

Echo

HERE'S ANOTHER HUGELY IMPORTANT POINT

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Echo Property Magazine - first issue inside



World champ drops in

Jarjumirr Park, Byron's new skate park located near the library, courthouse and Byron Youth Centre, was officially opened last Saturday by Mayor Michael Lyon. He said in his speech, 'Jarjumirr Park is much more than a skate park; with beautiful artwork by local Arakwal artists Nickolla Clark and Kaitlyn Clark, it recognises the cultural significance of this land as a place for the entire community.' Pictured is Arisa Trew, fresh from her win at California's X games. At just 13 years old, Arisa became the first female to successfully land a 720 aerial - that's two full aerial rotations. Photo Jeff 'Not Falling Off Is My Best Trick' Dawson

Where's the accountability with flood funding?

Hans Lovejoy

Can the public have confidence that federal flood recovery and resilience programs will actually deliver, given the state government's botched roll-out of flood assistance via the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC)?

A funding announcement by the federal Labor government was made on Friday, spruiking 'millions more invested in Northern Rivers flood resilience' for the \$150 million Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program.

Minister for Emergency Management, Murray Watt, was in Coraki

last Friday to make the announcement of tranche 2, yet tranche 1 is yet to be completed, according to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) website.

There are just three small projects listed for Byron Shire across both tranches, considerably fewer projects than on surrounding flood-affected shires.

They are: 'SGB Flood Pump Generator to provide protection from power failures' (tranche 1); and from tranche 2, 'Investigate Options for South Golden Beach Flood Gate Upgrades; Upgrade Coogera Circuit Detention, Preferred Byron Drainage Strategy Construction'.

The Echo asked the NEMA, who administrate the programs with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), whether any of the tranche 1 projects have been completed for Byron Shire.

A NEMA spokesperson replied, 'A significant amount of work has been completed over the last few months to finalise funding agreements and due diligence works for more than 30 tranche 1 and 2 projects'.

'Successful project applicants have now received letters from the NSW government allowing them to begin works across the region in accordance with the

► Continued on page 3

Homelessness service faces funding shortfall

Paul Bibby

A vital homelessness service in the heart of Byron Bay could be forced to cut services without additional donations from the community.

Fletcher Street Cottage has provided thousands of breakfasts, showers and support appointments to the Shire's ballooning homeless population since it opened in April last year.

But without any on-going government funding, and with community support dwindling, the service is struggling to keep up the flow of support.

'Having any of the services cut at Fletcher Street Cottage would be a devastating loss,' said Mathew Broster, who was sleeping rough on the streets of Byron before receiving help from the staff and volunteers at Fletcher Street.

'I'm one of the lucky ones... going from being a rough sleeper to finding emergency accommodation.'

With Byron's population of rough sleepers growing to become the largest of any local government area in NSW, including the City of Sydney, the demand for the services at Fletcher Street has increased significantly.

Operating costs at \$1m

As a result, the service's annual operating costs have increased to \$1 million.

Louise O'Connell, the General Manager of the Byron Community Centre, which runs the cottage, said so far community contributions had made up around 20 per cent of what was required.

'We've already been forced to cut services and may have to cut more,' Ms O'Connell said.

'We urgently need sustained and increased support.'

With no ongoing government funding, the Byron Community Centre is calling on the community

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Fletcher Street Cottage service users. Photo supplied

IQ Inc board challenged - again
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Brunswick Surf Lifesaving Club needs you! ► p5

Richard Jones looks at the plastic problem and AI ► p10

What's happening in the local arts scene ► p20

Music, theatre, cinema and more!
► p22-26

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Ensemble Della Mar sets its sights on Tassie

A group of young, talented musicians will soon be off to tour Tasmania, but before they go, they will hold a special concert on Friday August 11, from 5pm, at the Cape Byron Steiner School.

Ensemble Della Mar director, Loani McRae, told *The Echo*, 'With all the challenges and distractions facing kids today, and after a period of being banned from performing during covid, it is wonderful to hear the magical sounds returning from the students, and to celebrate playing music together.'

'The ensemble of 20 play violin, cello, guitar, flute, piano and trombone. They also sing beautifully, and play a variety of world, classical and modern music.'

Loani said, 'Having a tour to work towards inspires our members to really shine, and this in turn inspires other young musicians to want to play. It's a beautiful circle,



Ensemble Della Mar. Photo Jeff Dawson

and we really appreciate that people see the value in supporting these students in their development.'

She adds special guests include the Synchronic choir, Smokey Fields, and Kyle

Lionhart, who has just returned from a successful tour of Europe.

'All ticket sales will go towards the bus to transport us around Tasmania, and will be greatly appreciated.'

Loani asks that tickets are booked before the night, 'as it helps us for catering purposes.'

For more info visit www.events.humanitix.com/ensemble.

Where's the accountability with flood funding?

► Continued from page 1 implementation plan agreed by the NSW government and local councils.

'Work has begun on the Dairy Flat road raising project [Richmond Valley Council] and works for a range of other projects will be starting imminently. The Australian government continues to work closely with the NSW and local governments to ensure the implementation of these projects moves as quickly as possible.'

Transparency?

According to the NEMA's website, the 'CSIRO worked with local councils, community groups and other key stakeholders in the region to identify existing project proposals for improving the region's flood resilience.'

'CSIRO and [consultancy firm] Alluvium ranked these projects according to specific criteria and scientific analysis and provided a report to the NEMA detailing prioritised projects.'

The Echo asked the NEMA 'what government body is responsible for the oversight for this funding and program?'

A NEMA spokesperson replied, 'While the Australian government, through the NEMA, is responsible for providing the funding and guidelines for this program, the NSW government, through the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation [NRRC], is responsible for its administration.'

As previously reported, the NRRC lacks transparency owing to its corporate status.

The Echo also asked the NEMA, 'Was there any independent assessment of the projects that were chosen by CSIRO and Alluvium?'

They replied, 'Under Phase 1 of the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative, the CSIRO worked with local councils, community groups and other key stakeholders in the region to identify existing project proposals for improving the

region's flood resilience.'

'The projects put forward by CSIRO under Phase 1 of the Northern Rivers Resilience Initiative were existing project proposals put forward by local and state governments and the community, as part of the CSIRO's consultation process with the seven local government areas (LGAs).'

'CSIRO used a robust assessment process to confirm each project's eligibility, then ranked them against a Multi Criteria Analysis (MCA) using the following indicators: flood risk mitigation; flood resilience; environmental impact; social-cultural impact; economic outcomes and project feasibility.'

'Given the robust consultation process undertaken by CSIRO including the MCA, it was determined that additional assessment of the identified projects was not required.'

When asked 'Are there any timelines for the completion of these projects?', the NEMA spokesperson replied, 'As the

NSW government is responsible for the administration of these projects, they, along with the local councils delivering the projects, will be best placed to answer.'

Not effective flood mitigation: Nats

Meanwhile, federal MP for Page, Kevin Hogan (Nationals), said, 'The community would feel exceptionally disappointed by projects announced by the federal government, as they contain no effective flood mitigation works.'

'These are all flood resilience projects,' he said.

'They are not flood mitigation projects, which is what this funding was intended for. 'Spending on flood mitigation means the level of water would be lower in future flood events. None of the projects announced will do that. I'm greatly disappointed that this is such a lost opportunity for our community,' Mr Hogan said.

Fletcher Street Cottage in need of funding

► Continued from page 1 to step in and help bridge the gap.

They're hoping that the increased awareness and publicity brought by homelessness week - commencing this coming Monday (August 7) - will inspire locals to dig deep.

'We're calling on the generosity and compassion of our community to help us bridge the funding gap,' said Kate

Love, Acting Manager.

'Together, we can ensure that the most vulnerable among us have access to the support and care they need to overcome their challenges and thrive.'

In the last year, Fletcher Street Cottage says it has provided over 10,500 breakfasts, 5,000 showers and laundry washes, and 2,600 support appointments with its team of Community

Support Workers. These appointments included the provision of emergency relief, information, referrals and advocacy. To donate, or support Fletcher Street Cottage, visit www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au.

Those wanting to make a larger donation are invited to contact Kate Love on 0448 141 490 or supporter@byroncentre.com.au.

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IQ Inc board challenged – again

Hans Lovejoy

With the surfing influx from the '70s, Byron Bay became a bastion for free thinking, creative arts, alternative living and community minds.

Long-time locals may recall the Epicentre in Belongil, a former slaughterhouse, which became a drawcard for artists and musicians.

Island Quarry (IQ) was another attraction for those seeking Byron's alternative life – it's a former quarry site located on high land, opposite the Cavanbah Centre on Ewingsdale Road.

The eight-acre regenerated quarry features a spring reservoir, surrounded by 20-metre high rock walls.

According to iq.org.au, 'The Island Quarry Restoration Project was formed by a small group of like-minded people in early 1995, with the vision to create a social and artistic enterprise in a wider cultural and tourist initiative.'

In 2017, *The Echo* reported that 'A public tussle has erupted over its management', and five years on, pressure is again being applied to the IQ board members, who manage the land on behalf of Crown Lands.

A Change.org campaign is calling on NSW Crown Lands Minister, Stephen Kamper, to 'allow new members and directors of the Island Quarry Reserve Trust'.

So far, it has attracted 202 signatures.

And with a large fence cutting across the prime level area overlooking the quarry owing to a boundary dispute, IQ neighbour, Adam Bennett Smith, has proposed a land swap 'to unify this key community land and initiate an renewed era of energy, ideas and enthusiasm for this unique place'.

Bennett Smith said in an open letter to Council and Crown Lands that the 'The IQ website states that a boundary adjustment with my property is a goal'.

In return for the land swap, Bennett Smith asks the



A recent gathering was held on land bordering IQ. The IQ Trust have rejected a land swap proposal by neighbour Adam Bennett Smith. Photo supplied

IQ board to change its rules, 'to limit board membership to three years, to allow new energy and skills from community members who wish to join and be involved, while still recognising the work done to date by current board members.'

'I believe it is in the best interests of the Island Quarry and the community to allow the Island Quarry Plan of Management to be realised', he wrote.

NSW Fair Trading records show that since 2003, Shane Rennie has been IQ's public officer, taking over from Rhett Hutchence, who started in 1996.

Rennie, who is also tour manager for short film festival, Flickerfest, strongly denies that there has been '25 years of inaction' under his leadership.

He supplied *The Echo* with extensive replies to questions around what has been achieved, and provided detailed information around IQ governance, as requested.

Rennie's full reply is at www.echo.net.au.

Land swap rejected

On behalf of the IQ board, Rennie rejected Bennett Smith's land swap offer.

Rennie replied, 'The Island Quarry Committee does not currently see any reason to engage with the licence and land swap proposal... nor are they feasible, as our approved grey water system is located on the area you are indicating'.

As for what has been

occurring at IQ, Rennie told *The Echo* in 'the last year or two alone', a Community Building Partnership grant was attained for construction of a site shed (for storage/meetings/workshops); approval given and construction undertaken for driveway roadworks; 100 bush-tucker trees were planted with Delta Kay; numerous regen days; off-site fundraisers held for iQ Inc, and an annual fundraiser held for the Arakwal Corp in NAIDOC week.

'We are open to any formal proposals'.

Given the only 'news' published on iq.org.au relates to Flickerfest activities, *The Echo* asked Rennie, 'How is using a not-for-profit (NFP) to promote a private enterprise (Flickerfest) in the spirit of IQ? Surely, those who started IQ have no vested interest in Flickerfest, and would rather see the site utilised as it was originally envisaged?'

He replied that the Flickerfest relationship with IQ 'is purely benevolent' and that funds raised for IQ 'contribute to public liability insurance, additional road work costs, tools and garden maintenance, etc'.

'IQ does not currently have an income stream. So there is no financial benefit to Flickerfest from IQ-hosted events'.

He also denies that he, or Flickerfest director, Bronwyn Kidd (who is also on the IQ board) have a pecuniary interest.

While Rennie believes much has been achieved at

IQ, there is still no consent for the DA, which was approved in 2010.

Membership drop

In the last five years since *The Echo* ran the story, IQ membership has dropped from 35 to 12.

The committee membership is the same, Rennie says, however, there is a Treasurer position available after Helen Stickle-Thompson relocated to Moombah.

'I am standing in as the Treasurer atm', he says.

He added, 'Arakwal custodian, Delta Kay, who has had a long association with IQ, had previously expressed interest in being on our board, we will be formalising her appointment to the board at our next meeting in August'.

And while Rennie told *The Echo*, 'no membership has been rejected', an original IQ member, Darren Hiller Smith, says he and others have been stonewalled with their attempts to join.

Rennie explained further in an exchange with Bennett Smith: 'We have not rejected any membership, but we can, as is within our rights of association, if our committee believes a person's behaviour is not supportive of the association and not in the Island Quarry association's best interest'.

Hiller Smith told *The Echo*, 'No one has been contacted by the management when enquiring about volunteering, or membership over the years. We have sent at least ten people to attempt membership status, to no avail'.

'Many have given up even visiting the place, because it's such a mess and devoid of activity. All I want is everyone to have access and celebrate this amazing place, in a time of great social need in the Shire. I love that place, and I owe hundreds of people thousands of hours and tens of thousands of dollars for helping us make it happen in good faith.'

'It's not meant for private ownership'.

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Brunswick Surf Lifesaving Club needs you!

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

We can always hope that history doesn't repeat itself, but it often does, and if last summer is anything to go by, we are going to need all the lifesavers we can get on the beaches this year.

With warm dry conditions on the horizon, there's likely to be more beachgoers, and according to last year's stats, Brunswick Heads is one of the busiest beaches in the Byron Shire.

And also one of the most dangerous.

The 2022/23 season saw 2,668 patrol hours, and more than 28,500 beachgoers, with 18 rescues performed.

Since covid, the Brunswick



Brunswick SLSC Captain, Leigh Robbins, is on the lookout for new members for the 2023/24 season.

SLSC, like many other volunteer organisations, is struggling to both entice old members back, and encourage new people to join.

Last summer, patrol groups went from eight to

six, and with the current membership, the club won't have enough members to fill all the needed roles in the coming season.

Construction of their new clubhouse is about to get

underway and demolition of the old one is imminent, so the upcoming season will see volunteers based out of a temporary compound.

This isn't ideal, but it will allow the club to help keep beachgoers safe in the meantime.

But the club needs more members – and not just as life savers.

There are plenty of other positions available at the club that mean you don't even need to get your feet, or any other part of you, wet – they hope to have a full complement of volunteers by the time the new club opens next year.

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Fire contained in Tyagarah Nature Reserve

Paul Bibby

A scrub fire at Brunswick Heads had fire crews rushing into action last Friday afternoon.

At around 4pm, emergency services received reports that a fire had broken out in the Tyagarah Nature Reserve, next to Brunswick Heads

Beach. The fire, which was about 20m wide, sent plumes of smoke billowing out over the surrounding area, which could be seen from as far away as Byron Bay.

At least two Rural Fire Service crews from surrounding towns attended the blaze, which was brought under control soon

after they arrived.

The cause of the fire is not yet known.

However, the incident has added to wider concerns about the possibility of an early start to the fire season brought about by the dry winter experienced across much of the east coast.

The NSW RFS has also

warned residents across the state to prepare for the possibility of a more severe fire season this coming spring and summer, owing to the dry winter and three wet years that produced high vegetation growth.

The long-range forecast is for drier than average conditions from August to October.



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Grief embraced in 24-hour vigil

Renew Fest's 24-hour Vigil For Grief, held at the Fig Tree Grove of the Mullum Showground, created an 'evocative and exquisite space for welcoming grief back into the commons,' says Ella Rose Goninan, director of Renew Fest.

Ella told *The Echo*, 'The space was designed as a "communal grief garden" that soothed and stimulated all the senses, with fires aglow, incense perfuming the air, a labyrinth, prayer tree, candles, water altar, flowers and a geometric arrangement of hay bale swirls made for a subtle flow of space.'

'The continuous immersive sound-scape created by



Ella Rose Goninan, director of Renew Fest, at the Vigil's Prayer Tree. Photo Jeff Dawson

Luke Jaaniste encouraged a grounded, contemplative atmosphere, with guest musicians including Yolanda Moyle and Shai Shriki adding their haunting tones every few hours.

'Many stayed for an hour

or two, and some overnight. For some, it was a soothing moment to connect with love and loss. For others, they spoke afterwards of a profound and unique journey opening to tears, reverence and joy.

Family day this Sat in Federal

Paul Bibby

For 44 years, the Federal Community Children's Centre has cared for and nurtured the town's small humans.

This Saturday, the centre is asking for a bit of support in return, when it runs a family day and fundraiser to celebrate its 44th anniversary.

'The centre and the community generally have been through a lot over the past few years,' the director of the centre Mandala Diehl told *The Echo* this week.

'This is an opportunity to celebrate how far we've come, and to bring the

community together, because we were set up by the community for the community,' she said.

The event will feature a colourful collection of activities and events, including performances by the Widjabul dancers, Babe Rainbow and the Imprints.

Kids concert

There will be a colourful kids concert put on by the centre, and a stack of other activities, including stalls, face-painting, a raffle, food and a jumping castle.

'In keeping with the current World Cup, there's a special soccer tournament

out the back, run by one of the Football Australia coaches, who lives in the area,' Ms Diehl said.

Among the stalls will be a Bundjalung language area run by Uncle Gilbert Laurie, and an information stall run by Brunswick Landcare.

'We invited Brunswick Landcare to have a stall to help build awareness of ways we can actively be involved in protecting endangered flora and fauna,' Ms Diehl said.

The event runs from 10am to 2pm at the Federal Community Children's Centre. It is located at 898 Binna Burra Rd, Federal.

Newrybar school bonfire, fireworks this Saturday

Newrybar Public School's annual bonfire and fireworks spectacular returns on Saturday August 5, which the school says is a 35-year old tradition and a 'much treasured community event'.

Organisers say, 'The event

will be bigger and better than ever this year, with a giant bonfire, food and entertainment for the whole family. Bring your good vibes, picnic blankets, winter woolies, flashlights, and join us for the most anticipated

family event this winter'.

There will also be a DJ, games, a disco, fairground rides, slides, an obstacle course, raffles with prizes, and local food, including vegetarian and gluten-free options.

Where's Mullum's big picture?

Aslan Shand

Mullumbimby is seeing a lot of change, and with the impact of the covid pandemic, and then the floods in 2022, the town is changing in ways that many people have raised concerns over.

Whether it is the pods, the look and feel of the entrance of the town, or how the Byron Shire Council is implementing the carpark housing development and the old hospital site – locals are looking to bring their voices to the table.

The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce

and Creative Mullum have responded to the call for community engagement, and are inviting the community to the Mullumbimby Picture Show to put forward their ideas of how Mullumbimby should be shaped into the future.

Sept 5 event

The community forum will take place at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club on Tuesday, September 5, 7-9pm, and will provide the opportunity for people to make three-minute presentations on how they see the future of Mullumbimby.

