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'Significant challenges' with sharing rail: report

Paul Bibby

Building a rail trail for bikes and pedestrians in the northern and western sections of the Byron rail corridor is far more feasible than attempting a mixed-use option that combines trains and a trail, an investigation commissioned by Byron Council has found.

In two reports coming before this week's Council meeting, engineering consultants Burchills explored the areas of the rail corridor north of Mullumbimby to Crabbes Creek and west of Bangalow to Booyong.

The investigations found that pursuing an option that combined rail with trail in these parts of the corridor presented significant challenges.

In particular, it found that endeavouring to keep the track itself available for rail use in these areas would significantly impede, and add to the cost, of building a rail trail for bikes and pedestrians.

Rail trail only findings

This was because, in spots where there are bridges, tunnels, and embankments, there is not enough space for both the rail line and a bike path, meaning that the latter would have to be diverted around.

As a result, it was recommended that Council instead implement only a rail trail in the northern and western sections of the corridor, and seek funding to achieve this aim.

The findings of the investigation adds further momentum to the ongoing campaign to use the entire Casino to Murwillumbah rail corridor for a Northern Rivers Rail Trail.

The trail, a pathway for cyclists and pedestrians, is already being progressively implemented; the section from Murwillumbah to Crabbes Creek opened earlier this year. With all other councils along the corridor, except Byron, indicating their support for a rail trail option, Byron has been left as the last Shire holding out for a return of trains to the tracks.

The Burchills investigation and report further erodes Byron Council's pro-train position, which has been gradually losing momentum during the current term of Council.

This is despite rail advocates recently securing access to the disused line for a line condition study. A similar study has also been approved for the area of line between Bangalow and Lismore.

Independent Byron councillor and train advocate, Peter Westheimer, said that the rail condition studies will show that it would be affordable to have rail with trail, contradicting the findings of the Burchills reports.

'Council should not have FOMO [fear of missing out] for not joining the rail trail bandwagon, but should be proud and glad like we are, as the only council in the Northern Rivers who choose not to fluoridate', Cr Westheimer told *The Echo*.

'We chose that path, despite the naysayers in the bureaucracy telling us we were making a big mistake, and it's the same situation now.'

Meanwhile, a petition started by Labor Cr Asren Pugh which calls for a rail trail to be built in Byron Shire, has attracted over 5,150 signatures.

Visit chn.g.it/VYkSHKNHF5 for more info on the petition.

Time to gear up for the heat



Blake, Eco, Marija and Justin at the SES depot in Mullumbimby.

Story & photo Eve Jeffery

Without the many rescue and recovery volunteers in the area, those devastated by last year's floods might be a lot worse off.

Volunteers from the Mullumbimby SES Unit were fully activated and on alert in February and March 2022, as waterways reached unprecedented levels and properties were inundated – people needed help.

The unit, whose brief is to help out during floods, storms and tsunamis, responded to approximately 800 calls for assistance from the community during 2022.

They are also called upon by other emergency services.

One of the silver linings of the events of 2022 was the influx of people wanting to volunteer with

the service, but more people are needed.

There is a job for everyone within the organisation, and those who think they might not be strong enough, or fit enough, may be surprised at the myriad of things they can do to help keep the service running smoothly.

Non-active roles

This includes being on the incident management team, community liaison, volunteer coordination, training and general administration.

Volunteer, Eco, who has been with the service for about five years, says that volunteer numbers doubled from 15 since 2022, but they need more.

He says, 'We have a lot of

administration roles that we still need help with. Especially with community engagement.'

Justin, who has been with the service for just over a year, is a double lung transplant recipient, and says that he wanted to show that People With Disability (PWD) are welcome to join the service.

He says, 'There are a number of people who have a wide gamut of disabilities who volunteer. I want to show that there is actually a role for everyone.'

The Mullumbimby unit also has an even representation of males and females.

If you want to become part of this great team that supports the community in times of need, you can join the SES by visiting: www.ses.nsw.gov.au/volunteer.

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Richard Jones has a vision ► p10

Edward Herring returns! ► p12



Home and garden ideas to make your space ► p21

Fire up it's footy finals time ► p43

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Nicholas Shand
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 Founding Editor

The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.
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 'The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' - Finley Peter Dunne 1867-1936
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Bangalow field upgrade before Council

Paul Bibby

The major upgrade of the Bangalow sports fields is set to take a significant step forward this week, with the final plans for the site to come before Byron Shire Council for adoption.

But some community members may not be entirely enamoured with the plans, after key changes requested by the community hit the cutting room floor.

The \$17 million redevelopment will include a series of significant improvements, including an upgraded centrally-located all-in-one amenities block with change rooms, clubhouse and canteen, and the addition of two netball courts.

There will also be an upgraded children's playground and a new walk/cycle path connection between showgrounds and sports-fields, including a bridge across Byron Creek.

In their report to councillors, contained in this week's Council agenda, staff said the Plan of Management (PoM) for the fields had been 'prepared to be as flexible as possible, recognising the



Bangalow sports fields. Photo supplied

constraints associated and to allow it to meet current community sporting and Council needs'.

That the project is of interest to the local community was evidenced by the 200-plus submissions from the community, including multiple comments from local clubs.

Final plans largely unchanged

However, most of their requests for changes to the draft plan were not included, with the final plans largely unchanged from those which were placed on public exhibition earlier this year.

Staff said the flexibility in plans requested by

a significant number of community members was 'primarily around things that cannot be achieved'.

They also said that the community's desire for the amenities block to be larger could not be accommodated, because there was only one possible location owing to flooding,

Correction on MP's comments

Further to last week's story around Council's housing targets, local MP, Tamara Smith, was incorrectly quoted around housing and planning reforms.

She does not support Council's planning reforms, and said, 'I don't support DPE imposing city-centric

and access and because the available footprint is too small.


'It is suggested that the playground could move to accommodate a bigger building, but this would enable only a marginal increase of building footprint', staff said.

'It is also not desirable to constrain the configuration of fields any further by building amenities between playing fields.'

A plan to move the playground was also rejected after consultation with the community did not recommend either relocation of the playground or an increase in size. The matter will come before this Thursday's full Council meeting for discussion and debate by councillors.

and cookie-cutter models of planning instruments on us'.

She said, 'I continue to advocate on behalf of Byron Shire Council and people in our communities on the matter of STRA. I believe we are very close to getting a cap per the IPC recommendations and that is my focus'.







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Classical passion ignites Bangalow

The 20th Bangalow Chamber Music Festival filled the Byron hinterland with beautiful classical music over the weekend, again drawing audiences to hear the Southern Cross Soloists, and leading Australian and international soloists.

Artistic director, Tania Frazer, said apart from the musicians welcomed back, ten world-class artists made their debut appearances at the festival.

They are concert pianist Konstantin Shamray, violinists Alexandra Osborne and Courtenay Cleary, cellists Rachel Siu and Hyung Suk Bae, SXS horn player Nick Mooney, sopranos Suzanne Kompass and MSVS 2023 recipient, Nina Korbe, violinist Meagan Turner, and clarinetist and instrument maker extraordinaire, Linsey Pollak.



Courtenay Cleary and James Wannan at Saturday afternoon's recital of Ross Edward's 'Emerald Crossing', at Bangalow's A&I Hall, as part of this year's Bangalow Chamber Music Festival. Photo Jeff Dawson

Will Council become manager of Feros land?

Paul Bibby

Could the Feros Village aged care facility in Byron Bay be saved from closure by another aged care provider stepping in to take over running the facility?

Moves are afoot this week to try and make this possibility a reality, offering a lifeline to the residents that remain at the home, and a glimmer of hope for their families and the wider community.

The *Echo* understands that representatives of the nine residents who still reside at the Marvell Street home have been in quiet discussions with another provider about taking over the lease for the site.

Redevelopment claims

The lease is currently held by Feros Care, which has announced that it is closing the facility in order to undertake a major redevelopment of the home, turning it into 'affordable accommodation for the aged'.

Feros says that the facility was designed and built as a low-care hostel 33 years ago and cannot meet modern obligations and requirements of residential aged care.

But the company's justification for closure has been strenuously disputed by the remaining residents, and the wider community including Byron Council, who say it is little more than a flimsy

excuse for closing the facility and undertaking a lucrative redevelopment.

EOI process

It has now emerged that the NSW minister for lands and property, who has ultimate responsibility for the land on which the facility stands, has offered the services of his department to conduct an expression of interest (EOI) process to test potential interest from other aged care providers to take over the running of the home.

'If Council is interested in such a process, please advise the department,' said Minister Steve Kamper in a letter to Council on August 7.

In a motion coming before this week's Council meeting, Mayor Michael Lyon has moved that Council agree to support the EOI.

'Residents' representatives have indicated that there are other service providers interested in operating Feros Village though no formal offers have been made as of yet,' Cr Lyon said.

'An EOI process would put beyond doubt the question of whether there are other aged care service providers interested in the site or not.'

Loss of confidence

'Also, it is clear from feedback to councillors, that the community has lost confidence in Feros Care after the way they treated the residents and tried to make decisions about

future redevelopment of the reserve without consulting residents, community, Council or Crown Lands.

'That loss of confidence should be a trigger for testing the market.'

Running in parallel with discussions around an EOI process, is a conversation about the possibility of Council taking over from the Department of Lands as the Crown Lands Manager for the Marvell Street property.

Alternative operator

Back in June councillors voted to explore this option, which would see it effectively become the site's landlord, giving it the power to bring in an alternative operator for the site.

In his letter to Council, Mr Kamper said his department was 'open to working with Council to expedite its

transition as CLM' (Crown Lands Manager).

Mr Kamper also indicated in the letter that his department was willing to work with Council in relation to its offer to take over as the Crown Lands Manager of the site.

In-principle support

Any decision by Council to take over as the landlord for the site is unlikely to be undertaken lightly, as it would involve extra burdens on Council's already-underrun coffers, and its overstretched staff.

Back in June, Council indicated 'in-principle support' only for the takeover, with multiple councillors indicating that they only supported this option as a last resort.

The matter will come before Council on Thursday.

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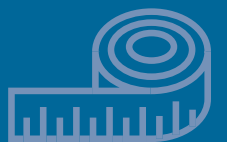


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Crabbes Creek kulcha day this Sat

A deadly day and night of ceremony, dance, language, music, theatre and yarning around the fire is planned this Saturday August 26, at Crabbes Creek Hall.

Organisers say the adult and jarjums (kids) program will include a variety of craft sessions, spear making, weaving, and jewellery making.

Bundjalung artists

Kulcha programs also include language and bush tucker workshops, including an art exhibition in the hall featuring local Bundjalung artists. There will also be live music throughout the day and night across two stages.



Mitch King applies ochre to Uncle Colin Appo, while Kerz Lake looks on. Photo Jeff Dawson

Co-organiser, Dave Houston said, 'This event is a fundraiser, with donations going towards building a Minjungbal Bundjalung Healing

Centre on Country, which will be a purpose-built cultural building to address trauma and mental health challenges in our community.'

Calling for film buff vollies

The Byron Bay Film Festival (October 20-29) is calling for film-lovers, and those interested in the world of filmmaking, to join the team to help make the upcoming festival a success.

Festival Director J'aimee Skippon-Volke, told *The Echo*, 'Volunteers are the backbone of the festival, with the permanent team boosted by people from

all walks of life who come together to share their experience, energy and skills to help build one of Australia's favourite film events.'

'Without their enthusiasm and dedication, we wouldn't be able to present what has become a "must attend" event for independent Australian and global filmmakers and our enthusiastic, intelligent audience.

'If you're a film-lover with a passion for supporting filmmakers and have some free time, we'd love to hear from you. In return, volunteers are guaranteed an amazing experience, with insights into event-staging and filmmaking, and access to the world of contemporary cinema', J'aimee says.

To apply, visit bbff.com.au/work-with-us.

Feds announce upscaled housing policy

A 'Planning Reform Blueprint' was released by the federal Labor government last week, which aims to deliver more housing supply and provide greater protection for renters.

The media release claims that National Cabinet agreed to an 'ambitious new national target to build 1.2 million new well-located homes over five years, from 1 July 2024'.

'This is an additional 200,000 new homes above the National Housing Accord target agreed by states and territories last year'.

Within the media release, the federal government says it will allocate \$3 Billion for the New Home Bonus, 'for states and territories that

achieve more than their share of the one million well-located home target under the National Housing Accord'.

'This ambitious target will be supported by the Housing Support Program, a \$500 million competitive funding program for local and state governments to kick-start housing supply'.

Council strategic plans to be updated

Additionally, state, regional and local strategic plans will be updated, to 'reflect their share of housing supply targets'.

Medium and high-density housing will be 'promoted'

in 'well-located areas, close to existing public transport connections, amenities and employment; and streamlining approval pathways'.

'A better deal for renters' was also announced, 'to harmonise and strengthen' the rights of 'almost one-third of Australian households who rent'.

Grounds for eviction

The deal includes 'developing a nationally consistent policy to implement a requirement for genuine reasonable grounds for eviction; moving towards limiting rent increases to once a year; and phasing-in minimum rental standards'.

Liberty Tree planting as part of Sunday's Grow Fest

A planting ceremony in support of Iranian women and their struggle for freedom and justice will be held at Grow Fest, this Sunday August 27 from 9am till 5pm at the Mullum Community Gardens.

Grow Fest will feature wellbeing classes, DIY food, medicinal and gardening workshops, regen walks, storytelling, and food swaps.

Co-organiser, Gina Lakosta, told *The Echo*, 'The Liberty Tree is a project that is happening globally under the auspices of local Iranian communities'.

'Local Iranian woman, Djamileh, has been working with the gardens, and has donated

the pomegranate trees for the planting. Iranian people will be travelling up from Sydney for the 2pm planting ceremony'.

'Fun and frolic for all ages'

'The Grow Fest is focusing on hands-on workshops, encouraging participants to come and learn skills in the garden, and ways to process seasonal plants both culinary and medicinal. Of course we have plenty of fun and frolic for all ages'.

The Mullum Community Gardens are located at 156 Stuart Street, Mullum. Entry by donation.

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We'd like your feedback on the Byron Shire Events Findings Paper.

We've been gathering local event industry insights as we develop an Events Strategy to guide the running of small to medium events in our Shire.

The Byron Shire Events Findings Paper captures these conversations as well as further research and will inform the draft Events Strategy. To see if we are on the right track, we would like your feedback.

See our website to:

- learn more about the project
- read the Findings Paper
- provide your feedback via the online survey

Feedback closes Sunday 10 September 2023.

More information



🌐 www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Your-Say-Byron-Shire/Events-Strategy

☎ 02 6626 7000

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Credo a success



Pianos for the People, in partnership with The Paddock, presented CREDO on Saturday. The sold out show was a 'multi-arts manifesto', and featured Yantra de Vilder and the Ephemera Choir. The installation of 15 pianos, donated to flood-affected homes and public spaces in the region, was also celebrated. Photo Jeff 'Multi-Artsy Festy Man' Dawson

ASIC points to improving tardy insurance payouts

Corporate regulator, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC), is calling on general insurers to improve their claims-handling practices and resourcing, after their review of home insurance claims found weaknesses across five key areas.

ASIC says its report, *Navigating the storm: ASIC's review of home insurance claims*, assessed claims-handling practices

to coincide with the commencement of general insurers' obligation to manage claims efficiently, honestly and fairly from January 2022.

Identified areas

The review looked at data from more than 218,000 claims lodged between January and March 2022 from six insurers that cover 63 per cent of the Australian home insurance market.

Five areas for improvement were identified: 'better communication with consumers about decisions, delays and complications; better project management and oversight of third parties; better recognition and management of expressions of dissatisfaction and complaints; better identification and treatment of vulnerable consumers; and, better resourcing of claims-handling and dispute resolution functions.'

Main Arm residents safe after being lost at sea

Paul Bibby

It is unlikely that Wayne Weisse will ever be more relieved to hear the words 'Hi Dad' than when he first spoke to his daughter Stephanie on August 15.

Ms Weisse, who lives in Main Arm, was one of four surfers who were lost at sea off the coast of Sumatra for nearly two days after their boat sank in a severe storm.

After finally being found floating in the ocean on a surfboard, Ms Weisse was finally able to call home on a satellite phone.

'It was about 11am on Tuesday...,' says Mr Weisse.

'I knew it was the satellite phone from the catamaran that was out looking for them... I knew the number that came up...'

'Grant [the owner of the catamaran] said, 'I've got someone here to talk to you', and then I just heard Steph's voice... she said "Hi Dad, I'm okay".'

'They were the best words ever.'

At that stage, rescuers



Elliot Foote, left, and Stephanie Weisse, centre. Photo supplied

were still looking for Ms Weisse's partner, Elliot Foote, who also lives in Main Arm.

They found him about 90 minutes later, meaning that all four Australians had been rescued safe and sound.

Tragically, one of the Indonesian crew members was never found and it is now believed he did not survive the sinking.

Ms Weisse and Mr Foote were part of a group of 17, including 12 Australians and five Indonesians, that had been travelling from Nias Island to Pinang Island in two boats when they hit bad weather. The boat of ten decided to shelter on Sarang Alu island, while the

other wooden speedboat went ahead.

According to a report in *The Guardian*, Peter Foote, Elliot's father, said 'the boat was hit by a large wave during a "really bad storm" and everyone was thrown into the water.'

'They all grabbed floatation devices and surfboards and they were huddling together.'

Stephanie moved to the Northern Rivers after university to study permaculture at Byron Community College.

Wayne and Jill Weisse purchased a home in Main Arm in 2018.

Elliot, a carpenter, has been living in Main Arm for a couple of years.



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Earthenware open day

Ceramicist Gregory Ferney's Villa Rustica pottery studio in Brooklet was one of 20 ceramics studios that opened their doors to the public during last weekend's Mud Trail. The trail covered Byron, Ballina and Lismore shires. Photo Jeff 'Off The Trail, Covered In Mud' Dawson

Elements of Byron undertakes large solar project

North Byron Beach Resort management say they have embarked on an ambitious solar project that they believe is not only the largest solar project in the Northern Rivers, but the largest for any hotel or resort in Australia.

Development Director, Jeremy Holmes, says the resort has been working with Gold Coast-based Redx solar technology company to come up with a plan to supply power to both the

Elements of Byron Resort and the Byron Solar Train.

He says, 'Like everyone else, our electricity bills have increased considerably in the past year. For the resort alone, we are paying in the order of \$70,000 a month for energy, and that's with our existing considerable solar array, which is now eight years old. The plan is to halve that bill.'

He says the new solar array and battery system

is expected to reduce Elements of Byron's power bill by \$400,000 a year, and provide \$63,000 annually in carbon credits.

'The \$1.375 million system involves 2,045 individual solar panels on the villa roofs, and 1,100kw of battery capacity.'

The system will use AI software to reduce peak demand, 'which is a large portion of the power bill', said Holmes.



Feedback to develop our Business, Industry and Visitor Economy Strategy

We are developing a Business, Industry and Visitor Economy Strategy to provide a clear direction for a resilient, adaptable, and sustainable economy.

From February to August 2023, we conducted research, focus groups sessions, interviews, and discussions.

To see if we are on the right track with key elements of the strategy, we'd like your feedback on the economic goals and context for our Shire as well as the role of Council.

See our website to:

- learn more about the project
- watch the short video summary
- download the Byron Shire Economic Summary
- provide your feedback via the short online survey

Feedback closes Sunday 3 September 2023.

More information



www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Your-Say-Byron-Shire/Business-Industry-and-Visitor-Economy-Strategy-Events-Strategy

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Former Shell executive, Ian Dunlop, speaks August 30

Richard Hil

It's clear that the world is indeed boiling and that climate-related records are being smashed with alarming regularity.

Warnings have not been heeded, greenhouse gas emissions are still rising, and feedback loops and multiple effects have kicked in.

We've already gone beyond some tipping points. Tens of millions of people have been impacted. And it's set to get a whole lot worse.

We can't duck and dive around this any longer. Surveys by the Climate Council show that most Australians have direct experience of extreme weather events and they're terrified of what the future holds.

And yet, according to the next Facing Up speaker, Ian Dunlop, the government is failing to provide the full facts about the nature, scale and consequences of the climate emergency. In fact, along with fossil fuel corporations, they're a core part of the problem.



Ian Dunlop. Photo supplied

As a former senior executive of Royal Dutch Shell and chair of the Australian Coal Association, Ian Dunlop knows a thing or two about how governments and corporations manoeuvre around climate issues. He's seen close up the obfuscation, the deceit, the suicidal pursuit of profit.

In a recent opinion piece for online magazine, *Pearls and Irritations*, Dunlop and his Australian Security Leaders Climate Group colleagues note the Albanese government's obsession with militarisation, and the fudging of the most direct threat to organised human existence; namely, climate breakdown.

'Any government's primary responsibility', say the authors, 'is to ensure the real security of the people.'

'That means international climate emergency mobilisation now, built around unprecedented global cooperation, not militarisation.

'We're staring at planetary disaster', say Dunlop et al, and on current trends, there's little prospect of avoiding this outcome.

