

Echo

WHO KNEW THE APOCALYPSE WOULD BE SLOW AND EXPENSIVE?
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Why Delta is voting 'Yes'



Photo & story Eve Jeffery

Local Aboriginal woman, Delta Kay is very clear when it comes to the subject of the Voice to Parliament referendum. She's adamant that she only speaks for herself, and her opinions are hers alone.

'Lots of people are asking me about it, and I say these are my words. No one else. I do not represent my family or my people.'

Delta is also very clear that other people including politicians, including Indigenous politicians, do not speak for her. 'I am voting "Yes!"'

'I am a local Bundjalung of Byron Bay woman raised up on my mother's mother's traditional country.'

'I grew up surrounded by a big family and we all experienced racism through schooling, renting and a denial of our cultural rights.'

Delta wants to see better things for Indigenous people. As the daughter of a woman who died in her 40s,

as the kin and friend of people who have been to jail, and others who are struggling to find jobs, Delta spends her days living and working on Country and educating locals and visitors about her culture through her business, Explore Byron Bay.

Small step forward

Delta says she believes this referendum is a small step forward to unite the nation and correct the constitution to enable Indigenous people to advise parliament on solutions that affect Indigenous people and culture.

'I want to see an Indigenous Voice to parliament that will challenge policies and law. I want to see an Indigenous voice that knows our people, and will have solutions to our ever-growing problems such as health, education, housing and

'I want to see an Indigenous Voice to parliament that will challenge policies and law.'

over-representation in the jail system.

'I have family members who

have been through the system, and continually get harassed by police. We know how to heal our mob, through connection to culture and Country programs. Government policies don't address our communities' needs. Instead, I see our people get depressed, frustrated, and locked up again and again.'

No acknowledgement until 1967 referendum

Delta says a Voice to Parliament can fight for sustained funding that keeps youth out of jail, and is cheaper for taxpayers.

'My older brother Michael was born in 1961, he wasn't acknowledged in the Constitution until

► Continued on page 3

Rail trail slated for some of Byron Shire

Paul Bibby

Significant steps have been taken by Byron Shire Council toward creating a bike and pedestrian pathway along parts of the old rail line in the Shire, moving away from its previous position of supporting a return of trains to the tracks.

After a prolonged and bitter debate at last week's Council meeting, a majority of councillors voted to proceed with the planning, approval and funding process for rail trails running from the old Mullumbimby station to Crabbes Creek in the north, and from the old Byron Bay station to Booyong in the south. It does not include the section from Mullum to Byron.

The decision is a pivotal moment in the ongoing and at-times divisive process surrounding the future of the rail line in the Shire after its closure back in 2004 by NSW Labor.

The decision follows the results of a Council-commissioned study, which found that pursuing the multi-modal option in the north and west of the Shire would present major engineering challenges that would make it extremely costly.

Housing investigated

Importantly, the motion passed by councillors not only includes beginning the process of creating the rail trail, but also enabling investigation of options for housing within the rail corridor, and the activation of unused space for community use.

It thus represents a move that will transform significant stretches of the corridor from quiet bushland to activated and potentially

populated areas of the Shire.

While the motion 'reiterates Council's ongoing support' for returning trains to the tracks alongside a trail between Mullumbimby and Byron, the creation of a rail trail on either end of this stretch makes it less likely that this will ever happen.

'This was an historic decision of Council, and it was a tough and long debate as many of us support, or have supported, a multi-use rail corridor in the past to keep the possibility of rail returning to our tracks for public transport,' Mayor, Michael Lyon said.

'It was four years ago that we were investigating the feasibility of rail on a multi-use corridor, and since then we haven't been able to meaningfully advance the case for trains on our tracks in the Byron Shire. We owe it to our community to deliver on something now that can happen.'

However, four of Byron's nine councillors were opposed to the rail trail decision - in many cases bitterly. They included Peter Westheimer (Independent) Cate Coorey (Independent) Duncan Dey (Greens) and Sama Balsom (Independent).

Cr Westheimer attempted to have any decision on the rail corridor deferred until two degradation studies examining the state of the corridor, currently being undertaken by pro-rail advocates, are completed.

But he and the other pro-rail councillors were narrowly outvoted by Council's quintet of rail trail advocates: Cr Lyon, Sarah Ndiaye (Greens), Asren Pugh (Labor), Mark Swivel (Independent), and Alan Hunter (Independent).

David Lowe: fear, lies and loathing the Voice ► p8

Edward Herring asks the toughest questions ► p14



Rock Dad's world for Father's Day ► p15

Tasty treats at Sample this Saturday ► p20



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Apollo aged care interested in Feros takeover

Staff reporters

The Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre and Apollo Care Alliance will apply to take over the day-to-day running of the Feros Village aged care facility in Byron Bay, should a proposed expression of interest process for the home take place.

As allegations of sub-standard care in relation to the eight remaining Feros residents emerged last week, the Neighbourhood Centre and Apollo Care publicly announced that they were ready to step in to save the home from closure.

'Apollo Care has successfully saved many homes from closure, and we're confident our partnership can retain the facility so it can continue as a key service for residents in our community,' the Manager of the Neighbourhood Centre, Julie Williams said.

'Crucially, Apollo Care preserves the ethos and values of each community it collaborates with.

'That's particularly important here as we're a tight-knit community that doesn't want its elderly residents displaced.'

Apollo and the Neighbourhood Centre have indicated that, should they take over the management of the facility, they would look to invest in and restore the operation.

'We think it can offer a wonderful living environment for older community members who are no longer able to live independently,' Apollo Care's Executive Chair, John Young, said.



The oldest and youngest residents at Feros in Byron Bay. Kate Smorty, 95, and Jo Wooldridge, 70, say they feel like a black, pressing cloud has been lifted. Photo Eve Jeffery

The news of a possible takeover came as the NSW Minister for Lands and Property offered the services of his department to conduct the EOI process, a move which was endorsed by Byron Council at last week's meeting.

Steps are also being taken for Byron Council to take over from the state government as the Crown Lands Manager of the site, a role it has previously filled.

When taken together, these three developments provide the best chance yet that the aged care home will remain open and continue to serve the local community as it has done for decades.

Earlier this year, the Feros board announced the closure of the facility, and the forced eviction and relocation of elderly residents to other north coast Feros aged care homes. Yet some

residents resisted.

A redevelopment of the site was announced, yet came without any details or proof it was required.

Only eight of 40 left

According to some of the residents, of which there are only eight remaining from about 40, Feros have not provided adequate service for several weeks.

Resident Kate Smorty, told *The Echo*, 'They're treating us like we're a nuisance. Yes! The food is atrocious. We haven't got a chef anymore, it's pre-cooked and frozen, and then defrosted and it's not good. It all happened gradually - they've been quite spiteful. They've taken the Netflix!'

Ms Smorty says the hardest things have been seeing fellow residents slowly move away after being convinced

that there might not be a place for them elsewhere if they didn't, and the change from permanent to casual caring staff.

Ms Smorty says the staff provided are lovely, but sometimes they get different people every day.

No admin staff

'Caring is a very intimate business. They have to ask you very personal questions. And so when there are carers from an agency, there are different names - they are always asking, "What's your name?". They have to learn our names, every day - we

have to learn their names.'

Ms Smorty says the most noticeable thing is the disappearance of admin staff.

'There's no one left in the office! I've been told they've emptied all the drawers and taken all the paperwork out - the drawers and the filing cabinets, they've taken all the paperwork.'

After Thursday's Council meeting, Ms Smorty told *The Echo*, 'It's hopeful now.'

EOI flawed, says Feros Care

Last week, Feros Care told *The Echo* that the EOI process proposed by Byron Shire Council is 'substantially flawed'.

Their representative said that neither Council, nor the state government, have considered the implications of the EOI for the mandatory obligations faced by aged care providers under the *Aged Care Act 1997*, and associated regulatory framework.

'This includes the ageing-in-place provisions - which cannot be met at Feros Village Byron Bay owing to design limitations.

'These legislated obligations will not change, regardless of who the provider is.

'An EOI conducted in conflict with non-negotiable requirements of the Aged

Care Act presents risks to its sponsors, participants and the clinical care of residents.'

The Feros Care spokesperson added that the move also jeopardises the 'Feros Care planned multi-million-dollar investment in the design and delivery of new, much-needed and affordable seniors accommodation on the site for the Byron Bay community'.

'That is why we believe the best approach is to allow Feros Care and Crown Lands to finalise negotiations that have been ongoing over lease arrangements, that will provide the Byron Bay community with a guaranteed solution for the affordable housing crisis for seniors.'

'We are continuing those negotiations with Crown Lands in good faith and hope they can be brought to a positive conclusion soon.'

Meanwhile, resident Jo Wooldridge told *The Echo* it's been very difficult to understand the manner in which Feros have handled the issue.

'What has been wonderful has been the support that we have been given here.

'From everywhere, from the community and from all levels of government.'

Ms Smorty added it's been tough for the residents.

Bradbury wins peace award

Local filmmaker, David Bradbury, has won the David Hartsough Individual Lifetime War Abolisher of 2023 award.

Presented by World Beyond War (worldbeyondwar.org), the 'awardees are honoured for their body of work directly supporting one or more of the three segments of World Beyond War's

strategy for reducing, and eliminating war, as outlined in the book *A Global Security System, An Alternative to War*.'

The strategies are: 'demilitarizing security, managing conflict without violence, and building a culture of peace'.

Some of David Bradbury's 26 documentary films have received prizes at many

international festivals, as well as five Australian Film Industry awards, and two Academy Award nominations.

Bradbury's acceptance speech and clips from his docos are at <https://vimeo.com/858548589>.

For more info, visit frontlinefilms.com.au.

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Mullum's future water use deferred

Council staff's desire to replace Mullum's locally-sourced water supply from Lavertys Gap with Rous-managed Rocky Creek Dam, near Lismore, was voted down at last week's Council meeting.

Instead, councillors voted in favour of deferring the matter 'until councillors have discussed the matter with Rous County Council at the first available workshop'.

A motion by Cr Duncan Dey, which sought to affirm a previous Rous workshop and to investigate additional water sources for Mullum, as per Council resolution 23-120, was voted down. Crs Pugh, Lyon, Ndiaye, and Swivel voted against the motion.

Instead, the mayor's successful foreshadowed motion noted, 'that this issue is of significant importance and [we] will consult and inform the community in a meaningful way before making a decision'.

Disaster preparedness fun day!

On Father's Day, September 3, a Community Spring Festival will be held from 3 till 5 pm at the New Brighton Oval.

Laura Shore, from the Community Resilience Team told *The Echo*, 'This is sponsored by the Red Cross Community Resilience Team which formed in the South Golden Beach, Ocean Shores and New Brighton areas after the 2022 floods'.

The team's aim is to be better prepared for future climatic events, says Laura.

'The team and the wider community have spent the past year and a half working on the initial flood response at the South Golden Beach hall, followed by a flood debrief event at the Ocean Shores school that established a vision for disaster preparedness in the community moving forward'.

'The team have received flood recovery grants from the Northern Rivers



Bec McNaught, Bron Elliott, Laura Shore and Laura-Doe with emergency radio phones. Photo Jeff Dawson

Community Foundation, and the Byron Shire Council, and have hosted a series of art therapy and Heart Math workshops and community gatherings such as this one. They've also worked with Marine Rescue to locate a defibrillator at Mrs Birdy cafe in South Golden Beach'.

Laura said, 'There will be free wood-fired pizza, music and Zormiwas African drumming. For the kids,

there will be face painting and crafts. Marine Rescue and SES boats will be on display with information so bring your questions. There will also be a defib practice and household disaster preparedness information from Red Cross. All locals from the New Brighton, Ocean Shores, and South Golden Beach areas are welcome. Come meet your neighbours. Bring your own drinks and rugs'.

Delta Kay outlines why she is voting 'Yes'

► Continued from page 1 the 1967 referendum, that he counted as part of the Australian population. Nothing else, just recognition.

'Our 2023 referendum is an opportunity for an Indigenous voice to parliament that addresses Indigenous issues, nothing else'.

Delta says the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* was created and led by Indigenous people who came from all over Australia in 2017.

'I have met many of those incredible Indigenous leaders who attended the gathering, and I believe our

representatives will have my best interests at heart when making decisions that affect me and other Indigenous people.

'I am tired of hearing the deception of the naysayers who are deliberately confusing people about the Voice! Many are non-Indigenous people who are speaking on Indigenous people's behalf.

Speak for ourselves

'Many are rude and aggressive. Stop it! Indigenous people can speak for themselves.

'There is too much fighting

in our nation. It stems from so many people being fearful of the unknown, and it's just too easy to become angry.

'Well, I'm not going to be angry or fearful. I'm going to vote "Yes", and I'm going to fight for a better future for our children - for everyone's children. We're the only Commonwealth country that hasn't got a treaty. Well, here's our chance to make a start.

'We know that we can always be "sovereign" beings. I was born sovereign and I'll die sovereign. The Voice won't change that. It's another step forward

towards a treaty process.

'We can still fight for a treaty, we know that it's going to come but it's going to take time, but if Aboriginal people don't get their act together and come together under the Aboriginal flag, we're never going to get it.

'My mother expects me to continue the work of looking after Country, and sharing our culture, so people understand and respect Country, like we do. We all come from this land, whether you're black, white, or brindle, and the whole of Australia needs to take that first step'.

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Planting recognises Iranian women



The plight of Iranian women was highlighted at Sunday's Grow Fest at the Mullum Community Gardens, with the planting of a 'Liberty Tree'. The global project is under the auspices of local Iranian communities, and supports Iranian women and their struggle for freedom and justice. Photo Jeff 'More Trees Please' Dawson

Coastal residents unite to fight inappropriate developments

A new alliance of dozens of community groups campaigning to defend small coastal towns and pockets of sensitive and endangered coastal bushland from inappropriate developments launched at the NSW Parliament last Thursday

NSW Greens MPs, Cate Faehrmann MLC and Sue Higginson MLC, said in a press release, 'Many of the developments being opposed are so-called

"zombie" developments, approved decades ago, and therefore escaping the need for any environmental, cultural or other impact assessments required under modern-day planning laws.'

Thirty-four community groups are listed as members of Coastal Residents United (CRU), and range as far north as a Kingscliff (Ratepayers and Progress Association) and include Byron Bay Vision and Byron Residents' Group.

Premier admits 'more needs to be done' on flood funding

NSW Labor Premier, Chris Minns, has hinted that those deemed ineligible for government flood programs (retrofit, home raising and buybacks), may be offered what they were originally promised by the former NSW Coalition government.

As previously reported, almost all Byron Shire residents who applied were rejected after new mapping, which did not include the 2022 flood, was used as the basis for awarding grants.

Local MP Tamara Smith (Greens) asked Premier Chris Minns in NSW parliament on August 24: 'Considering that only a small proportion of flood-affected people in my electorate have been supported through the Resilient Homes Program, when will the premier announce further funding under tranche two?'

Minns replied in part, 'The government has spent \$314 million of the \$700 million Resilient Homes Program in tranche one. That was a 50-50 split between the Commonwealth and state, with \$350 million from both jurisdictions. It was meant to accommodate the needs of roughly 2,000 households.

'I inform the House that 477 offers for voluntary buybacks have been approved, 251 offers have been accepted but just 70 contracts have been settled. Getting the contracts submitted is an elongated process.

'But the previous government and the Commonwealth government made significant undertakings for more funds to build up the community.

'A release was put out in November last year indicating that a further 4,000 houses – so 6,000 in total – would be eligible for tranche two.

'We are working with the federal government. We know more needs to be done on three key areas: communication, which has not been up to scratch, but I am hopeful that the appointment of the member for Lismore [Janelle Saffin as Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery], and Simon Draper [as the new Secretary of the Premier's Department] will go a long way to dealing with that; coordination between the states and local government; and finally, funding. The budget will be handed down in several weeks, and we will have more to say about it then.'

Book now for Chinny Charge

Organisers of the Chinny Charge were working on the route up Mt Chincogan last weekend, in preparation for this year's run and walk.

'It was a great day, ensuring that the track was ready for the run and walk to take place on Saturday, September 16', said Jenelle Stanford, who has been organising the Chinny Charge since it was restarted by the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce in 2017.

The day has three race options; they are the adult race that starts outside the Mullum Ex-Services Club and is up to the top of the mountain and back; children's race

goes to the bottom of the mountain and back; while all other participants can enjoy a leisurely stroll and enjoy the beautiful views throughout the walk.

There are lots of prizes on offer, such as the Kevin Moran Memorial Shield, which is awarded for special effort and encouragement of others; the Reg Burns Shield is awarded to the first older female across the line; and the Dr Suresh Shield for the first older man across the line.

All participants must be 12 years or older.

Places are filling fast – to book, visit www.eventwizard.com.au.



