

Social housing bill to pass, but is it enough?



Saturday's Fix the Housing Crisis rally in Byron's Apex Park highlighted the urgent need for social housing, which is a result of government neglect over decades. Organiser Chiels Hood-Withey said, 'If federal Labor can find \$368 billion for nuclear submarines, they can find money for housing'. Pictured from left is Ms Hood-Withey with Mim Torzillo, federal Greens candidate, Mandy Nolan, and Andy George from Reclaim our Recovery. For more on Labor's Housing Australia Future Fund bill, see page 4. Photo Jeff 'Social Housing, Not Nukes' Dawson

Housing estate draws criticism over native species clearing

Paul Bibby

Hundreds of locals are rallying together in a bid to save a large pocket of ecologically significant bushland in Brunswick Heads from development. The 30-hectare site at 15 Torakina Road, next to the Bayside housing estate, is home to scores of native trees and flowers, which provide food and shelter to koalas, black cockatoos, gliders and the 'vulnerable' Wallum froglet.

However, the site has been approved for a major housing development, known as Wallum, featuring 124 residential lots, three

medium density lots and a series of roads and supporting infrastructure.

With public consultation for the development taking place during the worst of the Covid pandemic, many locals feel that they were denied the right to have their say.

They are now demanding that the decision to approve the development, made by the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) in May this year, be reversed.

'Wallum wildflowers and the intricately-linked Wallum froglet habitat are rare, and cannot be re-made or replanted successfully by humans, and deserve unreserved

protection in our Shire,' said James Barrie, one of the leaders of the conservation campaign.

In its Development Application, Clarence Property says that over 18 hectares, or 60 per cent of the site, will be retained and enhanced as conservation zones. They say this will effectively negate any impact on native species.

Yet Mr Barrie describes it as offset green-washing. 'The ecological offsets detailed in the "landscape plan" come up seriously short and are grossly inaccurate in claims of preserving the ecology on the ground', he said.

NSW govt looks to 'urgently' fund Byron homeless hub

Hans Lovejoy

Calls from local Greens candidate Mandy Nolan for Labor to provide funding certainty for essential homeless service, the Fletcher Street Cottage, may be working, with the NSW Homelessness Minister, Rose Jackson (Labor), telling *The Echo* her government is 'urgently working to identify new potential sources of funding'.

In a press release last week, Ms Nolan urged local federal Labor MP, Justine Elliot, to immediately intervene, given Labor are in government at both the state and federal level.

No ongoing funding

The cottage receives no ongoing funding from governments, and is reliant on public donations, which pay for staff, meals and facilities in Byron Bay. Despite increased demands, Ms Nolan says the cottage 'is on the brink of cutting essential services', and has 'only fundraised \$240,000 out of the total \$1 million they require to keep services operating'.

Mrs Elliot told *The Echo* such services and programs were 'matters for state and territory governments'.

'The Australian government will provide states and territories \$1.7 billion in funding under the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement. This includes \$515.6 million for NSW to deliver housing and homelessness services and programs'.

Mrs Elliot also accused Ms Nolan of 'trashing the truth' and, 'diverting attention' from the Greens refusing to pass the Housing Australia Future Fund.

The Echo asked the office of Rose Jackson MLC, 'Can some funding from the National Housing and Homelessness Agreement be made available for the cottage?'

She replied, 'The latest street count data is just a brief glimpse into the devastating impact of the housing crisis in Byron Bay'.

'The region was in the top five local government areas (LGAs) with the largest total increase in the number of people sleeping rough compared to 2022 – this is not good enough and needs it to change.'

Backed by community

'It is encouraging to see the community backing a crucial service, but we know we need government to do everything we can to lean in and provide support for organisations such as Fletcher Street Cottage.'

'MP Justine Elliot has been in contact with me on this to express her deep concern. I share her concerns and acknowledge this is a responsibility for the NSW government, and we are urgently working to identify new potential sources of funding that can support them to continue operating at its full capacity'.

Ms Jackson says she met with Fletcher Street Cottage staff in July, 'to discuss this crucial issue'.

'I take the concerns raised very seriously. The team do incredible work for the local community, and we want to ensure they are able to continue providing this vital service'.

'The service has never been previously funded by government, and although the current budget to fund homelessness support

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A plethora of spring offerings in Byron! ► p19

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

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'The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' – Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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– Comedian Mark Normand

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BayFM loses manager to rental crisis

Byron Bay-based community radio station, BayFM, has announced the departure of station manager, Tracee Hutchison, after a three-month probation period.

A statement from the station reads, 'The decision comes as a consequence of Hutchison's inability to secure long-term affordable housing in the shire'.

'Hutchison brought a wealth of experience and expertise to the role, with a career spanning 40 years at the highest level of national and international broadcast journalism and a long involvement with the community media sector'.

Thanking Hutchison for her contribution to BayFM station, President Ange Kent, said, 'Her years of experience in broadcasting have undoubtedly raised the bar in terms of on-air delivery among our broadcasters'.

'We are sad to see Tracee go, but we support her decision to return to Melbourne, and wish her all the best. We're honoured that Tracee will be a lifelong subscriber to BayFM.'

In an email to BayFM broadcasters, Hutchison said the decision came with a heavy heart, after

landing what she described as a 'Dream job, in a dream location'.

'For all the incredible positives and the vast wealth here, Byron is a tough place to find somewhere live, with the highest homelessness rates in NSW, a rental market dominated by short-term holiday letting, and escalating cost-of-living pressures really impacting on locals and local businesses in the Shire. And this region is still recovering from the Covid pandemic, and the devastating 2022 floods which displaced so many residents and businesses in the area', Hutchison said.

**Tracee Hutchison.** Photo by Jeff Dawson

Sobering insight

'BayFM is not immune to the knock-on impact of those pressures, and as a community radio station it, too, relies on those same stretched resources

to keep the station on-air and shining a light on these important issues.

'Every day I come to work, I see people sleeping rough and accessing the services provided by our friends at the Liberation Larder and Fletcher Street Cottage – people in need of help, some who've never needed that help before. It's been a sobering insight into the acute challenges Byron is facing', Hutchison said. 'I'd particularly like to thank BayFM's loyal listeners, subscribers and donors for their support, and encourage that support for this vital cultural asset in Byron to continue'.

Culture's important role in 'Yes' campaign

**Charline holding the mic, while school teacher, Eli Pietens, used his guitar to tell an allegorical story of racial harmony.**
Photo Jeff 'It's You're The Voice, Not Your' Dawson

About 70 people gathered at Mullumbimby's The Paddock Project on Sunday, to hear five First Nations school teachers reinforcing the importance of understanding the upcoming Voice referendum on October 14.

It was led by NSW leader for 'Yes', and Brunswick Heads woman, Charline Emzin-Boyd, with Auntie Marcia Browning from Fingal, Michelle Lowe, Eli Pietens from Byron High School, and former teacher Uncle Glen Cook, who now works as a culture advisor.

NSW govt looks to 'urgently' fund Byron homeless hub

► Continued from page 1 organisations is fully allocated – we are continuing to seek alternative solutions, and I have instructed my department to look into options to provide support'.

Ms Jackson said, 'The NSW government have inherited a housing system that is broken after over a decade of neglect'.

'We continue to work towards our aim of ensuring that experiences of

homelessness are rare, brief and not repeated.

'This will take time, but as a start we have introduced a suite of reforms to support vulnerable people facing housing insecurity, but we know we need to do more.

Reforms introduced

'We've made changes to temporary accommodation, to create a better place for people in crisis, we're delivering more social housing,

which is absolutely essential to reducing homelessness, and we've extended funding for specialist homelessness services to provide certainty and stability at this very difficult time.

'We have also scrapped the rent seeker diaries, and assertive outreach services are being delivered to engage people sleeping rough and support them into long-term, stable accommodation'.

**NSW Labor MLC, Rose Jackson, is Minister for Water, Housing, Homelessness, Mental Health, Youth, and also is Minister for the North Coast.**

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Lachlan Humphreys

This year, Mullum High School (MHS), looked for a strategy to engage students at school who were disengaged with learning. As teachers, we knew this year was going to be hard, with post-Covid, post-flood, and lots of disruption and distractions as the school is rebuilt.

Deputy Principal, James Clarke, found the link with an established organisation who run the successful program, Hands On Learning.

After learning more about the benefits of the program, the school jumped on board.

The Hands On Learning team guide a select group of students through a practical program, which engages students in a holistic learning experience outside of the classroom. It encourages self-development, personal growth and respect.

Students learn new skills, leadership, teamwork, and self-discipline, alongside reflective goal setting.



Finn Britain and Taylor Simpson, with facilitators Lachlan Humphreys and Uncle Scotty have completed a Rainforest River Trail. Photo Jeff Dawson

After students learned basic skills with smaller projects earlier in the year, we started work on restoring the track behind the school that follows the river.

River trail opens

Students learned about retaining walls, and discovered ways to make use of natural material to create the track. Last week, we

opened the Rainforest River Trail, with students and their parents. We are aiming to engage parents with the hard work the students have done throughout the year, and celebrate the achievements of their children.

We are now almost three quarters of the way through the year, and the transformation in this group has been evident, not just

in this program, but also in their other classes through the week.

Special thanks to DP James Clarke, teachers Max Tynan and Will Brennan, along with support from Dusty McOnie and Ryan Zietlow. For more info, visit www.handsonlearning.org.au.

■ Lachlan Humphreys teaches at Mullum High.

Stories of locally flood-affected tabled in parliament

Pressure is still being applied to NSW Labor over its failure to deliver on flood funding promises, with Member for Ballina and Greens MP, Tamara Smith, moving a motion in NSW Parliament on Tuesday.

She is calling on the NSW government to ‘deliver the second tranche of \$800 million in further funding, while

noting the need for a more transparent and community-led approach to disaster recovery’.

Additionally, she recounted stories on the parliament floor from flood-affected constituents of the Ballina electorate (Ballina and Byron Shires) in an effort for the second tranche of funding for the Resilient Homes

Program to be included in the upcoming NSW budget.

She says, ‘NSW Cabinet was initially told that \$1.5 billion had been allocated toward the Resilient Homes Program in order to fund 6,000 buybacks, retrofits and raises. The first tranche, consisting of \$700 million, was announced in October of last year’.

Rural visitor accom rules to be voted upon

Paul Bibby

The protracted process of amending rules around rural tourist and visitor accommodation in Byron Shire are edging toward a conclusion, with councillors set to vote on the final set of changes to Council’s policy on Thursday.

Council resolved to review and amend Byron LEP 2014 and DCP 2014 for rural tourist and farm stay accommodation back in June 2019.

This was undertaken after an investigation found that the existing planning framework was resulting in development on rural land that was inconsistent with Council’s zone objectives.

Farm stay accom exempt

In June this year, Council resolved to adopt an amended planning proposal, including the introduction of a 20-hectare minimum lot size for rural tourist accommodation.

However, when the NSW Department of Planning requested this be reduced to 15 hectares, and that farm stay accommodation be excluded from the minimum lot requirement, density tables were reintroduced to ensure the intent of the planning proposal was maintained.

In accordance with these new rules regarding density of tourist accommodation, properties with 15-20ha can have a maximum of three buildings, each with a maximum of five bedrooms.

Properties with 20-25ha can have a maximum of four buildings, each with a maximum of six bedrooms.

The new rules in relation to farm stay accommodation state that properties which are 0-5 hectares in size can have maximum of one building with two bedrooms.

Properties with 5-10ha can have a maximum of two buildings, each with up to three bedrooms.

The full density tables, including the rules in relation to larger properties, can be viewed on Council’s website.

The latest changes will be voted on at this Thursday’s Council planning meeting, to be held in the chambers.

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Agreement struck on social/affordable housing fund

Hans Lovejoy

Both the Greens and Labor are claiming victory over an agreement that will establish a \$10b federal social housing fund, which the prime minister says will deliver 30,000 new social and affordable housing properties in the first five years.

The much trumpeted Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) will now pass in the federal Senate, after the Greens say they secured another \$1b for new homes under the National Housing Infrastructure Facility.

This is on top of the previous \$2b commitment made by Labor through negotiations.

Yet the push for a rent freeze/cap was not included, as the Greens had been holding out for.

Local Labor MP Justine Elliot, who had been running an aggressive campaign against challenger Mandy Nolan, tweeted, ‘After six months of blocking, the Greens Party has finally backed down, and agreed to Labor’s future-proofed housing policy. This is a major community victory

– thanks to all those who told the Greens to stop blocking housing. Let’s get building!’

Mandy Nolan said in a statement, ‘Not long ago, Labor claimed there wasn’t a single dollar more available for housing. Today, we see the result of the Greens’ hardline negotiations on the HAFF bill... Pressure works. Because of the Greens, the HAFF will have a minimum spend of \$500 million per year. Because of the Greens, \$3 billion that otherwise would not have been spent will now go towards helping those facing housing insecurity.

‘Labor’s plan will not entirely solve the housing crisis, but the additional funding secured by the Greens will make a real and immediate difference’.

Equitable distribution?

Meanwhile, The Regional Australia Institute (RAI) is backing a proposal to see regional, rural and remote Australia assured an equitable distribution of the housing fund, and local governments better supported in new development projects.

Independent Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, introduced the ‘Unlocking Regional Housing Bill’ private members bill in parliament, which calls for at least 30 per cent of the Housing Australia Future Fund to be directed to rural, regional and remote housing annually, and for the regions to be specifically referenced in the objects of the enabling legislation.

RAI CEO Liz Ritchie said rental availability in many regional towns was at, or below one per cent.

‘Research by the RAI reveals one in five capital city

Australians aspire to make the move to the regions and in fact, our recently released *Big Movers 2023* report revealed millennials, those aged between 29 and 39, are moving in record numbers’.

Maths questioned

Independent journalist, Michael West (michaelwest.com.au) says the maths doesn’t stack up with the HAFF, ‘and the biggest winners will be people who are looking to purchase a holiday house and the financial services crew [who] manage the money’.



