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Housing Support Info Day Sunday 30 July 2023

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🔗 <https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/housing-event>



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All on decks this Sat

Pictured from left, Tom Tom, Rady J, Max Squires, Al BBHC. Photo Jeff 'Above Decks' Dawson

The Byron Bay Skate Deck Expo is on at the new Byron Skate Park this Saturday, July 29, from 10.30am till 4.30pm.

The charity event aims to raise funds for the Byron Youth Service (BYS), which is located next door. Bryn from Temple Tattoo

told *The Echo* there will be live music (including Bunny Racket), skate competitions and a live auction.

The official opening of Jarjumirr Skate Park is also planned on Saturday, from 9.30am till 10.30am. See Council's website for more.

FOI request refused over public land selloff

A freedom of information request for documents relating to the secret sale by Byron Shire Council of public land in Mullumbimby for an 'affordable housing' project has been refused.

The Echo sought the information in the public interest given that the loss of the car park, located on Station Street, between the former Hoopers restaurant and Milk and Honey restaurant, will benefit private interests.

Vague plans for 30 units at the town's entrance have morphed over time – the

latest plans include housing Council staff in two units.

In their rejection letter, Council staff said that they can reject the request because of the 'public interest test', which is under section 13 of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*. They added the NSW government's development body, Landcom, objected, claiming the 'detailed information is likely to prejudice an ongoing market process in relation to [its] future development'.

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Adaptive surfing comp to be held in Byron

Paul Bibby

Five years ago, adaptive surfing world champion Mark 'Mono' Stewart started working on a big idea.

The Byron local decided it was time to bring a world championship event to Australia to showcase the skills of the world's best surfers with a disability.

Last week, Mono announced that the big idea was going to become a big reality, and that it would happen in his home town.

Byron Bay will host the first international adaptive surfing event to be held in Australia from March 17-22 next year – the 2024 Australian Pro.

The championship will be held at surfing breaks at and around The Pass, and will feature around 100 competitors from nine separate divisions to cater for most physical disabilities, including amputation, neurological impairment, paralysis and visual impairment.

The event is an historic moment for the sport and the Shire, and Mono hopes it will raise awareness about adaptive surfing among the wider community, showcasing the talents of athletes competing at the top level.

'These are full-on athletes – their stories are amazing,' Mono says.

'If they had to park their wheelchairs at Main Beach and hop down to The Pass they would.'

He also hopes that the event will encourage Australians with a



Surf champ, Mark 'Mono' Stewart. Photo supplied

disability to give surfing a try, and act as an inspiration.

'We want people to know that even if people have an accident or something happens, there's hope,' he said.

'When I lost my leg back in 1976, there wasn't much out there to look at in terms of surfing with a disability.'

'I was lucky to get huge support from the local surfing community, but there weren't really any boards or wetsuits or anything like that for people with a disability.'

'I really want to fast track that process for people who want to get involved. We've got everything you need to get involved now – from adaptive boards and wetsuits,

through to organisations to help people get involved.

'A guy got in touch with me a little while ago, and he'd recently become a paraplegic in an accident and we were able to get him straight onto the right board and set him up with the right people.'

'A month ago, he won a competition in Hawaii, surfing prone. It was amazing.'

Mono and the other event organisers are hoping the local community will get behind the event by attending the competition and volunteering to support it.

He is also seeking additional sponsorship from local businesses or philanthropists. Those interested in supporting the event are invited to email monostewart@outlook.com.

Retrofit now for looming heat waves

With the warmest week being recorded globally, RMIT's Dr Trivess Moore is encouraging home owners to prepare.

Dr Moore said in a press release on Monday, 'Data from the past few weeks has highlighted we are at a critical and vulnerable point in time.'

'When it is cold, people don't think of preparing their homes for summer. But now is the time to act – before we feel the effects of El Niño, which increases the risks of drought, heatwaves and bushfires.'

'The longer we delay delivering the type of housing required for a changing climatic future, the more costly it will be to retrofit poor quality and under-performing housing in the future.'

Suggested retrofitting ideas include 'sealing up gaps and cracks around doors, windows and walls; improving or adding ceiling, wall and underfloor insulation.'

Safety issues

Dr Moore adds, 'For those with a few practical skills, you can DIY – but there are some safety issues to watch out for.'

Investing in good quality blinds or curtains is also advised, for thermal comfort.

'Make sure you put them down early on hot days to keep the heat out.'

Outdoor shading can also cool your home inside, if it's near a window, while replacing inefficient appliances like fridges, dishwashers,

washing machines, dryers and heating and cooling systems with modern smart energy and water efficient appliances is encouraged.

Maintaining appliances is also advised: 'A simple clean of your heater filters will significantly improve performance and reduce costs; adding solar panels and if you have solar panels, timing your big energy uses to when the sun is out and you are generating the most energy; adding secondary glazing or window films, or

undertaking full double-glazed window replacement'. Replacing gas and moving to an all-electric house was also recommended.

Dr Moore says, 'Before jumping into a retrofit, you should seek an independent evaluation of the performance of your house which can tell you what the best bang-for-buck activities are.'

'The scorecard evaluation for houses in Australia is a really great starting point, as is information found on yourhome.gov.au'.



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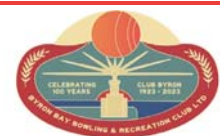


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Works to begin on old Byron hospital

The transformation of the old Byron Bay hospital into a community hub will start in August, say Council staff.

Council say they approved a tender of \$6.5 million for the redevelopment of the site into a facility that will serve the social and educational needs of the community.

'The old hospital closed in 2016 when the Byron Central Hospital opened and in 2019, after lobbying from Council and the community, the NSW government sold the hospital to Council for \$1.

'With input from a

Community Advisory Group, the plans for the 2,500m² site are for it to be repurposed to home organisations across four critical sectors – education, community services, creative industries and health. The reconstruction of the building is due to be complete in April 2024, and then it [will be] handed over to the not-for-profit organisation, Social Futures, to manage.

'Wordsworth Street, along the eastern side of the site, will be upgraded to maximise parking and improve pedestrian access'.

Highway crash claims man's life

A man died on Friday following a crash between a ute and a truck near Brunswick Heads. NSW Police say at about 3.10pm, emergency services were called to the Pacific Motorway, Brunswick Heads following reports of a two-vehicle crash. Officers attached to Tweed Byron Police District were told a ute had crashed into the rear of a parked truck. The driver of the ute – a 62-year-old man – was treated by NSW Ambulance paramedics but died at the scene.

Fundraising drive for PNG family

Paul Bibby

A local family from the hinterland village of Federal has bought a house specifically for the purpose of providing rent-free, long-term accommodation to refugees and asylum seekers.

The house, located in Brisbane, is set to provide a foundation that will help dozens of refugee families find their feet in the coming years.

The call is now going out to locals for financial support to help furnish the house in preparation for the arrival of its first residents, a mother with four children from Papua New Guinea.

'We met the mother and inspected the house on Tuesday, and she told us she was speechless – it was life-changing,' said Julie Lipsett from Federal Loves Refugees

(FLR), which is coordinating the furniture drive.

'The family has been living in hotel rooms, and were required to relocate multiple times in the eight months since they arrived from PNG.'

The family have no belongings other than their clothes, and FLR has committed to contributing five beds and mattresses along with bedding and linen so the family can move into the house within a week.

Tenancy agreement

'Just being able to stay in one spot is going to be a great help for this family,' Ms Lipsett said.

'The arrangement will be set up as a proper tenancy agreement, though obviously without the rent. So there'll be regular inspections and

that kind of thing.

'The idea is that it will be empowering for the mum and the family, to help them stand on their own two feet when they're eventually ready to head out on their own.'

'When that happens, the mum will get to take the furniture with her.'

Federal Loves Refugees is seeking to raise \$3,000 from locals to help furnish the home.

'Right now, we just need cash donations as time is tight and we need to provide them with the basics by next week,' Ms Lipsett said.

To help furnish the Brisbane house, please deposit your donation into the following bank account, and reference 'Federal House'. Federal Loves Refugees BSB 082489 Account 440995486.

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Comedians to roast koalas for a cause, Aug 29

Comedians Jimeoin, Blake Pavey and Mandy Nolan will host Koala Roast, a one-off comedy night to raise funds for Bangalow Koalas so they can plant more trees to create koala habitat.

It will be held at the

Bangalow A&I Hall, Tuesday August 29 from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. The aim, say organisers, is to help Bangalow Koalas reach its target of planting 500,000 trees by 2025. They say, '300,000 trees have already been planted to create a wildlife

corridor across the Northern Rivers of NSW'.

Jimeoin, Blake and Mandy all share a passion for environmental conservation, with each performer donating their time to help. To grab a ticket, visit tinyurl.com/koalaroast.

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Deadly fire ants just north of NSW border

Hans Lovejoy

A new outbreak of the highly invasive and potentially deadly fire ants has been discovered 5.5km from the NSW border at a pony club in Tallebudgera, says the Invasive Species Council (ISC).

Spokesperson, Reece Pianta said, 'It puts NSW at extreme risk of being invaded by the highly destructive pest species'.

'The distance is now close enough for a single queen ant's flight to spark a fire ant infestation across the border.'

'Fire ants will devastate our native wildlife and cause billions of dollars in lost agricultural production every year.'

'In Qld, we are already seeing sports fields and beaches closed owing to the extremely painful sting inflicted by fire ants.'

'Modelling suggests that if fire ants spread across the continent, they could cause over 100,000 extra hospital visits in Australia every year,' said Mr Pianta.

The ISC is calling on Australia's governments to 'urgently fast-track funding for a ramped up and effective eradication program'.



The South American fire ant. Photo Invasive Species Council

Mr Pianta said, 'The government's own strategic review estimated that at least \$200 to \$300 million per year will be required for ongoing efforts to achieve eradication by 2032. But instead, they have only committed \$60 million for this financial year, which is \$34 million less than was spent last financial year'.

In a press release on July 13, 2023, federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Murray Watt (Labor), said the \$60 million being spent on eradication efforts, 'just this financial year, is nearly four times what had previously been committed'.

Despite the ISC and the federal government being at odds over budget costings, it

appears the feds and states have some catch-up to do when it comes to releasing the funds to address fire ants.

Qld Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, Mark Furner (Labor) released a statement on Tuesday admitting, 'There is still work to be done to finalise budgets with the jurisdictions, but the fight against fire ants is already scaling up'.

He said the National Fire Ant Eradication Program is now focusing on 'scaling up operations to strengthen containment and compliance and intensify program-led and community treatment using an outside-in approach'.

'New containment areas will form a horseshoe around

the infestation, spanning from Moreton Bay in the north, west to the Lockyer Valley, east into the Gold Coast and south to the Tweed Shire'.

Spread by humans

He said, 'Human-assisted spread poses a significant threat to the National Program's effort to eradicate fire ants.'

'Residents and industries such as earthmoving, quarries, nurseries, civil construction and primary producers move materials that can carry fire ants every day.'

'Under the new response plan the National Program will scale up compliance activities across the region.'

'The compliance team will aim to conduct up to 12,000 audits annually to ensure maximum possible compliance with restrictions on moving these materials'.

Warned years ago

In March 2017, invasives.org.au reported that US fire ant expert, Dr Robert Puckett, arrived in Australia 'as part of a national tour of Australia to warn the country that it needs to act immediately to get rid of the super pest'.

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Space for grief and beauty, from July 29

Renew Fest organisers say they are hosting a special 24-hour Vigil For Grief for all members of the community.

The free event begins 4pm, Saturday July 29, continues overnight and finishes up on Sunday at 4pm. Set within the fig tree grove of the Mullumbimby Show-ground, the vigil will take the form of an immersive, atmospheric, contemplative and quiet space.

Ella Rose Goninan, director of Renew Fest, says, 'The vigil includes a continuous immersive soundscape, accompanied by musicians and spoken word artists, a

labyrinth to walk through, fires to sit around, altars to be reverent by, an Earth mandala to add flowers to, and a prayer tree for people to add their prayers.

'The community is invited to attend for as long as they wish, and will need to bring their own food and water and things to stay warm and cosy.

'For so many people in the Northern Rivers, Bundjalung region the last few years has been such a challenging time of grief, loss, trauma and heartache, multiple natural disasters, covid, the housing crisis and more.'

Ambo station to reopen soon

Paul Bibby

The NSW Ambulance Service says the Mullumbimby ambulance station is expected to reopen within the next six to eight weeks, ending an 18-month closure of the important facility.

The station provides an important base for ambulance services in the northern half of the Shire, allowing paramedics to reach people quickly in an emergency.

However, it has been closed since the floods in February/March last year, meaning that local paramedics must either be based at other stations around the Northern Rivers, or at the Mullumbimby Fire Station.

Twelve months ago, a spokesperson for the NSW Ambulance told *The Echo* that it had 'engaged a central government agency to project manage the repairs to Mullumbimby [ambulance] station'.

Yet, it appeared that, other than installing a new roof, no other work had been done, raising the question of whether the state government intended to reopen the station at any point in the future.

However, in response to a series of questions last week, a spokesperson for the ambulance service told *The Echo* that much of the work on the station was 'currently underway'.

Plant a Tree Grow a Fish – the legacy of Mary Gardner

For over a decade, *The Echo* published 'Tangle of Life', Mary Gardner's popular monthly column, which documented her observational walking and snorkelling adventures among the Shire's creatures, plants, waterways and towns.

These nature essays have now been collected into a beautifully designed book, titled *Plant a Tree Grow a Fish*, with illustrations from local artist, Katie Bridge.

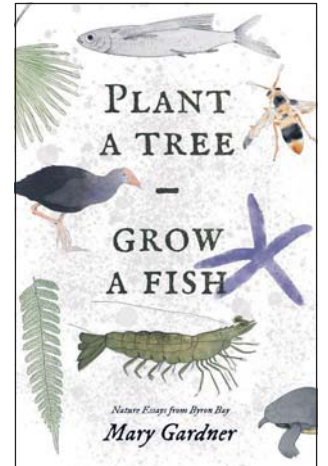
Editors, Jeni Caffin, Rosy Whelan and Jo Immig, have spent years collating and crafting the work.

They say the book will be presented at the Byron Writers Festival 2023 on Sunday, August 13, from 1.45pm at the beginning of The Mungo Panel: The Future of Journalism, in The Ideas Salon.

Jeni Caffin says, 'This is such a fitting environment for *Plant a Tree Grow a Fish* to find its way into the world.'

'Mungo and Mary were friends, and while neither of them still walk among us, their legacy endures. Mary is famous for encouraging us all to think like a fish, and Mungo certainly provoked thought!'

Mary's book, says Jeni, heralds a 'new style of nature writing, unapologetically



fashioning poetry, science, history and Mary's marine biologist perspectives into a glittering mosaic.'

'Mary Gardner landed on the shores of Byron Bay with two degrees in natural science tucked under her belt.'

'In the confluence of waters where the forest meets the sea, she immersed herself in a deep sense of place and wonder.'

'This love story from a marine ecologist's perspective is for anyone whose imagination and curiosity are piqued by Byron Bay's treasury of coastal and hinterland riches.'

Plant a Tree Grow a Fish will be available at the Writers Festival, and The Book Room Byron and The Book Room Lennox from August 1.

Bruns estuary gets bank stabilising works

As part of the Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program, 160 metres of riverbank along the Brunswick River has been rehabilitated to improve fish habitat, according to NSW government agency, Local Land Service (LLS).

LLS said in a press release on Monday, 'The project is designed to result in an increase in fish stocks in the Upper Brunswick Estuary, and involved the installation

of composite timber and rock structures to help stabilise the bank and create fish aggregation structures.'

'The structures will also act as a mangrove recruitment area by trapping sediment and creating a nursery for mangrove propagules.'

Riparian zones

Further rehabilitation actions, says LLS, included 'planting 1,400 local native

species, and excluding cattle from the riparian zone'.

