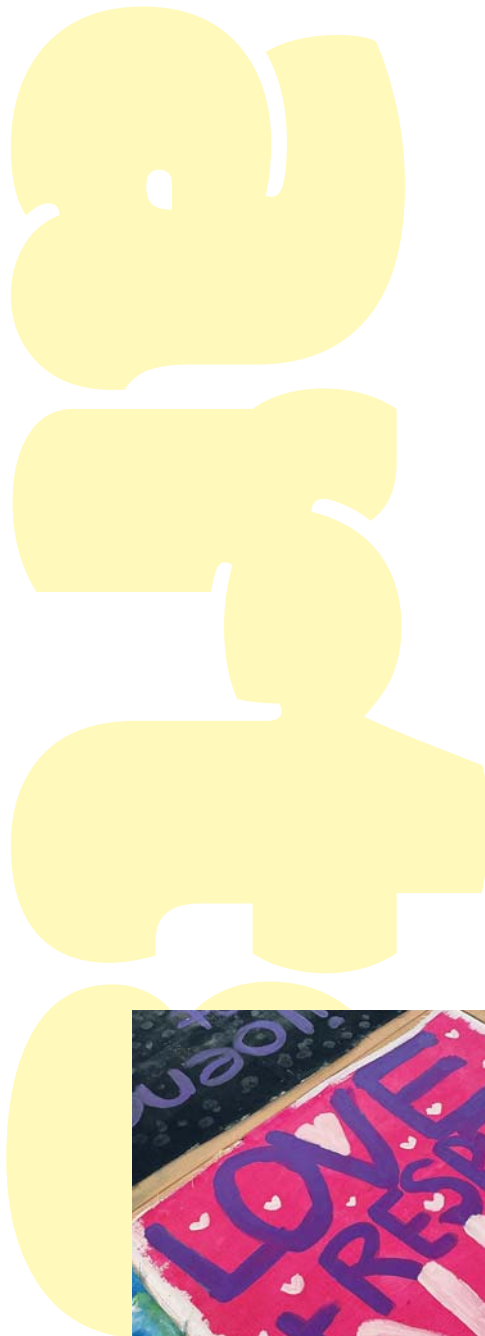


<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mullumbimby-launch-of-mystic-ridge-tickets-633787715117>





2023 OCA Finalist Katherine Cordwell's portrait of artist, Blak Douglas, in his studio.



Olive Cotton Award finalists announced

72 finalists selected for this year's prestigious Olive Cotton Award for photographic portraiture will be on display at Tweed Regional Gallery from Friday 14 July until Sunday 24 September. Guest Judge, Dr Daniel Mudie Cunningham, will announce the \$20,000 award on Saturday 15 July. The Olive Cotton Award is generously funded by the family of Olive Cotton, one of Australia's leading twentieth century photographers.

Open Wed-Sun 10am-5pm
2 Mistral Road, Murwillumbah South
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au
Facebook [tweedregionalgallery](https://www.facebook.com/tweedregionalgallery)



Love Bites

Love Bites is a highly successful Respectful Relationships Education Program delivered annually to Year Ten students in public high schools throughout the Northern Rivers. Love Bites aims to equip young people with the skills and knowledge needed to have safe, healthy relationships. The young people participate in creative workshops involving banner painting and hip-hop song writing. Community campaigns are also developed utilising the student's art and music, to raise awareness of relationship/sexual violence and promote a primary prevention focus.

The program ensures that young people are introduced to local Youth, DFV and Health services. Students are also advised of where they can access free, professional support online. Contact your child's school to find out more about the program and encourage your local secondary school to embrace the Love Bites program.

wunh.org.au

LONE GOAT GALLERY



#CLIMATECONVERSATIONS PRESENTS

MENDING & TENDING: ART THAT WORKS FOR NATURE
SAMANTHA MOSS, JESS POULSEN & SHONA WILSON

29 JUL - 26 AUG 2023 OPENING 5-7PM, FRI 28 JUL



The community is invited to explore the ways we can adapt, re-organise, and evolve in the face of climate change through the arts. Come and learn ways to care for nature.

EVENT PROGRAM

SUN 30 JUL 10AM - 4PM	WED 2 AUG 5PM	SAT 5 AUG 1PM	SAT 12 AUG 1PM	SAT 19 AUG 1PM
Ephemeral art making workshops, Torakina Nature Reserve	Moonlit nature walk & sound meditation, Torakina Nature Reserve	Artist talk with Shona Wilson, Lone Goat Gallery	Artist talk & workshop with Samantha Moss, Lone Goat Gallery	Artist talk with Jess Poulsen, Lone Goat Gallery

A caring for nature making space will be running in the Gallery during opening hours.

Climate Conversations is a biennial creative project partnership between Lone Goat Gallery & Byron Shire Council

WED - SAT: 10AM-4PM
28 LAWSON STREET
BYRON BAY NSW 2481

f @ LONEGOATGALLERY
LONEGOATGALLERY.COM



Women Up North is a Northern NSW service for women, children and young people who have experienced domestic or family violence or abuse. We are based in the Northern Rivers, working with our partners to communities from Grafton to Tweed Heads.

Scan the QR code to access a range of local support services.



Women Up North coordinates the **Bundjalung Northern Rivers Love Bites program**, an award winning, national educational violence prevention program delivered to Year ten students annually at high schools across the Northern Rivers. If you want to support our program, you can donate at www.wunh.org.au; funds are used to train facilitators, purchase equipment and fund Hip Hop music sessions. You can also contact your child's secondary school to encourage your school to host the program or find out more about the program.

the arts



Breath debut solo exhibition - Gil Williams

Breath debut solo exhibition by Gil Williams

Prepare to be charmed and disarmed.

This enigmatic artist has been hard at work for the last year and a half to produce an impressive 40+ body of work, exploring the joyous celebration of life, colour, and the elements. You're invited to come and see how this remarkable individual views the world and expresses his imagination. Powerful and pure, his style is sure to stop you in your tracks.

5-8pm, Friday 7 July.

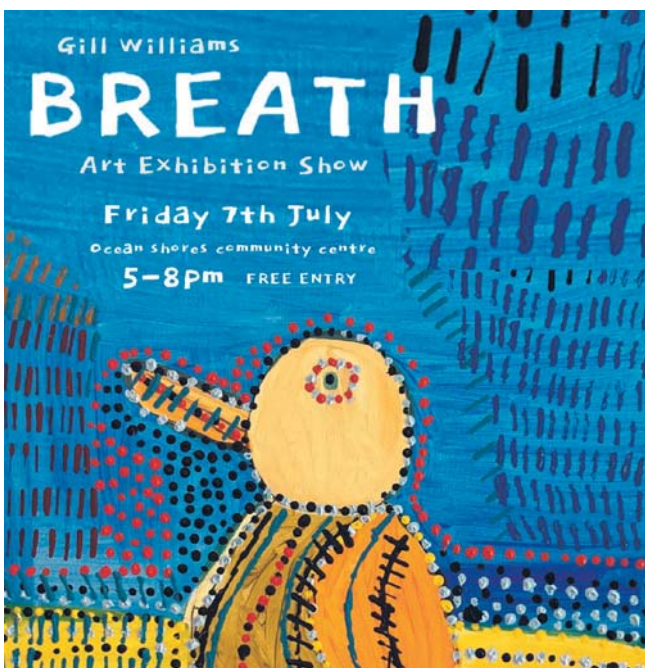
Family friendly, wheelchair accessible, free Kombucha on arrival!

@Ocean Shores Community Centre

Byron School of Art Term 3 courses now listed online

BSA's full program of Short Courses and Weekend Workshops in Term 3 includes the Visual Arts Introduction Course, a 12-week program introducing the fundamentals of contemporary art. Other classes include Mixed Media Painting, Ceramics, Fundamentals of Painting and Colour Exploration with Gouache. "Expand Your Practice" and individual mentoring is available with Emma Walker for more experienced artists.

byronschoolofart.com



ART GALLERIES

ART KIND BYRON BAY

Exhibiting contemporary paintings, ceramics, prints and jewellery.
3/18 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay.
Open Wed-Fri 10am-2.30pm, Sat 10am-1pm.
0404 946 553
@artkindbyronbay
www.artkind.com.au

ARTIST STUDIO GALLERY

Belongil Beach.
Open by appointment.
0409 604 405
www.janrae.com.au

ARTIST'S HOME GALLERY

Byron Bay
Landscape inspired works imparting a 'spirit of place'.
Open by appointment.
6685 5317
jaypearse.com

BS'A PROJECT SPACE

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

GALLERY COSMOSIS

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

H'ART GALLERY

Local art in the heart of Mullumbimby.
Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre,
60 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby.
0401 647 325
Healing Art Design & New Age Gallery

HEALING ART DESIGN & NEW AGE GALLERY

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

KARENA WYNN-MOYLAN, FINE ART

Fine Artist
World Award winning Contemporary Realism
Art direct from the artist at her Bangalow Studio
Phone or text 0414 822 196

LENNOX ARTS COLLECTIVE

painting | photography | woodwork | ceramics |
jewellery | classes | workshops
2/72 Ballina Street, Lennox Head.
Open 7 days: 10am-3pm.
lennoxartscollective@gmail.com

BSA BYRON SCHOOL OF ART

Term 3 Short Courses & Weekend Workshops now listed online

byronschoolofart.com

LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY — POP-UP SPACE

46 Magellan Street, Lismore NSW 2480.
Open Tues-Sat 10am-4pm, Thurs until 6pm.
6627 4600
Email art.gallery@lismore.nsw.gov.au
www.lismoregallery.org

LONE GOAT GALLERY

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

MACKAY HARRISON GALLERIES

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

MIST GALLERY

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

MULLUMBIMBY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY

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

MZ GALLERY

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

NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY

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

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

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

STUDIO SUVIRA

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

THE LORE BUREAU

12 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar.
Open Thurs-Sun 10am-3pm.
By appt: 0455 992 396
www.thelorebureau.com

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

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

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BROWN, PLUM AND OCEAN ALLEY AT SPLENDOUR

Last week organisers of Splendour in the Grass announced that **Lewis Capaldi** would not make it to North Byron Parklands for his scheduled appearance in July.