While there appears no end to the enthusiasm for the local ‘Yes’ campaign, *The Echo* will publish any cogent ‘No’ campaign argument if supplied. Photo Jeff Dawson

Unethical investment rules placed upon Council to be eased by govt

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council could soon be free from state government-imposed rules that have effectively forced it to invest with financial institutions with links to fossil fuels.

Information contained in the agenda to this week’s Council meeting reveals that back in 2019, it took out a low-interest loan offered by the state-owned NSW Treasury Corporation (TCorp), which came with tough rules about how Council could invest its funds.

This included a requirement that at least 70 per cent of Council’s investment portfolio be invested in institutions with a credit rating of A+ or higher.

‘Most financial institutions with a credit rating of A- and above have links to fossil fuels through lending or other means,’ Council’s Manager of Finance, Corporate and Community Services, James Brickely, said in the report.

Staff also revealed that on August 22, Council received correspondence from TCorp offering some light at the end of the smoke stack.

In response to multiple requests from Council, TCorp proposed lifting the restrictions on Council investments completely.

This will also enable Council to pursue more investment opportunities away from fossil fuels into the environmental and socially responsible space.

The offer from TCorp effectively allows Council to revert back to its investment policy, and will enable Council, over time, to increase its investment exposure away from fossil fuels into more environmental and socially responsible assets.

However, Council will remain bound by more general restrictions on investments that apply to councils across NSW.

These rules, imposed back in 2011 following the Global Financial Crisis, prevent councils from investing overseas, in shares or any managed funds except those offered by TCorp.

Labor councillor Asren Pugh has moved a motion at this week’s Council meeting proposing that the NSW LG conference call for a review of these general rules.

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Neighbour speaks of war vet's tiny home demolition order

Hans Lovejoy

Further to last week's story, 'Disabled war veteran's tiny home faces Council demolition order', a neighbour of Afghanistan veteran Matt Bruce, approached *The Echo* to tell her side of the story.

As reported, Mr Bruce faces the demolition of his professionally built tiny home, which is located on rural land in Wilsons Creek owned by the Scali family.

The issue has been ongoing for over two years, with Council recently issuing Nicholas Scali a \$9,000 fine, something that Mr Bruce says he is responsible for.

Neighbour, Dr Michelle Olivier said, 'I've lived there for 13 years, and when Matt appeared unannounced at my house one evening two years ago, he told me and the other neighbour up here that he wanted to bring in a very small, moveable dwelling, promising that it would be only for a few months while he spent some time in the bush, and to do some bush regeneration on the land'.

Dr Olivier said she assumed that his dwelling 'would just be a small caravan, or something small on wheels, as it was only for a few months'.

Mr Bruce disputes this, telling *The Echo* he always intended to stay for up to two years, and was upfront in saying so.

Dr Olivier said, 'I thought that there was nothing I could do about the situation, and that it would be best to remain positive about this temporary three-month stay, despite the likely increased traffic on our private, narrow,



Some of the road that Dr Michelle Olivier says needs repair. Photo Dr Michelle Olivier

steep, one-lane driveway with no passing bays'.

'The two house owners up here built this driveway over 30 years ago, and are responsible for the maintenance of it, as it is a private driveway, not a Council road'.

'I expressed my concerns about the extra driveway use to Matt, and he said that it would just be him and that he would be very considerate'.

Dr Olivier says substantial infrastructure development was carried out 'that was very obviously for a long-term dwelling'.

While Dr Olivier agrees that camphor trees (considered a weed) were removed, she maintains that many native trees were also cleared, and that as Council claim, it is a high conservation area.

'Shortly after this event I spoke separately to Nicholas Scali, who lives in the main house on the property about my issue with Matt, and my concerns about the driveway, but he was not helpful. Instead, he said he wanted to help Matt.

She says, 'As the driveway broke up over the next month, Matt assured me and the neighbour many times that he would fix the damage arising from the truck that had brought his dwelling in'.

'However, after much stalling and assurances, Matt did no repairs to the driveway. So, seven months later when the [February 2022] floods came, the driveway was already in a very bad state after the many months of use, and the summer rains that had already been, and it was completely vulnerable to the heavy flood rains'.

Road repair dispute

Again, Mr Bruce disputes this version of events, and says that he spent \$5,000 repairing the road post flood, and that inadequate road-work, paid for by Dr Olivier prior to the floods, led to the road's degradation.

Dr Olivier said, 'After the flood, Matt filled in some of the worst, very large holes and drainage with rocks so that we could still drive on it, as he was now in danger of losing access to his home, as were I, and the other neighbour up here. He didn't repair the bitumen damage'.

'Now another year later, Matt has still not repaired the driveway, which is now in danger of degrading to the point where we could lose access to our properties if he doesn't repair it before the next summer rains come'.

Dr Olivier says the driveway was built 'to a high standard', and that it has always been in very good condition, 'but it was never engineered for withstanding a truck loaded with weight.'

She claims to have evidence that the driveway was in good condition 'prior to the truck smashing it'.

Feel duped

'If someone damages your property, they must pay for its repair. Matt and Nicholas seem to be completely ignoring this simple fact.

'I feel duped by both of these men. The entire ordeal is incredibly stressful and traumatic. Matt and Nicholas should have never built here in the first place'.

Another neighbour, Dr Martin Hartmann, told *The Echo* that parts of a perfectly good road 'were trashed', adding the road was like 'brand new before the truck brought in the tiny home'.

'The location is totally inappropriate, as it's bushfire and landslip prone'.

He said, 'I did meet with Matt when he proposed the idea and I was against it. I said it wouldn't work. He ignored everybody's "No"'

Mr Bruce replied to the suitability of the location by saying it withstood the 2022 floods, yet acknowledged that the road entrance to his dwelling was blocked from landslips. Dr Hartmann told *The Echo*, 'Over the years, different landowners had sought to get dwelling approval for the land in question, but it is unsuitable'.

Attempts to contact the third resident on the road were unsuccessful.

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TAMARA SMITH MP
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Rough sleepers gear up for Chinny Charge

Mathew Broster

As Off The Street On Our Feet (OTSOF) prepare for the Chinny Charge this Saturday, we were at it again last Sunday in Coffs Harbour.

During our third running event, we had a team of eight OTSOF runners in the 5km, 10km, 21km and even the 36km race. What a week-end that was! We literally camped 30 metres from the finish line. Apart from completing the Chinny Charge, we are looking to shine the light on homelessness by

leading by example. We hope that more rough sleepers join our weekly runs.

For anyone interested in supporting Off The Street On Our Feet, we are now on social media, and are running with, and from, Fletcher Street Cottage in Byron Bay at 6.45am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. We are now training for the 'Bridge to Brisbane' on October 15, and are keen to have more runners.

■ Mathew Broster is an OTSOF founder and a former rough sleeper.



From left to right: Pete Link (Byron Bay runners) Morgan Peacock-Clarke (rough sleeper), Mat Broster, Daniel Abeleven (partnering supporter), Omar Amin (Fletcher Street Cottage), and Sarah Aldridge (Byron Bay Runners). Photo Nashyspix.com

Get fire prepped – info days this weekend

Aslan Shand

The Bush Fire Danger Period has been declared, with 11 of the 32 areas beginning the danger period a month earlier than normal.

'It may be a hot, dry summer,' said Muzz Dreschler, who is Senior Deputy Captain of the Ocean Shores and Billinudgel Rural Fire Service (RFS) Brigade.

'The upcoming fire season has the potential to be busy, especially with three years

of growth following the last three years of wet weather'.

Main Arm and Billinudgel RFS brigades are both running 'Get Ready' events this weekend, as are many other local RFS brigades, and people with concerns are welcome to come and ask questions on how to prepare for the fire season.

Main Arm RFS will be providing fire information on Sunday, September 17, between 11am and 2pm at the Main Arm Fire Station, 921

Main Arm Road. Billinudgel is running two events, the first is on Saturday, September 16, at the Ocean Shores shopping centre, 9am to 5pm.

The second is at the Billinudgel Fire Station on Sunday, September 17, from 9am to 5pm.

Elle Marinucci from the Main Arm Brigade said it's an opportunity to ask about fire permits, and get some constructive tips and resources to safeguard your home and community.

Hazards Near Me

'Download the Hazards Near Me app,' said Mr Dreschler. 'This app could save your life. Other important questions to think about include: "Can we get a fire truck up your driveway? Have you got a dedicated water supply for fighting fires?" 'There are lots of things to prepare for, and we can help'.

Find out more at www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/get-ready-weekend.

Federal multiple occupancy DA proposes 15 dwelling sites

A Development Application (DA) for a multiple occupancy (MO) near the village of Federal is now on public exhibition on Council's website.

Chesterton Park is located at 189 Federal Drive, between Federal and Eureka.

DA 10.2023.299.1 comprises 15 dwelling sites and associated infrastructure, including an internal road.

The owner, according to the DA's statement of environmental effects, is Wentworth Point Investments, yet a Council letter included in the DA documents says the owner is Zeevoo Pty Ltd.

Multiple occupancies are a land sharing agreement between landowners, who manage the land collectively.

While banks will generally lend on Community Title (CT), they will not for MOs.

No estimated cost has been included on Council's website.

Within the 18 DA documents, the Landscape Visual Impact Assessment Report says the majority of the 54.5 hectare lot 'is zoned RU2 rural landscape with a small portion zoned RU1 primary production and C2 environmental conservation'.

'The site is currently utilised for agriculture (grazing) with an existing dwelling. The proposed development will allow for the continued light grazing and agricultural use of the site.'

'The surrounding countryside generally comprises of macadamia plantations, pasture and vegetation which is predominantly dominated by camphor laurels and native vegetation'.

An onsite wastewater management proposal is included, as is a Land Use Conflict Risk Assessment (LUCRA).

The bushfire report states, 'As a new multiple occupancy, the application needs to be able to justify that the proposal can achieve a worst-case Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) of a maximum of BAL-29. This can be achieved'.

The DA states the site is not mapped or identified as being flood-prone land, or having acid sulfate soils, but is bush fire prone and within a drinking water catchment.

'The results of an Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System search shows that there are no Aboriginal sites nor Aboriginal places in or near the site'.

Soul Pattinson Chemist

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Update: Council GM says "All available land, public or other, that meets criteria for future housing is being considered under the..Residential Strategy Refresh.. A further report..will be presented to council in September."

1

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

2

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

For more details, www.facebook.com/oneroof2481/
Also, open this link & scroll down to 13.11: (Our Proposal also there)
https://byron.infocouncil.biz/Open/2022/12/OC_15122022_AGN_1481_WEB.htm



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- ✓ **2. Listening and learning through the Voice**, a diverse group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who can provide advice to Parliament on matters that affect them. The Voice can't change laws - it can only provide advice.
- ✓ **3. Protecting the Voice in the Constitution** so that it can't be dismantled at the whim of changing governments.
- ✓ **4. Agreeing that the current approach isn't working.** We need to change the status quo.

For detailed information, head to yes23.com.au

Join the movement and make history!

Join the movement to spread the message of positive change for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament.

If you can help hand out on Referendum Day, or support our campaign in the community, please get in touch. We'll give you all the support you need, all the materials you need, and the chance to make history.

Please get in touch if you can volunteer by emailing me on justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au, or calling my office on (07) 5523 4371.



Justine Elliot MP
Federal Member for Richmond



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Authorised J Elliot, ALP,
Tweed Heads South

Mullum Big Picture Show lays groundwork for future conversations

Story & photo Aslan Shand

Around 60 people gathered at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club last Tuesday evening to look to the future of Mullumbimby and share their ideas, as part of the Mullum Big Picture Show (MBPS).

From housing to river health, a range of ideas were put forward by speakers before those gathered broke into smaller groups to further work on and share ideas.

'The MBPS brought the community together to hear some perspectives on matters that matter,' presenter and chamber member Suvira McDonald told *The Echo* following the event.

'MC'd by the legendary Mandy Nolan, the program

featured Mayor Michael Lyon speaking about the progress of Our Mullum Masterplan, the Burringbar Street upgrade and the old Mullum Hospital rezoning to residential.'

Chamber president, Paul Prior, said that the evening brought the community together with a 'common thread of people wanting to improve things. It is not all about business, it is about our liveable community'.

'Through the love of Mullumbimby, we have a common interest to come together in a space where everyone can have a say and provide input where their passion is. There are all these different things people can be involved in,' he explained.

MC Mandy Nolan said the event was an important 'visioning' process for the Mullumbimby community.

'Unless you have these robust and creative conversations, you will end up with mediocre outcomes for the town and its surrounds,' she pointed out.

Environment Centre for town?

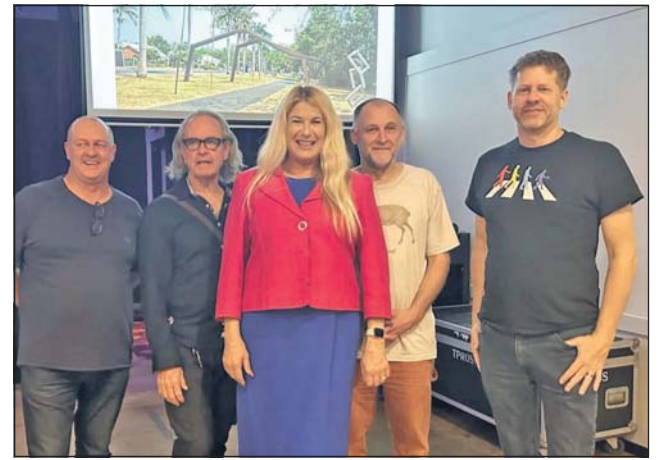
'The vision of the Big Picture Show is to invite the community to be part of shaping the kind of town and community that they want to live in by sharing ideas that are both achievable and seemingly fantastic.'

'Jeanette Martin presented her vision for a

Mullumbimby Environment Centre and Malcolm Price spoke about the potential for a small village and arts precinct on the old Mullum Hospital Site. The health of the Brunswick River was also a focus provided by Techa Beaumont,' said Mandy.

'I commend the Mullum Chamber of Commerce for inviting the community to be part of this visioning process. The ideas being presented were rooted in supporting the arts, affordable housing, and strong values around environmental protection and sustainability. It is clear that these are the core values of our community.'