'Time has run out', they say, 'mass community action is now essential to force leaders to face reality. Climate change can no longer be treated as just another item on the political agenda. If we are to have a future, it is the agenda.'

In conversation with academic, climate activist and Plan C CEO, Jean Renouf, Ian will reflect on his time in the fossil fuel industry, his shift to climate activism, and how we might live in a transformed world.

Join them on Wednesday August 30 at the Brunswick Picture House from 6pm.

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Update: Council says it will be reporting on this matter (Council Resolution # 22-701 due 30/6/23) on 24th August. WATCH THIS SPACE!

1

Council will audit its own properties for use as crisis and transitional accommodation

2

Council will streamline the process to make it easier for Council properties to be used for accommodation by amending the Housing SEPP.

For more details, www.facebook.com/oneroof2481/

Also, open this link & scroll down to 13.11: (Our Proposal also there)

https://byron.infocouncil.biz/Open/2022/12/OC_15122022_AGN_1481_WEB.htm

Update on flood repair projects

Work is progressing on the reconstruction of Federal Drive, say Council staff, with the focus on stabilising the landslip prior to rebuilding the road.

'This involves slope reshaping and revegetation, drilling and grouting for soil anchors into the deeper, more stable material.'

Staff say other areas where temporary repair work has been completed include Huonbrook Road, Upper Wilsons Creek Road and Wilsons Creek Road.

Byron Runners Club recognised

Off The Street On Our Feet, a group who have experienced homelessness firsthand, and who just recently ran in the Gold Coast Half Marathon, have presented a framed and signed singlet to the Byron Bay Runners Club.

Founder, Mat Broster, told *The Echo* the presentation last week was 'very powerful, meaningful and emotional for all the runners and rough sleepers. The Byron Bay Runners are a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to running both competitively and socially.'



The team of runners, including the Byron Bay Runners Club, Fletcher Street Cottage staff and five service users/runners. Photo River Henricks-Armytage

JD Property Group lodges DA for 22 apartments in Byron CBD

Twenty-two apartments and commercial shops are slated for where the Secret Garden is located on Jonson Street, Byron Bay.

DA 10.2023.235.1, proposed by local developer Jason Dunn (JD Property Group), is estimated to cost just over \$23 million. If approved, it would include 85 basement car parking spots (retail and residential).

As part of the DA, Council requested a flood information certificate.

Dunn's planning consultants provided the certificate

in the DA, which was 'sourced from Belongil Creek Flood Risk Management Plan (BMT WBM, March 2015).'

The Echo asked staff whether the certificate relied on 2015 data, or if the 2022 flood levels were included.

Chris Larkin, Manager Sustainable Development, replied, 'The flood certificate for the site of this proposed development is based on the adopted flood levels for planning purposes.'

'The certificate provides information for landowners and developers in relation

to the current minimum standards they have to comply with for any relevant development application.'

Larkin added that the DA 'has not been assessed or determined by staff yet'.

For more info, visit www.119-123jonson.com.au

Meanwhile, JD Property Group's mixed commercial and residential precinct, located at the southern end of Jonson Street, was the 2023 winner in the Excellence in Boutique Development Category at the NSW Urban Development Institute of

Australia (UDIA) awards.

Dunn says, 'We are honoured to have Jonson Lane win such a prestigious award.'

'It's an acknowledgement of the talented people here in Byron. There were more than 300 people that worked on the project, and we'd like to thank each of them.'

'We'd like to thank our neighbours for their patience during construction, and the broader community for their continued support of the incredible commercial tenants that bring Jonson Lane to life.'

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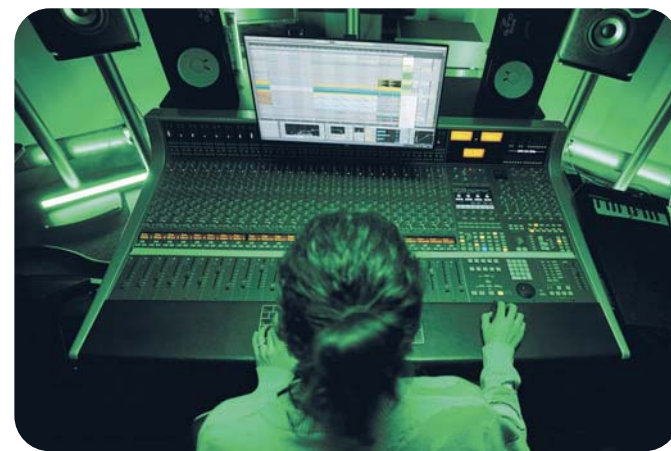
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Echo

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

Koala joey photo exhibition in Ballina

Photographer Brad Mustow has teamed up with Friends of the Koala to share an exhibition of his wonderful pictures of baby koalas at the Creative Artisans Gallery in Ballina this month, with money raised from the sale of framed prints and postcards going to help the iconic but threatened marsupials.

Greater control and equitable distribution needed after 2022 floods

The need for community involvement and more money to be directed towards the flood recovery across the Northern Rivers was a key call from last Friday's Northern Rivers flood conversation that took place at the Star Court Theatre in Lismore.

Tweed community calls on Justine Elliot to support an end to native forest logging

Local forest and wildlife protectors gathered at Richmond MP Justine Elliot's office in Tweed Heads on Friday to call for immediate protection of remaining public native forests.

Ballina bike safety in the spotlight

Ballina Shire Council has been spotlighting safety on bikes.

Tweed Council encourages connection to combat conflict

Tweed Shire Council is encouraging residents to get to know their neighbours as part of a new campaign aimed at tackling a rising number of neighbourhood disputes across the Tweed.

Calls for accountability on flood response

With the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) now subsumed into the newly formed Reconstruction Authority (RA), there still remains confusion and uncertainty from flood-affected residents who were promised funding, currently breeding.

www.echo.net.au

Council defers decision on controversial Tweed Heads DA

Aslan Shand

The controversial clearing of the 60 Tringa Street development site in Tweed Heads was once again back before Tweed Shire Council (TSC) on Thursday, 17 August as the developer sought to 'modify the current consent'.

The developer, MAAS, is seeking a 'modification' to the development application (DA) to 'shift the subdivision development area north... [and] relocate the permanent access from the southern boundary to the northern boundary of subdivision'.

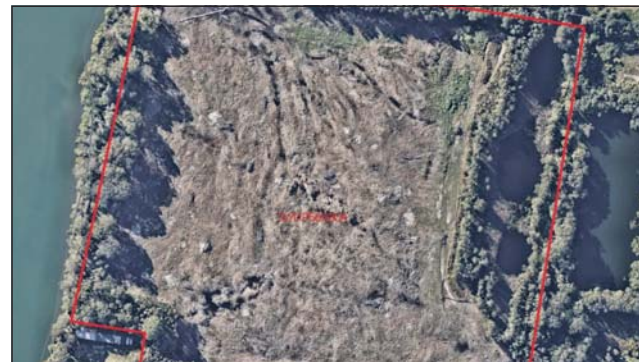
As part of the original approval in 1996 the developer was required to purchase Council land for a dedicated road, which they did in 2000, however, they have never built the road on the southern boundary. In May 2019 Tweed councillors sought 'detailed specifics of the access road...' but this was never provided.

Dubbo-based developer MAAS purchased the 27-year-old legacy/zombie DA site, that has approval for a 37-lot subdivision on the flood-prone land, last year. In March and April they unlawfully accessed the site via Tringa Street and cleared it; including vegetation communities listed under federal and state legislation as Endangered Ecological Communities that were subject to development consent approval conditions.

DA breaches

Local residents have been detailing the history of the development to councillors and staff highlighting a range of breaches of the Tringa Street DA and other unlawful activities.

'To date the former developer got off scot-free with the unlawful access from Tringa St. In 2003, in a desperate attempt to stop the lapsing of the consent, the majority of councillors approved a retrospective



Clearing at 60 Tringa Street, South Tweed Heads. Image Tweed Council agenda

amendment to allow the completion of those works,' explained Lindy Smith, president of the Tweed District Residents and Ratepayers Association.

'The current developer has got off scot-free again for the unlawful access from Tringa St along with significant other breaches of the current development consent,' Ms Smith told *The Echo*.

'On securing a permit and approval from the state government they barged in the via the unlawful access from Tringa St and moonscaped

the subject site under a plan that is substantially different [from the approved DA] and not approved.'

Legal advice

Following site visits and further information, the Tweed councillors decided last night that they would defer the decision on the 'modifications' and seek further legal advice.

'There's been a lot of toing and froing on this report... and there's a lot of legal questions at this point about how to move forward,' said Mayor Chris Cherry.

The councillors decided that a meeting between Council staff, councillors and Council's legal service providers was necessary before they could make a decision on the proposed modification.

Substantially different DA

'Councillors are to be commended for their resolution on this matter yesterday,' said Ms Smith.

'It is unconscionable for councillors to be expected to make decisions without proper and full information. The subject "amendment application" was seriously flawed, and included a site plan that is not the approved plan. Then the matter became so much more serious with revelations in a report that was taken out of "confidential" and moved into open Council.'

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

Ballina to reduce plastic litter by 30%

Mia Armitage

The Ballina Shire has less than 18 months to reduce its plastic litter by nearly a third under a new target adopted by councillors last month.

Councillors at the July ordinary meeting voted unanimously in support of Council staff's amended Illegal Dumping and Prevention Strategy.

Other headline targets in the strategy include a decrease of 30 per cent in illegal dumping incidents by 2028 and a 60 per cent reduction in all litter by 2030.

The Council has identified six 'priority litter issues'.

These include cigarette butts, packets, and lighters;

takeaway-related items; cans, glass and plastic containers; and discarded fishing line and tackle.

They also include 'other' related items such as unidentifiable hard and soft plastics, cloth, gum, metal/foil, foam, wood, food and 'hazardous' material such as syringes, condoms, bandaids, and dog poo.

Preventing micro-plastics entering waterways is also identified as a priority.

Staff said in agenda notes on the strategy that they had introduced litter targets and extended the Council's illegal dumping target in response to submissions received

during public exhibition of the draft strategy.

Another key amendment was to investigate the option of providing a courtesy ute and/or trailer to help residents move large and bulky waste items to the waste management facility.

Tip vouchers

'While some residents would like a tip voucher service, we ask ratepayers if they would be prepared to pay for it on an ongoing basis regardless of whether the voucher is used,' agenda notes read.

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

Mystery surrounds critically injured man – Teven

NSW Police are appealing for information after a man was found critically injured on Saturday night (19 August) near Teven.

Emergency services were called to Eltham Road, Teven, at about 9.30pm Saturday and found the 43-year-old man suffering multiple injuries.

Information of dashcam footage

He was treated at the scene by NSW Ambulance paramedics before being airlifted to Gold Coast Hospital, where he's reported to be in a critical condition.

Detectives from Richmond Police District are now investigating the circumstances surrounding how the man came to be injured.

Police have been told the man and a woman, aged 25, are believed to have been at the Eltam Hotel about 4pm Saturday; emergency services were called to treat the injured man about five hours later. That woman is assisting police with inquiries.

Detectives are asking anyone with information – or dashcam vision – they believe could assist investigators to contact Ballina Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

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Committee's calls to retain Mullum's local water supply rejected by Council staff

Hans Lovejoy

A member of a committee that advises Byron Council on water and sewer issues says she is concerned that Council staff are bypassing community consultation and water and sewer committee advice, and are again pushing to connect Mullumbimby's water supply to Rocky Creek dam, which is managed by water utility, Rous.

While other Byron Shire towns are connected to the dam, Mullum's water is managed by Council, and is supplied from Laverty's Weir in Wilsons Creek.

Within Report No. 14.4 of the upcoming August 24 Council meeting, Dominika Tomanek, Executive Assistant Infrastructure Services, recommends that Council does not adopt the committee recommendation, but instead adopts the management recommendation: 'That Council permanently connects the Mullumbimby Water Supply to Rous as the Council's Bulk water supplier'.



Laverty's Weir in Wilsons Creek. Photo supplied

Tomanek claims that Mullumbimby's supply is currently at capacity under the revised climate change modelling criteria.

'Therefore, delaying and holding up a decision to permanently connect to Rous is putting future development and current users at risk. In the event of the last natural disaster, where Mullumbimby ran out of water, the permanent connection would ensure this risk was mitigated'.

But water engineer and community member on the Water and Sewer (W&S) Advisory Committee, Elia Hauge, told *The Echo*, 'Byron Council and the W&S Advisory Committee (made

up of four councillors and four community members) have both passed resolutions to investigate an off-stream storage for Mullumbimby's water supply'.

'Back in May 2021, the Advisory Committee was presented a ready-to-finalise report recommending that Mullumbimby be permanently connected to Rous Water. It was clear that the consultant's values - not the community's values - had dictated decision-making. The consultant also works for Rous Water. Four options were examined for Mullumbimby: "do nothing", groundwater, an off-stream storage taking water from our

existing supply but storing it in a new location, and permanent connection to Rous Water'.

Hauge said, 'The Committee felt the off-stream storage was the most appropriate option for our community. In this time of rolling climate crises, an important principle for resilient water supply is diversity of sources'.

'Permanent connection to Rous puts all the Shire's eggs in one basket, leaves us at the mercy of Rous's pricing decisions, and aligns us with the potential Dunoon Dam - a destructive project that would flood important Indigenous and ecological sites.

'Byron Shire Councillors adopted the W&S Committee advice on April 27, 2023 to investigate off-stream storage. Imagine our surprise to see Council staff this week overriding both previous decisions and asking Council to recommend permanent connection to Rous.

'Who should decide on the future of Mullumbimby's water supply? The answer is simple: the Mullumbimby community should'.

Region drained of GPs, says MP

Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan has called on the federal Labor Albanese government to immediately reverse its decision allowing overseas-trained doctors and Commonwealth Scholarship Students to work in major cities, rather than spend time in rural and regional communities.

'Outer urban areas of Sydney, including parts of Penrith and the Northern Beaches, now have the same classification as Grafton when it comes to Distribution Priority Areas (DPAs)', Mr Hogan said. 'In parts of inner-Sydney, there's one GP for every 500 people, compared to one for every 5,000 in some regional communities.'

'The Albanese government's decision last year to include outer urban areas in the DPAs resulted in an immediate drain of experienced medical personnel from rural and regional areas to the city.'

As well as reforms to the DPAs, Mr Hogan said he would be taking up the case for Medicare provider numbers to be linked to specific post-codes to get more doctors into regional areas.

'There also needs to be more financial incentives to attract GPs to regional areas', he said.

'The staff shortages are placing unacceptable pressures on those people working hard to hold the system together', Mr Hogan added.

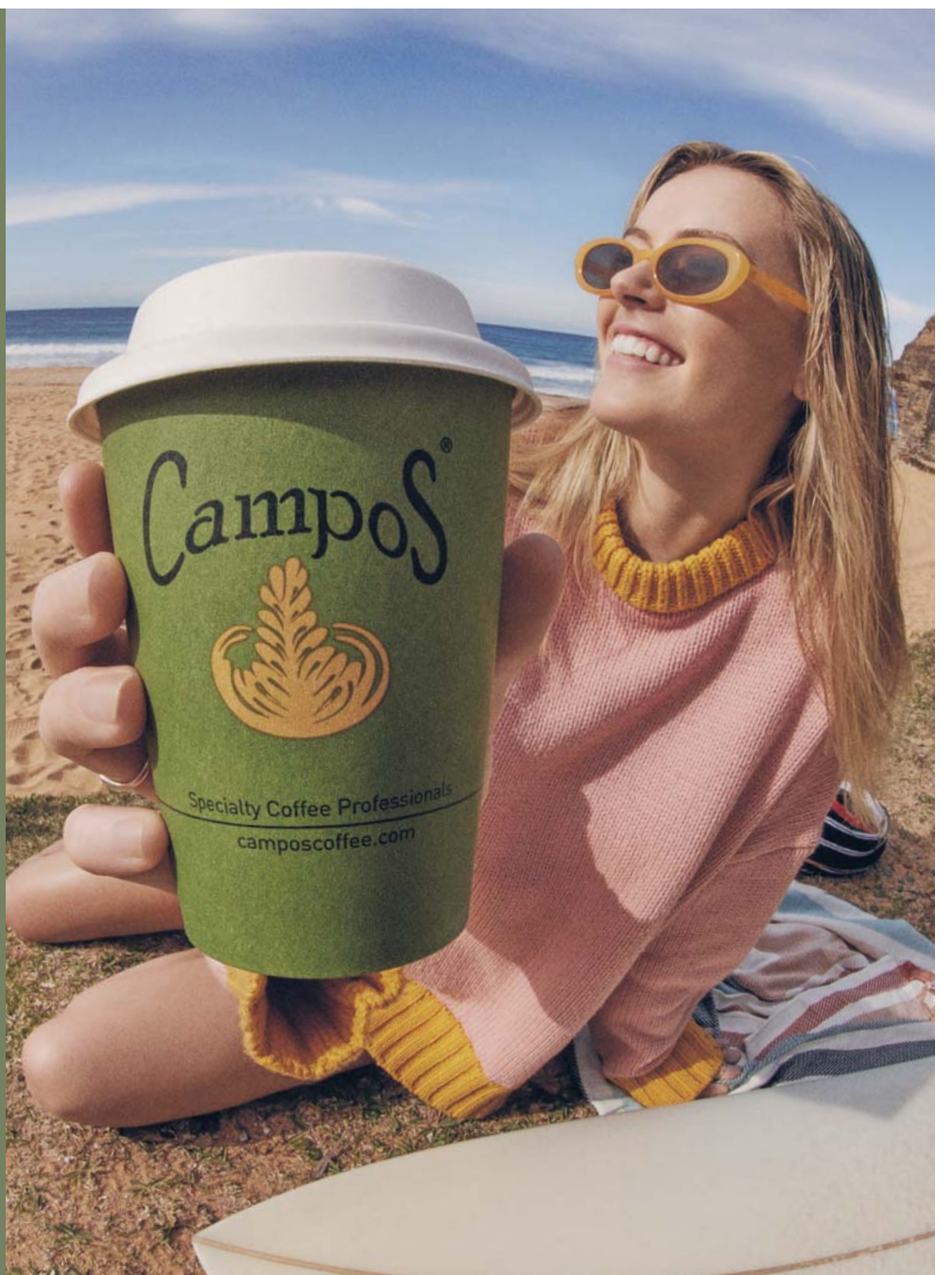
National freight and supply chain strategy review underway

A review of the National Freight and Supply Chain Strategy has commenced, says the federal Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.

It follows an agreement with state and territory infrastructure and transport ministers. The media release

says, 'We know this industry has experienced unprecedented and compounding disruptions over the past four years, including a global pandemic, extreme weather events, geo-political tensions, skills shortages and more'.

To make a submission to the review, visit www.freightaustralia.gov.au/2023-review.





The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #11 • August 23, 2023

Upscaling urban development

Let's take a short dip into how Mayor Michael Lyon intends to ramp up urban development in the Byron Shire.

For those unaware, Council are being squeezed by the all powerful NSW planning department to produce a framework/pathway to enable 5,825 new homes to be built by 2041.

At their August 10 meeting, Council did what they were told, and promised they would meet, or exceed, those targets.

While Council's supplementary agenda outlined the housing template, it also contained correspondence that outlines the mayor's desires to upscale development.

Given the mayor is not particularly forthcoming with his grand visions, it offers an insight into how he thinks the Shire should be developed.

His letter to NSW planning minister, Paul Scully on June 23, outlines those visions.

'Affordable' units

Regarding vague, secret plans to sell valuable public car park for 'affordable' housing units in central Mullum, the mayor advised Scully that Council 'are offering the freehold on the site to a community housing provider which will see a mix of 32, one and two-bedroom units and studios built'.

Cr Lyon wrote, 'This will result in all of these dwellings being 100 per cent affordable housing, in perpetuity, apart from four units, which Council will use in order to provide for staff to ensure that we can hire for key positions within Council, which has become increasingly difficult'.

Height limit increases

The mayor also told Scully that a recent Council motion proposes to increase the height limit to 11.5m on the old Mullumbimby hospital site, which is, 'a first for a residential area in our Shire'.

He said, 'This could give a yield of up to 150 dwellings when completed'.

Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme

A newly adopted policy aimed at providing a guaranteed 'affordable housing' component within new greenfield developments was also spruiked to Scully.

Cr Lyon told him: 'We will also see in the coming days the first planning proposal lodged under our Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme, which will see up to 50 dwellings provided on land dedicated to Council under the scheme. We are the first regional council to achieve such a scheme'.

Reversing decades of community sentiment around state imposed over-development, Cr Lyon also told Scully: 'There are barriers at a state level, which exist that prevent us from delivering adequate housing, including the targets set by the North Coast Plan, which are, in my view, under what they need to be.'

Regardless of what appears a clumsy push to develop at all costs in a biodiversity hot spot, perhaps we should be thankful that Council are trying to solve a 'affordable housing' problem.