'The soapbox presentations were one of the most popular events at the Big Picture Show in 2014,' said Malcolm Price, from Creative Mullum.

'The soapboxes will look at how we present sustainable solutions to issues by looking at blue sky ideas so we need a good diverse range of presentations.'

If you are interested in presenting a three-minute soapbox at the forum, then send a 50-word summary of what you would like to present to: stationarymullumbimby@gmail.com.

Landcare Week is coming up, August 7-13

With Landcare Week coming up from August 7 to 13, Byron Shire and the Northern Rivers have several strong landcare groups to get involved with.

Brunswick Valley Landcare Community Liaison Officer, Joanne McMurtry, says, 'From farmers planting wildlife corridors on their properties, to students learning about biodiversity and where their food comes from, to community groups creating native seedbanks, to businesses encouraging their staff to volunteer with landcare groups – there are opportunities for everyone to take action'.

'Some of our volunteers

have worked with Brunswick Valley Landcare for more than 20 years, working tirelessly away at weeding and maintaining sites, improving habitat, and land management to contribute to a better future for all'.

McMurtry says local activities for Landcare Week start on Sunday August 6.

'Find us at Federal Family Fun Day at Federal Community Children's Centre between 10am and 2pm'.

'On Wednesday August 9, Science in the Pub will be held at the Hotel Brunswick,' McMurtry says.

It's titled Improving Habitat in a Changing Climate.

'Come and hear experts

talk about climate-resilient plants for habitat and the latest habitat conservation efforts in the area. Hotel Brunswick offer discounts on meals and drinks via Publinx'.

On Friday August 11, BVL will be at Mullumbimby Farmers Market with their stall, and on Saturday August 12, BVL will be at Heritage Park Mullumbimby open morning, from 9 to 11am.

'Come and chat to volunteers who look after these areas, and view many local native plants being tended and cared for in the Maslen Arboretum'.

For more info visit www.brunswickvalleylandcare.org.au.

ERBs installed at three Byron Shire beaches

Three new Emergency Response Beacons (ERBs) have been installed at unpatrolled beaches in the Byron Shire, say Byron Council.

The ERBs are located at: South Head rock wall Brunswick Heads; Kendall Street; Belongil Beach; and Clifford Street; Tallow Beach.

Council staff say, 'These locations were identified

by Surf Life Saving NSW (SLSNSW) as blackspots for drownings'.


Call for help

'Members of the public can use an ERB to report an incident or emergency and to call for help on these beaches that are not patrolled by surf lifesavers.'

'They have an intercom

that connects directly to emergency services as well as a camera so that SLSNSW operators can monitor the emergency and provide reassurance to the caller.

'The aim of the ERBs is to help local lifeguard/lifesaving operations by decreasing response times and providing more accurate location details for responders'.




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Ewingsdale proposal uses West Byron precedent

Paul Bibby

As the developers of the West Byron housing estates fuel up their concrete trucks, a smaller residential developer has quietly concocted plans for prime real estate on Ewingsdale Road.



Concept DA plans for 20 units, located at 310 Ewingsdale Road.

A Binna Burra-based group calling themselves the '310 Property Trust' has purchased a 4,388-square-metre site in the middle of the two West Byron projects.

On July 11, they submitted a Development Application (DA) to Byron Council for a 20-unit housing development, complete with a basement carpark for 45 cars, which is estimated to cost just under \$15 million.

The DA, for 310 Ewingsdale Road, is currently on public exhibition and can be viewed and commented on via Council's website.

While the proposed development is far less impactful than its monstrous neighbours, it is not without controversy.

Three of the five buildings proposed, as part of the plan, exceed the height limit for that part of Byron, following the long-running trend of Byron developers seeking

to push the envelope when it comes to rules covering building size and scale.

The planners contracted by the developer, Sydney-based company Planning Ingenuity, have sought to justify the proposed exceedance by asserting that it only applies to 'some minor parts of the roof'.

Height limit exceedance

'The development will have no detrimental physical impacts to neighbouring land,' Planning Ingenuity states in the application for permission to exceed the rules.

'[It] will not result in overshadowing, overlooking or changes to the context and setting which would compromise amenity or future development potential.'

'As such, there is no public benefit in maintaining strict numeric compliance with the development standard...'

Interestingly, the planners also argued that the development's 'bulk and scale will reflect the anticipated and emerging residential character of the West Byron Urban Release Area,' indicating that they are relying on the two highly-controversial West Byron developments as a precedent for their plans.

This raises the question of whether other developers will also seek to use West Byron as a justification for exceeding development standards.

The proposed development will also require the removal of 19 trees that are considered to have high retention value, owing to their contribution to the broader biodiversity character of the locality.

Planning Ingenuity has sought to justify this on the grounds that the biodiversity of the site has already been 'disrupted' by clearing undertaken in preparation for one of the West Byron developments.

Proposal justified as biodiversity 'already disrupted'

'Nine trees are proposed to be retained and incorporated into the new landscaping of the site,' Planning Ingenuity adds.

'The trees to be retained are all native species.'

The application will remain on public exhibition until August 9. To comment, go to Council's DA tracker website, search for the application using the address or DA number 10.2023.244.1.

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Echo

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

Urgent care service to ease pressure for Far North Coast emergency departments

A new Rapid Outreach Service (ROS) will become available throughout the Tweed and Byron Shires from late-2023 offering in-home care seven days a week.

National Tree Day planting at Kynnumboon

One of the largest community tree planting and cultural care events in the Tweed will be held this weekend as part of a special project aimed at restoring natural habitat at an historic property.

Ballina Council forced to make final call on ecologically sensitive floodplain

The proposal from GemLife for 150 units for seniors in West Ballina on a conservation wetland site has raised concerns of locals.

Lismore Show coming again this October

The Lismore Show has been running since 1885 and will be bringing the community together again at the Lismore Showgrounds from Thursday, 19 October to Saturday, 21 October.

Changed traffic conditions on Hill Street at Ballina

There will be changed traffic conditions from this week on Hill Street at Ballina to carry out essential maintenance on Missingham Bridge.

Westpac Rescue Helicopter partners with Casino Truck Show

Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service has come on board as the charity partner for the North Coast Petroleum Casino Truck Show's 10th anniversary event on 5 August.

Six North Coast businesses receive energy boost

Six local businesses on the Far North Coast will receive more than \$147,000 in funding under round one of the federal government's Energy Efficiency Grants for Small and Medium Sized Businesses.

Mobile dentist van to visit four local schools

Kids in regional and remote Northern NSW communities will have a faster and more convenient trip to the dentist thanks to a new mobile dental van operating in the region, the state government says.

www.echo.net.au

Free parking at new Tweed Hospital

Aslan Shand

It was with relief that local Tweed councillors and members of the Kingscliff and Cudgen communities heard the news that parking at the controversial new Tweed Valley Hospital, when it opens, would be free.

The hospital is being built on what was State Significant Farmland (SSF) in the small coastal town of Kingscliff, a decision that divided the community. The government promised that no further SSF would be opened up to development at that site. This has not

stopped developers attempting to do just that with the proposed Cudgen Connection development.

One of the promises provided was that all parking for staff, visitors and patients would be free; however, the final commitment was a long time coming. The commitment, announced on Wednesday, 26 July at the site of the yet-to-open Tweed Valley Hospital (TVH) by NSW Regional Health Minister Ryan Park, was for all regional hospitals.

'While the minister's free parking announcement is good news for all regional

NSW communities, it is particularly important for our local Kingscliff and surrounds community given that the provision of free parking was promoted as a key component of the Tweed Valley Hospital's infrastructure in alleviating impact on our local community,' Peter Newton, President of the Kingscliff Ratepayers and Progress Association (KRAPA) told *The Echo*.

'This was due to the fact that this major piece of regional infrastructure was being sited, not in a major regional centre, but a small coastal town and farming

community – literally the equivalent of a small town being plonked above another small town.'

Speaking to *The Echo* Tweed Mayor Chris Cherry said, 'This is a massive relief for our community to hear the announcement! Council has been advocating since "Day One" to have parking free at the new hospital site. It was committed to by the previous state government but it was not clear what would happen after the election so we are delighted to have this commitment made to our community today.'

Lismore's 'Two Rooms' project goes past the 100 homes mark

Paul Bibby

Resilient Lismore has reached a significant milestone, clocking up more than 100 completed 'Two Rooms' jobs thanks to the many dedicated and passionate volunteers who have worked on the project.

The Two Rooms project began in the aftermath of the 2022 flood as a practical way to get people back in their homes. The idea was to build two rooms' worth of walls to give people a safe, secure and warm place to live in.

The project is led by Resilient Lismore Field Coordinator Jonathan Smith, with Project Manager Grant Huggins, and team leaders Stone May, Tony Lee and Felipe Olaondo, and is powered by an amazing group of volunteers.



Members of the Resilient Lismore team.

The crews spend about 20 hours a week on each job, over three days, sheeting walls and making other running repairs to ensure the space is liveable.

The group has completed 129 Two Rooms jobs, with a further 180 jobs on the go.

The project has spawned spin-offs, with the 'Two Rooms and a Bathroom' project in partnership with the Reece Foundation restoring essential plumbing to more than 70 homes. And the group is now moving onto kitchens.

If you or anyone you know needs help, come in to The Hub at 215 Keen Street, Lismore, or register online <https://tinyurl.com/yrvvk5m>.

Ballina fig trees saved, childcare centre plans withdrawn



Mia Armitage

Developers of a proposed childcare centre in Ballina say they have withdrawn their council application in response to community concerns over associated tree removals.

A media representative confirmed the formal withdrawal of the controversial development application (DA) on Monday.

The developers, a company called RAM, had issued a media statement on the decision four days prior but said its formal process was held up owing to technicalities.

'We have listened to community feedback and decided – based on concerns regarding the removal of two fig trees and one paperbark tree on the site – not to proceed with our application to develop a childcare centre in Ballina,' RAM Head of Real Estate Matthew Strotton was quoted in the media release.

Dire childcare availability stats

The decision in favour of the trees came despite a recent study by the Mitchell Institute for Education and Health Policy describing Ballina as a 'childcare desert', RAM said.

The company quoted data in the report showing only one childcare spot is available for every 4.67 children in the Ballina area surrounding the proposed centre.

Initial plans had featured a two-storey building to cater for around 60 children and 15 staff.

But some objectors to the proposal had expressed concern over child safety in the heavily trafficked area near a popular fast-food chain and a large shopping centre.

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

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Concerns raised over federal Labor's disinformation bill

A legal advocacy group has raised concerns over a proposed bill by federal Labor, that if it were to become law, would arm a government department with 'extraordinary coercive powers' to monitor and enforce an 'industry standard' of misinformation and disinformation on digital platforms.

The Communications Legislation Amendment (Combating Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2023 is on public exhibition until August 6.

According to federal Labor, the proposed powers would 'enable the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to gather information from digital platform providers, or require them to keep certain records about matters regarding misinformation and disinformation'.

And 'should an [enforceable] code of practice be deemed ineffective in combatting misinformation and disinformation on digital platforms', the proposed law would 'allow the ACMA to create and enforce an industry standard (a stronger form of regulation)'.

Within the Victorian Bar's submission to the Law Council regarding the bill, they write, 'The Bill arms the ACMA with extraordinary coercive powers that can be exercised against any person

who might have information or documents "relevant" to the existence of, among other things, "misinformation or disinformation on a digital platform service".'

'Suspected authors or disseminators of alleged "misinformation" are obvious targets for the exercise of such powers. That makes this part of the Bill somewhat unique within its overall scheme - here the Bill is concerned with the responsibilities of individuals, rather than services providers'.

Unlevel playing field

Additionally, the Victorian Bar says the law would create 'an unlevel playing field between governments and other speakers'.

They write: 'Any view authorised by the government is, by statutory definition, not "misinformation", however false or misleading it might be. Only information that is not authorised by government is capable of being "misinformation" as defined.'

'That double standard is illiberal, and disadvantages critics of government in comparison with a government's supporters'.

Additionally, they say the definition of 'misinformation' is over-broad and unworkable; the concept of 'excluded content' is insufficiently protective of free speech, and places excessive

interpretative power in an executive agency; the Bill wrongly assumes that 'misinformation' and 'disinformation' can readily be identified, and that the ACMA is capable of doing so within the limits of its resources and expertise and the imposition of regulatory burdens and other concerns.

The Victorian Bar concludes such a law 'will have a chilling effect'.

They write, 'It is also likely to be ineffective and unworkable in responding to the harms to which it is purportedly directed'.

Federal Communications Minister, Michelle Rowland, outlined in a June 25 press release: 'It does not empower the ACMA to determine what is true or false, or to remove individual content or posts.'

'The code and standard-making powers will not apply to professional news content or authorised electoral content,' the minister said.

Paul Gregoire, from www.sydneycriminallawyers.com.au, writes that it 'raises the question as to just who does determine the truth and who the targeted entities are, since the mainstream media and government are absolved'.

For more info visit www.infrastructure.gov.au/have-your-say/new-acma-powers-combat-misinformation-and-disinformation.

Brunswick Girl Guides seeks leaders

Brunswick Heads Girl Guides leader, Deanna Bowen-Sudmala, says Guides is an empowering place for women of the future.

The group is looking for two extra leaders to help the girls on their journey. Deanna says women who are not interested in becoming leaders can still help out in other volunteer positions, and can help out at meetings and events. For more info, you can contact Deanna at: brunswickheadsgirlguides@gmail.com.



Deanna, pictured with Girl Guide Emi. The Brunswick Heads Girl Guides meet on Monday nights from 6pm. Photo Eve Jeffery

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- 🌐 <https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/School-based-apprenticeships-and-traineeships-evening>

Have you thought about employing a School-Based Apprentice or Trainee?

After the success of last year's event, Byron Shire Council and Regional Industry Education Partnerships, Training Services NSW invite you to the second Byron Shire School-Based Apprenticeship and Traineeship (SBAT) Information and Networking Evening on 28 August.

Come along and meet parents and students from Byron Bay High School, Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School, Mullumbimby High School, Hinterland Christian College and Shearwater, The Mullumbimby Steiner School. Hear from guest speakers about SBATs, how they benefit your business and how and where to start.

Come and meet your next employee!

When: Monday 28 August 2023
Where: Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club, 58 Dalley St Mullumbimby
Time: 5:30pm-7:30pm (5:15pm start)
RSVP: Scan QR code to register by Thursday 24 August 2023



www.byron.nsw.gov.au



Have your say on window safety in homes



The NSW Department of Planning and Environment is proposing changes to window safety regulations to help make our homes safer for children.

The changes would require homeowners to install safety devices on high-risk windows in most types of homes.

Find out more and have your say at planning.nsw.gov.au/window-safety



Echo

The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #08 • August 2, 2023



Can AI solve the plastic problem?

Can you imagine a world without plastic waste? It could be coming sooner than we think, thanks to AI.

As we all know, plastic pollution is absolutely everywhere – in the soil, oceans, rivers and the air. It's in all of us. This has happened within my lifetime.

Young people today don't know a world without plastic.

When I was a child, there were no plastic bottles, no plastic bags, no plastic clothes, no food wrapped in plastic.

The baker came to our door with a wicker basket and loaves wrapped in white tissue paper.

The horse that drew his van waited patiently in the street, eating occasionally from a chaff bag hanging from a harness and breathing clouds of steam into the cool air.

The milkman delivered bottles of milk and picked up empties for washing and reusing. You could see from scratches on the sides of bottles that they had been used multiple times.

When my mother went shopping, she took a basket and fresh fruit and vegetables were put in paper bags, cheese was cut off a large block and wrapped in greaseproof paper. There was no supermarket with thousands of plastic-wrapped items.

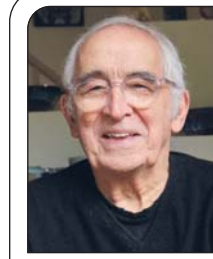
Five years after Vance Packard wrote *The Waste Makers*, in 1960, on how the rapid growth of disposable consumer products was degrading the environment, society and the economy of the USA, I experienced what he was writing about, in a New York skyscraper.

My cousin took me for a meal in a cafeteria.

We took a tray each and picked up utensils and plates of food. After we'd finished, I wondered where we'd put the plates, cups and knives and forks for washing.

She opened a chute and said, 'Tip it all down there.' I was aghast enough for that memory to stay with me for nearly sixty years.

Zoom forward half a century, and Vance Packard's nightmare has



'Plastic is not going away. It's in almost every gadget we use as well as "fast fashion" clothes, but there's a growing movement to find climate-safe alternatives.'

Richard Jones

become reality. The entire planet is littered with apparently intractable waste.

Shoppers have been dutifully taking their soft plastic to supermarkets in the expectation it would be recycled.

That promise was soon broken, and now we have giant piles of soft plastic in bales sitting in warehouses all over the country. What is going to happen with it?

Thirty years ago, when I was in NSW Parliament, I sat on a committee enquiring into waste.

We had many witnesses come before us including local heads of companies producing significant waste – Coca Cola, paper manufacturer Bowater-Scott and others.

I asked each one in turn if their company would take 'cradle-to-grave' responsibility for their waste.

Everyone said no, except Coca Cola. For them, it was comparatively easier, but imagine Bowater-Scott having to take responsibility for millions of soiled plastic nappies now rotting in landfills.

On a parliamentary tour visiting Milan, I asked the head of Pirelli if his company would take back and process their used tyres.

He was driving us around at the time and almost swerved off the road in shock.

Not all companies are as unresponsive as that. After the first Clean Up event at Sydney Harbour in January 1989, organised by Ian Kiernan, I took several bags of expanded polystyrene waste, much of it emblazoned with McDonald's golden arches, to their HQ at Pennant Hills and met with their vice president.

He asked, 'What can we use instead?' 'Cardboard boxes,' I replied. They changed their packaging. If only corporations were

that responsive today.

The plastics industry is pushing for incineration under the deceptive guise of 'waste to energy' but no community wants it. Landfill is being used but it's hardly an answer.

Plastic is not going away.

It's in almost every gadget we use as well as 'fast fashion' clothes, but there's a growing movement to find climate-safe alternatives.

The plastic industry has announced it intends quadrupling output by 2050.

This would inevitably have a catastrophic effect, as currently almost all plastic is made from fossil fuels.

This is where AI comes in.

Scientists around the world are already using it to great effect to determine which enzymes can be harnessed to break down an enormous variety of plastics safely into harmless component parts for reuse.

Enzymes could prove to be a major part of the solution to eat through the 250 million tonnes of plastic waste produced globally every year.

Those mountains of waste plastic could be reused to make new plastic at a lower cost than using new gas and oil. The companies that create the waste must be made to pay to solve the problem and not just pass it on to the community.

We need legislation to levy producers and importers at a high enough rate to bring about rapid change.

The stranglehold the fossil fuel industry has on this government must be broken.

■ Richard Jones is a former NSW MLC, and is now a ceramicist.