'Very often people get criticised for these events, with people saying they are



Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce president, Paul Prior, Creative Mullum's Suvira McDonald, MC Mandy Nolan, presenter and organiser, Malcolm Price, with Byron Shire Mayor, Michael Lyon.

a talkfest but this is where it happens. It is where the ideas come from.

'Mullum Big Picture is looking at having more of these events so that we can get a wide range of ideas for the future of the town.'

'This means we can then feed these important ideas back to the council, developers, state and federal governments etc, so that we can help shape the future of our town.'

Meanwhile, Council

staff said in a press release last week, 'Transformation of the old Mullumbimby Hospital site into a vibrant mix of diverse and affordable housing, public spaces and community facilities is progressing, with Council staff hoping much of the behind-the-scenes planning framework needed to support the redevelopment will be in place by early 2024'.

For more info visit <https://tinyurl.com/ebhzeaws>.



What's important to you about Burringbar Street?

We're developing a concept design for Mullumbimby's main street.

This is a priority project of the Our Mullumbimby Masterplan, and follows Council's 'Talking Street' trial project in 2021, where we tested some temporary changes such as ways to slow traffic and make more space for pedestrians.

We need a concept design that reflects what local businesses and the wider community want to see happen in this street in the future.

To provide feedback on what's important to you, go to Council's [Your Say](#) page before 2 October 2023.

Council staff will be on Burringbar St on Thursday 28 September to talk to the community and answer questions.

More information



<https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Burringbar-Street>

02 6626 7000

afitzgibbon@byron.nsw.gov.au



www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Changing of the flower guard



After 20 years as Byron District Orchid Society President, Penelope Fox is stepping down, but will remain active within the group. Penny is pictured here with her award-winning *Dendrobium Mousmee*, at last weekend's orchid show, held at the Mullum Ex-Services Club. Photo Jeff 'Flowers For Me? Thanks!' Dawson.

What's Going On event, Sept 18

The first in a series of public events aimed at discussing 'issues that are affecting us now, and will determine how we live in the future' will be held Monday, September 18 from 6.30pm at the Byron Bay RSL Club.

Organiser, David Warth, says the 'well-informed speakers' for the first What's Going On event will be Queensland business woman, Debra Yuille, who will advocate for Australia

to exit the World Health Organisation.

IT veteran, Michael Williamson, will also present a talk on digital identity and 'what it means for you'.

'Michael has worked in the technology industry for over 30 years. Privately, he has focused on geopolitics and the role of government'.

Warth says, 'Please come along. Ask the questions. Get clear and factual information. Take action!'

Tex Perkins fronts Upper Coopers Creek trivia night

Quiz master and legendary singer/musician, Tex Perkins, will lead a night of trivia and frivolity at the annual Upper Coopers Creek P&C Trivia Night fundraiser on Saturday September 16 at the Coorabell Hall.

Organisers say the event will kick off at 6pm with coffee and cocktails from Cosmos Coffee Wagon, and live music from funk/jazz duo, Leonards Slippers.

They say, 'Dining, cakes and grazing platters will be available throughout the evening.'



Upper Coopers Creek Public School students. Photo supplied

'With over \$1,000 in prizes to be won, it's time to gather your team and get those thinking caps on'.

To grab a ticket, visit events.humanitix.com/upper-coopers-creek-p-and-c-trivia-night.

Kids' book tackles symbiotic relationships

Local artist and graphic designer, Madeline Hill, has authored a new children's book which features a quirky rhyming tale of a three-toed sloth and a moth named Molly.

Written for children aged four to seven, and featuring Ms Hill's distinctive illustration style, *Sloth Moth* is based on the symbiotic relationship between two of Earth's creatures.

Molly loves gardening, and lives in Solomon the sloth's hair, maintaining

the algae which provides nutrients to both creatures.

Solomon risks his life for Molly by venturing to the bottom of the tree so that she can lay her eggs.

'It's a book which I think is going to bring smiles and laughter to little people... and hopefully big people too!' Ms Hill says.

She is pre-selling copies through Kickstarter, a crowdfunding platform for creative projects which offers 'rewards' so that you can pre-order copies and support creative projects.



Madeline. Photo supplied

For more, visit www.kickstarter.com/projects/madelinehill/sloth-moth.

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After being a dentists for 56 years, having practiced in Sydney, London, Lismore, Durban and Jeffries Bay in South Africa, and Byron Bay for the last 44 years in my own practice, I've finally hung up my drill and retired.

Having sold my practice to Dr Franck Page in December of 2021, I have continued to work on as an employee on Franck's invitation to smooth over the transfer, for which I am grateful.

But all good things come to an end and now is the time to retire.

I would like to thank each and every person who chose me as their dentist. You have enabled me to live for 50 years in this magical friendly town in the best country in the world.

I have enjoyed every moment and if you are looking for a first class dentist look no further than Dr Claire Parsons. She is now my dentist and can be contacted at the same location where I have been on 6685 7026.

Many Thanks

John Patterson

02 6685 7026 | Suite 9/9 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay

Echo

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

Lismore flood project wins engineering award

A Lismore post-flood project has been named as a winner at the 2023 Engineers Australia Excellence Awards.

Evans Head to celebrate everything that is great about surfing!

The October long weekend will see Evans Head once again hosting the four-day Evans Head Malibu Classic from Friday, 29 September to Monday, 2 October.

Tweed's business land swap milestone

Tweed Shire Council say they have reached a major milestone for the area's flood recovery – preliminary works have begun on site this week at the Industry Central Land Swap project in South Murwillumbah.

Golden Ticket for Lennox after months of disruption

Ballina Shire Council is hoping to assist businesses in Lennox Head with a Golden Ticket promotion launching later this month.

Shitbox MKII heads to Perth in 2024

Dunoon mechanic Russell Wilson had so much fun at the Shitbox Rally last year, he has asked his wife Alison to join him and head out to the back blocks of Uluru next April for another go at making a \$1,500 car attempt the almost impossible.

www.echo.net.au

Pottsville caravan park proposal refused

Aslan Shand

A proposal for 112 long-term residential sites on a restrained and environmentally sensitive site in Pottsville was refused at the recent Tweed Shire Council (TSC) meeting.

Staff recommended refusal based on numerous issues including the ecological value of the site, tree removal, proximity to coastal wetlands, impact on koala habitat and sewerage.

319 objections

Mayor Chris Cherry (Independent) moved an amendment to the staff refusal and recommended that TSC defend the Class 1 Appeal in the Land and Environment Court (L&EC).

'I strongly support the staff recommendation here,' Cr Cherry told the meeting.

'We've got a proposal before us for 112 sites in a site that contains a lot of pretty precious wetland vegetation, it is a flood-prone site and a bushfire-prone site as well.'

'It was also raised that it may be a prohibited land use. It is not in the public interest. We have 320 submissions on this item and 319 are objecting to it.'



Caravan park proposal for 112 long-term sites, reception, managers residence and pool at 1126 Pottsville Road, Pottsville. Image Google maps

'One of the major concerns raised in the report is the lack of sewerage capacity that is available for this development. When we combine all of these things... I think we really need to stand firm on this and defend it in the Land and Environment Court (L&EC).'

'I think it is a really big issue for Pottsville if this one goes ahead.'

The staff report also highlighted the fact that 'It is unclear how many sites are intended to be occupied by caravans and how many are intended to be occupied by manufactured homes, moveable dwellings or the like. This has not been nominated

in the submission material.'

The report also emphasised the DA's lack of detail, stating that the design plans and other documents indicated that 'sites will be occupied by structures other than caravans' and for 'this reason, Council should consider the possibility of all sites, or a high proportion being occupied by more permanent structures such as manufactured homes.'

All councillors voted in favour of rejecting the development application and defending it in the L&EC.

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

Get ready for the Northern Rivers Koala Count

The Northern Rivers Koala Count is in two weeks.

Friends of the Koala (FoK) say that spring has sprung and it is the perfect opportunity to get out and about and look for koalas!

'The Northern Rivers Koala Partnership is excited to announce the Northern Rivers Koala Count scheduled to take place from September 24 to 30,' said a spokesperson for FoK.

They are asking the community to make a special effort to report sightings

of koalas during the last week of September on the Friends of the Koala website.

Citizen science

With such beautiful weather, it is a great opportunity to go for a bushwalk, keep your eyes out for koalas and record sightings. Just make sure you have permission if the land is privately owned.

The week-long project aims to harness the power of citizen science to provide

a better understanding about where koalas live and how they use their environment. This can help support important koala research, conservation, and management actions.

Northern Rivers Koala Partnership includes local councils of Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed, and Friends of the Koala.

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

Yarning about the referendum in Lennox Head



Agland, Glen Cook and Kishaya Delaney at the Lennox event. Photo David Lowe

David Lowe

Last Friday, two Uluru State-ment from the Heart ambassadors came to Lennox Head to talk about Voice, Truth and Treaty.

Kishaya Delaney and Alisha Agland, two young women from Wiradjuri country in NSW, were welcomed to the Lennox Head Cultural Centre by Nyangbul man Glen Cook, a former school teacher who now works as a language and culture advisor. He told the young people in the audience, 'this is your future – what happens on 14 October, you guys hopefully will benefit from that.'

Alisha Agland explained she was a social worker, with her cousin Kishaya

Delaney working as a lawyer.

'The flood of disinformation is certainly a cause for concern,' said Ms Agland.

'So our intention is not to tell you yes or no, it's to equip you with information to make your own informed decision, and help others along that journey.'

She said the response to their tour so far had been 'really encouraging'.

Kishaya Delaney then covered the history leading up to the current situation, beginning with the Constitution, which can only be changed by referendum.

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

Varroa mites continue to move north

In an ever-increasing threat to the Northern Rivers, the NSW Department of Primary Industries (DPI) say that tracing has uncovered a new Varroa mite infestation in beehives north of the existing Nana Glen, at Barcoogere in the Coffs Harbour region.

NSW DPI Chief Plant Protection Officer, Shane Hetherington said the infestation was discovered following NSW DPI tracing movements from the Kempsey cluster, in this case undertaken legally six months ago.



Varroa mite. Photo Wikipedia

For more information visit, www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/emergencies/biosecurity/current-situation/varroa-mite-emergency.

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

Witness Callout

We are calling on former teachers, students and parents of students who **attended the Uki Public School between 1990 and 2000** to assist with enquiries in relation to allegations of physical and sexual abuse occurring at the school.

Please contact **Toni-Lee Masters** at Shine Lawyers on **02 8754 7200** to assist.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #14 • September 13, 2023

It's a social housing party!

After six months of bickering, federal political parties of similar stripes – Labor and Greens – came together and said ‘Yes’ to a \$10b social/affordable housing package – see page 4.

It's called Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF), and will be set up as a managed fund, tied to the stock exchange, to address the chronic shortfall of social housing that was created after decades of government neglect.

This was a test of the Greens' ability to negotiate – their ability to strike a deal has been under the spotlight since they rejected a carbon pricing scheme in 2009.

After a six month wait, an extra \$3b appeared on the table, yet comes without a rent freeze.

Providing social housing was once a business of governments, and thankfully Labor recognise it should be again.

Will it ease the national housing crisis?

Maybe, but how much is not known, because there isn't much detail of what will be delivered after 30,000 homes are built in the first five years.

And it's a program spread out across the nation, and comes without any guarantee it will be directed to rural, regional and remote areas.

Hopefully, a bill before parliament by Independent Member for Indi, Dr Helen Haines, will address this.

Independent journalist, Michael West, challenges the fund's ability to deliver, claiming the maths doesn't add up.

Even if he's wrong, the immediate crisis is not going to be solved anytime soon.

And the housing crisis is

also tied to a lack of labour and rising material costs.

So in the face of all that, it seems premature to break out the bubbly and don the party hats.

A smart nation would probably accelerate and invest in what is still in the pioneering stages – 3D home building.

Other ways to speed up the process could include providing financial incentives to encourage investment in social housing.

Another would be to develop a national housing policy.

The NSW government definition of ‘affordable housing’ is not fit for purpose, for example, and could be addressed at a national level.

Those who face homelessness need to have a say at that table too.

It's a tough sell

Convincing the political elite of any meaningful change is a tough sell.

They benefit enormously from unfair tax breaks and concessions which keep low income earners out of the housing market.

And with the help of mainstream media, the wealthy, landed class say that increasing housing supply is the main solution in addressing the problem.

Yet it's social housing at stake here, not more holiday homes.

Political solutions often masquerade as a solution to the disease it created – so fingers crossed the people with a portfolio of negatively geared homes and fat bank accounts will make the best decisions in the interests of those who don't.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Weak politics prevents drug reform

When I first left the bench, I was approached by a group of enthusiastic, committed young medicinal cannabis entrepreneurs and activists to lead DriveChange – a lobby group for the driving rights of patients.

I thought it was such a minimalist no-brainer that it would be a short sharp campaign, resulting in adoption of the same sensible laws as in Tasmania and most of the rest of the world with a defence for prescription patients using their medicine as directed.

You can have huge strides in medicinal cannabis law reform, and decriminalisation for possession and use, but if you cannot drive for days after consumption, it is arguably all for naught. Australia does more random saliva tests than the rest of the world combined.

Yet despite three years of campaigning, countless interviews, presentations at five parliaments, submissions galore, the election of five legalise-cannabis politicians (with the balance of power in two states) we were getting almost nowhere.

Now we have gone backwards in two retrograde developments.

Victoria was our great hope, with the premier promising change for medicinal cannabis users and we were waiting with bated breath.

And now the Victorian government has finally made a pronouncement – of not making a decision at all. Instead, they are funding an 18-month study, sometime, involving driving on private roads after taking THC. This is an unnecessary, irrelevant and cruel ruse.

Unnecessary research

The research is unnecessary because it has already been done to death. The Lambert Institute in NSW, and countless international studies have shown that if patients use cannabis as directed, they pose no greater risk to the community than if they are driving in pain, or without sleep, or utilising any of the alternative medications such as opioids, barbiturates, benzodiazepines or many anti-anxiety options.