Peter Boyd, Byron Shire Council's Biodiversity and Agricultural Projects Officer added, 'The project has been identified as one of the most important rehabilitation projects to be undertaken on this stretch of the Brunswick River and it is only possible through the goodwill and contributions of the committed landowner'.

The project is part of the Fisheries Habitat Restoration Program, 'in which North Coast Local Land Services will deliver five projects to restore the health and functionality of fisheries habitats across the region'.

To find out more about this project, visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au/regions/north-coast/key-projects/natural-resource-management.

Mullum housing support info day, July 30

Byron Shire Council is organising a Housing Support Info Day to help residents who are still negotiating the process of trying to rebuild their homes after last year's floods.

The event will be held at St John's Primary School in Mullumbimby on Sunday, July 30 from 10am till 3pm.

Council say representatives from a range of community organisations will be there, along with Council planning and engineering staff, the Insurance Council of Australia, Service NSW, and the Northern Rivers Community Legal Centre.

Also attending the Housing Support Info Day, say Council, will be surveyors, trade professionals, Mullum Cares, Mullum and District Neighbourhood Centre, Safe Haven and Red Cross.

Flood Recovery Coordinator, Sarah Boule, said that rebuilding after a flood is a slow and complex process, and many people in the community are still grappling with very challenging situations.

'Flood-affected homeowners in our Shire were recently notified by the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation of the Resilient Homes program

outcomes, and many were told that they are not eligible, leaving them uncertain about how to move forward,' Ms Boule said.

Pathways forward

'At our Housing Support Info Day, we will provide the space for services and community to come together with the aim of providing options and possible pathways forward.'

'Council staff will be on hand to talk to people about the planning process and they will also be providing flood advice and certificates,' she said.

Death Cafe, July 29

A pop-up Death Cafe is planned for Saturday July 29, from 11am at the Paddock in Mullumbimby.

Described as a 'social franchise' by organisers, it is a place people, often strangers, 'gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death'.

The event on Argyle Street will be hosted by death walkers Kimberly Sowers, Gina Marie Trengrove and Sylvia Garcia-Menendez.

They say, 'Our Death Cafes are always offered on a not-for-profit basis, in an accessible, respectful and confidential space and with no intention of leading people to any conclusion, product or course of action. Alongside are refreshing drinks and nourishing food – and cake!'

To RSVP/register, email mullumbimbydeathcafe@gmail.com.

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Bellingen has eco-village pilot project in its sights

Hans Lovejoy

Bellingen Council has been developing an eco-village pilot project over the past few years.

One of the consultants for the project, Dr Steven Liaros, told *The Echo* that the project 'could inform new approaches to mainstream housing policy', and that 'it is not difficult to transfer the same framework to other councils, or to include it in the Housing SEPP (State Environmental Planning Policy).'

Dr Liaros, from town planning consultancy PolisPlan, and affiliated with the University of Sydney, has expertise in civil engineering, town planning, environmental law and political economy.

He said, 'After a submission by us during public consultation, Bellingen adopted their Housing Strategy in 2020, which included an action to do an eco-village pilot project.'

'In November 2021, we received some state government funding to set up the planning policy framework for the pilot project.

'Through 2022, we worked with Council staff and reported our recommended



From the Proposed Planning Framework for Regenerative Village Pilot Project. Prepared for Bellingen Shire Council by PolisPlan. Image polisplan.com.au

planning framework to the elected Council in November.

'We are currently developing the business plan and financial strategy. We are confident it will show how this approach is feasible and also much more affordable than mainstream housing.

'To overcome the inertia of doing things as they've always been done, we have to promote other options that the community wants.

'If there is groundswell of community support and demand for such alternatives, then I'm sure we can make it happen because there is a clear strategy, policy framework and financial feasibility.'

A description of the

concept, available at polisplan.com.au, describes it as '...a network of high-tech, regenerative villages that strive towards self-sufficiency and zero waste within their bioregion.'

Network of villages

'Each village will house a diverse community of up to 200 people and will integrate affordable co-working and co-living spaces with water and energy micro-grids and a regenerative agricultural system.'

According to the November 23, 2022 Council minutes, there are 'remaining issues to be clarified around rating and land titles'

The Eco-Village Pilot

Project Feasibility Investigations motion also says a further report will be presented to Council.

The next process, Dr Liaros says, involves securing a suitable site from a willing landowner, 'then comes the formal planning proposal, detailed design and amending the LEP'.

He says there is one regenerative farmer who has shown interest in the proposal, and has sufficient land. 'To house 200 people, we need 100 acres of rural land', he said.

As for 'rating and land titles' being established, he says they are not big obstacles. 'Council will work this out with the Office of Local Government, but the general principle is to have equity with other landowners in the local government area'.

Additionally, the proposal will involve a Community Land Trust, something that Byron Council has considered in the past.

Dr Liaros added that 'this must be a collective effort with clear roles for the community, Council, state government, investors and various experts to play'.

Housing crisis 'brutal' says social housing advocate

More than four in five renters are in housing stress, with homelessness the leading impact of the housing crisis, a report by national housing campaign Everybody's Home has revealed.

The advocacy group says, based on surveys of almost 750 people, the *Brutal Reality Report* found that two thirds (67 per cent) of people are in housing stress; four in five (82 per cent) renters are in rental stress; three quarters (75 per cent) of people are scared about their financial security because of the housing crisis; and two thirds (66 per cent) of people are worried about their mental health and wellbeing.

An Everybody's Home spokesperson said, 'The report also surveyed housing and welfare organisations across Australia. Nine in ten (89 per cent) reported bigger and more complex workloads, while three in five (61 per cent) said their staff were experiencing burnout or leaving their roles due to the crisis'.

Spokesperson, Maiy Azize, says they are calling for more social and affordable housing for people in extreme

rental stress.

'Our shortfall is so big that some people in our survey have been waiting for over a decade.

'Social housing is the best way to free up cheaper rentals and boost the supply of affordable homes. The federal government must create 25,000 new homes each year to meet the social housing shortfall.

'Our national, state and territory leaders must work to create a better deal for renters. It's time to end unfair rent increases and no-cause evictions for good'.

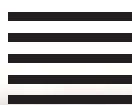
'The federal government has to also phase out unfair tax breaks for investors. People told us they want the government to fund homes for people in need, not investment vehicles that push prices up for everyone'.

Meanwhile, public submissions into a federal Senate inquiry into the worsening rental crisis in Australia will be extended till August 4.

To make a submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs, email community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au.

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

Sharing Tweed flood experiences for new study

Share flood experiences can be challenging but residents of Tweed Heads South, Banora Point and surrounding areas are encouraged to participate, telling their stories and sharing records as part of a new flood study of the area.

Imagining fictional futures for Lismore

A new exhibition at the Lismore Regional Gallery is set to explore fictional futures for Lismore in which creative minds imagine new modes of occupation for the flood-prone CBD.

Let's get behind Ben and his family

The local community is rallying around a Cabarita dad and his family after he was critically injured in a car accident last week.

End of one era and start of another at Ballina

There's been a quiet changing of the guard at Ballina Fair Cinemas this month, with one family-owned business taking over from another, showing optimism for the future of big screen entertainment in the area after what was a tough time during COVID.

'Empower You' app to support DV victims

A new mobile phone app has been launched with the aim of empowering victims of domestic and family violence in NSW.

Tweed Councillors Call for Back to School NSW Vouchers Program to be Extended

Councillor James Owen and Councillor Rhiannon Brinsmead have called on the NSW Government to continue funding the Back-to-School NSW Vouchers Program in its current form.

Request for stamp duty waiver for flood-affected residents denied

A local flood-affected resident contacted The Echo around their disappointment that a request was denied by the NSW Labor government to have stamp duty waived on new purchases for flood victims who were saying 'yes' to a buyback.

www.echo.net.au

Murwillumbah's World Environment Day Festival success



World Environment Day Festival in Murwillumbah last week once again proved hugely popular with a 20 per cent increase in people enjoying the day. Photo Greg Bork

New school for controversial site in Lennox

David Lowe

Clarence Property, the developer of Lennox Head's Epiq estate, has announced the sale of Super Lot 5, on the corner of Montwood and Snapper Drive, to the NSW Department of Education.

The 4.2ha site will now become the site of the new Lennox Head Primary School, having previously been mooted by the developer as the location of a retirement facility and then a medium-density integrated housing development of over 100 dwellings.

Ballina Cr Kiri Dicker, a critic of the housing development plan, has enthusiastically welcomed the latest news, describing it as an enormous win for the community.

On social media, Cr Dicker



Super Lot 5, corner of Snapper and Montwood Drives, Lennox Head. Photo David Lowe

said, 'It will be a few years off being ready to accept students but we can finally get our kids out of cramped demountables and into a state of the art facility.'

The existing school's development plans have been stymied since 2017 by the discovery of almost 600 Aboriginal artefacts in

the grounds (it's near the Lennox bora ring), along with the explosive growth in local population.

Principal Deborah Langfield has welcomed the announcement.

■ Read the full story on *The Echo* online at: www.echo.net.au.

L&EC rejects large subdivision – Goonellabah

Aslan Shand

The 197–203 lot 6, staged subdivision at 226 Invercauld Road, Goonellabah, called Eastwood Estate, has been rejected by the Land and Environment Court (L&EC).

'This is an amazing outcome, it is a credit that Lismore City Council (LCC) councillors who twice voted to reject the development have had their decision upheld by the court,' Al Oshlack from the Indigenous Justice Advocacy Network told *The Echo*.

The development application (DA) by McCloy Project Management 'to create 203 new residential lots and a residual open space lot and associated ten new roads' was rejected by L&EC on 14 July, 2023.

The proposed site for the estate is a mix of R1 Residential and C3 Environmental Management zonings and is located adjacent to Gundurimba Creek. It contains

koala food trees and has had koalas, including breeding females, documented at the site. The threatened hairy-joint grass *arthroxon hispidus* was also identified on the site.

The L&EC refused the DA on the grounds of: '1. the likely impacts of that development, including environmental impacts on both the natural and built environments. 2. the suitability of the site for the development. 3. the public interest.'

'The site on Invercauld Road is identified as being one of the most significant koala habitat areas in Lismore,' said Mr Oshlack.

Developer to pay costs

The L&EC Commissioner awarded costs against the developer in favour of LCC.

■ Read the full story on *The Echo* online at: www.echo.net.au.

Ballina – consulting firm to help create Shaws Bay plan

Mia Armitage

The Ballina Shire Council (BSC) has outsourced initial development of a Shaws Bay management plan to a locally, based private consulting company.

The move comes as conversations continue across the country around the merits and risks of governments depleting public services in favour of hiring often expensive external agencies to do work in the

public interest. The BSC website explains that staff prepared a Coastal Zone Management Plan for Shaws Bay in 2015 and 'most actions are now completed'.

Changes in legislation and a 'growing need' to address future issues such as climate change have reportedly led to the need for a new plan.

■ Read full story on *The Echo* online at: www.echo.net.au.

Iron Gates – RVC drops the ball in L&EC

Aslan Shand

Evans Heads locals have raised concerns over Richmond Valley Council's (RVC) apparent lack of preparation to defend the controversial Iron Gates appeal currently underway in the Land and Environment Court (L&EC) in Sydney.

The development application (DA) was rejected by the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) in September 2022. An appeal was immediately launched by Gold Coast developer Graeme Ingles. Ingles has been trying to regain approval for residential development of the site since his approval was stripped by the L&EC in 1997 after illegal clearing

and other works were done at the site. Remediation was required by the L&EC of approximately \$2 million, however, this work has never been done by Ingles.

The current iteration of seeking a DA for residential development is now in its ninth year. The NRPP had roundly rejected the DA on the basis of serious fire, flood, ecological, Aboriginal cultural and town planning concerns.

Locals have said there appears to have been significant proposed changes to the DA during the court case and they believe the changes are so substantive that a new DA is required.

The case continues to be heard this week.

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Apply for a Local Heritage Places Grant!

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What does the current federal government solar discount mean for you?

The federal government provides a solar discount to home owners and businesses in Australia that install a small scale renewable energy system (solar, wind or hydro) under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) to help with the purchase cost. Installing an eligible system allows the creation of Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs). The number of STCs created is based on:

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- **Total cost after discount = \$6,526 or \$33 per week**

8.71kW Solar System

- 21 x Canadian 415W panels with a 25-year product and 25-year performance warranty
- 1 x GoodWe 8.5kW inverter with a 10-year premium warranty
- Cost \$12,454
- Less federal government discount of \$3,648
- **Total cost after discount = \$8,806 or \$45 per week**

The above prices include supply, installation (standard installation on a tin roof) and GST. The federal government discount is subject to change at anytime.



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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #07 • July 26, 2023

Ban that smut!

The banning of books is not all that uncommon – it's done for political, legal, religious or 'moral' censorship reasons.

The narrowing of the collective spectrum seems to be gaining traction in the US especially, where school boards, stacked by ultra-conservative Christians, are limiting childhood education, presumably as God intended.

Just wait till the kids learn about Exodus 35:2, which says the death penalty applies to working on the Sabbath, or Exodus 21:7, which is 'When a man sells his daughter as a slave, she shall not go free as male slaves do.'

Anyway, Australia has its own history of censorship.

According to unimelb.edu.au, 'the most common reason for book bans by the Australian government was actually "offensive obscenity"'

'Ulysses was banned in Australia from 1927 until 1937. Hundreds of other titles, including *The Kama Sutra* and *Lady Chatterley's Lover* had bans lasting until the '60s and '70s.

Supporting Australia's puritan views on literature, Angela Heathcote's article, *The books Australia banned* (www.austrialiangeographic.com.au) states: 'In 2010, literary historian, Nicole Moore, from the University of NSW, stumbled upon 793 boxes of books deep in the underground of Australia's National Archives in Sydney.'

Angela says, 'Inside, were copies of *Ulysses* by James Joyce, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, even *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure* by Fanny Hill!'

'These titles, and thousands more, were banned in Australia

through the 20th century, considered to be obscene, blasphemous, or excessively violent'.

Nicole said, 'Until the early 1970s, Australia was one of the strictest censors in the English-speaking world'.

'We were often compared to Catholic Ireland and apartheid South Africa, both of which had strong religious and ideological reasons behind their censorship, but we banned some books they didn't ban'.

Angela adds, 'Around 90 per cent of the books that were banned in Australia during the 20th century were classified as "obscene"'

'Obscene takes on the British common law meaning, which declares that a book has the potential to "deprave or corrupt" its reader. This definition was often stretched and Nicole says it had a racist and homophobic agenda.

'James Baldwin's famous 1962 novel *Another Country*, which is set in New York City in the 1950s, and mentions interracial sex, was banned under this definition'.

Thankfully, censorship laws were eased in 1969, after the appointment of Don Chipp as the Customs Minister in the newly elected Fraser Liberal government. According to Nicole, apart from Chipp's reforms, it was the Australian publishing industry who started protesting the laws and printed the banned sexually explicit 1969 novel, *Portnoy's Complaint*, by Philip Roth.

'Around 170,000 copies managed to go into circulation very quickly. Penguin was rumoured to be keeping their stock on the road in unmarked trucks, to avoid seizure,' she says.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Govt management? Try anger management

With so many failures of government to be angry at this month, it is hard to know where to start. An anger management course?

Let's begin with the Robodebt debacle, when flogging the least fortunate in our community with bullshit debts was the sport of the day.

Their mental and physical wellbeing was sacrificed on the altar of dole-bludger rhetoric for pure political gain.

More than 558,000 people received illegal notices. People died as a result, killing themselves with stress and shame, and key government figures knew it was illegal right from the start.

The Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) found, in case after case, that recovery by the government was thwarted, because the process of calculating the debt was unlawful. Yet, the department deliberately refused to appeal these cases, because it would give publicity and approbation to the result.