Bundjalung Elder, Lewis Walker, and artist, Dean Rotumah, with Dean's painting Gulgungun at Saturday's well-attended Bundjalung Minjungbal Art and Kulcha Day at Crabbes Creek. Photo Jeff Dawson

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EchoNews from across the
North Coast online ▶
www.echo.net.au**Homeless housing
or worker housing
on Tweed Council
owned land?**

Tweed Shire Councillors were presented with the challenge of deciding between worker accommodation or homeless accommodation when they made a decision on the future use of the 78-room Greenhills Lodge at their last council meeting (17 August).

**NSW Premier
announces
Lismore's MP
Janelle Saffin as
Parliamentary
Secretary for
Disaster Recovery**

Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin, was appointed Parliamentary Secretary for Disaster Recovery this morning by NSW Premier Chris Minns.

**Walk with us to
say 'Yes'**

'Yes' supporters from Lismore, Tweed, Byron, Mulumbimby, Ballina and Lennox Head gathered on Sunday to walk for 'Yes'.

**Ballina Marine
Rescue's Phil
Causley recognised**

The Echo caught up with Ballina volunteer Phil Causley after he won the 2023 Marine Rescue NSW Agency Award, part of the 2023 Rotary District of NSW Emergency Services Community Awards, held in Sydney recently.

**Appeal for witnesses
and information
following assault
and robbery
attempt – Lismore**

Police are appealing for witnesses and information following an assault and attempted robbery at Lismore on the afternoon of Tuesday, 22 August.

**Mystery surrounds
critically injured
man – Teven**

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

www.echo.net.au

Kingscliff residents say Uniting's seniors living proposal is massive overdevelopment

Aslan Shand

Neighbours of the Uniting Care aged care facility in Kingscliff say that they have been left 'highly distressed', enduring 'sleepless nights' worrying about a proposed four-storey seniors development that they fear will overshadow their homes, with units looking directly into their bedrooms, and blocking the sun from their back gardens.

Residents have cited examples of other Uniting Care aged care and seniors developments throughout NSW and Queensland to which they say the local community has objected on the grounds that they constitute a significant overdevelopment.

'It seems to be the same model they have used in other communities, they come in with a giant development proposal, say they have listened to the community, make a few minor adjustments and

then push ahead regardless of the negative impacts they are having, and will have, on their neighbours,' a group of local residents who have come together under the banner DUC4K (Does Uniting Care 4 Kingscliff) told *The Echo*.

**Only an extra 40
aged-care beds**

The proposed development is seeking to increase the number of aged care beds at the Kingscliff site from 80 to 120 and develop the rest of the large site, that is surrounded by low-rise residential housing, into primarily four-storey, high-density apartments. This will supply 211 independent living units in a mix of one, two or three-bedroom units on the site.

At the maximum height of 13.6m allowed, neighbours say the four-storey buildings will dwarf and overshadow their houses with units that will look straight into their



The proposed four-storey buildings will be twice the height of the lamppost as seen in the car park. Photo Aslan Shand

and their children's bedrooms, their living areas, and their backyards. They say the proposed building will block sunlight from their gardens and reduce their solar energy production and the passive solar capacity that they have built into their homes.

'Similar scenarios have played out in other places including Batemans Bay, Yamba, the Sunshine Coast, Bateau Bay and Waverley,' explained DUC4K members.

'They claim they "have listened to you" but then continue to push this massive development proposal into a low-density precinct.'

Bateau Bay

Erin Breneger from Bateau Bay Community Collective agrees, telling *The Echo* that Uniting 'basically didn't listen to any of our concerns,' when they were putting forward the development for seniors living and aged care at Bateau Bay.

'There were numerous issues including having people look into my kids' bedrooms and our living areas; the height, bulk, and scale of the development; lack of sunlight in back yards; and pushing extra traffic onto a cul de sac

that couldn't manage the existing traffic let alone their proposed increase of traffic,' she said.

DUC4K members were clear that they expected the large site in the centre of their low-density residential area to be developed but say, 'we thought that it would be something that would fit into the existing built environment.'

'We are angry,' said one resident.

'They give each of us different information about the same things, they didn't supply drawings until two weeks after the public consultation. It feels like they were doing an exercise in ticking the boxes of consultation but we didn't actually feel listened to.'

For more information on the development see Uniting Care or contact DUC4K on duckingscliff@gmail.com.

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

Better park and maybe a community garden for Wardell?

David Lowe

Sharon Cadwallader presented a mayoral minute at the last meeting of Ballina Shire Council to fast-track improvements to Walsh Park, East Wardell, following the devastating floods of 2022 and division in the local community since.

The mayor said the Wardell community had been through an 'incredibly difficult period'. Although there are a number of new improvements on the way for the village, she said that with the loss of the main sporting field there was a need in the shorter term to do something 'very simple and easy', so kids had somewhere to kick a ball around

and families had access to open space.

Mayor Cadwallader suggested some basic improvements to Walsh Park, on the southern side of the river, with a new sign, some mowing and maybe a couple of goal posts to be added.

While there wasn't enough money to do much more, she asked 'can we just get something happening down there to give the community a bit of open space for the kids?'

Which park again?

In response to other councillors' confusion about where the park was exactly, and whether Ballina Council had responsibility for it, staff member Matt Wood clarified

that the land in question was a triangular piece of former farmland between the highway and river, just beyond the bridge, travelling south from Wardell.

'It's an undeveloped piece of council land,' he said.

Too vague?

Cr Jeff Johnson said he supported the intent of providing embellishments to the park, but what was proposed seemed 'very vague', and it was a big call to suggest that some work on the park could improve the social fabric of the community in Wardell.

He suggested the detail needed to be discussed with the community and council.

Wardell-based Cr Nigel Buchanan said that before

the flood, Wardell was well served by sporting and other facilities, and his community had been further fragmented by the lack of places to meet since.

Ultimately, the mayor's motion passed unanimously, with words added by Cr

Meehan to the effect that a community garden be considered among other possible embellishments to Walsh Park.

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

Murwillumbah CBD's Levee and Drainage Study

Tweed Shire Council is asking the community for their opinion. Residents of Murwillumbah are being invited to 'actively participate in shaping the future of our town' by looking at the Murwillumbah CBD Levee and Drainage Study and sharing their thoughts.

Tweed Council's Manager Roads and Stormwater, Danny Rose, said the draft study was an opportunity

for Council to work towards creating a safer and more flood-resilient community.

Public feedback

The draft addendum to the Murwillumbah CBD Levee and Drainage Study is open for public feedback now until Wednesday, 20 September 2023.

To have your say, make a written submission in one of the following ways:

Visit yoursaytweed.com.au/addendum-murwillumbah-cbd-levee-drainage-study; email tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au with the subject heading: Addendum to the Murwillumbah CBD Levee and Drainage Study; or mail Murwillumbah CBD Levee and Drainage Study, General Manager, Tweed Shire Council, PO Box 816, Murwillumbah NSW 2484.

Casino fire destroys old coal tower

Fire destroyed an old coal tower overnight on Sunday, 27 August at Casino causing disruptions to the Brisbane-Sydney rail corridor.

At least seven Fire and Rescue NSW appliances, supported by Rural Fire Service units and a bulk water tanker, responded to the blaze at rail yards in Bent Street around 1.30am.

Flames quickly engulfed

the heavy timber structure.

Fire crews established an exclusion zone and formed a defensive line of hose as the tower collapsed, leaving only its steel infrastructure intact.

The Brisbane-Sydney rail line was closed as a precaution as fire crews mopped up and extinguished spot fires at the scene.

The cause of the fire is under investigation.



Fire has destroyed an old coal tower at Casino causing disruptions to the Brisbane-Sydney rail corridor. Photo supplied

Looking to Mullum's future, Sept 5

Aslan Shand

How do you imagine the future of Mullumbimby?

That is the question that the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce is asking, and they would like to hear your thoughts at the Mullumbimby Picture Show, to be held Tuesday, September 5 from 7 to 9pm at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club.

Mullum local, Mandy Nolan, will be Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening and a range of locals with big ideas will present their visions.

These could be for the old Mullumbimby Hospital site, the future of the business and visitor economy, art in public spaces, or the potential for a Mullumbimby Environment Centre.

Participants will then split into groups to look at the issues on the table.

'The evening is about



Chamber members Jeanette Martin, Malcolm Price, Michael Murray, Jenelle Stanford, Paul Prior and Mandy Nolan. Photo Jeff Dawson

creating a dialogue in groups, so that everyone has an opportunity to speak,' said Malcolm Price, who is one of the organisers.

'It is about looking forward to how we create a

positive future for Mullumbimby and its community.'

'There will be around half an hour of talks, followed by 40 minutes of workshops and a half hour feedback session', explained Price.

Anyone interested in getting involved is welcome to turn up for the evening, or contact chamber member and organiser, Jenelle Stanford at stationarymullumbimby@gmail.com.

Fire ban in place from September 1

Lighting fires without a permit will be prohibited from this Friday (September 1), owing to the commencement of the bush fire danger period.

In accordance with Section 82 of the *Rural Fires Act 1997*, the following areas will be covered by the prohibition:

Ballina Shire Council, Byron Shire Council, Kyogle Shire Council, Lismore City Council, Richmond Valley Council and Tweed Shire Council.

Any person wishing to light a fire from September 1 will require a fire permit to light a fire.

Persons wishing to light a fire during this period are required to notify the NSW RFS and all adjoining neighbours 24 hours prior to lighting. Failure to comply can result in fines under the *Rural Fires Act 1997*. Smoke regulations prohibit burning

in some areas; contact your council or local fire brigade for further information.

Community grants on offer

Philanthropic organisation, the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF), has announced its annual Community Grants Round, with applications open until September 29.

Organisers say for the first time in the grant's history, a funding stream to address the long-term planning required in the era of disasters has been added.

The Thriving Together three-year grant is a maximum total of \$120,000 in funding, which will be paid in three annual instalments of up to \$40,000 per year.

It is just one of four funding streams available in the NRCF's 19th Community Grants Program, says NRCF CEO, Sam Henderson.

He says the need for long-term funding and planning was starkly highlighted in the NRCF's recent flood report: *Research, Respond, Recover: A year on from disaster*.

'The report surveyed 188 local community

organisations, with an alarming community recovery ranking of just 4.8 out of 10. It also identified dual pressures of a funding cliff due in August 2023, as much disaster funding runs out, alongside a caseload which swelled to meet need for flooded communities.'

Henderson said the Community Grants Program had been supporting small and medium sized community groups and organisations for years across the Northern Rivers, and following the disasters of bushfires, floods and the pandemic, was more needed than ever.

'In perpetuity'

'NRCF's investment model means we grow funds which are granted back to our community in perpetuity.'

Since 2004, the NRCF says it has facilitated and distributed \$5,659,755 across seven local government areas (LGAs) of the Northern Rivers, to 570 projects, across 360

community organisations.

The NRCF Community Grant 2023/24 funding streams are: Local Impact: small grants supporting grass roots organisations – up to \$10,000 per grant, from a total funding pool of \$265,000; Housing and Homelessness funding to progress innovative models and/or provide locally appropriate housing outcomes for people on low to medium incomes – one grant up to \$50,000; Recovery and Resilience: supporting community in the recovery from recent disasters including COVID-19, bushfires and floods – four grants of up to \$25,000; and, Thriving Together: a three-year grant, supporting a high potential, community-driven project in disaster impacted communities – one grant of up to \$120,000 total, across the three years.

For more information, including guidelines, visit www.nrcf.org.au.

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Fear, lies and loathing the Voice in 'Stralia

Most Australian households have now received their Voice referendum booklet in the mail. It looks quite official and is being distributed by the Australian Electoral Commission.

Unfortunately, the contents haven't been fact checked. Like most other forms of federal political advertising, lying and misinformation in this context is completely legal.

The political 'Yes' and 'No' Voice camps have each been given 2,000 words to make their case. The 'Yes' side have focused on big picture claims and aspirational language. The anti-Voice side have used all caps headings – 'IT OPENS THE DOOR FOR ACTIVISTS!' – and lots of boxes containing snippets of scary information.

Both sides have employed quotes, mostly from people identifying as First Australians, although neither side explains in print when these people are actively working for one side or the other.

Even though the Labor Party has done very little listening to Aboriginal people for most of its history, their main pitch here is that 'listening works'. Australia is essentially being asked to take their word for it that a Voice will help close the gap. We don't know that it will deliver 'real results', as claimed, although it's certainly true that not much else has worked so far.

The 'Yes' camp says the Voice emerged from the Uluru Statement from the Heart, although constitutional recognition has a longer history than that, and is being rolled together with the Voice idea in this referendum.

While the 'Yes' argument claims that the Voice will be diverse and representative of the many Indigenous nations and communities in this country, it's unclear at this stage if that will be true, or even possible. The Albanese government can't make precise claims about something that won't be under its control if the referendum succeeds, or into the future, and hasn't shared a detailed model.

The 'No' campaign says 'we want to help Indigenous Australians in disadvantaged communities', but claims that the Voice is definitely not the answer, and will cost too much (actually no one knows how much it will cost at this stage).

They don't suggest what the answer is, apart from bare constitutional recognition, and make no mention of treaty, except in a bogeyman context, and by incorrectly saying a treaty can only be made between governments.

They say that the Voice 'represents the biggest change to our Constitution in history' and



Image Cloudcatcher Media with Midjourney AI.

is 'legally risky' with 'no issue beyond its reach'. Actually, all the Voice would be able to do is suggest ideas to help Indigenous Australians (which is one of the reasons many people think it's not worth the effort). Anthony Albanese has

repeatedly said that it would have no right of veto and would not be binding on the parliament.

In any case, the precise powers and design of the Voice will be completely subject to parliamentary oversight. All the referendum asks is whether it should exist.

Who wants it?

Polls over the last five years have shown 80 per cent plus support for the Voice idea among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, but the 'No' campaign doesn't acknowledge this, saying simply 'many Indigenous Australians do not support this.'

While that statement is undoubtedly true,

it would be bizarre if any large group of Australians 100 per cent supported any political position, food preference, favourite colour or sporting team. That's the way humans are, apart from Sky News viewers.

'Even though the Labor Party has done very little listening to Aboriginal people for most of its history, their main pitch here is that 'listening works'.

– David Lowe

The 'No' camp claim the Voice is unnecessary because there's already a body most Australians have never heard of, called

the National Indigenous Australians Agency, with a budget of \$4.3 billion and 1,400 employees. Actually, this is just the latest version of the Aboriginal Affairs Department, which works as part of the machinery of government, delivering programs, and is not an independent voice in any sense. Most of its employees are not Indigenous, and under former PM Scott Morrison, 39 per cent of its grants were paid out to non-Indigenous organisations. It's another example of weaponising ignorance, and the old 'special treatment' argument.

Precedents, and legal issues

The 'No' camp says 'putting a Voice in the Constitution means it's permanent. We will be stuck with negative consequences.'

Actually, anything in the Constitution can be changed with a further referendum, and the way the Voice works in practice can be changed by the parliament of the day, the same as other laws.

The assumption that the consequences of the Voice will be negative is unknowable at this stage.

The 'No' lobby claims 'there is no comparable constitutional body like this anywhere in the world'. There are some problems with this. One is the assumption among conservatives that Australia can never lead the world, but only follow.

Also, Sweden, Finland and Norway already have a Saami parliament to advise on Indigenous issues, and Canada and New Zealand both have formal Indigenous advisory groups that speak to government about matters that concern them. The sky hasn't fallen in any of those countries yet.

In Australia, both sides have wheeled out legal experts to support their positions, but the 'Yes' camp have found many more senior people to stick their heads above the parapet than the other mob.

Lies with that?

The 'No' side uses the words 'don't know' ten times on their half of the pamphlet, emphasising doubt as a justification for voting 'No'. Their pathetic focus-grouped phrase 'if you don't know, vote no' appears in bold print at the start and at the end of the document.

They offer no independent sources of further reading for those who want more detail, instead closing their pitch with links to three highly partisan websites, all operated by the same organisation, Advance, which was formed to counter GetUp in 2018, and has previously been associated with campaigns to deny the climate change emergency and oppose same sex marriage.

The question remains, how much more useful could this taxpayer-funded and distributed referendum booklet have been if the Greens and independent senator David Pocock's proposal for independent fact-checking be carried out before sending millions of copies across the country?

■ David Lowe is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and photographer.