If only Assange was a Kiwi

As an Australian, I've always felt somewhat inspired by New Zealand's rugged independence and forward thinking.

In 1840, the Treaty of Waitangi was signed, and while it is not a treaty as recognised by international law (according to the *Brooklyn Journal of International Law*), it's a step Australia is yet to take.

A bit later, in 1893, New Zealand became the first country in the world to grant all women the right to vote. Aussies were the second country to do that in 1902.

In the late 1890s, NZ turned down an offer to join the Australian Federation, and instead became an independent Dominion in 1907.

Why be at the apron strings of another colony?

Over the years, New Zealanders have shown themselves to be courageous in the face of powerful interests, namely the US.

Unlike Aussies, they have taken a principled stand against the war/death industry. Since 1984, NZ has been a nuclear free zone.

US nuclear-powered ships are not allowed to dock. The sinking of the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* by the French in 1985 demonstrated the price of nation state independence.

Fast forward to last week, and US Secretary of State, Antony Blinken, was in NZ. A joint press conference was held – the transcript is at www.state.gov.

Obligatory motherhood statements were made, such as 'shared vision', 'tremendous friend', and 'advancing economic engagement'.

When Blinken was asked about NZ's interest in the trilateral security pact between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States (AUKUS), he said the door was open for NZ to join.

Foreign Affairs Minister, Nanaia Mahuta, then said what Australia should say – she said no thanks.

She said, 'New Zealand is not prepared to compromise or change our nuclear framework position'.

In the same week, Blinken was also in Australia, and the contrast couldn't be wider, as Labor MPs and the PM revelled shamelessly in the US death-cult-military-industrial-complex.

Highlighting our unhealthy US military relationship, former Labor leader, Bob Carr, wrote in the *SMH* of the US submarine deal, 'Australia will make the largest transfer of wealth ever made outside this country. This \$368 billion is a whopping subsidy to American naval shipyards, and to the troubled, chronically tardy British naval builder BAE Systems'.

Local federal Labor MP, Justine Elliot, supports this madness.

Also this week, *SMH* reported that, 'Australia is set to begin manufacturing its own missiles within two years'.

Meanwhile, federal Labor have been trying to convince the yanks to release imprisoned Aussie journalist, Julian Assange.

Yet Blinken dismissed the request. According to www.theguardian.com, he told reporters Assange 'risked very serious harm to our national security'.

What would the Kiwis do if Assange was one of theirs?

They seem to know that 'real friends' don't just lay down and get walked all over.

It's an unhealthy relationship if you do whatever you are told to do, yet federal Labor is doing just that.

Thankfully, NZ is an example of a nation that looks after the interests of its citizens.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Echo

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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor

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

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

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

– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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Quick fix

Hey Byron Shire Council (BSC), I see people are still complaining about some roads with potholes in the Shire, so why don't you just close those roads like you did with South Beach Road at Brunswick? Because that will totally make the problem go away, right?

M Morgan
Mullumbimby

Writers at the Rails

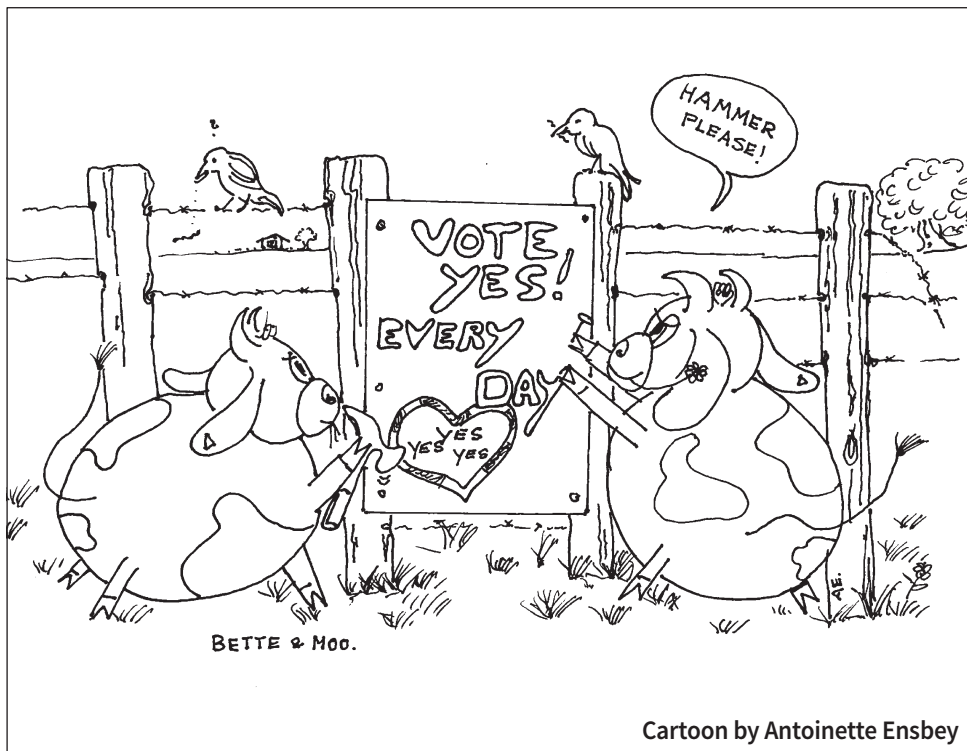
Sad to report that Byron's iconic poetry event, Writers at the Rails, will not be part of this year's Byron Writers Festival.

After 30 years the Rails management has decided not to continue with the event which started as a monthly show in August 1992. Over the decades scores of local, visiting and international poets and writers have graced the Rails stage with their poetics.

I'd like to thank Tom Mooney who was a great supporter of the spoken word at the Rails, and the many writers and poetry lovers who helped to create such a special event. Performance poetry will be part of the festival with a new show, Wordworks, at the Bangalow Bowling Club at 2pm on Sunday 13 August, a free event with new and visiting poets most welcome.

David Hallett
Nimbin

K Lavender
Lennox Head



Cartoon by Antoinette Ensbey

'F' in Lennox

After months of roadworks in the Lennox village - which are still happening - Ballina Council has added yet another traffic impediment. This 'temporary' roundabout at the northern turnoff to Lennox has caused considerable hold-ups and frustrations.

A big 'F' for fail to Ballina Council for this and another to Councillor Ramsay for suggesting it. Where was the community consultation? Lennox people are Fed up with inefficiency, Feeble, Feckless and Frustrating traffic management.

Thick and thin

Are we prepared for a shocking fire season? Is everybody ready to spot the first wisp of smoke in the trees? The undergrowth is thick and our defences are thin.

Who do we ring - 000, the local fire station, or both? We must act fast to stop explosive bushfires taking hold of our forests.

Are we organised? Are our communications reliable and timely? Are we ready for an emergency at 3am?

Maybe we need large community meetings soon, to plan, clarify and explain responses. Let's get ready!

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Just because you don't agree with another person's choice, you wish to criticise a person's penis?

What about women who own these SUVs, why only criticise males?

Then you bring France into the argument over parking expenses.

That sounds as intelligent as city dwellers telling people in the regions that they should only be allowed to buy a battery car and that diesel-powered vehicles should be taxed out of existence.

Why not criticise city people for owning big houses, or living in high rise apartments with high carbon footprints etc?

Of course, you are probably one of them.

Glen Wright
Ballina

Tackling autobesity

What happened to people making choices to suit their own circumstances?

Why not criticise caravans, delivery vans, motor homes for restricting vision while driving?

Letters to the Editor

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

The accidental cult tourist

Anke Richter

After visiting a new age festival in Byron Bay, Anke Richter pursued a ten-year investigation into high-control groups. In her book *Cult Trip*, she grapples with her own explorations that became increasingly conflicting.

On a wet summer night in 2012, I stood on the balcony of the community centre in Byron Bay and stretched my arms out into the rain to cool off. Each drop felt like a kiss on my skin. 'This...,' I thought, 'is how I always want to be.' I was on a euphoric high after a session of ecstatic dance at the Taste of Love festival – Australia's largest annual gathering of tantric teachers, sexual healers and shamanic practitioners. It wasn't really my scene, but I was curious. Within a day, I was intoxicated by what the shiny happy people there called 'life energy'. Something clicked. My cynicism vanished along with my apprehension.

Without any sneaky recruitment, Taste of Love gave me my first taste of infatuation with a new 'tribe' – a word that years later, along with its cultural appropriation, became conflicting and even repulsive. But on that hot and sweaty weekend, when I hugged, laughed, danced and exhaled into 'Omm', my internal shift on the balcony became a reference point. I experienced what thousands of people do when they get hooked by a teacher or group: a sense of tapping into something profound. It felt like falling in love.

Cult journalism

The new-age festival was also my unintentional entry into cult journalism after a decade as a foreign correspondent in New Zealand. On my last day, while sipping iced chai in the courtyard, I met Angie Meiklejohn. The fellow Kiwi, who gave sensual massage in Wellington back then, opened the door to a historical tribe far more extreme than the gentle seekers floating around us. Angie, in her 40s, had lived as a teenager at Centrepoint, the infamous 1980s therapy commune outside Auckland where many children were sexually abused, and adults later ended up in jail. As her survival strategy in this

intense sexualised environment, Angie became a 'commune concubine'.

When we first met, Centrepoint's spiritual leader and self-appointed therapist Bert Potter was still alive. Only months later, after he died, was Angie ready to talk about what had happened to her at the place that was a happy home for many, but an ongoing nightmare for others. Hers was a story of drug rape, grooming, alcoholism, prostitution. It still lingered.

Utopian dream

The lasting shadow of New Zealand's 'free love' community soon became my obsession. I embarked on a labyrinthine investigation into the emotional carnage. 'Centrepoint was a selection of average, normal people,' Angie had told me. 'Not monsters or freaks.' They had pursued a utopian dream of sexual freedom and self-realisation. What had gone wrong? I wanted to know what they were thinking, the gullible lovers who competed for their turn in Potter's bed, and the idealistic parents who placed their daughters at his mercy. How did their children move on?

I spoke to over a dozen survivors, but also enablers and perpetrators, including the guru's son John Potter. I surprised the cult's drug chemist, who had manufactured the ecstasy pills that were taken in group sessions with young teens. I met a woman who had arranged a 'threesome' with a 12-year-old for her husband's birthday. And I found a girl who had barricaded herself with junk in her caravan on the property so men couldn't come to her at night. Louise Winn was possibly the most violated victim of the warped ideology about the sexualisation of 'free children'. She had never told anyone the horrors she suffered, to the point of attempting suicide at 11. Her disturbing account was a turning point that affected me deeply.

The years I spent mired in the damage wrought by Centrepoint eventually took their toll. The weight of all the unresolved trauma of others crept under my skin while the legal and psychological challenges seemed insurmountable. I was overwhelmed by what I had unearthed and eventually gave up.

While struggling with the aftermath of a disastrous

sex cult, I became entangled in current cult-like groups myself. Since the Taste of Love festival in Byron Bay where I had my own blissed-out awakening, I went on a rollercoaster of personal exploration around the world and into every corner of my heart.

The initial weeklong training I took with ISTA (International School of Temple Arts) in the Yarra Valley turned out to be more cathartic than erotic. We learned 'emotional release tools' where you bash cushions and scream into your hand – teachings from the human potential movement and '70s encounter groups. We held rituals out in nature that were raw, tender and physical, and we sat in sharing circles to reveal our fears, wounds and desires – all to heal and free us. I thought I had found the real me through 'embodiment', the buzzword for these visceral experiences promising higher states of consciousness. From now on, I hoped, this adventure ride was going to enrich my life on every level.

Soon I started to pull more friends in so they could get the same benefits. But a few years on, the sparkling world of love, liberation and learning that had enticed me revealed its first cracks. There was a covert harem culture at ISTA. Male pioneers surrounded themselves with young female lovers, often from their trainings, who were then accelerated to apprentices and facilitators. Although my unease grew, I mostly ignored what felt 'off' and instead held on to what worked for me.

Then in 2018, the international tantric school Agama Yoga in Thailand was rocked by a sex abuse scandal. Thirty-one women had submitted reports, including rape allegations, about the Romanian head of the school and other lead teachers. The 'Swami' had just fled the island when I flew to Koh Phangan to help break the story.

Like Centrepoint, Agama was full of likeable, smart and caring people; spiritual seekers, many of them from Melbourne, who wanted to become 'yoga teachers'. Some students who raised concerns in the past were dismissed. An Australian filed a rape complaint against Swami (Narcis Tarcau) in Thailand, but too late; the

statute of limitations at the time was only three months. Another victim, British sex educator Mangala Holland, reported her rape at the Melbourne embassy.

Agama became another turning point for me. The tantra field, which I was first sceptical of, and then so passionate about, was tainted. Finally, the wellness and woo world came under scrutiny and #MeToo caught up with some of its worst perpetrators.

Innocence gone

While I finished a 'Wheel of Consent' course in Byron Bay, I also closed a chapter in my life that began in the seaside town seven years earlier. My former workshop highs were now demystified. Constantly 'dropping the mind' while you're loved up or turned on can result in overriding your inner 'yes' or 'no' and even trigger past trauma. In a weeklong 24/7 training full of cathartic release, a potent cocktail of brain chemicals clouds your thinking. If you crave a desired outcome like the rest of the group, or don't want to be labelled as being 'stuck in victim consciousness', then you won't speak up.

I stopped recommending the ISTA trainings I once raved about. My innocence was gone. This edgy work had helped me at the time, but while I was chasing transformation around the world, I had blocked out its shadow. I became wary of charismatic leaders and was frustrated by organisations that didn't have sufficient complaint and aftercare systems in place because they felt exempted from ethical codes of conduct by their evolutionary cause. Justified criticism was labelled as a 'witch hunt' or 'gossip'. I'd seen too much arrogance and obfuscation but not enough accountability from the top.

I even wondered whether I had unwittingly pushed people's boundaries as an ISTA assistant, with the best intentions so that everyone could get with the program – and because I wanted to keep playing with the cool kids. Suddenly, I could empathise with those who wanted to call out the dark side of Centrepoint or Agama while trying to hold on to their community. Both are rarely possible.

Once I realised my own blind spots and what had



Anke Richter. Photo Stephanie Defregger



Anke Richter outside Agama. Photo supplied

pulled me into a 'tribe', it became harder to demonise those who had done questionable things in their own groups. Instead I wondered where they stood after the downfall. Are they still holding on to their old ideology and making excuses, or are they involved in a process that helps the survivors? So far, only a few former Centrepoint members have shown commitment to reconciliation with the second generation. Agama Yoga is still up and running, with the sex guru at the school instead of in a courtroom.

Abuse of power

While wrapping up my book last year, another call-out stirred up the cultiverse – and my own past: after flying under the radar for years, ISTA and the adjacent mystery school Highden Temple in New Zealand have come under scrutiny. Over 600 people joined a Facebook group where more and more disturbing details were shared, many of them new for me too. Emotions flew high. Activists contacted venues to get events cancelled. In the following months, more than 60 reports were collected by an independent group called Safer Sex-Positive & Spiritual communities (3SC). These address sex between predatory teachers and vulnerable students, obfuscation of serious complaints, lack of aftercare and abuse of power.

ISTA reacted with legal threats, but also with changes. It is a 'top priority' that people feel safe to say

'no' in ISTA spaces, one of their teachers wrote to me. This month – one year after the social media storm erupted and after rounds of mediation with 3SC – they announced a 'radical restructuring', including accountability processes with three accused unnamed teachers who will pause their roles, for now.

But one of the main suspects is still listed as lead faculty and tried earlier this year to hold a secret training – out of all places on Koh Phangan, the island of the Agama drama. There was pushback from concerned locals.

In April 2023, a woman reported one of the lead faculty members to the police in Israel for rape. It allegedly happened after he gave her an overdose of MDMA. Other women have spoken up about the man as well. He has left Israel and just announced retreats in Egypt and Turkey.

It's crucial how ISTA handles this crisis. In a PR statement, they told me they 'welcome any legal action and proceedings, but at this time, will not respond to rumours or hearsay'. If the wild child of the conscious movement protects perpetrators instead of making amends, then I'm left with a sad conclusion: I too have been in a cult.

■ *Cult Trip: Inside the World of Coercion & Control* was published by HarperCollins. Anke Richter is speaking at the Byron Writers Festival on 12 & 13 August. More info: www.ankerichter.net.

► Continued from page 11
Aged Care exposed the deplorable standard of care and a system characterised by neglect and elder abuse that it should have been a wakeup call for government.

But here we are four years later, and it is the government, through bureaucrats in the Department of Health and Aged Care, who are subjecting recipients of home care packages to what can only be described as elder abuse.

Let me explain.

The government has a program to assist older Australians to stay in their homes rather than enter residential care. Not only does this save the government billions of dollars each year, but most people would rather stay at home.

These home care packages deliberately exclude the funding of heating and cooling systems and the electricity to run them. For older people, or those with medical conditions who are unable to regulate their body temperature, the ability to heat or cool their home is not only a necessity but a human right.

How is it that these so-called public servants in their undoubtedly air-conditioned offices are able to dictate to

vulnerable and frail Australians that they must live in conditions that are both detrimental to their health and quality of life?

With cost-of-living pressures, massive price hikes in electricity and limited incomes, many home care package recipients simply cannot afford to heat and cool their homes.

As global warming leads to both more intense and longer heat waves, as we have already seen in the northern hemisphere in recent months, Australia is poised for a long, hot summer.

How many older Australians will die from heat stress this summer, due to the fact they can't afford to cool their homes?

Just like Robodebt we have overpaid bureaucrats subjecting the poorest in society to abuse.

It's a national disgrace and needs to be called out.

Scott Hyams
Mullumbimby

Quilters

It was lovely to see quilts made by Bangalow Quilters featured in the photo of local View Club members.

Just the week before Bangalow Quilters celebrated its 35th anniversary with 60

quilters from other Northern Rivers quilting groups from Murwillumbah to Yamba. We took this opportunity to present the results of recent fundraising activities: \$1,000 to the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre for ongoing flood relief works and \$2,000 to the Cancer Council. This takes the total the group has raised for the Cancer Council to \$15,000 since we started holding an annual Biggest Morning Tea.

A banner was also presented to the Mullumbimby Hospital Auxiliary and quilts to Quilts4Kids. Each year the group gives numerous quilts to the community and previously they have gone to Quilts4Kids, Feros Aged Care, Byron Central Hospital for the haematology and mental health units and many other local organisations.

In 2019 we made quilts for people affected by bushfires both locally and interstate, and in 2022 our focus was on flood recovery. Joining with Brunswick Valley Needlework Group we gave up to 100 quilts to people in the Northern Rivers who were flood-affected, hoping that the quilts brought warmth and comfort when our community was so traumatised.

► Continued on page 15

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One week to go until festival time! Let's have some fun...

Do you need a good laugh? Are you wanting to feel inspired and uplifted by some of our most talented writers, poets, musicians and comedians? Reconnect with your inner child and revel in the joyful experiences on offer in the Play Zone, one of the five venues at Byron Writers Festival this year.