Capaldi told fans last week that he is taking some time off as he comes to grips with the debilitating condition Tourette* syndrome (TS).

Secret Sounds Co-CEO, Paul Piticco said: 'We know that many of you will be disappointed but, we're sure Lewis' fans will agree, all that really matters is that he takes the time he needs to feel better. Lewis, we'll all be here waiting when you're ready!'

In his media release Capaldi, who revealed in September last year that he had been diagnosed with Tourette syndrome, said he was incredibly sorry to everyone who had planned to come to a show before the end of the year: 'I need to feel well to perform at the standard you all deserve. Playing for you every night is all I've ever dreamed of, so this has been the most difficult decision of my life. I'll be back as soon as I possibly can. All my love, always, Lewis x'

While Splendour organisers search for someone to fill the breach, they have also announced the incredible Danny Brown and the spell-binding Thelma Plum are joining the SITG2023 lineup.

They also say that the captivating psychedelic surf-rockers **Ocean Alley** have joined the lineup as well, and will be lighting up the Amphitheatre on **Friday 21 July!**

Ocean Alley have solidified their position as one of Australia's most exciting touring acts, making their mark on the local and international circuit with their consistent touring schedule, selling out countless shows across North America, Europe, UK and New Zealand, as well as playing memorable sets in Australia at Splendour in the Grass, Groovin the Moo, Bluesfest and the triple j One Night Stand, as well as overseas at Reading & Leeds (UK), BottleRock (USA), and Sziget (HUN).

October 2022 saw the release of the band's fourth album *Low Altitude Living*, showcasing why Ocean Alley continue their unstoppable rise as one of Australia's most exciting musical exports.

For more information about Splendour in the Grass lineup and set times, visit: splendourinthegrass.com.

*** For more information about TS, visit the Tourette Syndrome Association of Australia website: tourette.org.au.**

PEACE, LOVE AND RESISTANCE

Byron Music Society is presenting something a little different this month. Come and experience the magic combination of cello and piano with Louise King and Timothy Young.

Louise and Timothy have put together a program that is music inspired by hope, war, peace, love and resistance. At its centre is Rachmaninov's magnificent cello sonata, celebrating the 150th anniversary of his birth (1873-1943).

Short evocative works by Arensky, Glazunov, Prokofiev, and Shostakovich bookend and complement the sonata.

Modern songs arranged for cello and piano inspired by war protest and resistance by Sting, Radiohead, John Butler and John Lennon will nestle between each of the sonata movements.

Short works inspired by hope, by living composers Nat Bartsch (Melbourne/Naarm) and Catherine Likhuta (Brisbane/Meanjin), will also feature.

Louise King on cello has established herself as one of Australia's leading dynamic performers and educators. She is in great demand as a concert

artist, as a chamber music partner, baroque and modern cellist, adjudicator, teaching artist, event producer, conductor, workshop facilitator, recording artist and a leader in community art and music projects. Louise's performing projects and engagements are diverse and eclectic, showcasing the best of classical music fused with contemporary art practices, whilst exploring Australian music, women in music, improvisation, composition, folk music, and extensive collaborations with singer-songwriters, dance, mime and spoken word.

Timothy Young on piano is one of Australia's most prominent and versatile pianists. Currently the Head of Piano and Chamber Music at the Australian Academy of Music and a founding member of Ensemble Liaison, he performs regularly in recital as a soloist, and in partnership with leading Australian and international musicians and ensembles.

See this wonderful performance at the Byron Theatre on Sunday July 30, at 3pm.

Tickets: www.byroncentre.com.au.

SEED ARTS SeedArts presents

THE XROSSING

LISMORE QUAD • 8 & 9 JULY • 1-5 PM

A free highwire spectacular celebrating Lismore as the birthplace of Gamilaroi-man Con Colleano (1899 - 1973), the greatest tightwire walker to ever live.

Co-directed by Kirk Page and Simone O'Brien and featuring Bundjalung music producer Mr Rhodes and Wiradjuri wire-walker Dylan Singh.

Come celebrate the Lismore-to-Legend story of Con Colleano, the one and only Wizard of the Wire!

THE XROSSING

BilliDiddlyFest

The *BilliDiddlyFest* brings you a large slice of Celtic heaven. Each band has graced the stages of The National, Woodford, Port Fairy and Tablelands Folk Festivals. This is a top drawer line-up of festival crowd pullers on one bill. All followed by a traditional acoustic session in The Shed. A great chance to meet the band members and make some new friends. Bring your instrument, your voice (or even something to hit or shake) and share in the music!

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

8 JULY 2023
 5.00 - 11.00 PM
 BILLINUDGEL HOTEL
<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/billididdlyfest-tickets-616850716097>

BYRON THEATRE

THE BEATING HEART OF BYRON

JULY

1 HOT MESS | 1 AG DANCE
 4 ARAKWAL FLICKERFEST
 5 SHORTY'S KIDS' DISCO
 11 THE LISTIES | 13-16 BRIGHT LIGHTS | 22 KAMCHATKA
 26 I, CLAUDE MONET
 28 JOSEPH TAWADROS
 29 FLEABAG | 30 LOUISE KING

TICKETS AND INFO
BYRONTHEATRE.COM

A LARGE SLICE OF CELTIC HEAVEN



Dance Till Ya Drop (with a smile on yer face) at the **BilliDiddlyFest's** great lineup.

The BilliDiddlyFest, brings you a large slice of Celtic heaven. Each band has graced the stages of The National, Woodford, Port Fairy and Tablelands folk festivals. This is a top-drawer lineup of festival crowd pullers on one bill. The night will finish with a traditional acoustic session in The Shed.

The Round Mountain Girls, after having played just about every major festival they can squeeze their genre-fluid set into, thought it would be a great idea to coax some of their favourite acts – **The Munsterbucks**, **The Barleysakes** and **The Nightmare Rangers**, down to the Billi for a night of sheer ecstasy.

The Munsterbucks are two lads from Munster, a province in the South of Ireland who've relocated to Australia and crossed paths in the traditional music scene in Brisbane. Featuring **Tommy Donovan** from Kerry (Banjo and Mandolin) and **Jack O' Leary** from Cork (vocals, guitar and bodhran), they have been joined by one of Australia's top Celtic fiddlers, **Sam De Santi**. They've firmly established themselves as a band to seek out in the Australian folk scene. Seriously gifted musicians and storytellers, they

embody the culture, history and passion of Ireland, bringing it to life in song and verse. It's impossible not to fall in love with them.

The Barleysakes (Ireland, Australia): if you've been to Woodford Folk Festival you'll know the Barleysakes – they've played every one since its inception – they're perennial crowd favourites. They are the raw essence of Irish music, managing to hold hands with tradition, while infusing it with a fresh and contemporary spirit. They bring you upbeat sounds of Ireland on sweet, sensuous fiddle, mandolin, bodhran and spirited guitar. And through their lifelong passion and skill, the Barleysakes will make you laugh, cry, dance, and sing.

The Nightmare Rangers? You'll see! All this gig needs now is *you* – the audience.

It wouldn't be a night of Celtic music without an acoustic session to finish the night off. Once the main stage finishes, gather 'round in the shed, bring an instrument, a voice, or something to hit or shake, and join in with some traditional (and not so traditional) tunes.

Get your good selves down to the Billinudgel Hotel on Saturday for an evening of Celtic shenanigans! Doors open at 5pm and tickets are found at eventbrite.com – search for BilliDiddlyFest, or on the door.

CIRCUS, COMEDY, WTF?

It's that sassy season again at the Brunswick Picture House, when you are invited to let your hair down, get your friends together and join in the wildest time you'll ever have in the Northern Rivers.