Echo

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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor

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

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

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

– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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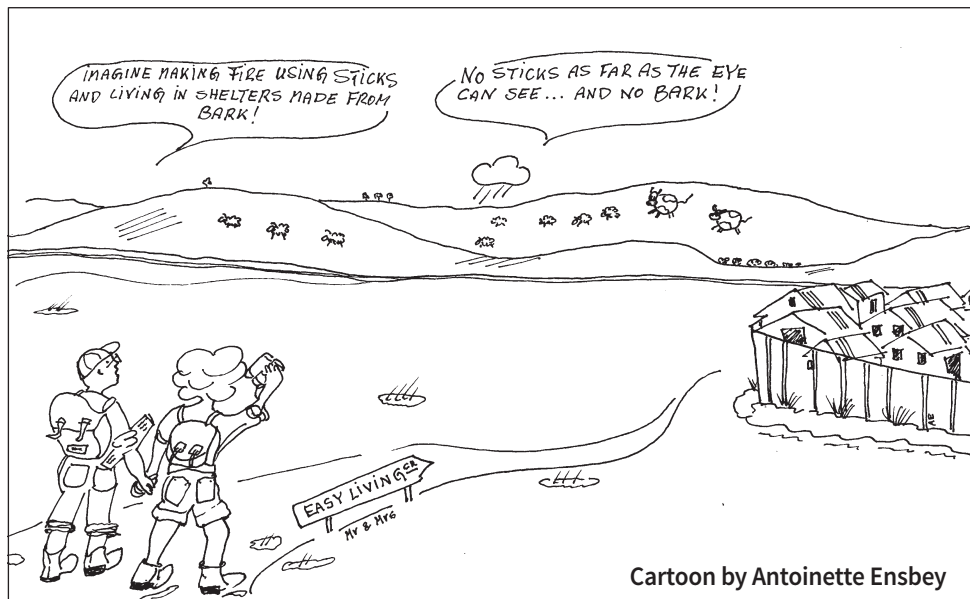
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Endless cliches

Like me and doubtless many other *Echo* readers you are probably heartily sick of the cliché – besotted dullards on television news bulletins who endlessly report ‘journeys’ that ‘unfold’ on a ‘roller-coaster ride’ that is ‘just the tip of the iceberg’.

J Rose
Mullumbimby

Hooray Herring

It was an absolute pleasure to see journalist Edward Herring back in action in the pages of last week’s *Echo*, albeit by an interdimensional sleight of hand involving the *Mullcogan Times*. Edward’s journal was a much-welcomed staple of *The Echo*’s pages throughout the 1990s, reporting on the political intrigues of a mediocracy not unlike our own.

I’m also chuffed that Stephen Axelsen, or a simulacrum thereof, is back illustrating Edward’s work. I look forward to the next instalment and wonder if the amanuensis known as Production will return to the fray.

Michael McDonald
Bairnsdale VIC

West Papua

Thank you for the article and book review reminding us of the grave injustices occurring at our next-door neighbour. It seems that usually Australia’s concern for justice is greater the further away it is from our shores.

But there are fewer issues more clear-cut than the aspirations of West Papua for freedom and self-determination.

They deserve our support.
Ephraim Sella
Byron Bay

Alcoholism and hope

Twenty years ago I migrated to the Byron Shire from the UK on a working visa as a skilled migrant. I came here for a better life, and what a life I was given. Within months of arriving in the

shire, a by-chance meeting and a strange set of circumstances, I found myself in a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA).

My life at that time on reflection was totally out of control. I did not know that I was an alcoholic, let alone that there is a solution to alcoholism. My experience in the Byron Shire after 20 years is that AA is active and vibrant, offering a way out for those who suffer from alcoholism.

I was shown a very different way to live. Knowing where to go and how to get help as an active alcoholic can be frightening and challenging in my experience. AA really is based on an idea that one alcoholic can help another alcoholic. When I wanted help, local AA members were available to help. My letter reciprocates that offer of help. Somewhere in the background of an active alcoholic’s life, there has probably been help from an employer, a doctor, an alcoholism agency or facility, a relative or friend in the suggestion of attending AA. It was a member who approached me and took me to my first AA meeting, shivering and shaking. All I can say is that my life has been completely transformed.

The doors of AA are open: 7pm Friday 8 September. AA is holding a local public AA meeting open to anyone who might want more information about what AA is, what AA does and what AA doesn’t do.

It’s a free event at the Bangalow A&I Hall. Alcoholics Anonymous is very active in the Northern Rivers. Multiple physical meetings daily and online digital meetings are an option.

How to get help from Alcoholics Anonymous: Visit www.aa.org.au; phone the National AA helpline 1300 22 22 22; local helpline 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671. If it can work for me, it might work for you too.

Janet M
Pottsville

Insurrection

When in 1924 Adolf Hitler went to jail for violent insurrection he came back with vengeance swinging *Mein Kampf*.

Beware jailing Trump, in 2024 he will come back with vengeance – black lawyer prosecutors will be facing genocide!

Peter Hanna
Byron Bay

Scrivener’s Ukraine

Johnn Scrivener would do well to purge the produce of the Wagner troll farm from his diet. Defending Ukraine from unprovoked Russian aggression is exactly what the allies are doing, they are not acting under an ‘implausible pretext’. Putin is trying to repeat what he did to Chechnya, after the people rejected his attempt to rule Ukraine through a puppet (like Belarus). Almost all US military excursions since WW2 have been illegal and/or unjustified. This one isn’t.

Razing whole cities and slaughtering tens of thousands of innocent people just minding their own business is not ‘collective self-defence’. Not to mention starving people by cutting off Ukraine’s wheat exports and peppering farmland with land mines. Europeans (who, by the way, initiated support for Ukraine, not the US) know that Putin would not stop at Ukraine, especially those in Moldova and Georgia.

There are 23 oligarchs who could have told you how good Putin is in the last 12 months, but won’t because they’re dead. Last week one general died of a sudden attack of ‘long-term illness’ and another apparently died of shock after being released on parole. Prigozhin’s team just received their final gift from the great leader. This is an admirable regime?

Want to see pointless military spending, have a look at AUKUS. Ukrainians deserve everything we can help them with.

Alan Watterson
Hastings Point

What?

Hans Lovejoy’s article on the Lavertys Gap Water Filtration plant gives cause for some serious questions.

Dominika Tomanek, Executive Assistant Infrastructure Services, seems to have made a recommendation to the elected Council to ignore the Water & Sewer Committee’s recommendation and follow the staff’s strategy. Firstly, what qualifications does Dominika Tomanek have in the field of water treatment and hydraulics?

Secondly, should it not be the director of infrastructure asking the committee to discuss this issue after presenting staff concerns and letting the committee make their recommendation?

Why has a staff member of Rous been sitting in on the Water & Sewer Committee meetings?

It is obvious that the Department of Infrastructure wants the Mullumbimby water supply handed over to Rous but how does this benefit the residents of Mullumbimby and what happens to the residents who

► Continued on next page

Letters to the Editor

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



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The Voice, racism and recognising original Australians

■ Mr Kent (Letters, 23 August), asks, if the Voice doesn't have legislative authority and all parliament does anyway is 'make mountains out of molehills', why bother? 'There are far too many questions,' says Mr Kent before conjuring a few about proposals that no-one is suggesting, and comfortably chanting 'No'. And yes, the Voice doesn't mow the lawns, put out the garbage, do the dishes, or even, while we're still in the kitchen, dumbfounded by a litter of straw windmills, whip up Mr Kent's dreamt-of homogeneous flag in the blender.

So let's make things easier and look at what the Voice might do instead of furchies about what it won't do. As well as formalising respect for First Nations peoples and the suffering they have endured since colonisation, the Voice, to my understanding, aims to realise the idea that policy is best informed by those who are most affected by it. Not rocket science. No inherent time restrictions imposed on those speaking or listening. No inherent restrictions on the diversity of opinions that may be considered. Just a

notion of good governance at least worth considering. We may one day even emulate the Welsh *Well-being of Future Generations Act, 2015*, which obliges their parliament to consider the impacts of policy and legislation on future generations. But whoa there, that's a dream for another day.

Right now we have the chance to honour our First Nations peoples and to enshrine the principle that their wishes, whether homogeneous or not, should at least be considered by federal parliament on matters directly affecting them. As minimal as that may be, it embraces celebrating diversity in a grown-up democracy, not the entrenchment of division that so worries Mr Kent. Beyond the world of windmills, that entrenchment of division seems to me best served by the maintenance of the status quo. Let's move on.

John Mester
Clunes

■ I refer to Janet Walker's letter (23 August).

She believes that racists will vote 'No' in the upcoming referendum on the Voice. Ms Walker is obviously far too

decent to know any racists, if any even live in Goonengerry.

Racists believe people with Australian indigenous genetic heritage are inherently inferior to people of European heritage. They will be voting 'Yes' as they believe more advisory or other involvement, by people with Indigenous genetic and cultural heritage, in government policies seeking to ameliorate damage to those disadvantaged by the invasion and conquest of Australia will be detrimental both to the disadvantaged and to the regard of the general community towards the Indigenous population.

Tom Gubler
Murwillumbah

■ If, as the polls report, there are more than 80 per cent of Indigenous Australians in favour of the Voice, who do Warren Mundine and Jacinta Price actually represent?

The recent Conservative Political Action Conference (19 August) had all the elements of the hard right's navel-gazing. Central theme: whatever happened in the past should stay in the past. It's time for Indigenous Australians to get over it.

A cameo from former PM Tony Abbott: 'This generation of Aboriginal Australians are not victims. This generation of non-Aboriginal Australians are not oppressors... The last thing that we should be doing right now is entrenching victimhood and institutionalising grievance in our governance arrangements.'

What? So we are just dealing with living Indigenous folks who he claims are not disadvantaged? Still the amnesiac's view of Indigenous history. Apparently no intergenerational trauma of the stolen generation despite recently-departed Archie Roach's painful songs.

Ever the royalist, Abbott says the 1,000 Indigenous Australians who 'signed up for king and country during the First World War' would not have done so if they faced discrimination. He conveniently omitted reference to the post-war experience of the diggers who suffered discrimination and disadvantage on their return. No soldier settlement blocks for them.

Apparently journalists in attendance were given passes labelled 'fake news', I expect as a light-hearted

stunt, but accurate, fact-checked journalism is more important than ever. Then there was Ms Price proclaiming that opposing the Voice is a way to stand against 'woke' insidious 'cancel culture' of 'city elites'. (*Guardian* 19/8/23). What? This Trump-era cliched language is hardly helpful in a discussion that requires clear thinking and less inflammatory debate. Many Liberals (Julian Lesser, Mark Speakman, Matt Kean) have called out this dog whistling.

Frank Lynch
Mullumbimby

■ It could not be more simple. To recognise the original Australians in our Constitution and give them a representative Voice in matters directly affecting their wellbeing, like health, housing, education and criminal justice. What is there not to understand? They are very modest requests. In the 1967 referendum, both sides of government supported the 'Yes' vote to simply recognise Aborigines as *people*. It was a resounding success with over 90 per cent voting 'Yes'.

It has been unhelpful in this Voice referendum that

both sides of the Coalition are saying to vote 'No'. It has caused confusion and division, and all the usual suspects have jumped aboard the band-wagon, concocting all manner of fear and obfuscation. Tony Abbott thinks it's a power grab by activists. Conspiracy theorists think it's part of a takeover by the UN imposing forced immunisation. Jacinta Nampijinpa Price is voting 'No' because she wants a treaty.

So many people are spinning in this vortex of fear and misinformation that the simple, clear request of this important referendum might just get lost in the wash.

A 'Yes' vote will be one more step toward a more fair and inclusive Australia.

Michael Balson
Wilsons Creek

■ Dear Albos - 'What practical difference will this referendum make to the Indigenous people of Australia?'

If you can answer this in plain English, with no blah,blah,blah, no weasel words and no Happy Horse Shit! Then I will vote, 'Yes'.

David Witney
Bangalow

► Continued from page 9 are delivered water straight from the plant? Tell them to get tanks and see you later?

Other questions are: how is Rous going to get the water to the existing reservoir; and who is going to pay for the infrastructure to get the water there?

This is much the same

as the attempt to close the Ocean Shores treatment plant, did that strategy go before the committee or straight to the elected Council?

I went to that Council meeting and witnessed the director of infrastructure indicate that the staffer was responsible. The directors

are responsible for what happens beneath them, in this case, the director of infrastructure is responsible for ensuring accurate information is supplied for people to assess for the betterment of the community and Council.

Alan Dickens
Ballina

Sharing the rail corridor

I feel compelled to write again regarding the use of the train tracks in our shire for public transport.

I disagree that the rail tracks should be just for the use of cyclists and walking enthusiasts only.

The history, culture, and romance needs to be there for all to enjoy, which includes public transport travel.

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, is the 'safety factor,' of keeping the rail tracks in place for

vehicular movement in the further event of flood. It is a significant regional, historical building block. This corridor rail line, specifically Byron to Mullumbimby, could be perhaps the only northerly approach when it is likely the region has another major flood. This could be the only way to travel, supply and get relief into Byron Bay or Mullumbimby.

When the water catchment at West Byron is filled and houses built upon it, the stormwater will be exacerbating flooding in Byron Bay.

So altogether I feel it is a sacrilege of our tradition, heritage, and cultural significance and especially the flood access safety issue that we must not extract our special ability to ride on any appropriate vehicle upon the tracks again.

The solar train from Elements into Byron Bay has made a real example of one way of how it can be done.

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Rusty Miller
Byron Bay



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Byron Shire planning – limits to growth

Tamara Smith and Jan Barham

Currently we find ourselves in housing and cost of living crises, set against the backdrop of climate and biodiversity extinction crises. We need more homes for those displaced by the floods and for essential workers and volunteers.

The NSW Department of Planning is applying pressure on Byron Council to deliver additional housing without consideration of the risks involved, or of their own contribution to the housing crisis. There are key issues that need to be examined prior to the all-too-easy pathway of putting the responsibility on Council to meet the state-imposed high growth targets. Recently, the Independent Planning Commission (IPC) identified what the state government had ignored for two decades, the extreme impact of short term rental accommodation (STRA) on the availability and affordability of Byron Shire's housing stock.

Since the 1980s Byron Shire has been at the forefront of planning for the future by undertaking strategic studies to inform planning rules. The protection of the environment, cultural heritage, and farmland are vital as is the avoidance of the risks of flooding, slope, fire, and coastal erosion. Infrastructure capability, sewerage, water supply, and road networks are essential considerations to ensure that increased development doesn't result in negative impacts. These are the limits to growth if the desired outcome is to retain a desirable, ecologically sustainable community.

With the pressure from the state to increase supply, there are risks.

When the state government dictates how many new houses we need to meet projected population growth, without the methodology of strategic planning that considers the future impacts, we face the risk of poor outcomes for the future.

The ever-increasing pressure from tourism must be considered. It's essential that the amenity of the shire is protected. In previous population growth target assessments it was determined that Byron Shire's share of the regional growth was lower than other shires due to the impacts of, and responsibility for, managing a tourism icon.

Over the decades there have been state threats, particularly when developers

don't get their way. West Byron was an example of this and unfortunately the state government overrode Council's planning decisions.

The fundamental issue now is what questions and lenses we need to consider any future housing and development strategies. What are the limits to growth and how do we address them?

The application of good strategic planning must be a priority regardless of the urgency. It shouldn't require the community and Council to remind the state planning department of the responsibility of planning, but perhaps it is necessary at this time.

Historically, the state-imposed long-term growth targets have been met ahead of time, but this unfortunately initiated increased population targets. However, the state failed to support Council's 20-year campaign to regulate holiday letting. They also failed our shire in the delivery of social housing and instead imposed state-wide uniform planning to allow increased densities for the delivery of affordable housing.

Increasing density and heights adds more pressure on infrastructure and risks eroding the amenity of the shire and must be considered prior to changes to planning rules.

Do we build whole new towns and villages to support future growth? This requires significant planning and expenditure to provide infrastructure and community facilities. Is the state willing to provide that level of support?

Council must explain to the state that there are limits to growth in Byron Shire and it's essential to get the planning clarified on STRA before new development areas are identified.

On the back of the 2022 floods, we know the important lens through which to plan for future growth, how and where we build homes, businesses, and public spaces that can withstand future flooding and other risks.

Water security, sewerage and road capacity are key issues in Byron Shire and need costed contingencies and pathways to deliver the infrastructure before new areas for residential growth are determined.

The extinction crisis is a fundamental lens. Responsibility to protect endangered biodiversity is a Byron Shire hallmark. But significant threats to farmland, coastal erosion, and sea level rise also cannot be ignored.

Sustainable development

At some point soon we may find ourselves at capacity in terms of ecologically sustainable development.

The tourism lens presents key issues for our economic future. How do we protect Aboriginal cultural assets, precious marine life, beloved landscapes, natural beauty, and rich biodiversity for future generations to enjoy?

Then there is the affordability and accessibility lens. The current trajectory of mortgage stress and insurance pressures, coupled with an extreme lack of available or affordable rental properties must be a foundational lens through which to measure any residential growth targets.

Even if thousands of new homes are built in Byron Shire over the next 20 years, who will be able to live in them? West Byron land prices provide an indication. The statistics on entire homes on share platforms indicates the appetite, but without a mechanism to cap short term holiday letting for entire homes they will continue to be used as short-term lets and the shire will continue to be unattainable for most of our citizenry.

As far as future growth goes, there needs to be clear guidelines about where and how it can take place. If new growth is proposed, we need to be sure that it's well planned, that homes are future-proofed, affordable and available, and that cultural heritage and biodiversity aren't treated as expendable.