Why on Earth we cannot actually see the names of those referred by the inquiry for civil, disciplinary or criminal consideration is beyond my comprehension. What if the agencies like the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) were just as secret? We would never know what they do.

For all the thoroughness of the report, that is a deep and fatal flaw. Moving along, I am just so angry at the utter failure of government oversight that has led those poor buggers in Sydney to have worthless apartments.

The dwellings were all checked and passed by private certifiers so they could be occupied, and all sold for squillions.

Now they are all worthless, as the desperate owners try to manoeuvre around confusing laws of bankruptcy, liquidation, strata and so-called default schemes.

Most of these strata unit owners have mortgages, many can't even live in their properties, or if they do can literally have a waterfall in the wardrobe.

Surely, the biggest asset ought to be the most regulated, but it seems like this is a government obsessed with being a minor nanny state – think pink, green and blue



'If the 2022 flood was a climate change litmus test, I'd be holding out zero hope that the government can provide anything other than hopelessness and inaction.'

David Heilpern

slips when transferring a vehicle from Coolangatta to Tweed.

And as expected, this government oversight failure is starting to be seen here in our area too, as the big developers move in.

Meanwhile we are all being squeezed by the privatised electricity market, with rises so far above inflation it's a joke.

Those states that did not embrace the neoliberal absurdity of putting profit motive into an essential service are now reaping the rewards.

Fat cats make millions over suffering vulnerable consumers who now lurch from provider to provider, every six months, in search of a deal that might keep them cooking and warm.

It's another utter failure of government policy, writ large.

And thence to flood recovery, where my blood just boils. I am going to write a satirical play where the government actually sets out to develop a natural disaster recovery debacle with no transparency; limited unappealable, shifting, illogical criteria; false promises in black and white; untenable delays; and doublespeak hijinks from government agencies here today and gone tomorrow.

I'll subtly call it North Coast Flood 2022. Meanwhile, people who actually believed they would be looked after just sip their tea, made with their one power point from the front porch power box, and sit in the caravan under their house in despair.

If this is a climate change litmus test, I'd be holding out zero hope that the government can provide anything other than hopelessness and inaction. We would be better off learning plastering ourselves.

And here's Tim, my old builder mate ringing me again. He bought his house with his compo money from an injury 15 years ago. The one thing he owns. He was a victim of Robodebt, having been told he owed

\$18,000, and had the debt collectors set on him. Call after call, letter after letter for three years, money was demanded for fraud he had never committed. He got \$6,000 in January 2022 from the class action. Then, his house was flooded over the roof and he lost everything.

And because his home is apparently one shade short of red on a map of dubious, but unchallengeable authenticity, he gets nothing.

Despite the fact that his house went under in 2017 as well.

He spent the \$6,000 on the caravan he lives in under his sodden, now mould-ridden, un-occupiable house, reeling from one of the coldest winters in years.

The electricity is now so expensive he huddles under a blanket in bed rather than run the one bar heater.

He rang to tell me he's been offered a pod. Yay! I tell him. 'Nah, he says, I'm not moving. I'm okay here.'

'The government won't help, dunno what's next. I can't just walk away. It's all I have.'

It is hard to package up and send away anger like mine. I know the theory – breathing, exercise, gratitude – and a recognition that anger is just like drinking poison and expecting someone else to get sick.

I have taken to walking into the nature reserve and screaming at fig trees, ripping off my clobber and rolling in the leaf litter, moaning just like my deep ecologist friends told me to.

Sometimes, all that just doesn't help that much, the rangers are frowning and the green ants are disconcerting. I have found a temporary solution though. I bang the keys harder and harder when I type.

This hurts my fingers, buggers the keyboard and annoys my partner. I wonder if my lovely readers can tell?

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



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Phone: 02 6684 1777

Editorial/news: editor@echo.net.au

Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au

Office: 64 McGoughans Lane,
Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager Simon Haslam

Editor Hans Lovejoy

Deputy Editor Aslan Shand

Photographer Jeff Dawson

Advertising Manager Anna Coelho

Production Manager Ziggi Browning



Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor

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

– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

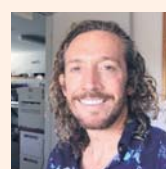


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Paul Bibby is a qualified local mindfulness and meditation educator who has helped organisations across the country boost their performance and wellbeing through the practical tools and strategies of mindfulness.

Soapbox: love it

Sorry Louise Andrews (Letters, 12 July), but Mandy has been on her soapbox for a long time. Please leave her alone. Her forum is no more or less political, thought-provoking, self-aggrandising, or self-deprecating, offensive, or funny than it always has been.

You don't have to read it.
Tracey Stride
Coorabell

Valuable or nuisance?

I read with dismay about experienced architect David Brown, who has resigned from Council's Affordable Housing Committee in frustration because his advice is being ignored.

Sadly, this is a story I am hearing over and over again from valuable members of our community who, in a volunteer capacity, put their hands up to offer their expertise and time to Council only to be treated in an offhand and contemptuous manner. They usually end up walking away in exasperation and disillusioned with the whole process. I know I have.

This is not the first time that the thought has occurred to me that the collective academic qualifications, knowledge, and years of experience of these unpaid 'consultants'



Hold on Jack... the council are on their way

Cartoon by Joel McPhee

would probably outweigh that of any councillor or staff member; yet their advice often goes unheeded. It's a mystery to me. You would think that they would jump at the chance of not having to pay for an expert opinion.

There is also another factor that makes no sense. Increasingly, Council staff are not locals and do not live in the Shire and so you would think that any resident committee member would be an asset to them; be a conduit for ideas and a voice from Council out into the wider community? But, again, no.

This was my experience with the Natural Burial

Ground project. No one would listen to the expert and free advice we had to offer; I have got five lots of outside consultants' reports on file though.

Diane Hart
Mullumbimby

Pants on fire?

Justine Elliot calls the Greens liars three times in last week's *Echo* article on social housing, and further warns on the opposite one-page ad that she authorised, that the Greens 'put people's lives at risk.'

Poor Justine. Here's Labor who didn't blow the whistle on Robodebt, who sent all

those unfortunates to Manus Island and Nauru at unbelievable risk and expense, who is expanding arguably the most climate-wrecking fossil fuel industry of any country. Where is their heart when they reneged on cancelling the cashless welfare card (Smart Card)?

The Greens, who care about the stressed-out renters, are putting lives at risk! Let's not have the longest campaign ever to the federal elections an ongoing slanging match. Justine, it's not a good look.

Sandra Heilpern
Bangalow

Holiday letting

Last week's *Echo* contained statements on holiday letting (HL) by NSW Planning Minister Paul Scully, which reveal his failure to understand the recent Independent Planning Panels (IPP) report. The state government previously attempted to shoehorn HL into the housing SEPP as exempt development (which effectively means it needs no regulations). But the IPP report, (the first independent assessment of HL in the state) reveals HL's

► Continued on next page

Letters to the Editor

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



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► **Continued from page 11** inconsistency with existing planning laws, and Scully needs to be informed of such.

Evidently he is considering advice from just the mayor and Byron Council staff, but what is that 'secret Council business' advice? Repeated requests to Council for a copy go unanswered. Whatever was sent was not put before us residents or adopted at a Council meeting.

Scully states consideration of large rezonings of residential zones to allow HL (which would mean increased loss of residential accommodation), and states consideration of 'existing

use rights', but none exist for unauthorised HL development, especially noting that HL is unlawful in our LEP residential zones where tourist facilities are prohibited, (with the exception of B&Bs and managed apartments which are subject to a successful development application consent).

The federal government mandates that any use of over ten per cent of a property requires a separate development category. A resident sub-renting for the entire time period they go away on holiday is a subsidiary residential use. But putting the property, or a room,

on a website for multiple HL rentals in that same period is a tourist use, and needs a tourist category, which is prohibited in residential living zones.

This HL 'disrupter' use has come with many inconsistencies to existing planning law, and needs to be pulled back into existing planning law, as per the IPP report. The failure of Byron Council to put its proposed advice to residents before sending it to Scully, together with Scully's *Echo* statements, give no confidence that the IPP's first independent HL assessment will be fully acted on.

Scully will make a report that will come to Council – be ready to jump in, to again raise the same issues that were so well put by the community to the IPP. We may still have to further defend Byron Shire from Scully turning it into just a HL dormitory for tourists.

John Lazarus
Byron Bay

Hijacked: residents' car park Mullum

I note his [the mayor's] reference to the loss of the residents' car park just left of the roundabout from the railway crossing. Residents are aghast at Byron Council's secret decision to sell that car park for a really large housing development – plus Council staff are to live there!

People are not happy at all about this, shocked and very disgusted! Authority has been handed to our general manager by Byron councillors, except Duncan Dey, to 'handle' the tender process.

This is not a 'done deal' and, as residents have not been consulted on this, it needs to be challenged. It's

such a secretive decision – hence the question: why? With no one allowed (except if speaking in public access) to attend Council meetings because the Conference Room (since the 2022 flood!) is too small, residents do not know what is discussed at those meetings!

'The 2022 flood drainage' is the vital subject, as has been reported extensively by so many residents. However, Council continue to deny anything needs to be done about it, except for a few areas. The North Byron Flood Risk Management Study, October 2020 states: 'Ongoing maintenance of the drainage network is important to ensure it is operating with maximum efficiency to reduce risk of blockage or failure... Modification of drainage – installation of new or larger channels or culverts can increase conveyance and help reduce upstream peak flood levels or reduce duration of inundation. ASSESSMENT – existing drainage network is believed to be well below capacity for current development.' A drainage assessment was undertaken for New City Road in 2018 (Ref 20), and identified a number of issues at this location. The entrance to Marshalls Creek is constricted by rock walls.

This flooding 'jigsaw' can be solved.

Jillian Spring
Billinudgel

Calling out the Rose

What a foolish letter by J Rose (19 July).

It is surprising and alarming that J Rose thinks it's okay to have a suburban street called effectively Boong Street or Nigger Street, as long as there's a plant with the same name.

Wikipedia says about the 'hottentot plant' – *Carpobrotus edulis* is a ground-creeping plant with succulent leaves in the genus *Carpobrotus*, native to South Africa. Its common names include hottentot-fig, sour fig, ice plant or highway ice plant.

As for the other street names mentioned by J Rose, I can't see any that would be offensive on racial grounds, but 'Hottentot' certainly is.

Wikipedia says 'Use of the term Hottentot is now deprecated and is offensive... the European, colonial image of 'the Hottentot' from the 17th century onwards bore little relation to any realities of the Khoisan in Africa... this image fed into the usage of Hottentot as a generalised derogatory term'.

Correspondingly, the word is 'sometimes used as ugly slang for a black person'. Thus, it is offensive to many, including the writers of last week's letter. And to me, now that those writers have explained their concern.

Anny Reed
Byron Bay

More letters on this topic are available on *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au/letters.

AI, robots, capitalism, and slavery

Much has been made in the press about the imminent rise of artificial intelligence (AI).

But let's not forget that there has never been so many humans on this planet. Our species population currently stands at eight billion. While it's so high, there is no real need for AI or robots. That's not to say that AI doesn't have a future and doesn't have some uses, such

as in the military. However, while the population continues to grow, AI will remain a novelty or suitable only for jobs too dangerous for humans.

Most people assume that modern people invented machinery, however, many machines were invented in the Roman era. It's just that the Romans had no real need for machines. Why bother mass-producing machines when you have slaves.

Today, thankfully we don't have slaves, but we do have millions of cheap labourers in third world countries willing to do the dirty jobs that us privileged westerners don't like. Some Roman technological advances only came of age centuries after the fall of the Roman Empire. I imagine the same will be said of AI.

According to most statistics, the human population will reach its zenith sometime in the next few decades, then it's scheduled for a sharp decline. The depopulation trend is already here with ageing populations in many countries. Indeed, if not for high birth rates in sub-Saharan Africa, the world population would be in decline right now.

Population decline directly relates to the education of women. Believe it or not, educated women tend not to have six children. Therefore the decline is most prevalent in wealthier, educated countries, but also seen in China and India as living standards improve.

China has gone from a one child policy a few years ago to incentives to encourage childbirth, but it's not working.

► **Continued on page 14**

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► Continued from page 12

Meanwhile, we see a glimpse of our future in Japan. It's no surprise that Japan, with the sharpest-declining birth rates in the world, also has the most advanced AI and robots. Its population is projected to decline by up to 50 per cent in the next 100 years. That's great for the environment. Not great for capitalism, which relies on perpetual growth.

Capitalism is going to have to get inventive to sustain growth in the next century. And, at least in the next hundred years, service industries will boom as fewer younger people have to care for many more older people. Labour will have to shift towards robots as there won't be enough humans to maintain our way of life. First world countries will simply import labour, as they already are. But worldwide, projected labour shortages later this century mean one thing. An increased reliance on AI technology. So AI and robots have a bright future, just not yet.

Simon Alderton
 Murwillumbah

It's a board decision

Backlash's dig at Reserve Bank (RB) Governor Phillip Lowe is by no means the first

in the media but it's really blaming the messenger. Far be it from me to defend Lowe but I do think many people forget that the decisions he announces are made by nine members of the Reserve Bank Board.

Lowe's entire career has been with the Reserve Bank except for a couple of years at the Bank for International Settlements. Michele Bullock joined the Reserve Bank fresh out of university and has worked there ever since.

The other seven members of the board include two who are closely associated with the right-wing think tank, the Centre for Independent Studies, along with a director of the Liberal think tank, the Robert Menzies Institute. So, three conservatives at least.

Companies that various board members currently work for, or have worked for, at senior executive or directorship level, include Fortescue Metals Group, HBF Health, Deloitte, BHP, Schroders, BT Investment Management, Westpac, AMP, CSR, AGL Energy, AGL, CSL, Wesfarmers, Equity Trustees, Trawalla Group, McKinsey, GrainCorp, and Berri Limited. So very big-business oriented.

The secretary of the

treasury is ex officio a member of the board too; a career public servant.

There's also a former judge with trade union associations, and an economics professor who's also a dean of a business school.

So the Reserve Bank Board looks to be politically conservative with a distinct big-business orientation and with perhaps as few as one member who'd put the interests of citizens before businesses.

Changing the governor alone is unlikely to make much difference. Until the board becomes more representative it'd be unrealistic to expect that decision-making will change much under Michele Bullock.

She'll just be the new messenger.

Warren Kennedy
 Mullumbimby

Cumalun Greens

The Greens' propaganda pamphlet recently distributed in the Cumalun area shows once again they are the party of populism, an ideology that pits sections of society against each other. By purporting to not stop fighting for renters and home purchasers, by

fixing rents and mortgage rates they point the finger at the so-called elites, apparently greedy landlords amongst them.


It is worth pointing out here that Donald Trump was a populist of the right railing against the elites of Washington with slogans such as 'Drain the Swamp' and promising Americans that he could fix all their concerns and 'Make America Great Again' without actually telling America how.

As with all populists the Greens in their pamphlet are saying how easy it would be to fix the problems highlighted. 'Freeze rents' they cry and 'that will fix that problem'. A responsibility of the states. More anguished cries. Freeze interest rates. Not sure how given the independence of the Reserve Bank.


By blocking Labor's housing bill in the Senate and acting like spoiled children they are only making the problems worse. It is about time they grew up and joined the adults in the room.









Alan Veacock
 Cumalun (Labor member)


■ See more letters on *The Echo* online at: www.echo.net.au.



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Voicing their opinions on the Voice to Parliament

■ 'The National Indigenous Australians Agency is an Australian government agency responsible for whole-of-government coordination of policy development, program design, and service delivery for Aboriginal Australians and Torres Strait Islander people, who are grouped under the term Indigenous Australians' (government website).

Why have we heard almost nothing of this organisation from politicians (or journalists for that matter!) in the last 12-18 months?