Yet without a clear pathway, any transparency, and a poor track record thus far, it's hard to get behind their 'solution'.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

A glimpse of a smarter, fairer future

After weeks of wrangling, following the Greens shock election win, Prime Minister Max Chandler-Mather announced today he had sealed a deal with Coalition partners, Labor and independents, to pass ground-breaking reforms to reshape Australia.

'We're finally bringing an end to the failed ideology of neoliberalism, with its absurd "trickle down" theory. This has created a massive increase in inequality.

'The priorities of my government are to tackle inequality and supercharge action on the climate crisis. It's completely unacceptable there are homeless people in one of the world's richest nations. It's very wrong that we are some of the highest per capita carbon emitters on Earth. We're going to change that. This new package of reforms will begin the process.'

Deputy Prime Minister, Tanya Plibersek, said there had been some tough bargaining, but agreed that such reforms are needed. Her party will not stand in the way of the passage of legislation needed to implement these significant changes.

Drones replace AUKUS

The AUKUS agreement to buy eight nuclear-powered submarines, now estimated to cost \$435 billion, will be scrapped, and no compensation payout will be considered. To replace this, \$50 billion will be allocated to a program for Australian-designed and made drones, both aerial and underwater, to be built in South Australia.

As the prime minister said, drones have shown their effectiveness in Russia's war on Ukraine.

'These are the way to defend Australia, making it impossible for any enemy to invade successfully. In any case, the submarines would not last a week in any conflict'.

Other controversial changes in the package include a wealth tax on individuals worth \$100 million or more. This will start at one per cent, per annum, rising to five per cent per annum for individuals worth more than \$1 billion.

John Howard's capital gains



'The effect of slashing CGT by Howard was a massive increase in wealth for property investors.'

Richard Jones

tax (CGT) changes of 1999 will be reversed. The Howard government introduced a 50 per cent discount on the capital gain for individual taxpayers. The Hawke government introduced the CGT in 1985, and John Howard had vowed to scrap the tax altogether, but halved it instead. Labor, in opposition in 1999, did not oppose Howard's changes.

The effect of slashing CGT by Howard was a massive increase in wealth for property investors.

This new reform will quarantine properties and assets acquired prior to 2020, which will still be taxed at the discount rate. Labor had wished to quarantine assets acquired before the announcement of the changes, but the prime minister put his foot down as he wanted to capture massive gains made during the covid pandemic.

The proposal to hypothecate tax gains made on properties to a social housing building fund will significantly increase accommodation and help fulfil the PM's promise to house every homeless person within five years.

As part of the housing package, negative gearing will be largely phased out. From July 1, negative gearing will only be permitted on two investment properties, but not on additional properties.

Voting age lowered

Another reform is the lowering of the voting age to 16 for federal elections. The Greens successfully moved to lower the voting age in the ACT last year and other states are expected to follow. Voting for people of 16 and 17 will be optional and remain mandatory after 18. The opposition is likely to vigorously oppose this change after their disastrous election result at the hands of younger voters.

Opposition leader, Melissa McIntosh, said, 'Children of 16 and 17 shouldn't be dragged into politics.'

They should be spending their time playing and learning. Let children be children.'

Parliamentary terms will be extended to four years giving governments more time to make necessary reforms without having one eye on the election calendar.

Income tax reform

One of the biggest changes in this reform package will be to personal income tax. Workers will pay 15 per cent tax on each dollar earned between \$25,000 and \$45,000, 30 per cent between \$45,000 and \$100,000, 35 per cent between \$100,000 and \$200,000 and 50 per cent over \$200,000. The Greens wanted a greater differential between the lowest and highest paid, but were obliged to compromise with their coalition partners.

Higher taxes on fossil fuel exports will be used to power the changeover to 100 per cent renewables.

Massive changes are on the way, as imports of petrol-driven and diesel vehicles come to an end.

Most stand-alone dwellings will become self-sufficient in energy, with the assistance of federal subsidies.

Landlords will be obliged to provide such systems to tenants of rental properties.

Melissa McIntosh said the opposition will be opposing almost all these reforms, and accused Max Chandler-Mather and the Greens of turning Australia into a 'woke Socialist state'. She attacked Labor, accusing them of selling out the people of Australia.

Asked about her comments, the prime minister laughed and said, 'Let her try telling that to the two hundred thousand homeless and those paying more than half their incomes on rent! These reforms are for them.'

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

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Echo

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Cartoon by Alister Lockhart - www.alisterlockhart.net

Feros Village

It is pleasing to see the leadership provided by Byron Shire Council in its efforts to ensure that Feros Care Village in Byron Bay (FVBB), one of the Shire's most highly valued community assets, continues to keep its doors open and provide residential aged care for those among us in need of it.

I note that Council has included an item on the agenda for its next meeting that addresses the management of the Crown Land site on which FVBB is located with a view to obtaining a solution to maintaining its purpose as a residential aged care facility.

The current Crown Land manager and provider of the facility, the Feros Care Ltd board of directors, want to close the facility. They do not seem to be clear as to what they want to do with the site, they first said it is to be an 'intergenerational complex', they are now saying they

are going to provide 'senior housing'. It seems anything but doing the hard yards that will be required to manage a residential aged care facility within the most recent aged care requirements. The sorts of developments they propose are concepts that emphasise profit rather than care and are usually provided by the private sector. They are not normally the sort of enterprise that a charity like Feros Care Ltd would be involved in.

The residents of the facility (who according to the comments of a recent aged care audit, Feros have failed to treat with dignity and respect), their families, a large number of Feros Care members and a large part of the Byron community have voiced their opposition to the closure and the Feros Care board and management response to the situation.

Hopefully the action initiated by Council and the attention of the Lands and

Property Minister will lead to a solution that will save FVBB as the facility serving the Byron community that was intended by George Feros and the founding members of Feros Care Ltd.

I am aware that a reputable alternative provider has come forward and plans to work with a community organisation to keep FVBB going. I hope they get a chance to put in a tender for the site.

Terry Hand
Mullumbimby

Flames or sparks?

When catastrophe comes close, and friends and relatives are victims, can we admit to ourselves that we played a part with our little flames that we fuel nearly every moment?

Can we replace flames with sparks? Is it really unthinkable for each of us to change before it is too late?

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Limit property ownership

It's not a new idea, but it's a big one - one we should not ignore. Can a council's regulations limit how many private properties one person can own? Say limit it to three or something? If they could, that would minimise the flow-down effect of locals and non-locals calling up real estate agents and buying up whatever they can for their investment portfolios. Doesn't one guy own around 1,000 properties in Byron? When I was studying public health the idea was to stop the problem at the source, and not have to fix the accumulated and ongoing problems at the other end. Like fixing a leak.

The 60- or 90-day holiday letting cap would certainly help hugely, it is a great idea. Hopefully it will remedy the situation, but gosh it would be nice for the housing market to have some space to breathe.

It's a moral thing too. Houses are a basic need, a necessity, and not commodities to be used for profit. Something needs to change. If one council does it, it could eventually reach around the entire country. Will we ever have the power to do that? How do we make these changes?

The next generations are already stuffed when it comes to owning their own home. How can we reverse this? We need regulations around the basic need of housing.

Don't build more, just so more rich investors can gobble them up. Share the ones we already have. How many homes were empty on Census night? These are

► Continued on page 14

Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

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THURS 24 AUG	JOCK BARNES DUO
FRI 25 AUG	HAYLEY GRACE & THE BAY COLLECTIVE
SAT 26 AUG	CASS EAGER
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The Adventures of Edward Herring

PART ONE

A bunch of wild photons that had been traveling for twenty-seven billion years narrowly missed the mirror of the James Webb telescope and five seconds later landed on Earth. It is one of the great tragedies of science that these photons scattered undetected because the information they carried would have explained the age and origin of the universe and generated a swag of Nobel Prizes. Instead they caused a quantum bifurcation event, or reality burp, in an obscure newspaper office and fused all its computers. But there is no point trying to explain first causes. It just happened...

One moment he is tapping on the keys of his workstation, composing a few pars

of Council Notes (some time past deadline, but the editor doesn't need to know that), and the next moment there is darkness and a heaving sensation as if the universe has started to hiccup. Worse still, at the end of one hiccup it feels as if the universe is trying to throw up.

When the light comes back he finds his fingers pounding the keys of an old-fashioned manual typewriter. The office is the same but different; the air, the light, the background sounds all similar, but not the same.

One can imagine many reactions to this reality-shredding experience, but probably low on the list would be Edward Herring's actual words, which possibly channel Douglas Adams:

'Oh no, not again.'

After two quiet, industrious decades working for the *Byron Shire Echo* (which God preserve), Edward suspects he has been pitched once more into the bowels of the controversial tabloid the *Mullcogan Times*.

His suspicion is confirmed when he reads the title writ large in apparently reverse characters across the double glass doors of the office, and also engraved small on a plate screwed to the side of the typewriter, where the words are preceded by 'Property Of' and followed by 'Do Not Remove - By Order'.

Edward closes his eyes and tells himself that it is just a dream. He has not been, cannot have been, transported to an alternate universe where all things are the opposite of what they should be. Instead of writing for a conservative journal of record, *The Echo*, in this counterfeit world he will be inventing scandals and conspiracy theories for a local rag.

It has happened before, but so long ago that he has almost forgotten the experience, or classes it as one of the vertiginous hallucinations of his wild youth.

He cautiously opens his eyes and focuses on the room. It is solid, three-dimensional, utterly real - and it is without doubt the office of the *Mullcogan Times*. There is even a placard on the desk saying so, along with the word 'Editor'.

Edward stands up quickly. The editor he remembers from long ago would not be pleased with anybody sitting in his chair. He looks around; the office is empty, but there are sounds coming from the room next door.

Next door turns out to be the office kitchen, and it is packed with people in party hats drinking beer and wine. He stands on the threshold and peers into the throng.

'Come on in, mate. What have ya lost?'

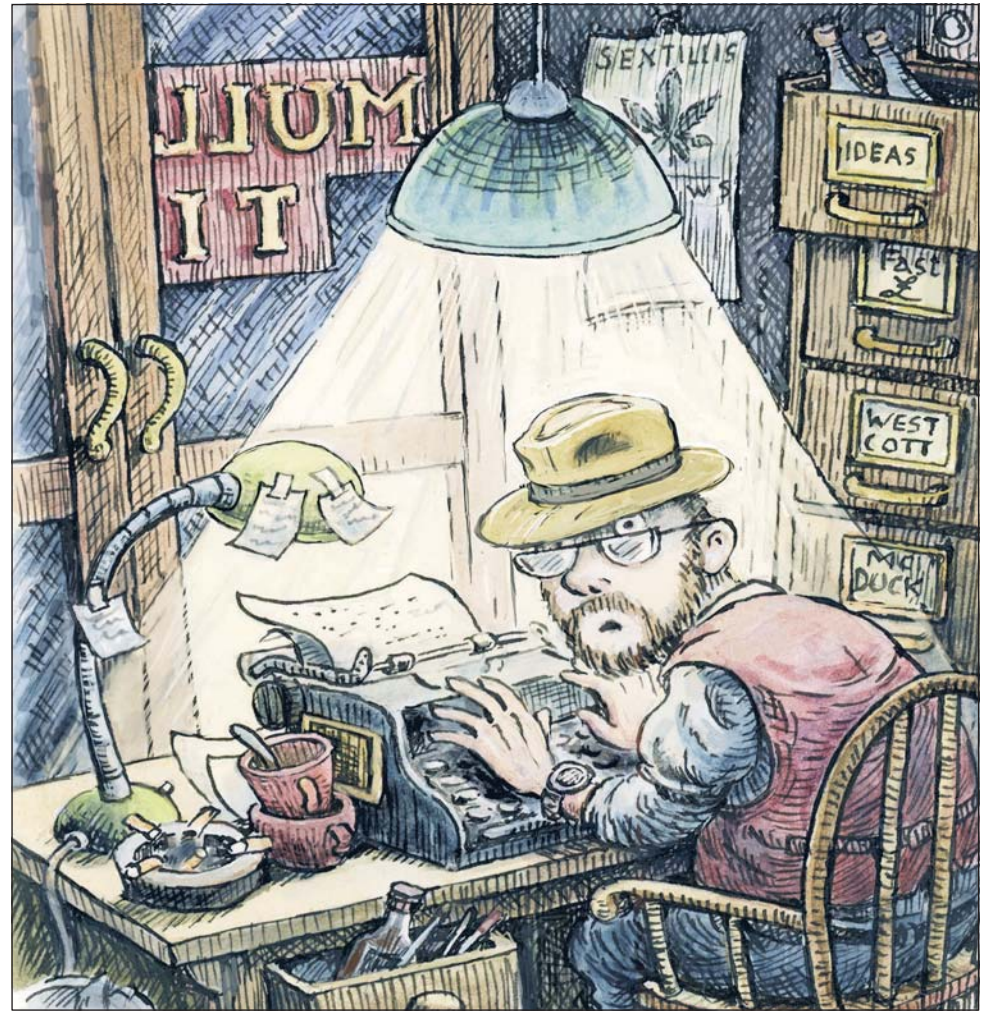
The speaker is a middle-aged man, dressed in a poncho, who manages to combine the airs of both authority and whimsy.

'I'm looking for the editor. My name's Edward Herring and I shouldn't be here.'

'Mine's Shimon Salahm and I shouldn't be here either. My wife thinks I should be home with her. Where should you be?'

'It's complicated. Can you point out the editor for me?'

Shimon takes a swig of his drink and purses his lips.



'Well, here's the thing. We don't really have an editor any more. We have a flat command structure and an editorial collective. One of the paper's owners, in a fit of efficiency, read an article in a management magazine not long ago and we've been a small-scale soviet experiment ever since.'

'That's completely... that's remarkable. But what about the desk next door with the sign marked "Editor"?''

'We move it around to confuse people. Tell you what though.' Shimon takes another swig and looks at the glass. It is empty. There is a long silence while he stares wisely into the middle distance.

Edward, remembering how the *Mullcogan Times* functions, finds a bottle and refills Shimon's glass. He ventures a quiet, 'Tell me what?'

'What was I saying?' 'You said the paper doesn't have an editor. I'm a journalist myself and I cannot imagine how that works.'

'Right. It doesn't work all that well, but at least the blame is shared around. But I think the experiment has run its course. We're all tired of collective responsibility because it leads to collective abuse. An editor is needed as a lightning rod to divert the hostility that's otherwise directed at all of us. Edward, I'm making you the editor of *The Times*.'

'No, you can't - ' Shimon ignores the objection and turns towards the room, tapping his glass with a spoon. When nobody notices this signal, he bel-lows, 'People! Pay attention. Say hello to our new editor, Edward Herring.'

When Shimon makes his announcement Edward hears some tepid cheers and at least one strangled cry of 'Good Luck!'

He knows he should not have acquiesced in his fate so easily but when you are lost in some mysterious interdimensional world you find yourself groping for any strand of familiarity. Edward is used to newspapers; his first duty is to look after himself, and a promotion is a promotion.

Shimon Salahm, the newspaper's manager and general factotum, steers the new editor towards the conference room of the *Mullcogan Times*, which turns out to be a local café, and enquires about his background.

'Don't worry, the job is yours, nobody else wants it, but I am curious to know how you turned up so providentially. Where did you work before?'

'At the *Byron Shire Echo*,' says Edward sadly, thinking that Shimon would not, could not, have heard of it.

'Rings a bell. We had an exchange employee years ago, before my time, who was from a paper with a title like that. His visit started a bit of a tradition in our workplace.'

Edward brightens. 'I did? I mean, he did? What was the tradition?'

'It was a piece of folk wisdom, actually. "If you want to prosper, always do the opposite of what *The Echo* does." Of course we only had a second-hand description of the paper and its community, but it helped us avoid many mistakes.'

'What sort of mistakes?' 'Oh, the usual stuff. Relying too much on the intelligence of readers. Believing in the political process. Not agreeing with the views of corporate advertisers. Campaigning for environmental causes. Arguing with the local assembly - I think it's called a council where you're from. Now if you reverse all those pitfalls, you get an idea of our core values.'

'So the *Mullcogan Times* must be very popular.' 'We can always do better, Edward. In fact I believe the time is ripe for *The Times* to do a spot of journalism, I mean investigative journalism.'

'Won't that interfere with your core values?'

Shimon nods. 'It might do. Don't tell the shareholders.'

'What do you want me to investigate?'

'Do you know we had a terrible flood last year? Well, we did, some people drowned, and many people lost their homes. The government promised assistance, but nothing has been done. People are really upset, so we should find out why the promise was broken.'

'That's easy: because it was made by politicians and carried out by bureaucrats.'

To be continued...

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Dr *Russ Harris, *The Happiness Trap** p262*.

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Written by sheep farmer Tim Barritt. Barossa Valley, S.A.

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► Continued from page 11 mostly holiday lets, and people's investments, sitting there with no-one in them while so many live in their cars or on the streets. Let them invest in something else, like green energy, and leave the houses alone.

What is currently allowed is unsustainable and immoral. We are humans, we can't forget that. We need each other, and if we don't cooperate, it doesn't work for anyone. Rich investors will have no hardworking locals to serve them at their favourite cafe, or fix their car, or serve their holidaymakers. We are one mass of people, the organism called humanity if you zoom out far enough. Allowing the cancer of greed to continue to take hold will not fare well for anyone.

Sheri Buob
Pottsville

More homes for who?

The state and federal governments repeatedly claim lack of supply as the core problem in their response to the housing affordability crisis. This apparently obvious proposition has to be re-examined.

The housing affordability crisis, Adam Bandt suggests, is not a supply problem, it is a problem of affordability, a problem of costs which continue to escalate.

The simple notion that more of the same will resolve the situation reminds me of that old bloke's adage on insanity, 'doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results'.

The housing market in Australia is a closed system, essentially a private enterprise performing at its peak of productivity and under increasing pressure: from tight supply and the

rising cost of materials; rising labour costs; and increasing regulation.

The housing product is generally excellent, some of the best in the world while standards and market expectations are high.

Increasing supply in this market, even utilising mass production and higher densities demands further enormous resources, i.e. costs.

The market is a natural balancing act, under increasing cost pressures, why and how would the housing industry suddenly flood the market with cheap products threatening their profit and viability?

I suspect the mantra of lack of supply is simply to cover for business as usual so that the government does not have to directly tackle the housing affordability crisis.

Perhaps this is because market ideology still prevails with the belief that properly managed and incentivised the market will respond and satisfy all demand.

Unfortunately, years of incentivising the Australian housing market – not for housing but as a financial investment scheme without alternative – has seen it metastasised into this monster of unaffordability.

Directly linked to this is homelessness, generational inequity, social unrest, and the ever-widening gap of wealth and privilege shaking the foundations of a fair and just commonwealth and a country we can take pride in.

The solution has to be to step outside the market, the government must rebuild its public works capacity and integrity and start down the long road of rebuilding public housing stock.

This should be undertaken as direct investment, not from the proceeds of a side dabble in the stock market, as Albanese suggests, with his Future Fund, then trickled back into the private sector.

This needs to start now with taxpayers' money and proceed long into the future subsidising housing for ordinary Australians. Don't forget the bloated private housing market we have today is the result of years of billions of dollars of tax concessions in the form of negative gearing, capital gains tax, and other schemes effectively subsidising this catastrophe.

The private housing market is a horse that has bolted and it will not return for a long time or without considerable pain.

The best we can do is stop the rot, secure the private

market where it is, support stopgap social services for the homeless and mobilise urgently the building of public housing.

Paul Jones
Byron Bay

Surfers will suffocate

Economist and author Alison Pennington correctly names our children Generation F'd! However, neither she nor Dr Ray Moynihan (*Echo*, 9 August) appear to understand the implications of Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres's warning that the 'era of global boiling' has arrived. A more correct designation must be 'era of global incineration' with firestorms across the northern hemisphere during their summer providing us with a picture of what is very likely to occur here this year.

Pennington asks, 'Will Generation F'd help us rebuild a shared future from the rubble of neoliberalism?' The answer can only be 'no', with taxpayers funding new coal and gas mines along with NSW Forestry clear-felling the last of our planetary life-support forested ecosystems ensuring no absorption of our rapidly escalating CO2 emissions. 'China is firing up two new coal-fired power stations a week,' stated Professor Clive Hamilton with Mandy Nolan during the 'Facing up to climate change and the ecological crisis' event at the Brunswick Picture House on June 28.

We are now entering the hot, strong, dry, westerly winds time of the year and the most important thing on everyone's mind must be preparing for the coming firestorms. Nothing can be more important than educating yourself on the fire hazards around every house and volunteering to help our local rural fire service in any way you can.

It is essential to prepare your Bushfire Survival Plan at <https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/> and the number one priority on every person's mind should be downloading the app 'Hazards Near Me' at <https://www.nsw.gov.au/emergency/hazards-near-me-app> that will alert you to the approaching firestorm.