Byron Shire needs to stand firm on the principles of ecologically sustainable development as defined in legislation. We have a responsibility to protect and preserve our shire and care for our community. The state government must be willing to support Council and the community and deliver on their responsibility to provide much-needed social housing. It should not force Council to take increased housing until all the issues are reviewed. We cannot afford to end up with outcomes that put residents at risk or impact negatively on our environment and economy.

Further reading on *The Echo* online: Will Byron Shire achieve an ecologically sustainable future? (<https://tinyurl.com/tpphj9ss>).



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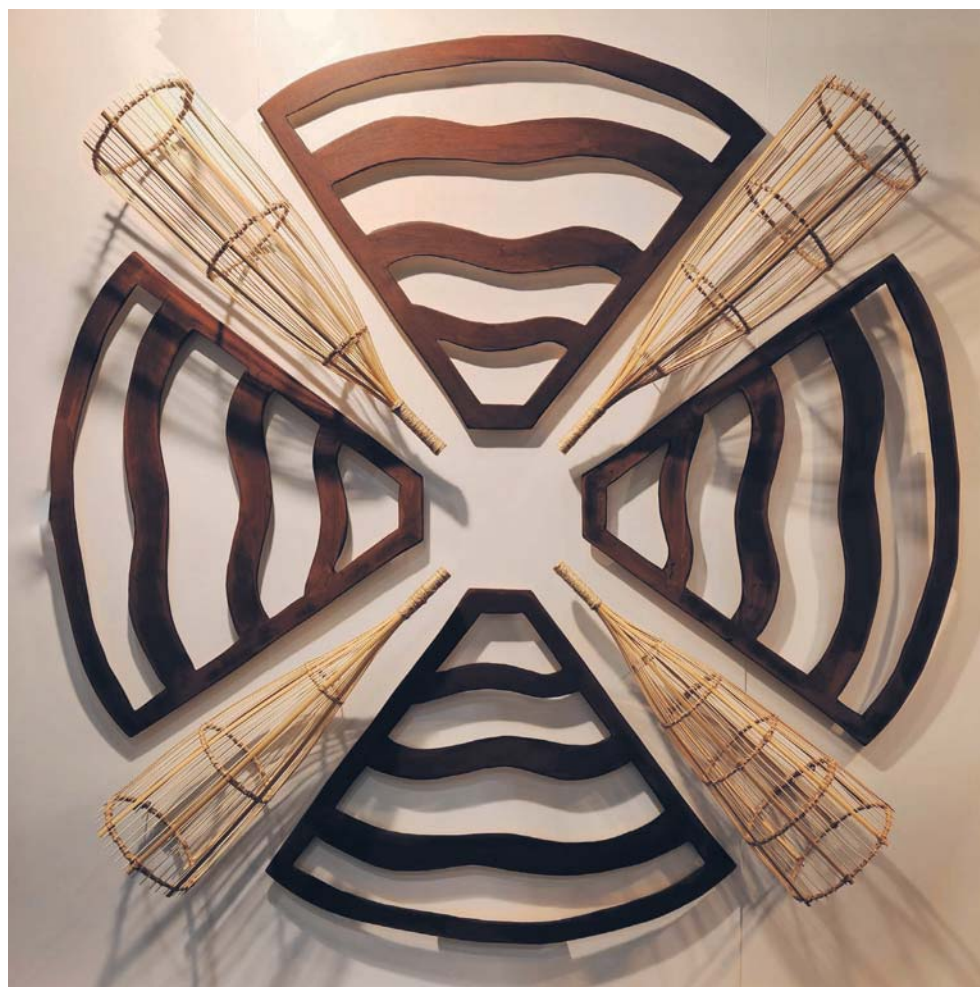


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The future of Feros Care Village Byron Bay

■ Congratulations to Byron Shire Council for making inroads to save our aged care facility from closure. Cr Swivel and Mayor Lyon in particular. A facility this community paid for over 30 years ago which included, back then, large donations from Council and individuals. A facility needed even more today with our ageing population.

A facility the residents love, with a brave 95-year-old lady still leading the protest by just refusing to leave. Such special courage. We should all be very proud of her and her gallant team.

Proud also of the likes of Mandy Nolan and Catherine Cusack from different sides of politics. Two really fantastic caring people. Both there, working together, in comforting these terrified, frail people, the day after this cruel eviction notice was delivered. No warning. Such dreadful treatment. Another to be proud of is Maree Eddings – there for her distressed dad, and to become the tireless leader to save the village. Proud of our past chairs of Feros Care, totally united against the actions of the present board. Still unable to produce for us any future plan. Just smokescreens and mirrors re government regulations.

We need the whole community to get on side now. For we, one day, will grow old and require care. Feros Care is a charity.

George Feros with a bell and money box devoted 20 years on our streets, collecting money for this



Kate Smorty speaking at one of the Save Feros events. Photo: Tree Faerie

aged care facility. He was a proud and charitable Freemason. We owe it to him to save his passion and his dream that he created. We owe it to all who have served in the name of Feros Care. We must discover a new board.

Nick Towers
Chairman Byron Bay Masonic Centre

■ The community and civil society must applaud the aged 'Feros Warriors' and their families and supporters in demanding their human rights. The decision to sack the current management (which has been acting with unconscionable and incalculable cruelty) has breached the Human Rights Act, and must never be tolerated by any community. Also, the effort of independent journalists such as *The Echo* and *The Saturday Paper* must be applauded. The recent scathing article by Rick Morton in *The Saturday Paper* (August 19–25) on the deep fractures within aged care, reveal a broken system

in relation to regulations and lack thereof. Intense research into aged human rights can, at this stage, be the total foundational focus to aid Feros residents in implementing a solid and caring future. It will also aid activists. The Human Rights Commissioner, Rosalind Croucher, is aware of the plight of Feros folk. There are recently ratified human rights for the aged. The aged charter articulates the following.

1. Safe and high-quality care and services, 2. Treated with dignity and respect, 3. Have my identity, culture and diversity valued and supported, 4. Live without abuse and neglect, 5. Be informed about my care and services in a way I understand, 6. Access all information about myself, including information about my rights, care and services, 7. Have control and make choices about my care and personal and social life, including where the choices involve personal risk, 8. Have control over, and make decisions about,

the personal aspects of my daily life, financial affairs and possibilities, 9. My independence 10. Be listened to and understood, 11. Have a person of my choice, including an aged care advocate, support me or speak on my behalf, 12. Complain free from reprisal, and to have my complaints dealt fairly and promptly, 13. Personal privacy and to have my personal information protected, 14. Exercise my rights without it adversely affecting the way I am treated.

Furthermore, within the general literature of responsibilities it is noted that all management must be familiar with, and implement the Human Rights Charter. This charter must be offered to incoming residents and a shared agreement signed (or refused). Did management conform to this requirement? If not, why not? A fresh autonomous start seems the only way forward to ensure a democratic, civil society that upholds human rights. And of course we (the community) would love to know who the consortium of developers are that influenced management? Do the aged really need 'edgy development'? Transparency please. Rosalind Croucher also exercises legal power over general aged care legalities. Email contact Rosalind.Croucher@humanrights.gov.au

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Community engagement at Elements

There's a fair bit in the pipeline at North Byron Beach Resort, the home of Elements of Byron.

Temporary coastal protection works

There is a section of land from where Belongil Creek meets the sand to 160m south of the public beach access which is subject to erosion. This has impacted on the beach. It has also impacted on public safety, on beach amenity and on the Elements of Byron resort. We are therefore proposing a 40 lineal metre extension of the existing soft (buried sandbags) coastal protection works and will be engaging and listening to feedback on this matter until 11th September. All proposed works would be undertaken on land owned by North Byron Beach Resort only and would be paid for by North Byron Beach Resort.

Solar works

We have lodged a DA for new solar works for Elements of Byron resort and the Byron Solar Train. We believe that the solar works proposed for Elements of Byron represent the largest solar project in the Northern Rivers and the largest for any hotel or resort in Australia.

C4 Environmental Living land

As many of you are aware the old golf course land was rezoned to C4 Environmental Living in May 2022. A further application is required to subdivide the existing four lots across 11.882 hectares into nine. The minimum 1.2 hectare lots

would provide ample space for dwellings to be located in cleared grassed areas only. The C4 zone permits single houses but not secondary dwellings or dual occupancy, so there could never be more than one house on each of the nine lots.

We will be holding engagement sessions where anybody is welcome to come along and chat about any of these matters.

3:00 – 5:00pm Friday 8th September
10:00am – midday Saturday 9th September

Further to this, those interested may book to attend site walks to view and discuss their specific areas of interest. These sessions are accessible via a booking only, whereas the engagement sessions are drop in with no bookings required.

For any session please meet at the tent set up near the Elements of Byron kiosk which is along the public beach access at the end of Bayshore Drive.

Further information regarding all these matters can be found at: northbyronbeachresort.com.au or contact us: enquiries@northbyronbeachresort.com.au or 0283794044. Thank you.

northbyronbeachresort.com.au

NSW Education Standards Authority
educationstandards.nsw.edu.au

AUTHORISED PERSON FOR THE PURPOSE OF HOME SCHOOLING REGISTRATION

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

The Adventures of Edward Herring

PART TWO

Shimon Salahm, manager of the *Mullcogan Times*, whereof our hero has mysteriously become the editor, has already set up an interview for him with Sean Pebble, head of the region's flood relief agency. After a detailed briefing Edward obediently heads off to Shelley Cove to meet this personage.

The agency has been set up in a shopfront on the main street, which has the letters 'HTGT' painted on the window. That's a little puzzling, but the address is right, so Edward enters the shop, announces himself to the receptionist and is conducted into the rear of the premises.

When Edward enters the office, Sean Pebble is seated at an enormous desk, smoking a cigar. The head of disaster relief in Shelley Shire is expensively dressed, and his office is a plush space with walls of hardwood panelling, a floor of pile carpet and a tall window framed by thick drapes.

Pebble reaches over the desk to shake hands, bids Edward seat himself, asks if he requires a coffee, orders a pot through the intercom, shuffles the papers on his desk, puffs on the cigar and regards Edward expectantly.

'Your newspaper said you would like to ask me some questions, is that right?'

Edward agrees distractedly, his attention having been drawn to the heavily draped window behind Pebble. The lower pane is clear and looks out over a dingy alley, but the upper section consists of stained glass depicting a mourning woman holding a child, who is sleeping, unconscious or possibly dead. The letters 'HTGT' are woven into the design.

'It's a trivial thing, Mr Pebble, but nobody seems to know what your agency is actually called. It has changed its name several times and now it's only referred to by an acronym. What does "HTGT" stand for?'

Pebble smiles. 'After the government set up this disaster relief agency for the people, those poor unfortunate people, who

have been devastated by the floods, we tried out several titles, but our semiotics department pointed out that the name should express empathy for the afflicted. Fellow-feeling, we're all in this together, that sort of thing. The fate of all of us, high or low. So the letters mean "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow".'

'So that's a universal sentiment, applicable to all human existence?'

Pebble nods and smiles again, reminding Edward of a card-sharp who has succeeded in dealing himself four aces.

'And it wouldn't specifically refer to the agency itself, its temporary nature for instance?'

'Dear me, no. Would we have set up this office so substantially if it were to be anything short-term?'

Edward looks around at the expensive furniture and concedes the point. Mr Pebble is certainly in charge of a massive budget.

'So why has there been such a delay in administering grants? I believe the floods were over a year ago, and

the government promised generous relief packages. The total was a billion and a half dollars, was it not?'

The smile on the face of the HTGT chief disappears. His features rearrange themselves into sorrow.

'That figure was actually the principal we invested in the stock market; it's the interest it earns that will actually be used for flood relief. Somehow the public and, I have to say, the press have got the wrong end of the stick here, encouraged I suspect by rogue political elements.'

'But there are press releases with your name on them specifying a billion and half dollars -'

'A misunderstanding by the consultants employed to do the public relations. An innocent error, but we had to terminate them when we found they had applied for flood relief themselves.'

'Were they the same consultants you employed to map the flood contours?'

'Yes, at least they did a good job there.'

'I'm told that local people do not agree. In particular they don't understand why the flood history, which is the basis for grants, does not include the disaster of last year.'

'Well, if you include a one-in-a-hundred-year event you distort the average picture. It will never happen again, our hydrologists say, so we should stick with realistic figures.'

Edward consults the notes Shimon gave him. 'Realistic? What about all the neglected drains? What about the atmospheric warming that increases rainfall? What about rising sea levels? What about developers being given the green light to build on flood plains?'

Pebble finishes his coffee. 'I think you'll find that is precisely why we are funding the raising of houses,' he says coldly.

'That's what you said after the flood, but no houses have actually been raised, have they?'

'We are carefully working through all the applications. Residents will be informed in due course. I must say, Mr Herring, I did not expect to be hectoring by the *Mullcogan Times*. It has a reputation for balance and responsibility, or it did have.'

'Our readers just want the truth, Mr Pebble.'



'The truth? That's a different government department. Let me get you directions.'



But Edward doesn't want the Department of Truth, if there is such a thing; instead he decides to investigate the Shelley Shire Assembly, which is the seat of local government, and so he heads back to Mullcogan.

Since the flood, which carried away the old Assembly buildings, together with a large swathe of Mullcogan's housing, the seat of government has more accurately become the seats of government. The Assembly staff have been accommodated in a number of small emergency 'pods' that dot the landscape amid the ruins of the original marble edifice with its fallen Greek columns and scattered, noseless busts of local dignitaries not yet retrieved from the mud.

The pods are temporary structures, a bit like Mongolian yurts, with helpful signs painted on them to indicate which Assembly department each one contains. Edward walks past 'Animal Enforcement,' 'Parking Enforcement,' and 'Community Enforcement' before arriving at his destination: 'Disaster Enforcement.'

However, he is forestalled by a long line of local residents. The queue, two or three deep, stretches out of the pod and coils around several other branches of government until it peters out beside Sewage Enforcement.

Rather than joining the end of the line, Edward gets out his notebook and performs vox populi interviews with various people, craftily working his way towards the front and

the entrance to Disaster Enforcement. He learns that flood victims have been waiting for a year and a half for action, only to finally receive phone calls denying them aid. The calls are from bureaucratic underlings who read from a script that contradicts both science and experience. Some people have received two or three such calls.

He arrives at the head of the queue to find the doors have been closed, with a notice on them explaining that a meeting of the Assembly requires the attendance of the staff who enforce disaster.



Back at the *Mullcogan Times* office, Shimon Salahm congratulates Edward on his progress.

'But I've hit a wall. Nobody seems to know where the Assembly will meet.'

'Ah yes, Assembly meetings have been held in temporary venues recently,' says Shimon.

'I gathered that. Presumably because the flood destroyed the Assembly Chamber?'

'Not just that; it's also because the Assembly hates public scrutiny. Pop-up meetings in different places at short notice are almost as good as secret sessions. Come to think of it, most of most of the meetings are held in secret sessions anyway.'

'I never thought the Shelley and Byron shires would have so much in common.'

'But we've found out where the Assembly meeting is to be held. Get ready to cover it, Edward.'

To be continued...



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The exhibition pays tribute to his skill as a Master Lithographer, showcasing the incredible legacy of work he produced from 1968 to 1974 in New York. *Young Americans* features key iconic works from Pop Art images like James Rosenquist's 'Spaghetti', Don Nice's 'Big Sneaker' and 'Tootsie Pops' prints to John Cage's collaborative 'Mushroom' book, to Robert Morris's political anti-Vietnam War series.

This is an incredible opportunity to view and purchase your own original artwork by some of these American artists and more!

Gallery is open 10am to 4pm, Wed to Sat.

www.lonegoatgallery.com

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SUNDAY 3 SEPT

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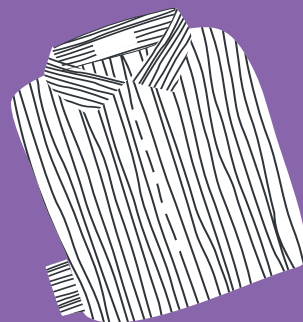


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to avoid disappointment by phoning (02) 6687 8432. Gluten-free and halal available. Or why not let them do the cooking – the Sanctuary Cafe will be offering a steak and eggs special on both the Saturday and Sunday!

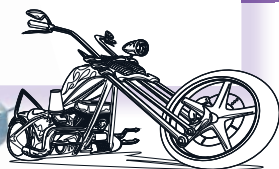
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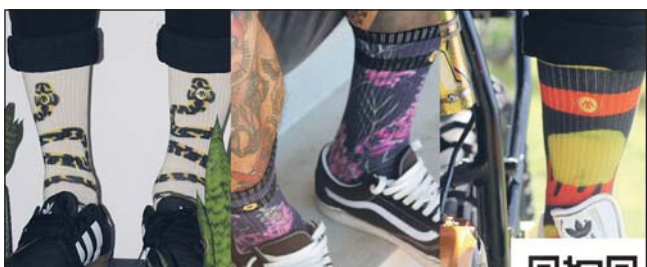
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Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson
lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441
GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR

The School Lunchbox Challenge is back!