And the proof is in the pudding – not one commentator or authority has suggested that the Tasmanian



‘Imagine for a moment that a new drug came on the market called Grass, which quickly gained medical approval for a range of conditions from epilepsy to anxiety’ – David Heilpern

provision has led to any additional road deaths or trauma. There is not a single coronial finding in Australia where medicinal cannabis has led to a death. This is all about prohibition, and nothing to do with road safety.

It is irrelevant because it asks the wrong question.

The real issue is not whether or how much cannabis affects driving, it is why would government treat cannabis differently to any other prescription drug? Imagine for a moment that a new drug came on the market called Grass, which quickly gained medical approval for a range of conditions from epilepsy to anxiety.

Within a few years almost five per cent of the adult population happily used Grass, even though it was not on the PBS, and cost several hundred dollars a prescription.

No one would for one moment suggest that a minuscule detectable level of Grass in a driver's saliva should lead to loss of licence and criminalisation and that we would have police test people on street corners.

The only reason we have these laws is because cannabis was once completely illegal.

It is cruel because cannabis patients under the current legal regime are faced with a Catch-22.

They can do as their doctor has prescribed, and then not drive at all, or they can run the gauntlet, while desperately searching the internet for the masking potential of apple cider vinegar and anti-acids.

As a result, tens of thousands each year will be arrested and lose their licences and jobs and houses.

It is cruel, because the millions of tests keep police and the courts and the whole criminal justice apparatus from policing real crime, like domestic violence and child sexual assault. It is cruel, because it robs the community

of road-safety resources, which could be spent far more wisely. It is cruel because the alternatives to cannabis include prescription drugs prone to side effects, addiction and overdose.

And of course, the fear is that other states now will just say, ‘well we have to wait for the Victorian research’. Grr.

Backwards step

In NSW, the backwards step results from a decision of a District Court judge who has decided, out of the blue, and against the submissions of the prosecution, as well as the driver, that a key defence is unavailable to those charged with drug detection offences.

I had decided that a defence of ‘honest and reasonable mistake’ was available in cases of spiking, passive smoking or where the user was unaware that they would have any drugs left in their system.

This was following a line of other cases for low range drink driving.

My decision was adopted in countless cases. But not anymore – according to this new ruling, no matter how the drug gets into your system, whether you knew it was there or not, it is now an absolute liability offence.

I hope that this gets overturned on appeal, but for now, the situation is replete with uncertainty and a significant loss for those seeking change.

It is disheartening and dispiriting and these developments put us back years. And it eats time that could be devoted to arguably more important issues like climate change, and halting the logging that's cutting the heart out of the Great Koala National Park.

But each time I think of discontinuing, I hear from another victim of these silly silly laws.

Onward and upward is the only choice. Maybe.

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



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CHANGE

Now?

PLEASE

Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

To the pothole fairy
Many thanks from all the drivers for your beautiful decorations of the potholes throughout Byron Shire. You have made our lives safer, and brought many smiles.
We are very grateful for your magic.

Ephraim Sella
Byron Bay

Cabbage Tree Island
I was following up on an ABC North Coast story that the community of Cabbage Tree Island will not be allowed to move back into their homes.
Researching the subject, while waiting to hear more information about the reasons, I found the great story from Eve Jeffery in *The Echo* (22 March, 2023). It states there were only two houses that had sustained flood damage inside and the foundations are in good condition, as confirmed by army engineers.
So while the NRRC left dozens of houses in Lismore, which had water up to the ceiling or higher, without any offer of help and support, why is the Indigenous community of Cabbage Tree Island not allowed to return to their homes?
The grandfather of Cabbage Tree Island resident Auntie Susan Anderson bought the land on which she grew up. So what is really happening? I can only hope that our

community and *The Echo* will ask the hard questions.
Are we watching another land grab while we talk of closing the gap and giving a voice to Indigenous people?
Chibo Mertineit
Lillian Rock

Benefits of microplastic
We've got to stop population growth on this planet. If it's true that microplastics are involved in lowering the sperm count we should gather all of the young men and boys together and have a ceremony and sprinkle them liberally with microplastic fairy dust. It could be a joyous, worldwide, sacred gathering.
Surely this would be loving, caring and very sensitively ethical?
As the Earth's population diminishes, it may begin to repair itself and return to some of its former unpolluted glory.
I know, very simplistic, yes – it is just a fantasy. It'd be great with less contraceptive blister pack dust, condom dust, plastic flower dust, bread wrapper dust and car console dust, etc. Plastics have been involved in our lives ever since bakelite happened 70-odd years ago.
After our boys have their special, deeply-inhaling day, there'd be no more fear of pregnancies, people would be making love not war, all

over the place – in the loo or behind the counter in the Mullum cafes while you ate your veggie burger. And drank your green smoothie.
The STD clinics would be thrilled – they'd be making more money than Qantas, banks and the big millionaires. Yes I know, they'd be polluting too. The bloody quandary of it all – I need a glass of wine!
Hannah Grace
Ocean Shores

Fake gov.com
For those who still vote for the major parties it would be interesting to consider how long they themselves might imagine they could hold down a job if they were unwilling or unable to provide transparency or explicit answers to an employer when asked, without insulting or deceitful obfuscation.
Labor's minister O'Farrell is um... particularly ah... astounding and... very... um... very... experienced when... um it ah... comes... ah... comes... to ah... padding out... um the ah... the... um... question ah... time... until the ah... time has elapsed and ah... no answers um... are given. And taxpayers are footing the bill.
Why would anyone who considers themselves modestly, somewhat intelligent, vote for a government which lacks transparency and claims to

be managing the economy while allowing obscene record corporate profits?
Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

Response to NRRC
The NRRC, shoving it down unwanted throats, just like despots.
Sadly, I take the view that planning changes are inevitable.
You should first know that councils are being strong-armed to release land to meet short-term political needs which will produce long-term problems for the community. These will scar us forever unless they seriously embrace the community and its true desires (not its NIMBY desires).
► Continued on next page

Career Guidance

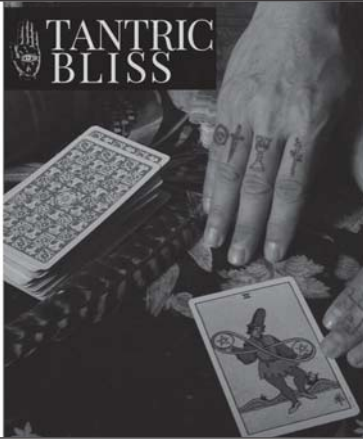
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SCAN TO BOOK

Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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



AND THE FAMOUS
RAILS KITCHEN

WED 13 SEP	OLE FALCOR
THU 14 SEP	ISAAC FRANKHAM
FRI 15 SEP	BURNING HANDS
SAT 16 SEP	RAGGA JUMP
SUN 17 SEP	LONESOME BOATMEN
MON 18 SEP	CHRIS FISHER
TUES 19 SEP	TRILLIAH
WED 20 SEP	DAN HANNAFORD

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► Continued from page 13

Second, it seems that the federal and state governments, their pet tiger NRRC and all the affected councils are set to forget the successes of the past and repeat all its mistakes.

Third, the Northern Rivers is seriously short of critical social infrastructure, schools, health services, hospitals, police, fire, water, waste, recycling, and power. The shires are faced with outdated and inadequate roads and transport infrastructure, to support the current, let alone the future, population.

Consultative planning needs to occur for our kids' sake. I say do it correctly upfront. We need an unqualified commitment to build the necessary infrastructure first (NOW) and the governments can be part of the solution.

Council cannot provide the infrastructure without upfront state and federal money (by the \$ billion-sized bucketload) yet they seem to want developers, ratepayers and the flood victims, to pay the cost of their past penny-pinching, current miserliness, and mismanagement.

The local ratepayers can't afford this without increasing rent. The developers need stupid scale and density to fund the shortfall, the NRRC

will give a pinch and call it assistance.

This desired housing growth is for the benefit of the whole nation. Australia has learned by its Canberra planning and Darwin suburban expansion that the services need to come first and the governments (the whole nation not the few locals) need to bankroll the core infrastructure for any sustainable growth – after all they are the low-cost borrower or equitable tax recipients.

Private sector funding has a higher cost and requires a significant return on investment, which makes the resultant cost unsustainable and unaffordable.

It's about time state and federal governments stepped up and led growth from the front like good leaders rather than shoving it down unwanted throats, like despots.

The style of development proposed is unsuitable to the Northern Rivers and is Mt Druitt and Macquarie Fields revisited. The need to listen to the community.

Bruce Porter
Brunswick Heads

Finally

I congratulate Paul Bibby on his article on conflicts of interest involved with the

Byron Shire Council (BSC) using consultants.

I also congratulate Cr Dey for asking for an investigation into this but that investigation should go back to the nineties.

It will be interesting to see if the rest of the elected council supports Cr Dey's motion on September 14, or do the majority remain loyal subjects of the executive?

I remember Simon Richardson saying to me after a WW&SAC meeting that he only listened to experts. I found that comment strange because unless you understand what the expert is telling you it means you just continually nod and pretend to understand, which I think Mr Richardson probably excelled at.

Cr Dey's point also raises the question of why are there so many civil engineers employed on Council who are *supposed experts* in the fields of which they are continually engaging consultants to tell them how to solve a problem.

As a sewer operator, I witnessed consultants brought in by supposed sewer engineers employed in W&R to solve problems that the outdoor staff could have solved.

Enter the 2023 Ingenuity Sculpture Exhibition

Northern Rivers artists have until 15 September to submit their entries to the 2023 Ingenuity Sculpture Exhibition.

This year's theme is 'Story of Place' and will be held in conjunction with the Brunswick Valley Historical Society which is celebrating its 40th birthday. The exhibition is open to 3D works as well as audio-visual works with the final exhibition taking place at the Brunswick Valley Historical Society in both the Mullumbimby Museum and surrounding grounds.

'All artists resident of the NSW Northern Rivers are eligible,' said Creative Mullum's Suvira McDonald who is coordinating the exhibition.

Artists who live in Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Lismore, Clarence Valley, Richmond



Sculpture: Gerry-Brown's Gloria the rainbow fish.
Photo supplied

Valley, and Kyogle Shires can all submit works and have the chance to win prizes totalling \$8,500. The prizes are the \$7,000 RGOL Prize (acquisitive) and the \$500 Live Long & Prosper Prize for female artists over 50.

Concert and talks

The exhibition will run over ten days from 6 to 15

October with workshops, artists' talks and more including a marvellous concert at the launch. A new Artist Residency program will also be run in conjunction with the 2023 Ingenuity Sculpture Exhibition.

The entry fee is \$25 per submission. For more information: creativemullum.org.au.

People should be made aware that the first West Byron Waste Treatment Plant was built by BSC's own construction and maintenance staff overseen by Harry Wilson, the outdoor manager of construction and maintenance.

Over the years, people have been employed by Byron Council as engineers who simply refuse to make decisions or use their supposed skills to solve problems – they just call a consultant. This also applies to people employed in management positions or promoted to these positions internally who simply don't do the job.

I wish Cr Dey all the best with his motion. It's time for a change in the structure and accountability in BSC, and this is a good place to start.

Alan Dickens
Ballina

Dis/misinformation

I cannot believe the Labor government wants to put through a bill to stop free speech. This is a direct hit on our democratic rights, as a 'so called' democratic country. This bill is going to be tabled within two weeks. It will stop what little debate we have around The Voice at the moment. I think that is the aim.

If we don't all wake up to what the politicians' masters (WEF, WHO, UN) want them to really do to us globally – we are in grave trouble of losing many of our freedoms. Do your own research – please.

Margot Hays
Bangalow

Go Feros cronies

My oldest 88-year-old friend entered Feros Village for ongoing care. After paying a large amount of money, she was told after three weeks to move out 'as she could find

herself sleeping in a room that was being destroyed by machinery aiding future development'.

This shock resulted in high trauma, anxiety, and terrifying nightmares. She was aided by her family to move. This abuse defies the Aged Care Human Rights Charter.

Bullying is a crime and intense trauma is the result. The lesson for society is *never let cronies in any position of care for your loved elders*. It is obvious that the lack of empathy, and strategies to aid development \$\$\$\$ for cronies will always take precedence over legally ratified human rights that uphold and demand aged care.

Many examples exist in critical literature (e.g. the book *Game of Mates*). Resist and always question authority.

Jo Faith
Newtown

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The moment we can change the course of history

Belle Budden

For decades, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have been campaigning for change to the current political system in Australia. Many incremental changes have led us to this moment in history where the Australian people can make an enduring commitment to the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The referendum on October 14 represents an opportunity to enshrine a representative body that will influence policies made about and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

'When we listen to people about the decisions that affect them, we get better results. For the past 250 years, we haven't properly listened to the people who have been here for 65,000. It's time we did' (www.yes23.com.au/voice).

The system and process we have now is failing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Through the horrifying statistics and indicators included in the Closing the Gap targets we can see the evidence of the ongoing impacts of colonisation. The over incarceration of our people and the over representation of our children in the out of home care systems are reminders of the systemic genocide that continues through policies, processes, and government. Yes, we need a treaty and yes, we need a Voice.

In 2002, activists from the Aboriginal Tent Embassy, led by Arabunna man Uncle Kevin Buzzacott reclaimed the kangaroo and emu from Old Parliament House in Canberra. Uncle Kevin stated that the emu and kangaroo were part of our dreaming, our totems and had been stolen by the crown and misappropriated as a symbol of foreign sovereignty.

When Uncle Kevin was charged with theft by the Australian Federal Police he pleaded no jurisdiction and charged the Australian government with theft.

The case elevated through the court system to the High Court where it found they could not determine any matter of Aboriginal sovereignty in Australia, it must go to an



international court as the Australian court system are agents of the Crown and in direct conflict with the notion of Aboriginal sovereignty. I don't believe this referendum has the power to impact on Aboriginal sovereignty. Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as First Australians in the Constitution is the first step to recognising our sovereignty in the document that drives the political system in this Australia.