Pictured left to right: Mark Olive, Bebe Backhouse, Jacinta Parsons, Robert Waldinger, Myf Warhurst, Mandy Nolan and Melia Naughton from Shire Choir.

Play Zone perfectly encapsulates the spirit of the festival's theme, 'Wild Imagination'. Your time in this joyful venue will leave you feeling uplifted, inspired, reminiscing on the good times life has thrown your way, and excited for the good times to come.

Let's take a look at six sessions that will unite both the young and young at heart next week.

Spoken word and poetry

Friday is looking fantastic with a focus on spoken word storytelling and performance. At 10am Bundjalung writers and creatives take us behind the scenes of *The Making of Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise*

2023, a theatrical reading of stories, poems and essays, penned by First Nations writers. This session will be chaired by Rhoda Roberts and will feature Grace Lucas-Pennington, Naomi Moran, Mark Olive and Kirk Page.

At lunch, it's rhyme time with the *Poetry Month Showcase*. Come hear some of the country's finest poets and spoken word artists in this special 2023 event, hosted by David Stavanger. Poetry Month is an initiative of Red Room Poetry, Australia's leading poetry organisation, and is held each year in August as a national celebration of poetry in all its forms, for all audiences. Bebe Backhouse, Kevin Jared Hosein, Erik Jensen, Cheryl Leavy, Rebecca Rushbrook and Sarah

Temporal will all be performing their stirring works.

Embracing the disgraceful

On Saturday morning Susan Johnson, Jacinta Parsons and chair, Tracey Spicer will look at why our society is smitten with youthfulness and how this can devalue older women in ways that can diminish their self-worth. Our glowing panel will bring joy and lightness to this topic by discussing the many ways to reclaim pride in one's ageing self – including by *Living Disgracefully*.

Saturday afternoon will see the much-loved Myf Warhurst discussing her captivating and

joyous memoir of wisdom, humour and heart with Sarah Armstrong. *Time of My Life*: Myf is set to unleash the music within us all and leave you feeling high-spirited.

On Sunday, you might learn the key to happiness when Harvard psychiatry professor Robert Waldinger discusses his life-changing book with Brigid Delaney in *The Good Life*. Waldinger will share the lessons he has learnt as co-director of the longest study of happiness in the world, in this no-to-be-missed session.

Stay in your seats and warm up your cheeks for Mandy Nolan, who will ask fellow comic writers Shirley Le, Myf Warhurst and Oliver Phommavanh to share their *Wildest Dreams* and the day they came true.

Sing your heart out!

For the finale of a weekend of ideas and inspiration, you are invited to sing your hearts out with hundreds of other voices. *The Shire Choir – Sing with Wild Abandon*, directed by Melia Naughton and produced by Sally Schofield, invites all to this pop-up choir event. Absolutely no experience is required, so there are no excuses not to join the fun and express your voice.

Play Zone is the perfect place to let your hair down and become fully immersed in beautiful moments of pure joy. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Sessions are accessible via a 1-Day or 3-Day festival passes, available to purchase online at byronwritersfestival.com/tickets.

KIDS BIG DAY OUT

Share your love of books and creativity with all the family!

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SUNDAY 13 AUGUST FROM 9AM - 1PM

Details and tickets via byronwritersfestival.com/kbdo



Then Mandy kicked the conspiracy hotbed

■ You certainly can't accuse Mandy of cowardice: questioning so-called conspiracy theories in Byron Shire is a more perilous activity than naked beekeeping.

But in lumping all such ideas together and dismissing them in a single swipe of the pen, she is playing into the hands of those who would seek to maintain the status quo. We can argue until the cows come home about where to draw the line between fact and fiction, but believing in intercontinental paedophile tunnels and questioning the role of the World Health Organisation are very different animals. One is not supported by any evidence whatever, and seems to defy all common sense; the other – at its best, at least – involves a hard-headed assessment of verifiable political and economic realities.

Where Mandy is undeniably right is in drawing attention to the conspiracies right in front of our noses. Not conspiracies as in dimly-lit rooms and cigar smoke, but in the form of proudly-proclaimed principles of the modern economy. How, for instance, GDP, the almost unquestioned yardstick of

progress, actually goes up with war and pollution and social breakdown. How, in the name of 'free trade,' countries across the world routinely import and export nearly identical quantities of identical products.

How, in virtually every country on earth, the red carpet is rolled out for giant, unaccountable corporations, enabling them to exploit, extract and plunder more or less at will.

These are issues that large sections of the community – left and right, progressive and 'mainstream' – can rally around.

John Page
Byron Bay

■ To get a complete view of the world one needs to use many independent sources. Here is a quote today, from US economist Martin Armstrong*.

'This entire scheme of digital currencies will be the death of Western civilisation... Now even a journalist, if he fails to comply with the demands of the government, is targeted by the IRS.'

'This (digital currency) will be the worst currency in human history and it will

be the final nail in the coffin of freedom.

'They will most likely cancel all currencies after the US 2024 election... Whatever is in bank accounts or brokerage accounts will be re-denominated in the new digital currency... They are already stripping us of our freedom of speech. This will become imperative...'

'Taxes and commerce will all be digital. This is why they are pushing 5G in order to... replace cash transactions. Regarding inheritance, the left is also ready to push behind the curtain that upon death, everything should belong to the state.'

'While we cannot rule out tactical nuclear weapons, the risk of an EMP attack will be devastating. That will wipe out the economy and take down the internet.'

Peter Olson
Goonengerry

*Ed: Wikipedia: Martin Arthur Armstrong (born November 1, 1949) is an American self-taught economic forecaster and convicted felon who spent 11 years in jail for cheating investors out of \$700 million and hiding \$15 million in assets from regulators.

■ Donald Trump said to the American youth this month: 'fascism or freedom, it's your choice'. Robert Kennedy Jr said: 'I hope the CIA doesn't kill me like they did my father and uncle'. Archbishop Vigano from the Vatican warns the world of fascist takeover. Longest-serving USA Congressman Ron Paul warns of a World Health Organization pandemic treaty which gives the WHO control over sovereign governments.

The World Economic Forum plans for 'Smart Cities' are even more alarming than the Chinese Communist Party's 'social credit system', i.e. control system. WEF plans include WHO forced pandemic 'vaccinations'. The world has already experienced the SARS COVID-19 controls from the governments of the world. So the WEF, WHO and the UN realise that the only way to stop the coming 'tipping points' of ecological disaster is by the 'Great Reset'.

Noah Yamore
Mullumbimby

■ For the full version of these letters see *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au/letters.

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We meet on the second and fourth Thursday morning each month at the Anglican Church Hall in Bangalow and visitors are always welcome. Our members travel from Pottsville, Mullumbimby, Ballina as well as Bangalow but some members live as far away as the Gold Coast, Armidale and Sydney.

We are like many other small community groups who just quietly get on with helping our community in whatever way we can.

Morag Wilson
Mullumbimby

Homeless reflections

I read with interest in Paul Bibby's article re Bruns van dwellers, (*Echo*, 26 July), that Reflections Holiday Parks are all owned by NSW state government. Giving the appalling homeless crisis that shows no sign of easing, surely one obvious solution lies within reach.

Located in townships along the coast where 'sleeping rough' is now a long-term reality for thousands of citizens, Reflections Holiday Parks could come to the rescue. And why not? A portion of each site could be refitted to accommodate the needs of

individuals and families who are homeless. Then the state government could designate a percentage of each site for reallocation, starting in the Byron Shire which has the highest number of homeless in the state.

Let's not forget, at the height of the Covid pandemic, five-star hotels in Sydney's CBD opened their doors to the city's homeless – it turned out to be a great success for all concerned. Let's put the state bureaucracy to the test, and have a reimagined Reflections that demonstrates our humanity.

Gavin Wilson
Rosebank

Voice useful?

Dudley Leggett's letter in last week's *Echo* raises a common question: what will be the usefulness of the referendum's proposed Voice Committee?

We have the exact examples of 'successful' results from existing 'voices' to parliament, in the form of business's highly-paid lobbyists, who are paid to successfully get the ear of government, to get the interests of, and benefits for, their private corporations from government.

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Dangerously Poetic celebrates 21 years of publishing local poets

Laura Shore

It began as a joke. A group of eight poets gathered to brainstorm how to start a poetry press.

The year was 2000, and we talked about the dearth of poetry opportunities. When Jen Jacobs said something about being dangerously poetic, we laughed. In Australia, unlike many third-world countries, poetry was basically ignored and definitely not considered a threat.

On reflection, we realised Dangerously Poetic was a perfect name for a press.

We began a monthly reading series at Persephone's Window, a beautiful independent bookstore in Byron.

We spoke with Jill Eddington



Dangerous poets Ahna De Vena and Laura Shore from 2016. Photo Jeff Dawson

at the NRWC (now Byron Writers Festival) about a grant to start a co-operative publishing venture. On receiving these funds, we decided to invite Ron Pretty from Five Island's Press to offer two weekend

intensives. Afterwards we decided our mission was to publish and promote quality poetry by poets from our region. We fine-tuned this to include community building through poetry.

The collective set up an independent standards panel so the work offered for publication would be of high quality. The late Ron Pretty often said, 'You can't write too much poetry, but you can publish too much.'

My collection, *Breathworks*, was the 'first cab off the rank' as Dorothy Porter put it when she launched it at the 2002 Byron Writers Festival.

Encouraging poetry

To make a big splash, we declared 27 July, Poetry Day in Byron and offered three events. Breakfast with the greats; a champagne reading of local poets; and finally, we offered Dangerous After Dark, a music and poetry soiree. This was so successful, we made Poetry Day an annual event for many years.

So far, we have published 15 books, some individual collections and some anthologies. Dangerously Poetic is a heartening example of what a community can create together. We have always encouraged poetry lovers as well as poets to share their favourite poems.

We are in the process of editing our 16th book which will be a collection of Kathryn Boorman's poems.

Everyone is invited to celebrate our 21st year of community poetry on Sunday, 6 August from 2-4pm at the Brunswick Heads RSL, 24 Fawcett Street. Dangerously Poetic poets will be featured and talented Emma Lees will sing and play original music. A \$20 donation for entry includes a free book and refreshments.

► Continued from page 15

We have the hard evidence of the many cases where lobbyists have successfully got their corporation's interests before parliamentarians with successful outcomes for the private organisations they are representing.

The referendum's Voice Committee will be a similar lobbyist group, that will lobby to address practical actions on specific issues, as

well as for broad structural reform. Integrating Aboriginal business development, as well as practical actions to address the failing 'Close the Gap' proposals and Australia's poor record of protecting cultural sites, will be some of the benefits.

But as well, Australia has a 60,000-year history. The Voice Committee has the real capacity to move Australia towards a better general social, cultural

and financial integration of Aboriginal people into what 21st-century Australia actually is, from a colonised country where Aboriginal people were ignored in our Constitution.

Importantly, the Voice Committee is a vehicle where we can move Australia forward towards where Aboriginal people and Australians of immigrant backgrounds all stand together, and all call ourselves fellow countrymen

and women on the same level playing field.

Regarding the referendum's financial cost - it's time to pay the rent. All income, both government and private, is generated on unlawfully occupied land. It was illegal under British royal law, British parliamentary law, and international law, to occupy already-occupied land - Cook only got away with it as it took a year to get a reply to his letters back

from England. The British replies probably went: 'If the continent is unoccupied, who are these artefacts from, that you've sent back?' and, perhaps, 'In regard to your claim of terra nullius (land empty of people), do you mean that just the beach had no people on it, after you cleared it by shooting at them?'

But the lives of a people, whose numbers were reduced from perhaps

1,300,000 to just 300,000 over a few short decades, and who are now a minority, and where sections have a glaring disparity in their lives to that enjoyed by the broad society, should be no laughing matter for any of us. Accept the hand that has been extended, it will be a better Australia for all of us - vote 'Yes' to the referendum question.

John Lazarus
Byron Bay



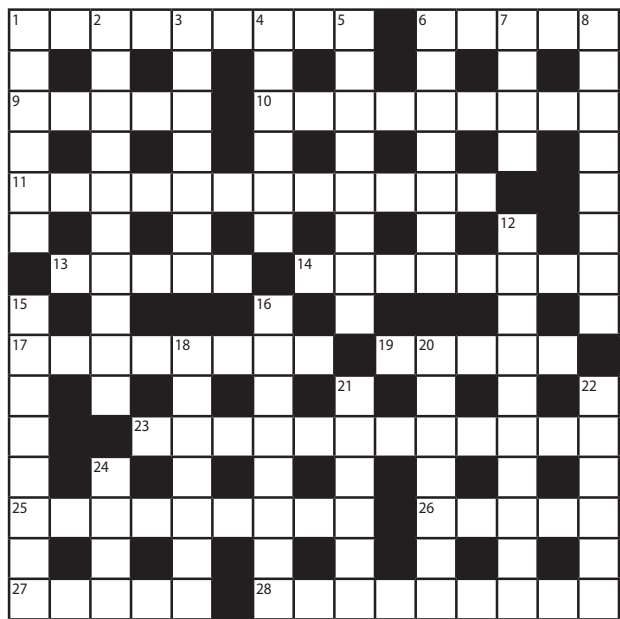
The Australian Vaccination-risks Network was founded in 1994 and advocates for informed consent and freedom of choice.

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In this time of censorship sharing factual information is more vital than ever.

Please consider supporting our important work by becoming a member and subscribing to our regular newsletter at avn.org.au.

www.avn.org.au



Cryptic Clues

- ACROSS**
- Academic circle and wild night – keep right out of it! (2,7)
 - Method 1000 for the computer accessory (5)
 - Melon confused with another fruit (5)
 - Small type, but running fast (9)
 - XXXX – great sight! (6,6)
 - Find fault with Mabel – drunk... (5)
 - ...on wine! (8)
 - Go, Castor and Pollux, to name two (8)
 - Summer snake (5)
 - Go crazy making divisions (12)
 - Ready for final selection – not long, 51 with good man (9)
 - Poles follow first lady to double the money (5)
 - 500 behind – boring (5)
 - The posts for the betting pool (3,6)
- DOWN**
- Remove lease – note to erase (6)
 - Work up model – men need a pseudonym! (3,2,5)
 - Time with one new unknown territory with one man – a beloved Dickens character (4,3)
 - Puts in popular groups (6)
 - Mad, deranged – but looked after the plants (8)
 - People and books – time with Italian composer (7)
 - Lawyer on one small platform (4)
 - Regular publication – it keeps the rounds (8)
 - Obscene nude run – constant and angry speech (4,6)
 - Worshipped marriage vow, then slide out (8)
 - A transaction, with first Utopian (8)
 - More imposing – regret a mistake (7)
 - River a nuisance? Most profound (7)
 - Solid representation – take territory out of law (6)
 - Finishes – cool, doesn't win (6)
 - Firm about the middle (4)

Quick Clues

- ACROSS**
- Sit on one's hands (2,7)
 - Device needed to connect to the internet (5)
 - Defective, often new, car (5)
 - Dashing (9)
 - Normal vision (6,6)
 - Censure (5)
 - Grape variety (8)
 - Supernatural beings (8)
 - Viper (5)
 - Managerial; bureaucratic (12)
 - A refined set of job applicants (9)
 - Odds of 1:1 (5)
 - Depressingly dull (5)
 - The prize money (3,6)
- DOWN**
- Expunge (6)
 - Writer's assumed name (3,2,5)
 - Tulip tiptoe! (4,3)
 - Things inserted (6)
 - Tilled the soil (8)
 - Italian opera composer (7)
 - Rostrum (4)
 - Periodical (8)
 - Rapid, non-stop talking (4,6)
 - Venerated (8)
 - Visionary (8)
 - Superior (7)
 - Most extensive (7)
 - Sculpture (6)
 - Concludes the deal (6)
 - Central (4)

DOWN

- Expunge (6)
- Writer's assumed name (3,2,5)
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- Venerated (8)
- Visionary (8)
- Superior (7)
- Most extensive (7)
- Sculpture (6)
- Concludes the deal (6)
- Central (4)

Last week's solution #501



To Bank or Not To Bank...

I remember going to the bank as a kid. It was an austere place – because money was serious. Banks designed themselves a bit like confessionals. The teller was your private priest of poverty or prosperity. Everyone spoke in hushed tones, so when you withdrew \$2.50 from your passbook your fiscal sins were private. I liked having my bank balance written in pen, dated and stamped. It felt like money. I found banks intimidating. If bank employees were chickens, this was a battery farm. All the tellers locked up in their little cages pecking at the glass. I never thought I'd miss it, but I do. Recently I visited one of those 'redesigned' banks. I couldn't be sure I was even at a bank. I thought I'd wandered into a branch cafe. For a start, the chickens weren't locked up. They were wandering around. They have legs. I wasn't comfortable seeing them moving around the bank, giving the impression people had come here for a social chat. This is commerce. We need you locked up so we can do our serious money business. I do not want to sit on your fancy ottoman.

As I scan the room I notice there are fancy ottomans everywhere. Not queuing in straight lines as you would expect in a bank – but laid out as if people came here for community. Some sort of bank-based encounter group. We don't. We come to launder our cash. Or ask an actual human, with a face, questions we can't get answered on the app. We just want to line up, see a teller behind glass, do our business and leave. Like a money toilet.

When I arrive at the bank of the future one thing is clear to me. They don't have any money. But they do have funky furniture. And a concierge. When I arrive, she greets me with a broad smile and welcomes me like I'm



You might need to take your balaclava off. Put your gun down. Sit on an ottoman. Have a coffee.

checking into a hotel. She asks why I've come here today. I'm at the bloody bank. Why do you think I've come here? To do my business and leave. I want to say 'to line up and then see someone at a counter'. But there are no counters. Because there is nothing to count. This is the digital age. And her job I realise is to make me leave, or if I don't, make me sit on an ottoman. They need photos of confused customers sitting on branch ottomans to show their shareholders. Start investing in ottomans now.

I want customer service so I sit on aforementioned backless furniture. Someone offers me a coffee. No. That's not hygienic. This is a bank. Not Starbucks. I don't go to a coffee shop to pay my mortgage. I notice the concierge's main job is to tackle old people before they get inside. As soon as they enter they're headed off and redirected outside to a machine. I get the feeling they came here to avoid machines, but that's not how it works now. I watch the concierge run an impromptu training session on the ATM. So now the bank is running

tech support, or a kind of University for the third age? Just let the old lady in the bank. It's taken her three hours to get out of the house, stop running interference!

I never thought I'd feel nostalgic about lining up. But I liked it when the chickens were in their cages. When the bank was serious, and the money was locked up with the tellers. Now the tellers are up and walking, it makes you think the grand plan, one day, is that branches close and they just walk away. If all you are doing is serving free coffee to confused old people on ottomans, it's hardly worth the expense of keeping the doors open.