This annual event teaches children about growing their own food, creating their own gardens, and connecting to where their food comes from.

Allie Grefrey, manager of both Mullumbimby and New Brighton farmers' markets and creator of the idea, says 'the kids love it!', and it's also a way to keep kitchen gardens going, and to create competition between the primary schools. 'They set up marquees', she says, 'and then decorate them with produce they've grown plus value-added products, then they make a lunchbox with ingredients from their gardens and from the markets.'

Everything, of course, has to be seasonal, locally grown, healthy and easy to make. 'It's amazing on the day', Allie continues. 'We've had kids growing their own wheat then making bread, rearing chickens and bringing along the eggs.' Each school is required to make a main dish, two snacks and a drink.

The prize money goes back into their gardens. 'So', Allie says, 'that can mean worm



Wilson's Creek School students with their amazing produce

farmers, irrigation, bee hotels for pollination and seed saving.' In addition, the participating schools are encouraged to utilise native foods. 'As a market,' Allie says, 'we would like to encourage young farmers; this is at grass roots level. It's just so inspiring to see young children so knowledgeable about food, where it comes from, growing things.'

The School Lunchbox Challenge will take place at Mullumbimby Farmers' Market on Friday 1 September from 8.30–11am.

Good Life

Cultured natural ice cream

Simon Haslam

I've driven past the small caravan selling 'botanical ice cream' in someone's driveway in Brunswick Heads countless times without ever bothering to stop. After all, it's been over 40 years since I last 'needed' ice cream. So, I never realised how good it was until today, when I tried an ice cream from the caravan that was better than the dessert you'd order in many restaurants.

This could be the only place in Australia that you can get artisanal, small-batch, gut-health-focused gluten-free cultured ice cream that is both probiotic and prebiotic, made here in the Byron Shire, naturally flavoured with local and indigenous produce that is spray-free ... and with a vegan option.

The parents in front of me told their kids that they were lucky - ice cream wasn't this good in the old days.

Natural Ice-Cream Australia (NIA) are the Brunswick Heads business that produces this cultured ice cream, which is unique to NIA and can't be found anywhere else in Australia.



Photo: Jess Kearney

They make it from five strains of gut-friendly probiotics to culture the French-style ice cream base like a yoghurt.

The NIA team, who seem more like chefs than teenage cone-dollopers, then add flavours 'that have been foraged or farmed by producers that we know and trust are spray free'. 'The Byron Shire has an incredibly diverse range of ingredients that constantly inspire new exciting flavours,' they say, 'and, we only use certified organic eggs from Organigrow near Lismore.'

Flavours include: cultured lemon myrtle with

honey from Greenwood Permaculture in Ocean Shores; Davidson plum from Byron Bush Foods Nashua; and pepperberry and fingerlime from Playing With Fire Native Foods Ballina. My cultured lemon myrtle creation had, for example, the blowtorch applied to a delicious pepperberry mousse, and those people trying the new doughnut-topped ice cream creation next to me were equally impressed. And,

there seemed to be plenty more good combinations on the menu, like the bee pollen and sugarbag ice cream with cumquat and browned crumble.

If you haven't tried cultured ice cream, you're in for a treat - it's miles away from even a 'premium' supermarket ice cream, and much better for you, and there's always a vegan option available.

Open Friday to Sunday from 12-5pm
21 Mullumbimbi Street Brunswick Heads
Enquire via natural-icecreamaustralia@gmail.com for private events and collaborations.

Farmers' market Father's Day

Victoria Cosford

It's said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach - so what better plan to win your father over this Father's Day than to prepare a feast?

For starters, it's hard to go past the sublime simplicity of Bay Smokehouse fish rillettes smeared onto slices of Scratch Patisserie baguette. This could be extended, for the easiest option, to a platter groaning with dips - Baraka's chilli and harissa hoummus or babaganoush, perhaps, alongside Spice Palace's beetroot dip, Gourmet Salad Hut's rocket pesto, and a couple of Deb Allard's wonderful cheeses such as her peppery one or the creamy blue, with Honey Wagon's honeycomb. Marlival Farm brown rice crackers could be there too and a couple of organic avocados roughly smashed, seasoned and folded through fresh chopped coriander, red chilli and a squeeze of lime juice (Jumping Red Ant, Summit Organics, Iona Herbs) - and of course Grumpy Grandma's semi-dried or wood-smoked olives and a great handful of crunchy Nudgel Nuts macadamias.



If you wanted to go to a little more trouble, you could pick up fresh pasta and sauce from Woodland Valley Farm, and throw together, say, pappardelle with venison ragu, or spinach fettuccini with tomato and basil sauce. And if you really wanted to impress, head to Local Dorper Lamb to pick up one of Warren's butterflied legs, rub with a blend of fresh rosemary and garlic, lemon rind and olive oil and slowly roast,

to serve alongside Organic Forrest's beautiful creamy mashed Dutch cream potatoes and a Gourmet Salad Hut salad of mixed leaves.

Either way you'll need a sweet treat to finish, so dollop Woodland Valley Farm's rich chocolate duck egg custard on to a tumble of Monty's sweetest reddest strawberries, and serve up a selection of Pure Melt chocolates. Happy Father's Day fathers all!

The Rocks

'Success is not final, failure is not fatal. It is the courage to continue that counts.'

A stone's throw from our pristine coastline lies a locals' café laying claim to its place in Byron folklore. Since its humble inception over 35 years ago, The Rocks on Lawson has been at the heartbeat of the community. At its core - structurally and metaphorically - lies the iconic rock; a bastion of strength in a world of uncertainty, transported from Myocum in a past life, symbolising power and endurance - standing as strong as ever.

Vibrant, bustling, local markets provide food for the thoughtful - stimulating both body and mind - allowing for an exciting range of dishes showcasing Byron's most impressive and diverse homegrown produce.

Lazy mornings are the order of the day; relax

www.echo.net.au



Lovely cafe manager Jess

at your leisure. Sip on heavenly coffees, loose leaf teas and magical matcha - paired with an array of freshly baked muffins, cakes and sumptuous brownies. As your pet pooch basks in the morning glory, be sure to pamper them with a puppuccino or two.

on Lawson

Breathe in the morning air - savouring the solitude - as you patiently inhale the ethereal wisdom that the rock imparts. Your newspaper rustles as you tuck it beneath your arm; worldly curiosities satiated for yet another day.

Evening looms, and dusk is not far away;

amber hues enveloping the heavens above. It's time to indulge your curiously eclectic palate; light tapas, pasta, fresh local seafood, flatbreads and home-made desserts will surely assist in enlivening the senses.

On Thursdays, find yourself immersed in a warm, welcoming ambience, drifting away to live-set acoustics as you sample The

Rocks' delectable hand-crafted cocktails. Lose your sense of time and enjoy Funk and Soul Fridays, showcasing tracks from Aretha Franklin to James Brown, and everything in between. Saturday night succumbs to party vibes, as resident DJs conspicuously expose your inner youth.

Lose yourself beneath the starry sky as time stands still; the serenity allowing for intellectual nourishment.

'Don't just dream all night, dream for a living.'

The Rocks on Lawson welcomes you.

Open for breakfast, brunch and dinner
therocksbyronbay.com.au
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2023 sample Food Festival

BYRON BAY & NORTHERN RIVERS

Saturday 2nd September
BANGALOW
SHOWGROUNDS

Live Music
Kids
Activities
Workshops

GF = GLUTEN FRIENDLY
V = VEGAN
VEG = VEGETARIAN
DF = DAIRY FREE
SF = SUGAR FREE



The 11th Annual Sample Food Festival, a taste of Northern NSW, will take place on Saturday 2nd September 2023 at the Bangalow Showground. Tickets on sale now. Adults \$5 / Kids free.

Experience sample plates from the region's best restaurants, alongside local brews and cocktails from award-winning Northern Rivers distilleries. Browse the market stalls showcasing passionate and innovative local artisans and producers. Catch leading chefs cook off against one another, foodie tips and masterclasses. There is so much for the whole family to explore.

This year's restaurant line-up includes Bruno's Bellingen, The Smoking Camel, Harvest Newrybar, No Bones, Federal Doma Café, Kelp Restaurant, Hey Lady Diner, Livemore Deli, Natural Ice-Cream Australia, Quattro, Yulli's Byron Bay, Dinner is Served, Taco Love Bros and many more.

TASTING PLATES

A CHEF'S POCKET

\$10 Anticucho de pollo: chicken skewer marinated in pancha chilli, rocoto sauce and grilled potato **GF DF**

\$15 Ceviche de pescado con pulpo a la parrilla: fish ceviche with bbq WA octopus **GF DF**

AUTHENTIC SOUTH INDIAN FOOD

\$5 Savoury dosa roll **V GF**

\$10 Vegetarian Samosa served with homemade salad, coriander yoghurt sauce and date tamarind sauce (**V** with coconut yoghurt)

\$15 Curry box-flatbread, rice and curry of choice. Curries vegan **V** OR Rosemary Lamb **GF DF** OR Butter Chicken **GF**

BERLIN BANGERS

\$10 Bratwurst or Kransky in a fresh roll **GF DF**

\$15 Mega Banger Chilli Cheese Kransky in a fresh roll **GF**

BOMBAY TO BYRON

\$5 Beetroot Goat Cheese Galaouti Beetroot Patty cooked with fragrant spices and stuffed with goat cheese and grilled, served with tangy mint sauce

\$10 Tandoori prawns Fresh Ballina prawns cooked live on the grill and served with garlic and coriander coulis

\$15 Butter Chicken & Basmati rice Chicken Tikka cooked and simmered with creamy tomato sauce

BRUNO'S BELLINGEN

\$5 Pickle plate **GF V**

\$15 Woodgrilled flatbread with slow roast lamb, tahini yoghurt, Zhoug, pickles

DINNER IS SERVED

\$5 Jerusalem artichoke, potato & leek vichyssoise, smoked watercress oil

GF VEG

\$10 Mini Basque cheesecake, lemon myrtle curd, macadamia brittle **VEG**

\$15 Slow braised beef cheeks, cannellini bean hummus, orange gremolata, pickled onions **GF DF**

FEDERAL DOMA CAFE

\$15 Four traditional Nigiri Sushi

\$15 Three Snacks **GF**

Dragon's eye (blow torched salmon, scallop, sushi rice)

Blue ocean cracker (sashimi salsa, coconut, blue spirulina, tapioca)

Spanner crab chawanmushi

(Katusobushi bonito and macadamia dashi, egg)

Matcha Panna Cotta

HARVEST NEWRYBAR

\$5 Chestnut crème diplomat bigne with candied sage

\$10 Brisket, seasonal vegetables, and red wine pie, with housemade smoked tomato sauce

\$15 Bangalow sweet pork Porchetta with house-baked roll, roast garlic, and herb mayo

HEY LADY DINER

\$10 Karaage cauliflower with yuzu mayo **V GF**

\$15 Sweet and spicy crispy prawns with Japanese tartar **GF**

KELP RESTAURANT

\$10 Marinated mussels & escabeche, grilled sourdough **DF**

\$15 Ballina prawn ceviche, Thai style coconut broth, herb salad, sweet potato crisps **GF DF**

OR

\$15 BBQ Octopus tentacle, white bean puree, adobo oil, chorizo soil, sprout salad **GF**

LIVEMORE DELI

\$10 Filled Focaccia Meat & Vegetarian Option

\$15 Antipasti Plate

MATCHA MAN

\$5 Vegan Matcha Muffin

V GF SF

\$15 Mushroom soba noodles **V SF**

Matcha Ice Cream & Matcha Lattes also available

MR MAURICE

\$10 Pani Puri - Crispy fried balls filled with Indian spiced potato and chickpeas with a coconut lime and chilli dressing. **V**

\$15 Kati Rolls - Marinated tandoori chicken or tandoori plant based strips, topped with chilli, coriander, onion, yoghurt and a date and tamarind bbq sauce, wrapped in a flaky paratha flat bread. (**GF V** option available)

sample FOOD EVENTS

AFTER PARTY

Saturday 2nd September

Live music, drinks & food from 4pm

The BOWLO BANGALOW Est. 1910

The Bowlo will be open from midday, with the Bowlo Kitchen serving lunch and dinner as usual.

vae MEDICAL AESTHETICS

Dr Jemma Buultjens would like to introduce Vae Medical Aesthetics.

Vae is inspired by, and captures, Dr Jemma's vision to deliver clinical skin care and rejuvenation with a focus on vitality and elevation of treatments and products, whilst always honouring natural results and patient-centred care.

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We look forward to seeing you all at the Sample Food Festival.

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Castrikum Adams Legal BANGALOW CONVEYANCING

Tasting Plates Guest Chefs

NATURAL ICE-CREAM AUSTRALIA

\$5 Black truffle and choco Aja Baja ice-cream lollipops **GF**

\$10 Strawberry & strawberry gum ice-cream served with creme fraiche or coconut yoghurt **V GF**

\$15 Both the ice-cream lollipop & ice-cream dish **GF**

NIMBIN VALLEY DAIRY

\$15 Cheese tasting platter **VEG**

NO BONES

\$5 SATAY JAMUR/Oyster mushroom skewers, Javanese satay **V GF**

\$10 BAHN MI/pulled jackfruit and oyster mushrooms, shiitake pate, pickled carrot, Vietnamese herbs, cucumber, crispy shallot chilli oil **V GF**

OR KNAFEH/spun pastry, cashew cheese, orange blossom, pistachio, rose **V GF**

NORTH BYRON HOTEL

\$10 Smoked pineapple, salted dulce de leche cream, lemon myrtle oil **GF VEG**

\$15 Charred Sugarloaf Skewers (2), nduja butter, charcoal salt, toum **GF**

OR 48hr citrus brined 1/4 roast chook, garlic smashed chats, gremolata **GF**

OMG! DONUTS BYRON

Your choice of two of our amazing donuts **\$5** / four donuts **\$10** / or six donuts **\$15**. These decadent donuts are made hot and fresh to order, which are then dusted in 12 different bespoke, handcrafted sugars made from real fruits, vegetables and spices.

Donuts are vegan and completely free from gluten, dairy, eggs, wheat, nuts, yeast, sulphites, artificial colours, artificial flavours or preservatives plus Halal and Kosher approved.

OLIVE AND LUCA / QUATTRO

\$5-\$15 Wood fired pizza (**GF DF** options available on all pizzas)

SHOZA GYOZA

\$5-\$10 Pork or vegan Gyoza **V**

TACO LOVE BROS

\$10 Seasoned and marinated grilled chicken taco OR Slow cooked pulled Chipotle beef taco Both served with picco de gallo, Guacamole and a spicy salsa Roja

\$15 One of each Taco

THAI MARQUEE

\$5 2 x Vegetable spring rolls

\$10 Pad Thai chicken (tamarind sauce) OR

Pad Siew with eggs and vegetables OR

Green Curry chicken with mixed vegetables + Steamed Rice

\$15 Hang Ley Bangalow Sweet Pork Curry (slow cooked pork belly curry) + steamed rice

THE SMOKING CAMEL

\$15 Meat : Cumin spiced lamb shish, hummus, tabbouleh, pink pickles, dill zthough, pita bread OR

Veg : haloumi & mushroom shish, hummus, tabbouleh, pink pickles, dill zthough, pita bread

YULLI'S BYRON BAY

\$5 Swiss brown mushroom consommé w/ salted radish noodles **V GF**

\$10 Tuscan kale parcels filled w/ chickpeas, parsley and semi dried tomatoes **V GF**

\$15 Sesame encrusted eggplant w/ ginger salad compote **V GF**

YUMMIFY

\$5 Vegan cheese tasting

\$10 Vegan pies **V GF**

\$15 Vegan pies served with mash, mushroom gravy and peas **V GF**

All menus are subject to change after the printing of the program.



sample Food Festival

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JUST BORN IN PAPER LANE

As a brand new band, established in 2023, **Paper Lane** is one of Brisbane's newest indie rock acts. With a vintage pop-meets-rock sound and their no-holds-barred lyricism, Paper Lane have just released their debut single, 'Better In My Head'. A relatable, feel-good track documenting the innocent destruction of a casual conversation.

Band mates Taleena Peck, Luke Martin, Dave Rentell and Harry Schneider are heading south to Byron this weekend playing **The Rails** on **Saturday at 7pm**.



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bayfm.org

THE SPRING IN THE NUDGE

Springing back the Nudge this September – Nudge Nudge Wink Wink: The Ultimate Party with a Conscience!

The party of the year is back with its 8th season! Get ready to spring onto the dance floor at your awarded community event. Nudge Nudge Wink Wink returns with a scintillating line up of DJs that will have you dancing and prancing from start to finish!