The Cheeky Cabaret has redefined a night out at the theatre, mixing together circus, comedy, vaudeville, burlesque and everything in between. The shows feature a different cast of troubadours, miscreants, delectable divas and cabaret queens every season, so no two shows are ever the same!

Think you've seen it all? Think again. Here's what others have said about their *Cheeky* experience:

'A most spectacular and entertaining show. Performances were highly professional and very exciting, I was literally on the edge of the seat' – Emily.

'Has to be one of the best shows I have seen. Every act was amazing' – Lynne.

'The most laughs I've had in a long time. Cheeky, funny and very entertaining. Expect the unexpected!' – Joanne.

'One of the funniest, cheekiest and most raucous things that I've seen in years. I can't recommend it highly enough!' – Lina.

With 12 sensational shows to choose from, you'd be mad to miss it! New special 4pm matinee performances also on sale.

Arrive early and sample some of the delicious cuisine and sweet treats available before the show. The Kombi Collective will have their Cheeky Cocktail Bar in the garden, shaking up cocktails aplenty and serving wine, beer and bubbles for your enjoyment.

But they don't only cater for the adults! Their all ages circus show – *Lil' Cheeky* – is on again during these school holidays. Taking inspiration from the much cheekier 'grown ups'

version, *Lil' Cheeky* is a mix of family friendly circus, cabaret and variety show entertainment. These shows will dazzle and dazzle their way into your heart and tickle your funny bone. **Two shows only: Sunday 9 and Sunday 16 July, at 2pm.**

If you're keen to see any shows at **Brunswick Picture House**, then you should totally become a Housemate! Amazing benefits, including priority entry to all shows and a 20 per cent discount on tickets for you and three friends – think of yourself as a 'Cheeky friend with benefits!'

The kiosk, courtyard and box office are open one hour before all shows.

For more info on upcoming events, or to buy tickets, visit: **brunswickpicturehouse.com**

Psst! Make sure you check out the upfront 'Posh Seating' – it's the best seat in town!



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This permanent part-time role is 16 hours a week and is as flexible as busy station life allows. Base salary plus 10% commission on sales, plus super.

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bayfm.org

BROADWATERS AND THE UNDERCURRENT
WINTER CHILL TOUR

WITH **Rebecca Ireland**

THE REGENT THEATRE
MURWILLUMBAH SAT 8TH OF JULY
DINNER 8PM SHOW TICKETS AT THE-REGENT.COM.AU

Peace, Love and Resistance



Louise King, cello

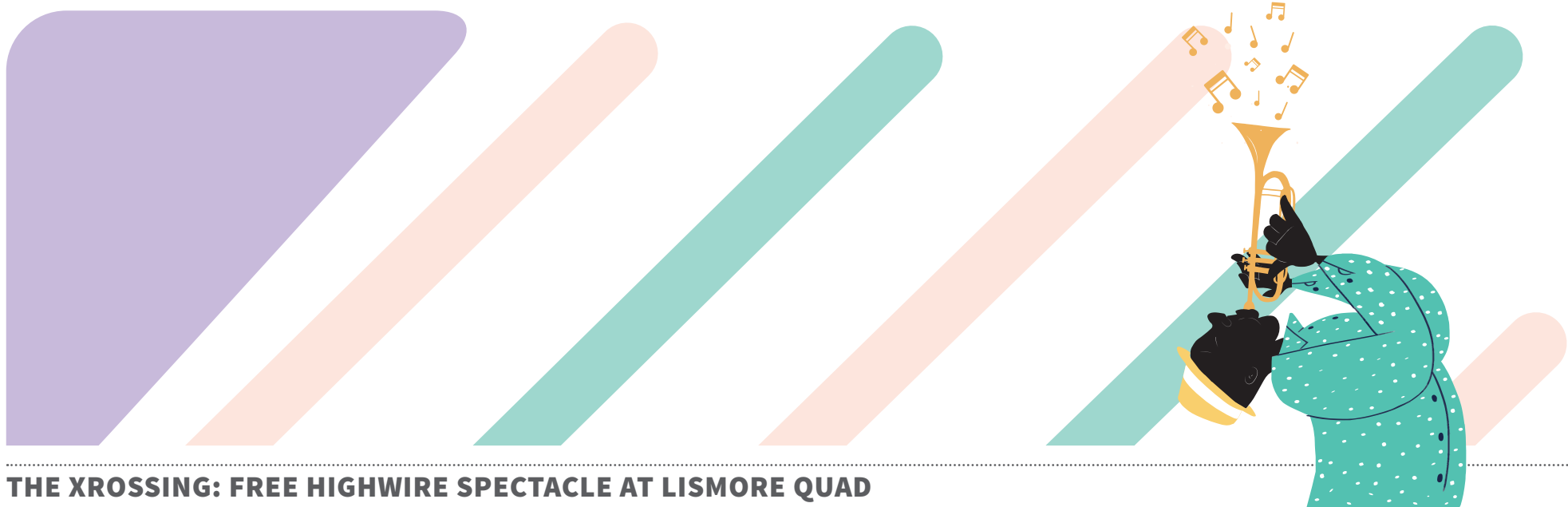


Timothy Young, piano

Music inspired by hope, war, peace, love and resistance, centred around Rachmaninov's magnificent cello sonata, with works by Arensky, Glazunov, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, plus arrangements of Sting, Radiohead, John Butler and John Lennon.

Sunday July 30 | 3pm | Byron Theatre





THE CROSSING: FREE HIGHWIRE SPECTACLE AT LISMORE QUAD

SeedArts proudly presents *The Crossing*, a spectacular highwire show inspired by Con Colleano, a Gamilaroi man born in Lismore in 1899 who became the greatest tightwire artist of all time.

Known as the 'Wizard of the Wire' his grace, style and achievements have never been paralleled, and his story is little-known.

At 19 years of age Con became the first person to perfect the foot-to-foot somersault on the tightwire, an incredible and dangerous feat that ultimately brought him incredible international success, wealth and fame in the 1930s and '40s.

As an unparalleled virtuoso, Con was master at keeping his own secret – his Aboriginal identity. With a showman's eye, he played an identity sleight-of-hand to develop an iconic Spanish toreador persona for his act. Ultimately, this combination of incredible athleticism, performance, and achieving the impossible would see him celebrated internationally as the 'Wizard of the Wire'.

Co-directed by Kirk Page and Simone O'Brien, *The Crossing* will feature five celebrated tightwire walkers, including Wiradjuri wire-walker and circus artist Dylan Singh, performing breathtaking feats on wires stretching 60 metres across Lismore Quad.

The Crossing also includes performances by 'community walkers' on lower wires who have taken part in a series of



free 'Wizards of the Wire' tightwire workshops in the lead up to the show.

Co-director Kirk Page says *The Crossing* pays tribute to a great Aboriginal performer who deserves to be as celebrated as Don Bradman or Dame Nellie Melba. 'Con Colleano's story is one of many where Aboriginal performers often hid their identity to be able to travel freely and to perform. He achieved greatness despite adversity, and we're thrilled to bring his story to light with this truly spectacular event.'

The Crossing premieres during NAIDOC week with free daytime performances on **Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 July at Lismore Quad**. The event includes live music by local musicians, the **Northern Rivers Youth Jazz orchestra**, the **Northern Rivers Community Healing Hub**, and local vendors will be serving up delicious food.

Bring your friends, your family and a picnic blanket to experience the breathtaking magic of the highwire and celebrate a legend of Lismore.

***The Crossing* – Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 July, 1–5pm at the Lismore Quad, 110 Magellan St, Lismore.**

This is a free, all ages event. Bring a picnic rug.

Food trucks on site.

More info at www.seedartsy.com.au.

BRUNSWICK PICTUREHOUSE

CABARET

CHEEKY

CIRCUS, COMEDY, WTF?!

INFO & BOOKINGS

FROM JULY 6 - ON SALE NOW

brunswickpicturehouse.com | 30 FINGAL STREET | 6685 0280

Matsuri Japan

Byron Bay

FREE ENTRY

Food • Music • Entertainment

Sunday 9th July 2023

2:00 - 8:00 pm

@ Byron YAC

Lantern Dinner Event

10 food stalls of Japanese winter hot foods • Sweets • Drinks



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

IT'S MATSURI TIME!

Matsuri (Japan Festival) Byron Bay is an annual, non-profit, free community event that has been running since 2017, introducing unique Japanese cultural experiences through food, kimono, Taiko drumming, dancing and music. This is a rare opportunity for a free professional Taiko artist concert. This year, Matsuri Byron Bay will be featuring **Ryuji Hamada** from **Taikoz, Sydney** as the **7pm** event finale, as well as **Kizuka Taiko** from the **Gold Coast**.

Ryuji has been invited as a special tutor for a three-day intensive **Byron Taiko Music Camp** being held on **July 7, 8 and 9**. Members will be learning a song during this workshop to perform in the **final showcase** on **Sunday evening**. This has been sponsored by Regional Youth NSW.

The **Kids Taiko drumming workshops** have always proven to be popular and will be happening again this year. This family-friendly event will also host a range of Japanese handmade market stalls, kids activities and crafts, dance workshops and more.