Treaty needed

The Voice to parliament will give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a mechanism to affect policy and processes that affect us on the ground – across all the silos of government. We need this to ensure that we are part of the decisions that impact us, a part of self-determination at a policy level.

While this is critical, we still need a Treaty. Treaty will mean that the war is over and that there is peace for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There is no peace without justice and in this process, we need a truth-telling process. I am constantly astounded at the lack of awareness that many Australians have about the history of colonisation and the impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. It was not a peaceful occupation but a brutal process of genocide on which our political systems have been built. Many wealthy and powerful people continue to benefit from this past and this is the fear that many people have been fed in relation to empowering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with a Voice.

Matter of principle

When Australia goes to vote on October 14 they will be asked to write 'Yes' or 'No'

to the following question:

'A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve of this proposed alteration?'

Many people have voiced their concern at the lack of detail provided, but as a nation we are not voting on the detail, we are voting on the principle. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the First People of Australia and while we do not have the numbers to win or lose this referendum, I hope that we are the ones that determine the details of the Voice, that we have the ability to shape the details of our own Voice.

This referendum represents a chance to enshrine this Voice to parliament. We have seen many Aboriginal commissions, councils, and departments that have gained traction and momentum that then are abolished by new governments. Enshrining the Voice in the Constitution will ensure that this doesn't happen.

Yes, there is division amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, divide and conquer has been the process of the coloniser. I pay my respect to the difference in opinion in the communities across Australia and recognise that not everyone shares my views.

This is the moment we can change the course of history. A 'No' vote will deliver us a continuation of the status quo which is failing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. There is no other option on the table. I want a better future for my children, for my family and community. I want a better future for Country. Our Elders have worked hard to deliver us this opportunity and while I do not trust in corporations or governments, I trust in the wisdom of our Elders in understanding that we need to change the systems that are oppressing our Country, community and culture.

■ Belle Budden is a local dubay of Wakka Wakka descent. 'Living off country I pay my respect to the Arakwal people and the wider Bundjalung people of this land,' says Belle.

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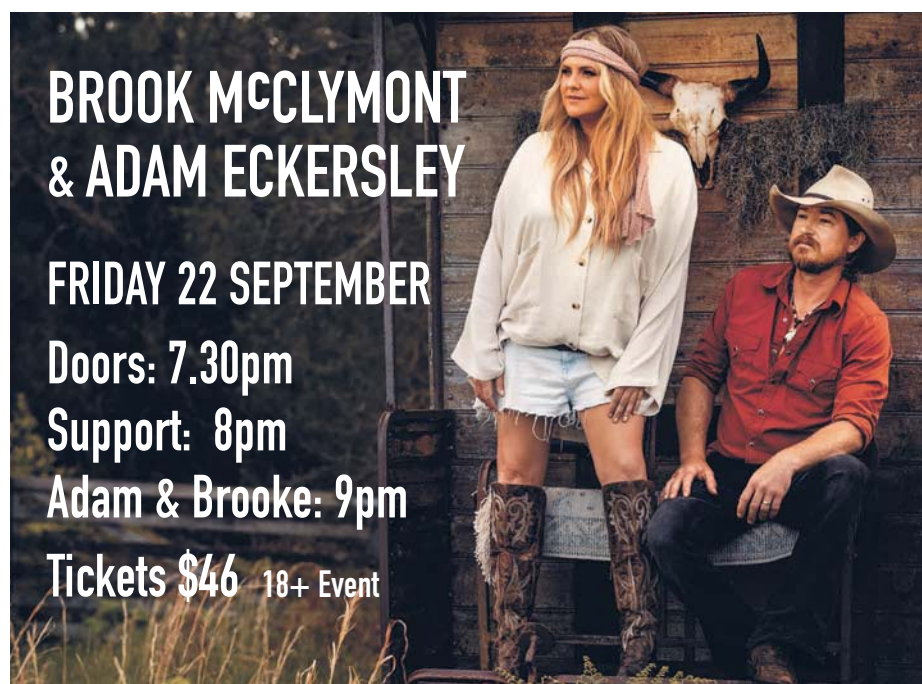
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■ I do not understand that someone can say 'no' to an idea, encouraging talking to each other, that brings along the readiness to listen to each other. This is the same issue that I have, when nations have misunderstandings with other nations, and they recall their diplomats and close the embassy – instead of sending more representatives to talk.

And another very important message from this referendum is that it will be the first time the real people of Gondwana Land are mentioned and recognised in our Australian Constitution.

Please forget politics, and switch from your brain to your heart, and feel what this is all about.

Urs Schmid
Goonengerry

■ Chris Merritt, vice president of the Rule of Law Institute of Australia, recently wrote of Bob Hawke that 'his vision [for Australia] was based on equality of citizenship'.

Further, he quotes Hawke from as long ago as the mid-80s: 'In Australia, there is no hierarchy of descent. There must be no privilege of origin'.

Hawke was not only a man of vision, he was, it seems, a man of pre-vision.

J Rose
Mullumbimby

■ The Echo's (30 August) cover story by Eve Jeffery says it so clearly and simply when articulated by Delta Kay. I've read and inquired into this issue, listened to and attended talks by Noel Pearson. Both these two are respected thought-provoking Indigenous persons who are wanting nothing more than what their ancestors, families and people deserve under basic human rights, respect and the dignity of recognition of being the First Peoples of this country we have come to call Australia.

Delta is a very proud Bundjalung woman who has harnessed our democratic ways of delivering social justice and utilising it to further the rights of her people. We have created this way of coexisting and it applies to all who live here. The Indigenous population are the ancient mothers and fathers of this land called Country, we need to understand that and offer our acceptance of what that entails by giving our 'Yes' to this referendum, another step forward by giving them the right to challenge laws and policies in our parliament. That is a democratic way.

Savaad Churcher-Wells
Byron Bay

■ Two groups of Indigenous youngsters brawling around the Goonellabah Village Shopping Centre on Sunday afternoon changed my mind as to how I might vote.

Their behaviour and ignorance of other people until the police arrived said much, as might be expected in the future. Have their parents no control over them and how their actions might affect the significant future?

Peter Walters
Ballina



Mungo MacCallum and Thomas Mayor hold up the Uluru Statement from the Heart at Brunswick Heads on Saturday, March 25, 2018. Photo Jenny Garrett

■ The irony of the 'Don't know, vote no' campaign is that the referendum is for an Aboriginal-informed pathway for the politicians to know. And that it is a first step on the Uluru proposals that include 'truth-telling', so that we all get to know.

There is a lot to know that the colonists didn't, and that we still don't. While international academics decipher the Egyptian hieroglyphics and the remnants of the Dead Sea Scrolls, here in Australia we don't even know what the blown-up illustrations of the far older Juukan Cave were for. Religious? Natural resource records? Signpost information for travellers?

But what we do know is that present legislation allows miners and developers to destroy Aboriginal cultural heritage, and we need a Voice, at the federal level to change that. We do know now, belatedly, that prior to colonisation land titles existed under the concepts of the existing imported British laws – but that it took one Aboriginal bloke to get that knowledge up through the courts. But that bloke wasn't Dutton or any other politician, because they didn't know.

And we now know that the Aboriginal practice of a mosaic of ankle-high fires helps to stop raging bushfires, but we still don't know the Aboriginal 'seasons' to know how this country's layers of environment functions (eg when the wattles flower the mullet are running).

The rabid media comments 'they were just savages' illustrates that those commentators don't know that there was a well-entrenched civilisation of rules, religion, 'land titles' and resource management, pre-colonisation, or that the Aboriginals had better health, with a better range of medicines, than the early colonists.

I doubt whether Dutton knows that Sydney's Manly was named after the manly stature of the mob that lived there, or that there were no cavities in any Aboriginals teeth before colonisation. And because he doesn't know he can't even know to ask why.

There are genuine concerns at the proposal from some sections of the Aboriginal community – those that stand on the fact that it was illegal under Royal law, British parliamentary law and international law to take over an occupied country, and as such reject any whitefella proposals. And those that reject it because they are not convinced it will be representative, or that it won't be manipulated by the various governments of the day, or see only a treaty as having any value. So for those of us voting 'Yes', we will need to oversee the process to ensure those Aboriginal peoples' concerns are addressed, and that the Voice Consultative Committee is, and remains, a vehicle for getting the politicians, and all of us, to know, and to act on that knowledge. If you don't know vote 'Yes', so that the politicians, and us all, get to know, and thus know what needs to be done, in this, the first stage of moving to a better cultural awareness of Aboriginal issues on the Uluru Statement's road to a better country.

John Lazarus
Byron Bay

■ Non-Indigenous Australians do not have a Treaty with the Commonwealth of Australia. We have a Constitution, written a long time ago, that is used to define the rules for governing the wellbeing the wealth of non-Indigenous Australians.

A Constitution that is very complex and continually requires interpretation by the High Court judges, and others who are used to define it.

The government legislates the rules of law, responsibility for upholding the Constitution is in the hands of a system that continually changes the definition of words. We now live with this, the continued use and application of this method of upholding the system, that uses a usuary system of money. Inflating the value to maintain the gathering of wealth and control by the few. The Voice, Treaty, a Commonwealth Treaty, joining together.

Robert Podhajsky
Ocean Shores

We can't prepare for what we don't know

Bobbi Allan

Climate change is by far the biggest security threat our country is facing at all levels from the national to the individual. There is no external threat to our country and its communities greater than climate change.

This was the clear message coming from Ian Dunlop on Wednesday night (30 August) at the Brunswick Heads Picture House. Ian was in conversation with Dr Jean Renouf, CEO of Plan C, a local organisation whose mission is to build the resilience and regenerative capacities of Northern Rivers communities in the face of future disasters and crises.

This was the latest in a series of Facing Up conversations, asking the tough question: how do we live in the midst of climate and ecological crises?

Ian, a grandparent, formerly chair of the Australian Coal Association and now an executive of the Australian Security Leaders Climate Group had some answers.

'Any security threat from China pales into insignificance compared to the national security threat posed by climate change', he said. 'The times of geopolitical rivalry must end. We need a fundamental reframing of Australia's defence and security strategy based on the threat of climate change'.

Risks, mitigation, preparedness

First, we need to make some tough decisions about not putting any more coal or coal seam gas emissions into the climate. And we need to do it now. We have at most three years to significantly lower emissions in this country and around the world.

Then we must adopt a national 'wartime mobilisation' response to the climate emergency.

'We all need to be part of the conversation around disaster risks, mitigation strategies and preparedness. We can't prepare for what we don't know and aren't being told,' said Ian.

Following the last federal election, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese rightly ordered Australia's first Climate-Security Risk Assessment, which was undertaken by the Office of National Intelligence and delivered to Cabinet in November 2022.

The report would likely provide an analysis of global and regional risks to Australia based on a sensible assessment of the climate science. We say 'likely' because we actually don't know. The Prime Minister's Office has refused to release a declassified version of the report, even though such reports were released in countries like the United States and the United Kingdom years ago.

'As any disaster management expert will tell you,' Ian said, 'to prepare, we need to know our risk.'

Jean Renouf agreed. 'Our communities and organisations like Plan C need to know our risk so our local preparedness and resilience training can be even better. So that we can face up together to the hard decisions that will inevitably need to be made.'

Ian Dunlop's final message was this: 'Our country needs to take unprecedented and most likely unpopular actions now. We must start with clear, transparent, reliable and shared information. It is time for the government to declassify and release the domestic security risks of the Office of National Intelligence's Climate-Security Risk Assessment. Politicians need to hear our communities adding their voices to this call.'

Jean agreed. 'This is an essential step to begin a national conversation about what we can do at all levels of our community to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, and adapt to global heating and climate change,' he said.

'We now need to know what all other levels of the 'team' know and what their plans are. We can't reel from one disaster to another without knowing the big picture context of climate security. Exactly what are we preparing for and how? Who will be by our sides and who will have our backs?'

Reducing the impact of lithium mining

Cosmos Magazine

A team of US researchers has found a more efficient and environmentally acceptable way to extract lithium from mines and seawater – with string.

The method, which just uses cellulose thread and water, is 20 times faster than conventional extraction methods.

'Our approach is cheap, easy to operate, and requires very little energy,' says Professor Zhiyong Jason Ren, a civil and environmental engineer at Princeton University, US, and senior author on a paper describing the research, published in Nature Water.

'It's an environmentally friendly solution to a critical energy challenge.'

One of the most common ways to mine lithium, particularly in South America, is to extract it from briny solutions on lithium-rich salt flats. This is done with massive evaporation ponds and can take months to produce a high enough concentration of lithium salts.

Then, additional chemical treatments are needed to separate out the lithium from other elements – particularly sodium, which is chemically similar to lithium.

Ren and colleagues' method taps into capillary action: water's tendency to move up in small spaces, because of adhesion and cohesion.

'We aimed to leverage the fundamental processes of evaporation and capillary action to concentrate, separate, and harvest lithium,' says Ren.

'We do not need to apply additional chemicals, as is the case with many



Salts crystallising off the strings. Photo by Bumper DeJesus

other extraction technologies, and the process saves a lot of water compared to traditional evaporation approaches.'

New method

It could even work on seawater, which has a lot of lithium in concentrations too low to be economically viable.

The new method uses a yarn made from cellulose. The researchers found four threads, twisted together and cut into 70cm strips, worked best.

After being soaked in pure water, the researchers hung 100 of the strings above solutions that mimicked either seawater (with a low concentration of sodium and lithium) or brine from Salar de Atacama in Chile (with higher concentrations of both elements).

The bottom 3cm of each string was immersed in the solutions, which allowed the string to soak up water via capillary action. After five days, with the solutions at the bottom being continually topped up, the strings were removed and dried.

Both the lithium and the sodium were soaked up onto the string with the water, but they stuck to the string at different points. Sodium crystallised lower on the string, while lithium crystallised higher.

Once dried, different sections of the string were washed with water, giving separate sodium- and lithium-rich solutions.

The researchers were able to yield liquids that were 39 times more concentrated in lithium than their initial mining brine, and 675 times more concentrated than their seawater. The strings could then be re-used.