Guest DJs include DJ Abel El Toro and DJ Yazmin, joining resident DJs Lord Sut and Dale Stephen.

Saturday, September 2 from 4pm to 11pm, this is a ticketed 18+ event at **The Billinudgel Hotel**.

For the first two Nudge events of Season 8, donations will go to the urgent funding needed for Fletcher Street Cottage to continue supporting the growing homelessness crisis in Byron Bay.

Nudgers have helped raise to date \$384,442, helping 37 local charities since December 2015. Community supporting its own!

This event has SOLD OUT – there will not be tickets available at the door. Any legitimate tickets being resold are only available via tixel.com.



IT'S IN THE AIR AND THE MEADOW

Spring is in the air and soon, the sounds of the **Caldera Chamber Ensemble** will again permeate the atmosphere at **Stokers Siding**. **Barry Singh** and his 17-piece ensemble have put together a brand-new concert program called *Serenades of Spring*. Like the season the music will be fresh, invigorating and beautiful. The whole experience promises to be a bouquet for all the senses!

Like the first concert, this will be an open-air event held on the gorgeous fields at Stokers Siding. All in attendance are encouraged to bring along picnic baskets full of delicious food and of course, fine wine to complement the occasion. A glass of high-quality French wine for the conductor will not go astray.

Patrons are again encouraged to dress up in 1800s finery but this time with extra colour or flowers to reflect the season. This is of course not mandatory but adds to the fun and fascination of the day.

An added feature will be the music of Johann Strauss, thus allowing those whose impulses embrace them to waltz along with the orchestra. In fact, the final piece of the program will be repeated specifically for that purpose.

The program also includes Tchaikovsky's *Waltz of the Flowers*, *Brahms Hungarian Dances nos 1 an 5*, the Overture to the *Marriage of Figaro* and even some Ragtime with Scott Joplin's *Pineapple Rag* – plus more.

The venue is easily accessible to all. So come and ingest and indulge yourself in this remarkable event.

Sunday, September 17 at 288 Stokers Siding Road, Stokers Siding. Gates open at 12.30pm. Concert from 2pm to 5pm.

Adults \$50, Concession \$40, students 20 years and over \$20 and children \$10. Tickets at trybooking.com/CJFWC, or Murwillumbah Music Store, or at the gate (cash only).

Remember to bring chairs, tables or rugs.

BYRON THEATRE

SEPTEMBER

1-2 OZ: A POLITICAL SATIRE
 7 DRAMAWORKS | 9 SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR | 15 THE GIANTS
 20 HANS DISCO SPEKTAKULAR
 23 SYDNEY COMEDY FESTIVAL
 27 SHORTY BROWN
 29 FROZEN JR | 30 VOIGTMANN

TICKETS AND INFO
BYRONTHEATRE.COM



BLAK MATRIARCHY – BELLE BUDDEN

Byron School of Art are exhibiting the **Blak Matriarch** series of artworks by local Aboriginal woman **Belle Budden**. Belle is a Wakka Wakka woman living and working here in Bundjalung Country, a doobai, a mother, a sister, a dancer, an educator and a fierce advocate for Aboriginal community. Belle is a practising multi-disciplinary artist and arts administrator and works with cultural arts forms including visual arts, cultural arts and dance. Belle has had 17 years of experience working creatively with young people, and 21 years of experience working with Aboriginal community organisations on governance, cultural heritage protection, community development, arts and community events. Belle has diverse experiences in the strategic planning, delivery and evaluation of numerous projects working with young people, women and Aboriginal communities.



Blak Matriarchy is a series of paintings that honour and celebrate the ways of knowing, being and doing of our doobai (Aboriginal Women), the ones who care for Country and community and continue culture. The ones with strength, resilience, humour and beauty, the ones with the survival genes and the large earrings. The ones who keep caring when things get tougher.

'I wanted to honour our Elders and I realised that I have been raised by my mother, nan and aunties, no men have really been present in that and as a result I am mostly surrounded by women. I'm honoured to walk alongside matriarchs and bear witness to the achievements made for our people,' Belle said.

'*Blak Matriarchy* is not about being negative towards our men. It's a realisation that I am the product of matriarchs and that I walk alongside the matriarchs learning the ways of caring for our people, our Country and our culture.'

'In our culture we have men's business and women's business, as a woman I wanted to acknowledge the role of Aboriginal women in our local community. Colonisation has not ended the practices of men's and women's business and not everyone knows this. I wanted to share what I could within our cultural protocols to help people to understand this about our culture.'

'I'm very appreciative of the opportunity to be the inaugural Indigenous scholarship recipient at BSA through Arts Northern Rivers, in particular I want to acknowledge the legendary Kylie Caldwell for all of her support.'

The show is open in the front room at BSA. Friday 18 August to Wednesday 14 September at Byron School of Art in Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

BEN'S JOURNEY FROM BYRON BAY TO BERLIN

Ben Rompotis is an audio graduate from **SAE Byron Bay**, whose unique journey was propelled by his Greek heritage and a burning passion for cultural exploration. Utilising SAE's extensive network of campuses worldwide, Ben made the move to SAE Berlin to complete his final project for his Bachelor of Audio, which would ultimately become a transformative step in his career as an audio engineer in Europe.

Having previously forged his path as a carpenter and chef, Ben said those formative years shaped him into the creative he is today. This included forming psychedelic rock band, The Dharma Chain, which was founded at SAE, and has continued to thrive within the vibrant music scene of Berlin.

'SAE has been key to unlocking countless opportunities for me, it's been truly unbelievable,' Ben reflected. Ben's association with his course coordinator, Dirk Terrill, paved the way for a seamless transition to SAE Berlin.

'At SAE we truly are a global network of creatives,' Dirk enthused. 'Ben had a very clear goal of what he wanted to achieve, and as an educator I was very happy to help facilitate his transition from our Byron to Berlin campuses.'

Under the guidance of SAE Berlin's Fabricius Clavee, Ben found himself equipped with the same resources and support he would have enjoyed at his home campus.

Since graduating, Ben has engaged with the Berlin music scene. From interning at renowned studios like Funkhaus Studios, to his involvement with The Dharma Chain, Ben's commitment to music intertwined harmoniously with his newfound skills as an audio engineer.

Reflecting on his experiences with the band, Ben emphasised the art of networking as a cornerstone of their success. 'In Berlin, we had to rebuild our network from scratch,' Ben explained. 'Opportunities don't simply materialise, you have to cultivate and nurture relationships within the music industry.'

Ben's immersion in Berlin's music scene has also led him to explore new avenues. Through his affinity for live sound engineering, he has discovered a knack for orchestrating soundscapes for live events



at Privat Club, and Club Dervisionaire, and has since ventured into the realm of sound engineering for films.

'I really enjoy doing live sound, and the money is good. I started to network at one of the clubs, and found out about other opportunities through online forums and Facebook groups, which included doing sound engineering for a number of German feature films.'

Overcoming language barriers with grace, Ben has found Berlin locals to be extremely adept at speaking English, further affirming his audio engineering career in the German capital.

'The language barrier doesn't seem to have been a problem in Berlin. I think if I was to be in a more regional area of the country, there would certainly be challenges, but so far I have found German people to be very comfortable communicating in English.'

For aspiring high school students eyeing a future in live sound or feature film sound engineering, Ben offered sage advice.

'The audio engineering fundamentals you learn at somewhere like SAE are certainly vital for one's survival in the industry, but I would also put a lot of weight in being a good person to work with. Your distinct personality, along with your collaborative and supportive traits, will set you apart.'

The future is you. If you're down to create it, study at SAE. Find out more at sae.edu.au.

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DIRECTED BY ANOUSKA GAMMON

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CINEMA



SOUND OF FREEDOM

This is not an easy film to watch – as the trailer tells us, 'this is the fastest-growing international crime network that the world has ever seen, it has already passed the illegal arms trade and soon it's going to pass the drug trade. Why? Because you can sell a bag of cocaine once. You can sell a child up to 10 times a day'.

Based on a true story *Sound of Freedom* shines a light on even the darkest of places.

In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, Roberto (José Zúñiga), a poor father of two, is approached by a former beauty queen, Giselle (Yessica Borroto). She offers to sign his young children, Miguel (Lucás Ávila) and Rocío (Cristal Paricio), to child modelling contracts. He accepts and takes them to the photoshoot. When he returns to pick his children up, they are gone. It is revealed that the children were sold to be used as sex slaves. It's that quick and that easy.

After rescuing the young boy from the child traffickers, federal agent Tim Ballard (Jim Caviezel) learns the boy's sister is still captive and decides to embark on a dangerous mission to save her.

With time running out, he quits his job and journeys deep into the Colombian jungle, putting his life on the line to free her from a terrible fate.

As well as Caviezel (*The Passion of the Christ*, *The Count of Monte Cristo*) the film stars Academy Award Winner Mira Sorvino (*Mighty Aphrodite*) who plays Katherine Ballard and Bill Camp (*Lincoln*, *12 Years a Slave*) who plays 'Batman' – Ballard's right-hand man.

The film is produced by Eduardo Verástegui and directed by Alejandro Monteverde and screens at **both the Ballina Fair and Byron Bay Palace cinemas this week.**

WEDNESDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BEN WALSH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **FACING UP**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY – FEAT GORDON SOUTHERN**

THURSDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **MATT DAY**, 8PM **SARAH YAGKI**, 9PM **OLY SHERMAN**, 10PM DJ **MY HAPPY PLACE**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KENZO CRUZ**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KANE MUIR**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **OLE FALCOR**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **JAM NIGHT**
- AUSTRALIA HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM **PUFF**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 8PM **THE BIG GIG COMEDY NIGHT – MC MANDY NOLAN FEAT. GORDON SOUTHERN + BUSTER KIRBY**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **ROD MURRAY**, 5PM **ROD MURRAY – A TRIBUTE TO JAZZ**

FRIDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ADAM HOLE BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **GABRIELLE LAMBE**, 8PM **PINK ZINC**

- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **OZ: A POLITICAL SATIRE**

- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX BOWEN**, 8PM **MAGIC DIRT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **KANE MUIR**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **DARREN HANLON AND EMILY LUBITZ**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUMBIMBY WITH DJ SHIAN LOVE**

- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 5PM **HARRY NICHOLS**, LEVEL ONE 8PM **NEIL DIAMOND TRIBUTE**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **MONKEY AND THE FISH BAND + DJ BOZ**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **MOONDOG**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- DOLPHINS HARBOURSIDE HOTEL, TWEED HEADS, 6PM **DAVE POWER**

SATURDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PAPER LANE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JEROME WILLIAMS DUO**
- BYRON THEATRE 2PM & 7.30PM **OZ: A POLITICAL SATIRE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BEN WALSH & SWANNY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **RAGGA JUMP**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **ANASTASIS: A VISUAL ALBUM**

- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ SALVE JORGE**

- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 4PM **NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK – DJ'S ABEL TORO, YAZMIN, DALE STEPHEN & LORD SUT**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **GLENN MASSEY DUO**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **TURTLE BOY**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7PM **ROYAL DUCK**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **BASSIX BAND + DJ MAGNUS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MARTIN AITKEN**
- CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM **DARREN HANLON AND EMILY LUBITZ**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 12PM **THE WET FISH**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **ROCKIN' RON**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 7PM **PAUL GEORGE AND JASON JANUS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE BUDDY KNOX PROJECT**

SUNDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE GIN BUGGS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **RAGGA JUMP**, 7PM **DJ MY HAPPY PLACE**, 8.30PM **DJ JOEY TUCKSHOP**, 9.30PM **SET MO**, 11PM **DJ JAMIE LOWE**
- BYRON COMMUNITY MARKET 9.30AM **PRISCILA RIO & THE MAGIKAL FRIENDS**, **TIM STOKES AND JC & THE TREE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **OLE FALCOR**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **JEROME WILLIAMS BAND + BLADE HOOPER**

- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**

- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ GYOM DIOP**
- CLUB LENNOX 3PM **JOE CONROY**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 10.45AM **BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB**, LEVEL ONE 2.30PM **KEVIN BORICH + THE SOREN CARLBERRG QUARTET**
- SHAWS BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **MARSHALL & THE FRO**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 2PM **LISMORE JAZZ CLUB – THE PARROTT:BAARTZ PROJECT**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **BRUCE WORRALL**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 6.30PM **GYROSCOPE & BODYJAR**

MONDAY 4

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARK CROTTI**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **CRAIG ATKINS**

TUESDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 11AM **POMMY DAY OUT**

WEDNESDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **CHLOE JETT**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

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Session Times Ballina Fair Cinema

Thurs 31 August – Wed 06 September 47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

ALL MOVIES	
BARBIE (PG) Daily: 12:20PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM	MEG 2: THE TRENCH (M) Daily: 12:20PM
EGO: THE MICHAEL GUDINSKI STORY (M) Daily: 2:45PM, 5:10PM	SOUND OF FREEDOM (M) Daily: 10:30AM, 3:50PM
HAUNTED MANSION (PG) Daily: 9:45AM, 1:15PM, 6:30PM	THE EQUALIZER 3 (M) Daily: 10:00AM, 2:40PM, 7:20PM

*NFT = No Free Tickets

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Session Times

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SPECIAL SCREENINGS	
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM (PG) Fri: 8:30PM – Big Kid Preview	EGO: THE MICHAEL GUDINSKI STORY (M) Daily except Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM
SCRAPPER (PG) Tues: 6:30PM – Movie Club Preview	GODLAND (M) Daily except Tues: 1:30PM
MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 3 (PG) Wed: 6:30PM – Sparkling Preview	GRAN TURISMO: BASED ON A TRUE STORY (M) Daily except Sat: 11:15AM Sat: 11:00AM
ALL FILMS	HAUNTED MANSION (PG) Daily except Mon: 11:15AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:00PM Mon: 11:15AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:20PM
BARBIE (PG) Thurs, Sun, Mon, Wed: 11:10AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM Fri, Sat: 11:10AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM, 8:30PM	MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - DEAD RECKONING P1 (M) Thurs, Fri, Sun, Wed: 11:10AM, 2:45PM, 5:15PM, 8:00PM Fri, Sat: 11:10AM, 1:20PM, 4:20PM, 6:30PM, 8:15PM
	OPPENHEIMER (M) Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:20AM, 2:30PM, 6:00PM Mon: 2:30PM, 6:00PM Tues: 11:20AM, 3:30PM Wed: 11:20AM, 2:00PM
	PAST LIVES (M) Daily except Wed: 11:15AM, 12:15PM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM Wed: 11:15AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM
	SOUND OF FREEDOM (M) Daily: 4:30PM, 6:45PM
	STRAYS (M) Daily except Sat: 2:00PM Sat: 1:45PM
	THE EQUALIZER 3 (M) Daily except Fri, Sat: 11:10AM, 1:20PM, 4:20PM, 6:30PM Fri, Sat: 11:10AM, 1:20PM, 4:20PM, 6:30PM, 8:15PM

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

The Luis Kiss

MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX



Don't grab women by the head and kiss them. It seems obvious. But the patriarch had to stake his claim. Luis Rubiales, the president of the Royal Spanish Football Federation just broke Christmas. And I'm pissed.

Up until last week we were in love with women's soccer. Women were powerful. They were the heroes. For the first time in our lifetime we saw the world captivated by our strength. Our skill. The excitement of the game. This was not a Miss Universe pageant. We were not wearing high heels and a swim suit with a sash. Women represented their country in shorts. They ran.

They sweated. They played hard. It didn't feel like we were just watching sport. We were part of something big. This told the world that things were changing. That we had arrived.

I held my breath. Could it be possible? Had things finally moved on? Was the world able to appreciate women without sexualising them? Over 2 billion people watched. This was the loudest, purest narrative of women's equality and power. And most men had no problem with it. They found themselves caught up with it too. Because most men aren't dickheads.

But it only takes one, and when that one is the president of the winning country's Football Federation, it's a problem. When Luis Rubiales grabbed Jenni Hermoso with two hands by her head and kissed her, it was over. We forgot the weeks of female triumph and power. The magic of these warrior women was gone. Because that shit diminishes all of us. That kiss broke the spell. And now it's all we can talk about. Because that kiss is what we live with. That kiss was male entitlement. It was the patriarchy. And it couldn't let women have their



I try to imagine a powerful woman, maybe someone like the recently-deceased Queen grabbing her vagina at an English victory and then grabbing David Beckham's head in her two bejewelled hands and pulling him in for a kiss.

moment. It had to plant a flag on the moon. Make it his.

What we saw on the world stage was what we have always seen. It's the old narrative that has been written on our skin for centuries. A woman assaulted in plain view. And being told that she'd overreacted. That she had given consent. 'The kiss was the same I could give one of my daughters,' Mr Rubiales said. But Jenni Hermoso was not his daughter. And he is not her father. That is the statement of a patriarch. The same man who grabbed his crotch at the final whistle. It's gross. I try to imagine a powerful woman, maybe someone like the recently-deceased Queen grabbing her vagina at an English victory and then grabbing David Beckham's head in her two bejewelled hands and pulling him in for a kiss. And then telling the world, 'The kiss was the same I would have given one of my sons.' That's just creepy.