If this agency, which was established by an executive order signed by the Governor-General on 29 May, 2019 could not perform in conjunction with Linda Burney, the previous coalition government, and the great many advocates, local members and community leaders for Indigenous communities which already exist across the nation, why would anyone, other than lawyers, think more legislation would make it any different?

How many millions have been spent on this organisation which apparently has not delivered?

How does it cost millions to highlight, in the Constitution, the presence of First Nations people prior to white settlement?

Will a so-called Voice to Parliament water down wildlife protection laws and make special provision for Indigenous people e.g. to allow them to continue killing endangered turtles and dugongs?

The minister for Indigenous affairs has been a politician for a great many years and must know the issues and problems facing First Nations people.

Maybe the NIAA should speak out about wasting money on weaponry and tax avoidance and advise the government to spend the money on social issues (now there's an idea... take a holistic approach).

If fake leaders and their legal lackeys can't do their job with their fat paycheques, there is always their local Centrelink office.

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

■ Imagine trust being the guiding intent - instead of fear and 'power-over' - when the tall ships arrived on Australia's shores. Imagine if the arrivals had listened to the example from the First Nations people who received them with an open, albeit apprehensive heart, on a land that they believed owned them, rather than believing

'The Voice is simply about recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Constitution. The risk here is the status quo... where the life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is eight years lower than the rest of the population. Where the unemployment rate is nine times higher. Where the suicide rate is 2.5 times higher.

'We are not closing the gap... I think a better way to do that is to vote "Yes" to recognise Aboriginal people and to establish a Voice to provide advice to the government and the parliament on matters affecting Aboriginal people so that we can achieve real change and make practical progress on closing the gap in health, education, employment and housing.'

- Liberal MP Julian Leeser

Find out more on the Voice to parliament

'How the Voice will help government' by Fred Chaney in *The Saturday Paper*: www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au.
Julian Leeser interview on RN: <https://tinyurl.com/4dez2mrf>.

that they owned the land.

Imagine if messages that were borne from knowing that nature is our greatest teacher had been heard. Imagine how much improved would be the state of human relations and the condition of this ancient land, had those voices been heard.

As an artist who has collaborated, by invitation, extensively with First Nations people in cities and remote communities, there is much to value in cues of trust. These people have always given me a 'fair go' to prove my worth in their over-governed communities where their agency is clipped like the wings of a bird.

I have grown a deeper understanding of all that is from a culture that holds at its heart the wellbeing of this land. Their values are what the world needs now.

I was 24 years old in 1988, I arrived with an intention to learn from these people. Art was a bridge and they let this stranger into their hearts. My experiences and world view are better for having chosen trust.

'Yes' is a powerful force for the extraordinary.

Samantha Wortelhock
Pambula

■ Perry Cornish's letter (5 July) was about the wording of the proposed alteration of our Commonwealth of Australia Constitution. The Voice proposal says the new body to be set up 'may make representations to Parliament', however, all Australian people may already make such representations.

Also, it says, '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.'

So, this body will in all respects be controlled by the parliament (i.e. the party in

power) meaning the so-called voice of the Indigenous people will give them only a voice controlled by the political party in power. So, where is the benefit to them?

Yes, it's all in the wording, so don't be fooled. All the original Indigenous people I know understand this and recognise that a 'Yes' vote will only entangle them more in top-down control. They, in their words, want to be 'one mob' with all Australians and not set apart. Essentially this separate Voice idea has a racist basis to it and will benefit no-one.

Not only is the Voice referendum deceptive, it's also a great waste of our money.

Dudley Leggett
Suffolk Park



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From little things, big things grow

Byron Writers Festival's Ideas Salon will feature leading experts and thinkers on the topics that matter, with ideas and solutions to inspire us all. Join us to get across the latest thinking and walk away with the resolve to get out there and make your own mark on the world; be it a delicate ripple or a roaring tidal wave.

Let's take a look at some of the sessions that will light up your mind in the Ideas Salon at this year's festival.

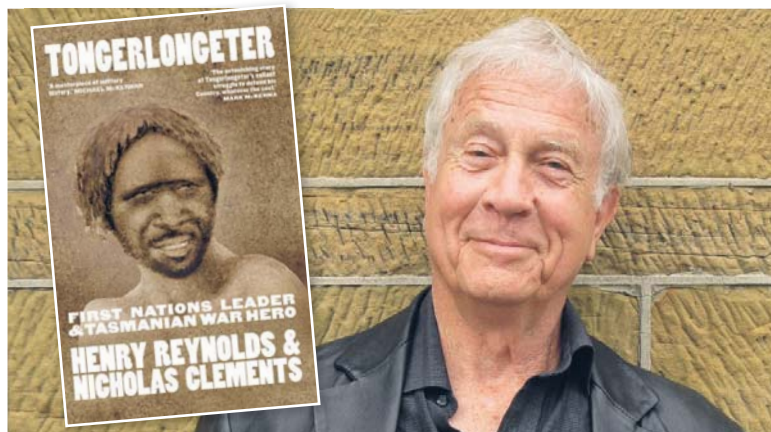
Friday highlights

Friday packs a punch with two massive highlight sessions; the first being **Gough: The Myth and the Reality**. The influence of Gough Whitlam on Australian politics and our society looms large and leading historians Michelle Arrow, Frank Bongiorno and Julianne Schultz will explore the lasting impact of the late Labor Prime Minister.

Another not-to-be-missed session on Friday is **Lutruwita Stories**. The history of invaded lutruwita (Tasmania) is bloody and full of horror, resistance, and courage. Historians Joel Birnie, Nicholas Clements and Henry Reynolds, who have each uncovered the stories of First Nations individuals and families on this frontier, discuss their impact with Frank Bongiorno.

Saturday highlights

Saturday's line-up is also guaranteed to stir both emotion and intellect with the iconic **Thea Astley Address**, this year presented by



Historian Henry Reynolds will deliver the annual Thea Astley Address.

Henry Reynolds. When Reynolds began teaching Australian history in the 1960s he discovered that the history books of the period covered very little about north Australia and nothing about First Nations people. He set out to remedy this situation and ended up transforming Australian history in ways he could not have imagined. This important lecture will reveal how the award-winning historian changed the way we look at Australian history, forever.

From the influence of corporate interests on climate policy, the way data controls us in everyday life,

to the Israeli munitions industry's global reach, the **Invisible Strings** panel, comprising of Jeff Goodell, Suneel Jethani, Antony Loewenstein and Paul Barclay will uncover the invisible strings of influence and power at work in our world today. It's a must-see session for anyone who wants to understand the forces that are shaping our world today and tomorrow.

Power Plays is set to be an empowering session, with original thinkers Paddy Manning and Victoria McKenzie-McHarg speaking with Misha Ketchell about how



The Mungo Panel: Monica Attard, Osman Faruqi, Paddy Manning and Amy Remeikis will lead a discussion on **The Future of Journalism**.

powerful people and corporations are obstructing our pathway to saving the planet and what we can do about it.

Sunday highlights

Overcoming the Overwhelm takes a look at the minefield that is modern motherhood. In this Sunday session, Eliza Hull, Isabelle Oderberg and Kristine Ziwick explore with Jacinta Parsons the challenges facing mothers in modern society and some strategies that could be adopted to overcome them.

With the rapid change that is

underway in the world of media right now, **The Mungo Panel: The Future of Journalism** will be packed full of ideas, debate and deep discussion. Panellists Monica Attard, Osman Faruqi, Paddy Manning and Amy Remeikis will explore how the current changes can threaten democracy itself and how the Fourth Estate can retain its key tenets, safeguarding its role as the public's watchdog.

Ideas Salon is one of five venues accessible via a 1-Day or 3-Day festival pass, available to purchase at byronwritersfestival.com/tickets.

Defeating the algorithm: An interview with Tracey Spicer

Where is AI taking the world, and how is it embedded with long-held, damaging bias and prejudice? These questions are among those posed by Tracey Spicer in her new book, *Man-Made*, ahead of her appearance at Byron Writers Festival 2023.

Tracey Spicer is one of Australia's best-known journalists, having made her name as a newsreader on commercial TV in the 1990s.

Spicer's book *Man-Made: How the Bias of the Past is Being Built Into the Future* explores the thorny and extremely topical issue of artificial intelligence (AI), and its potential to transform humankind on an existential level, through a feminist lens – asking crucial questions of what the future may bring us as AI evolves.

How and when did the idea for this book first emerge in your mind? What were the key questions you wanted to answer at the outset?

This book was inspired by a conversation with my then eleven-year-old son, Taj. 'Mum, I want a robot slave,' he said one morning. Taj had been watching an episode of *South Park*, in which Cartman was ordering around his Amazon Alexa using extremely offensive language. Suddenly, I realised that the 1950s ideal of women and girls being servile was being embedded into the technologies of the future. I wanted to discover why chatbots for the home sounded female, while those in the banking and finance



Tracey Spicer explores the bias and prejudice embedded in AI.

sector had male voices. Ultimately, my aim was to discover who were the villains, and what we could do to reduce the bias being built into artificial intelligence.

The book's subtitle is 'How the bias of the past is being built into the future'. Can you give us a brief summary of how this is taking place?

It starts with the datasets, which are used to train the algorithms. All of these datasets are from the past. So, most doctors are 'he' and nurses are 'she'. There is also a tendency to default to descriptions of people

who are white, heteronormative and able-bodied. The bias born in the algorithm becomes a troublesome teenager through machine learning. In the book, I compare machine learning with a white supremacist going down the rabbit hole of conspiracy theory websites. The bots become more bigoted over time.

What issues, facts, trends or revelations surprised you the most during your research?

I was horrified by the story of the 'racist soap dispensers'. Several years ago, a Nigerian tech worker tried to use an AI-powered soap

dispenser in a Marriot hotel, but it wouldn't work for his hand. However, it *did* work for his white colleague. You see, we picture Big Tech as a handful of large corporations. But most inventions are tested by tiny teams, comprising four to five people. Usually, these are young white men based in Silicon Valley. This technology did not recognise people of colour. The same tech is being used in self-driving cars. What happens when the cars can't detect a person at a pedestrian crossing? This is a matter of life and death.

Given your status as a writer and the topic of the book, what has been your reaction to the growing prevalence of ChatGPT? How might your book's premise relate to that platform in particular?

ChatGPT is beset with bias. If you ask it to tell a story about an engineer and a childcare worker, it will almost always make the engineer male, and the childcare worker female. This simply creates more content reinforcing the gender-segregated workforces of the past. Then, material will be 'scraped' from the internet to create new AIs, repeating and amplifying the bias. However, I urge everyone to use ChatGPT to train it do be better! If women and

people in marginalised communities refuse to use this technology, we risk our voices being silenced.

What hopes do you have for the book in terms of how it might fit into the wider national conversation of this topic?

I am of the firm belief that we're having the wrong conversation about artificial intelligence. The tech billionaires are calling for a moratorium on further development of this constellation of technologies, to divert attention from the real-world damage they're causing *now*. The current conversation is framed around a near-to-distant future. But the bias and discrimination happening under our noses is fraying our social fabric, widening the gap between rich and poor, and deepening stereotypes and inequity.

Tracey Spicer will be appearing on both Saturday and Sunday at 2023 Byron Writers Festival in the sessions **Ethics of AI** with Grace Chan and Suneel Jethani; **The Feminist Trajectory** with Madison Godfrey and Kristine Ziwick; and **Living Disgracefully** with Susan Johnson and Jacinta Parson, as well as in conversation with Paul Barclay about her book *Man-Made*.

\$2 billion more for what, exactly?

David Lowe

It's still another week until parliament in Canberra comes back from its long winter break, which makes this a great time to revisit something that was rushed through the Senate with very little scrutiny on the last day of the last session, back in June.

The Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility, or NAIF, was originally established in 2016, by the Liberal-National coalition government, as a way of funding industrial projects in northern Australia which couldn't stand on their own as commercial propositions, but required taxpayers' support. White elephants anyone?

Vulnerable to pork-barrelling on an epic scale, the NAIF was described by then-Labor leader Bill Shorten as an 'abject failure' in 2019. Last month, the Albanese government boosted its budget from five to seven billion dollars.

Zali Steggall and the Greens attempted to modify the 2023 bill to increase the

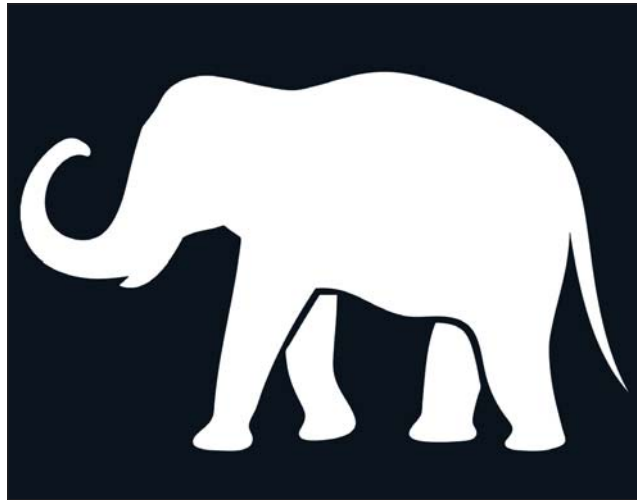


Minister for Resources and Northern Australia, Madeleine King. Photo Wikipedia CC

NAIF's budget, by ruling out NAIF support for fossil fuel infrastructure projects, but this was overruled by the major parties, in spite of Labor's suggestion that one of the supposed reasons for the NAIF's existence, these days, is that northern Australia is the geographic frontline for the worsening climate emergency.

New NAIF?

Labor says the NAIF has changed, and that the organisation is looking beyond the usual LNP dream projects of mines and



dams, to instead help Indigenous people and invest in renewable energy projects.

The NAIF's jurisdiction has grown under the current government, and now includes Indian Ocean territories and everywhere else north of the Tropic of Capricorn, as well as parts south, under special circumstances.

Madeleine King, Minister for Resources and northern Australia, stood in the House in June and talked about how the NAIF was helping pay for student accommodation in Townsville, the Batchelor

solar farm in the NT and other economic infrastructure 'to benefit Indigenous persons', with only one line of her long speech getting to the main reason for the NAIF's existence, which remains 'to invest in critical minerals projects'.

Like each of her predecessors in the role, from whichever party, Minister King has proven herself to be a loyal friend of the fossil fuel industries, particularly gas, and particularly in northern Australia.

With gas prices surging to historic highs due to the war in Ukraine, it's



Member for Warringah Zali Steggall. Photo Wikipedia CC

hard to understand how the Albanese government can justify financially supporting the exploitation of the Beetaloo Basin and the Middle Arm gas export terminal, even without considering the environmental aspects, but to do anything else would apparently be electoral suicide.

ALP hypocrisy

Warringah MP Zali Steggall says that without safeguards, the NAIF risks being used primarily to prop up and invest in further fossil

fuel infrastructure, which will lead to Australia drifting further from its climate commitments in Paris.

'The NAIF should remain independent,' she said. 'It should invest only in clean technologies that are actually for the future of northern Australia.'

'Anything else would be irresponsible and would be public money wasted,' said Ms Steggall.

When the NAIF budget bill came to the Senate, the Greens suggested similar amendments, seeking to ban the use of the NAIF to fund the extraction of coal or gas, build gas pipelines, or directly finance the logging of native forests.

All of these suggestions were overruled by the major parties, finding only 13 votes in support and 29 against. The intentions of the government for the NAIF could not be clearer.

David Lowe writes a weekly political comment every Monday on *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au/ articles

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With approval from Byron Shire Council, a traffic management plan has been implemented to manage and minimise potential traffic impacts in proximity to the Byron Writers Festival site and Bangalow township. We apologise for any inconvenience to local residents and businesses and thank you for your support and patience.