Climate change scenario outcomes are unpredictable due to the rapid speed of global ocean heating absorbing ever greater concentrations of CO2. Byron Bay is similar to the town of Lahaina in Maui, now 80 per cent destroyed by wildfire

► Continued on page 16



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Raising voices on racism and the future

■ What a gob-smacking bonanza in *The Echo* (August 16) when various letter writers warned of dangers inherent in a 'Yes' vote.

Firstly, Mr Olson warned us of unnamed 'foreign vested interests' exploiting unnamed 'loopholes' in the Voice. Then Mr MacDonald sermonised that all those who care about the environment and community will have 'egg on their faces for eternity' so there!

And finally, Mr Pratt tells us that it's only a bit of a no-no if slaughter and dispossession are unleashed by Anglo-Saxons rather than Japs and Jerries. Then it's legitimate conquest, not theft. All in the name I suppose.

John Mester
Clunes

people the same access to politicians.

Under the current system individual appeals and even the voices of Indigenous politicians are so often ignored.

Who better than Indigenous people themselves to advise solutions to their problems?

The Voice will be a panel of Indigenous people, elected by their own communities, who can advise government on their issues and needs.

A 'No' vote means a continuation of the same policies which have failed time and time again.

A 'Yes' vote will mean new policies based on the knowledge and advice of Indigenous Australians.

L Clarke
Ballina

just give up and go home, nor would I ask the kids with the boogie boards. They might know the surf but not the fish.

The same goes for the coming referendum. Unless we had a pretty good schooling, many of us would not know what the Constitution is and how that affects our lives. Up until 1967, the Constitution treated Aboriginal people differently in some respects. That has changed. And the African nations supported Sydney's bid for the Olympic Games because of the support for that referendum.

The coming referendum asks for an *addition* to the Constitution, not a change. The addition will ensure that consultation happens when a new law may have some effect on Indigenous heritage. Any decision that is made will be driven by what is the best outcome for us all, not just what some very angry and well-funded individual wants.

It is important that we feel *okay* about the addition, we don't want more division in our society. Nothing wrong with not knowing,

but it is a sign of a 'slack arse' who is not prepared to find out. Maybe ask one of those people wearing a 'Yes' badge.

I used to enjoy those grilled whiting!

John Davies
Mullumbimby

■ Is there a question? Indeed, there are far too many.

According to AIATSIS there are hundreds of First Nations. Is the Voice to be a third chamber with representation from each? No. Such a considerable congress would have no point without legislative capacity. Is the Voice to have capacity to make or break law? No.

Will the Voice recognise First Nations by amending any clause of the alleged 'Constitution'? No.

Will the Voice recognise First Nations by adding a schedule wherein delegates can ratify their nation joining in to the alleged 'Constitution'? No.

The Indigenous populations resident when the British arrived are not and have never been one homogenous

► Continued on page 16

■ Big companies use lobbyists, often ex-ministers, to gain access to current ministers.

What deals are done at their meetings? Perhaps bribery in the form of million-dollar donations, none of which are made public.

A Voice would go some way to giving Indigenous

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Occupation, the Voice, and the future

► Continued from page 15 nation; the 'Aboriginal' flag is not possible.

The true descendants of these Indigenous populations aren't just mere 'traditional custodians' but the sovereign people of this land; the rightful owners of this land; the people whose claim of allodial title and eminent domain is inherent. There are no treaties with these people; they never sold their interest. As Great Britain was, and the Australian government remains a foreign, occupying power on this land without treaty, it is not First Nations which need a treaty from us, but we which need a treaty from them to finally have de jure standing at law. Will the Voice address this situation? No.

Australia has no treaties with the sovereigns of this land, and no constitution to amend – just a defunct colony-federating document. So what will the Voice do?

According to Robert French, ex-chief justice of the High Court, a 'Yes' vote will grant moral authority for the Australian government to 'listen' to the Voice. Who or what is the Voice? How long

is the Australian government supposed to 'listen' to an unknown entity? Australians have long granted moral authority to the Australian government to help First Nations. To date it has done nothing but make a mountain out of molehill; a political industry out of a myth. Why would the Australian government suddenly be competent to solve anything? All we know is the Voice will forever divide Australia into 'Indigenous' and 'not'. Why would anyone want to vote 'Yes' for that?

Edward Kent
Suffolk Park

■ On the weekend I attended an event presented by NORPA in association with the Byron Writers Festival at Brunswick Picture House, *Bunjalung Nghari-Indigenise*, meaning story gathering.

This is where four Bundjalung writers are set a challenge, to write a piece for sharing in a reading. The topic set was to reflect on their experiences of 'Living with Occupation'. A beautiful form of 'truth-telling', the stories had various subjects but all a common theme.

The pain of the Aboriginal voice not being heard.

I came away feeling fiercely impassioned about the importance of the 'Yes' vote in the referendum and also inspired to stop and contemplate what I would write if set the topic, 'living as an occupier'. And I don't mean in a landowner/rental sense, but as part of the whole non-indigenous population of Australia. Every one of us descends from those who came from elsewhere. This is a question we can all pause to reflect on.

Usually when discussions of 'occupied territories' are spoken about it is in the Palestinian/Israeli context, but Australia too is guilty of occupation. Crimes have been committed, suffering inflicted, intergenerational trauma created, injustice, physical and emotional health damaged. We are all complicit in not only the damage to the First Nations peoples of this country, but the ravaging of its natural resources.

This year we are being asked to recognise in the Australian Constitution, our

nation's most important legal document, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of this country. This isn't an insertion of a racial clause – that already exists, the Constitution currently includes provisions to make discriminatory laws based on race.

Voting 'Yes' is accepting that we need to stop subjugating the original inhabitants of this country and let them be heard. Anyone who continues to crawl down rabbit holes to justify their reasons to vote 'No', anyone who thinks their white opinion is threatened by listening, anyone who truly thinks that everything is totally fine with the lives of the Indigenous people of this country and listening to their plea for a recognition with a Voice in the Constitution will threaten them, needs to do some deep soul searching.

It is said that voting 'No' doesn't mean you are racist, but just know that all the racists will be voting 'No' – we are judged by the company we keep.

Janet Walker
Goonengerry

► Continued from page 14 with 67+ dead. Surrounded by bush with only two exits through the forest it looks like a deadly firetrap now that we have entered the era of global incineration.

However, wildfires travel even more rapidly over dry pastures and crops to ignite towns, so no place is safe. Remember that you will be in full panic with black toxic smoke reducing visible light, and the lack of oxygen and the heat will alarm you by the time that you have noticed the flames. You will have only seconds to save your children if you are fully prepared. Surfers will suffocate on the waves.

Conservationists and other socially responsible citizens have been working tirelessly to alert the population to this existential threat. Big business fossil fuel corporations have long corrupted our right-wing politicians, and along with climate change deniers they have ensured that our children are Generation F'd!

Gary Opit and Carmel Daoud
Wooyung

Australia Day

My reason for this letter is concern and disappointment for another January 26 to

roll by with the audacity of calling itself Australia Day, when Captain James Cook claimed this land as empty and belonging to Britain.

How can that date be anything but a solemn reminder of our humble beginnings as a nation? I'd call it Federation Day. A day to honour and pay tribute to those who have and will shape Australia into a nation to be proud of, a day of ceremony where we lay to rest the pompous notion of terra nullius and mourn the stolen generations. A day where we acknowledge the terror and carnage of our history and where we remember with open arms the first of the boat people who arrived on these shores, wretched convicts transported from an unkind and uncaring mother country. Call it Sad and Sorry Day, call it Invasion Day but don't call it Australia Day.

So when can we all have an Australia Day with a public holiday to party, to celebrate the joy of being Australian? There's a date going begging if you ask me. With Liz gone (of course, if she was alive it wouldn't be an option but she isn't) I reckon the Queen's Birthday is up for grabs because who in their right mind wants an

► Continued on page 19

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The case for justice – West Papua’s story

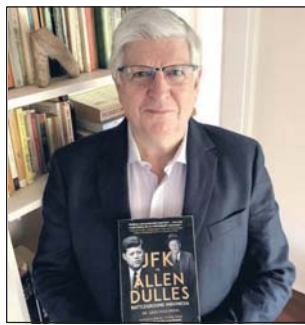
Jim Beatson

PM Albanese, understandably, has continued Australia’s military contribution to Ukraine’s independence, currently totalling \$655 million.

Contrast this with Albanese’s current acquiescence to Indonesia’s continuing brutal takeover of West Papua, with thousands of Papuans killed. Indonesia has no geographical, ethnical, or traditional/cultural ties with West Papua – Jakarta is 4,024 km away. Media and UN Human Rights investigators have been denied access there.

Weeks ago, Australia’s Navy participated in naval exercises with Indonesia – the moral equivalent of Australia participating in naval exercises with Russia.

This history is uncovered in an astonishing new book, *JFK vs Alan Dulles – Battle-ground Indonesia*, written by academic historian, Dr Greg



Dr Greg Poulgrain.
Photo supplied

Poulgrain. The book covers West Papua and Indonesia from 1916 to today using extensive archival research and countless interviews including with JFK’s Secretary of State, Dean Rusk and former NATO Secretary-General, Joseph Luns.

Enter a brilliant, ambitious, young Allen Dulles graduating from Princeton in 1916, born to wealth and power. He starts working in Europe cultivating complex global friendships, alliances, and dependencies, essential in progressing his meteoric career.

First, he negotiates a buy-in of Russia’s Baku oil fields for the world’s richest oil magnate, John D Rockefeller, founder of Standard Oil, today branded Exxon-Mobil.

When Dulles forms an oil exploration company for John D in 1935 in West New Guinea, he strikes gold. Dulles’ geologist friend, JJ Dozy, secretly discovers the world’s largest gold/copper deposit there, calling it ‘gold mountain’. But with Papua’s dense jungles rising to snow-covered mountains, mine construction must wait.

Dulles’ career culminates in 1953 becoming US President Eisenhower’s CIA director, specialising in staging coups in mineral or agriculture-rich countries, like Iran and Guatemala.

Dulles, reappointed by President Kennedy, keeps the ‘gold mountain’ a secret, from Kennedy and Indonesia’s President Sukarno.

The political backdrop Poulgrain paints shows how

‘oil/gold’ for Rockefeller has brought tragedy to West Papua and its Melanesian people. Colonised by the Dutch and recognised as being different to Indonesia, West Papuans almost attained independence at the end of 1961 when they raised their new flag, the Morning Star, and declared ‘unrecognised’ independence.

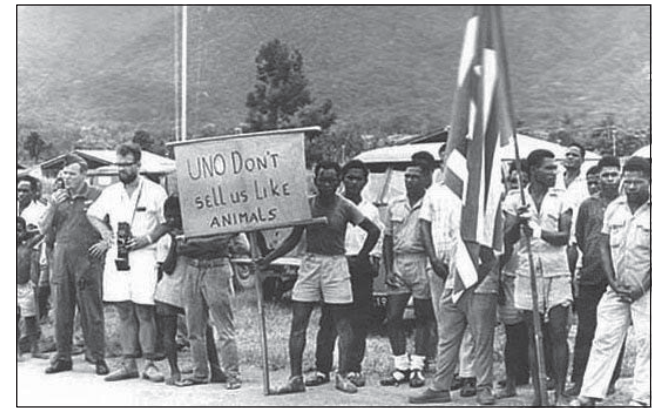
Kennedy was overpowered in solving the international crisis over sovereignty of West New Guinea which Dulles, as CIA director, had prepared for the new president. This – and the Cuban crisis – were on President Kennedy’s desk from day one.

Poulgrain relates the extraordinary complexities of Dulles and his daring ambitions. Following the Cuban Missile crises, Kennedy realises USA/USSR conflicts were forcing ‘emerging countries’ to take sides, instead of their own. Hence Kennedy quickly becomes an important supporter of Indonesia’s President Sukarno, a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement at the United Nations, similar to today’s TEAL cross-benchers in parliament.

Access to gold

Poulgrain’s book describes the conflict between Kennedy’s policies and ‘CIA Director Allen Dulles plan for regime change in Indonesia... [just as] JFK became involved by planning a Jakarta visit in early 1964. Kennedy argued his visit would have secured Sukarno’s position as Indonesian president.’

While Rockefeller secretly supported the Indonesian army to oust the colonial Dutch from New Guinea/West



The Act of Free Choice 1969 handed control of West Papua to Indonesia. Photo www.freewestpapua.org

Papua, Poulgrain reveals through interviewing two former Indonesian foreign ministers that multi-national access to the gold will come only after Sukarno falls.

Dr Poulgrain provides evidence of the extraordinary complexities of Dulles’ daring treachery, accusing Dulles of being ‘behind the assassination of Kennedy in late 1963 as well as the [related] death of UN Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld in a plane crash in 1961.’ This latter evidence before the UN has contributed to their decision to hold a new investigation which started in January 2023.

Poulgrain describes how Dulles successfully lobbied President Johnson to appoint him as the senior member of the Warren Commission into Kennedy’s assassination. Dulles kept secret that he had appointed his old European friend, George Mohrenschildt, then working for the CIA as controller of Lee Harvey Oswald, who posted Oswald for a position working in the Texas book depository just days before Oswald (as the Warren Commission found) assassinated Kennedy.

Dulles, retired by Kennedy in late 1961, was still active with the CIA in 1965, and

supported a violent internal Indonesian military coup killing six army generals.

Suharto and his group falsely claimed the generals were tortured and sexually mutilated by young communist women before being killed. In the space of a few weeks, the military propaganda machine unfolded a story that Sukarno’s supporters were complicit in a massive conspiracy. Suharto took the top position in the Indonesian army, and after around one million Indonesian Sukarno supporters were massacred, Suharto became acting President, then President.

Suharto held a sham referendum in 1969 called the ‘Act of Free Choice’, declaring that the Papuans were too ‘primitive’ for democracy. Indonesia’s military hand-picked 1,026 ‘representative people’, who unanimously voted ‘Yes’ to becoming part of Indonesia.

Freeport is now the world’s largest, most profitable gold and copper mine, owned by American mining giant, Freeport-McMoRan. It generates most of the company’s US\$20 billion revenue. The Indonesian government will soon have a 60/40 share of the mine.

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NESA is seeking expressions of interest for the role of Authorised Person for home schooling registration from persons based in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales. Authorised Persons are experienced educational leaders who conduct assessments of applications for home schooling registration in the home of the applicant. Authorised Persons provide reports and recommendations to NESA relating to applications for home schooling registration.

Successful teaching experience and curriculum leadership is required. A Working with Children Check clearance number is also required for this position.

Information regarding the application process can be accessed by following the link: <https://iworkfor.nsw.gov.au/job/authorised-person-for-the-purpose-of-home-schooling-registration-northern-rivers-region-of-nsw-422064>

Applications close 4 September 2023
Further details can be obtained by contacting (02) 9367 8403

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► Continued from page 16

Australian public holiday called the King's Birthday? A bit of self-respect please, this is not a monarchy, we've fought long and hard to become a nation.

Let's totally unite this wonderful land we have the good fortune to inhabit, let's truly celebrate this country we call home and give Australia Day a new meaning with another date! I'm calling for everyone to join me in the quest for our own Australia Day revival.

Jane E Ballina

We are hypocrites

Why should Australia aid and abet America's proxy war in Ukraine? Is it simply to assist the senseless slaughter, or is it more about appeasing our overlord in Washington, the unhinged hegemon, self-appointed ruler of planet Earth?

Why are we so keen to foster hatred and hostility toward Russia, a military superpower with the largest arsenal of nuclear weapons in the world? Is it a desire for catastrophic conflict between nuclear armed adversaries, or is it merely feeble-minded obeisance to bullies and psychopaths?



We seem to believe it's perfectly okay for America and its gang of thugs, including Australia, to intervene militarily anywhere in the world, anytime they feel like it, for any reason at all, but it's not okay for Russia to intervene militarily anywhere, anytime, for any reason, not even on its own borders, not even in collective self-defence. Such rank hypocrisy is rife in the West.

The corporate media's self-serving pro-war narrative is a tapestry of lies, a risible fiction that inverts reality. The idea that we're defending the sovereignty of a freedom-loving democracy in Ukraine from unprovoked aggression by Russia is just the latest implausible pretext for transferring vast sums of public money

to the arms industry and associated war profiteers.

There are independent analysts who actually understand the root causes and predictable consequences of this conflict, but you won't hear their voices in the corporate media. Fortunately, we have something called the internet, which still permits critical thought and pluralistic discourse.

For an informed perspective, review the analyses of Jeffery Sachs, John Mearsheimer, Douglas Macgregor, Ray McGovern, and check out John Menadue's website, Pearls & Irritations.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Mobile returned

My heartfelt thanks to the kind and thoughtful person who took my mobile phone to the Ballina police station after I left it at the riverside public toilets on 20 August.

My holiday would have been spoiled if I'd failed to recover the phone which is loaded with contact details and photos.

I have made a donation to Lifeline Northern Rivers to show my deep appreciation for your kindness.

Jo Bothroyd
Rivett

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A big weekend for conferences, if not solutions

David Lowe

The ALP has just held its national conference, in Brisbane, but most of the progressive ideas were discussed only on the fringes, and on the streets outside, with the official debate constrained. Down in Sydney, things pushed further into crazy-land at the Conservative Political Action Conference, an Australian version of the Trump-worshipping American event. At the Brisbane Convention Centre, there were no previous Labor prime ministers in attendance, with security presumably keeping a particular lookout for anyone with a resemblance to Paul Keating.

There hasn't been an in-person ALP National Conference since 2018, and Prime Minister Anthony Albanese arrived to a rapturous welcome. Albo soon laid into the Greens (who took another seat from his party in Brisbane at the last federal election).

'They are the blockers, we are the builders,' he said. 'And we'll get on with the job.'

Mr Albanese spoke a lot about 'Aussies doing it tough', claiming the Greens had no genuine desire to solve the housing crisis, 'they just want the issue, the campaign, the social media content.'

While not addressing the specific criticisms of Labor's proposed housing scheme, now a potential double dissolution trigger, he said there would be more housing supply from the middle of 2024 and more rights for renters.

'We are the party of the Great Australian Dream,' declared the PM.

Compromise and delay

Unsurprisingly, the construction union's suggestion of a super profits tax was not agreed to, but some new words about increasing government investment in social and affordable housing via 'a progressive and sustainable tax system, including corporate tax reform' appeared to mollify the union's national secretary Zach Smith.



What kind of future for Australia? Image Cloudcatcher Media with Midjourney AI

Outside the convention centre, environment groups and their supporters were demanding an end to the destruction of native forests, and noisy Construction, Forestry, Maritime, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) representatives were equally determined for it to continue. In the end, the party of compromise did what it usually does, and maintained the status quo, science be damned, saying it would 'halt and reverse forest loss by 2030' but not ban native logging.

The convenor of the ALP's own environmental network, Felicity Wade, said this was a 'travesty'.

Similarly, on the indexation of HECS/HELP debts, the Labor conference resolved only that the party would 'work' to avoid shackling students with a lifetime of debt, without committing to any actual changes.

The government didn't budge on their support of Scott Morrison's love child AUKUS, but added extra paragraphs offering reassurances on nuclear non-proliferation and waste, to make us all feel better about the extremely expensive submarines.

Asylum seeker policy was softened slightly, allowing study and work rights for people waiting for protection claims to be assessed, and the ALP pledged to raise foreign aid to 0.5 per cent of gross national income. When this might actually happen was unclear.

Meanwhile at the casino...

While all this was happening, down in Sydney, a who's who of right-wing nutcases descended on Star City to furiously agree with each other about how a 'Yes' vote in the Voice referendum was going to destroy Australia, at the Conservative Political Action Conference.

Attendees paid up to \$7,000 to hear words of wisdom from speakers including Tony Abbott, Alan Jones, Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, Barnaby Joyce, Bronwyn Bishop, Ian Plimer, Bridget McKenzie and Pauline Hanson, along with a grab bag of Americans with suspiciously white teeth.

Organisations associated with the event include the Institute for Public Affairs and Advance Australia, which describes itself as 'a movement of 250,000 Aussies fighting for the Australian majority against the toxic influence of the left.' In practice this apparently means lying about the referendum as often and widely as possible.

Media were given red passes with 'FAKE NEWS' helpfully printed on them. Alan Jones wore a 'Vote No' cap and said he didn't need to hear any details of the proposed Voice, as he was opposing it on principle.

Tony Abbott declared, 'This generation of Aboriginal Australians are not victims. This generation of non-Aboriginal Australians are not oppressors.' Actually, no matter how you dress it up, the latest Closing the Gap figures make it clear that Australia is going backwards in most of the relevant areas that can be measured in terms of relative disadvantage. For example, among Aboriginal Australians, fewer children are developmentally on track when starting school, and the rates of children in out-of-home care, adults in prison and people dying by suicide have all increased.

While politicians from the blue and red teams continue their culture wars and battle for space in public consciousness, actual Australians, particularly Indigenous Australians, continue to fall through the cracks.