Bring your family along, grab a picnic rug, and enjoy a hot Japanese meal while listening to the beats of the Taiko drums.

Byron Taiko Youth was established in 2018 by Byron Council's Community Initiative project at Byron YAC. Through the healthy full-body workout of Taiko drumming, the Byron Taiko project has provided a healthy routine and successfully educated children and youth about cultural diversity through after-school drumming workshops. With years of weekly practice, the Byron Taiko Youth group have recently performed at the Blues Festival, Soul Street Byron NYE, Bangalow Billy Cart, Byron Music Festival and Lismore Lantern Parade.

Please come along and support Matsuri Byron Bay so they can continue to hold this much-loved community event with the hope that they can move back to their original location at Main Beach in the future.

Want to learn Taiko drumming? Taiko drumming will blow your mind! Real music with vibrations to your heart. Anyone can learn. **Weekly classes**

held on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
info@byrontaiko.com for more information.

Enjoy the Matsuri Festival on **Sunday 9 July 2-8pm** at the **Byron YAC** – live music, entertainment, and Taiko drumming will continue until **8pm**. **No tickets needed.**

Just turn up, grab some Japanese food and enjoy the entertainment, starting with the **2pm opening ceremony with Didgeridoo and Taiko.**

There will be a range of Japanese street food stalls serving their winter dinner menu, 2-8pm.

PALACE CINEMAS **Session Times**
Thurs 6 July – Wed 12 July

<p>SPECIAL SCREENINGS</p> <p>FALLEN LEAVES (CTC) Scandi Film Festival Preview Thu: 6:30pm</p> <p>NT LIVE: FLEABAG (CTC) Sparkling Event Fri: 7:00pm</p> <p>ODESZA: THE LAST GOODBYE (PG) Fri: 8:30pm</p> <p>ROYAL OPERA: IL TROVATORE (CTC) Sun: 1:00pm Wed: 11:30am</p> <p>FAMILY FILMS</p> <p>ELEMENTAL (PG) Thu-Sun: 11:10am, 1:20pm, 3:50pm Mon/Tue: 11:10am, 1:20pm, 3:50pm, 6:00pm Wed: 11:10am, 1:20pm, 6pm</p> <p>SPIDER-MAN: ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE (PG) Daily: 2:10pm, 5:00pm</p>	<p>THE LITTLE MERMAID (PG) Daily excl. Sat/Sun: 11:00am, 3:30pm Sat/Sun: 11:00am</p> <p>ALL FILMS</p> <p>DRIVING MADELEINE (MA15+) Daily: 11:10am, 1:20/4:20pm</p> <p>GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL.3 (M) Daily excl. Fri: 8:10pm</p> <p>INDIANA JONES & THE DIAL OF DESTINY (M) Daily excl. Thu/Fri: 11am, 2pm, 5pm, 6:20pm, 7:50pm Thu/Fri: 11am, 2pm, 3:45pm, 5pm, 6:20pm, 7pm</p> <p>INSIDIOUS: THE RED DOOR (M) (NFT) Daily: 1:10pm, 3:30pm, 6:00pm, 8:20pm</p> <p>NO HARD FEELINGS (MA15+)</p>	<p>Daily excl. Thu/Fri: 11am, 8pm Thu/Fri: 11:15am, 4pm, 8pm</p> <p>JOY RIDE (MA15+) Sessions vary daily - check website for full listings.</p> <p>MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - DEAD RECKONING P1 (M) Daily excl. Thu/Fri: 11:00am, 1:10pm, 4:00pm, 6:30pm, 7:30pm, 8:20pm</p> <p>OTHER PEOPLE'S CHILDREN (M) Daily excl. Sun/Wed: 11:10am, 1:20pm, 3:40pm, 6:00pm Sun: 10:50am, 1:50pm, 6pm Wed: 1:40pm, 3:40pm, 6pm</p> <p>TRANSFORMERS: RISE OF THE BEASTS (M) Daily: 11:30am</p> <p>YOU HURT MY FEELINGS (MA15+) Sessions vary daily - check website for full listings.</p>
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108 Jonson St, Byron Bay • Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au
Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking Validation for all Palace Cinemas customers
Session times subject to change - check web for most up to date sessions. *NFT = No Free Tickets

SOUTHERN CROSS SOLOISTS PRESENTS THE

20TH BANGALOW CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2023

17-20 AUGUST

The award nominated chamber music festival brings Australia's leading musicians to the hinterlands of Byron Bay for 4 days of excellence in music making.

Tickets and Information

southernxsoloists.com/bangalow

WEDNESDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **AKOVA**, 8PM **JEROME WILLIAMS**
- BYRON THEATRE 10AM **KIDS DISCO PARTY WITH SHORTY BROWN**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **THE MILK CARTON KIDS + VERA SOLA**

THURSDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TRILLIAH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JAMES ALEXANDER**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD + DJ KYRA**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **GREG WALL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **JAM NIGHT**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **TAHLIA COB**
- WHITEBROOK THEATRE, SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY, LISMORE, 6.30PM **NORTHERN RIVERS YOUTH ORCHESTRA IN CONCERT**

FRIDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **RAGGA JUMP**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JAY DEVU**, 8PM **MADISON KAT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARK CHAPMAN + DJ SIMBA**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **THE DIRTY CHANNEL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- OCEAN SHORES COMMUNITY CENTRE 5PM **EXHIBITION: GILL WILLIAMS PRESENTS BREATH**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ SALVE JORGE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **BALCONY BEATS**, 8.30PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUMBIMBY WITH DJ SHIAN LOVE**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **BEN PURNELL**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 5PM **DENNIS WILSON**

LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE

- 8.30PM **INO PIO**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE, 6.30PM **Q + DJ SOLI B**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 8PM **RENEE & ROO + DJ OVALS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **TAHLIA MATHESON**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **TIN PARLOUR**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 10.30AM **THE MAGIC AND CIRCUS SHOW**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **DARK SIDE OF THE MOON**

SATURDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE BILLY GUDGEON BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3.30PM **GABRIELLE LAMBE**, 6.30PM **THE VERSACE BOYS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KANE MUIR + DJ REIF + DJ ZAC EWING**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **LEXI CLARK TRIO + SARAH GRANT**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4PM & 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **PHANTOM LIMBZ**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ XENIA LAGUNE**
- DURRUMBUL HALL 1PM **LOVEFEST: DJ'S LO QI, ISHWARA & SHIAN LOVE**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 5PM **BILLIDIDDLY FESTIVAL**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **KAFFENE**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **DEUX LORD**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 6PM **PHONIC**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **ADAM HARPAZ**
- THE QUAD, LISMORE, 1PM **WIZARDS OF THE WIRE! THE CROSSING**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE, 6.30PM **PUFF, LIMINAL & THE APOSTLES**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7PM **DJ CAWS**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS + WAX ADDICTS DJ'S**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **PHIL GUEST & MR TROY**
- REGENT CINEMA, MURWILLUMBAH, 8PM **BROADWATERS AND THE UNDERCURRENT + REBECCA IRELAND**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **MARK CROTTI**

SUNDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MAJESTIC KNIGHTS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **PACHA MAMA**
- YOUTH ACTIVITY CENTRE (YAC), BYRON BAY, 2PM **MATSURI JAPAN BYRON BAY**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **JOE CONROY**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DOWNGIRL, RATMONGERS & SNOW**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **BEN WALSH + DJ KAI**
- LENNOX COMMUNITY MARKET 9AM **TONY & THE THIEF**
- CLUB LENNOX 3PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **HAYLEY GRACE AND THE BAY COLLECTIVE + Z-STAR**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM **LIL' CHEEKY**, 6PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **OPEN MIC WITH NICK DE MAN**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB WITH THE IMPERIAL BLUES REVIEW**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **KEVIN BORICH**
- ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, BALLINA, 5PM **SJAELLA CAPELLA**
- THE QUAD, LISMORE, 1PM **WIZARDS OF THE WIRE! THE CROSSING**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **BRUCE WORRALL**
- BURLEIGH BAZAAR 6PM **UPBEAT + HAPPY AFRICA**

MONDAY 10

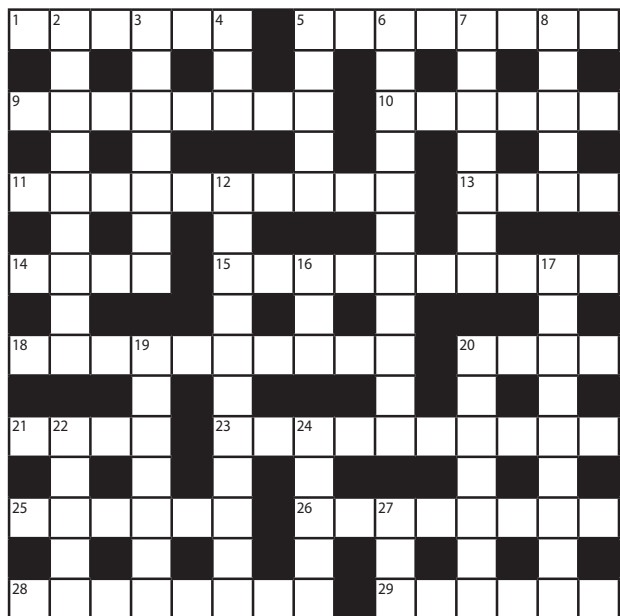
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**

TUESDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ANDY JANS BROWN**
- BYRON THEATRE 11AM **HAMLET: PRINCE OF SKIDMARK FROM THE LISTIES**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **THE GRAND OL OPRY**

WEDNESDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JACK BILLMAN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM **LIVE POETS**



Cryptic Clues

- ACROSS**
1. A survey of voters – nothing for the space program (6)
 5. Verbal instruction to the ambitious caterpillar: 'Monstrous beast' (8)
 9. Ancient reptile is around, marauding (8)
 10. An extra half score, suggested Spooner to the trusted adviser (6)
 11. Short hearings where lawyers keep their documents (10)
 13. Measure reign (4)
 14. One little sister – a goddess (4)
 15. Genuine directions to the gallery – landed property (4,6)
 18. A dishonest assembly – surprised? (10)
 20. A rider for eastern recess (4)
 21. Crazy clubs (4)
 23. Peace tours – wild, way off the planet (5,5)
 25. Dance jacket (6)
 26. It's a dolphin – I propose a motion! (8)
 28. Hugs for female automobiles? (8)
 29. Fold on the cricket pitch (6)
- DOWN**
2. Proper flowers – proverbially yellow ones (9)
 3. Look, store vandalised – thieving intruders! (7)
 4. Eggs finished, they say (3)
 5. Drills – tedious ones (5)
 6. Bard holds a steed, skittish, for the rancher (11)
 7. Herb keeps damaged ear in the tower (7)
 8. Fish for a monster (5)
 12. Flesh-devouring coronavirus mutation (11)
 16. Tree remainder (3)
 17. Try ports – they set a precedent (4,5)
 19. Pornographic alumnus spectacle (7)
 20. Endorse a very gentle wander (7)
 22. On the scent of capital (Italian) (5)
 24. Classes – what the stenographer does (5)
 27. Cold alternative raised for Sindbad's big bird (3)

Quick Clues

- ACROSS**
1. Classical Greek deity (6)
 5. Very large and powerful creature (8)
 9. Pre-historic animal (8)
 10. Guide; confidant (6)
 11. Valises (10)
 13. Regulation (4)
 14. Daesh (4)
 15. Land and buildings (4,6)
 18. Dumbfounded (10)
 20. Curved area at the end of a church (4)
 21. Flying mammals (4)
 23. The cosmos (5,5)
 25. Spanish dance (6)
 26. Small, toothed whale (8)
 28. Gentle strokes (8)

DOWN

2. They are one of the first to bloom in spring (9)
3. Plunderers (7)
4. Female reproductive cell (3)
5. They bring water to the surface (5)
6. Settler (US) (11)
7. Lofty turret of a mosque (7)
8. Harass online (5)
12. Meat-eating (11)
16. Cinders (3)
17. Legal actions to clarify a law (4,5)
19. Salacious (7)
20. Affirm (7)
22. Fragrance (5)
24. Categories (5)
27. Gigantic, mythological bird (3)

Last week's solution #497



The meeting place

I had no idea saving the planet was going to require so much admin. In the old days all you had to do was chain yourself to a tree, or lead a nonviolent revolution. But now you have to establish a not-for-profit association, write a charter, set up safe meeting practice, ensure you meet your terms of governance, and hope you can attract people with strong hearts and impressive skillsets who are willing to lose hours of their precious productivity time trying to engage in a collaborative process with people who may or may not be good at collaborating.

Collaboration and working together takes time. It takes a lot of meetings. Sometimes you have to have a meeting about the next meeting. When I am in a meeting I sometimes drift off and imagine Che Guevara in the Zoom age. I imagine Che's iconic face in one of the squares with the 'Che - he/him' politely marking his attendance. I imagine the revolutionary Marxist moving to accept the minutes of the last meeting where he'd moved a motion for a Cuban revolution. Fortunately, it was a meeting with fellow revolutionaries so it wasn't hard to find a second, even though Castro was an apology as he had another meeting.

When people ask me 'How are you Mandy? What have you been up to?', I stop. I've been busy. So busy that most days I have to start at, like, 5am to find a scrap of the day that doesn't have a meeting in it. I basically have meetings all day. At home on Zoom. In the car on Zoom. At home around my kitchen table. Around someone else's kitchen table. In parks. At community halls. At cafes. Actually, cafe meetings are my favourite. There is coffee, and food, and you don't have to wash up.

You can see people having a meeting in a cafe. There's basic meeting etiquette: if you see a friend in a cafe and they're in an intense conversation with



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX

When I am in a meeting I sometimes drift off and imagine Che Guevara in the Zoom age. I imagine Che's iconic face in one of the squares with the 'Che - he/him' politely marking his attendance.

strangers, they're in a meeting. Don't sit with them. You're not welcome. I've made that mistake and accidentally sat down in the middle of a meeting, only for my friend to politely tell me to F*off (actually, they said 'Mandy, sorry, we're in a meeting'). I felt embarrassed then got meeting FOMO. Why didn't they ask me to their meeting?

I go to about 20 meetings a week. I had to ask people to stop bringing cake. It's a weight gain issue that is never talked about. That tubby roll around your middle? That's meeting fat. And meeting fat is hard to burn if you spend most of your day in meetings eating cake to show you can collaborate.

While meetings are essential for group projects, or to resource yourself with the connections that you need to achieve your project goals, meetings are also death to productivity. In a survey of 76 companies, productivity was 71 per cent higher when meetings were reduced by 40 per cent. I get it. I'm doing more things with less time

and spending most of the week in meetings when I could be 'getting things done'. I'd reduce the meetings, but I'd probably need a series of meetings to make it happen.

Meetings have become a core part of what I do. Now, when I hang out with my husband and kids – I set an agenda. It's more efficient that way.

I've developed a few techniques for making meetings better. If I have to meet with two people and they live local, we do a walking meeting. It's hard to take minutes, but it means I get my 10 000 steps in and I'm in a cake-free-zone. My ideal meeting would be in a hot tub at Kiva Spa. In the silent spa. Just people using their higher selves to put forward ideas respecting the 'No motions in the tub' rule.

We live in a meeting-driven culture. A lot of what I do I can't do without a meeting. So, my new rule is: a short meeting is a good meeting. Forget tantra, this is when we need a 'wham bam, thank you ma'am'.

To all of you out there changing the world in your meetings; thank you. I see you. Actually, I'll probably be seeing you next week. Please don't bring cake.

STARS BY LILITH

Welcome to the second half of the year with its seasonal planetary hibernation – and as above, so below...



CANCER THE CRAB

ARIES: Feeling drained from too much output? Healing planet Chiron dipping into its annual retrograde in your sign suggests you start saying 'No' to requests you know will be exhausting. Prioritise how you spend your time, money and resources. Invest them in what will give you the most return and stability.

TAURUS: Jupiter, largest planet in our solar system, is embarked on a year-long stay in your sign. Associated with expansion and largesse, Jupiter's superpower of generous sharing will attract benefits during this transit, so keep giving freely, especially throughout the intensifying clench of upcoming planetary retrogrades.

GEMINI: Gemini's mentor planet Mercury in your money zone and the sign of very clever budgeting invites you to make a smart start on the last half of the year by refining your master plan, pinpointing what's working well, putting anything too difficult or resistant on hold, and remembering to celebrate small wins.

CANCER: As Mercury's mental energetics relax in your sign into a more empathic, less logical and factual communication style, you don't have to spend a motza on feeling good. A home-cooked meal shared with close homies, wine by the fire with a series binge watch or a good book; make simple pleasures this week's winners.

LEO: Your majesties might be unusually vulnerable to verbal impatience and explosive emotions this week, so easy does it. A Mars power surge and Venus/Pluto clash suggest it's best not to dictate, because the pushback could be intense. If you sense a power struggle brewing, press pause and bow out gracefully.

VIRGO: July's celestial weather predicts a period of constructive planning in preparation for the future. A time to reassess values and commitments and set a realistic trajectory. Uranus advises that by looking where you mightn't normally be inclined to, you could be pleasantly surprised by an opportunity hiding in plain sight.

LIBRA: After last month's busyness you're likely to be craving order, simplicity, and less rather than more. This week's planetary mix of water, fire and earth elements are geared towards impulsive, emotional action, so your diplomatic air sign skills might be required to provide a more logical balance of feeling and facts.

SCORPIO: This month's nurturing energy turns up the volume on self-care. Which may initially involve becoming acquainted with your shadow side, but hey, why not start learning to love it? At this time of year, intimate experiences, which include getting to know yourself, can be both enjoyable and inspirational.