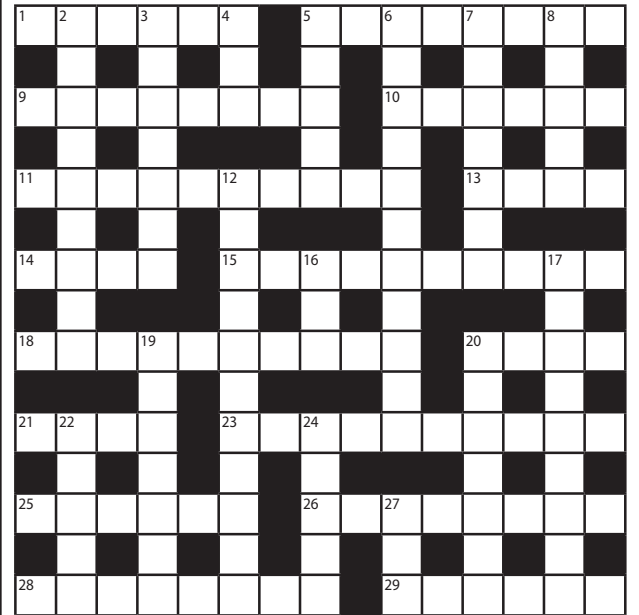
He could have just apologised. He could have said he was wrong. He did give an apology of sorts. But it was an apology that is not an apology. He defended his actions. He said, 'It was natural, normal.' That is not an apology. That is justification of a non-consensual act. He disgraced himself on the world stage. He ruined the magic for one midfielder, and for 2 billion people. Resign. Resigning is an apology. It's the appropriate consequence.

But no. Instead he makes himself the victim. He claims he's the victim of 'social murder'. That this is 'fake feminism'. And most extraordinarily he shouted, 'They are trying to kill me.' Wow that's insane. He's made himself the centre of the narrative. He's erased Jenni Hermoso, and escalated this to a plot to assassinate his good character and his enormous crotch of privilege. His entitlement was witnessed on the world stage. It was called out by Jenni and the rest of the world. The outrage is hers. It is ours. Not his.

On the upside, we did gain a new term for the lexicon. Just as Judas Kiss describes betrayal, we now have a word for an uninvited kiss of entitlement. It's called the Luis Kiss.

Go home dude. Go home, and FFS that is not how you kiss your daughters.

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #506



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Home of Francisco – idiot Italian, yes, Italian (6)
- No, sir! Back inside for every convict (8)
- Quietly show displeasure at gifts (8)
- Popular and healthy – take a breath (6)
- Pandemic from failure of French in washing? (5,5)
- Slot confused and mislaid (4)
- One southern Indian – small goddess (4)
- Refrigerators and washing machines – eight damaged in the forest (5,5)
- Police check – optimal around heartbreak time! (6,4)
- Move slowly, a very short distance (4)
- Mac tax? (4)
- Sailor and queen share anomaly (10)
- Joint golf shot, opined Spooner of the edible seed (6)
- Find direction with a line – eastern (8)
- Get across the road – right to muddle (8)
- Ogled at Marvin, embarrassed (6)

DOWN

- Tradition, bandmaster, adjured Spooner of the man who was ungracious in defeat (4,5)
- Popular cults – they have six legs! (7)
- X, with new charge (3)
- Over a lasagna? (5)
- I follow Hibernian dog (5,6)
- Books? Damnation, ring tragic hero (7)
- England's Havelock or our Bob (5)
- Glum and beaten – listen to young Edward (11)
- 99 English diamonds (3)
- Medico devoured degree (9)
- Aerial worker raises Bancroft (7)
- Passionate, popular future, perhaps (7)
- Cold? Warm it up – but it's a deception (5)
- Show feeling for English? A very small amount! (5)
- 49, big and crook (3)

Quick Clues

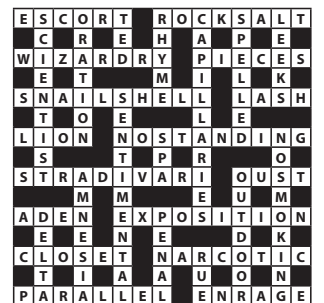
ACROSS

- Medieval town in Perugia (6)
- Detainee (8)
- Introduces (8)
- Gasp; draw in (6)
- The Bubonic Plague (5,5)
- Astray (4)
- Ancient Egyptian female deity (4)
- Major appliances (5,5)
- It detects blood alcohol (6,4)
- Old length measurement (4)
- A Caledonian (4)
- Oddity (10)
- One of the common allergens (6)
- Of or from East Asia (8)
- Bestride (8)
- Looked lasciviously (6)

DOWN

- Doesn't like being beaten (4,5)
- Bugs (7)
- Charged particle (3)
- Italian noodles (5)
- Gundog with red coat (5,6)
- Shakespearean tragedy (7)
- US immigration island (5)
- Despondent (11)
- Crystal meth (3)
- PhD (9)
- Feeler; receiver (7)
- Ardent (7)
- Swindle (5)
- Dramatise (5)
- Unwell (3)

Last week's solution #505



STARS BY LILITH

As we head into September with seven planets in retrograde, best not expect major growth spurts during the coming month...



VIRGO THE VIRGIN

ARIES: Everyone's Inner Critic out on the town could make this a particularly taxing week for Rams, who tend to get feisty under fire. Fortunately your planet leader Mars has just moved into its most diplomatic mode, though heaven help anyone fearless or foolhardy enough to question an Aries' choices.

TAURUS: Disruptor planet Uranus going into slowdown in Taurus for the rest of the year could derail your current plans. So should someone turn down an offer or idea you extend, don't take it personally or waste time trying to change their minds. Focus on making changes of circumstance work in your favour.

GEMINI: With your personal planet Mercury in the sign of perfectionistas, the name of this week's game is precision, and attention to detail is your best strategy for success. Resist rushing to assumptions or making hasty decisions because opinions, yours included, may change as further information surfaces.

CANCER: If a small grievance with a colleague or family member escalates, this week's full moon on 31 August softens resistance to change, making whatever transitions need to happen in your life flow more gracefully. Meanwhile, could settling for slightly less actually be easier, smarter and more ethical?

LEO: This week's emphasis in the sign of service stresses that the wish to help others begins at home. Our own experience is all we have to share, as the humbling recognition of our inability to measure up to our own standards enables us to empathise with other people's difficulties and mistakes.

VIRGO: With September's major planets gathering for the annual Virgo birthday circuit, this is your time to receive, relax and let others give back to you for all you do. Grant yourself permission to go easy on the to-do list and, despite hitches and glitches, focus on what makes you happy.

LIBRA: While impetuous Mars blazing into Libra this week adds spice and excitement to partnering, it can also make emotional equilibrium harder to maintain. Savvy scale-balancers will probably have learnt by now that leaning into challenges instead of resisting, is the trick to making them rewarding rather than exasperating.

SCORPIO: This week's energetics suggest keeping an open mind to different opinions than your own, and being willing to change your stance if that's indicated. Humans are more than half water and Scorpio's a water sign, so if there's no way through an obstacle this week, then flow around it, like water.

SAGITTARIUS: Time for a life edit? Then September's your friend, as a brace of planets pressing the pause button free up time and space to give some thought to what's most important to you (Integrity? Reliability? Commitment?) and assist you in setting up smarter systems, more realistic budgets and practical timelines.

CAPRICORN: Are you spreading yourself too thin instead of delegating? This week's planetary setbacks suggest that trying to do everything solo is counterproductive, so if work commitments are elevating your stress levels, make the necessary adjustments. Call on your team for support. Consider some creative rule bending.

AQUARIUS: While the Aquarian perspective tends to be bigger picture, this week focusses on details, and attention to the small stuff has the potential to pay off bigtime. Your personal planet guide Uranus in a backspin for the rest of 2023 recommends realigning your ideas and attitudes in synch with changing realities.

PISCES: August's blue moon, the second this month on 31 August, is annual full moon in Pisces, this year's peak time for receiving messages from your higher mind, intuition or guides, whatever fits your beliefs. So slow down and go with the flow, which could finally dissolve a stuck situation once and for all.



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BYRON BAY

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PRICE: Contact Agent
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Helen Huntly-Barratt
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43/11-19 COOPER STREET, BYRON BAY



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2 Beds 1 Bathroom 1 Car Space

PRICE: \$800,000 - \$830,000
OPEN | By appointment

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Su Reynolds
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Renee Schofield
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56 CARLYLE STREET, BYRON BAY



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147 WHIAN WHIAN ROAD, WHIAN WHIAN



Designer Home with Flexible Floorplan, plus Bails

2 Beds 1 Bathroom 2 Car Spaces 13.73HA

PRICE | \$1.65M - \$1.75M
OPEN | Sat 2nd Sept 12:30-1pm

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Paul Prior
0418 324 297



Sharon McInnes
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Sale
Price \$1.2m - \$1.3m

View
By Appointment



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



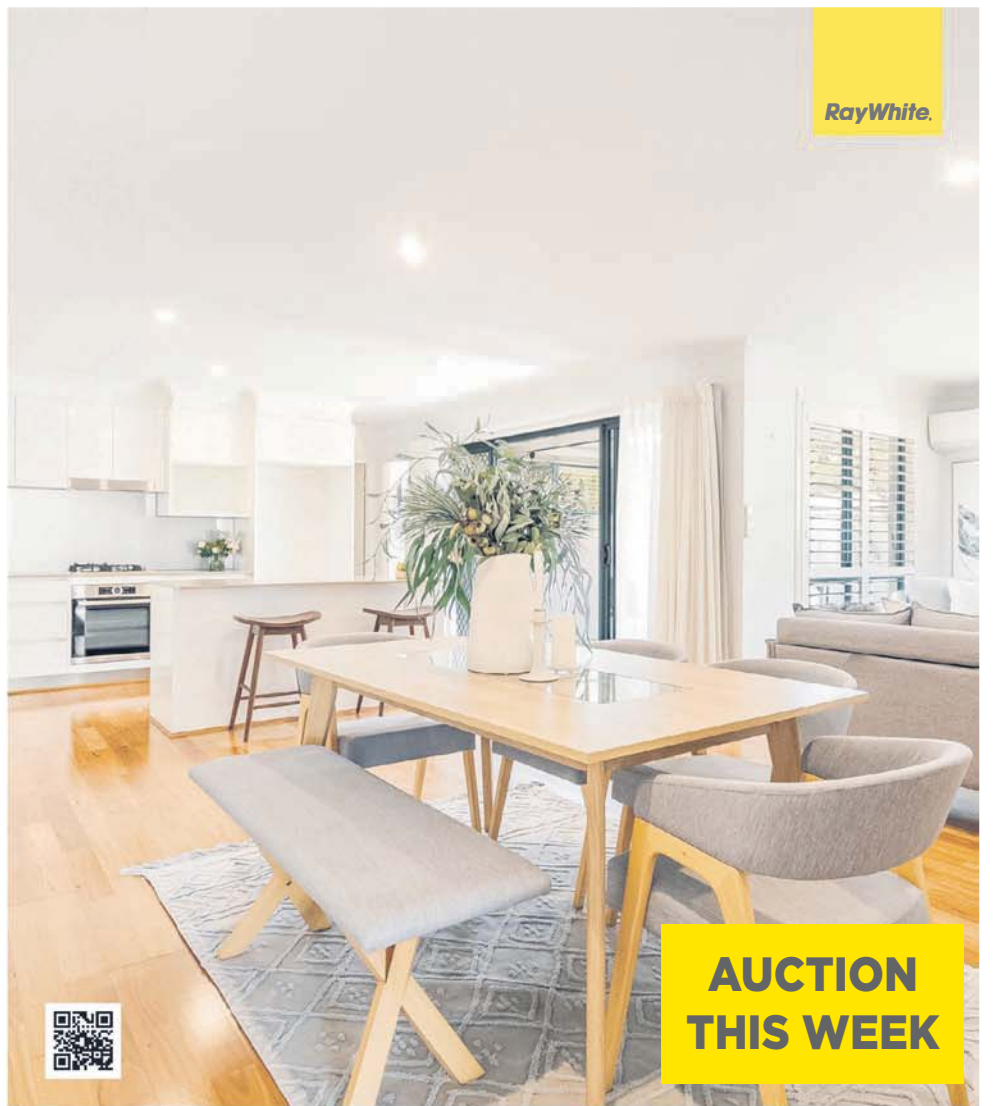
Nick Russo
0405 977 049
nick.russo@raywhite.com

WHY WAIT?
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rwbyronbay.com

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AUCTION THIS WEEK

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 4.00-4.30pm
Friday 2.30-3.00pm



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



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

WHY WAIT?
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RayWhite.



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

View
By Appointment



David Gordon
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RayWhite.



DA Approved Building Site

AUCTION

17 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby

An amazing opportunity awaits, with a level 797sqm block, this three bedroom, two bathroom home boasts high ceilings and solid timber flooring. The classically styled home is perfect for renovations or further re-development. Positioned close to schools, shops and town centre.

Auction
Friday 8 Sep 2.00pm onsite

View
Saturday 11.15-11.45am



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nick.russo@raywhite.com



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SALE

48 Jacaranda Drive, Byron Bay
Discover a charming, freestanding residence tucked perfectly in the super popular Sunrise Beach Estate area of Byron Bay. This delightful 3-bedroom home exudes an inviting atmosphere, making it an ideal choice for first-time buyers or astute investors.

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Sale
Contact Agent

View
By Appointment



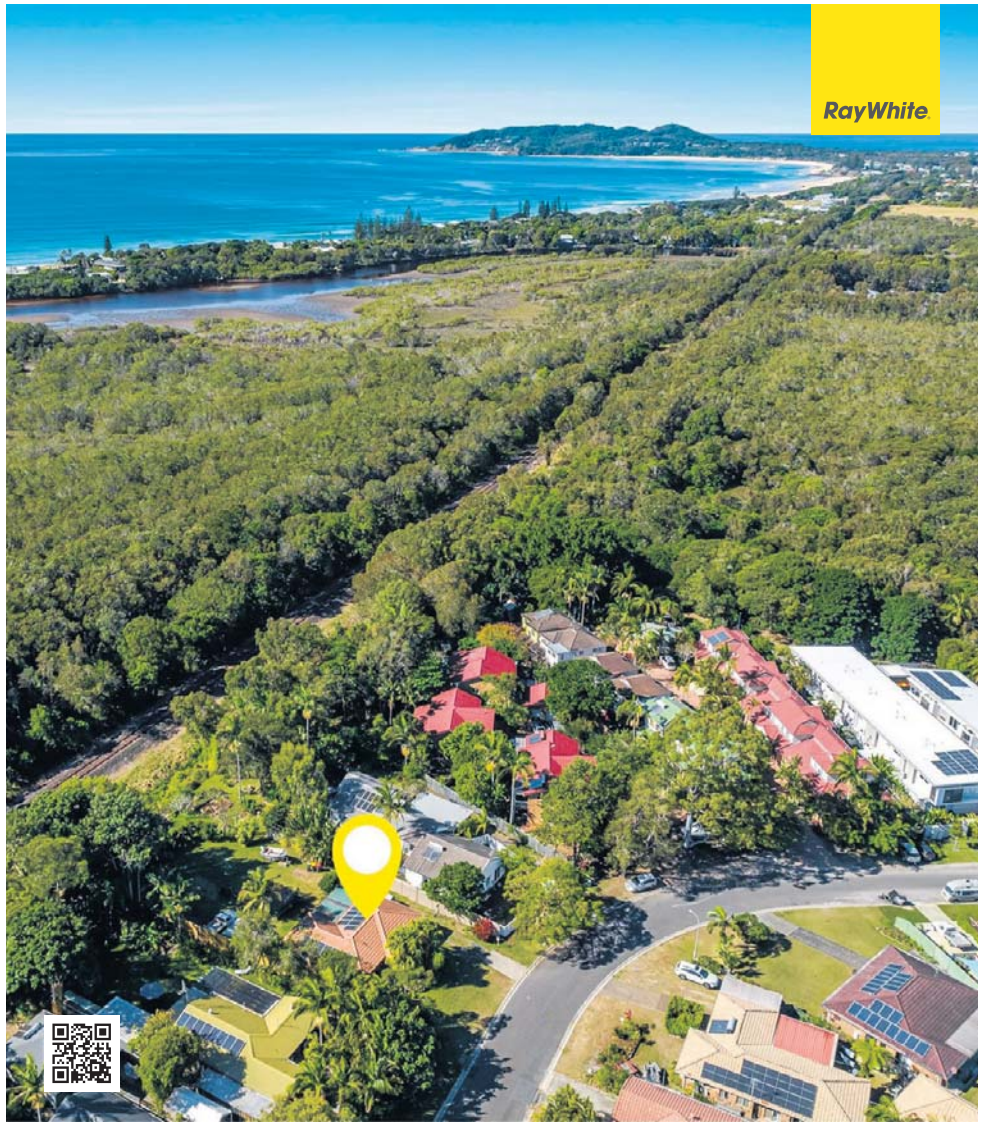
Damien Smith
0418 123 393
damien.smith@raywhite.com



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

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SALE

39 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay
This property offers ample space for outdoor activities and potential expansions. Relax and unwind in the privacy of your own backyard oasis, and see the Solar train pass by in the background, it's the perfect spot for entertaining guests or soaking up the sun.