'Our process is like putting an evaporation pond on a string, allowing us to obtain lithium harvests with a significantly reduced spatial footprint and with more precise control of the process,' says co-author Dr Sunxiang Zheng, previously a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton.

'If scaled, we may open up new vistas for environmentally friendly lithium extraction.'

Zheng is now launching a startup called PureLi Inc to develop the technology further.

'As a researcher, you know first hand that many new technologies are too expensive or difficult to scale,' says Zheng.

'But we are very excited about this one, and with some additional efficiency improvements, we think it has incredible potential to make a real impact on the world.'

■ Read more Cosmos articles on The Echo online: www.echo.net.au.

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The Adventures of Edward Herring

PART THREE

Clutching the address scribbled on the back of an advertising invoice given to him by Shimon, manager of the *Mullcogan Times*, Edward Herring makes his way to the Assembly meeting.

It occurs to him that using a pile of freshly printed invoices as scrap paper suggests either a reason for *The Times*'s financial difficulties or a token of great market strength. As the newspaper is his employer, now he has been wrenched from the comfort of *The Echo*, he is interested in which explanation applies.

The streets of Mullcogan have the dreamlike quality of being familiar and yet utterly strange. Not knowing any physics, but finding himself in this parallel universe, he mentally shrugs. Quantum, he supposes.

Edward does note some differences from his hometown back in Byron Shire. For one thing, many of the buildings spared by the floods appear to have been attacked by do-it-yourself architects. Extra storeys have been stacked on shops and offices, and annexes usurp the pavements. All this construction is residential, and occupied by very rich people, judging by the exotic sports cars and supersized limousines jostling for parking space in the narrowed streets. He cannot help but compare this influx with the crowd of homeless local people he interviewed earlier among the marble ruins of the Assembly chamber.

Today, however, the Assembly chamber is temporarily a meeting room above an organic produce shop, which he finds after some false starts. There is an aroma of ripe fruit wafting around the area, and a generally unfriendly atmosphere. The *Mullcogan Times* press pass Edward shows at the door gets a sneer from one of the security guards protecting proceedings from the public. His peaked cap is emblazoned with the rubric 'Meeting Enforcement' and the same red letters adorn his tunic.

Nevertheless, Edward is admitted and finds a seat at the back of the room. Unlike the defunct official Assembly chamber, this space is cramped, and when ten Assembly persons, a score of staff members and the mayor have crowded in, there is room left for only a dozen observers.

As the Assembly sorts itself out Edward looks at these outsiders. Most are concerned citizens and one is obviously the crank you get at every meeting, but the person sitting next to him is different. There's a notebook on their lap, a bottle wrapped in brown paper protruding from one dungaree pocket and a racing form guide stuffed in another.

'What are you looking at?' she says, the stub of a cigarette moving with her lips.



'A fellow journalist, I would judge. I'm here from *The Times*.' 'Shelley Cove Ripple, me.

Name's Kaylee.'

'Edward Herring.'

'Never heard of you. Who's the editor at *The Times* these days?'

'Well, I am, actually.'

The woman almost spat out her cigarette. 'Shimon must be going crazy.'

'Have you covered Assembly meetings before, Kaylee?'

'Nah, thought I'd try it out. I get bored with all the stories about real estate and beauty makeovers in the *Ripple*.'

The mayor, standing at a lectern on a makeshift platform a few feet above the rest of the room, bangs a gavel and calls the meeting to order. He straightens his ermine robes, raises his chin and turns his better profile towards the Assembly photographer.

'We are ready to begin. First item on the agenda please, Grand Vizier.'

'Grand Vizier?' whispers Edward to Kaylee, who responds by rolling her eyes.

'They do things differently here,' she says, not bothering to lower her voice.

■■■■■

Several mind-numbing hours later the Assembly comes to an emergency item, which is consideration of a letter received that day from a bureaucrat in the state capital.

The Grand Vizier, known in more modest polities as the shire clerk, clears his throat and prepares to read out parts of the letter, noting that as members of the public are present, he cannot read it in its entirety.

'Why not?' asks one of the Assemblypersons, who throughout the proceedings has seemed less somnolent than the rest. He is dressed like a mechanic, with a set of spanners distributed around his pockets.

A long, rambling word salad ensues, in which tumble phrases such as client confidentiality, staff morale, legal implications, commercial in confidence and other expressions meaning, 'We don't want to.'

When the Assemblypersons are properly cowed the Grand Vizier reads the portentous missive.

The gist is that the bureaucrat has decided all flood relief and mitigation measures are now the responsibility of local government. The Shelley Shire Assembly cannot refuse any development applications, even where building is proposed on flood plains and public parks. Furthermore, the Assembly must commit to increasing its housing stock by forty thousand homes within the next four years, or the shire will be taken over and run from the bureaucrat's office.

The mayor is the first to speak.

'Well, I think that is jolly reasonable, all things considered,' he says. 'We've been trying to get more development happening, now we can start in earnest.'

However, most people seem disturbed by the ultimatum, and reluctant to accept it.

The Assemblyperson who asked the question before stands up. 'This is a trap,' he says, 'we are being set up to fail.'

There are murmurs of agreement. Murmurs turn into growls, growls into shouts, and the Assembly members all start speaking out

of turn, together with loud interjections from the public. When it is clear that the mayor has lost control of the meeting, security hustles him out of the building, together with the staff.

'I don't suppose that was a typical meeting,' says Kaylee.

■■■■■

As he trudges back to the newspaper office, Edward wonders whether that was indeed a typical meeting in this strange doppelganger of a shire.

In his cosy existence at the *Byron Shire Echo*, he has covered many Council meetings. They are sedate, constructive affairs, where councillors strive to decide what is best for residents, and staff strive conscientiously to implement those decisions. Cowboy developers are not encouraged, roads and drains are meticulously maintained, selling off council land is unheard of, and the public good is always put before private interest.

In his home shire the mayor and his clerk are men of conspicuous ability, well able to resist the selfish influence of wealth and the persuasive manipulations of state government. In fact, a naked grab for power, such as contained in the letter read out in the Assembly, would be unthinkable. No bureaucrat in Edward's world would have the gall to send such a demand.

'Penny for them?'

With a start Edward realises he has sleepwalked back to his desk and sat down, still musing on what he has learned.

'I've heard the news,' Shimon continues, 'Kaylee stopped by and told me about the threat to the shire. At times like these I remember what our dear Founding Editor was wont to say.'

'Oh?' Edward doubts it would be as colourful as his Founding Editor's language.

'He said, politicians come in two flavours, good faith and bad faith. They're in the business either for the public or for themselves. Listen to the former and stick it up the latter.'

'How do you tell the difference?'

'I'm sorry, but it's not your problem any more, Herring. I've appointed Kaylee as editor. We're thinking of going big in the real estate market and she's just the person we need.'

■■■■■

Edward might have been dismayed by this, had not a severe muon wobble occurred at that moment, using 'moment' as shorthand for quantumistically WTF, and the so-called fifth force, which had been lurking around undiscovered since the creation of particles, shot him back to his own continuum. And here, and indeed there until we take the measurement, he remains. Or perhaps not.

Fresh Eyes on Byron Bay



A WORD FROM THE BYRON BAY CHAMBER

THE SEASON OF REJUVENATION

With the arrival of Spring in Byron, we welcome the season of rejuvenation with businesses focused on optimising profitability and growth as we anticipate an increase in visitation across the Byron Shire.

The slow winter period is often used for businesses to recalibrate and reset in preparation for peak season. We are seeing a lot of positive energy, with businesses addressing issues with the local visitor economy.

It's great that we have movement on the rail trail, and the monthly markets downtown have been a wonderful success for vendors and businesses.

The Byron Chamber is working with the NSW commissioner for night life and events to develop a strategy for Byron businesses to create a sustainable visitor economy all year round. This is a key priority as we believe collectively businesses can show leadership through local knowledge, expertise to leverage resources and infrastructure to grow together.



FEATURED CHAMBER BUSINESS

BYRON INSIDE OUT

Byron Inside Out is an in-room guide to Byron Bay, found on the coffee tables of hundreds of holiday lets. It contains everything guests need to know to make the most of their stay.

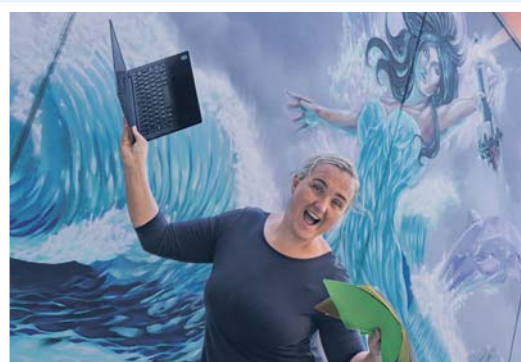
Listing artisan and farmers market days and local events, as well as featuring all the best places to eat, visit and enjoy, it inspires guests to enjoy all that's on offer.

Publisher Suzie Bradley has been living and working in Byron Bay for over 20 years and is passionate about helping local businesses connect with tourists. A digital version of the magazine allows guests to read a copy of the magazine on their device.

Byron Inside Out was proud to be a nominated finalist for the 'Outstanding Visitor Experience' Byron Bay Business Awards.

'As tourism is a significant economic driver for our region, we aim to encourage deeper visitor engagement within our region. By featuring local businesses and areas of interest, visitors are motivated to book tours, visit local stores and cafes, and explore our stunning region.'

@byroninsideout



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LEGEND PIZZA

\$15 Large Pizza, \$5 Beers!

The Legends Happy Hours are now running this Spring Special in conjunction with their \$15 Large Pizza nights! Get yourself a large Margherita, Pepperoni, Cheese or Hawaiian Legend for just \$15 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 3pm! Beers from Wandana, Stone & Wood and more just \$5 from 3pm to 5pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

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2/3 Marvell St, Byron Bay



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Welcome to The Hum, a local wholefood cafe directly opposite Main Beach. With a made-from-scratch ethos, their delicious juices, smoothies, salads, dressings and sauces are all made fresh!

They also offer great coffee, acai, classics, and everything in between. The menu is available to either 'takeout or hangout' with Pegs accepted on any purchase.

Open seven days 7am to 2.30pm

2/14 Bay St, Byron Bay
thehumco.com.au



Fresh Eyes on Byron Bay





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02 6680 8121
4/55 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay



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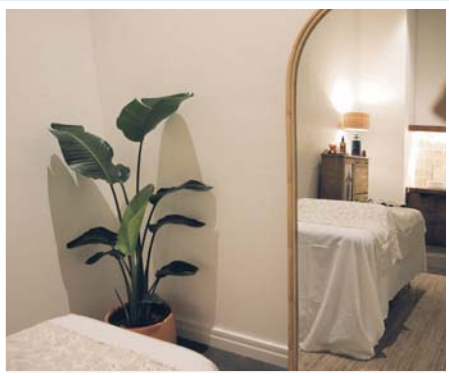
Open Mon-Sat
02 6685 5515
Suite 7/6 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
byronosteo.com.au



SUFFOLK FISH AND CHIPS

Suffolk Fish and Chips is your local takeaway shop serving traditional Aussie fish and chips alongside a rippa burger menu. They're open Wednesday to Sunday from 12pm to 8pm. Make Wednesdays even better with their \$10 Fish and Chip Special. See you in Suffo! They're now hiring juniors for summer. Join the team and start training to be summer ready.

3 Clifford Street, Suffolk Park
(next to Spar)
@suffolk_fishandchips



BYRON MASSAGE CLINIC

Byron Massage Clinic is a multi-modality clinic in Byron Bay. Their experienced practitioners offer remedial massage, Bowen, sports massage and relaxation massage.

They can help with pain management, injury treatment, or simply support your nervous system with relaxation.

Winter couples special. 2 x 1 hour massages \$120pp. Health fund rebates available.

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6/4 Bay Lane, Byron Bay
byronmassageclinic.com.au



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0426 260 943
13 Lawson Street, Byron Bay
barefootblvd.com.au
info@barefootblvd.com.au



NUHA COLLECTIVE

Nuha Collective is a multi-modality clinic in Byron Bay. The professionally trained and registered practitioners offer acupuncture, Chinese medicine, facial rejuvenation, acutonics, remedial, deep tissue and relaxation massage.

The clinic specialises in pain management, sports injuries, woman's health and nervous system repair.

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nuhacollective.com.au



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125 Jonson St, Byron Bay
leoterrando.com
Instagram: @leoterrando



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capebyrondistillery.com

Fresh Eyes on Byron Bay



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82 Rajah Rd, Ocean Shores
@nobonesrestaurants



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ottwaythelabel.com
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Shop 3/ 130 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
orbitecodrycleaning.com.au



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3/21 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
sunrisewindowtinting.com.au



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02 6190 8966
11 Ewingsdale Rd, Ewingsdale
(entrance off Woodford Lane)
threeblueducks.com/byron



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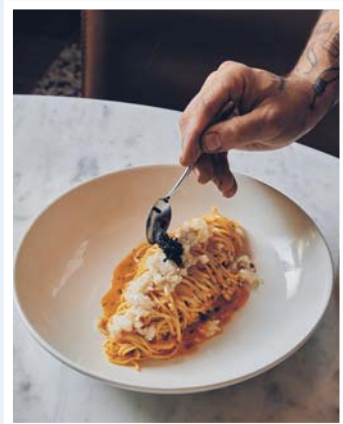


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pixiebyronbay.com.au

Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BYRON BAY

Barrio Eatery & Bar

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

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

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OCEAN SHORES
82 Rajah Road
0422 355 928

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www.nobones.co

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Jonson St. Byron Bay
Insta – @thequartzgallery
Web – quartzgallery.com.au

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12 midday until dinner.
Menu, more details –
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18 Jonson Street
6680 8832

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www.facebook.com/
pages/Success-Thai-Food/237359826303469

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5614 8656

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Newrybar NSW 2479
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www.harvest.com.au
@harvestnewrybar

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RESTAURANT

Lunch | Wed–Sun | 12–2.30pm
Dinner | Fri & Sat | 5.30–8.30pm

DELI

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CATERING

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GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR

Good Life

Dinner and a show: live jazz at Bar Heather



As the colder months push through, there's one place in town to find solace with dinner and a show; the quiet, dimly lit corners of Byron Bay's Bar Heather. Tucked away in Jonson Lane, Bar Heather is the newly open Parisian-inspired restaurant from the team behind Luna Wine Store and chef Ollie Wong-Hee (Sixpenny, Western Sydney).