I realise as banks transition to this friendly format, that bank robbery may become too difficult. A crime rendered obsolete by the digital age. How could you even rob a place like this? There isn't any money dude. If you want money you have to ask Debbie and come back on Wednesday. Or use the ATM. You might need to take your balaclava off. Put your gun down. Sit on an ottoman. Have a coffee. Money is just numbers on a screen now. If you want to hold up the bank you'll have to become an executive.

STARS BY LILITH

The Sun and Venus in Leo set this week's stage to step-up and shine your light...



LEO THE LION

ARIES: While some people will always find your style controversial, August's stars remind you that self-respect is far more valuable than the popular vote. Being the trail-blazing leader you are, sometimes means standing alone for a moment, in which case know that your courage will always be an inspiration to others.

TAURUS: Jupiter in your straight-shooting sign won't mince words this month, so if you're not happy with the amount of affection, attention or response you're getting, then initiate *The Talk*. And if that's not received easily by August's divas, do keep your cool because nobody benefits from a temperamental toro seeing red.

GEMINI: August's energy injection sets you off like a sparkler into demon socializing mode, but the glitz, glam and grandiose visions of Leo season also make it easy to get carried away. Overpromising and underdelivering could attract some feisty reactions, so tune into Gemini's savvy celestial mentor Mercury's sensible advice.

CANCER: This month encourages showcasing something you want others to notice, and gives permission for whatever shameless self promotion you care to share. Full moon on 2 August falling in your partnership zone calls time to reflect on the give and take in relationships, and whether your needs are being met.

LEO: Look who's in a full, flamboyant sashay down this month's catwalk, camera-ready for a royal rollercoaster ride. Don't get tripped up on the red carpet as Venus retrograde in your sign brings you face-to-face with any confidence issues standing in the way of authentic self-expression. Simply acknowledge, deal, and proceed.

VIRGO: Mercury kicking-off an extended visit to your efficient sign loves organising budgets, editing, getting paperwork in order, planning ahead and initiating new routines. So far, so fabulous. But it can also be nit-picky and critical, which won't go down well with this month's citizens, so best not offer critiques unless requested.

LIBRA: August's astral energetics, especially Libra's personal planet Venus at her most creative, encourage expressing your naturally artistic personality to the max. Supporters could come out of the woodwork when the full moon on 2 August stimulates collaborations, and a community project begun now could make a powerful impact.

SCORPIO: Best way to get your ideas across in a climate of inflated self-importance where everyone knows best and nobody's listening? Set your own ego aside, let them think it was their idea. Buffer all suggestions in a praise sandwich, starting and ending with positives, because this month flattery will get you everywhere.


SAGITTARIUS: With too few hours in the day for the things you love, let alone activities that drain your spirits, this month's celestial menu invites you to gracefully bow out of engagements that aren't lighting your fire. Because August, with first five, then seven heavenly bodies dragging their feet, is going to need your fiery get up and go.

CAPRICORN: This month's mantra for Capricorns? Lighten up. Park your inner cynic in the time-out chair. Let an attitude of curiosity and readiness to experiment blow the dust off a few old beliefs. Give your brain a novelty boost: draw with your non-dominant hand; take a new route to work; eat something you've never tried.


AQUARIUS: This month invites you to step into your authority. We are all here for a specific purpose, and our uniqueness matters. Full moon in your community-minded sign on 2 August offers an opening to exercise your personal talents and contributions in a way that benefits and creates value for the collective.

PISCES: In our competitive marketplace, even genius products, services and concepts sometimes need to be squeaky wheels to attract the attention they merit. This month's heavenly energetics nudge you onstage, while Saturn in your sign is reminding you to take notes of what works best, and what not so much.

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Good Life

An iguana walks into a bar



A well-worn leather boot knocks thick decaying barn doors. Settled dust from long ago drops to the floor, the hinges rattle, as if wall-bolted shackles imprison the timber's hope of escaping. One final almighty kick and.... BOOM!

A mushroom cloud of dust erupts skyward, heaven bound. The doors hit the deck and slide to the far end of the saloon, the glass windows spray outward to the horizon, the ceiling lifts three inches off the walls that bow outward from the middle.

As the roof returns, a lone shadow stands where the double doors once hung.

Spurs, strapped to the heel of each boot grip the floorboards; knees slightly bent and head bowed, an old leather jacket adorns a tall and stoic figure who's appeared in a cloud of slowly falling... lingering soot.

Crack! A swift upward jolt of the figure's chin reveals deep green eyes that belong to the face of an Iguana whose scope is locked straight ahead.

Unmoving, Iguana takes in her surroundings. The unkept Wild West piano in the corner that once played tunes to drunken railmen and their crones; the stringless fiddle above the bar that once turned still men into mindless swagger machines; and the smouldering

cigars on the bench – puffs foregone by jaw-dropped patrons returning her gaze.

The double-door-kicking, wall-bending, jaw-dropping iguana dips her hat, slowly, before tossing her woven lasso onto the wall's only crooked hook. She orders: 'One AZTECA Margarita, please.'

'Shaken, or on tap?' asks the barman.

'Thought I was in a James Bond script for a second there. But strewth! on tap would float my boat to the

nth degree, you're obviously a wizard of the highest order,' replied the Iguana.

And so... the barman sent Iguana off into the pink sunset with an AZTECA Margy poured straight from the goddamn tap. Yeehaaw!

AZTECA Margarita - now on tap for all your event hire desires.

*Iguanas not included
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Glenyce Creighton's one woman show

Victoria Cosford

Her mantra is 'a little bit of this and not much of anything.' Glenyce Creighton, one-woman show, is chatting to me at her stall of many delights – knobbly sweet potatoes lurk alongside bulbous beets and sun-dappled spiky cucumbers; there's citrus and turmeric and soil-covered potatoes and custard apples. Not possessing a cool-room means Glenyce only sells what's just been picked on the farm where she's lived and worked for 40 years, so it's spanking fresh and, yes, often only in small quantities. 'When we first came to our farm,' she tells me, 'we put in three trees of everything, to have food all year round.'

Depending on the season, you'll find turkey and goose eggs at her stall. 'When I have them here they just go,' she says, explaining that while turkey eggs are the size of duck eggs, goose eggs are much larger. 'You just treat them as normal eggs,' she says. 'They just have longer times to cook.'

Hen and duck eggs she carries pretty much all year around and it's the duck eggs used in the pavlovas she sells. They're available on Fridays at the Mullum market as well as at New Brighton on Tuesdays, where there's also a whole range of gorgeous baked goods like quiches and cupcakes, the very popular little lemon tarts, and family-sized chocolate and orange cakes. Many gluten-free, these are the work of Glenyce's



Glenyce, pictured at her stall of many delights, loves the whole market process.

chef-trained daughter, who, together with her mother, is also responsible for those beautiful floral displays on sale.

'We're self-taught,' says Glenyce. 'I just love the whole process,' she continues, when I ask her what the best part of her business is. 'Now I'm working with my kids, and the grandchildren are learning.' The worst bit? 'Paying the bills!' she laughs.

Glenyce Creighton is at New Brighton on Tuesdays 8-11am and at Mullumbimby on Fridays 7-11am.

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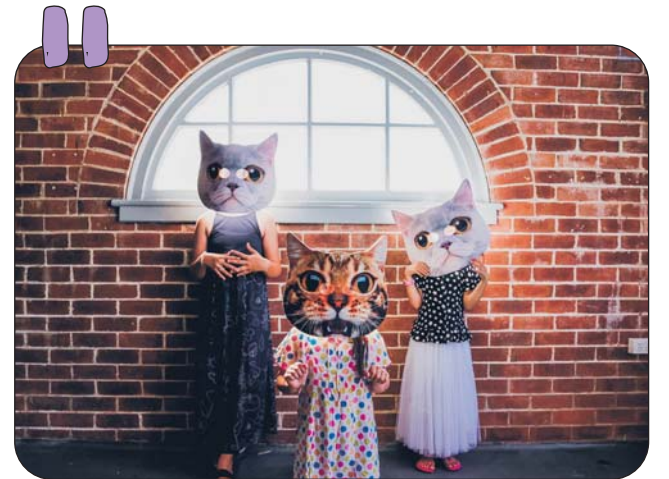
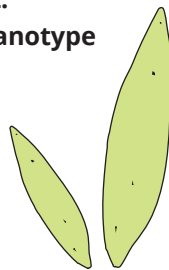
THE ARTS



BOTANICAL CYANOTYPE WORKSHOPS

Coming to The Depot, (opposite 53 Station St at Keramika Ceramics), in Mullumbimby! Local artist Katie Alleva will be hosting a series of workshops from August through to January. Katie is a dynamic, creative facilitator with extensive visual art knowledge. Come and connect with others and ignite your creative spark.

EARLY BIRD Tickets now available at:
events.humanitix.com/botanical-cyanotype
www.katiealleva.com.au
0435 203 936



Photographer Natalie Grono, Ignite Studios Workshop, Northern Rivers Community Gallery

BALLINA CONTEMPORARY ART MARKET

CALLING ALL ARTISTS, MAKERS, AND DESIGNERS!

Applications are currently open for artists, designers, makers, galleries and arts & crafts stallholders to sell their wares at the **Ballina Contemporary Art Market (BCAM)** – a one-day market that will take place in the heart of Ballina on Saturday 14 October 2023.

BCAM is an exciting new cultural initiative developed by Ballina Shire Council's **Northern Rivers Community Gallery (NRCG)** and Ignite Studios funded by NSW Government to support social and economic opportunities for creatives in the Northern Rivers.

BCAM will take place in the gallery, workshop spaces and grounds of NRCG and Ignite Studios, activating the arts and cultural precinct and heritage-listed buildings. A range of creative market stalls featuring original, handmade, local and innovative works and products will be on offer, as will food, live music, workshops, performances, and site-specific artworks, ensuring BCAM is a not to be missed event for the whole family.

Stallholder applications are now open until 14 August 2023. To apply, visit the NRCG website nrcgballina.com.au or contact the Gallery on (02) 6681 0530.

www.nrcgballina.com.au/v1/public-programs/2023-art-fair

Ballina Contemporary Art Market

Saturday 14 October 2023

Stallholder Applications NOW OPEN Closing 14 August

Apply via nrcgballina.com.au



ARTIST IN FOCUS

ELEVENTH YEAR OF THE NORTH COAST MUD TRAIL - EXTENDED TRAIL!

Save the dates of 19th and 20th August for this year's annual North Coast Mud Trail!

The popular ceramic open studio event is now in its 11th year and as well as the usual route that covers Byron shire, the Trail has extended its boundaries to potters working further west in Clunes and Lismore.



Organise a day out with your friends, grab the hard copy map available from tourist info centres and most cafes or check out www.northcoastceramics.com for the interactive map, and head off for a day of exploration into the creative spaces of 19th potters across 14th different studios.

Having a sneak peek into ceramic studios is a great way to discover what makes these artists 'tick'. Seeing a working studio is like having a window into the artist's mind. And of course, all the artists are keen to engage with their visitors as well as selling their wares.

Make a weekend of it – and treat yourself to a drive around the hinterland of the Shire, visiting secret creative places you would not normally find on the map. If you're into ceramics, the 2023 North Coast Mud Trail is a *must* do for August!

www.northcoastceramics.com

THE ARTS

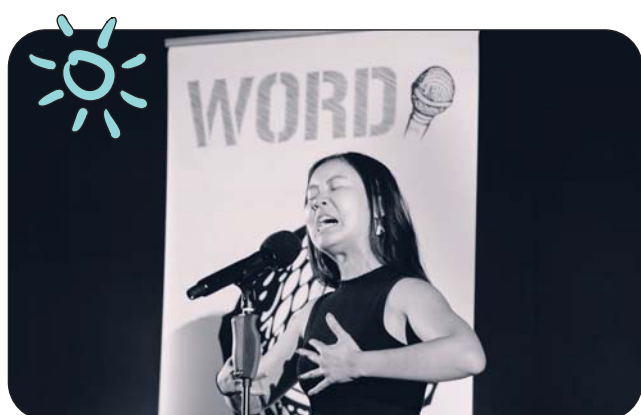
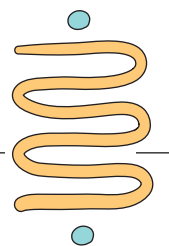
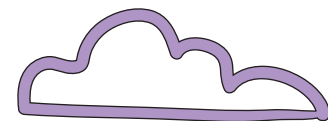


Clare Belfrage in the hot glass studio. Photo: Pippy Mount

IN THE GLOW OF GREEN

From 4th August, the Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre will present a new exhibition titled 'In the Glow of Green' by leading Australian glass artist Clare Belfrage. Exclusive to the Tweed Regional Gallery, the exhibition is the outcome of Belfrage having undertaken a two-week residency in the Gallery's on-site studio, the Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio.

2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah
6670 2790
artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au



IT'S LOUD AND IT'S LIVE – VOICES IN THE WILD!

If anyone knows how to throw a literary party, it's the slam poets! Get ready for **Byron Writers Festival's** Saturday night feature event, Voices In the Wild, a cabaret of spoken word that will bring the house down.

This epic evening event features the powerful voices of Maxine Beneba Clarke, Madison Godfrey, Miles Merrill, Sarah Temporal, Jo Yang, plus winners from Poets Out Loud Slam and Australian Poetry Slam heats, and is hosted by David Stavanger. Traversing

topics such as race, climate change, gender euphoria and mental health, Voices in the Wild will take guests on a unique journey, using language in its most commanding form of lyrical storytelling.

Saturday 12 August at the Bangalow A&I Hall.
Bar opens 5pm, show starts 6.30pm.
Bookings essential via
byronwritersfestival.com/feature-events

Volume 38 #08
2-8 August, 2023
Editor: Eve Jeffery
Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
Copy deadline: 5pm each Friday
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P: 02 6684 1777
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NEWRYBAR FIREWORKS BACK WITH A BANG

Keeping a 35+ year tradition alive, **Newrybar Public School** is set to light up the night sky once again this **Saturday** with its iconic, annual **Bonfire and Fireworks Spectacular**. This much-treasured community event is also an important fund-raising event for Newrybar Public School.

For newcomers to this epic night, The Newrybar fireworks display does not disappoint! But here's the best part, it's guilt-free fun. Newrybar Fireworks Night has gone carbon neutral this year. The event will be 100 per cent carbon offset by donating to Bangalow Koalas towards the planting and ongoing maintenance of trees in the local koala conservation belt.

Like bonfire nights from days of old, winter magic will be in the air. There will be kids running around with torches and glow sticks. Families will warm themselves by the giant bonfire enjoying delicious local food while awaiting the fireworks spectacular at 7pm.

But that's not all! There's plenty to do before the big sparks fly.

There will be fairground rides, slides and an obstacle course, **Shorty Brown** kids disco and entertainment for the whole family.

Roll up! Bring your good vibes, picnic blankets, winter woollies, and flashlights and join in for the most anticipated family event this winter.

Gates open at 4pm at the Newrybar Public School, entry is \$5 per child/\$10 per adult or \$20 per family and you can find out more at info@newrybarfireworks.

A special thanks goes to the event fairground sponsors Inspired Built, for their generous donation towards fairground rides www.inspiredbuilt.com.au.

WHO THE HELL IS BLAKE PAVEY?

Koala Roast is a comedy night to raise funds for Bangalow Koalas. They're on track to plant 500,000 koala habitat trees by 2025 with 300,000 already in the ground.

This event boasts an amazing lineup of talent that we know and love, like **Jimeoin**, **Mandy Nolan** and **Alexandra Hudson**. As well as a bloke named **Blake** who you might not know.

After amassing over one million followers and making audiences all around the world laugh 'til they cry online, Blake Pavey has just completed his first national standup tour called **Literally Dying**. Just 21 years old and hailing from country Victoria, Blake will bring his hilarious and heartfelt standup to **Bangalow A&I Hall** as he tells some cheeky tales about life as someone with a terminal illness.

29 August from 6pm at the Bangalow A&I Hall – book tickets at: tinyurl.com/koalaroast.

NORPA PRESENTS

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20
23

IN ASSOCIATION WITH BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL

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A&I HALL



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& **JOSH HAMILTON**

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Scan for free tickets!







CONTEMPORARY BUNDJALUNG STORIES ON STAGE

After sold-out sessions in 2022, theatre company NORPA will once again bring Bundjalung stories to the fore with **Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise**, theatrical readings of stories, plays, poems and essays penned by Bundjalung writers at **Brunswick Picture House** from **11–13 August**.

Prominent Bundjalung director and curator, **Rhoda Roberts AO** has commissioned four Bundjalung writers to reflect on their experience of living with occupation.

Indigenous chef and TV host **Mark Olive**, poet and editor **Grace Lucas-Pennington**, *Koori Mail* CEO **Naomi Moran**, and acclaimed actor and writer **Kirk Page** have written powerful and compelling short works that will be shared on stage at Brunswick Picture House.

Creative Director First Nations at NORPA, Rhoda Roberts, says 'Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise is an opportunity to hear a diverse



range of stories across the territories of the Bundjalung Nation. Our four writers bring a little of the unexpected in their written pieces as we uncover hidden secrets, home truths, and even reveal some absurdities. Then there is the story of a flood that destroys and exposes more than the place you call home. We hope you can join us on Arakwal lands at the Brunswick

Picture House for the second year of Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise.

Bundjalung Nghari – Indigenise by NORPA in association with Byron Writers Festival.

Friday 11 August 7pm, Saturday 12, 3pm and 7pm and Sunday 13 3pm. Brunswick Picture House.

Tickets at www.norpa.org.au and www.brunswickpicturehouse.com.

SUPERCHEEZE IS BACK ON THE GRILL

Supercheeze, led by the multi-talented **Jesse Balfour** is back at **The Rails** this weekend. In early 2017, and after a brief hiatus while he worked on other musical projects, the decision was made to scratch off the mould, crank up the griller and once again melt some fine cheddar in the name of high-value entertainment.

As before, the mission statement is simple: play upbeat 'cheezy' hit songs that many will know, with a positive vibe, great musicianship, high-quality production; get everyone in the audience dancing, singing, laughing; and generally having a grand old time.

The Supercheeze fondue-pot consists of Jesse on lead vocals and guitar, **Dean Jones** on guitar and co-lead vocals, **Greg Strong** on bass guitar and co-lead vocals – BTW his career as a dubious fromagier stretches further than a vintage mozzarella – and sitting behind the kit with occasional lead vocals **Mark Bridges**, who once claimed the title of downhill cheese-rolling champion of Clunes three years consecutively – simply amazing!

So just remember – when life gets you down, don't just whine, get some 'cheeze' into you, and dance the night away. **This Friday at the Rails.**



SPRING IS IN THE AIR with celebrated Australian artists **Margaret Blades – Violin** and **David Wickham – Piano** **Bond University** **Sunday 17th September 2.30pm**



A DOUBLE TREAT!



CLASSICAL GEM Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra conducted by **Chen Yang** presents a selection of timeless works by **Holst, Piazzolla** and more.