SAGITTARIUS: With Jupiter spending a year in your sign's eco-friendly sector of health, organisation and service, you indie-spirited global nomads might be inclined to find travel less inviting this month than small, intimate gatherings and heart-to-heart bonding conversations in a domestic setting. Well, okay, not all of you...

CAPRICORN: With this week's full moon in your practical, goal-oriented sign announcing time for your annual midyear review and progress assessment, it's time to rejig goals and strategies where necessary. Capricorn is regarded as the eldest of the three earth signs, and right now it's your season for spending quality time with the clan.

AQUARIUS: At this midpoint of the year, it's time to step back, acknowledge your progress and celebrate whatever you've managed to achieve so far. And as always, remember to thank the people who've been part of it. Place anything that's just not working into the too hard basket until conditions start looking more auspicious.

PISCES: When Neptune, Pisces' planet ruler, retrogrades, your receptivity can sometimes make you a magnet for unscrupulous people. It's definitely worth shielding your energy field with an extra layer of protection during July, whether that's increased online security, healthy boundaries, positive thinking, salt baths, or more discernment, it's your choice...



3/72 Harbour Way, Brunswick Heads **3** **2** **1**

AUCTION

The perfect retreat in the heart of Brunswick Heads with our stunning 3-bedroom, 2-bathroom ground floor unit. Recently renovated. Convenience is key! Just a short stroll from town, the boat harbour, and the picturesque river, you'll have everything you need at your fingertips. Explore the charming boutique shops, indulge in the local cuisine, relax in the famous Bruns pub beer garden and experience the vibrant

atmosphere of Brunswick Heads. So much on offer and an unbeatable location, super motivated sellers

View Saturday 11–11.30am
Auction Saturday 22nd July
Contact **Peter Browning**
 0411 801 795



2/38 Mullumbimbi Street, Brunswick Heads **2** **1** **1**

AUCTION

Attention all buyers and investors! Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to own a truly captivating 1.5 bedroom apartment in the heart of Brunswick Heads. Steeped in charm and character, this gem exudes the irresistible nostalgia of yesteryear while seamlessly incorporating all the modern conveniences of today. Boasting a north-facing deck, bask in the warmth of the sun. With urgency in the air, the sellers are focused on the property being SOLD before or on auction day, offering a rare chance to secure this apartment. Embrace the idyllic lifestyle, where old-world allure meets contemporary living. Act swiftly and be part of this exciting auction to claim your piece of Brunswick Heads paradise.

View Saturday 12–12.30pm
Auction Saturday 22nd July
Contact **Peter Browning**
 0411 801 795



AUCTION 22ND JULY



12/1 Langi Place, Ocean Shores **3** **2.5** **2**

AUCTION

Urgent Sale! Don't miss this prime opportunity! Stunning east-facing unit with breathtaking white water views, and direct sightlines of Byron Lighthouse. Awake each day to captivating sunrises from your private deck. Nestled adjacent to the prestigious Ocean Shores Golf Club, this property is a golfer's paradise. In-demand location, sought-after views. Available for auction on July 22nd. Seize this chance before it's gone! Act now,

this exclusive property will be snapped up quickly! Register for auction today!

View Saturday 12–12.30pm
Auction Saturday 22nd July
Contact **Peter Browning**
 0411 801 795
Jordan Byrnes
 0475 309 530



1/3 Nunyar Court, Ocean Shores **3** **2** **1**

AUCTION

Going once, going twice... This 3-bed, 2-bath North facing unit could soon be yours! Spectacular blue water ocean views from a generous deck will steal your breath away. Ensuite offers the convenience of an intimate retreat. The best part? It's a blank canvas. Bring your vision, your style, your touch. Imagine the potential! Renovate and innovate to elevate the value of your investment. Act quickly! This unique opportunity is going

under the hammer on the 22nd of July. Seize this chance to create the oceanfront home of your dreams. Be quick - this property will be SOLD in a blink.

View Saturday 1–1.30pm
Auction Saturday 22nd July
Contact **Jordan Byrnes**
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45 MYOCUM RIDGE ROAD, MYOCUM



WANDARRA - Charming Barn Style Five Bedroom Home in Picturesque Hinterland Location

5 Beds | 2 Bathrooms | 3 Car Spaces | 5 Staircases | 2.5 ACRES

PRICE | \$2.6m - \$2.85m

OPEN | Saturday 8th July 11:00-11:30am

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Tara Torkkola
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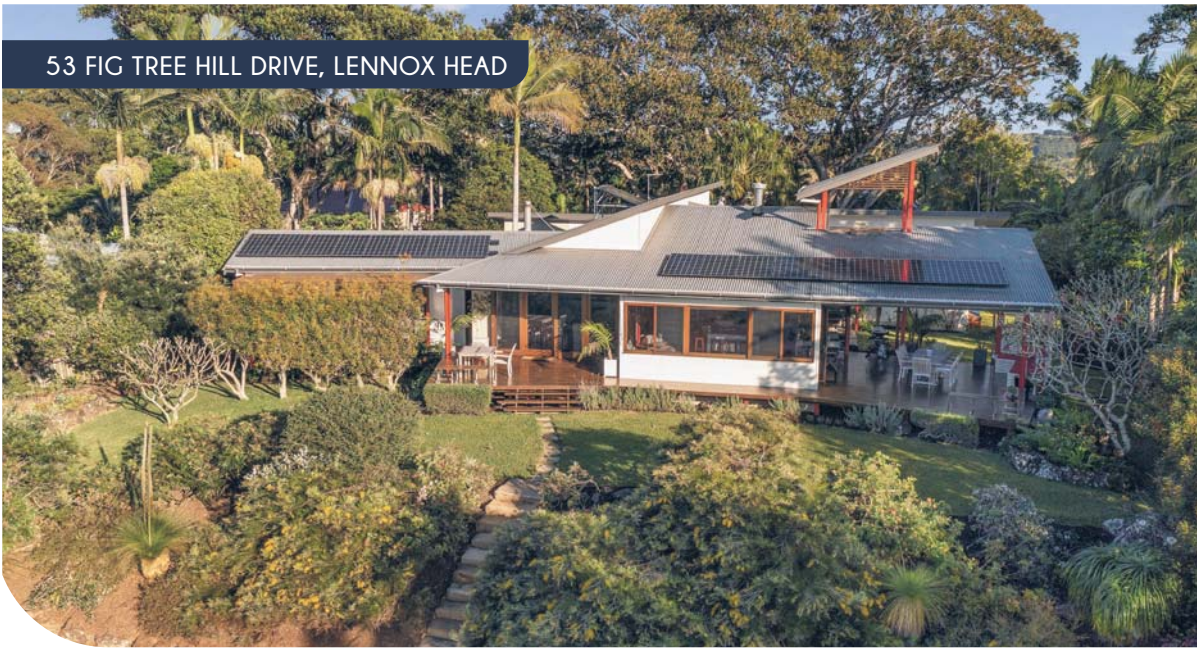
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3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car spaces, 2228M²

PRICE | Expressions of Interest
Closing Thur 3rd August
OPEN | By Appointment



Helen Huntly-Barratt
0412 332 232

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832 FEDERAL DRIVE, GOONENGERRY



CASA LUMINOSA Private Hinterland Escape with Ocean Glimpes

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 car spaces, 1.59HA

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | By Appointment



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698

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2 COACHWOOD COURT, FEDERAL



Potential, Potential, Potential! Character Queenslander located in Federal Village

2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 1 car space, 1526M²

ONLINE AUCTION | Starting Bid \$950,000
CLOSING | Thur 27th July, 2:00pm
OPEN | Fri 7th July, 2:00-2:30pm
Sat 8th July, 12:00-12:30pm



Paul Prior
0418 324 297



Sally Green
0488 030 116

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4/84-86 CENTENNIAL CIRCUIT, BYRON BAY



Versatile Commercial Unit in Popular Byron Arts and Industrial Estate

2 car spaces, 282M²

PRICE | \$1.65m - \$1.75m
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Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Luke Elwin
0421 375 635

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75 BUTLER STREET, BYRON BAY

Renovated Character Home and Extra Accommodation in Central Byron

3 Beds 2 Bathrooms 3 Car Spaces 2 Staircases 613M²

PRICE GUIDE | \$2.85m
OPEN | Sat 8th July, 11:00-11:30am

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Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594



388 REPENTANCE CREEK ROAD, FEDERAL

YARRAGA
Heavenly Historic Sanctuary in the Byron Hinterland

6 Beds 3 Bathrooms 5 Car Spaces 2 Staircases 34.02HA

PRICE | Expressions of Interest
OPEN | By Appointment

Scan QR code for more details on this property



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049



Duncan Lorimer
0400 844 412



85 ARTHUR ROAD, CORNDALE

PTINTAGEL - 37 Acre Ranch,
Two Dwellings, Tennis Court & Spring Fed Dam

4 Beds 3 Bathrooms 2 Car Spaces 7 Staircases 37 ACRES

ONLINE AUCTION | Starting Bid \$1.95M
CLOSING | Tuesday 25th July, 12:00pm
OPEN | Saturday 8th July 1:00-1:30pm