Push through the red velvet curtains and step inside to find a spot along the cosy, dark green leather banquettes or the mortadella-coloured horseshoe bar that sits proudly in the centre of the room. From the kitchen Wong-Hee takes inspiration from some of the abundant and most vibrant produce available in the region, with a long and wine-friendly snack section leading into substantial, hearty-but-delicate cooking.

Take for example their new addition to the menu; organic chicken from Richmond Valley Pastures, dotted with king oyster mushroom from local farm Shroom Bros, Japanese parsley and a locally made mushroom shoyu (soy sauce) with late winter truffles from nearby Ebor, NSW. Alternatively, you can wrangle up the pork and betel leaf, a do-it-yourself lettuce cup with bouncing pork mince, local betel from Boon Luck Farm charred on the hibachi and served up with a punchy fermented pineapple condiment and house pickles.

This of course all comes hand-and-hand with considerable choices to make on the wine front, with a 700+ wine list leaving only the question of what best to drink next.

Although Bar Heather is open Tuesday-Saturday (5pm-late), it's Thursday nights that have become a local favourite with a rotation of local jazz trios and outfits busting out smooth and sultry jazz tunes to the diners nearby. Be sure to reserve yourself a table this coming Thursday to see what it's all about as this might be the kind of dinner and a show worth not missing out on.

Reservations via www.barheather.com.



Benchtop Espresso x E.S.P. Espresso Bar

Benchtop Espresso has long been a local's favourite in the Northern Rivers – they are particularly loved for their great coffee and speedy, welcoming service.

After months of behind-the-scenes brewing, Benchtop Espresso announced in August 2023 that a new local jewel has joined forces with Benchtop Espresso; E.S.P. Espresso Bar in Alstonville.

This cosy espresso bar has long been a hub for the Alstonville community to come together and enjoy great coffee and tasty treats, and new owner/manager, Gera Davidson, is keen to honour its long tradition while introducing some of Benchtop Espresso's favourite menu items to the espresso bar over the coming months.

'We both use the same beans from Ground Control Coffee, so the transition to being a joint operation has been very smooth,' says Gera. 'We are now gradually

increasing our food offerings as well as maintaining the great vibe and speed E.S.P. is known for.'

The common values and passion for great coffee and community shared between E.S.P. Espresso Bar and Benchtop Espresso over the years are what drew Gera in.

E.S.P. is currently open Monday-Saturday, 6am-1pm with a view to extending those hours further in the future.

Already, Gera and the combined Benchtop Espresso and E.S.P. Espresso Bar family have received a very warm welcome from the Alstonville community. In Gera's words, 'It's an honour to be a part of the Alstonville community and to see everyone's smiling faces each morning.'

Make sure you follow E.S.P. on Instagram, so you'll always know what's coming up! 76 Main St, Alstonville. Insta and Facebook @esp_espresso.



Heart & Halo at markets

Victoria Cosford

Is there a more loving – and beloved – farmers' market stall-holder than Tusta Das?

I first met the chef and owner of Heart & Halo back when he opened his restaurant in Byron Bay some 18 years ago, interviewing him

for a story in this newspaper. Here we are again, a little older, the restaurant no longer ('the parking meters really affected us,' Tusta says), as a steady stream of fans stop by to either purchase one of his frozen meals or to merely chat.

It's a simple stall with six menu offerings – all vegetarian – mostly lentils, butcher paper to enclose the containers, recipes learned by Tusta during the years he spent in India. As a wild youth he had travelled there, experienced a sort of epiphany, became a Hare Krishna, cooked alongside women in their homes and in ashrams. 'I realised,'

he tells me, 'that this is what I was looking for.'

Everyone is charmed by Tusta, including two sisters with matching smiles. 'You're a real-life Krishna,' one of them tells him. 'I'm a free-wheeling Krishna,' he jokes. What he loves most about the farmers' markets is the social interaction, the sense of family community, the love. His food is an expression of that love and it's Ayurvedic, meaning that nothing is processed 'apart from a little bit of sunflower oil.' Here's a man requesting three serves of the Spinach and Ricotta Lasagna ('the kids will only eat this

lasagna!' he tells Tusta). To another customer he extols the virtues of lentils: 'they're good for the mind and emotions as well as the gut... the answers to the world's problems are lentils and beans!'

I come away with that famous lasagna as well as the Indian Mixed Lentil Dhal, for my lentil-loving partner – who later praises it lavishly. **Heart & Halo is at Mullumbimby Farmers Market on Fridays from 7 to 11am.**

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COFFEE SHOP

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BUILDING BUSINESS & COMMUNITY



The recharge of the Chinny Charge

Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome back the annual Chinny Charge race up their local mountain, Mount Chincogan.

The race was started as a fundraiser for the Mullumbimby Swimming Pool and the first race was run in 1960, when local Colin Creighton came in second. He ran again in the second Chinny Charge in 1967 and won.

'The year I won it I was cutting cane at Wooyung,' said Colin. 'I was pretty fit because of the cane cutting, but I had to run barefoot because a few days before I'd cut my foot and had four stitches in it.'

Colin then took on the official duty of opening the 2017 Chinny Charge when it was restarted that year by the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce. This year Gill Lomath will be starting the race for under -12s at 1pm, and at 2pm for 12+. Walkers will start at 2pm after the main race heads off.

Beautiful walk

Jenelle also reminded the local community that this is a great chance for anyone interested in climbing the mountain to enjoy the beautiful views.

'Previously we've had lots of people who enjoyed a lovely afternoon walking up the mountain for the first time,' said Jenelle.

'Walkers just need to remember that they need to be off the mountain by 5pm so that emergency services and volunteers can finish cleaning up and also come down off the mountain.' Everyone is reminded that no dogs are allowed.

Sustainable event

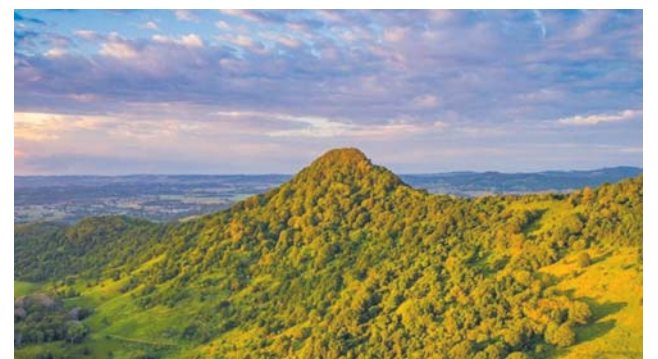
The Chinny Charge is once again an environmentally sustainable event, with runners and walkers encouraged to take their own water bottles that they can recharge at water stations along the way.

'We will have a number of water stations along the way where we supply biodegradable cups and people can fill their water bottles. We are asking anyone who is running or walking in the event not to take single-use plastics onto the mountain,' said Jenelle.

'We restarted this great community event in 2017 after a 16-year hiatus to bring the community together and celebrate,' said Chamber president Jenelle Stanford.

The previous fastest record for the Chincogan Charge was 29 minutes and 51 seconds by Matthew Kaluda from Manilla in 1994; that was broken in 2017 by Benjamin Duffus, who ran the race in a mere 29 minutes and 11 seconds.

'The local NSW Fire and Rescue in Mullum, (Station 388), police, local businesses and community come together to put this event on. There is a food stall provided by Mullumbimby Primary School, drinks are available at the Ex-Services Club, and locals get a once-a-year opportunity to take a run or walk up their local Mount Chincogan,' said Jenelle.



Register:


There are 500 spaces for runners and walkers on the day with half the spaces already taken up.

Remember to register by 9am Friday morning (\$50 for racers or \$25 for walkers) because it is \$75 on the day.

To book a place, visit www.eventwizards.com.au.

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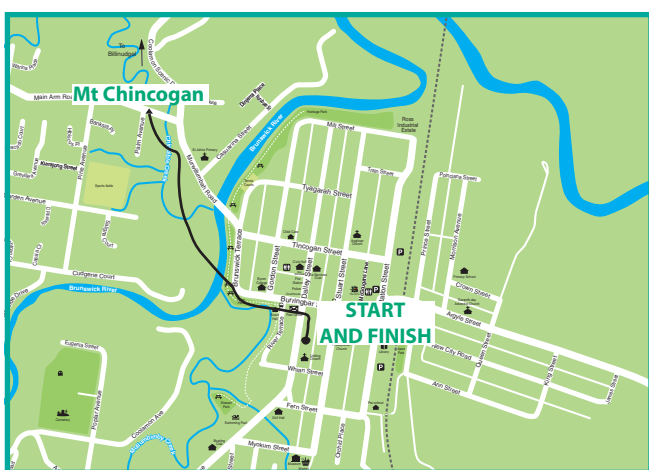


CHINGOGAN MECHANICAL

BJ & ML Lang
10 Smith St Mullumbimby
6684 3797



Saturday 16TH SEPTEMBER 2023



CHECKLIST

Road closures

Coolamon Scenic Drive will be closed from the Main Arm Road turn-off to the entrance to the base of the mountain from 12 till 5pm on the day.

Prices

\$25 to walk
\$50 to compete
Registration on day \$75.
Book online at www.eventwizards.com.au

Children

Participants 12-years-and-under can only go to the base.

Race kit

Your race kit, including your race bib with timing chip attached will be available for pickup at the race start at Civic Hall in Dalley St, Mullumbimby, from 11.30am till 12.45pm.

Start time and place

Main race: departing from outside the Mullumbimby fire station at 2pm.
Children's challenge: (to the base of the mountain) starting at 1pm.

Entertainment

While the event is underway, directly in front of the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club will be family-friendly fun and entertainment, including food and drinks.

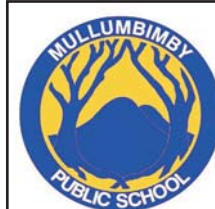
Mullumbimby Public School P&C are having a bbq, selling refreshments.

Please be courteous to the amazing vollies!

A message from NSW Fire and Rescue

It's great to see the Chincogan Charge back again. Our off-duty fire fighters will be back up on the mountain volunteering their time as first-aiders for those participating in the 2023 charge.

You'll also see our firefighters at the race start line, which is right in front of the fire station. We're currently recruiting for on-call fire fighters, so we'll be keeping a look out for fit members of the community coming back down off the mountain.

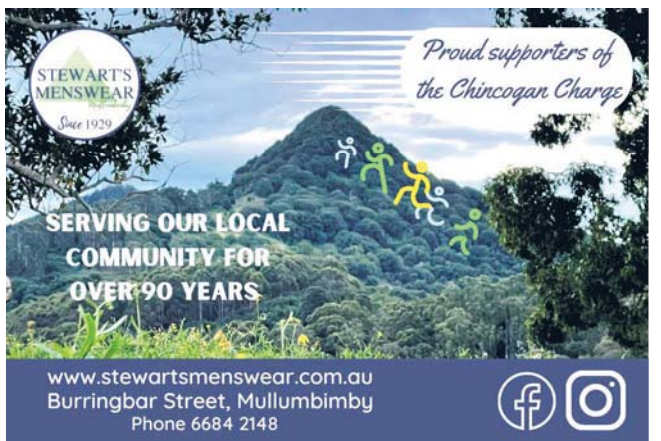


Mullumbimby Public School P&C

will be serving delicious food including sausage sizzle, sushi, snacks and drinks



Come join us on the grass near the Fire Station and be a part of this great community event!



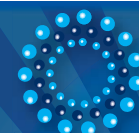
ALL THINGS 2024 IN STORE NOW

including calendars and diaries, and a great new range of candles and diffusers just in.

CHECK OUT THE NEW RANGE.
It's great to see the Chincogan Charge happening again!

Mullumbimby Newsagency
NEWSPAPER

44 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby • 02 6684 2127



Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club

**Proud Sponsor of
The Chincogan Charge**

Live music supporting original artists
Conference, meeting, function facilities.

Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club | **Club Mullum**
58 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby | 6684 2533

Come on down after the race!



We are an accredited local FAMILY/GP OBSTETRICS & GENERAL PRACTICE, and we pride ourselves on striving to provide the best quality of care that we can for all stages of our patients' lives, from pre-birth to end of life.

Open Mon-Fri, 8am to 5pm
2/14 Mullumbimbi Street, Brunswick Heads
02 6685 1742

www.brunswickheadsmedicalcentre.com



Brunswick Valley Historical Society Inc.

OPENING TIMES
Tuesdays & Fridays
10am-12pm
3rd Saturday-Market Day
9am-1pm

By appointment 02 6684 4367
admin@mullumbimbymuseum.org.au
mullumbimbymuseum.org.au



17 Myokum St Mullumbimby



**MULLUM
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3rd Saturday
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02 66 843370

PROUDLY SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY EVENTS



**62 Burringbar Street
PH 6684 2207**



The SCOOP

MR MAC: SERVING THE BYRON SHIRE SINCE 2001

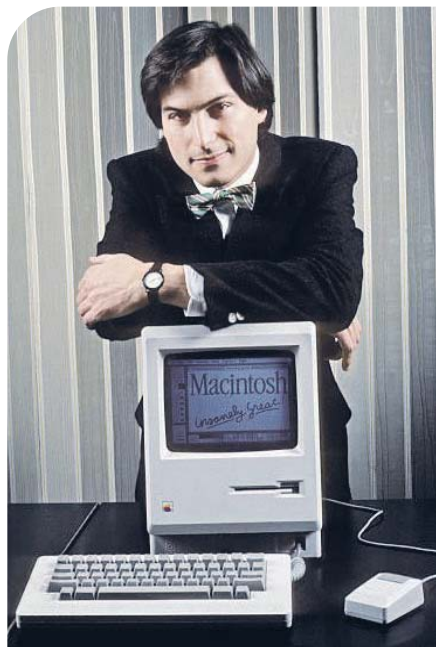
Got issues with your Mac computer or Apple device?