- Byron Writers Festival traffic will enter site via Market Street and utilise the onsite festival carpark. Pedestrian access to the site will be via Station Lane.
- A temporary bus bay will be set up on Byron Street, between Station Lane and Market Street for the duration of the festival 11-13 August.
- A festival shuttle bus will operate between Byron Bay Interchange, Cavanbah Centre and the festival site between 7.30am - 6pm, Fri 11 - Sun 13 Aug. The bus bay will also serve as a drop-off area.
- Existing 50km/hr speed limit will be reduced to 40km/hr in Byron Street and Deacon Street.
- The existing Byron Street pedestrian crossing and the intersection of Byron Street and Market Street will be managed by traffic controllers.
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- Both the shuttle bus and parking are provided by donation for festival patrons. We strongly encourage festival patrons to use the shuttle bus or carpool to assist with sustainability and reduce traffic.

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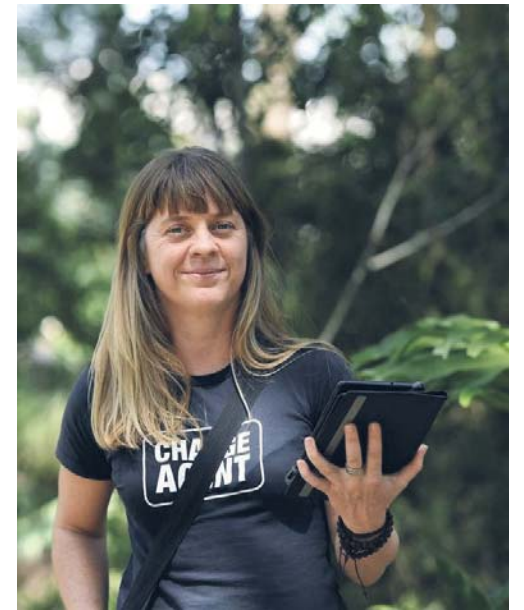
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Have a budding mini maker in your life? Book an afternoon kids' art class or school holiday art program.

3/18 Centennial Circuit Byron Bay
 0404 946 553
www.artkind.com.au
 @artkindbyronbay



2. BODHI LIVING

Bodhi Living showcases a carefully curated collection of furniture, homewares, rugs and lighting, sourced both locally and globally. They have recently introduced a range of collections designed in-house, including sofas, dining tables and seating, all using natural and sustainable materials such as rattan and wood. The brand encapsulates the freedom of spirit and the soul of the individual as represented through their home.

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www.bodhiliving.com.au
 @bodhi.living



4. MCTAVISH SURFBOARDS

McTavish is the ultimate destination for all things surf. Grab a pre- or post-surf coffee and browse the range of handcrafted surfboards (all made on-site in the factory behind the showroom), surf accessories and apparel, or borrow a demo board for the weekend.

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 @mctavishsurf



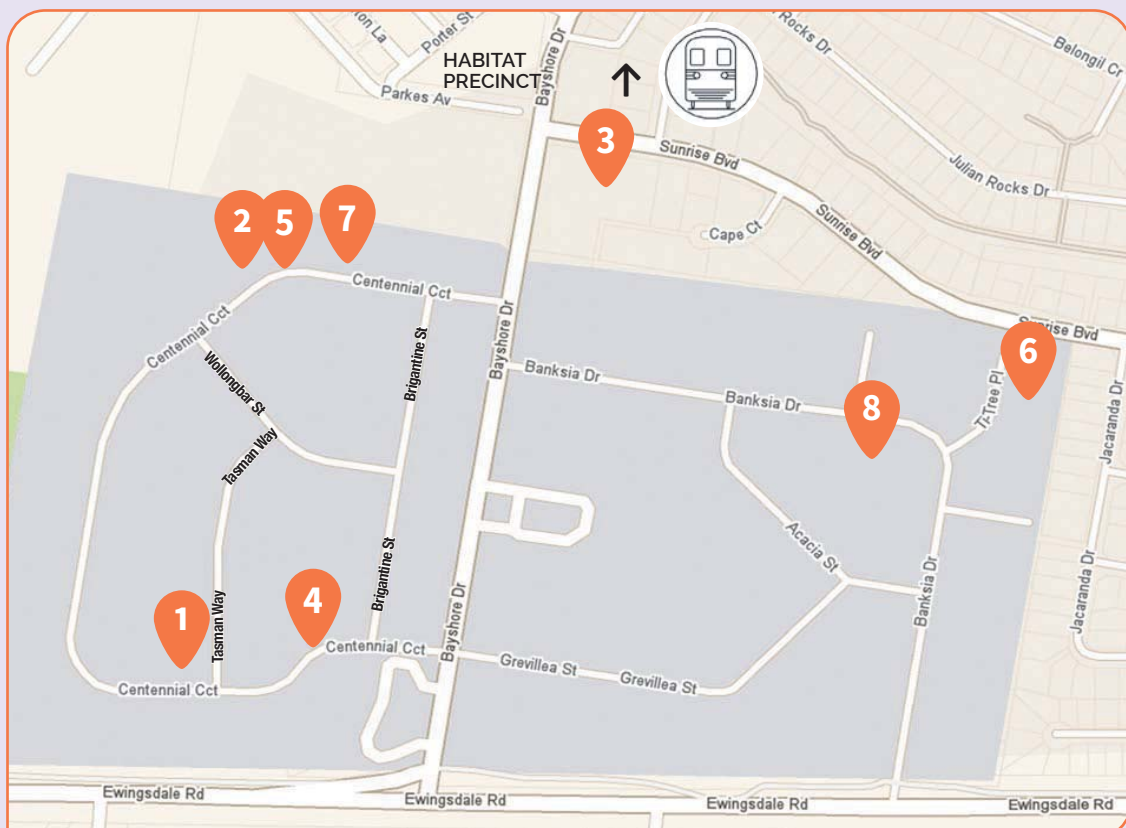
6. BODYPEACE BAMBOO CLOTHING

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Bodypeace Bamboo Clothing has been dressing locals and visitors for over a decade. Bamboo fibre is naturally breathable, moisture-wicking, thermoregulating and hypoallergenic. Their signature blend is a popular choice for underwear, activewear and everyday wear. Their warehouse shop is open every Wednesday-Friday!

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BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE



HABITAT PRECINCT



7. THE MEDITATION PEOPLE

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8. DAUGHTERS OF INDIA

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9. BARRIO - THE HEART OF HABITAT

Bringing locals and visitors together in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, always!

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Barrio: a place to meet, connect, share and eat... your home away from home!

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0411 323 165
www.barriobyronbay.com.au
@barriobyronbay



10. RICHARDSON MURRAY LAW

Richardson Murray is a boutique family law firm established by well-respected family lawyers, Anton Richardson and Stephanie Murray.

Richardson Murray provide private legal representation, while offering empathy and expertise.

The team at Richardson Murray are very proud of their approach to family law and are committed to achieving positive outcomes while minimising stress, limiting delays, and avoiding unnecessary legal expense.

42 Parkes Ave, Byron Bay
07 5619 5933
www.richardson-murray.law



11. BYRON FAMILY LAW

Byron Family Law is a boutique family law firm established in Byron Bay. Through collaborative and resolution-focused practices, they support clients to separate more kindly and to rebuild following divorce or separation. They work in collaboration with local counsellors, conveyancers, accountants, mediators, and health and wellness professionals to support you and your family to not only survive but thrive following a separation.

1 Porter Street, Byron Bay
02 6687 2774
www.byronfamilylaw.com.au



12. EASY STREET

Have you visited the newest part of Habitat yet? Easy Street is home to a beautiful collection of independent stores, including Byron Bay Hanging Chairs, MCM House, MUD and Végétalement salon. There's also yummy snacks at B Smoothie Bar, renowned for their epic smoothies. It's got all the style you love without the hassle of going into town.

Easy Street, Habitat



HABITAT PRECINCT

Habitat is a cleverly designed village in Byron Bay, where you can live, work and play, all in one place.

Over 20 years in the making, Habitat combines the best of old-school Byron (community, creativity, respect for the environment) with the latest in design and thinking (renewable energy, car sharing, hybrid live + work spaces) along with plenty of good times (bars, cafes, fitness, shopping) to create a little oasis within one of the most beautiful places on Earth.




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Good Life

100-year celebration at Byron Bay Bowling Club

Simon Haslam

Bowling clubs are one of Australia's great historic institutions, and Byron Bay Bowling and Recreation Club (also known as Club Byron since 2017) was established in 1923. Presumably, given the name, that was a time when 'bowling' was taken pretty seriously; a separate activity to 'recreation' (!) but what the initial 27 members must have really understood was the community-minded volunteer 'work' necessary to establish the greens and to build the clubhouse. This was a time when tireless community building by volunteers started many country organisations which still survive today.

If you can think back to that time, Byron Bay Surf Lifesaving Club (the second-oldest club north of Sydney) had only recently been founded and the town looked very different. By 1926 the bowling club had been formally opened, and membership had doubled. If you can actually remember that time, or you have fond memories of bowling at the club, you'd be welcome at their centenary reunion, which is coming up very soon.

In 1956 the Women's Bowling Club was established, and together with the Byron Bay Men's Bowling Club organise the actual bowling, while Club Byron is the business arm of the club.

Bowling in Australia is still going strong, but bowling clubs are under threat. A recent UNSW study showed that Sydney had lost nearly half its bowlos in the 40 years to 2020. The Byron club has, however, diversified its income stream and now offers accommodation in the heart of town. As a result, the upcoming centenary celebrations are not being held under the threat of the club closing.

In fact, according to club manager Matthew Christie, the club's focus is on looking after the locals. 'We have around 100 bowling members, and 700 social members,' says Matt. 'We want to make sure our priority is to look after our



local community long into the future, we see this being achieved by creating a safe and welcoming space that everyone can come and enjoy. It's no secret that our drinks, entertainment and functions spaces are amongst the cheapest in town. Our members also receive further discounted drinks and bowls along with other perks.'

The established club also does what it can to support other community-minded organisations, whether by sponsoring a dozen or so local sporting teams and

the Byron Bay Malibu Club's single fin classic, or supporting organisations like Cape Byron Marine Rescue. So, come on down to the Byron Bowling Club on Friday 4 August from 5pm for the centenary reunion. There'll be finger food, a complimentary drink on arrival and you can learn a lot more about the club's history. Plus, John J Bradley will be providing the entertainment. To book, please phone 6685 6202.

Byron Bay Bowling Club,
18-20 Marvell St Byron Bay.

BALCONY PRESENTS

Oyster

FESTIVAL 2023
- EST 2015 -

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OYSTER HAPPY HOUR

everyday from 5-6pm
for the month of August

Go to our website to view
our specialty menu

www.balcony.com.au/whats-on

#SHUCKYEAH

The best Byron cane juice

Victoria Cosford

I'd often come across 'jaggery' – lovely word – in Indian recipes and was aware it was a sweetener. Except, after talking to Aner Yeffet, I now know it's evaporated cane juice. In fact, I now know quite a lot about sugar cane; that it's a tropical weed and quite easy to grow, though demanding intense physical labour; that the mulch left after the juice is squeezed out of the cane – called bugasa – is a 'very potent and very good,' fertiliser, according to Aner.

Market-goers would be familiar with the theatre happening at the back of the Byron Bay Cane Juice stall every Friday. There's Aner unloading the graceful spears of cane then his team-mate feeding the cane through a stainless-steel contraption, the flattened cane emerging out the other end, the juice extracted. 'We try to make it look fun for the markets,' Aner tells me. 'We try to give customers a lot more variety and experience.' To this end he will add lime, ginger, turmeric, passionfruit, mint – all purchased from the markets – to the sweet beverage, at no extra cost. 'We haven't put our prices up since 2017,' he says. 'We love to help make life more sustainable.'

Aner, with a Certificate III in horticulture, took over the business about 11 years ago. 'I tasted cane juice in India many years ago,'



Aner Yeffet from Byron Bay Cane Juice still has all his fingers after 11 years of feeding cane through the squeezer at the markets (team-mate not pictured).

he says, 'and was instantly hooked.' He decided to upgrade the business, and all the farming methodology behind growing the best cane. His cane is grown on 11 acres of leased land, and 'with the years we get better and better results.'

Yes, cane juice can indeed be used in cooking as a sweetener – Steve Snow from Fins restaurant in Kingscliff periodically orders it for a duck dish on his menu (wow!). As for the mulch, 'we give it away free!' says Aner. Byron Bay Cane Juice is at Mullumbimby Farmers Market at the showgrounds every Friday 7-11am.

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5pm - 7pm

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FROM 5PM

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\$12 selected cocktails



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Volume 38 #07
 26 July–1 August, 2023
 Editor: Eve Jeffery
 Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
 Copy deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
 P: 02 6684 1777
 W: echo.net.au/entertainment



SURF TRASH IN LENNOX

On **Thursday 14 September**, alt-rock band **Surf Trash** are coming to Lennox Head to play a free show for the community. Local bands **Couch Wizard** and **Puff** are also playing support on the night.

This free event aims to help engage young people in the community post-floods.

Uniting is looking for a young band or artist to be the opening act for these rock bands. Entries to be emailed to pyiadmin@uniting.org with a little blurb about who you are and where you are from.

The event is free but you need to register for tickets through Eventbrite. We hope to see the youth of our community there!

PEACE LOVE AND RESISTANCE

Music inspired by hope, war, peace, love and resistance. At its centre is the slow, exquisite movement from Rachmaninov's magnificent cello sonata to celebrate the 150th anniversary of his birth (1873–1943). Short, evocative works by Arensky, Gliere, Scriabin and Shostakovich stir the emotions and complement Rachmaninov's music.

Modern contemporary songs inspired by war protest and resistance by Sting, and John Lennon arranged for cello and piano are nestled between the classical works.

Short works inspired by hope and peace by living composers Nat Bartsch (Melbourne/Naarm), Catherine Lukhata (Ukraine/Brisbane) and Elena Kats-Chernin (Sydney/Uzbekistan) uplift and complement the theme.

Louise King – cello

Hailed by *The Australian* as a 'spell-binding musician who exudes a vigorous artistry', English-trained and Australian-made cellist Louise King is an independent portfolio musician, a recording, concert and accredited teaching artist and an ABC Classics recording artist.

Her artistic practice embodies innovation, community practice and bold exploration. Revered for her 'delicious embellishments and tonal subtleties, telling clarity and incisiveness', Louise's vivid and imaginative performance style exudes freshness and a relish for musical story-telling.

Dr Roger Longjie Cui – piano

Cui is a prestigious soloist who has performed in major international piano competitions in Australia, New Zealand, USA and Germany. A prodigious talent, Roger won second prize at the prestigious Lev Vlassenko Piano Competition at the age of 18.

Roger is principal pianist at Queensland Ballet, assistant lecturer at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University, a Yamaha Music Europe GmbH sponsored artist and a Kayserburg Pianos USA sponsored artist.

As of 2022, Roger is the 'head of piano' at the Coffs Harbour Regional Conservatorium. He wishes to initiate many new musical programs like the Academy of Piano Performance.

This program is made possible by the funding of Music in the Regions – a newly formed, independent touring organisation connecting classical musicians with regional audiences across New South Wales.

This concert is on Sunday 30 July, 3pm at the Byron Theatre – www.byroncentre.com.au/theatre-event-categories/music.

LENNOX SESSIONS PROUDLY PRESENTS

JOSEPH TAWADROS

The Art of the
LOUD

Joseph Tawadros is a 7-time ARIA award winning virtuoso Oud player of great diversity and sensitivity. He is known for his brilliant technique, deep musicianship and joyous style of performance... and also his engaging rapport with the audience.

'Tawadros is an exhilarating player, both when he is delivering mercurial mastery and when he is summoning more haunting atmospheres, often incorporating techniques drawn from other traditions.'
 THE TIMES 13/02/23

BYRON THEATRE

FRI JULY 28th | SHOW STARTS 7.30pm

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INFO & BOOKINGS

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Adelaide Film Festival Official Selection 2022
 Melbourne Official Selection 2023
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ENCORE SCREENING
 The Regent Theatre, Murwillumbah
 Sun 30th July // 5.30pm
 followed by Q+A with filmmaker

LUKU NGÄRRA

THE LAW OF THE LAND

THE MAGIC OF THE MUNDANE



It's often challenging to mix art forms for the first time but in *The Magic of the Mundane* MT Warning manages to get the balance just right.