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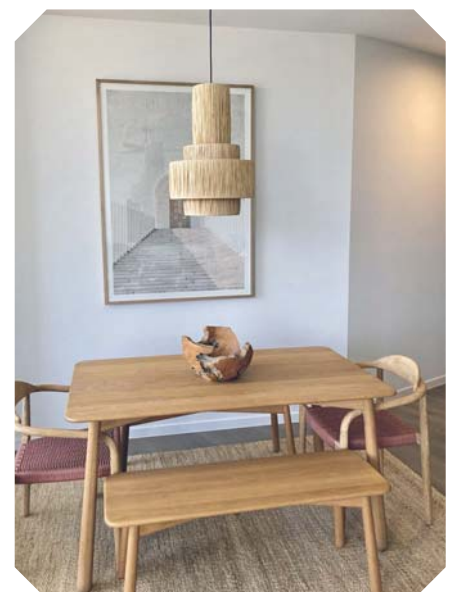
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02 6685 6874
www.edenatbyron.com.au



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An interior designers' haven, the Cactus Hill Project is brimming with stylish and thoughtfully curated homewares. It is an eclectic wonderland reminiscent of an old style retail, where each hand selected piece tells a captivating tale. You'll find contemporary inspired designer furniture, handcrafted ceramics, decorative collectables, art and accessories, treasured textiles and more. There is something new on every visit to this beautiful store. Their friendly staff have a solid knowledge of all their stock and they also offer property staging for sale and interior styling for those that wish to transform their home or Air BnB. Their mantra is 'live life in style'.

Open Mon-Fri 10am-5:30pm
Sat 10am-3pm.
82 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby
02 6684 6110
Facebook: Cactus Hill Project
Insta: cactushillproject
www.cactushillproject.com.au
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4. ART KIND BYRON BAY GALLERY + KIDS' ART PROGRAMS

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



5. BYRON BAY CAMPING & DISPOSALS

Have you found them in the Industrial Estate yet? Byron Bay Camping & Disposals moved from the old Woolies plaza site last year into their new building, located on the corner of Tasman way and Centennial circuit.

They stock popular brands and are regularly introducing new products to their store.

They have parking spaces out the front exclusively for customers and are open seven days.

1/1 Tasman Way, Byron Bay
www.byron-camping.com.au
 0439 212 153

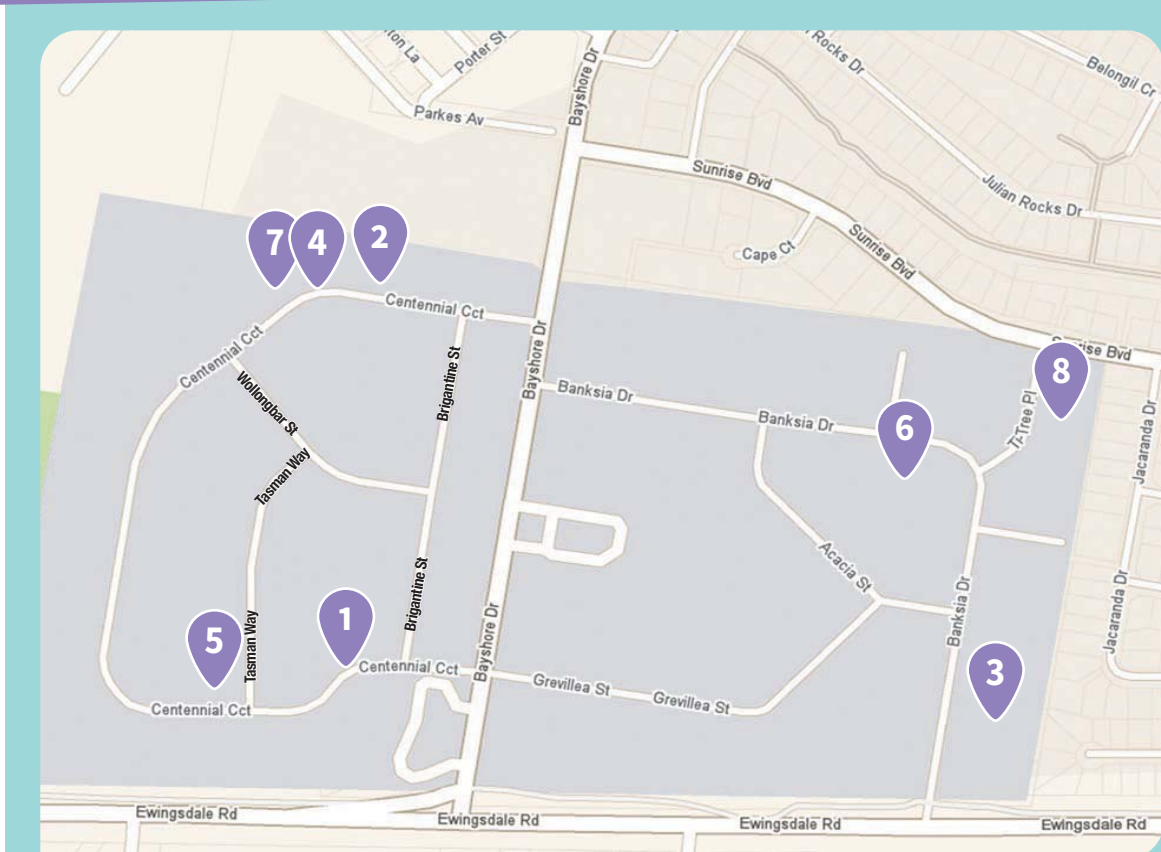


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BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE



HABITAT PRECINCT



7. BODHI LIVING

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www.bodhiliving.com.au
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9. DEPARTMENT OF SIMPLE THINGS

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11. EASY STREET

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

Easy Street, Habitat



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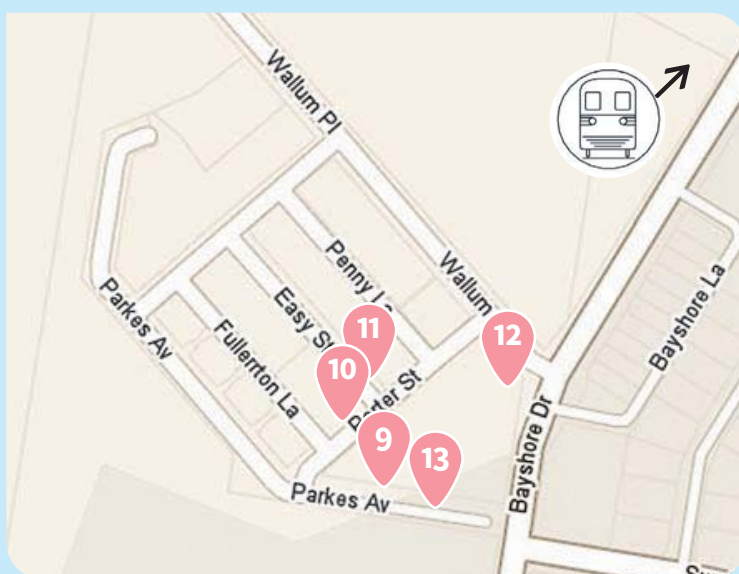
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10. BYRON FAMILY LAW

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

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Good Taste

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@therocksbyronbay

Now open Thurs–Sat evenings

Freshly renovated with an awesome new team, The Rocks Café and Restaurant provides a range of fresh, locally sourced dishes, including our delicious harvest bowl or poached pear porridge. Check us out on Instagram!



KARKALLA Byron Bay

Native Indigenous Restaurant
Cnr of Bay Lane & Fletcher St,
Byron Bay
5614 8656

KARKALLA BYRON BAY

Ancient food and modern flavours.
PROUDLY BUNDJALUNG.

Monday Locals night from 5pm.
Thursday 5–9pm.

Friday & Saturday Drinks & snacks from 4pm.

Sunday Live and local music from 6pm.

Seasonal, local & native inspired menu.



Barrio Eatery & Bar

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

Barrio brings together the local community in a relaxed environment for all-day dining.

The wood-fired oven and open-flame grill is the heart of the restaurant.

Keep an eye on socials for daily specials.



Wahlburgers Byron Bay

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

American & local sports played live

Family Offer

Buy 1 kids meal, get 1 free.

\$8 after 8

\$8 drinks from 8pm Thur–Sun.

Live music Fri–Sun.

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



NO BONES VEGAN KITCHEN + BAR.

BYRON BAY
11 Fletcher Street
0481 148 007
OCEAN SHORES
82 Rajah Road
0422 355 928

We are a part of a plant-based movement and invite you to join us on our expedition to save the Earth one Brussels sprout at a time.

#brusselsnotbeef

www.nobones.co



Loft Byron Bay

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

Signature cocktails, and casual dining with ocean views.

Happy Hour | Tues–Sat from 4–6pm.

\$8 loft wine or lager, \$10 spritzer,
\$14 margaritas & \$30 house wine bottle
Half price deli board & \$2.50 fresh oysters

Espresso Martini Nights | Tues–Sat 9pm–close,

2 for \$25 Classic Espresso Martini.

Open Tuesday to Saturday from 4pm.



Legend Pizza

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

Byron's Freshest Pizza

Order online and join our loyalty program.
Catering for up to 100 people lunch and dinner.
BYO

Locally owned and operated.

Scan code for menu.



QUARTZ GALLERY

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
12pm–10pm
Upstairs at Mercato, above Woolworths, 108–114
Jonson St. Byron Bay
Insta – @thequartzgallery
Web – quartzgallery.com.au

Crystals and cocktails, tapas and wine

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



Main Street

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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details

@mainstreet_burgerbar

'Make a meal of it'

Add chips and a drink, just \$5.



Good Life

Peruvian food is here!



Chefs Andres Soldi and Franco Reverditto made Australia their home more than a decade ago. These passionate chefs come from Lima, nestled on the Peruvian coastline and renowned for its diverse gastronomic scene. Their interest in local Australian ingredients has inspired their cooking and they have introduced high-quality seasonal produce to their Peruvian-fusion fare. Ballina prawns, grass-fed beef, hinterland fruit and vegetables and locally-caught fish all make appearances on the menu.

Their drive to make the most of the fresh, local foods on the doorstep of the Northern Rivers results in an ever-changing menu with an unchanging central pillar – cooking with Peruvian techniques.

While you're enjoying dishes like Triadito Al Rocoto (sliced fish of the day, red tiger's milk, crispy squid, chalaca and cancha corn) or Lamb Seco (lamb stew of black beer and coriander, creamy cannellini beans, salsa criolla) you can enjoy their selection of beers and red and white wines. But why not start with a cocktail? Like a delicious pisco sour, made from the unique spirit, pisco, from Peru. By the way, almost every dish on the menu is gluten-free, and there are vegetarian options.

They had to travel all the way from Peru to get here, but you only have to make a short drive to Wollongbar to get the taste of Peru right here.

Bonito: 10/54 Simpson Ave, Wollongbar
Ph 6628 3111
bonitoperuvian.com.au



Sample coming to Bangalow

Northern NSW's premier food event, Sample Food Festival, returns to Bangalow on Saturday 2 September to celebrate the regions vibrant, resilient and innovate local food economy.

Now in its 11th year, Sample Food Festival continues to showcase a selection of the region's best restaurants, brewers, distilleries, artisans and producers who put on an impressive array of tasting plates and refreshments to satisfy even the most discerning palettes.

New food stalls featured on the line-up this year include Livemore Deli from Lennox Head and Lismore/ Casino based Taco Love Bros. Returning to the festival this year are crowd favourites Harvest Newrybar and Federal Doma Café as well as Sample Food Festival 2022 tasting plate winners No Bones Byron Bay and Natural Ice Cream Australia.



This year the festival will be moving into the main circle of the Bangalow Showground and will feature guest chef Ben Pollard, Group Head Chef for Trader House. Ben began his career in the Northern Rivers, working under Tippy Heng and alongside Ben and Belinda Kirkwood at Dish

Restaurant in Byron Bay. For something a bit different for the festival, there is the Upcycled Earring Workshop, the perfect opportunity for ages 14 years and up to learn how to transform recycled coffee pods and magazines into stunning, one-of-a-kind earrings.

Date: Saturday, 2 September, 2023
Time: 8am-4pm
Location: Bangalow Showground, 1 Market Street, Bangalow.

Cost: Pre-purchased tickets are \$5 per Adult + BF (child - 16 years and under free)

www.samplefood-events.com and @samplefoodevents



It's brassica season!

Victoria Cosford

Yes, it's the time of year when the genus of plants in the cabbage and mustard family flourish and abound. These include broccoli and cauliflower, Brussels sprouts and kale, and red, green and Savoy cabbages. Indeed, both broccoli and cauliflower are a type of cabbage in which the flowers have been developed for eating, forming a compact head known as a curd.

And, oh what a moment cauliflower is having! Positively fashionable, it's now found on menus spiced and roasted whole, sliced into steaks and baked or grilled, used as pizza bases and as a substitute for rice. Like tofu, it's a bland thing to eat on its own, but a wonderful vehicle for the flavourings and culinary tricks that elevate it to gourmet status. Here are some simple ways to take advantage of the season:

For roasted whole cauliflower – quite the party trick and gorgeous table centrepiece! – bring a large pot of salted water to the boil and gently

lower the cauli in, head down. Six minutes after it's come to the boil, drain and cool it, then place it on a baking tray, head up, seasoned well and spread with a mixture of butter and olive oil, then roast at 170C for 1 1/2 - 2 hours, basting occasionally, then serve it with a garlicky tahini sauce.

Roll florets in Spice Palace spices, salt and olive oil then roast till golden.

Make tabbouleh by grating a cauli (large-hole box grater) and mixing it with the juice of three lemons and a teaspoon of salt and leaving it for 20 minutes before adding finely chopped green onions, parsley, dill, mint, a good glug of olive oil and freshly ground black pepper.

Make a quick pickle: florets in a vinegar brine with chilli and peppercorns!

All the brassicas can be found at Summit Organics, Jumping Red Ant and Everest Farm every Tuesday at New Brighton Farmers Market from 8 to 11am and every Friday at Mullumbimby Farmers Market from 7 to 11am.



Download Local Pegs!

The Byron Bay Community App



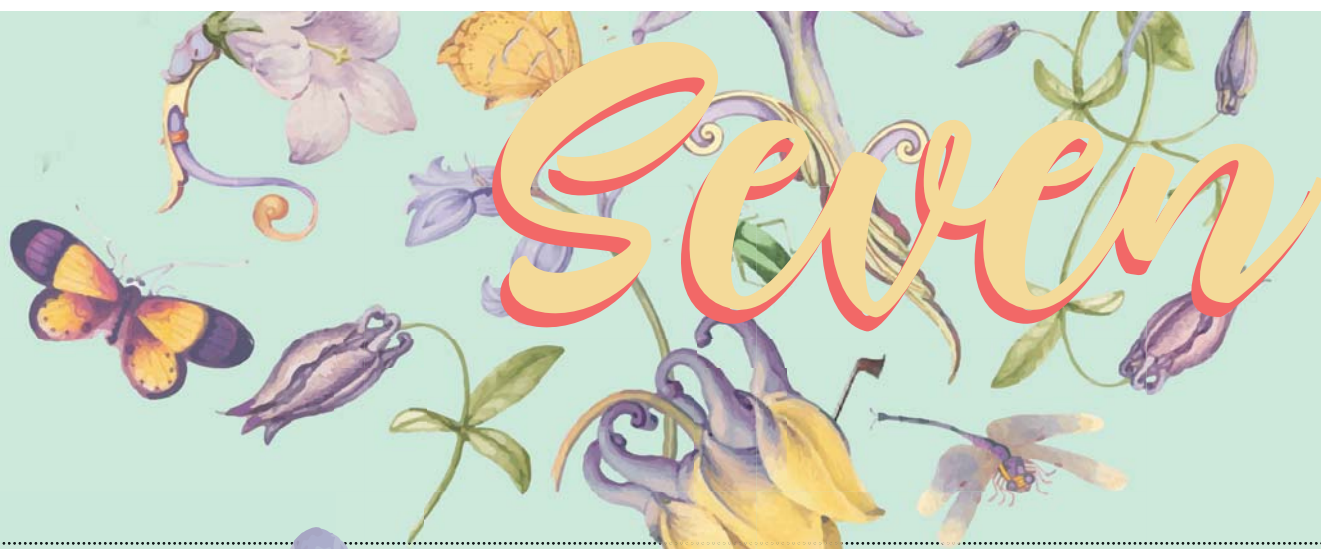


Join the over 5,000 locals using the app!

WHERE LOCALS SUPPORT LOCALS

WHERE LOCALS SUPPORT LOCALS

Volume 38 #11
 23-29 August, 2023
 Editor: Eve Jeffery
 Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
 Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday
 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
 P: 02 6684 1777
 W: echo.net.au/entertainment



GOLD COAST CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

In September and October, the **Gold Coast Chamber Orchestra** has two great performances – *Spring is in the Air* and *Classical Gems*.

From Perth, Western Australia, violinist **Margaret Blades** and pianist, **Ayesha Gough** present *Spring is in the Air* on **17 September at 2.30pm** at the **Bond University Club**.

The GCCO are very pleased to announce that Margaret will be continuing in the role of concertmaster and they welcome her with this wonderful recital. Margaret and Ayesha will be playing the outstanding César Franck **Sonata in A Major for violin and piano** and the much-loved **Spring Sonata** by Beethoven along with contemporary Estonian composer, Arvo Pärt's **Fratres**, meaning Brothers.



Margaret Blades is a former concertmaster of the Adelaide and West Australian Symphony Orchestras and has performed as a soloist both nationally and internationally on several occasions.

Ayesha Gough replaces David Wickham owing to unforeseen circumstances.

Season two sees *Classical Gems* conducted by **Chen Yang** in two performances with concert one on **Sunday 24 September** at the **Murwillumbah Civic Centre** and Concert two on **Sunday 8 October** at **Bond University**. This is the GCCO's second full

orchestra concert as Orchestra in Residence at Bond University and will feature works by Holst, Sculthorpe, Suk, Piazzolla and several others.

For more info visit:
gcco.com.au.



OLD-SCHOOL COOL WITH BOLD SEXY OPTIMISM

Cass Eager is an R&B soul singer who embodies old-school cool with bold sexy optimism. Her sound takes its cue from a vintage sonic swagger a-la Amy Winehouse and Sharon Jones, and when you press play you'll want to be sipping cocktails at your favourite lounge bar in LA with best friends and lovers alike.

Cass finds joy in hammocks, road trips, coffee, whiskey, sunsets, the moon, the ocean, anything vintage, rebels, muses, young-at-hearts, palm trees, velvet, denim, soul, R&B, rock'n'roll and eternal adventure...

The Rails this Saturday.

MARGARET BLADES

Music in the Meadow presents Serenades of Spring Sunday 17 Sep. 2023

Gates open at 12.30. Concert from **2 pm - 5 pm**
 288 Stokers Road, Stokers Siding

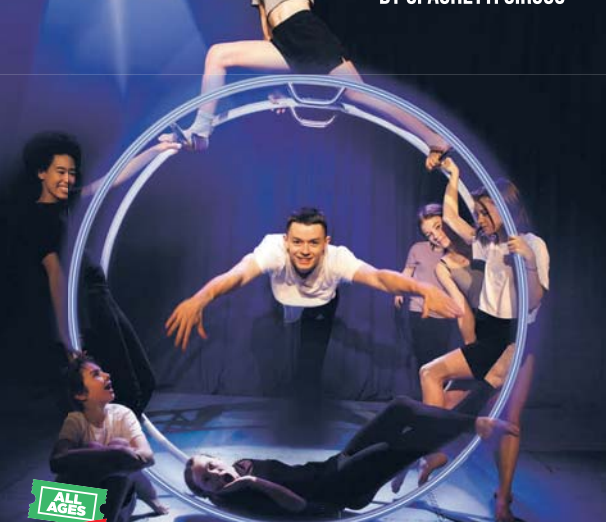
Tickets at www.trybooking.com/CJFWC
 or at the **Murwillumbah Music store**



BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

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- BY SPAGHETTI CIRCUS -



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brunswickpicturehouse.com | 30 FINGAL STREET | 6685 0280



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



scan for tickets

Uniting NSW

SURF TRASH

FREE EVENT



THURS 14TH SEPTEMBER

COUCH WIZARD

PUFF

LENNOX HEAD CULTURAL CENTRE



MONUMENTAL A HIT WITH AUDIENCES

Spaghetti Circus' new work *Monumental* opened to rapturous audiences last week.

With 80 per cent of the season already sold out, Spaghetti Circus and Brunswick Picture House are thrilled with the response.

Here's what some audience members had to say:

'Funny jokes, cool lighting, and great tricks. I loved the German Wheel. A fantastic show.'

– Eddie, 8 years old.



'A pleasure from start to finish! Pure joy emanated from each young performer as they showed their individual skill and passion for the artform.' – Emily, 50 years old.

'Spaghetti never disappoints. *Monumental* has talent, skills, fun, wit and surprise. It's a great night out, showcasing some of the next generation's best new local artists.' – Philip, 52 years old.

Monumental is on until Sunday. Tickets: brunswickpicturehouse.com. Limited availability.



Feel like doing a radio show at BayFM?