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* AGENT DECLARES INTEREST



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649



Paul Prior
0418 324 297



Boundary lines are approximate



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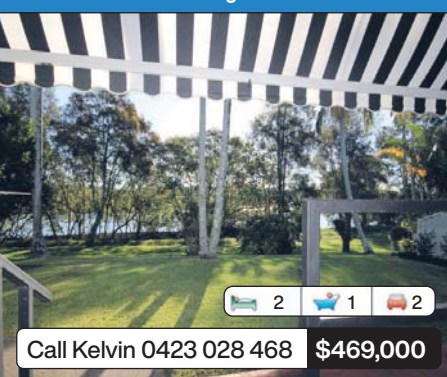
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- 8 Weeronga Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 9 Quail Way, Mullumbimby. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 11 Waranga Cres, Burringbar. Sat 12-12.30pm

First National Byron Bay

- 160 Reardon Ln, Swan Bay. Thurs 12-1pm
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Rd, Goonengerry. Fri 1-1.30pm
- 2 Coachwood Ct, Federal. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 41 Gordon St, Mullumbimby. Fri 3-3.30pm
- 18 Ridgeland Close, Boat Harbour. Sat 9.30-10am
- 3+4/75 Stewart St, Lennox Head. Sat 9.30-10am
- 73 Lagoon Drive, Myocum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 18 Sunrise Bld, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 69 Lilli Pilli Dr, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 45 Myocum Ridge Rd, Myocum. Sat 11-11.30am
- 75 Butler St, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 64 Sunrise Bld, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Rd, Goonengerry. Sat 11-11.30am
- 12 Brandon St, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 17/58 Armstrong St, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 53 Fig Tree Hill Dr, Lennox Head. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 30 MacGregor St, Suffolk Park. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 26 Oakland Ct, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2 Coachwood Ct, Federal. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 85 Arthur Road, Corndale. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 41 Bottlebrush Cres, Suffolk Park. Sat 2.30-3pm
- 41 Gordon St, Mullumbimby. Sat 3.30-4pm

Ray White Byron Bay

- 31 Beachcomber Dr, Byron Bay Wed. 1-1.30pm
- 48 Jacaranda Dr, Byron Bay. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 11/183-205 Broken Head Rd, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 31 Beachcomber Dr, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 109-111 Broken Head Rd, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 65 Currawong Way, Ewingsdale. Sat 11-11.30am
- 48 Jacaranda Dr, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 39 Belongil Cres, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm

North Coast Lifestyle Brunswick

- 14 Goolara Ct, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.45am
- 2 Kiah Ct, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 11 Riverside Cres, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 111 Geles Rd, Upper Burringbar. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2 Glendale Cres, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 539 The Pocket Rd, The Pocket. Sat 12-1pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 4-6 George St, Bangalow. Sat 9.15-9.45am
- 5 Gumtree Pl, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 12 Ivory Curl Pl, Bangalow. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 1 Flatley Dr, Clunes. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 447 Eltham Rd, Eltham. Sat 12.15-12.45pm
- 146 Cameron Rd, McLeans Ridges. Sat 1.15-1.45pm
- 25 Kings Rd, Nashua. Sat 2.15-2.45pm

North Coast Lifestyle Mullumbimby

- 3 Argyle St, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.45am
- 414 Main Arm Rd, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am

Real Estate of Distinction

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- 2 Giaour St, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 413 Crabbes Creek Rd, Crabbes Creek. Sat 1-1.30pm

Ruth Russell Realty

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Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 2 Spinnaker Cres, West Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 150 Burnett St, Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 589 Ballina Rd, Goonellabah. Sat 9-9.30am
- 10 Kookaburra St, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/5 Henry Philp Ave, Ballina. Sat 10.00-10.30am
- 43 Bentinck St, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 36 Surf Ave, Skennars Head. Sat 10.30-11am
- 4/68 Fenwick Dr, East Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 41 Warwick Park Rd, Sleepy Hollow. 11-11.30am
- 2/51 Gibbon St, Lennox Head. Sat 11.30-12pm
- 1106-1108 Tamarind Dr, Tintenbar. Sat 11.30-12pm

- 114 Shara Blvd, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 565 Friday Hut Rd, Brooklet. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 19 Surf Ave, Skennars Head. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1 Bath St, Wardell. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 22 Karalaren Ct, Lennox Head. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 439 Teven Rd, Teven. Sat 2.15-2.45pm

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

- 2/38 Mullumbimbi St, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 12/1 Langi Pl, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 3/72 Harbour Way, Brunswick Heads. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 1/3 Nunyar Ct, Ocean Shores. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 40 Byangum Rd, Murwillumbah. Sat 2-2.30pm

Mana Real Estate

- 2A Oba Pl, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 59 Riverview St, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30-10am
- 4/4 Halyard Ct, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.30-10am
- 46 Narooma Dr, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2 Clifford St, South Golden Beach. Sat 10.30-11am
- 66 Castle Field Dr, Murwillumbah. Sat 10.30-11am
- 1/6 Boondoan Ct, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/6 Boondoan Ct, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 86 Castle Field Dr, Murwillumbah. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 72 Bonnydoon Rd, Uki. Sat 12-1pm
- 3 Narooma Dr, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 2/3 Jackwood Ct, Suffolk Park. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 78 Owenia Way, Broken Head. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 2/3 Jackwood Ct, Suffolk Park. Sat 8.30-9am
- 20 Wallaby Close, Ewingsdale. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1137 Booyong Rd, Clunes. Sat 9-9.30am
- 680 Cawongla Rd, Larnook. Sat 9.30-10am
- 5/111 Fowlers Ln, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 151 Burnetts Rd, Nashua. Sat 10.30-11am
- 38 Armstrong St, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 10 Banksia Pl, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
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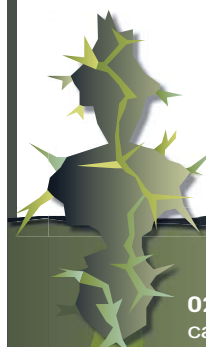


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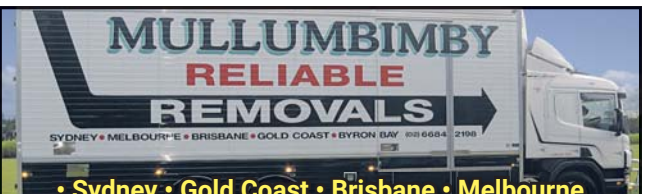
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Publication day is Wednesday, booking deadlines are the day before publication.

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REVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS OF THE PROPOSED New Radio Facility at Koonyum Range Mount Jerusalem National Park

PUBLIC EXHIBITION
NSW Telco Authority has submitted a Review of Environmental Factors (REF) to the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Planning and Environment (NPWS, DPE) for a proposed new radio facility at Koonyum Range in Mount Jerusalem National Park.

The REF is on public exhibition from 22 June 2023 to 22 July 2023. The documents are available for viewing on the DPE website at environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say and at the following locations:
• NPWS office at 22 Tallow Beach Road, Byron Bay NSW 2481 (9:30am–4:30pm daily)
• NPWS office at Level 1/135 Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah NSW 2484 (8:30am–4:30pm weekdays)

SUBMISSIONS
Persons or organisations wishing to comment on the REF are invited to make written submissions by 22 July 2023. Post your written submission to: Senior Project Officer, Utilities, NPWS, PO Box 2228, Jindabyne NSW 2627 Email your submission to: NPWS.Utilities@environment.nsw.gov.au Or make a submission via the website: environment.nsw.gov.au/get-involved/have-your-say
The submissions will be used by NPWS, DPE to assess the likelihood of the proposed activity causing a significant impact and if approval should be granted for the proposal under s.153D of the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

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LIFE CELEBRATIONS



**Patricia Adrienne Rankin
11 July 1935 – 21 June 2023**

Pat was born in Grafton 87 years ago and passed away peacefully in a place only some 200 km away. In between she travelled a million kilometres including establishing homes in Sydney, New York, Melbourne, Toronto and, finally, Suffolk Park. Along the way, she touched a thousand hearts with her incredible warmth, intelligence, charm and loyalty.
Carrying her love and light forward are: her devoted husband of 66 years Jim; her sister Kate Magarey, her brother John Weiley and their spouses' Donald and Susanne; her six children, Adrienne, Sabina, Judy, Tricia, Lizzy, and James and their spouses' Derek, Leigh, and Beth; her 15 grandchildren, James, Amy, Ian, Tallulah, Regan, Katherine, Sarah, Erin, Alex, Georgia, Finley, Oscar, Michaela, Lauren and Gwen; her great grand-daughters Maggie and Alice; her 16 nieces and nephews; and her many other loving relatives and close friends whom she cherished and who cherished her.
Our thanks and appreciation go to Dr Robert Shaw and the staff at John Flynn Private Hospital for their care and support to Pat and our family.