Seven spoke to co-creator **Mikey Bryant** about what audiences might see in this production.

You have been quoted as saying you spent a 'considerable time avoiding creativity' – how does one avoid creativity?

I do not recommend it, the unfortunate side effect of avoiding creativity is losing oneself, but the worst part is it's so subtle, there was just this creeping dark over everything when I stopped creating. Some sort of death, not a north coast rebirth/death situation, just a plain old 'decay of the compost' kind of death. Surprisingly, it was writing nonsense every morning as a way of reconnecting to life that showed me the integral nature of creating for creating's sake, and that got me out of that place, and also birthed these albums and this theatre show.

When blending gigs and theatre, is there less or more time for audience interaction and more or less time to be spontaneous?

There's way more time for the audience to interact with the music than say, a pub show, theatre is designed to draw you in, a gig is more about the company you are with. I'm finding putting this show together that there's a lot more space to be spontaneous and dangerous (creatively speaking) as all eyes are keenly focused. The beautiful thing about theatre is that the audience doesn't know what's meant to be and what's an accident, I love playing with that idea.

Are you finding yourself gravitating more to the performance/theatre side or more to the singing part?

Gravity is a good analogy here, an invisible but indisputable force! I'd say this 'theatre show meets gig' was an inevitable outcome where the theatre/performance is there to enhance the songs and vice versa.



What are you enjoying most about the process?

Creating something out of nothing; trusting that if it moves me, or makes me laugh that it will translate; a deadline to have to perform; the setbacks that become strengths along the way to putting something like this on.

What are you enjoying least?

My mind telling me that this is a terrible idea!

Do you find the 'mask' of theatre gives you more opportunity to observe what the audience thinks of your songs?

I've always been most comfortable on stage, a place I can hide in plain view. This show is an invitation for the audience to hide with me, right in the place the music comes from and literally as it's being played – we'll be doing that together.

What do you hope is the audience take-away from the show?

I hope someone gets home that night and paints a picture or writes a poem or sings a song or dances on the street. I hope the audience is inspired to express their quirks just for the fun of it, and I hope they know that joy can be found even when it seems lost forever.

What inspires you?

I'm inspired when humans come together, whether it's shoveling mud from neighbours' houses or chanting passionately at sporting events or singing together at festivals or even obeying road rules to create order in what should be total chaos – when we do things together en masse I find it a most remarkable thing! I'm inspired by looking back on the journey to create this piece, it started by just making the bed each day, then by writing a page of nonsense each day, then by writing a song each day. And now by just rehearsing and singing and trusting each day that this show *The Magic Of The Mundane* can give hope to others the same way doing these 'mundane' tasks has given hope to me.

Tender Hooks – The Magic Of The Mundane. Friday 4 August, 7pm at the Byron Theatre.

Tickets: byroncentre.com.au.

MT WARNING PRESENTS

ALBUM LAUNCH

THE MAGIC OF THE MUNDANE

BYRON THEATRE

ALBUM LAUNCH

THURSDAY 3rd AUGUST + FRIDAY 4th AUGUST

A THEATRICAL GIG

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Seven



DEEP IN THE NEW CHEEKY CABARET

Haven't got your tickets to Cheeky yet? Have no fear! The Brunswick Picture House have just added three more shows this weekend owing to very popular demand.

The house are deep in the run of the all-new **Cheeky Cabaret** this month and are thrilled to announce an extra weekend of shows, through to **30 July!**

Now you have no excuse not to get to Bruns and check out the show that the whole shire has been talking about.

New dates on sale now. Don't forget to arrive early and enjoy the courtyard ambiance before the show: a roaring fire pit, the excellent food and the fabulous cocktails.

For more info or to book tickets:
brunswickpicturehouse.com.



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Email stationmanager@bayfm.org today for a full job description.



bayfm.org



LAW OF THE LAND

After three sold out screenings in the Northern Rivers since March, *Luku Ngärra: The Law of the Land* is returning for one final encore at **The Regent** in Murwillumbah on **Sunday 30 July at 5.30pm.**

This independent, Indigenous-funded film is gaining huge traction across the country and internationally. Just in the last week it featured at Melbourne Documentary Film Festival and won the 'Human Rights Award' at Montreal Independent Film Festival.

The NT premiere of the film is scheduled for August and has already sold out six weeks in advance. From Darwin it will then head to Alice Springs and London before an online release scheduled for later in the year.

Local filmmaker **Sinem Saban** has been deeply humbled by the response to the film which has taken her five years to complete on a shoestring budget. 'We have no resources to hire a PR or advertising team, but the impact of the film and the power of word-of-mouth has meant we are selling out our screenings regardless.'

Don't miss out on this final screening in the Northern Rivers, Sinem will be there for Q+A. Tickets available through the venue. Booking in advance is recommended at www.the-regent.com.au.



BYRON THEATRE

1 HOT MESS | 1 AG DANCE
4 ARAKWA 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

JULY
TICKETS AND INFO
BYRONTHEATRE.COM



YOUTH PERFORMERS SHINE

Spaghetti Circus's world premiere of *Monumental* will showcase the extraordinary talent of their performance troupe featuring 16 local performers aged between 12 and 21.

Directed by **Spenser Inwood** from award-winning company A Good Catch Circus, *Monumental* is set for a spectacular two-week run co-presented with the **Brunswick Picture House**. Working in an ensemble-based process, the troupe have developed spectacular new skills to build trust and curiosity while flying in the air and holding each other up.

Local musicians **Sue Simpson** and **Melia Naughton** will be creating an original score to be presented live.

You can expect things you've never seen before!

Tickets selling fast, get in quick! Season is 16-27 August. www.brunswickpicturehouse.com.



MINI BEER FESTIVAL

Stone & Wood announce their mini beer festival, **Murbah Open Day**, is back for another year at their **Murwillumbah Brewery** on **Saturday 5 August.**

Welcoming locals and beer lovers from all over, Murbah 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 that the brewery opens to the public, Murbah 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 to 5pm, the Murbah Open Day is an event for the whole family and a chance for the people at Stone & Wood to give back to the amazing community that supports them.

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

GIG GUIDE

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



WEDNESDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **CHLOE JETT**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **SCREENING: I, CLAUDE MONET**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **COMEDY COMMUNE OPEN MIC**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY - FEAT TING LIM**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7PM **FAST LOVE - TRIBUTE TO GEORGE MICHAEL**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- LONE GOAT GALLERY, BYRON BAY, 5PM **EXHIBITION OPENING - MENDING & TENDING: ART THAT WORKS FOR NATURE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ YASMIN**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCO + DJ ZAC & DJ KAI**
- KULCHA JAM, BYRON BAY, 7PM **ANTHONY FORREST**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MASOCHIST, GHOST VARIATIONS, SKIN & CONCENTRATION**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **DE'VU**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 6PM **ABE STEWART**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ SOLLY DASS**

THURSDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SARAH GRANT DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **MATT ARMITAGE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ANIMAL VENTURA + DJ TAI DANIELS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7.30PM **SCREENING: TOOROO**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **JAM NIGHT**
- AUSTRALIA HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM **LIMINAL + GUESTS**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 8PM **THE BIG GIG COMEDY NIGHT - MC: MANDY NOLAN, TING LIM + ALEXANDRA HUDSON,**
- ELTHAM HOTEL **FOLK BITCH TRIO**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **KAZYA K, 7.30PM QUEER COMEDY NIGHT MC KATE PAYNE**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE, 9PM **ACID BLEED**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **BALCONY BEATS, 8.30PM KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 8PM **THE BEATLES REBOOTED**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 8PM **BASS TEMPLE FT. MOONTIDE, SHAI SHRIKI, SHAYA AVITAN & DJ LO QI**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **TIM STOKES**
- LENNOX PIZZA 8PM **RENEE SIMONE**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **SUPERCHEEZE**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 6PM **ALBY DAMN**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE, 6.30PM **HARRY NICHOLS + DJ SOLI B**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **MP3 + DJ BEATDUSTA**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **GLENN SHIELDS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **ROCKIN' RON**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **YOU AM I**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 8PM **DAVE THORNTON**
- BILLEN CLIFFS HALL 6.30PM **BELLA FRANKIE WITH TASH KRAEMER AND STEVE GILBERT + DAN TUFFY**

FRIDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ADAM HOLE BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **BLADE HOPPER, 8PM JEROME WILLIAMS**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **JOSEPH TAWADROS' THE ART OF THE OUD'**

SATURDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HARRY NICHOLS BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3.30PM **ANIMAL VENTURA, 6.30PM CHLOE JETT, 10.30PM DJ FAUVE SCOTT**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1PM **ANIMAL VENTURA, 4.30PM TONY & THE THIEF**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **JOE CONROY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KANE MUIR**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **BULLHORN + BEN WHITING**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **CHEEKY CABARET**

- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DALE OSTRIDGE, 5PM DJ KAI NOON**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARK CHAPMAN + DJ TAI DANIELS & DJ KYRA SUNDAY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **THE LYRICAL BAND + DAN HANNAFORD**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 8PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ LAINIE GODIVA**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- LENNOX PIZZA 8PM **WILL HENDERSON**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **LENNOX GROOVE 'TURNED UP' FT. GOON GREMLINS, SITTING DOWN, KICKED IN BICKIE TIN**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6PM **THE MET GALA**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **DRAG NIGHT WITH FOXY BROWN-EYE**
- MARY G'S, LISMORE, 9PM **PINK ZINC**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **LINDA STREET**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BLAKE EVANS**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 2PM **BILL JACOBI**

SUNDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 1PM **SARAH GRANT, 4.30PM LUKE HAYWARD BAND, 7PM BEACHY SUNDAYS DJ YASMIN & DJ NO ID**
- BYRON THEATRE 3PM **PEACE LOVE AND RESISTANCE - LOUISE KING & ROGER LONGJIE CUI**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1PM **ANIMAL VENTURA, 4.30PM TONY & THE THIEF**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **JOE CONROY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KANE MUIR**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **BULLHORN + BEN WHITING**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **CHEEKY CABARET**

MONDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **TRILLAH**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **BEN WALSH**

TUESDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**

WEDNESDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADELY**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6PM **UNDULATE ART EXHIBITION OPENING**



CINEMA



OPPENHEIMER

Oppenheimer is the story of American scientist J Robert Oppenheimer and his role in the development of the atomic bomb.

In 1926, 22-year-old J. Robert Oppenheimer grapples with homesickness and anxiety while studying at the Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, under the demanding Patrick Blackett. Oppenheimer leaves Blackett a poisoned apple that visiting scientist Niels Bohr almost eats before Oppenheimer stops him. After completing his Ph.D. in physics at the University of Göttingen in Germany, where he briefly works with Werner Heisenberg, he returns to the United States, driven by the absence of research on quantum physics in his home country. He starts teaching at the University of California, Berkeley, while also dedicating time to the California Institute of Technology. Along the way, he encounters figures such as Ernest Lawrence, the 1939 Nobel Prize winner who emphasises practical applications; Jean Tatlock, a member of the Communist Party USA with whom he has an intermittent romantic relationship until her eventual suicide; and his future wife Katherine Puening, a biologist and ex-Communist.

While in the US, Army General Leslie Groves recruits Oppenheimer to lead the Manhattan Project to develop an atomic bomb.

Oppenheimer is screening this week at the Ballina Fair and Byron Bay Palace Cinemas.

Session Times

Thurs 27 July - Wed 2 August

PALACE CINEMAS
108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	BARBIE (PG) Daily except Thurs: 11:10AM, 1:45AM, 1:10PM, 1:30PM, 2:15PM, 3:40PM, 4:45PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM, 8:30PM Thurs: 11:10AM, 11:45AM, 1:10PM, 1:30PM, 2:15PM, 3:40PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM, 8:30PM	Sat: 11:00AM, 12:00PM, 2:45PM, 6:30PM, 8:00PM Sun: 12:00PM, 3:45PM, 6:30PM, 7:30PM Mon, Tues: 11:00AM, 12:00PM, 2:45PM, 3:45PM, 6:30PM, 7:30PM
THE MIRACLE CLUB (PG) Thurs: 1:00PM - Golden Club Preview Fri, Sat, Sun: 2:10PM - Sneaks	ABOUT MY FATHER (R) Thurs: 7:00PM - Italian Film Fest Preview	SISU (MA15+) Daily: 4:00PM, 8:30PM
NT LIVE: FLEABAG (ENCORE) (R) Thurs, Fri: 7:00PM Sat: 4:00PM, 6:00PM Sun: 1:30PM, 3:30PM	CHEVALIER (M) Wed: 6:30PM - Sparkling Preview Event	TALK TO ME (MA15+) Thurs: 11:00AM, 4:10PM, 6:20PM, 8:20PM Fri, Sat: 4:10PM, 6:20PM, 8:20PM Sun: 11:15AM, 4:10PM, 6:20PM, 8:20PM Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:10PM, 4:10PM, 6:20PM, 8:20PM
ALL FILMS	ALCARRÁS (M) Daily: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM	THE NEW BOY (M) Daily: 3:50PM, 6:10PM
	OPPENHEIMER (MA15+) Thurs, Fri, Wed: 11:00AM, 12:00PM, 2:45PM, 3:45PM, 7:30PM	

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
Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au

Session Times

Thurs 27 July - Wed 2 August

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

ALL FILMS	BARBIE (PG) Daily: 10:00AM, 1:50PM, 4:15PM, 6:30PM, 7:30PM	MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - DEAD RECKONING P1 (M) Daily: 9:50AM, 3:50PM
INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY (M) Daily: 1:00PM	OPPENHEIMER (MA15+) Daily: 10:15AM, 12:20PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM	

Ballina Fair Shopping Centre FREE parking Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au

PALACE CINEMAS

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SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE



Palace Cinemas is proud to be preserving Ballina's cherished community cinema, where we'll continue bringing exceptional movie experiences to the vibrant Ballina audience!

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gigs@echo.net.au



Submit your event to the Echo's free Gig Guide. Running in *The Echo* and online at echo.net.au.

The Real Conspiracy



'Many turn to conspiracy theories to fulfil deprived motivational needs to make sense of distress and impairment.'

Black helicopters will arrive and bring the US under the control of the United Nations. Water condensation trails contain biological and chemical agents sprayed on the population to lower fertility, give them cancer and make them compliant. International elites control governments, industry and media. These include Jewish people, and NGOs such as The World Economic Forum. Some believe that the United Nations plans to create a world government. Some even believe that the current Voice to Parliament being voted on in the referendum is funded by the United Nations. The World Health Organisation, I'm not sure, but apparently, is scheming to take over world health policy.

Children are being sodomised in secret underground tunnels. The war in Ukraine is totally scripted. The moon landing was a hoax. 9/11 wasn't a terrorist attack it was just a bunch of actors. Over 12 million Americans believe interstellar lizards in people suits rule the US. David Icke has maintained that the Queen (now deceased) is a blood-drinking, shape-shifting alien.

These are just some of the key theses of popular conspiracy theories. I guess if you believe them you don't call them conspiracies, you call them 'truth'. I've always struggled to understand how seemingly rational people can make such a bold foray into what, to me, seems illogical and bizarre. I sometimes think that many of these beliefs have a kind of contagion that is akin to a mass population mental health episode. Like a florid, shared paranoid delusion. A cult without a compound. I guess in a confusing world, conspiracy theories offer simple, closed solutions to vulnerable, scared people. Or is there more?