Maybe you've done shows at BayFM – or other radio stations before?

If you'd like to be a fill-in presenter or you've got an idea for a show at BayFM

We're all ears... and it's a great time to get involved.

Email stationmanager@bayfm.org Tracee Hutchison and we'll get the radio ball rolling...



bayfm.org

For I have learned to look on nature, not as in the hour of thoughtless youth, but hearing often times the still, sad music of humanity.

William Wordsworth

THE BEAST IS AT NEWRYBAR

The team that brought you the highly successful production of *Hair* earlier this year, **Bangalow Theatre Company**, has now switched gears to present a straight play for the first time ever!

Eddie Perfect's *The Beast* is a biting black comedy that explores the lives of three couples seeking a more organic existence – after surviving a nasty near-death experience, a group of close friends wipe the slate clean and embrace a tree-change, living a sustainable life in the country. But nature isn't always so welcoming, and when the friends are faced with the pressing task of killing a

young cow, a chain reaction begins that will see them confront some ugly and shocking truths.

Originally commissioned by Melbourne Theatre Company, this play highlights a raft of relatable issues and character types well known to us all.

Bangalow Theatre Company presents *The Beast* by **Eddie Perfect**.

Newrybar Hall, Newrybar. From 7 September to 12 September nightly at 7.30pm. Matinees Saturday and Sunday. Find out more at: www.bangalowtheatre.com.au.



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



A DOUBLE TREAT!



CLASSICAL GEMS 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



CINEMA



ASTEROID CITY

How they didn't crack up laughing making this I'll never know. Picture (literally) this: A stellar ensemble cast including Jason Schwartzman, Scarlett Johansson, Tom Hanks, Jeffrey Wright, Tilda Swinton, Bryan Cranston, Edward Norton, Adrien Brody, Liev Schreiber, Hope Davis, Stephen Park, Rupert Friend, Maya Hawke, Steve Carell, Matt Dillon, Hong Chau, Willem Dafoe, Margot Robbie, Tony Revolori, Jake Ryan, and Jeff Goldblum, in a lushly stylised Bagdad Cafe-esque arid landscape, on steroids, WITH asteroids in a yellow haze – this film is a recipe for awesome!

From the visionary who is truly deserving of the title, 'auteur', comes Wes Anderson's 11th feature film. A sci-fi-tinted comedy that ranks among his best and is, all at once, exquisitely styled, profoundly meta, affectingly moving, and infectiously funny. One of America's most unique cinematic voices has crafted something truly (and fittingly) out-of-this-world.

The year is 1955 and the best and brightest young minds have arrived at a small town in the American West for a Junior Stargazer/Space Cadet convention. When the festivities are spectacularly interrupted by extraterrestrial events, the visitors are forced to quarantine and face their very human issues head-on. Immaculately composed with Anderson's trademark charm, this whimsical cinematic delight boasts quite possibly the best ensemble of A-list talent ever put to screen.

This screen gem is showing at Palace Ballina and Byron Bay.

BANGALOW THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

THE BEAST

WRITTEN BY EDDIE PERFECT
DIRECTED BY ANOUSKA GAMMON

SEPTEMBER 7TH-12TH | NEWRYBAR HALL
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT TRYBOOKING.COM

GIG GUIDE

It's free to list your gigs in the gig guide.
gigs@echo.net.au w: echo.net.au/gig-guide.
DEADLINE 5PM ON FRIDAYS



WEDNESDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, DAMIEN COOPER
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM AKOVA
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM COMEDY COMMUNE OPEN MIC

THURSDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, JOCK BARNES DUO
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM CHRIS DEL MAR
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM RANDY FELTFACE – FELTOPIA
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM LUKE BENNETT
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM CALLUM CREELMAN
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM JAM NIGHT
- AUSTRALIA HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM SEA BENZ
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM NEIL MCCANN, 7.30PM POETRY COMPETITION
- ALSTONVILLE PLATEAU BOWLO & SPORTS CLUB 3PM STUKULELE'S 'STRUM 'N' SING'
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM BLINK 182 & GREENDAY EXPERIENCE

FRIDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, KANE MUIR BAND
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM DAMIEN COOPER, 5.30PM SCOTT DALTON, 8PM TAKAICARDIA, 9PM EYESITE & LEAVING JORDAN, 11PM DJ ZAC EWING
- BYRON THEATRE 8PM THE REDGUM YEARS – JOHN SCHUMANN AND THE VAGABOND CREW
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM JC AND THE TREE
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM SPAGHETTI CIRCUS – MONUMENTAL
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 7.30PM SABOTAGE

- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ OREN SELECTA
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUMBIMBY WITH DJ ISHWARA
- COURTHOUSE HOTEL, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM THEM CULPRITS
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM MATT ARMITAGE
- LENNOX PIZZA 8PM MISS RENEE SIMONE
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM DAN HANNAFORD
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM TRILLIAH
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM PINK ZINC + DJ BEATDUSTA
- THE COMMERCIAL HOTEL, CASINO, 8PM THE HILLBILLY SKANK
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM BRAD HOLMES
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM STEPHEN LOVELIGHT

SATURDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, CASS EAGER
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 12.30PM JOSH LEE HAMILTON, 3PM ALEX TILLEY, 8PM LE SHIV, 9PM TEEN JESUS AND THE JEAN TEASERS, 10PM JONO MA
- BYRON THEATRE 8PM DREAMS – FLEETWOOD MAC AND STEVIE NICKS SHOW
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM MASON RACK + RICHIE LANGFORD
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM & 7PM SPAGHETTI CIRCUS – MONUMENTAL
- SOUTH GOLDEN BEACH COMMUNITY HALL 8PM LET'S DANCE
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM DJ ABEL TORO
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, NATHAN KAYE

- CLUB LENNOX 7PM HARRY NICHOLS DUO
- LENNOX PIZZA 7.30PM ANIMAL VENTURA
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM LENNOX GROOVE
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 7PM TRISH WILSON COLLECTIVE
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM TWO TEARS IN A BUCKET + DJ SHAUNTI
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM JADE STODDARD
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM GREER SULLIVAN
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 7.30PM WOLFIE
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 8PM OH WHAT A NIGHT

SUNDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, HARRY NICHOLS DUO
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 1.30PM LUKE YEAMAN, 4.30PM MADISON KAT, 7PM DJ MY HAPPY PLACE, 9PM DJ QUENDO, 10PM DJ JAMIE LOWE

- BYRON THEATRE 5.30PM THE DOWNWINDER FILM SCREENING AND Q&A
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM ALEX TILLEY
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM LAHGO + TAHLIA MATHERSON
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM & 7PM SPAGHETTI CIRCUS – MONUMENTAL
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB OPEN MIC
- MULLUM COMMUNITY GARDENS, MULLUMBIMBY, 9AM GROWFEST
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM NICK DE MAN
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, JB'S BLUES BREAKERS
- CLUB LENNOX 3PM SARAH GRANT
- LENNOX PIZZA 3PM GUY KACHEL

- PEARCES CREEK HALL, PIERCES CREEK, 3PM ILSE DE ZIAH AND IAN DATE
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM FBI WITH GUEST JASON SINES BAND
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM NATE EGGINS, DAMIEN COOPER & JOSHUA LEE WRIGHT
- ALSTONVILLE PLATEAU BOWLO & SPORTS CLUB 3PM STUKULELE'S 'STRUM 'N' SING'
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 3PM THE HILLBILLY SKANK
- KINGSCLIFF SURF CLUB 3PM OPEN MIC, 3.30PM JON J BRADELY
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2PM MARSHALL OKELL

MONDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, TIM STOKES
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM OLE FALCO

TUESDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, STEPHEN LOVELIGHT
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM JESSE WHITNEY
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 6.30PM KOALA ROAST WITH JIMEOIN, MANDY NOLAN, ALEXANDRA HUDSON, BLAKE PAVEY, KEITH THE KOALA AND JOSH HAMILTON
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM TEA TEMPLE WITH PETER HUNT & FRIENDS
- ALSTONVILLE PLATEAU BOWLO & SPORTS CLUB 3PM STUKULELE'S 'STRUM 'N' SING'

WEDNESDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, BEN WALSH
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM ANIMAL VENTURA
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC

Session Times Ballina Fair Cinema

Thurs 24 August – Wed 30 August 47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

SPECIAL EVENT	OPPENHEIMER (MA15+) Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:00PM Sat, Sun: 10:00AM	To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!
ANDRÉ RIEU'S 2023 MAASTRICHT CONCERT Sat, Sun: 1:00PM	SOUND OF FREEDOM (MA15+) Daily: 10:15AM, 4:20PM, 7:15PM	
ALL MOVIES	STRAYS (MA15+) Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 12:50PM Sat, Sun: 5:15PM	SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE
ASTEROID CITY (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 5:15PM	THE MIRACLE CLUB (PG) Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:00PM Sat, Sun: 12:50PM	

*NFT = No Free Tickets

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

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

PALACE CINEMAS

Session Times

Thurs 24 August – Wed 30 August

PALACE CINEMAS 108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	GODLAND (M) Daily: 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM	OPPENHEIMER (MA15+) Thurs, Mon, Tues: 12:30PM, 2:45PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM Fri, Sat: 12:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM Sun: 12:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM, 2:45PM, 3:45PM
PREVIEWS PAST LIVES (MA15+) Fri, Sat: 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:00PM, 8:15PM Sun: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:00PM	GRAN TURISMO: BASED ON A TRUE STORY (M) Daily: 11:15AM, 1:10PM	SOUND OF FREEDOM (MA15+) Daily except Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:20PM Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:20PM, 8:15PM
SYMPHONIC PREVIEW EGO: THE MICHAEL GUDINSKI STORY (MA15+) Wed: 6:30PM	MEG 2: THE TRENCH (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 3:40PM, 8:30PM Sun: 11:00AM, 3:40PM	STRAYS (MA15+) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:15PM, 6:15PM Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 4:15PM, 6:15PM
ALL FILMS	MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - DEAD RECKONING P1 (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:30AM, 3:50PM, 7:00PM Fri, Sat, Sun: 12:30PM, 3:50PM, 7:00PM	THE MIRACLE CLUB (PG) Daily: 11:15AM, 2:00PM

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

Are we losing the Raffle?

MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX



The last day off I had was June 23. The next one is sometime in September. I was wondering the other day why I was feeling a bit tired so I checked my diary. Oops. Apparently they invented this thing called the 'weekend'. Ostensibly it was to refresh the workforce. Or at least give them time to yell at their kids, mow the lawn and wash their undies. And maybe go shopping. There's no point to a capitalist system if you don't have time to spend your money or get into debt. Or cut down old growth forests. Or up your carbon footprint.

I work weekends. So they tend to be booked. I also work during the week. Meetings, gigs, fundraisers, podcasts, rallies, talks, training, writing. My weirdly impossible career is a patchwork of opportunities that have either come my way or I have hustled. In fact, hustling takes up a lot of my time. Hustling is basically me saying: this is happening I think you might like it. I am like an iceberg, for the bit of me you see out in the public, there is a whole lot more submerged hustle. Some days I think I might have pulled my hustle muscle.

I also spend a lot of time trying to change stuff. Yelling at 'the man'. In the last week I've MC'd a forest rally, attended a full day at the Green Institute Conference learning about more shit 'the man' is fucking up, hosted a rally on the Gold Coast in response to the worker who was arrested for alleged child sexual abuse while calling for childcare reforms to better protect children, and yesterday I did a show raising money for the Grace Tame Foundation. In the coming weeks I'm doing some fundraising for koalas, raising money for adolescent mental health, and a sleep out for homelessness. There are so many worthy causes. And so many good people

Caring about the awful shit that happens in the world is exhausting. Things don't change unless you get involved. Things don't change unless you change them.

doing incredible work. They are the relentless driving force of compassion. They are the heart of our communities, so I wonder, are they tired too? Is their hustle muscle broken?

Caring about the awful shit that happens in the world is exhausting. Things don't change unless you get involved. Things don't change unless you change them. People ask me all the time 'How do you do so much?' I am often tempted to answer 'How do you do so little?' Because frankly, if more people did something, then the rest of us could have a cup of tea and a lie down.

Have you seen what we need to do? Can you help? Can you roll up your sleeves? Can you be part of the change? Can you come yell with us? There are organisations all around this country that need volunteers. Every week I am lucky to meet the unseen people who are extraordinary. People who inspire me with their selfless devotion to community. To making a difference. It makes giving up my weekends that bit easier. What I give seems inconsequential, and to be honest, it never feels enough.

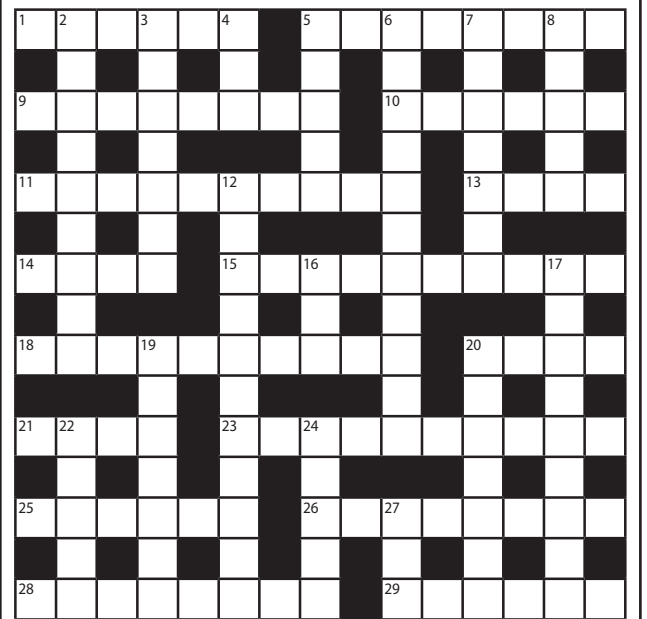
I often wonder what it's like to not care. To be happy with a world where people cut down koala trees, and leave injured wildlife on the side of the road, or refugees in offshore detention and Julian Assange languishing in some almost forgotten political fog. To know women are murdered in their homes every week. To have no sense of injustice about living in a stolen country. To not feel gutted every time a politician green-lights another coal mine. To see the super-wealthy get massive tax cuts, giant homes sit empty, old women put their possessions in a shopping trolley while our local homelessness service begs for money to keep its doors open.

Every time I sell raffle tickets to raise money for homelessness, where I award a prize to a person to put in a home they don't have, I wonder what we are doing. I wonder if our raffles make a difference. Can we bridge the wealth gap with a \$5 raffle ticket? I stand in the abyss of social injustice saying 'number 42!'

I wonder how they can sleep. Those people who have everything. Those people who have access to power to make the change that don't. I bet those fuckers have weekends.

They better buy raffle tickets.

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #505



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Guide to damaged sector (6)
- Last seasoning (4,4)
- Winston's first diary discovered, including last letter - magic! (8)
- Bits of pastry with cold courses (6)
- Small pins the man will use for a gastropod's protection (5,5)
- Scourge the French - be quiet! (4)
- Big charge from savage beast (4)
- Sniffing around territory - and keeping moving (2,8)
- Violin maker runs back, with one competing against a royal Italian (10)
- Dismissed over southern reject (4)
- Australian study of Middle Eastern port (4)
- Former place of huge demonstration (10)
- Shut up - time for storage space (6)
- Mixed tonic; around the bend - a dangerous drug (8)
- Even for everyone - the Spanish in agreement about the direction (8)
- English anger misplaced - but it can infuriate (6)

DOWN

- Insects? It could be a seeker of knowledge! (9)
- Circle to share a speech (7)
- Young Kennedy has time with a journalist (3)
- Poetry - but they say it's very cold (5)
- Set a limit on ailing Australian Right - it is beginning to spurt rivers of blood! (11)
- Enchanted but took a break (7)
- Broadcasts, divulges secrets for vegetables (5)
- Emotional Stein addled in the mind (11)
- Sauna? Bet Australian! (3)
- Monks go in order without fuming (2,7)
- Men confused in Eastern land mass - must be forgetfulness (7)
- Surpass - alternatively try al fresco (7)
- Dealt roughly in the estuary (5)
- Crashed plane - sentenced to jail (5)
- Herb to regret (3)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Chaperon (6)
- Naturally occurring sodium chloride (4,4)
- Sorcery (8)
- Fragments (6)
- Escargot's home! (5,5)
- Whip (4)
- King of the jungle! (4)
- Can't park here! (2,8)
- Most famous luthier (10)
- Expel (4)
- Coastal city in Yemen (4)
- Comprehensive explanation of an idea or theory (10)
- Cupboard (6)
- Opiate (8)
- Side by side; aligned (8)
- Madden (6)

DOWN

- Researcher (9)
- Lecture (7)
- Video talks by experts (3)
- Similar sounds in verse (5)
- Tiny blood vessels (11)
- Named the letters in a word (7)
- Onion-like bulbous plants (5)
- Nostalgic (11)
- Spring (3)
- Sign banning an addictive habit (2,7)
- Memory loss (7)
- In the open-air (7)
- Flood plain at river mouth (5)
- Punitive (5)
- Lament (3)

Last week's solution #504

T	H	E	F	O	U	R	T	H	O	F	J	U	L	Y
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F	I	F	T	H	O	F	N	O	V	E	M	B	E	R

STARS BY LILITH

Time to arrange white flowers, light white candles and wish the Shire's Virgos happy birthday as this week's Sun glides into their elegant, efficient, service-oriented sign...



VIRGO THE VIRGIN

ARIES: As celestial energies progress into your zodiac zone of health and organization, this is a peak week for upgrading project management strategies, overhauling storage systems, clearing out closets and rebooting those wellness routines that may have lagged during winter months. Spring cleaning here you come!

TAURUS: With this week's planetary charge slowing to a more leisurely, Taurus-friendly pace, your earthy virtues and common-sense outlook will be increasingly appreciated. As people start to rush, fuss and take things way too seriously, use your calm composure to help them kick back, relax and take it easy.

GEMINI: Extra attention is definitely necessary with your mentor planet Mercury going rogue till mid-September, so take the time and care this week to check everything before pressing 'send'. And while you might dance like nobody's watching, it's advisable to text like it someday might be read in court.

CANCER: Cancers aren't usually keen on throwing anything out, but the zodiac's season of clutter-culling is here to help you finally get rid of that outfit, relationship or accumulation of stuff past its use-by date that you just haven't been able to let go of - until this week. Canny Crabs will use this opportunity while it lasts.

LEO: Mars activating your income zone can be a bit pushy. There's nothing wrong with wanting to maximize a promising situation, but getting carried away with exciting new possibilities and expecting too much too soon could cause problems this week. Better to pace yourself and focus on common goals.

VIRGO: While Mercury retrograde in your sign mightn't be quite the present you'd have ordered for your birthday month, on the bright side increased vigilance can help avoid making costly mistakes. Note to self: the perfect birthday celebrations are when you're relaxed and happy, not angsty over arrangements.

LIBRA: Yes, this week's Mercury retrogression could be taxing on Libran nerves. But try not to overthink things, worry too much about details, or let little things upset you. Take a breath and relax your mind into the bigger picture. Resort to retail therapy if you must, but keep it within reasonable limits.

SCORPIO: Need to do more research? You mightn't have thought so, but this is one of the best times of the year for it, because Mars in highly perceptive mode this week could rethink, tweak and fine tune those recent ideas about self-promotion. Likely results? Some quick decision-making followed by prompt action.

SAGITTARIUS: This week's astrological climate is unlikely to be receptive to wayward statements, exaggerations or generalisations. Near enough might not be good enough, so do your homework, check your sources, and if something makes you impatient or frustrated, check again: might it actually be your mistake?

CAPRICORN: With Mercury retrograde going into effect this week, mixed messages and misunderstandings multiply. And while it's easy to be judgemental, Venus recommends restraint when giving critical feedback. This is a time for employing the praise sandwich: as in starting and finishing critiques with a positive compliment.

AQUARIUS: Your Aquarian perspective is panoramic, while the current energetic focus is up close, through a magnifying glass, in meticulous detail. It's tempting to dismiss this week's precision thinkers as infuriating fusspots; more useful to look for where you might benefit from applying their diligent and conscientious example.

PISCES: The season of your opposite and complementary sign on the zodiac wheel is a grounding and practical cycle for Pisceans. If something needs adjusting, keep persisting through this week's holdups and setbacks to get it sorted so you can enjoy next week's annual full moon in your sign.