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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.

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

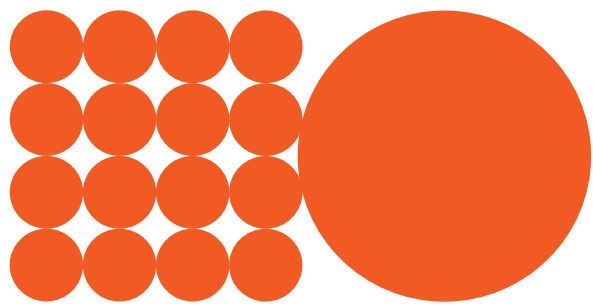


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121 McLeod Street, Condong

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3
BATHS



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Just Listed

9 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow

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BEDS

2
BATHS

2
CARS

POOL



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- Lush landscaped garden
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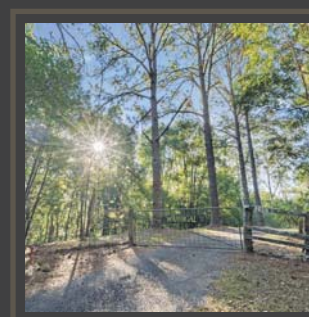
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- 4 South Beach Rd, Brunswick Heads. Fri 11-11.30am
- 160 Reardon Ln, Swan Bay. Thu 11am-12pm
- 28 Coolamon Scenic Dr, Mullumbimby. Fri 10-10.30am, Sat 9-9.30am
- 1A Chinbible Ave, Mullumbimby. Fri 11-11.30am, Sat 11-11.30am
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Rd, Goonengerry. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 1/31 Julian Rocks Dr, Byron Bay. Sat 8.30-9am
- 3/75 Stewart St, Lennox Head. Sat 9-9.30am
- 36 Warrambool Rd, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.30-10am
- 41 Gordon St, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.45-10.15am
- 30 MacGregor St, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 69 Lilli Pilli Dr, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/5 Chinbible Ave, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.30-11am
- 7/6-8 Norlyn Ave, Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 55 Lilli Pilli Dr, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 20 Taylors Ln, Ewingsdale. Sat 11-11.30am
- 16 Blueberry Ct, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 179 Main Arm Rd, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 38 Bangalow Rd, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 147 Whian Whian Rd, Whian Whian. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 75 Butler St, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 509 Rosebank Rd, Rosebank. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 56 Carlyle St, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 85 Arthur Rd, Corndale. Sat 1.30-2pm
- 10 Beach Ave, South Golden Beach. Sat 9.30-10am
- 73b Balemo Dr, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2 Clifford St, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am. Auction
- 105 Braeside Dr, Uki. Sat 11-11.30am

- 9 Green Frog Ln, Bangalow. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 59 Riverview St, Murwillumbah. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 121 McLeod St, Condong. Sat 1-2pm
- 8 Konda Ct, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.30-10am
- 44B Ocean Dr, Evans Head. Sat 11-11.30am
- 6 Patches Beach Rd, East Wardell. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 2/190 Oliver Ave, Goonellabah. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 3/33-35 Green St, Alstonville. Sat 1.45-2.15pm
- 34-38 King Parrot Cl, Boyland. Sat 11-11.45am
- 62 Bangalow Rd, Byron Bay. Fri 12.30-1pm
- 115 Stewarts Rd, Clunes. Sat 9.30-10am
- 1 North Head Rd, New Brighton. Sat 10-10.30am
- 8 Hakea Ct, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 78 Owenia Wy, Broken Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 426 Coopers Shoot Rd, Coopers Shoot. Sat 11-11.30am
- 55/12 Hazelwood Cl, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 33/12 Hazelwood Cl, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 15A Weeronga Wy, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 29 Warrambool Rd, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 14 Murumba Ct, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 8 Weeronga Wy, Ocean Shores. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 35-37 Edwards Ln, Kynnumboon. Sat 10-10.30am
- 413 Crabbes Creek Rd, Crabbes Creek. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 40 Old Bangalow Rd, Byron Bay. Sat 2-2.30pm

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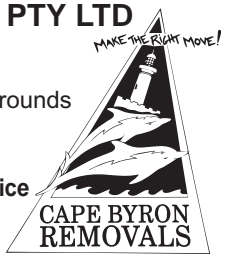
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FUNERAL NOTICES

MUDGE, Sadie Edna

Passed away peacefully
with family at her side.
Loved wife of Leo (dec).
Much loved mother and
mother-in-law of Peter
& Dorothy (dec), Greg,
Mary & Kelvin and Ron
& Jean. Loved by her
grandchildren, great
grandchildren and great
great grandchildren.
Many Thanks to
Florence Price Gardens
staff, Ballina. Sadie will be
sadly missed by all family
and friends.

Relatives and friends
are invited to attend a
funeral service to be held
at St Martins Anglican
Church, Mullumbimby
on THURSDAY (August
31, 2023) commencing at
12.00 noon.

Michael Currie at
Brunswick Valley Funerals
Mullumbimby
6684 6232

PETRELLIS, Haralambos 'Harry'

Passed away peacefully
with family at his side.
Loved husband of Fotini
(dec). Much loved father
and father-in-law of
Vasiliki & partner, Angela
and Malleen & husband
John. Loved by his six
grandchildren and nine
great grandchildren.

Aged 101 years
Relatives and friends
are invited to attend a
funeral service to be held
at St Martins Anglican
Church, Mullumbimby
on MONDAY (September
4, 2023) commencing
at 11.00am followed by
burial at the Mullumbimby
Cemetery.

Michael Currie at
Brunswick Valley Funerals
Mullumbimby
6684 6232

PETS



Unbelievable and true story. Drop dead
gorgeous Winston (pictured) and partner
Wilhelmina were put into a box with
their three young kittens and dumped
{ Both about two years old. Winston
is featured this week and is described
as chilled, a serious lap cat and playful.
He is a light champagne long hair. More
about Willa next week. They are ready
and waiting for you right now!
**All cats are desexed,
vaccinated and
microchipped.**
No: 953010006395489 **PETS FOR LIFE**

Please make an appointment
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petsforlifeshelter.net



JEDA is a 2 year
old Bull Arab
X. She is a big,
playful dog that
needs a firm
hand. She loves
playing with
other dogs.
Jeda would suit an active family with
room to run. Jeda is in our dog training
course and FoP are offering free
training for her after she is adopted.
M/C # 991003001704195
Location: Murwillumbah
For more information contact **Yvette**
on **0421 831 128**.
**Interested? Please complete our
online adoption expression of
interest.**
[https://friendsofthepound.com/
adoption-expression-of-interest/](https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/)
Visit friendsofthepound.com to
view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
ABN 83 126 970 338

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



MILO
16-month-old desexed male
Shepherd x Kelpie 'Milo' needs
someone to give him a chance.
He's an active lovely boy, great
with other dogs and children and
will need more training.
**For more info please contact
Shell on 0458 461 935**
MC: 991003001765618

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SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (August)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
9	W	6:23 17:19	0:21 11:11	0144 1.18 1509 1.44	0801 0.41 2140 0.69
10	TH	6:22 17:20	1:22 11:51	0253 1.05 1620 1.48	0858 0.45 2308 0.65
11	F	6:21 17:20	2:23 12:37	0415 0.99 1720 1.54	1000 0.46
12	SA	6:21 17:21	3:20 13:27	0527 1.00 1811 1.59	0011 0.57 1100 0.44
13	SU	6:20 17:21	4:14 14:21	0621 1.05 1854 1.63	0055 0.50 1153 0.40
14	M	6:19 17:22	5:01 15:17	0704 1.10 1932 1.67	0131 0.44 1238 0.36
15	TU	6:18 17:22	5:43 16:13	0742 1.15 2008 1.69	0204 0.39 1317 0.32
16	W	6:17 17:23	6:19 17:09	0815 1.20 2041 1.70	0234 0.36 1353 0.29
17	TH	6:16 17:24	6:52 18:04	0849 1.23 2113 1.69	0303 0.35 1428 0.29
18	F	6:15 17:24	7:21 18:57	0922 1.26 2143 1.65	0330 0.34 1502 0.30
19	SA	6:14 17:25	7:48 19:49	0957 1.29 2213 1.59	0359 0.33 1538 0.35
20	SU	6:13 17:25	8:15 20:42	1033 1.31 2243 1.51	0427 0.33 1615 0.41
21	M	6:12 17:26	8:42 21:36	1113 1.32 2314 1.40	0456 0.34 1657 0.49
22	TU	6:11 17:26	9:11 22:32	1156 1.33 2348 1.29	0527 0.36 1745 0.57
23	W	6:10 17:27	9:43 23:31	1246 1.33	0601 0.39 1845 0.64

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415
1st SUN Byron Bay	6685 6807
1st SUN Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333
2nd SAT Woodburn	0439 489 631
2nd SAT Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159
2nd SUN The Channon	6688 6433
2nd SUN Lennox Head	6685 6807
2nd SUN Chillingham	0428 793 141
2nd SUN Coolangatta	
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	6684 3370
3rd SAT Murwillumbah	0413 804 024
3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina	
3rd SUN Federal	0433 002 757
3rd SUN Uki	0487 329 150
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338
4th SAT Evans Head	0439 489 631
4th SAT Wilsons Creek	6684 0299
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglebazaar.com.au
4th SUN Bangalow	6687 1911
4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764
4th SUN Murwillumbah	0413 804 024
4th SUN (in a 5 Sunday month) Coolangatta	
5th SUN Nimbin	0458 506 000
5th SUN Lennox Head	6685 6807

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.mdnc.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.

Low-cost or free food

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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, mazzzerati2010@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.

Byron Bay FC ready to contest four senior semi-finals after women survive penalty shoot-out



Relief and triumph: The Byron Bay FC second women's team reacts after winning their penalty shoot-out 4-3 against Dunoon. Keeper, Emily Bates, saved three. Photo supplied

Byron Bay FC has teams in all four of the top men's and women's grades playing semi-finals this weekend.

The women's premier league side lost their qualifying final against Lennox Head last Friday night playing away, when the scores were locked nil-all after extra time. The penalty shoot-out saw them go down 3-1.

The side has a last chance to make the grand final this weekend when they take on Richmond Rovers on Sunday from 2.30pm at the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds.

In the other semi-final Lennox Head take on minor premiers Alstonville.

In the women's second grade both finals ended in extra-time draws.

Alstonville went on to beat Gonnellabah 6-5 on penalties, while Byron Bay was able to break their two-all deadlock with Dunoon United with a 4-3 shoot-out win.

In the semi-finals this Sunday Byron Bay play away against Lennox Head, while Dunoon United host Alstonville.

Mens

Byron Bay's premier league men's team had a 1-0 loss to South Lismore last weekend, and now face Alstonville to get a grand final game. Play starts at 12.30pm this Sunday at the Recreation Grounds.

Minor premiers Bangalow have a home semi-final against South Lismore.

After a finals win against the Nimbin Headers, Byron Bay's championship side travels to take on minor premiers Ballina this Saturday.

Byron Rebels set up grand final double header

A last-gasp penalty goal from the Byron Shire Rebels got them a 20-19 win in last Saturday's first-grade rugby union semi-final against Casuarina.

It also earned them a place in the grand final where they will play a double-header alongside their second-grade side.

The preliminary final day played at Lyle Park, Wollongbar, got off to a good start for the Byron Shire Rebels, with second-grade taking a 10-8 half-time lead over Wollongbar Alstonville Rugby (WAR).

They finished on top with three tries to two and a 20-18 win, earning themselves a place in the grand final against Casuarina Beach.

First grade also got off to a good start in their preliminary final against Casuarina and went to half-time with a 17-5 lead, and looking comfortably in control.

Casuarina dominated possession in the second half and played the game deep in the Byron Rebels danger zone.



Byron Rebels got a win despite a second half dominated by a disciplined Casuarina attack. Photo Simone Hargreaves

Casuarina were able to take advantage of their possession and posted two converted tries, grabbing a two-point lead with just a few minutes left on the clock.

But the Byron Rebels rose to the occasion and regained possession from the kick-off and were given a penalty, which was converted seconds before the full-time hooter sounded.

The Rebels will face down WAR in the first-grade grand final next weekend.

Women's 12s

In the women's 12s Lismore dominated Evans River to run out 19-5 winners. They play Casuarina in the grand final.

In the Presidents Cup the Yamba Buccaneers will take on Richmond Rangers.

This weekend's senior rugby action gets underway at Lyle Park with the President's Cup kicking off at 11.30am, and the first graders playing from 3.45pm.

Brunswick Heads women win district fours championship

The Brunswick Heads Women's Bowling Club has won the 2023-24 Tweed Byron District Women's Bowling Association (TBDWBA) State Fours Championship.

The team of Kerry Dexter, Blossom McCormick, Sherril Pearce and Jenny Andrew took on Cabarita Beach in the semi-final on Wednesday, August 24 at the Ocean Shores Club.

It was a closely contested game up until the 16th end, but from there the Brunswick team powered to success winning 23-15.

In the afternoon they played the final against Pottsville. In the first half



The 'awesome foursome' from Brunswick Bowling Club have their eyes on the regional trophy. Photo supplied

of the game Brunswick was trailing behind, but on the 14th end they scored a

five-shot win, which marked the beginning of their journey to a 21-16 victory.

Next stop for the Brunswick winners is the State Regionals at Yamba in December.

Blossum, Kerry and Sherril were also named TBDWBA State Triples runners up, earlier this month.

Send us your sport stories!

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

The Shores United Crocs charge all the way to 2023 premiership



The U/7 Shores United Crocs have capped off a great year of football with a grand final win over the Byron Bay Lions. The team is undefeated for two years running, and their worst results this year were two draws. Coach Glen Godbee can take a bow for his exceptional professionalism and dedication in guiding the boys towards an impressive accomplishment. Photo supplied

CALLING ALL SPORTS

The Echo wants to support you.

Please send stories, pics, match reports, upcoming events, tall tales (not too tall mind you), results and anecdotes to sport@echo.net.au.



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Simon Holmes à Court tweeted that he finally found something more expensive than buying a few nuclear-powered US submarines: 'Global warming to cost Australia up to \$423 billion over 40 years': *SMH* (Nine).

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
 A free mobile breast screening van will be in Brunswick Heads until September 12. It is located at Banner Park, Mullumbimbi Street, and no appointment is needed.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
 Mullum residents have started a change.org campaign against Council's vague, secret plans to plonk 32 units on a busy carpark for 'affordable housing'. The petition states, 'While affordable housing is needed in the Byron Shire, this site is not appropriate or practical.' For more info, including the extensive reasons against, visit <https://chnng.it/QQ54D7G746>.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
 Psst: Council's Audit, Risk and Improvement Committee continued Council's general theme of secrecy and thumbing its nose at the community by publishing its August 17 meeting minutes as all confidential. These include 'internal audits' and reports.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
 Scotty From Marketing (Parody) tweet: 'I know many Australians are struggling right now. But all Australians should be proud that Qantas, Woolies and Coles have all announced record profits. They couldn't have done it without you!'

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
 Some of the supporters of the 'Yes' campaign have been reporting signage being removed from their private residences, or defaced. Tampering with referendum/



Local musician, Gabriel Otu, is holding a fundraiser on Saturday at Mullum's St John's Catholic School Hall from 5.30pm. He told *The Echo* his well-known musician father, Akwetey, recently died in Ghana, and he needs funds to return home to bury him. He says the special event will honour and celebrate Akwetey's life, and include children's drumming, dancing and storytelling, Brazilian music, the Ghana loco brothers, Groove Samoko, Nii Armah and the Go Happy Africa Band. Photo Jeff 'Without Rhythm Rhyme And Reason Since 1986' Dawson

electoral signage is a criminal offence, and should be reported to the police.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
 ICYMI: In referendums held last week, Ecuadorians voted to protect unique biospheres and halt mineral and oil extraction - one annulled mining concessions owned by Gina Rinehart and others in north-west Ecuador.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
 Dr Monique Ryan MP tweeted 'The news that Australia subsidises fossil fuels by \$65 billion a year is just astonishing. Imagine if we spent that money building more social and affordable homes and properly kick starting Australia's clean energy boom.'

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
 'The meaning of life is to give life meaning' - Viktor Frankl (Austrian psychiatrist 1905-1997)

BYRON COMMUNITY MARKET
 SUNDAY 3 SEPTEMBER
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