It's good to be suss. You're stupid if you're not. Governments and corporations have shown throughout

history that when there is money and power involved they can't always be trusted. Having anti-government spidey-senses is actually a good thing. But there is a tipping point. How do we make the leap from rational, prudent paranoia to wild, technicolour conspiracy?

Conspiracy theories flourish where there is a lack of trust in politicians. And right now, I guess you could say there is a considerable amount of cynicism when it comes to our politicians and the broken system they use to enact their capitalist-flavoured democracy.

Maybe that's why on the rocky road to oligarchy we are literally losing our minds.

New psychological research published by the American Psychological Association purports that conspiracy theorists are not all likely to be simple-minded, mentally unwell folks – a portrait routinely painted in popular culture. Instead 'many turn to conspiracy theories to fulfil deprived motivational needs to make sense of distress and impairment.' They tracked personality traits of conspiracists and found them

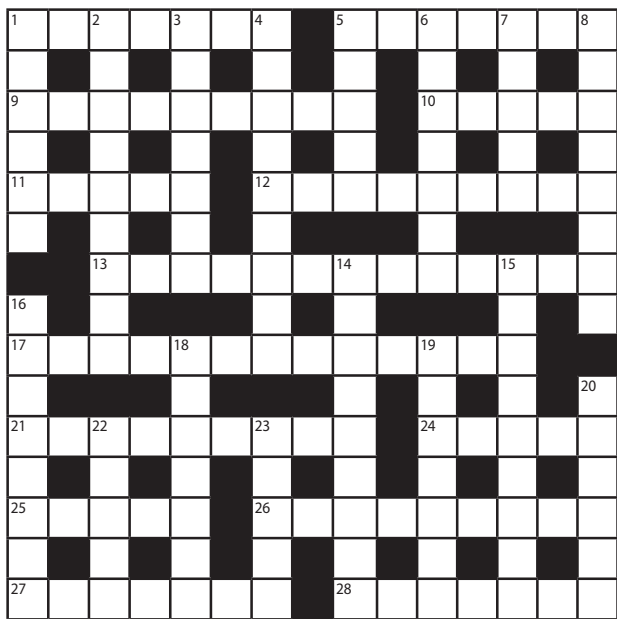
to be people who had strong trust in their own intuition, combined with a feeling of superiority and antagonism towards others.

The research found that people used conspiracy theories to feel safe in their environment and to feel like the community they identify with is superior to others. Hmm, I've heard this before. Fundamentalist religion! The use of irrational and illogical belief systems to make sense of the world has been around since we came out of the caves and looked at the stars and wondered, how did we get here, what does it all mean and is Olaf really a blood-drinking, alien lizard?

To me, conspiracy has always been in plain sight. We accept a capitalist system that enshrines and protects wealth accumulation for few and the despair and struggle of the rest. We create a democracy that ensures those in despair and struggle support the very ideology that shuts them out. There are no lizards, no aliens, no chemicals being sprayed, no actors jumping out of buildings. Just us. And them. It's called politics. And when corporations are allowed to fund lobbyists and make big donations, the circle of corruption is complete.

But maybe...

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #501



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- They hold the money, but they sound a bit crook! (7)
- Sailor thrashes clan totems (7)
- Howl, relict keeps new oriel (3,6)
- Short offering for the barrister (5)
- At sixteen, nuisance involves boredom (5)
- Songbird urges on flowers (9)
- Mum or dad with renovated chalet over Italy – apart from the main communication! (13)
- A pin-up's toilet messed up – he famously washed his hands! (7,6)
- Changes descriptions – left English penalties (9)
- Imitate as new (5)
- Fossilised gum – slow down! (5)
- Former partner, one to assess – and forgive (9)
- Account of the past – that man's a conservative! (7)
- Sat term examination – it's important (7)

DOWN

- Taxi went ahead and sent an urgent message (6)
- Over-inquisitive aficionado, chided Spooner of the cooking implement (6,3)
- McGuire, shoot, said a man who makes things plain (7)
- They're incidental issues, but they control sporting fields (9)
- He drags a tall building (5)
- Aerospace surveillance unit to steal a vast Australian territory (7)
- Goodbye to Australian-French deity (5)
- Non-aggressive marketing mentioning comfortable monastic accommodation (4,4)
- Wild mirth, also wild weather (9)
- Correct, partner – it's all over (9)
- Draw near a very quiet bug (8)
- Hell, assume a negative (7)
- Beer intended, they said, but it's an illness (7)
- Gets the message, reported wearing sables perhaps (6)
- Small-time resting place up and owing (5)
- It's about the joint, we're told: broke! (5)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Strongboxes (7)
- Plaids (7)
- A projecting opening in a wall that allows light to enter (3,6)
- Skimpy (5)
- Tedium (5)
- Delphiniums (9)
- Describes text placed inside curved brackets (13)
- Governor of the Roman province of Judea (Biblical) (7,6)
- Gives new meaning to (9)
- Represent as similar (5)
- Honey-yellow colour (5)
- Absolve from blame (9)
- Chronicle; record (7)
- Happenings; deeds (7)

DOWN

- Wired up; connected (6)
- Used for cooking in oil over high heat (6,3)
- Educator (7)
- The fringes; the peripheral areas (9)
- Look over; loom (5)
- Robotic satellite (Abbrev) (7)
- Farewell (5)
- Sweet talk in a retail setting (4,4)
- Pelting rain event (9)
- Countermove; thwart (9)
- Move closer (8)
- Conflagration (7)
- Disease (7)
- Deduces (6)
- Obligations (5)
- Impecunious (5)

Last week's solution #500



STARS BY LILITH

As Venus joins the quartet of outer-planetary retrogrades – Neptune, Saturn, Pluto and Chiron – how will this backspin affect you...?



LEO THE LION

ARIES: Venus is changing to a slower pace – which only happens every 18 months or so – in your sector of creative expression. This is an opportunity for self-reflection on how you might factor more nourishing practices into your daily routines – make room in your life for more fun, pleasure and whatever inspires you.

TAURUS: Venus is offering you a six-week cycle for addressing relationship and family matters. Since retrogrades bring back the past for resolution, don't be surprised if an ex reappears, a partnership issue resurfaces for closure, or you find yourself reassessing whether how you're living is meeting your current needs.

GEMINI: The planet of beauty, romance, and pleasure switching to low gear in your communications sector suggests it's time to take a long, cool look at where and how you spend your cash, time and energy. Consider where you could perhaps be more discerning about who, and what, you say yes to from now on.

CANCER: Venus, the planet of love and money, retrograde in your income zone, invites you to rethink your relationship to money, and your relationships around how you earn it. Letting your heart have more of a say about the way you make a living could be one simple key to increased happiness and success.

LEO: With Venus spending a record four months in your sign this year, this transit offers an exciting opportunity to reinvent yourself. Experiment with a makeover of your resume and social profile, play with upgrading your personal presentation, have fun restyling your wardrobe, workplace and home décor.

VIRGO: With Venus retrograde in your soul sector, this week could feel a bit up, down and all around. So rather than planning too far ahead, keep arrangements as loose as possible and allow space for the unexpected. Let yourself be pleasantly surprised by whatever the universe might have in store for you.

LIBRA: Beauty-loving Venus, your planet-ruler, means checking the rearview mirror in your sector of community and group endeavors to spotlight what's gone wrong in the past so you can avoid wasting time repeating the same mistakes. A good week to reconnect with old colleagues and revive a lapsed project.

SCORPIO: Venus retrograde in your professional sphere is the perfect time to rethink how you're approaching long term goals. Are they still in alignment with changing conditions, or do they need re-envisioning so you can contribute more meaningfully? Might this also apply to business partners and colleagues?

SAGITTARIUS: Venus retrograde is presently suggesting taking a step back to examine where you might reset certain belief systems that no longer serve you – not always the easiest task for Archers. Check your ideas with trusted friends, and this valuable transit could bring increased clarity, satisfaction and personal growth.

CAPRICORN: Retrogrades are about the past, about looking at how things might have been handled differently because patterns, as you know by now, do keep repeating and replaying. With Venus retrograde activating your zone of shared resources, your primary focus for consideration is joint financial projects.

AQUARIUS: With Venus heading into hibernation in your partnership zone this week, a relationship issue you thought was resolved could raise its head again for another turn at resolution. Instead of stressing about strategising your best move, reach out for suggestions and support from trusted friends or professionals.

PISCES: This week's Venus retrograde affects your daily routines and how you take care of yourself. It's asking for a wellness check: not just food and fitness, but a holistic look at your work, sleep, relationships and socialising. Which of these individual switches on your main circuit board could you turn up or down?

28 BOUGAINVILLEA DRIVE, FEDERAL



Stunning Queenslander on a 1.34HA Private Hinterland Escape

4 beds 1 lounge 2 baths 2 cars 1.34HA

PRICE | \$1.8m - \$1.95m
OPEN | Sat 29th July 11:00-11:30pm

Scan QR code for more details on this property



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Sally Green
0488 030 116



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668

69 LILLI PILLI DRIVE, BYRON BAY



Truly Unique European Masterpiece Just Minutes to Byron Bay

5 beds 2 lounge 5 baths 4 cars 885M²

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Sat 29th July 10:00-10:30am

Scan QR code for more details on this property



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049

64 SUNRISE BOULEVARD, BYRON BAY



Spacious Family Home Complete with Saltwater Pool

4 beds 2 lounge 2 baths 2 cars 600M²

ONLINE AUCTION | Starting Bid \$1.35M
CLOSING | Wednesday 9th August, 11:00am
OPEN | Wed 26th July 2:00-2:30pm
Sat 29th July 12:00-12:30pm

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



Paul Banister
0438 856 552



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649

75 BUTLER STREET, BYRON BAY



Renovated Character Home and Extra Accommodation in Central Byron

3 beds 2 lounge 3 baths 2 cars 613M²

PRICE GUIDE | \$2.85m
OPEN | Sat 29th July 1:00-1:30pm

Scan QR code for more details on this property



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594

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REAL ESTATE

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

5 GUMTREE PL, BANGALOW



3 2 2 628m²

OPEN HOUSE THURSDAY 27 JULY 1.00PM - 1.30PM
SATURDAY 29 JULY 10.00AM - 10.30AM
AUCTION SATURDAY 29 JULY 10.30AM ON SITE

146 CAMERON RD, MCLEANS RIDGES



4 2 2 6130m²

SOLD

36 WARRAMBOOL ROAD, OCEAN SHORES



Elevated Family Home
with Hinterland and
Ocean Views!

4 2 3 2
797M²

PRICE | \$1.8m - \$1.98m
OPEN | Sat 29th July 9:45-10:15am

Scan QR code for more
details on this property



Sally Green
0488 030 116



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668

4/84-86 CENTENNIAL CIRCUIT, BYRON BAY



Versatile Commercial Unit in
Popular Byron Arts
and Industrial Estate

2
282M²

PRICE | \$1.65m - \$1.75m
OPEN | By Appointment

Scan QR code for more
details on this property



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Luke Elwin
0421 375 635

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Special Gem

6 Thomas Street, Bangalow

🏠 3 🛏 2 🚗 1

\$1,000 pw



This light & breezy family home with polished timber floors throughout, has generous sized 3 bedrooms, main bedroom has a good sized ensuite and walk in robe, large lounge room and a separate dining room or media room opening out onto the covered alfresco entertainment area, there is even a man cave or gym room, easy to care for block, safe cul-de-sac location, walk to all the amenities this historic town has to offer, 450m to the main street for cafes, shops and restaurants. Pets considered.



Inspect: Call to arrange an inspection
Contact: Jessica Wise on 0455 287 122 or rentals@c21alstonville.com

Noble Lakeside - Site 213

Park/Village Name: Noble Lakeside – Kingscliff

🏠 2 🛏 1 🚗 2

\$525,000



Rarely available in this location, this inviting well-presented home is ready for new owners to move in with nothing left to do but unpack and enjoy. This home showcases a charming front entrance verandah, an exceptional master bedroom as well as a 2nd bedroom that runs the full width of the home. This 2nd bedroom has the potential to be converted into two separate rooms to create either a 3rd bedroom, home office or a fabulous craft/hobby room.

The refurbished modern kitchen has ample storage and bench space and is complemented with a built-in fan forced oven and a ceramic cooktop.

The unique enormous master bedroom is complemented with a large built-in wardrobe and can still accommodate a king size bed, reading nook, dressing table as well as a chest of drawers.

Generous size three-way bathroom is in good condition and features a large vanity unit, fully tiled shower room and a separate toilet.

This home would be ideal for mobility impaired people, requiring enough room to move around easily.

Energy efficient home with 2Kw solar system and a solar heat pump hot water service.

Retirement living at its best without the associated costs of exit fees and no stamp duty.

Inspect: By appointment
Contact: Kelvin Price 0423 028 468 / Heike Wilson 0403 713 658 Mr Property Services

Own a piece of Paradise !

Norfolk Island

🏠 🛏 🚗

\$4,500,000.00



An exceptional top-level business and commercial opportunity, this extremely successful tourist resort offers excellent value.

Prime location, only 3 minutes from the airport, close to many tourist attractions and a leisurely walk to the main shopping precinct.

Large freehold property and business on multiple titles.

- 50 well-appointed rooms
- Restaurant and cocktail bar
- Swimming pool with large sunbed deck
- Conference facilities
- BBQ and poolside picnic table
- Modern managers residence
- 3 Separate titles

Inspect: Call Vaughan
Contact: 0011 6723 51466
 sales@norfolkislandrealty.com / www.norfolkislandrealty.com



Open For Inspection – visit www.echo.net.au/offi

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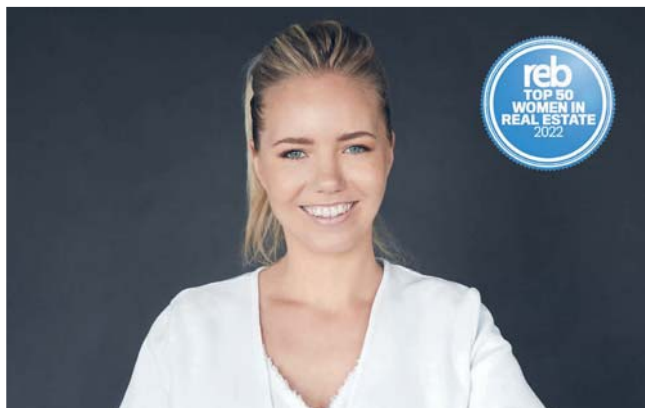


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PUBLIC NOTICES

TWEED BYRON LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL (TBLALC) NOTICE OF ORDINARY MEETING

Date: Thursday 10 August 2023
Time: 10am
Venue: Minjungbal Cultural Centre & Museum, Cnr of Kirkwood Road & Duffy Streets, Tweed Heads South.

AGENDA Items Include:

1. Welcomes.
2. Apologies.
3. Community land and business plan (CLBP) update.
4. Other business placed on the agenda prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Authorised: Des Williams, Chairperson Tweed Byron LALC

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Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment

Lot 2 DP599728 230 SEVEN MILE BEACH ROAD, BROKEN HEAD. Everick Heritage Pty Ltd invites Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places for Lot 2 DP 599728 at 230 Seven Mile Beach Road Broken Head, New South Wales (NSW) to register to be consulted. Everick Heritage have been engaged to undertake an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA) in support of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for a proposed residential subdivision for a six-dwelling multiple occupancy development at 230 Seven Mile Beach Road, Broken Head, NSW. The Project Area is located within the Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council and the Byron Shire Council Local Government Area.

The purpose of consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the proponent in the preparation of an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment Report and if required, an application for an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit to assist the Executive Director of Heritage NSW's (Department of Planning and Environment) consideration and determination of the application.

Please note that details of the Aboriginal people or organisations who register an interest in consultation will be forwarded to Heritage NSW and Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council. Please advise at the time of registration if you do not wish for your details to be released to the relevant organisations.