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149734M²

PRICE: \$1.75M - \$1.925M
OPEN | Sat 26th Aug 1:30-2pm

Scan QR code for more
details on this property
*Agent declares interest

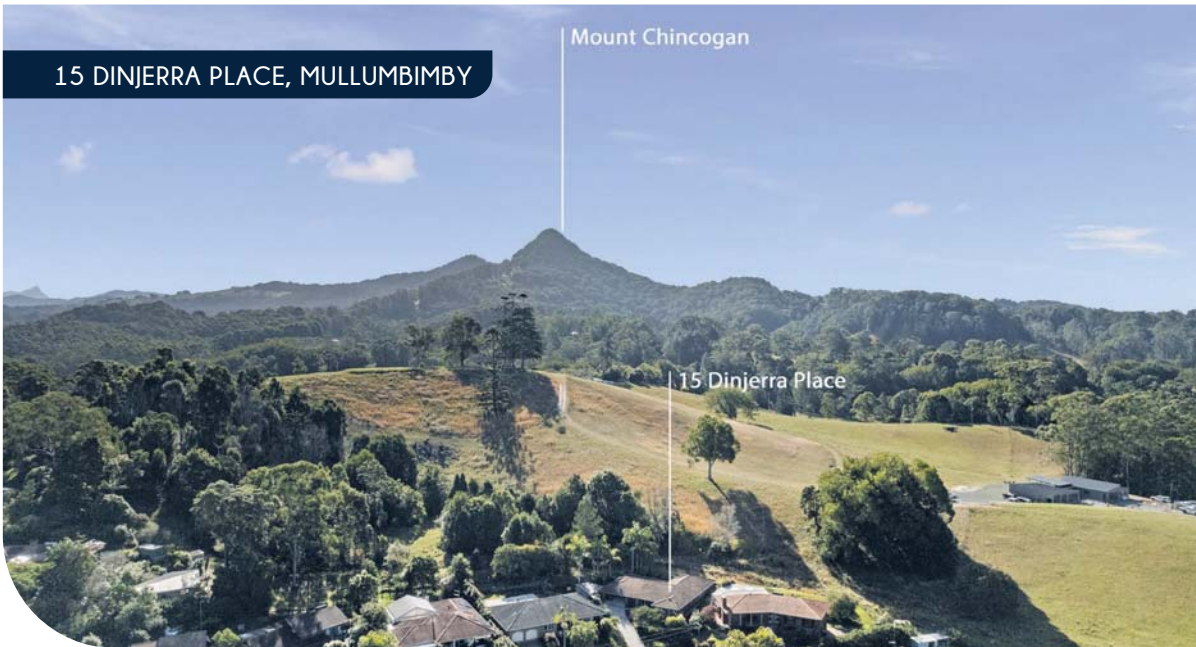


Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649



Paul Prior
0418 324 297

15 DINJERRA PLACE, MULLUMBIMBY



Timed Auction Deceased Estate

3 2 2 3
671M²

ONLINE TIMED AUCTION
ENDING | Tuesday 29th August, 11am
OPEN | Thurs 24th Aug 1-1:30pm
Sat 26th Aug 10-10:30am

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on our secure selling platform or
register to follow this property



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649

56 CARLYLE STREET, BYRON BAY



Architecturally Refurbished Home in Premier Location

4 1 2 1
512M²

FORTHCOMING AUCTION
OPEN | Sat 26th Aug 1-1:30pm

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details on this property



Helen Huntly-Barratt
0412 332 232

147 WHIAN WHIAN ROAD, WHIAN WHIAN



Designer Home with Flexible Floorplan, plus Bails

2 1 2
13.73HA

PRICE | \$1.65M - \$1.75M
OPEN | Sat 26th Aug 12:30-1pm

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details on this property



Paul Prior
0418 324 297



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649

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31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay

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3 3 2 721.2

Sale
Contact Agent

View
Thursday 12-12.30pm
Saturday 9-9.30am

Damien Smith
0418 123 393
damien.smith@raywhite.com

April Nicolson
0457 451 094
april.nicolson@raywhite.com

rwbyronbay.com

RayWhite



SALE

65 Currawong Way, Ewingsdale

Set in a commanding position on 4,497m2 of prime Ewingsdale land, within a rural setting, yet just moments to the heart of Byron Bay, this property is a contemporary expression of elegant Australian design principles matched with understated luxury and comfort.

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5 4 2

Sale
Price Guide \$3,000,000

View
Open Home
Saturday 11-11.30am

Damien Smith
0418 123 393
damien.smith@raywhite.com

April Nicolson
0457 451 094
april.nicolson@raywhite.com

rwbyronbay.com

RayWhite



AUCTION

21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay

Discover a home where the alluring charm of yesteryears seamlessly blends with contemporary convenience. Tucked away in the heart of Byron Bay, this meticulously updated residence is a masterpiece that stands as a testament to the captivating allure of coastal living. Seize the opportunity to immerse yourself in the laid-back beachside lifestyle that defines Byron Bay. With a plethora of shops, cosy cafes, and gourmet restaurants just a leisurely stroll away, and the pristine sands of Byron Main Beach a mere 750 meters from your doorstep, every day becomes a beach day.

WHY WAIT?
Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

4 2 2

Auction
Friday 1 September 2pm Onsite

View
Open Homes
Thu 1-1.30pm & Sat 1-1.30pm

Damien Smith
0418 123 393
damien.smith@raywhite.com

April Nicolson
0457 451 094
april.nicolson@raywhite.com

rwbyronbay.com
www.echo.net.au



AUCTION

2/4 Cypress Court, Byron Bay
 Situated in the vibrant and evolving Sunrise Beach Estate, this modern duplex offers privacy, convenience and a relaxed living space. With a private courtyard deck and gardens, you can unwind in the cool afternoon breezes.

Auction
 Friday 1 September 3.00pm

View
 Wednesday 4-4.30pm
 Saturday 10-10.30am

Nick Russo
 0405 977 049
 nick.russo@raywhite.com

Brett Connable
 0408 155 931
 brett.connable@raywhite.com

2 🚗 1 🛏 1 🚿

WHY WAIT?
 Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

rwbyronbay.com



SALE

429 Wilsons Creek Road, Wilsons Creek
 Perched above Mullumbimby, this charming home is set on two acres with stunning panoramic views of Mt. Chincogan and the Pacific Ocean. This character-filled home enjoys a relaxed atmosphere making it easy to unwind and entertain.

Sale
 Price \$1.2m - \$1.3m

View
 Sat 26th Aug 10-10:30am
 or by appointment

Brett Connable
 0408 155 931
 brett.connable@raywhite.com

Nick Russo
 0405 977 049
 nick.russo@raywhite.com

3 🚗 2 🛏 2 🚿 8093 📄

WHY WAIT?
 Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

rwbyronbay.com



AUCTION

45/9 Easy Street, Byron Bay
 Presenting a stunning 1-bedroom apartment on Byron Bay's famed Easy Street. Crafted for those who desire the ultimate coastal lifestyle, this residence promises both luxury and simplicity in the heart of Byron's iconic Habitat scene.

Auction
 Friday 15 Sept 2pm Onsite

View
 Open Home
 Saturday 10-10.30am

Damien Smith
 0418 123 393
 damien.smith@raywhite.com

April Nicolson
 0457 451 094
 april.nicolson@raywhite.com

1 🚗 1 🛏 2 🚿 6264 📄

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SALE

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- Large high bay roller door plus sliding door entry

Sale
 \$850,000-\$900,000

View
 By Appointment

David Gordon
 0418 856 222
 david.gordon@raywhite.com

1 🛏 125 📄

WHY WAIT?
 Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

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Noble Lakeside - Site 109

Park/Village Name: Noble Lakeside – Kingscliff

🛏️ 2 🚿 1 🚗 1

\$525,000



Immaculate contemporary two-bed home nestled in a great location within easy walking distance to the lakeside club house and swimming pool. This fabulous, modernised home offers new owners a generous size open plan living space connected to a delightful front verandah. The home has been extensively updated; repainted on the interior as well as the exterior and features hybrid timber flooring in all living areas with new carpets in the bedrooms. Spacious open plan living/dining area with double sliding door access to the verandah, split system air conditioner and ceiling fans. Adjoining kitchen makes entertaining easy with ample storage including a corner pantry, breakfast bar, built-in fan forced Simpson oven & cooktop, tiled splashbacks, and a stainless-steel sink. Located towards the back of the home, you will find two good size newly carpeted bedrooms with built-in wardrobes, ceiling fans. The bathroom features a large glassed-in shower, extensive vanity, and a separate toilet. Adjoining carport has ramp access to the home for one vehicle. Energy efficient home with solar hot water system. The prestigious 'Pet Friendly' Nobel Lakeside Park spans over 25 acres and its amenities include swimming pools, a fully licensed Lakeside Club Community Centre, landscaped gardens, bowling green, sports centre, arts & crafts centre with workshop, storage facilities and tennis court. Retirement living at its best.

Inspect: By appointment

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Open For Inspection

Ray White Byron Bay

- 2/4 Cypress Court, Byron Bay. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Thu 12-12.30pm
- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Thu 1-1.30pm
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 65 Currawong Way, Ewingsdale. Sat 9-9.30am
- 11/183-205 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 109-111 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 429 Wilsons Creek Road, Wilsons Creek. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/4 Cypress Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 45/9 Easy Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 48 Jacaranda Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 4 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 154 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 17 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 39 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 82 Tymba Avenue, Teven. Sat 10-10.30am
- 150 Burnet Street, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/5 Henry Philp Avenue, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3/27 Claire Circuit, West Ballina. Sat 10.30-11am
- 7 Daydream Avenue, West Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 115 Burnett Street, Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/14 Barrett Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/51 Gibbon Street, Lennox Head. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 4/13 Tamar Street, Ballina. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1 Bath Street, Wardell. Sat 12.45-1.15pm
- 1106-1108 Tamarind Drive, Tintenbar. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 14 Kite Avenue, Ballina. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 194 South Ballina Beach Road, South Ballina. Sat 1.45-2.15pm
- 57 Anderson Street, East Ballina. Sat 2-2.30pm
- 114 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores. Sat 2.30-3pm

First National Byron Bay

- 69 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Wed 2-2.30pm
- 15 Dinjerra Place, Mullumbimby. Thu 1-1.30pm
- 4 South Beach Road, Brunswick Heads. Thu 1-1.30pm
- 36 Gibsons Road, Alstonvale. Thu 1-1.30pm
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thu 2-3pm
- 179 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Thu 3.30-4pm
- 28 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Mullumbimby. Fri 10-10.30am
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry. Fri 11-11.30am
- 41 Bottlebrush Crescent, Suffolk Park. Fri 3-3.30pm
- 28 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 3/75 Stewart Street, Lennox Head. Sat 9-9.30am
- 41 Gordon Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.45-10.15am
- 69 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 15 Dinjerra Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 30 MacGregor Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 53 Fig Tree Hill Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/31 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 2/5 Chinbible Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.30-11am
- 7/6-8 Norlyn Avenue, Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 64 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 38 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 179 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 36 Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 16 Blueberry Court, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 147 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 509 Rosebank Road, Rosebank. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 56 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 85 Arthur Road, Corndale. Sat 1.30-2pm

Byron Shire Real Estate

- 15A Weeronga Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 8 Weeronga Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 29 Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 14 Murumba Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 11 Waranga Crescent, Burringbar. Sat 12-12.30pm

Century 21 Plateau Lifestyle

- 40 Rifle Range Road, Wollongbar. Sat 10.30-11am
- 44B Ocean Drive, Evans Head. Sat 1-1.30pm

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

- 26C Coomburra Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/3 Newberry Parade, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm

Amir Prestige

- 15 Roder Place, Richmond Hill. Wed 4.30-5pm

Mana

- 31 Bulgoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 9 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Sat 9.30-10am
- 73b Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2 Clifford Street, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30-11am
- 1/6 Boondoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/6 Boondoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7 Boondoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 3 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 22 Flinders Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30-1pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 35 Claire Circuit, West Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/111 Kalinga Street, West Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 14/3-13 Sunset Avenue, West Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 589 Ballina Road, Goonellabah. Sat 9.30-10am
- 2 Marina Place, West Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am

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McGrath Byron Bay

- 115 Stewarts Road, Clunes. Sat 9.30-10am
- 8 Hakea Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30-10am
- 1 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 10-10.30am
- 10 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 62 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11.45am-12.15 pm
- 33/12 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 12.45-1.15 pm
- 55/12 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 12.45-1.15 pm

Real Estate of Distinction

- 35-37 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 10-10.30am
- 40 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 413 Crabbes Creek Road, Crabbes Creek. Sat 11.30am-12pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 11 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Sat 9-9.30am
- 55B Mylestom Circle, Pottsville. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2 Glendale Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1 Byron Street, New Brighton. Sat 10-10.45am
- 4/1 Bindaree Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 111 Geles Road, Upper Burringbar. Sat 11-11.30am
- 14 Goolara Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.45am
- 6/20 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 12/2 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 1-1.30pm

Ruth Russell Realty

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

New listings

Byron Shire Real Estate

- 14 Murumba Court, Ocean Shores
- 29 Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores

First National Byron Bay

- 4 South Beach Road, Brunswick Heads
- 2 and 2A Seaview Street, Byron Bay
- 179 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby
- 16 Blueberry Court, Byron Bay
- 43/11-19 Cooper Street, Byron Bay

McGrath Byron Bay

- 1 North Head Road, New Brighton

Amir Prestige

- 111 Overall Drive, Pottsville

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 12/2 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores
- 4/1 Bindaree Way, Ocean Shores
- 1 Byron Street, New Brighton
- 2 Glendale Crescent, Ocean Shores
- 14 Goolara Court, Ocean Shores
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ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

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:

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Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:
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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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Echo Classies also appear online:
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PUBLIC NOTICES



Osho Meditation Day
Saturday Aug 26th

- 8am Silent Dynamic
- 10am Osho Discourse
- 12md Nataraj dance meditation
- 2pm Nadabrama Humming
- 4pm Kundalin meditation
- 6pm Osho Evening meditation

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COMBINED HOUSE CLEARING SALE
Good things not going online, see MullumHugs. Sat 26, 8.30am–2.30pm & Sun 27 9am–noon. 34 Morrisson Avenue, Mullumbimby. Check it out.

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4/71 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay - \$680 pw

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An established berry farmer in the Byron Bay Hinterland is looking for a casual employee to operate a farmers' market stall on one to three days a week.

The Market Stall Operator will be required to enthusiastically communicate with customers about berry quality, and will be responsible for the operation of stalls at farmers markets including set up and pack down, refrigerated van driving and transport, food safety and stock control. Knowledge of and enthusiasm for horticulture is essential.

Applicants must have a current driver licence, be physically fit, self-motivated and be able to meet early morning deadlines.

Please email resume to HR4BerryOrchard@gmail.com

NSW Health Pathology

Administration Officer

Location: Lismore
Employment Type: Permanent Full Time
Position Classification: Administration Officer Level 6
Remuneration: \$74,121.75 - \$75,956.87 per annum plus superannuation
Hours Per Week: 38
For role related queries or questions contact: Christopher Nicol on Christopher.Nicol@health.nsw.gov.au
Closing Date: 27 August 2023 at 11:59pm

NSW Health Pathology is seeking a Permanent Full-time Administration (Lvl 6), located within Lismore Base Hospital.

The Administrative Officer is a key position in the heart pathology laboratory and by joining our dynamic team, you will be working in one of the largest regional laboratories in NSW, servicing Lismore Base Hospital and the Northern Rivers Community.

Applications must be lodged electronically at iworkfor.nsw.gov.au and search Job Reference Number **REQ419609**

NSW Health Pathology

Phlebotomist (Blood collector)

Locations: Lismore
Employment Type: Various
Position Classification: Technical Assistant Grade 2
Remuneration: \$28.39 - \$29.54 per hour plus superannuation
Hours Per Week: 38
Closing Date: 27 August 2023 - 11:59pm

NSW Health Pathology are seeking three Phlebotomists (blood collectors), two permanent full time and one permanent part time, located within Lismore Base Hospital.

Blood collectors are the heart of any Pathology Laboratory and by joining our dynamic team, you will be working in one of the largest regional laboratories in the state, servicing Lismore Base Hospital and the Northern Rivers Community.

Working closely with our Pre-Analytical Team, you will have will also have the opportunity to learn data entry and other key skills, to assist in the processing of specimens in preparation for the laboratory departments to complete their testing.

Applications must be lodged electronically at iworkfor.nsw.gov.au and search Job Reference Number **REQ421065**

Please do not hesitate to contact me on (02) 4920 4066.

JAPANESE CHEFS, CHEFS AND KITCHENHANDS

Wanted for a new Japanese restaurant in Byron Bay.

Please text or call **William 0420 415 479**

MUSICAL NOTES

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Position description and application process available at: www.capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

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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

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M/C # 991003001704195
 Location: Murwillumbah

For more information contact **Yvette on 0421 831 128.**

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Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
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5-year-old desexed female English Staffy x Ridgeback 'Nala' is looking for a forever home.

Strong, loving, playful, big-beautiful-eyed Nala needs patience & stability due to past trauma and resulting mistrust.

She's good with children, cats and cows. She gets very excited around other big dogs and suffers fear aggression.

Nala needs a loving but firm handler who can provide her with further training and socialisation.

Please contact Shell on 0458 461 935.
 MC: 991001000924234

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 Duranbah Rd (Tropical Fruit World)
Each SAT 8am-1pm Uki 6679 5530
Each SAT 8.30-11am Lismore
Each SAT 8.30-12am Blue Knob
Each SUN 7-11am Ballina 0493 102 137

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE	000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay	131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads	6629 7510
Mullumbimby	6629 7570
Byron Bay	6685 9499
Bangalow	6629 7500
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding	132 500
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue	6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER	6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL	6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS	6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby)	6684 1286
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line	1800 656 463
LIFELINE	131 114
MENSLINE	1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours	1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics	1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily	6680 7280
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE	6687 2520
HIV/AIDS - ACON Confidential testing & information	6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)	6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS	6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE	6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service	6628 1898

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week. Email copy marked 'Regular As Clockwork' to editor@echo.net.au.

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday–Friday 9.30am–4pm (closed from 12.30–1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286.

Some of our services include: **Flood Recovery Support Service:** personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods. **Community support:** Food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders. **Listening Space:** free counselling. **Free Yoga:** every Tuesday 3–4pm. **More Than A Meal:** Free Community lunch Tuesday–Friday 1.30–1.30.

Financial Counselling
Staying Home, Leaving Violence program. Information, referral, and advocacy
Gulgani affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane
Orange Sky: Free laundry service Mon morning & Tue afternoon
To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdn.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre

Byron Community Centre

Byron Community Centre
The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to get practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. Fletcher Street Cottage services are open Monday–Friday. **Breakfast:** Monday–Friday, 7am–9am. **Showers and Laundry:** Monday–Friday, 7am–12pm. **Office Support:** Monday–Friday, 9am–12pm. **Support Appointments:** Individual support appointments with community workers or specialist services. For bookings please call 6685 6807. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au.
Byron Community Cabin: Seniors Computer Club (school term only), 9–11am, Friday, Carlyle Steet. More info: www.byroncentre.com.au Phone: 6685 6807

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30–11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **Free Food Relief Bags** for anyone doing it tough, every Wednesday 10–12noon at The Hub Ocean Shores, cnr Rajah Rd and Bindaree Way. No ID or Concession Card required. NILS referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details. **Liberation Larder** Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre.

Respite Service

Byron Shire Respite Service Inc delivers high-quality respite care to a broad range of clients throughout the Byron, Ballina and Lismore shires. Donations welcome: Ph 6685 1921, email fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au, website: www.byronrespite.com.au.

Alateen meeting

Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5–6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8–16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert's Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older

members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au

ACA

Adult Children of Alcoholic Parents and/or Dysfunctional Families (ACA) help & recovery group meets in Lismore every Friday 10–11.30am, Red Dove Centre, 80 Keen Street. Byron meetings are on Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom – meeting ID 554 974 582 password byronbay.

Drug support groups

Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 – 30 meetings a week in the Shire – www.aa.org.au. Are you experiencing difficulties and challenges because of the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Learn coping skills and gain support from others. **Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings call 1300 652 820 or text your postcode to 0488 811 247. www.na.org.au. Are you concerned about somebody else's drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** meetings held Fridays at 2pm by Zoom. 1300 252666 www.al-anon.org.au.

Support after suicide

StandBy provides support to people who have lost someone to suicide. They provide free face-to-face and telephone support and are accessible 24/7. Follow-up contact is available for up to one year. Find out more at: www.standbysupport.com.au or call 13 11 14. If you, or someone you are with, are in need of immediate support please call an ambulance or police on 000.

Volunteer call out

Support for New Mums Inc. a Northern NSW community program are recruiting volunteers in the Byron Shire. We offer a free of charge, home visiting program for mothers with babies. For more information email Deb: newmums8@gmail.com.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina and Tweed Heads South, this month. Attendees must be Exit Members. For further information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443.

Carers' support

Mullumbimby Mental Health Carers' Support Group for family members and friends who have a loved one with a mental health issue. Meeting on 4th Thursday of each month 9.30am at the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre. Info: Susanne 0428 716 431.

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, mazzerati2010@gmail.com.

Women's Circle

A women's circle is held 10am–12pm, every Tuesday at the Byron Community Cabin on Carlyle Street. Morning tea, art activities and connection to community for women experiencing housing insecurity. It is hosted by Fletcher Street Cottage and Byron Community Centre. For more info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com, email: fsc@byroncentre.com.au, or call 6685 6807.