Concert one
Sunday 24th September 2.30pm
Murwillumbah Civic Centre,
10-14 Tumblegum Road,
Murwillumbah



Concert two
Sunday 8th October 2.30pm
Basil Sellers Theatre, Bond University,
University Drive, Varsity Lakes

For more details and online bookings go to www.gcco.com.au

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Metropole Hotel
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TICKETS \$20 Purchase at
WHERELOVELIVES.COM.AU



A WAVE OF SURF TRASH

Get ready to ride the wave of music at the **Youth Concert – Surf Trash!** On **Thursday, 14 September** from **6.30pm** at the **Lennox Head Cultural Centre**, there will be an unforgettable night of pure energy and talent.

The event boasts an epic line-up featuring the sun-bleached sounds of **Surf Trash**, the melodic, hard-hitting tunes of **Couch Wizard**, and the psych-rock beats of **Puff**.

Whether you're a fan of punk rock, indie vibes, or just looking to discover some amazing new music, this concert is the place to be!

Grab your friends, put on your dancing shoes, and get ready to rock out to the most exciting local bands in town.

Don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to support our talented youth and immerse yourself in a night of pure musical magic.

This is a free event but you must register for tickets through Eventbrite. www.eventbrite.com/e/youth-concert-surf-trash-tickets-674905850567.



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GYAN AND SI WITH STRINGS

Gyan and her partner in life, and on the stage, producer/composer, pianist and guitarist **Simon (Si) Greaves**, have had a little dream that grew into a little seed, and now they are thrilled to be finally playing inside the sweet little **All Souls Chapel in Bangalow** – after driving past it so many times over so many years.

If you haven't been inside the venue, it was designed in the form of a cathedral. It has a high-gabled roof, covered with tiles. The walls are constructed of brick up to the windows, with painted render above, and higher still, two narrow Gothic-shaped windows.

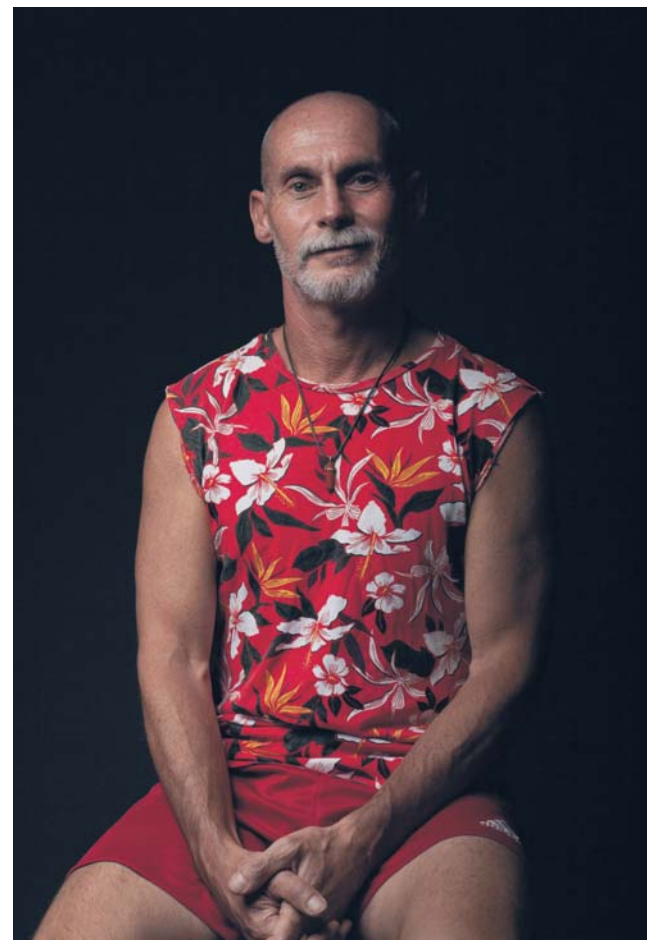
Gyan and Si will be joined by **Tara Lee Byrne** on cello and **Belinda MacKenzie** on violin (better known as The Little Tendrils) for an intimate concert of heavenly proportions.

See this wonderful show at the All Souls Chapel, 1 Ashton Street, Bangalow on Sunday 13 August at 3.30pm. Tickets can be found on trybooking.com.

BYRON THEATRE

AUGUST 3 - 4 MT WARNING - THE MAGIC OF THE MUNDANE | 11 - 12 TONI CHILDS
24 RANDY FELTFACE | 25 THE REDGUM YEARS | 26 DREAMS - FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE

TICKETS AND INFO: BYRONTHEATRE.COM



WHERE DOES LOVE LIVE?

The **Where Loves Lives** August event will be an unforgettable night of love, inclusion, and diversity with **Lovemore Lismore NSW!**

Get ready to celebrate everything that makes us unique and beautiful at the stunning **Hotel Metropole**. This is a night you won't want to miss!

Organisers say, 'love knows no boundaries, and neither does this event. We're bringing together people from all walks of life to create a truly inclusive and welcoming atmosphere. Whether you're gay, straight, transgender, or somewhere in between, everyone is welcome to join in on a night filled with joy, acceptance, and unity.'

Prepare to be dazzled by amazing performances, electrifying music, and a vibrant atmosphere that will leave you feeling inspired and uplifted. The lineup includes **DJs Rob Davis** (Sydney), **Carmine Romano** (Melbourne), **Magnus** (Lismore) and **Anubis** (Melbourne).

There is also delicious food, refreshing drinks, and plenty of opportunities to connect with like-minded individuals – it's the perfect chance to make new friends and forge meaningful connections.

Spread the word, this is the event of the year that you simply can't afford to miss. Grab your tickets now and get ready to experience a night like never before and create a world where love truly lives. See you there!

Hotel Metropole, Saturday 19 August at 6pm. Tickets \$20: www.wherelovelives.com.au.



THE KINGS ARE BACK!

Following their sold-out national tour in 2022, Australia's new 'Kings of Variety Television' are back in 2023 with a brand new show. **The Robertson Brothers** are thrilled to be returning with their new heart-warming and uplifting 1960s Variety TV Show!

Geoff and Ben Robertson are back as your charming and cheeky hosts for this nostalgic night of entertainment as they pay tribute to the musical giants of the 1960s – The Bee Gees, Simon & Garfunkel, Roy Orbison, Cliff Richard & The Shadows, Frankie Valli, The Everly Brothers, Neil Sedaka and The Seekers.

Variety TV Show fans will be excited to know the multi-talented **Simon Brook McLachlan** (from the original Australian cast of *Jersey Boys*) will return in 2023 to thrill us with his very special tributes to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons as well as Neil Sedaka, together with a brand new Variety Show tribute to the much loved 1960s superstar – Sir Cliff Richard.

Another huge bonus this year for the Robertson Brothers 1960s Variety TV Show fans is the addition of Australia's



internationally acclaimed #1 Roy Orbison tribute artist **Dean Bourne!** Dean will perform his very special Variety Show tribute to the one and only 'Big O' and his biggest hits from the 1960s.

'It's the best show I've seen in years!'
– Ray Hadley, 2GB.

Unlike anything you have ever seen before, this 150-minute ground-breaking and interactive theatrical TV experience is filled with all the fun, music and long-forgotten memories of the fabulous 1960s. The Variety TV Show audience is taken on a unique and emotional journey back to the best years of their lives.

Get your '60s on this Friday at the Ballina RSL from 8pm. Tickets: ballinarsl.com.au.

ENSEMBLE Q

Proudly presented by the Northern Rivers Conservatorium in association with Musica Viva Australia, in the **Northern Rivers Conservatorium Concert Room. Paul Dean** on clarinet, **Natsuko Yoshimoto** on violin, **Trish Dean** on cello and **Daniel de Borah** on piano directed by coartistic directors, cellist **Trish Dean** and clarinetist **Paul Dean**. **Ensemble Q** was born in 2017 out of a desire to create an ensemble with the finesse of the greatest ensembles in the world and the excitement of a festival collaboration.

Ensemble Q has earned an enviable reputation for brilliant programming and the highest performance standard. This group, of now proudly Brisbane-based friends, hail from concertmaster and principal seats in the Queensland Symphony Orchestra, soloists and chamber musicians on the national touring network, and leading faculty at Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.

Ensemble Q is an ensemble in residence at both the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) and the Queensland Conservatorium Griffith University.

This event is on Tuesday 22 August at 7pm in the Northern Rivers Conservatorium Concert Room.

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium will continue to offer free tickets to flood-affected members of our community through 2023. They have many more fantastic events lined up in their Concert Room and other venues in Lismore. Stay tuned!

**Bookings: www.ensembleq.eventbrite.com.au.
www.facebook.com/events/245994598234981
For more details about the 2023 Visiting Artists Program visit: events.nrcac.edu.au.**

Ensemble Q have been selected as national touring artists for Musica Viva, and appear at festivals including the Australian Festival of Chamber Music and the Queensland Music Festival. They are regular artists for ABC Classic and 4MBS Classic FM. Comprising string quintet, wind quintet, piano and percussion, Ensemble Q's repertoire possibilities are endless and range from the most exquisite solos right through to full chamber symphonies.

The touring programs for 2023 comprise works for violin, clarinet, cello and piano.

Composed as homage to both clarinetist Benny Goodman and violinist Joseph Szigeti, Bartok's *Contrasts* for violin, clarinet and piano is strongly influenced by Hungarian and Rumanian folk tunes and is a delightful journey for the listener. Tchaikovsky's monumental and lush *Piano Trio* is a tribute to Arthur Rubinstein, with the inscription 'A la memoire d'un Grand artiste'.

Australia's composer of the moment, Paul Dean's new work (also to be titled *Homage*) is being created for the 2023 season and is scored for clarinet, violin, cello and piano.

"an astonishing evening of chamber music"
Tuesday 22nd August 7PM
NRC Concert Room, 152 Keen St Lismore

FREE TICKETS FOR FLOOD-AFFECTED MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITY!

Proudly presented by the Northern Rivers Conservatorium in association with Musica Viva Australia

\$38.50/\$27.50/\$16.50
ensembleq.eventbrite.com.au

GIG GUIDE *Seven*

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

CINEMA



BARBIE IS JUST EVERYTHING!

What can you say about *Barbie*? I mean really – what can you say?

I was at a screening of *Oppenheimer* on the weekend at the Palace Cinema in Ballina.

It was concurrently disturbing, good, riveting and beautifully shot. It so full of stunning performances and I cried through one third of it (that's an hour of crying). The sound design was incredible; the story was very intense and exciting but, for me, *Oppenheimer* was mostly disturbing.

I walked out of the darkened cinema – dabbing at my eyes and dragging myself from the 20th back to the 21st century, and was met by a wall of pink on pink – and squealing, hyper-excited, dreamy-eyed Barbie fans – and their daughters. Hundreds of female humans and a few token 'Kens', squishing to get to the door.

Needless to say, the 2023 Barbie is not just a movie, it's a phenomenon, and an experience, and a frenzy, with many cinemas offering the opportunity for viewers to have their own Barbie experience inside a plastic box.

To be honest, I haven't seen it yet and I think the wafting of all-pervasive strawberry body spray might be just too much for my brain to cope with – I'll wait to see who gets the streaming rights...

In the meantime – *The Echo* spoke to a Gen X-er who grew up with her very own Barbie. Let's call her my sister Rachel.

'Rachel' went to the Palace Cinema in Byron on Monday for her 50-something-year-old Barbie fix. She said: 'Barbie was fantastic! I think the film was very inspirational for girls young and old.'

'While there were some really fun moments, there were some very poignant and thought-provoking scenes. Margot Robbie, America Ferrera and all the Barbies were fantastic. Go Barbie! And go Ruth Handler for creating a doll that has created so many memories for children big and small!'

Barbie is on at both the Ballina and Palace cinemas. Also, go and see *Oppenheimer*. Take tissues.

WEDNESDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADELY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **FELICITY KIRCHER**
- 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**

THURSDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SARAH GRANT DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **AMBER ROSE TRIO**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **MT WARNING: TENDER HOOKS – 'THE MAGIC OF THE MUNDANE'**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD + DJ TAI DANIELS**

FRIDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SUPERCHEEZE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **GABRIELLE LAMBE**, 8PM **THE BOOTY AFFAIR**, 10PM **DJ QUENDO**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX BOWEN + DJ QUENDO**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MUDWAGON & KING COLEUS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **AMBER ROSE AND JACK REEVES**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN **GLITTERATI RIOT**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ SALVE JORGE**

- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8.30PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, **OPEN MIC**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **DONNY SHADES**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 7.30PM **OPEN MIC**, 8.30PM **PINK ZINC**
- LENNOX PIZZA 8PM **MISS RENEE SIMONE**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 8PM **THE ROBERTSON BROTHERS**, BOARDWALK 8PM **BEN WHITING**

- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **ACID BLEED + DJ BOZ**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 5.30PM **DARREN J RAY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BILL JACOBI**
- DOLPHINS HARBOURSIDE HOTEL, TWEED HEADS, 6PM **DAVE POWER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **BJORN AGAIN**

SATURDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3.30PM **HARRY NICHOLS**, 6.30PM **MICKA SCENE**, 8.30PM **DJ FAUVE SCOTT**, 10.30PM **DJ JOEY TUCKSHOP**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **LUKE YEAMAN**, 5PM **DJ ABEL EL TORO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATTY ROGERS + DJ TAI DANIELS & DJ ZAC EWING**
- NEWRYBAR PUBLIC SCHOOL 4PM **BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **SAMUCA TRIO**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ ROB SYDNEY**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **HAYLEY GRACE DUO**
- LENNOX PIZZA 7.30PM **SAM GREEN**

- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **RICHE WILLIAMS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **KELLY BROUHAHA**
- THE LEEVEE, LISMORE, 7PM **DJ WAX ADDICTS**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **PISTOL WHIP + DJ DEEP FRYER**
- NIMBIN TOWN HALL 5PM **LIQUORICE ALLSORTS**
- STONE & WOOD BREWERY, MURWILLUMBAH, 11AM **MINI BEER FESTIVAL**

- WILD THYME CAFE, MURWILLUMBAH, 11AM **ROD MURRAY – A TRIBUTE TO JAZZ**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **STOCKADE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BEN WHITING**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 8PM **BJORN AGAIN**

SUNDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **RAGGA JUMP**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 1.30PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM**, 4.30PM **EPIC**, 7PM **BEACHY SUNDAYS DJ ZAC EWING AND DJ QUENDO**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- BYRON COMMUNITY MARKET 9.30AM **GLITTERATI RIOT, GUY KACHEL & THE TWINE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12.30PM **ANIMAL VENTURA + DK KAI NOON**, 6PM **DJ KAI NOON**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **OLE FALCOR**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **SALMONELLA DUB SOUND SYSTEM**
- BRUNSWICK RSL 2PM **BRUNSWICK HEADS DANGEROUSLY POETIC 21ST CELEBRATION**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **RUSTY TUNES**
- LENNOX PIZZA 3PM **JOSH HAMILTON**

- CLUB LENNOX 3PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BLUES CLUB – SOREN CARLBERGG QUARTET**, 10.45PM **THE BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB – FEAT. SMOKEHOUSE**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SUNDAY SESSIONS FT. MASON RACK BAND**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 2PM **LISMORE JAZZ CLUB – JEROEN PEK**
- THE LEEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2PM **MARINA PRIOR & DAVID HOBSON**

MONDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX TILLEY**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**

TUESDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ANDY JANS BROWN**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 3PM **LOVE IN FOUR LANGUAGES**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **BACK TO THE TIVOLI**

WEDNESDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TRILLIAH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **FANNY LUMSDEN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **BIG STAR**

HAVE YOU SENT US YOUR GIG?

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

Session Times Ballina Fair Cinema

Thurs 3 August – Wed 9 August 47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

ALL FILMS	THE MEG (M) (NFT)
BARBIE (PG) Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:15AM, 5:20PM, 7:40PM	Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM Mon, Tues, Wed: 12:40PM, 3:00PM, 7:30PM
GRAN TURISMO: BASED ON A TRUE STORY (IC) (C) ADV SCREENINGS Sat, Sun: 10:45AM	THE MIRACLE CLUB (PG) (NFT) Daily: 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 5:30PM
OPPENHEIMER (M) (M+) Thurs, Fri: 10:15AM, 1:45PM, 7:00PM Sat, Sun: 1:45PM, 7:00PM Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:00PM	*NFT = No Free Tickets

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PALACE CINEMAS

Session Times PALACE CINEMAS

Thurs 3 August – Wed 9 August 108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	CHEVALIER (M)	TALK TO ME (M) (M+)
GRAN TURISMO: BASED ON A TRUE STORY (M) Sat, Sun: 3:20PM - Sneaks	Daily: 1:50PM, 4:10PM, 8:10PM	Daily: 11:40AM
NT LIVE: FLEABAG (ENCORE) (C) Daily: 11:20AM	INDIANA JONES AND THE DIAL OF DESTINY (M) Daily: 11:00AM	THE MIRACLE CLUB (PG) Daily: 11:00AM, 2:10PM, 4:10PM, 6:10PM
ALL FILMS	MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - DEAD RECKONING P1 (M) Daily: 11:00AM, 8:00PM	
ABOUT MY FATHER (PG) Daily: 2:10PM, 4:00PM, 6:00PM, 8:20PM	ON THE WANDERING PATHS (M) Daily: 11:10AM, 6:00PM	
ALCARRÀS (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 3:30PM *No screening Sat or Sun	OPPENHEIMER (M) (M+) Daily: 12:00PM, 3:45PM, 6:30PM, 7:30PM	
BARBIE (PG) Daily: 11:45AM, 1:15PM, 2:15PM, 3:40PM, 4:45PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM, 8:20PM	RACHEL'S FARM (PG) Daily: 1:30PM	

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



Property Insider

propertyinsider@echo.net.au

Award winning brokerage and property advisory Entourage opens a new office in Byron Bay!

Entourage Finance opened the doors to their newest office location in Byron Bay this month. Entourage makes it easier for people to buy, sell and finance property via their mortgage broking and property advisory teams.

Founded by Damien Roylance, an experienced and professional Finance Broker, the team are excited to have a physical presence on Jonson Street in Byron Bay. 'Byron Bay is a dream location, it's a vibrant and people-focused community. It's also now the place I call home. Opening the office here was the natural next step for the company', says Damien Roylance, Managing Director of Entourage Finance. 'With our team of finance brokers and property advisors on hand, we are here to help people to buy and sell beautiful homes, and support

our existing clients, here in Byron Bay and surrounds.' Damien is joined by senior finance broker and private banking specialist Candice Joseph. For locals looking to ensure they've got the best rate for their home loan, especially whilst interest rates are on the rise, Entourage are here to provide support, guidance and excellent finance and property advice.