A Celebration of Life gathering will take place and there will be a notice in this paper in the near future.



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FUNERAL NOTICES

Jean Helen Gassner nee Palmer

Late of Ocean Shores.
Formerly of The Pocket.
Passed away peacefully
Sunday 25th June 2023.
Aged 83 years.
Dearly loved Wife of John (dec'd).
Loved Mother and Mother-in-law of Stephen & Katie and Lisa & Wayne.
Cherished Grandmother of Josh, Emma, Sofie, Jacob, Isaac and Brooke.
Loving Great-Grandmother of Harper, Mason, Oliver, Billy, Summer, Wolfie and Archie.
Loved sister of Lyn and Dale.
Family and friend are warmly invited to attend Jean's Graveside Funeral Service to be held at Mullumbimby lawn Cemetery on Friday 7th July 2023 at 11am.
McGuiness Funerals
Murwillumbah (02) 6672 2144

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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

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Each TUE New Brighton	0424 168 672
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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.

PETS

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

6-month-old male Border Collie x Kelpie 'Kela' is a cutie sweetie clever affectionate boy who needs not only adequate exercise but continuing training and lots of mental stimulation.
He is initially shy with other dogs but then loves to play. He is good with children, cattle and cats but will chase chickens.
If you have a fenced property and can provide Kela with an appropriate lifestyle for a working-dog breed, contact **Shell on 0458 461 935**.
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Eli is a 1.5 year old, Mastiff/Staffy X. She has a beautiful, affectionate nature and would suit a family where there is someone around most of the time. Eli gets on well with other dogs. She is doing really well in our basic training program would benefit from ongoing training.

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Couple head to World Triathlon Championships

Byron Triathlon Club member, Jaime Cascajares, has been selected for the mature-aged Australian team at the World Triathlon Championships to be held in Hamburg, Germany, later this month.

He will be joined by his wife, Joana Sponsel, who has been selected to compete at the World Triathlon Championships for Germany.

Jaime will be representing Australia in the 45-year-old age category for the Sprint Distance Triathlon (750m swim, 20km cycle and 5km run). He is also competing in the 40-49-year-old mixed team relay, which requires each athlete to complete all three legs before handing over to the next team member.

'I have been working towards this for a while, it was one of my goals for the season,' he said. 'Yes, I would



Jaime and Joana will visit family in Germany before the World Triathlon Championships. Photo supplied

like to do well there.'

Joana has German origins and was selected for the Sprint Triathlon.

'It is Joana's first World Championships, she is very excited. It is an amazing achievement,' Jaime said.

Racing in Hamburg will take place over July 13-16.

'It will be the first time a

Byron Tri Club member will wear the green and gold. How exciting. We wish them all the best,' Byron Tri Club member, Deb Fuller, said.

Jaime had thanks for all the Byron Bay-based sporting groups that had helped him.

'They're all just so supportive,' he said.

Local clubs back Nyxie's global surfing charge

All Girls Surfriders support Nyxie Ryan, as she enters her first year on the World Surf League (WSL) Challenger Series, the precursor to the WSL Championship Tour.

'Last year I worked five to six days a week with the goal to save enough money while I trained, to take myself on the Challenger Series tour this year,' Nyxie said. 'I worked three jobs all of last year. Flights to South Africa and Brazil events alone, will cost the best part of \$10,000.'

The 2023 WSL Challenger Series sees Nyxie participate in six events around the world, with the two Australian events already completed.

At the Boost Mobile Gold Coast Pro, the first Challenger Series event of 2023 held in May, Nyxie beat former World Champion Stephanie Gilmore and CT veteran, Niki Van Dijk, to progress to the quarter finals. Currently Nyxie is



Nyxie is in the Challenger Series top five. Photo supplied

sitting in fifth place in the Challenger Series.

'The goal is to have fun and learn heaps long the way,' she said, 'I'd be super stoked to make the top 15 and even qualify [for the CT], which is everyone's ultimate goal.'

All Girls Surfriders

Clubs like the All Girls Surfriders are fundamental to the continued growth of female surfing on the Northern Rivers according to president Berenice Roberts.

'At All Girls [Surfriders]

we believe it's important to build the grassroots of the sport through to financially supporting competitors like Nyxie Ryan on the world stage,' she said.

'Community would be lost without clubs like All Girls [Surfriders] and without our sponsors we wouldn't be able to exist.'

The 2023 All Girls Surfriders season is supported by Club Lennox Sports, the Gold Sponsor for the season, who donated \$5,000 to the club, which is partially supporting Nyxie Ryan's campaign.

Winter Whales hand out donations worth \$34,000



Community organisations joined the Winter Whales on donation day. Photo supplied

The Byron Bay Winter Whales distributed \$34,000 to a range of local charities after hosting another successful Ocean Swim Classic that attracted 1042 entrants.

'We had a couple of quiet years there over covid, but it is slowly building back up again,' Winter Whale, Graeme Huxley, said.

This year's donation amount of \$34,000 brings the total raised since 1988

to \$1,050,000.

Planning for next year's event is underway.

All money raised is specifically donated to the local branches of organisations supported. One of the biggest recipients is the Byron Bay SLSC that works hard to provide safety patrols on race day.

Organisations that received donations include: Byron Bay Scouts, Byron

Bay Surf Club, Byron Bay Swim Club, Westpac Rescue Helicopter, NR Prostate Day Group, NR Prostate Night Group, Rainbow Dragons Abreast, Byron Bay Herb Nursery, Byron Bay Ambulance, Byron Bay Ambulance, Marine Rescue Byron Bay, Byron Bay Rural Fire Brigade, Byron Bay Sports Foundation, Byron Bay Variety Club and St John's Ambulance.

Ocean Shores Crocs earn close win

Simon Laity

The talented U/7s soccer team, the Ocean Shores Crocs, emerged victorious in a nail-biting game against the formidable Byron Bay Panthers last weekend.

The match kicked off with a thrilling start as both teams showcased their defensive prowess, resulting in a scoreless first 10 minutes.

However, the Crocs emerged triumphant with a close win 7-6.

Despite the Panthers' amazing performance, Darcy and Elles from the Crocs unleashed some powerful kicks, setting the stage for an action-packed encounter.

Harry's superb goal further ignited the team's spirits, while Seb's exciting breaks kept the opponents



The Crocs (red) make a charge to goal. Photo supplied

on their toes.

In addition, Tex displayed remarkable skill and precision, managing to score a crucial goal that added to the team's success and Benji's defensive prowess was outstanding, as he tirelessly thwarted the Panthers' attacks and ensured the Crocs' net remained secure in the last minutes.

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.

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Mullum Tallowood residents are organising a community garage sale on July 13, which is also a great way to meet neighbours. Tallowood residents can register to be on the soon-to-be-published map at tallowoodgaragesale-day@gmail.com.

For those fascinated by how political power corrupts, former Liberal MLC, Catherine Cusack, who was a close colleague of Gladys Berejiklian, outlines her personal view of the NSW premier's fall from grace on page 10. And from the www.betootaadvocate.com: 'PWC (Professional Whitecollar Corruption) attempts to poach Gladys From Optus, following "seriously corrupt" findings'.

Psst: Ballina councillor, Rod Bruem, now works as media advisor for Nationals MP, Kevin Hogan. And former Lismore Council General Manager, John Walker, is now Kevin's 'office manager'. Small world huh?

The National Anti-Corruption Commission NACC) became operational on July 1. Who will be the first to be NACC'ed?

Here's a sobering stat, the NSW Council for Civil Liberties say one per cent of Australian taxpayers own nearly a quarter of all property investments across the country. They say, 'The wealth divide in Australia is at an all time high, and our tax system is set to become even less progressive with the advent of the so-called Stage 3 tax cuts next year'. Wealth inequality drives lack of access to many goods and services that allow people to



Supporters of persecuted Aussie journalist, Julian Assange, gathered on Saturday morning in Byron Bay to celebrate his 52nd birthday, and to mark his fifth year in prison. He remains in the high security UK Belmarsh prison, without charge, for speaking truth to power. His extradition to the US is looming, and so far, the Labor federal government continues to be out to lunch. It appears the Labor government is not interested in helping one of the most important journalists of a generation. During a recent parliamentary visit by Julian's wife, Stella, PM Albanese said, in question time, he did not take up the invitation to meet Mrs Assange because it would be a 'political stunt'. Isn't that what ScoMo would have said? Photo Cecily McGee

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Filmmaker David Bradbury has produced a short video showing anti-war activists gathering outside the Geelong electoral office of Deputy PM and Defence Minister, Richard Marles (Labor). Bradbury says the group are 'very upset with his giving away Australia's sovereignty, by signing up with the US and the UK – our former colonial masters – to confront China. The world, meanwhile, is melting from climate change, owing to inaction by our political leaders'. The clip is available at www.youtu.be/msihDD1mJAI.

PS: Thanks, Belle Budden, for her artwork used in the Echo masthead this week.

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