Older adult exercise

Chair Based Older Adults Exercise Classes run by a qualified instructor, that feel more like fun than exercise, are held every Thursday at 10.15am in the Brunswick Memorial Hall. Cost \$10. All welcome. Just show up or if you have any questions please contact Di on 0427 026 935.

\$5 pilates classes

Pilates for the price of a coffee! Come and join us for \$5 Pilates classes every Thursday at 8.45am in the Memorial Hall, 22 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads and Monday at 8.45am in Mullumbimby. It doesn't matter what level you are, as beginner to advanced options are shown. Just bring a mat and water. My goal is to keep the Shire active and feeling great one person at a time. No need to book just show up. For more information contact Di on 0427 026 935.

Pottsville Community Association

Pottsville Community Association meetings are on the last Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm at the Anglican Church in Coronation Drive, Pottsville. Have your say on what is going on in your local area. For details contact secretary@pottsvillecommunityassociation.com or via Facebook.

Language exchange

Byron language exchange club runs every 2nd last Friday of the month from 6pm (alternating Ballina/Byron). Practise other languages or help someone with your English! Find us on Facebook. Contact byronbaylanguages@gmail.com.

Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc

The Museum is on the corner of Myocum and Stuart Sts Mullumbimby, open Tuesdays and Fridays 10am–12pm and market Saturdays 9am–1pm. Discover your local history, join our team – 6684 4367.

Library fun

Baby Bounce and Storytime for toddlers and pre-school children are at: **Brunswick Heads Library**, Monday – Story Time 10.30 till 11.30am; Friday – Baby Time 10.30 till 11am. **Mullumbimby Library**, Monday – Story Time 10–11am; Tuesday – Baby Time 10–10.30 am.

Byron Bay Cancer Support Group

The Byron Bay General Cancer Support Group has been running for six years and welcomes new participants. The aim of the group is to provide a safe, supportive and friendly environment for people with cancer to discuss how they are feeling and connect with other people with cancer. Meetings are held every four weeks on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am. For more information contact the Cancer Council on 13 11 20.

Social sporting groups

Mullumbimby: Tuesday Ladies Group of Riverside Tennis Club welcomes new players 9.30am every Tuesday next to Heritage Park, for social tennis, fun and friendship. Info: Barbara 6684 8058. **South Golden Shores Community Centre** Women's table tennis every Monday at 10am. Phone 0435 780 017. **Byron Bay Croquet** at Croquet Club next to the Scout Hall at the Byron Rec Grounds every Monday at 3.30pm. Ring 0477 972 535. **Pottsville Fun Croquet Club** at Black Rocks Sportfield. Beginners and visitors welcome. Game starts 8.30am Tuesday and Thursday. \$5 per game. Enquiries 0413 335 941.

Exercise for older adults

Chair Based Older Adults Exercise Classes run by a qualified instructor, that feel more like fun than exercise, are held every Thursday at 10.15am in the Brunswick Memorial Hall. Cost \$10. All welcome. Just show up or if you have any questions please contact Di on 0427 026 935.

Toastmasters

Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters meetings coaching in communication and self-development run on 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6.15 for 6.30pm at Byron Bay Services Club, Byron Bay. Online attendance allowed. **Mullum Magic Toastmasters:** Mullum Magic provides a safe and fun environment for members and guests to develop their public-speaking and leadership skills. Meeting 6.30–8.30pm every second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Presbyterian Church, 104 Stuart St, Mullumbimby. New members and guests welcome. Contact Bruce 0418 515 991 or Ninian 0411 629 982.

Meditation

Dzogchen meditation and study group 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month at Mullumbimby CWA Hall. Didi 0408 008 769. **Buddhist meditation** and conversation with John Allan, Mondays 6.30–8.30pm, The Yurt, Temple Byron. No fees. John 0428 991 189. **Byron yoga philosophy club** free meditation classes Monday, 7pm, 1 Korau Place Suffolk Park. Go to www.wisdom.yoga or phone Kris 0435 300 743. **Byron Bay Meditation Centre**, Tuesday 6.30pm at Temple Byron. For more info: byronbaymeditationcentre.com.au or contact Greg 0431 747 764.

Brunswick Heads CWA

Brunswick Heads CWA Crafty Women meet Fridays 10am–2pm, cnr Park and Booyun Streets, Brunswick Heads. Join us for a chat and cuppa, bring along your craft projects including sewing, knitting, crocheting, or quilting. Beginners welcome. Gold coin donation for morning tea.

Byron Gem Club

The Byron Gem and Lapidary Club is open weekly to members new and old. Visitors welcome to view club facilities. Activities semi-precious and gemstone cutting, shaping and polishing, gem faceting, silver work, gem setting and jewellery making etc. Facebook @ Byron Gem Club. Club workshed located past Sky Dive Byron at Tyagarah Airfield. Contact 6687 1251 or 0427 529 967 for more info.

Lions Club

Interested in making new friends and helping our community? Lions Club of Brunswick Mullumbimby meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm Ocean Shores Country Club. Info: Joan Towers 0400 484 419.

Craft group

The Uniting Craft & Social Group meets every Monday 9.30am–2.30pm at the Uniting Church in Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Bring lunch and whatever else you need. Small cost. All welcome. Do you

prefer patchwork and quilting? Come along on Monday evening same place at 6pm. Enquiries Tilly 6685 5985.

Op shops

Uniting Church Op Shop, Dalley St, Mullumbimby – open each Saturday 9am–12 noon. **Byron Bay Anglican Op Shop** opens Tuesday to Saturday 9am–1pm. Volunteers needed. Enq Cathy 0432 606 849. **Mullumbimby Anglican Op Shop** opens Monday to Friday 9am–4pm, Saturday 9am–12noon. Volunteers needed, enq to shop 6684 4718. **Mullumbimby Seventh-Day Adventist Op Shop opens** Tuesday to Friday 11am–3pm. **Companion Animals Welfare Inc (CAWI) op shop** Brunswick Heads (next to supermarket) open Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat 9am–1pm, Sun closed.

Mullumbimby Potters & Sculptors

Mullumbimby Clayworkers Gallery in the Drill Hall complex is open every Thursday to Saturday 10am–2pm with pottery and sculpture from community members for sale. Applications for studio membership open in January. All details at www.mullumclayworkers.com.

CWA Bangalow

If you are interested in making new friends by supporting the Byron Shire community through fundraising and lobbying, pursuing craft interests and learning new skills, think about joining Bangalow CWA. Come along to our rooms, 31 Byron St, Bangalow between 10am & 2pm Monday to Friday to find out more. We are open Monday to Friday 10 to 2 and Saturdays 9 to 12. Our popular cake stalls are on the last Saturday of the month 8 to 12. Find us on Facebook or contact cwasecbangalow@gmail.com

Toy Library

The Byron Shire Toy Library is open Mondays and Thursdays 9am–12 noon, at the Children's Centre, Coogera Cct, Suffolk Park. Come and see the large range of preschoolers toys available for loan.

Up your skills

Come to Upskill in Mullumbimby, a free introductory building and carpentry workshop. Workshops are held every Saturday, 9am to 1pm at Shedding Community Workshop. Bookings Essential via shedding.com.au. Contact Sophie Wilksch via email at shedding.com.au, communityworkshop@gmail.com.

Muslim prayer

Friday Muslim prayer. Jumu'ah service held weekly at the Cavanbah Centre at 1.30 pm. Come to the remembrance of Allah.

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Chemical free landcare

Byron Shire Chemical Free Landcare's (BSCFL) working bee is Saturday, 26 August, 8am until 12.30 pm, at Saltwater Creek. Meet at Mullumbimby Community Garden car park.

Grow Fest

Grow Fest is on this Sunday, 27 August at the Mullumbimby Community Gardens. Talks, workshops, food and music for everyone to enjoy from 9am, shutting at Sunset.

BV Scrabble Club

Brunswick Valley Scrabble Club runs from 1pm to 3.30pm every Tuesday at Brunswick Heads Bowling Club. More social than competitive. You don't have to be a champion! Come and join us. For more info phone 0407 844 718.

Lismore rainforest walk

Guided Walk in the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens on Sunday, 27 August at 2pm. Phil will take you on an informative walk through the

gardens which are currently showing off their spring beauty. Enjoy a unique experience of the flowering plants through the Sensory Garden, the Rainforest Walk, the Nursery, Palm Gully, Hoop Pine and Wilson's Park Species Garden. Meet at the Visitor's Centre at 1.45pm for a 2pm start for a one-hour walk. \$5 per adult, children free. No card facilities. Wear hat and sturdy shoes. Enjoy afternoon tea in the Visitor's Centre after the walk. Booking essential: Email publicity@friendslrbg.com.au or text 0450 596 705.

BB Hospital Auxiliary

The Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary hold their monthly meetings on the third Monday of every month at the Byron Central Hospital at 1pm. All members and new members welcome. For further information please contact Maureen on 6685 3162.

Baby/toddler drop-in centre and clothes swap

Free drop-in centre and baby/toddler clothes swap each Friday, 10am–2pm

Free ESL

Free English as a Second Language classes suitable for beginners to advanced learners. Kingscliff 6674 7267.

Landcare

Bangalow Land and Rivercare working bee every Saturday 8.30–10.30am. Email: bangalowlandcare@gmail.com. Noelene 0431 200 638.

Soap Aid saving lives

Soap Aid is a not-for-profit organisation recycling and sending critical soap to communities facing major hygiene challenges. Please drop in your partly used household or holiday rental soap for recycling to Kim at Raine & Horne Byron Bay 39 Fletcher Street 0499 839 566. Small and large quantities welcome. <https://soapaid.org>.

Sex & Love Addicts Anon

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is peer-support group of men and women for whom sex and/or romance have become a problem. For details of weekly meetings, phone 0452 074 974 or visit www.slaa.org.au.

Volunteers sought

Volunteers sought for Northern Rivers Volunteering, representing more than 100 community organisations. Info: 6621 7397.

Bridge club

Brunswick Valley Bridge Club meets every Monday, seated at 12.15 to commence play at 12.30. Visitors welcome. See bridgewebs.com/brunswickvalley/home.html or for partner ring Lesley 0468 807 306. Facebook Brunswick Valley Bridge Club.

BV scrabble club

Brunswick Valley Scrabble Club will meet each Tuesday afternoon from 1 till 4pm at the Brunswick Bowling Club. New members welcome. Contact Steve on 0407 844 718.

Bosom Buddies

Ballina Bosom Buddies Support Group meets the third Thursday each month 10am–12pm at the Ballina Kentwell Community Centre. Contact Karen 0439 438 576 for further information.

Emerge Australia

Emerge Australia Inc is a not-for-profit charity supporting those with myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. For more information see the Emerge Australia Website at <http://emerge.org.au>.

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.

Women's circle

A women's circle is held 10am–12pm, every Tuesday at the Byron Community Cabin on Carlyle Street. Morning tea, art activities and connection to community for women experiencing housing insecurity. It is hosted by Fletcher Street Cottage and Byron Community Centre. For more info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com, email: fsc@byroncentre.com.au, or call 6685 6807.

Volunteer call out

Support for New Mums Inc. a Northern NSW community program are recruiting volunteers in the Byron Shire. We offer a free-of-charge, home visiting program for mothers with babies. For more information email Deb: newmums8@gmail.com.

Please note: This section is intended for the benefit of non-profit community groups.

Byron Bay cyclists win Inter Club Series

Byron Bay Cycle Club (BBCC) has won the inaugural Northern NSW Inter Club Race Series after a strong showing on the final day of racing in Yamba two weeks ago.

The three-way series between Grafton, Yamba and Byron Bay cycling clubs was held over four race days across several months, and culminated in a day of racing dedicated to the team championship. Other race days let riders accrue points both individually and for their clubs.

The overall points tally in the club championship saw Byron Bay on top with 256 points, followed by Grafton (190) and Yamba (98).

Grafton won the first race day, a road-race, in and out of Grafton, and race three in Yamba, but Byron had a relatively bigger win at home in race two, and again in race four.

Clubs accrued points for the overall success of their riders, but also



BBCC with individual trophies as well as the Northern NSW Inter Club Series trophy for 2023. Photo supplied

for the number of riders participating.

'Overall from an organiser's perspective the Inter Club Series was very successful in terms of participation. We definitely proved the concept is viable,' said BBCC secretary Mat Johnson.

'And on top of that Byron Bay came away with the win because of a lot of good results by individuals'

Open to beginners

BBCC will be hosting a special road racing event in Lismore on September 24.

The day will include four grades of experienced racing as well as one for beginners and one for e-bikes.

Roads will be closed for the race circuit.

'We are trying to attract people to come and have a look,' Mat said.

Local gets Australian call up

Tintenbar-East Ballina cricketer Steven Leahy has been selected to play for the Australian over 40s team to play at the inaugural World Cup, for the age group, in Pakistan next month.

Steven had no expectation at all that he would make the side.

'It was never on my radar,' he said. 'Its all about being in the right place, at the right time'

After playing in the local first-grade competition last year, Steven, who has only recently turned 41, was selected for the NSW over 40s side, but didn't make the cut for the Australian side that toured New Zealand.

Again he failed to make the side when he couldn't try out earlier this year as he had a broken ankle. But after that things fell into place.

'It was luck and fate, as other players couldn't make the tour,' he said.

The trip will see him spend almost three weeks in



Steven will be wearing the green and gold when he gets to Karachi for the Global Cricket Cup. Photo supplied

Pakistan where he will play 11 games over 17 days, including trials and Global Cricket Cup tournament games.

As an opening swing bowler he hasn't been able to garner much intel on the playing surfaces, or how his swing technique will fare in the unfamiliar conditions.

'All I have really heard is that there is very little

bounce on subcontinental and Indian pitches. That will probably suit me,' he said. 'We'll see how it goes'.

The tour is largely self-funded, he said.

The over 40s is a new age group for veterans cricket, that includes over 50s, 60s and 70s.

Steve is the first local to be play in this national side.

Local teams feature in a big weekend of finals football across all codes and grades

Preliminary rounds are played out and footballers across the Northern Rivers, in all codes, are preparing themselves for finals footy.

Rugby League

It was a weekend of mixed fortunes for the Byron Bay Red Devils as their reserve-grade side went down to Cudgen, who dominated 46-10.

But the Byron Bay U/18s flew the flag with gusto as they posted a 48-16 win over Northern United. They have another elimination final this Saturday when they take on Bilambil at Oakes Oval in Lismore at 11.30am.

The first-grade minor premiers Ballina play Bilambil this weekend at Kingsford Smith Park in Ballina, to see who will play in, and host, the grand final. Ballina and Bilambil also play at the same venue in reserve grade to determine the first grand final team.



The Byron Shire Rebels can still make the grand final after going down to WAR last weekend. Photo Vicky Kerry

Football

In women's premier league football, Lennox Head and Byron Bay will go head-to-head in a qualifying final this Friday night in Lennox Head from 6.30pm.

The winner will go on to play the minor premiers, Alstonville, in a major semi-final next week.

In the men's premier league, table toppers Bangalow get a weekend off, while Richmond Rovers play an elimination final against Alstonville.

Byron Bay takes on South Lismore in the qualifying final at the Recreation Grounds on Saturday at 3pm.

The winner of this game plays the Bangalow Blue Dogs for a grand final berth next weekend.

Rugby

The Byron Shire Rebels first; and second-grade; sides both lost their first round of finals last weekend.

They have another chance this weekend. Both teams were minor premiers but firsts went down to Wollongbar Alstonville Rugby 33-17, and in second grade Casuarina beat Byron Shire 17-15.

In first grade Byron Shire will have to beat Casuarina this Saturday, to play in the grand final against WAR, while seconds play WAR

to make it into their grand final against Casuarina. Play from 1pm at Lyle Park, Wollongbar.

AFL

The Byron Magpies senior men's AFL squad has continued their winning ways by beating Port Macquarie 12.14.86-9.5.59 last Saturday afternoon in Coffs Harbour.

Byron was behind by 11 points after the first quarter but soon clicked into gear, winning the next three quarters.

The team has qualified for the grand final on September 2, against the winner of this weekend's game between Port Macquarie and Grafton.

In Women's AFL the Ballina Bombers senior team has finished second on the Queensland (division two south) table at the end of the regular season, after winning their last seven games.

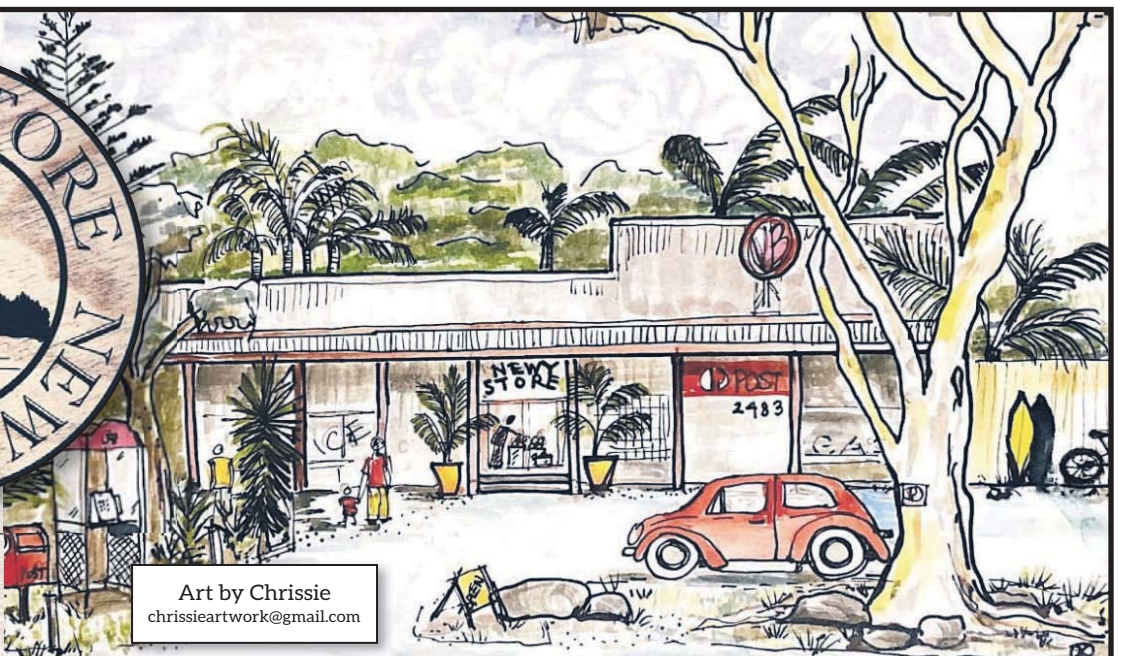
The side skips the elimination finals this weekend after booking a semi-final on September 2.

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THE NEW BYRON LANEWAY PRECINCT
 139 JONSON ST, BYRON BAY @JONSON.LANE

With dangerous fire ants bearing down on us from the NSW QLD border, further infestations of Varroa mites were found near Kempsey last week. The mite is deadly for bees. And bees are key to planetary life. For more info visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/varroa.

ICymi the 2023 Byron Business Awards will be held Thursday, August 24 from 6pm to 8pm at Beach, Byron Bay. The night celebrates outstanding growth, entrepreneurship, and success in the Byron Shire. More sponsors are also sought – to find out more, email byronbaychambercommerce@gmail.com. For tickets, visit tinyurl.com/2dfpva34.

The all powerful and omnipresent NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) will split into two departments from January 1, 2024. NSW Premier, Chris Minns, said it will become the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, and the Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure. Why? He says the ‘changes have been made following a detailed review and analysis of services and programs’. Neither reviews nor analysis were not included in his press release.

Psst: Just a few Lib-Nat policies adopted without question by federal Labor are: AUKUS (biggest ever transfer of our wealth via taxes overseas, to the US, and overturning Labor’s long held opposition to nukes); stage three tax cuts (that benefit the wealthy); and the discredited and unworkable offsets-based climate policy.



Linsey Pollak brought his quirky music-making to The Bangalow Chamber Music Festival last weekend. Here, he demonstrates his rubber glove bagpipes at Bangalow’s Ninbella Gallery. Pollak created and champions the little understood techno-vegetable genre, where carrot clarinets run headlong into electronica through reverb and tape loops. Photo Jeff ‘Techno-Vege Since 1986’ Dawson

Good news for developers – the federal Labor guvment will interfere with the role that states and territories – and councils have in local planning – see page 4. Will it result in better outcomes? The announcement comes without much detail and was part of a ‘Planning Reform Blueprint’ that includes policies that are still being developed. And like the NSW government, the word ‘fast track’ is thrown around without any details. Now that’s how to do guvment 2023!

Paradoxically, housing construction is declining, says the *Fin Review* (Nine) despite the demand (much of which comes from immigration). Who wudda thunk it was because of a shortage of building materials and labour shortages? Makes one think all this ‘housing’ hype is meaningless noise from politicians.

‘The universe is an ongoing explosion. That’s where you live. In an explosion, Sometimes atoms just get very haunted. That’s us. When

an explosion explodes hard enough, dust wakes up and thinks about itself’ – tweet by The CryptoNaturalist.

ARNHEM

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