About Entourage
Entourage was established in December 2015 by Damien Roylance with the Head Office in Cremorne,

Victoria. One of Australia's most awarded brokerages, Entourage is a leader in home loan lending, professional lending advice and property advisory. With a dedicated team of mortgage brokers, client support managers, buyers and vendor advocates, the Entourage team know property like no one else.

For more information contact:
Chantelle Doulis
0478141003
chantelle@entourage.com.au





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YOUR LOCAL EXPERTS IN REAL ESTATE





JEREMY LEWIS AND HELENE ADAMS JOIN FORCES AS LUXURY AGENCY'S POWERHOUSE DUO.

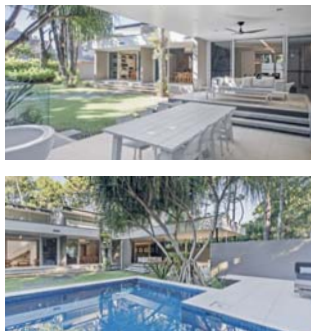
Atlas Byron Bay, the premier luxury agency renowned for its unparalleled expertise in the high-end real estate market, proudly announces a game-changing collaboration between two of its most accomplished professionals.

Jeremy Lewis, an esteemed Partner at Atlas Byron Bay, has built an unrivalled reputation as a leading authority in the luxury property market. Known for his strategic vision, unwavering commitment to enhancing the client experience and exceptional negotiation skills, Jeremy expertly navigates intricate transactions with finesse, leaving an indelible mark on the industry.

Helene Adams, an experienced Agent at Atlas Byron Bay, is a consummate professional with an unparalleled track record in the luxury real estate sector. With a deep understanding of the local market, Helene's long standing list of satisfied, repeat clients bears testament to her reputation for successfully managing high-profile transactions for exclusive clientele.

Together, they form an unparalleled powerhouse duo, combining their vast knowledge, exceptional skills and unwavering passion for delivering bespoke client experiences.

"Jeremy and Helene embody the essence of Atlas Byron Bay" says Michael Coombs, founding Director of Atlas Byron Bay. "Their exceptional talents, unwavering dedication and shared commitment to excellence perfectly align with our core values, further cementing our position as the leading luxury agency in the region."



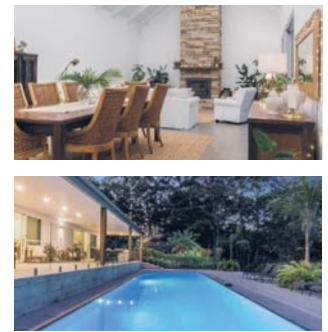
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\$4,800,000 - \$5,200,000

Executive Byron living at its best.

Located 3.3 kms from the Byron town centre, 1 km to the Suffolk Park shops and only a 15 minute walk to the beach. This grand Ed Haysom designed home is built to impress.

Helene Adams
0412 139 807
helene.adams@atlas.com.au



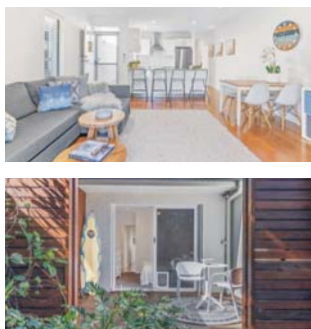
19 Orara Court, Byron Bay

6 BED 4 BATH 2 CAR
Contact agent

Private 2 acre resort like sanctuary.

With the feeling of hinterland living yet convenience to town, this home offers resort style living, income potential and serene privacy.

Helene Adams
0412 139 807
helene.adams@atlas.com.au



2/30 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park

3 BED 2 BATH 1 CAR
Contact agent

Beachside living at its best.

This perfectly positioned duplex plus fully approved guesthouse, is set one street back from the beach and only a 5 minute walk to the local shops in Suffolk Park.

Helene Adams
0412 139 807
helene.adams@atlas.com.au



35A Station Street, Mullumbimby

3 BED 3 BATH 2 CAR
Contact agent

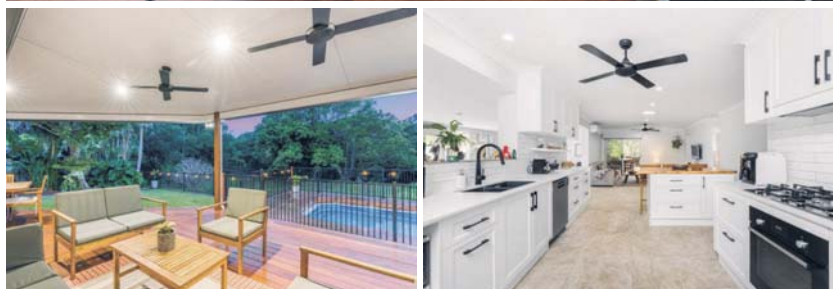
Central Mullumbimby beauty Circa 1910.

This beautiful 3 bedroom, 3 bathroom cottage is nestled in the Mullum town centre with all amenities within close walking distance

Helene Adams
0412 139 807
helene.adams@atlas.com.au

2/1 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
8311 6000
atlas.com.au

ATLAS



8 Hakea Court,
Mullumbimby

4 beds 2 baths 4 cars

Embracing the beauty of its secluded position, this adored home with pool, is expertly designed to offer abundant space, modern luxury and a warm vibrancy. It graces a sunny 870sqm block.

AUCTION ON SITE
Friday 1 September 2.30pm

WELCOME
Saturday 5 August 12.45-1.15pm

AGENTS
Heidi Last 0416 072 868
Stuart Aitken 0419 242 432

McGrath

129 PEARSON ROAD, ELTHAM

\$1,320,000



VICKI WAS EFFICIENT AND ORGANIZED, ALWAYS HELPFUL, ALWAYS AVAILABLE

Vicki gave useful info on preparing property for sale with attention to detail and design. She dealt well with inquiries and showing people over the house and walking with them on tracks through our rainforest. She communicated well with clients and solicitors during sale process, problem solving a couple of issues with creativity and good communication skills. It was a delight to work with such a friendly and skilled agent. - Rhonda (Vendor)



Lismore



Ballina



Peregian Beach



Vicki Cooper | 0418 231 955

vickicooper@atrealty.com.au | www.vickicooper.com

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5 GUMTREE PL, BANGALOW



3 2 2 628m2

OPEN HOUSE WEDNESDAY 2 AUGUST 12.45PM - 1.15PM
SATURDAY 5 AUGUST 9.45AM - 10.15AM

968 DUNOON RD, MODANVILLE



4 2 4 1309m2

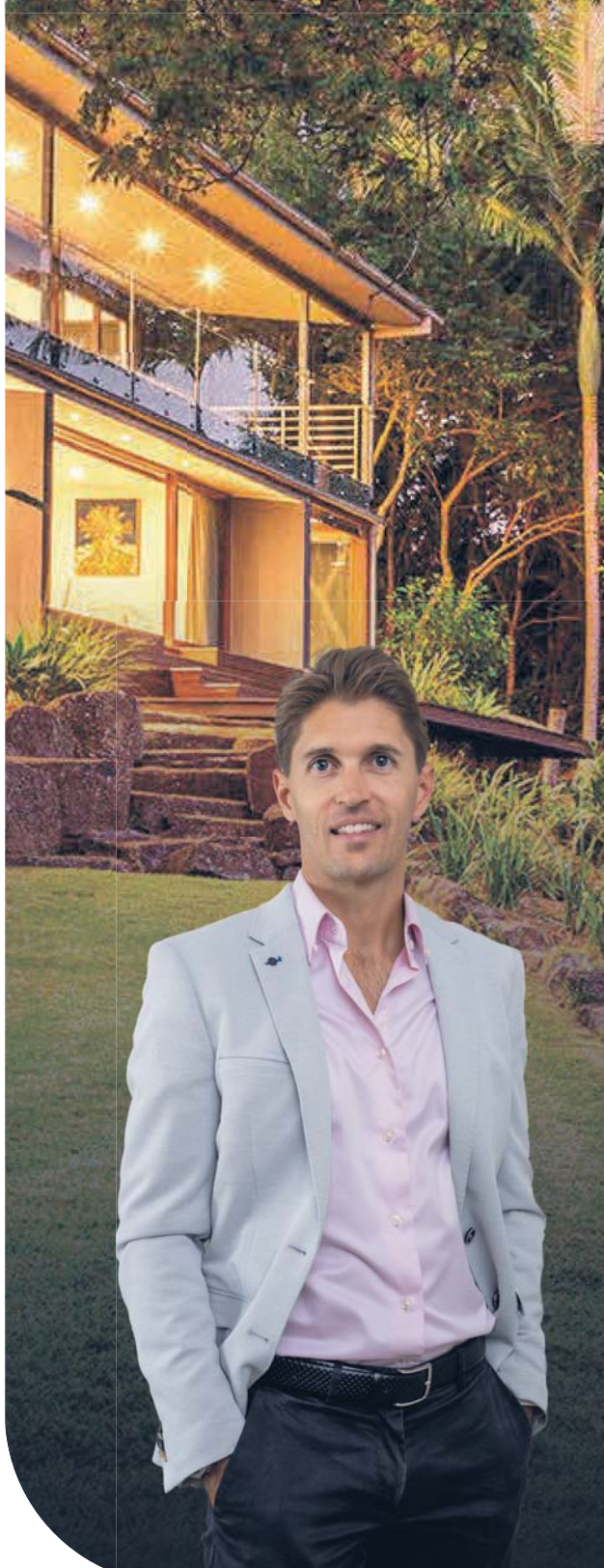
PRICE \$995,000
INSPECTION BY APPOINTMENT

amir prestige

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📍 1980 COOLAMON SCENIC DRIVE, MULLUMBIMBY



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15 DINJERRA PLACE, MULLUMBIMBY

First Time Ever to the Market!

3 2 2 3
671M²

ONLINE AUCTION | Starting Bid \$1.25M
ENDING | Tuesday 29th August, 11am
OPEN | Wed 2nd August 12:00-12:30pm
Sat 5th August 10:00-10:30am

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



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649



12 BRANDON STREET, SUFFOLK PARK

Quintessential Beach House - Beautifully Renovated plus Studio

5 2 3 2
664M²

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Sat 5th August 10:00-10:30am

Scan QR code for more details on this property



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594



28 BOUGAINVILLEA DRIVE, FEDERAL

Stunning Queenslander on a 1.34HA Private Hinterland Escape

4 2 2 2
1.34HA

PRICE | \$1.8m - \$1.95m
OPEN | Sat 5th August 9:00-9:30am

Scan QR code for more details on this property



Tara Torkola
0423 519 698



Sally Green
0488 030 116



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668



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 5th August 12:00-12:30pm

Scan QR code for more details on this property



Sally Green
0488 030 116



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668

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106 BEECH DRIVE, SUFFOLK PARK

Ultra-Modern Four-Bedroom Home plus Granny Flat and Rumpus/Studio

6 3 4 3

877M²

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | By Appointment

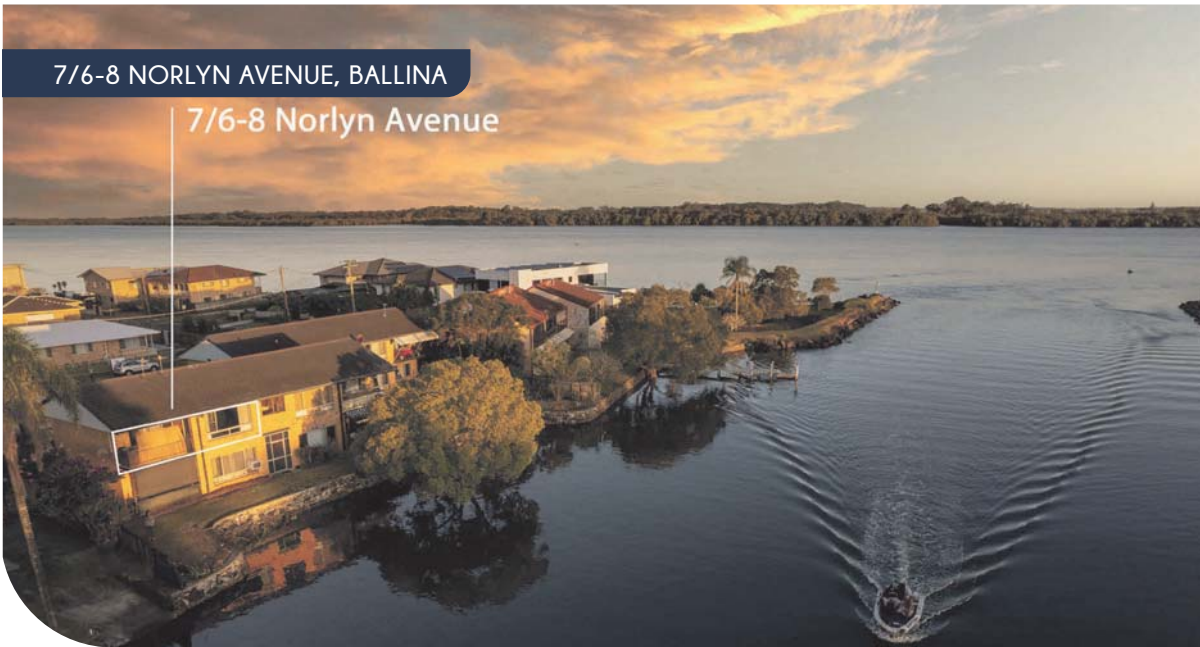
Scan QR code for more details on this property



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594



7/6-8 NORLYN AVENUE, BALLINA

7/6-8 Norlyn Avenue

Fantastic Waterside Two-Bedroom Apartment

2 1 1 1

ONLINE AUCTION | Starting Bid \$450K
ENDING | Wed 16th August, 2pm
OPEN | Sat 5th August 11:00-11:30am

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



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649



85 ARTHUR ROAD, CORNDALE

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

4 3 2 7

37 ACRES

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Sat 5th August 1:30-2:00pm

Scan QR code for more details on this property
*AGENT DECLARES INTEREST



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649



Paul Prior
0418 324 297



53 FIG TREE HILL DRIVE, LENNOX HEAD

Master Built Home on One Level with Ocean Views

3 2 2 2

2228M²

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Closing 03/08
OPEN | By Appointment

Scan QR code for more details on this property



Helen Huntly-Barratt
0412 332 232

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Land: 2400sqm



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 Kim Jones - Principal @ Kim Jones Property
 0414 629 924 | kim.jones@smileelite.com
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Ray White Byron Bay



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Byron Bay

Damien Smith

Sales Director

Ray White Byron Bay



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Director



Damien Smith
Director



April Nicolson



Brett Connable



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10B Sunray Crescent, Lennox Head

3 2 1

\$770 pw



This light filled well-designed townhouse in an elevated position on Epiq's 'Ocean Ridge' has quality inclusions including ducted air conditioning throughout the home.

The large lounge/dining room opens out onto the covered North facing patio for easy entertaining.

The kitchen is well positioned with plenty of cupboard space, gas cooktop and dishwasher.

The master bedroom has a walk-in-wardrobe and ensuite, the other two bedrooms have built-in-robos, the main bathroom with bathtub and shower, the toilet is separate to the bathroom.

Remote control garage with internal access into the home, a large lockable garden shed for additional storage.

Set in an elevated position with an easy short drive to the beach, shops and Epiq Marketplace, this home will be a delight to live in.

Pets considered on application.

Inspect: Call to arrange an inspection
Contact: Lynette Outerbridge on 0411 294 446 or jessica@c21alstonville.com



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Open For Inspection

Amir Prestige

- 13 Libby Lane, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am

Byron Shire Real Estate

- 2 Berrimillah Ct. Sat 10-10.30am
- 9 Quail Wy, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 15A Weeronga Wy, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 8 Bower St, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 67 Fingal St, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 8 Narragal Ct, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm

Century 21 Plateau Lifestyle Real Estate

- 3/33-35 Green St, Alstonville. Sat 9.30-10am

First National Byron Bay

- 64 Sunrise Blvd, Byron Bay. Wed 11-11.30am
- 15 Dinjerra Pl, Mullumbimby. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 18 Sunrise Blvd, Byron Bay. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 4 South Beach Rd, Brunswick Heads. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 160 Reardons Ln, Swan Bay. Thurs 11-12pm
- 41 Gordon St, Mullumbimby. Fri 11-11.30am
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Rd, Goonengerry. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 73 Lagoon Dr, Myocum. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 28 Bougainvillea Dr, Federal. Sat 9-9.30am
- 91 Beech Dr, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 3/75 Stewart St, Lennox Head. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/5 Chinbible Ave, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 12 Brandon St, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/37 Clover Hill Ct, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 15 Dinjerra Pl, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/31 Julian Rocks Dr, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 30 MacGregor St, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 38 Bangalow Rd, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7/6-8 Norlyn Ave, Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 36 Warrambool Rd, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 64 Sunrise Blvd, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 147 Whian Whian Rd, Whian Whian. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 3 Burns St, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 85 Arthur Rd, Corndale. Sat 1.30-2pm
- 56 Carlyle St, Byron Bay. Sat 2-2.30pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 94 Mellis Cct, Alstonville. Sat 9-9.30am
- 14/3-13 Sunset Ave, West Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 129 Ballina Rd, East Lismore. Sat 10-10.30am
- 150 Burnet St, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/5 Henry Philp Ave, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1106 -1108 Tamarind Dr, Tintenbar. Sat 10.15-10.45pm
- 2/14 Barrett Dr, Lennox Head. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 589 Ballina Rd, Goonellabah. Sat 11-11.30am
- 115 Burnet St, Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/51 Gibbon St, Lennox Head. Sat 11.30-12pm
- 5/14 Teraglin Pl, Ballina. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1 Bath St, Wardell. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 50a Presentation Cres, Cumbalum. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 50b Presentation Cres, Cumbalum. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 22 Karalauren Ct, Lennox Head. Sat 2-2.30pm

Mana RE

- 2 Clifford St, South Golden Beach. Sat 9.30-10am
- 20 Rosewood Ct, Lakewood. Sat 10.30-11.30am
- 163 Tandys Ln, Brunswick Heads. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 21 Pacific St, New Brighton. Sat 2-2.30pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 115 Stewarts Rd, Clunes. Sat 9-9.30am
- 680 Cawongla Rd, Larnook. Sat 9.30-10 am
- 6 Tristania St, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 38 Armstrong St, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 120 Parkway Dr, Ewingsdale. Sat 10.30-11am
- 58A Paterson St, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 78 Owenia Wy, Broken Head. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 30 Marvell St, Byron Bay. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 20 Burns St, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 8 Hakea Ct, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.45-1.15 pm
- 10 Banksia Pl, Mullumbimby. Sat 1.30-2pm
- 16/3 Pecan Ct, Suffolk Park. Sat 3-3.30 pm
- 33/12 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 3-3.30 pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 5 Gumtree Pl, Bangalow. Wed 12.45-1.15pm
- 5 Gumtree Pl, Bangalow. Sat 9.45-10.15am
- 447 Eltham Rd, Eltham. Sat 11-11.30am

North Coast Lifestyle Brunswick

- 6/20 Fingal St, Brunswick Heads. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2 Glendale Cres, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 11 Riverside Cres, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1 Byron St, New Brighton. Sat 10-10.45am
- 34 Gloria St, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 14 Goolara Ct, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.45am
- 111 Geles Rd, Upper Burringbar. Sat 12-12.30pm

Ray White Byron Bay

- 2/4 Cypress Ct, Byron Bay. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 48 Jacaranda Dr, Byron Bay. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 31 Beachcomber Dr, Byron Bay. Thurs 12-12.30pm
- 21 Carlyle St, Byron Bay. Thurs 1-1.30pm
- 39 Belongil Cres, Byron Bay. Fri 12.30-1pm
- 48 Jacaranda Dr, Byron Bay. Fri 2.30-3pm
- 11/183-205 Broken Head Rd, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 31 Beachcomber Dr, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 429 Wilsons Creek Rd, Wilsons Creek. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/4 Cypress Ct, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 65 Currawong Wy, Ewingsdale. Sat 11-11.30am
- 4 Argyle St, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 17 Argyle St, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 13 Argyle St, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.45-12.15pm
- 109-111 Broken Head Rd, Suffolk Park. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 21 Carlyle St, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm

Real Estate of Distinction

- 35-37 Edwards Ln, Kynnumboon. Fri 10.30-11am
- 40 Old Bangalow Rd, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 413 Crabbes Creek Rd, Crabbes Creek. Sat 11-11.30am

Ruth Russell Realty

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

AGENTS



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Connecting the Byron Shire Community

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- Retail Assistants -
- Drivers and Co-driver -
- Community Support Assistants -

MDNC is in needs of dedicated volunteers to be part of a big loving family. All skill sets welcome.