For more information please contact:

Chris Pratt
 Planning Resolutions
 PO Box 1133 Byron Bay 2481
 M: 0437 859 959
 E: chris@planningresolutions.com.au

To register your interest, please contact:

Andrew Wilkinson
 Associate
 E: a.wilkinson@everick.net.au
 Everick Heritage Pty Ltd
 6B Reserve Street, Annandale, NSW 2038
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Registrations must be received by phone or in writing by 9/7/2023.

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LIFE CELEBRATIONS

In Loving Memory of May



Mary Ethel BRIMSON
24/10/1925-15/06/2023

Family & friends are warmly invited to a celebration of May's life at Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club on Wednesday 2nd August from 2pm.

FUNERAL NOTICES

FISHER, Marion Alice (nee Ludlow)

Late of The Gold Coast, born in Lismore, formerly of Ocean Shores, passed away peacefully on July 20th 2023, aged 90 years.

Beloved wife of Perc (dec) and adored Mother and Mother-in-law of Julie and Colin, Debra and Warren, and Geoffrey and Helen.

Dearest Nanny to her seven granddaughters and two great grandsons.

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend Marion's funeral service, to be held at St Martin's Anglican Parish, Stuart Street, Mullumbimby on Tuesday 1st August, 2023, commencing at 11am.

Please join the family for refreshments at the RSL following the service.

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PETS



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If you have a fenced property and can provide Kela with an appropriate lifestyle for a working-dog breed, **contact Shell on 0458 461 935.**
MC: 953010006015037

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1st SUN Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333
2nd SAT Flea Market, Bangalow	0490 335 498
2nd SAT Woodburn	0439 489 631
2nd SAT Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159
2nd SUN The Channon	6688 6433
2nd SUN Lennox Head	6685 6807
2nd SUN Lillingham	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
Each TUE Organic Lismore	6628 1084
Each WED 7-11am M'bah	6684 7834
Each WED 3-6pm Nimbin	0475 135 764
Each WED 4-7pm Newrybar Hall	
Each THU 8-11am Byron	6687 1137
Each THU 2.30-6.30pm Lismore	0450 688 900
Each FRI 7-11am Mullum	0424 168 672
Each SAT 8-11am Bangalow	6687 1137
Each SAT 8-11am Duranbah Rd (Tropical Fruit World)	
Each SAT 8am-1pm Uki	6679 5530
Each SAT 8.30-11am Lismore	
Each SAT 8.30-12am Blue Knob	
Each SUN 7-11am Ballina	0493 102 137

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AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay	131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads	6629 7510
Mullumbimby	6629 7570
Byron Bay	6685 9499
Bangalow	6629 7500
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding... ..	132 500
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue.....	6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER	6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL	6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS	6622 7022
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LIFELINE	131 114
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NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily	6680 7280
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE	6687 2520
HIV/AIDS - ACON Confidential testing & information	6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)	6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS	6628 1866
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WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service	6628 1898

SUN, MOON & TIDES
- TIMES FOR NEXT 3 WEEKS

DATE (July/August)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
26	W	6:33 / 17:12	11:10 / 17:12	0115 1.29 / 1436 1.31	0745 0.45 / 2031 0.73
27	TH	6:32 / 17:12	11:44 / 17:47	0214 1.20 / 1545 1.40	0836 0.44 / 2159 0.71
28	F	6:32 / 17:13	12:24 / 1:42	0324 1.13 / 1648 1.52	0931 0.42 / 2320 0.62
29	SA	6:31 / 17:13	13:12 / 2:48	0436 1.11 / 1747 1.65	1030 0.37 / 2485 0.51
30	SU	6:30 / 17:14	14:10 / 3:55	0545 1.13 / 1843 1.78	0025 0.51 / 1128 0.30
31	M	6:30 / 17:14	15:17 / 5:01	0645 1.17 / 1935 1.90	0118 0.39 / 1224 0.23
1	TU	6:29 / 17:15	16:30 / 6:01	0742 1.22 / 2024 1.98	0207 0.29 / 1317 0.16
2	W	6:28 / 17:15	17:45 / 6:54	0833 1.28 / 2112 2.01	0253 0.22 / 1410 0.11
3	TH	6:28 / 17:16	18:57 / 7:39	0924 1.33 / 2157 1.98	0338 0.18 / 1500 0.11
4	F	6:27 / 17:17	20:06 / 8:18	1014 1.37 / 2241 1.89	0421 0.17 / 1551 0.17
5	SA	6:26 / 17:17	21:12 / 8:53	1103 1.40 / 2324 1.74	0504 0.19 / 1644 0.27
6	SU	6:25 / 17:18	22:16 / 9:27	1156 1.41 / 2381 1.58	0546 0.24 / 1740 0.40
7	M	6:25 / 17:18	23:18 / 10:00	1206 1.55 / 2425 1.41	0629 0.30 / 1845 0.54
8	TU	6:24 / 17:19	10:34 / 11:11	0051 1.36 / 1509 1.44	0713 0.36 / 2140 0.69
9	W	6:23 / 17:19	11:11 / 11:59	0144 1.18 / 1509 1.44	0801 0.41 / 2140 0.69
10	TH	6:22 / 17:20	12:12 / 11:51	0253 1.05 / 1620 1.48	0858 0.45 / 2308 0.65
11	F	6:21 / 17:20	12:37 / 12:37	0415 0.99 / 1720 1.54	1000 0.46 / 2308 0.65
12	SA	6:21 / 17:21	3:20 / 13:27	0527 1.00 / 1811 1.59	0011 0.57 / 1100 0.44
13	SU	6:20 / 17:21	4:14 / 14:21	0621 1.05 / 1854 1.63	0055 0.50 / 1153 0.40
14	M	6:19 / 17:22	5:01 / 15:17	0704 1.10 / 1932 1.67	0131 0.44 / 1238 0.36
15	TU	6:18 / 17:22	5:43 / 16:13	0742 1.15 / 2008 1.69	0204 0.39 / 1317 0.32
16	W	6:17 / 17:22	6:19 / 16:13	0815 1.20 / 2041 1.70	0234 0.36 / 1353 0.29
17	TH	6:16 / 17:24	6:52 / 18:04	0849 1.23 / 2113 1.69	0303 0.35 / 1438 0.29
18	F	6:15 / 17:24	7:21 / 18:57	0922 1.26 / 2143 1.65	0330 0.34 / 1502 0.30
19	SA	6:14 / 17:25	7:48 / 19:49	0957 1.29 / 2213 1.59	0359 0.33 / 1538 0.35
20	SU	6:13 / 17:25	8:15 / 20:42	1033 1.31 / 2243 1.51	0427 0.33 / 1615 0.41

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

Local league teams face tough run to the finals

Local rugby league fans have seen the chances of their teams making the finals slip away after enduring losses before last weekend's bye.

The Byron Bay Red Devils took on the Bilambil Jets in round 13 after travelling north and came away with a 34-18 loss.

A win would have put them in sixth place on the competition ladder, with a finals berth if they held on. As it is they sit in eighth place with 13 competition points on a congested ladder.

To make the finals they have to get past Evans Head (16), Tweed Coast (16), Cudgen (14), Lower Clarence (14).

Mullumbimby Giants lost to Marist Brothers 24-28, and sit in tenth place on 11 points.



The Mullumbimby Giants on the charge in their 16-14 win against Cudgen in round 11. Photo Elna Nelson

While both teams can theoretically still make the finals a lot would have to go their way.

The first stumbling block is this weekend as both sides take on top teams.

This Sunday Mullumbimby hosts Ballina, the competition leader, before taking on third-placed

Northern United, the week after.

The Red Devils host Evans Head (fourth-placed) this Sunday, before playing away to Ballina Seagulls in the final round.

On the up side both sides have a bye, and two competition points, over the three-week run to the finals.

Byron Bay wins High School surf contest

Ocea Curtis and Mia Baker from Byron Bay High School were the winning surfing team in the Junior Girls Ocean and Earth High School State Titles, held at Corrimal Beach at Wollongong on Dharawal Country last week.

All up 45 teams from 25 schools across NSW competed in the surfing teams event, where two surfers work together to score the highest combined heat totals.

'The Junior Girls winners came all the way from Byron Bay. Ocea Curtis and Mia Baker made one phenomenal team,' said a spokesperson for the competition.

The pair were on-point from the get-go, both scoring 7.5s in the semi-finals from just three waves and continued their success in the finals finishing with a 12.6 heat total, almost double the runner-up team Cronulla High.



Mia Baker and Ocea Curtis are cheered after winning the High School State Titles. Photo Claudia Haworth.

Ocea said it was a rewarding way to finish the week down south, after competing in the Junior Titles last week.

'The surf was a bit difficult but still really fun. It was so much fun surfing with Mia and really cool representing my school,' she said.

The Junior Boys division was won by Central Coast's

Tuggerah Lakes Secondary School, Tumbi Umbi Campus, represented by Chex Dempsey and Taj Daley.

The Senior Girls division was won by Lucy Darragh and Holly Wishart from Kiama High.

The Senior Boys was won by duo Lachlan Smith and Brin Valaire from Newcastle Grammar.

Local bowls players come second after marathon State Pairs finals day

Brunswick Heads Women's Bowling Club came a close second after a big day at the Tweed Byron District Women's Bowling Association (TBDWBA) State Pairs competition held at Kingscliff earlier this month.

The club's Kerry Dexter (skip) and Sherril Pearce went straight through to the semi-final against Pottsville after a bye in the first game.

'Pottsville took the lead early in the game. We fought back and on the last end the scores were 18 all. This meant another deciding end had to be played,' Kerry said.

'It came down to both skips having each of their bowls close to the jack and the umpire had to be called to measure, with Brunswick winning the game by millimetres, 19-18'.

This game lasted four



Kerry and Sherril were second at the TBDWBA State Pairs competition after many hours on the green. Photo supplied

hours and 25 minutes, far longer than the average of roughly 3-3.5 hours.

'The final started an hour late and we played against Kingscliff. They took the lead and we fought back equalising the score at one stage, but on the 19th end it was

decided not to play the last two ends due to failing light with Kingscliff leading 24-11,' Kerry said.

'We were very happy to be runners up in this competition and worked out we played 8hrs 50mins of bowls on the day.'

Shores United U/12s target minor premiership as undefeated run continues



Shores United U/12s: (Back row L-R) Matt, Reece, Bowie, Stark(c), Oscar, Toby, Tao, Mac, Lewy, Soufyan, Nathan. (Front) Archer, Rahan, River, Benji, Theon and Amelia (absent Obi). Photo supplied

Shores United U/12s mixed team continued their undefeated run this season by beating Eureka 4-0 at home on the Bob Belleair sports field last weekend.

The team is currently undefeated with their worst result a 1-1 draw against Ballina.

The team has two games

to go before the finals start.

All members of the team have their own individual talents that make them gel really well together when they are playing on the field. They are great young people making memories and friendships to last a lifetime, according to coaches Matt and Nathan.

Send us your sport stories!

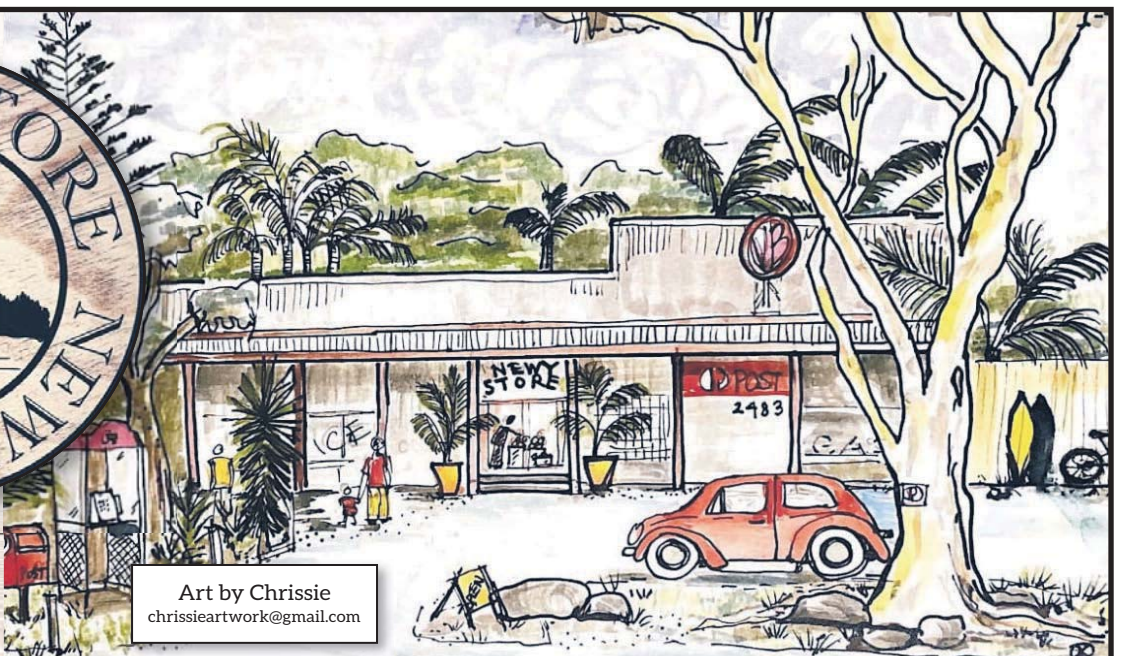
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Last week, the hottest recorded temperatures in the northern hemisphere were recorded, and this week, climate scientists have observed 'a once in a 7.5-million year event', where Antarctic sea ice levels have not recovered. This seems the perfect time for federal Labor to prepare the nation for the upcoming summer?

A Change.org petition has launched a bid to 'take back your Island Quarry'. For those unaware, IQ is a disused quarry on rare elevated land on Ewingsdale Road, just opposite the Cavanbah Centre. A group of community-minded creatives started IQ over 25 years ago. After an accidental jumping death in 2014, and a recent offer by an adjoining landowner to settle a boundary dispute, there is a push for fresh management - to see more, visit tinyurl.com/2wakdbkp.

What government manufactured housing crisis? Independent journalist from thenewdaily.com.au, Michael Pascoe, reports 'As recently as 1971, public housing made up 13.2 per cent of new dwellings... But in 2019, to use the last year free of covid distortion, just 1.1 per cent of new dwellings were public housing - 2,283 out of 200,843'.

Entries for the Byron Bay Business Awards 2023 have been extended until 10am Monday, July 31. To get involved, visit byronbay.awardsplatform.com.

Reminder: The judge who locked up child sex trafficker, Ghislaine Maxwell, has not released the names of those who were implicated in the

trafficking. It's like the one per cent want that one to just disappear.

With fire ants just north of NSW border, now would be a great time for politicians and their precious bureaucracy to upscale efforts. See page 5.

'13 years ago on July 25 began the publication of the Afghan War Diaries, here is Julian Assange speaking in 2011: "The goal is an endless war, not a successful war" #FreeAssange'

It's pleasing to see how the mainstream media are hounding Peter Dutton relentlessly after removing disgraced ex PM Scott Morrison from parliament for his cruel, catastrophic and illegal Robodebt scheme. Oh, wait...

'There was a huge petrochemical explosion at a Dow Chemicals factory in Louisiana last week, dubbed "cancer alley". Your regular reminder that the Albanese Govt is funding a \$1.5bn fracked gas and petrochem hub less than 3km from the Darwin suburbs'. July 22 tweet by Environment Centre NT Executive Director, Dr Kirsty Howey.

ICYMI - In July 1973 - 50 years ago - the Labor Whitlam government announced equal pay for all women in public service.

According to www.reuters.com, India has banned exporting rice owing to 'climate induced failure of crops this year'. Given India accounts for more than 40 per cent of global rice exports, could it be a sign that global food supplies are now at risk?



Or if you don't believe in anthropogenic climate change, perhaps India are WHO puppets and are part of the 'great reset'?

Remember: The only thing we have to fear is fear itself. And stupid. We should be shit-scared of stupid.

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