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Volunteer Coordinator
Mon-Fri
6684 1286

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Ads may be taken by phone on **6684 1777**

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

Ads can be lodged in person at the Mullum Echo office:

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

Ad bookings only taken during business hours: Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm. Ads can't be taken on the weekend. Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines
\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

DISPLAY ADS (with a border):

\$14 per column centimetre

These prices include GST.

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Prepayment is required for all ads.

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Presbyterian Hall



Corner of Cherry & Crane. Just behind the Presbyterian Church.



EVERICK HERITAGE

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
T: 02 9552 2944

Registrations must be received by phone or in writing by 9/8/2023.

READINGS

TAROT READINGS, BALLINA
30 mins \$60. 1hr \$90. 0447112700

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Could poetry ever be a matter for calculation? Could chess be inspired by a Muse? In this story two very different worlds collide.

David Lovejoy's book is available at *The Echo* office \$20

WANTED

LP RECORDS: good condition, no op shop crap! Matt 0401955052

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MASSIVE COLLECTIVE GARAGE SALE at The Paddock Project, 64 Argyle St, Mullumbimby. Sat 5 August, 8am-2pm. Live music, produce, secondhand goods.

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Applicant must be able to work at a fast pace, have 100% attention to detail, be extremely organised and tidy and be able to work independently.
This is a physically demanding job and you must have a driving licence. Immediate start in Federal.
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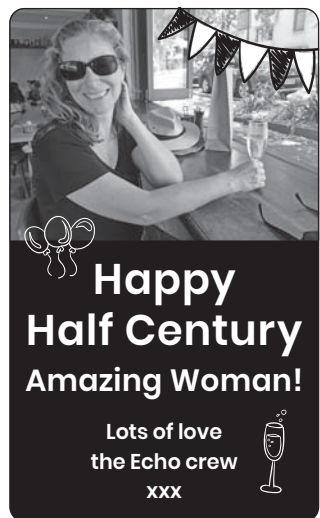
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BIRTHDAYS



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Love from the Echo crew



Happy Half Century Amazing Woman!
Lots of love the Echo crew
xxx

MUSICAL NOTES

GUITARS, RECORDS, HI-FI
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DEATH NOTICES

THOM Robert Francis (Bob)

24 July 2023 of Byron Bay, formerly of Glen Innes.

Aged 88
Beloved husband of Frances Lynette and much loved father of Tony, Louise and Nick, and father in law of Rae, Megan and Michelle. Grandpa Bob will be missed by Ricky, Ryan, Mia, Sienna and Miki. Robert was predeceased by siblings George, Margaret, Kath, Jack and Sr. Patricia.



PETS



Get your paws on our kittens & teens for just \$150! Love bugs to suit all are just waiting to be snapped up by you cat lovers. Unsure about adopting?
Pop on in to one of our adoption days & let our young felines purrswade you.
To meet our cats & kittens, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.
OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm, Thurs 3-5pm Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 0436 845 542

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AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R251000222

Bruiser is a 6 year old typical excitable English Staffy boy, who needs lots of human love and company. This affectionate boy will make a wonderful companion dog. Bruiser will need a daily walk and secure fencing. Bruiser is not suitable to be rehomed with other pets or young children.
M/C # 953010001248967
Please complete our online adoption expression of interest form:
friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/
or email Tracy at: johnsontracy832@gmail.com or call 07 5524 8590
Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)
6-month-old male Border Collie x Kelpie 'Kela' is a cutie sweetie clever affectionate boy who needs not only adequate exercise but continuing training and lots of mental stimulation.
He is initially shy with other dogs but then loves to play. He is good with children, cattle and cats but will chase chickens.
If you have a fenced property and can provide Kela with an appropriate lifestyle for a working-dog breed, contact **Shell on 0458 461 935**.
MC: 953010006015037



Princess Di is a real charmer. She has watched her six kittens go to forever homes, and now it is her turn. She is undemanding and a loving, quiet girl. She would prefer a sole companion, not that she is anti social, but because she prefers that special relationship. Being mostly white she is an indoor cat. A very special companion who will charm you.

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.
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SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (August)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
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	0546 0.24 1740 0.40
7	M	6:25 17:18	23:18 10:00	0006 1.55 1253 1.41	0629 0.30 1845 0.54
8	TU	6:24 17:19	00:51 10:34	0051 1.36 1358 1.42	0713 0.36 2005 0.65
9	W	6:23 17:19	02:21 11:11	0144 1.18 1509 1.44	0801 0.41 2140 0.69
10	TH	6:22 17:20	03:22 11:51	0253 1.05 1620 1.48	0858 0.45 2308 0.65
11	F	6:21 17:20	04:15 12:37	0415 0.99 1720 1.54	1000 0.46
12	SA	6:21 17:21	05:27 13:27	0527 1.00 1811 1.59	0011 0.57 1100 0.44
13	SU	6:20 17:21	06:21 14:21	0621 1.05 1854 1.63	0055 0.50 1153 0.40
14	M	6:19 17:22	07:04 15:17	0704 1.10 1932 1.67	0131 0.44 1238 0.36
15	TU	6:18 17:22	07:42 16:13	0742 1.15 2008 1.69	0204 0.39 1317 0.32
16	W	6:17 17:23	08:15 17:09	0815 1.20 2041 1.70	0234 0.36 1353 0.29

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

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

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

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

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

On The Horizon DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' to editor@echo.net.au.

Free hearing tests

Hearing Australia are offering free hearing tests at Byron Bay Library on Wednesday, 9 August 9.30-12.30pm. Bookings essential 6685 8540.

Baby/toddler drop-in centre and clothes swap

Free drop-in centre and baby/toddler clothes swap each Friday, 10am-2pm at the Mullumbimby CWA Hall, Cnr Tincogan and Gordon Streets. Join us for a free cuppa and biscuits and a chat with other mums and dads. Pick up some baby/toddler clothes and leave any pre-loved (but with plenty of life left) clothes to share with the community.

BV VIEW

Brunswick Valley VIEW Club will be having their 38th birthday on Thursday, 10 August at Brunswick Bowling Club, Brunswick Heads. Luncheon meeting starts at 10am. Apologies to Margie: 0412 246 310 or email: mageemak@gmail.com no later than Monday before.

AIRNCB

The next meeting of the Association of Independent Retirees North Coast Branch (AIRNCB) will be held on Friday, 4 August in the Ballina RSL Club, at 9.30 for 10.00am. Morning tea will be available at this meeting followed by our guest speaker, David Grosser, who will give us an insight into financial matters which should interest our members in retirement. Members and visitors are all welcome. The AGM was held last month. Mrs Jill Huxley is now the President and Bob Taylor is the Secretary. Many thanks to John Ritchie for the time and patience he put into many years of being President/Secretary. Any enquiries to Bob Taylor 6628 3401.

Food security

Interested in greater security for our food (and all related business activity) in the Northern Rivers? Join us for our next gathering on Wednesday, 2 August, 5.30-7.30pm to discuss solutions at The Farm, Byron Bay (white cottage on the lawn), 11 Ewingsdale Rd, Ewingsdale. More info: events.humanitix.com/localisation-byron-august-meetup. \$5 donation.

FOL and Writers Festival book event

Friends of Libraries (FOL) are pleased to be able to partner with Byron Writers Festival in bringing a joint literary event to be held in Byron at Marvell Hall on Thursday, 10 August from 12.30 to 3pm. Enjoy a fascinating talk by Susan Johnson about her book *Aphrodite's Breath* in conversation with the well known journalist Susan Wyndham. The book reveals a mother/daughter's relationship, and a Greek island adventure. Followed by a delicious afternoon tea provided by the

Bangalow CWA. Plus plenty of lucky door prizes. Bookings are essential at www.byronbayfol.com or by clicking on satellite events on the Writers Festival website. Tickets \$20 FOL members and \$25 non-members.

Teven-Tintenbar Country Fair

Join in the Teven-Tintenbar School Country Fair on 12 August, 9.30am until 2.30pm. Bring a rug and a chair and enjoy delicious food, entertaining performers, live music, an array of local produce, arts and craft, fair rides and much more! It's a fun-filled day for the whole family!

40 years of the Brunswick Valley Historical Society

Celebrate 40 years of the Brunswick Valley Historical Society, 19 August at 12noon. Meet at the back of the Machinery Shed. Tea and coffee will be available in the Reading Room from 10am. Past members are very welcome. RSVP: mullumbimbymuseum@gmail.com by 12 August.

NR Collectors Club

The Northern Rivers Collectors Club will be holding their 31st Antiques & Collectables Exhibition & Trading Fair at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre, Tumbulgum Road, on Saturday 12 August, 8.30am to 2.30pm. Entry: adults \$6, kids \$1. There will be a valuer in attendance. There will be thousands of items for sale, antiques, vintage, retro and modern. Proceeds from the day donated to Tweed Palliative Support Inc.

Byron author event

Graeme Gibson in conversation with Bob Brace discussing Graeme's book *In life there is luck and A pocket guide to memoir writing*, Thursday, 3 August 10-11am followed by morning tea. Bookings essential: 6685 8540.

Free Kirtan night

Free Kirtan night on Thursday, 3 August at the Byron Yoga Centre, 50 Skinners Shoot Road, Byron Bay from 7pm. No booking required.

Support group

The Shark Cage group program for women: Tuesday 1 August to 19 September, 10am-1pm. The Shark Cage program is an educational and empowering supportive group program for women who have experienced family/domestic and/or sexual violence in their lives. The program is eight weeks and facilitated by a qualified social worker. Women of all abilities and diversity are welcome. Please contact NORWACS 6621 9800 or womenshealth@norwacs.org.au.

Bangalow Heritage House Museum

The Bangalow Historical Society holds its monthly general meeting on the first Saturday of every month at Heritage House, 4 Ashton St, Bangalow, 9.30-11am. All welcome. The AGM is on 22 August with a guest speaker.

byron community college

ENROL NOW! Term 3 Courses

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RTO: 90013 02 6684 3374 byroncollege.org.au

byron community college

NEW TERM! ENROL NOW!

Mon 14 August

- Tech Savvy Seniors
- Laughter Yoga

Tues 15 August

- Sewing For Beginners

Weds 16 August

- Tech Savvy Seniors 2
- Sewing Level 2
- Photography (Personal Vision)

Thurs 17 August

- First Words Advanced

Fri 18 August

- Golf For Beginners
- Make Your Own Pottery Tea Set

Sat 19 August

- Welding Introduction
- Exploring Etching
- Behaviour & Response Training
- Lino Block Printing

Sun 20 August

- Welding Introduction

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Byron Beez qualify for State Cup

The Byron Bay Beez basketball U/16 girls' team has qualified for the NSW Division-1 State Cup after their grand final appearance in the North East Junior League.

The Beez had three junior representative teams qualify for the finals this season which were held in Tamworth on July 22-23.

The U/16 girls and boys teams and the U/18 girls all finished third after the rounds at Tamworth.

The teams went on to get wins in their first finals against the fourth-placed teams. The U/16 girls defeated Port Macquarie, and the other two teams defeated their Tamworth opponents.

But the U/18 girls lost their grand final against Central Coast 60-65.

Thea Mills-Crockford top scored for the Byron team with 17 points for the game.

The U/16 boys lost their grand final against Port Macquarie 70-84, with Seth Landers top scoring for Byron with 17 points as well.

The U/16 girls played their second final against the



The Beez U/16 girls will take on the State's best this weekend on the Central Coast. Photo supplied

second-placed Newcastle team and came out victorious 71-65, in a heart-stopper to get into the grand final.

Isabel Tieppo was the leading scorer for the game with a whopping 37 points for the Byron Beez in a very impressive display, and point guard Candice Pinto scored 24, including three clutch free throws in the final 25 seconds to win the game.

The girls then faced a strong Central Coast team who had been undefeated all season, in the grand final.

The Byron team put up a strong fight, but Central Coast ran away big winners with a final score of 45-98.

Tieppo and Pinto were again the top scorers for the team, with 16 and 17 points respectively.

'In all three games the girls played with a very high level of skill, determination and courage. Winning the first two finals in close games while having players unavailable and injured, showed how they work as a team to achieve a fantastic result. Thanks go to everyone who supported us,' Byron Beez head coach Gary Lucas said after the game.

The results qualified the team for the NSW State Cup to be held on the Central Coast this weekend.

Byron Shire get a rugby win over WAR

The Byron Shire Rebels produced a dynamic and fruitful second half of rugby in first grade to take their only win for the season against competition heavyweights Wollongbar Alstonville Rugby.

Byron struggled early in the first half as WAR scored two tries in five minutes, but a late try kept them in the contest as they went to the break 17-8.

From there it all went the way of the Shire Rebels, who were playing at home on the Byron Recreation Grounds, as they scored three unanswered tries, to run out winners 25-17.

WAR had plenty of ball and attacking chances but they lacked their normal finishing poise as they ran into the blue wall of defence from the Shire Rebels.

Despite the loss, WAR still sit on top of the competition ladder with 57 points, in front of the Shire Rebels (54), Casuarina (42) and Ballina (30).

In other first grade games Casino Bulls had a good



Tough defence underpinned a largely winning day for the Byron Shire Rebels last Saturday. Photo Vicki Kerry

34-26 win over Ballina, while Casuarina dominated Lismore 36-13.

Saturday afternoon got off to a good start for the local fans as second grade maintained their impressive winning record for the season, all but one game, by beating WAR 20-14.

The Shire Rebels second graders sit on top of the table with 58 points, ahead of

Casuarina (48), WAR (41) and Casino (31).

The only downside on the day was the Byron Shire women's team going down by two points, 19-17, in a hard fought game against Evans River.

The Shire Rebels and Evans sit together on the table with 16 points, behind Casuarina (43) and Lismore (32).

Byron Bay bowlers come second in Classic Fours

Byron Bay Bowling Club 'were proud runners-up' in the Ballina Classic Fours Carnival 2023 held on July 24-25.

Byron's team of Pat Bigg (skip), Julie Higgins, Mirtha Christian and Beverly Gawnd played solidly throughout the two-day tournament and came second overall.

Each player won \$250.

'This is an excellent effort from a small club competing against much bigger ones. Well done ladies and go the Bay,' BBBC's Pam Scarborough said.



Byron Bay women's four: L-R Julie Higgins, Bev Gawnd, Pat Bigg (Skip) and Mirtha Christian. Photo supplied

The deserving winners were a composite team from Iluka and Victoria, and they were happy to take home the top prize of \$1,200.

The competition included a total of 104 players, with

many travelling to compete.

The format was three games each day.

There were wonderful displays of bowling skills and all players enjoyed playing in Ballina.

Free training to become a local cricket umpire

In an effort to boost local umpiring numbers for the upcoming season, the Far North Coast Cricket Council have secured international umpire, Claire Polosak, to conduct free local training.

For those who have thought about being an umpire, this is a chance to get trained by one of the best umpires in the country, as well as getting the support to develop skills and experience in the game.

The FNCC is committed to providing at least one umpire for all local games of cricket, however, to achieve this ambitious goal, they need people to put up their hand for training.



Claire was the first woman to umpire a men's test match. Photo supplied

The level 1 training will be held at Ballina's Fripp Oval Clubhouse on Wednesday 9 August from 6pm to 9pm. The \$40 fee will be refunded when training is complete.

See: <https://bit.ly/FNCUmpireRego2023>

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

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Nadya Tolokonnikova's ex-husband is not dead, as incorrectly pointed out on last week's front page. He was poisoned, but recovered, unlike other Russian journalists and dissidents.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
The 11th annual Sample Food Festival is set to take to the Bangalow Showground on September 2. The region's top foodies will be there with a live cooking stage, masterclasses, kids activities and more. Visit samplefood-events.com.

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'If the Australian government started taxing oil and gas companies properly, like in Norway, Australians could have free university education. It's not that we can't afford it. It's that our governments haven't chosen to do it' - tweet by think tank, Australian Institute.

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Congrats Bluesfest, who have just won the Gold award in the Best Festival/Event category at the NSW North Coast Tourism Awards.

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Like Jeff Buckley's music? Local muso, John Dixon, and his band will be performing Buckley's music at the Bruns Picture House on August 20. Playing Buckley's sublime music is no easy feat, and the show has attracted rave reviews.

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'Whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter' - Third US president, Thomas Jefferson (1743-1826).

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
With residents contacting *The Echo* over antisocial



Spaghetti Circus's first new show in five years, *Monumental*, is gearing up for performances at the Brunswick Picture House from August 16 till 27. It's described as an 'ensemble-based work that explores the missing moments in history, the under-recognised achievements of scientists, social advocates, and artists'. Pictured is guest director, Spenser Inwood (A Good Catch Circus), with performers Jazzy, Jindi and Grace. Photo Jeff 'Stretchies' Dawson

behaviour and camping between Elements of Byron resort and the railway line in Belongil, Council staff provided a brief statement: 'Council's Enforcement team patrols this area daily and staff regularly issue fines'.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Homelessness Week, August 6-13, should really be renamed Inequality Week, because homelessness is just one result of Australia's ever-increasing social and economic divide.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
The latest land clearing data - Statewide Land and Tree Study - shows that land clearing continues to devastate large swathes of vegetation every year, says the Nature Conservation Council. It says in NSW alone, the equivalent of 640 football fields are cleared per day.

BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

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