Dave 'Mr Mac' is here to help you with your digital life. Computer systems do need periodic maintenance, and a tune-up can work wonders with the efficiency of your Mac.

If you're not getting the best out of your Apple devices, call Dave to organise an appointment – either at yours or at the Brunswick Heads workshop.

You may need help with iCloud advice, backups, system space or email issues. Maybe a laptop battery replacement or desktop RAM upgrade is needed.

To organise a booking, call or text 0418 408 869, or use the contact form at www.mrmacintosh.com.au
Mr Mac is also on Facebook (Mr Macintosh) or Instagram (@mrmacbyronbay).



BYRON BAY ROTARY CLUB

With community at heart, Rotary Byron Bay focuses on projects relevant to the people and places around them. In Byron Shire, that includes environment, especially threats to our food production.

Following inspiration from friends at ACT for Bees, they're in the early stages of a pollinator friendly project, supporting the pollination process so vital to our food production. Fire, flood, pesticides, urbanisation and disease are wiping out hard working pollinators, who desperately need help to rest and recharge.

A club member has developed some Bee Hotel prototypes that can be made and decorated by children as a class activity in learning about pollination. It's a double win. Kids learn how much insect effort goes into veggies and pollinators get a hotel to rest in. That's an Air Bee n Bee we can welcome.

Colin McJannett: cmcjannett@gmail.com
www.byronbayrotary.org.au

CA CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

Building, developing, buying property? Before you sign a building contract, let CA Construction Management provide advice to ensure you gain the best understanding of the risks and responsibilities. They provide advice to property buyers seeking future development potential, offer concise detail on restrictions and offer guidance on building and land entitlement. Their extensive experience in the building industry provides clients with guidance on their construction and development projects, offering sound purchase due diligence advice, potential development opportunities, facilitating design & approval processes, and managing construction contractors through to completion. Affiliated with Castrikum Adams Legal and Bangalow Conveyancing, their businesses undertake the complete suite of property transactions, along with construction and development project management. Complex property matters, conveyancing, easements, construction contracts, progress claims, completion inspections – they are there for you.

www.caconstructionmanagement.com.au
0411 575 991
Suite 2/5 Lismore Rd, Bangalow



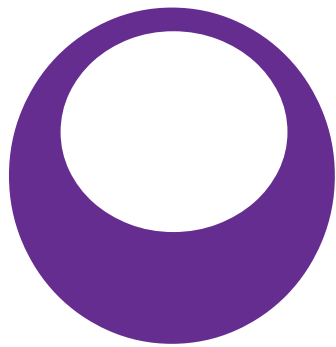
BYRON BAY FAMILY LAW AND MEDIATION

With over 25 years of experience, Byron Bay Family Law and Mediation Specialists focus exclusively on family law matters. Founder Vanessa Mathews, an accredited family law specialist, dispute resolution practitioner, and mediator, understands the complexities and stresses of family legal issues. The practice covers parenting and financial concerns, including custody arrangements, prenuptial agreements, and property settlements.

As a Northern Rivers local and secretary to the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce, Vanessa is sensitive to the community's needs. She combines her extensive family law knowledge with a compassionate approach to resolve your legal relationship issues efficiently and affordably.

Vanessa is available for family law advice and mediation services.

Contact them for a free phone consultation at 1300 635 529 or email enquiries@byronbayfamilylaw.com.au.



BELL & FORD

Spring has arrived and Bell & Ford's stores in Byron Bay and Bangalow are overflowing with their new season collections.

All of their favourite labels including Frockk, Muse and Dve are available in beautiful spring colours and styles that are so flattering for all ages and really suit our relaxed lifestyle.

They also have stunning gold and silver jewellery with semi-precious stones, all handmade locally by the lovely Chattral, as well as gorgeous leather bags and wallets by Juju and Co and a wide selection of bags handwoven in Madagascar by French company Sans Arcidet.

There are so many beautiful things to see! Pop in and say hello 7 days a week.

3/ 111 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
44 Byron Street, Bangalow
02 6685 7095



MY GEEK MATE

Good news – Mark the chief geek at My Geek Mate is back from his quinquennial trip to the UK (via Hong Kong), the shop is open again and the free 'Be Connected' digital literacy classes are back on for anyone aged 50 or over.

It's a 1.5hr session in a maximum class size of 3 humans - sponsored by the Australian Government. Currently, there are many spaces available, so don't miss out, please call Mark and book in or book on his website (if you're up to it).

Alternatively, if you need private tech support or tuition Mark is available for that too. Parking is free, still no potholes. Please call Mark on 0431 122 057 or pop in and see him at 1/53 Tamar St, Ballina.

www.mygeekmate.com.au

SOLAR PANEL ADVANCEMENTS

Recently some of the Tier 1 solar panel manufacturers have made a move to using N-Type silicon crystal which is more efficient and has slower degradation than the mainstream P-Type crystal.

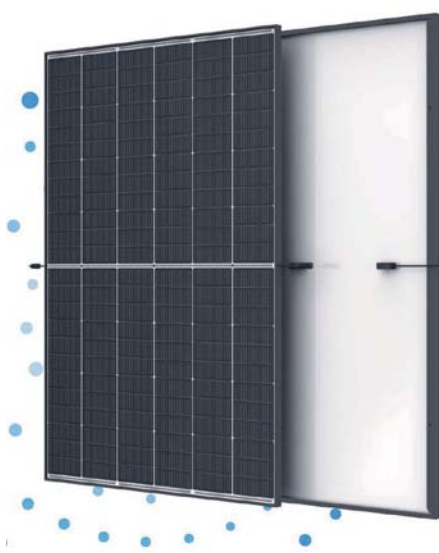
N-Type silicon also has a lower temperature coefficient so it will perform better in very hot and cold conditions.

Another big development is the transition to dual glass panels. Both the front and back of the panel is a hardened glass, making the panel stronger and eliminating the EVA back sheets, which degrade and deteriorate over time.

The use of N-Type crystal plus having dual glass means these panels will perform better for much longer.

At Coastwide Solar they use the Trina Vertex S+ dual glass panel, which has a 30-year performance warranty.

1300 776 446
www.coastwidesolar.com.au



BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Term 4 is coming! And it's all about the new at Byron College.

With a special focus on new business, Davina Bambrick (experienced entrepreneurship facilitator and accredited trainer in business studies) is leading the way with these fee-free* workshops in Managing Finances, Developing a Digital Footprint, Branding & Social Media, Investigating New Opportunities and start-up requirements.

And don't miss the ChatGPT & AI and Social Media masterclasses with media & marketing expert Kylie Mowbray-Allen.

For something completely different, get the festivities started early with some floral fun in Knitted Wire Christmas Art, Festive Florals, Rustic Christmas Wreath, Handmade Paper & Plantable Festive Bonbons and Living Succulent Wreath classes!

Head to www.byroncollege.org.au or call 6684 3374 to learn more!

***This training is subsidised by the NSW Government. RTO 90013**

SEVEN



ALECTURA FROM THE CARTEL

Tijuana Cartel, the renowned Australian musical collective celebrated for their pioneering fusion of diverse genres, proudly presents their latest masterpiece, *Alectura*. This innovative album once again showcases the band's expertise in blending organic house and melodic house with captivating rhythms, beats, and global influences.

For the key creative forces behind the band, **Paul George** and **Carey O'Sullivan** *Alectura* serves as a testament to their profound musical connection and shared vision. Their collaboration has flourished over time, and this maturity resonates throughout every note of the album.

Guitarist and lead vocalist Paul George reflects on the creative process saying that the creation of *Alectura* has been a captivating journey.

Carey O'Sullivan, the man behind beats, keys and the stunning visuals that accompany their live show says that working with Paul on *Alectura* has been a truly enriching experience. 'Our co-writing relationship has evolved remarkably, allowing us to explore new creative territories, experiment with new sounds, and compose an album that reflects our musical ethos.'

Alectura offers an immersive experience, inviting listeners to lose themselves in its exceptional sonic landscapes, whether amidst a pulsating dancefloor, or in the tranquillity of their own space, ensnared by the intricacy of the album's layers.

O'Sullivan says that as an album, *Alectura* caters to both those who seek to dance and those who yearn to drift away. 'You can surrender yourself to the beat or you can get lost in your headphones, letting the music carry you away. It's designed to cater to every mood and moment.'

Tijuana Cartel eagerly awaits the response to *Alectura* from their devoted fans and the broader music community. 'We can't wait to share this album that epitomises our extraordinary musical journey.'

'We hope that our fans will connect with it – and the journey we've had the past couple of years creating it – as deeply as we have,' says George.

Alectura is available on all major streaming and purchase platforms now. **See Tijuana Cartel perform the Alectura tour on Saturday, 16 September at The Northern.**

FROZEN IN THE BRIGHT LIGHTS

Bright Lights Performance School's Senior Musical Theatre Troupe proudly presents *Frozen JR*, the enchanting modern classic from Disney, based on the 2018 Broadway musical.

Frozen JR brings Elsa, Anna and the magical land of Arendelle to the stage and to life. The show features all of the memorable songs from the animated film, plus new songs written for the Broadway production. The Bright Lights' Senior Musical Theatre troupe are a talented and enthusiastic group of performers and are certain to do justice to this popular and classic production.

Performances are to be held at the Byron Theatre on Friday, 29 September at 2pm and 7pm, and on Saturday, 7 October at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets are selling quickly and are available from the Byron Theatre website: byroncentre.com.au.



Bright Lights Senior Musical Theatre Show 'Frozen'

Bright Lights Performance School proudly presents the classic and much-loved Disney and Broadway production of *Frozen JR*.

Performances are to be held at the Byron Theatre on Friday, September 29 at 2pm and 7pm and on Saturday October 7 at 2pm and 7pm.

Tickets are selling quickly and are available from the Byron Bay Community Centre website.
byroncentre.com.au



GETTING THEIR HAWAIIAN DANCE ON

The Cancer Council are very pleased to be bringing back the *Stars of Northern Rivers* dance spectacular event on 14 October. As part of the program, all 9 of the stars have risen to the challenge of learning a dance to perform on stage to fundraise for cancer.

One of the amazing stars – **Linda Kelly** is teaming up with her dance teacher, *The Echo's* own Stargazer **Lilith Rocha**, and together they will be hosting a special 'Dancing with Aloha' fundraiser on **16 September**. This event will be a fun, community, family-friendly dance with proceeds going to cancer research.

Dancing with Aloha – a Hawaiian-style fundraiser for cancer will be held at Marvell Hall, 37 Marvell St, Byron Bay, from 3pm on Saturday, 16 September.

Tickets are available at the door (until sold out) or online at: events.humanitix.com/dancing-with-aloha.

Entry **\$25** includes a hula lesson with **Byron Bay Hula**, performances by the **Mana Aloha Troupe** and students, a singing and ukulele workshop with **Shelly Brown** and learning a Polynesian song with **Cindia Luz**.



SING FOR THE VOICE!

Come and learn three songs in support of the YES 23 campaign.

DATES: Thursdays 14, 21, 28 September and 5 October.

TIME: 5.15pm to 6.15pm

VENUE: Mullumbimby Creek

By donation.

Support The Voice to Parliament in song.

Janet Swain from Song Dynasty Music will teach us three songs to inspire hearts and minds.

We can sing them loud and proud at a Voice event plus screening of the iconic **Rabbit Proof Fence** at Brunswick Picture House on Monday 9 October.

The three songs are The Bridge (Yirrmal), Voice Treaty Truth (Suze Pratten) and If Not Now (Paul Kelly)

Enquiries and bookings: Mishaela 0438 858 842
www.songdynastymusic.com





A TASTE OF LOVE AT TYALGUM

Guided by some of the best presenters on sex, love and consciousness in the world, organisers of the *Taste of Love Festival* say this is a safe space for you to grow.

Seven spoke to festival director **Marion Ellyard**, who says it is the profound wisdom of tantra that has inspired herself and her team to create a place where everyone can come together, to learn, to witness, to connect in a wonderfully held space.

How did you come up with the idea for a festival?

The idea to run a tantra festival was widely inspired by already existing international festivals and events – it made sense to create a space where it would be easy for many people to get to know different types of modalities and facilitators, and experience them directly to know what it's all about.

The platform of a festival offers over 35 shorter workshops – you could say it's like an introductory weekend that's heaps of fun but that can also be very transformative.

Some people are very shy or awkward when it comes to the subject of sex – how can this type of event help?

Different festivals have a different focus. This festival offers a focus on embodiment. That means we work a lot with the body, learning its language, needs, desires – learning to be a team between our body and our mind, to create wholesome balance. So although tantra does not mean only a sexual exploration at all it does contain certain teachings to enhance sexuality and has sexual practices that help us to feel the magic connection of the self with everything.

At this festival we offer workshops from facilitators that have explored these realms for many, many years and share their findings through exercises that are practised in tightly-held, safe containers with codes of ethics, consent, boundaries, respect and rules.

Which presenters are you really looking forward to experiencing and why?

Natalie Abraham is coming to us from Thailand and is a certified somatic therapist who also runs a radio talk show.

One of Natalie's greatest creations, 'Dancing Into Tantra', has become an internationally acclaimed experience.

This is a journey into the unique arts of intimacy and is a life-changing, pattern-breaking, intimacy-creating experience – a journey of self-expression through movement.

Alexander Holmes is a registered practitioner of Ayurvedic medicine, traditional Chinese medicine, acupuncture, kinesiology, body work, nutrition, and medical intuition. Further, he has a background in energy sciences such as Qi Gong, breathwork, trauma work, tantric yoga, Taoist and Hindu traditional tantra, and is a registered member of the Kundalini Support Network. He is bringing a workshop called 'The Rhythm of Sex: Fundamentals of Sexual Cultivation'. This workshop will highlight the energetic importance of cultivating sexual energy.

What are you hoping people will experience at the festival?

I am very positive that people attending the festival will experience what we call

Taste of Love festival director Marion Ellyard



'a taste of love'. Even if you go, and feel it's not for you to move around, dance and get massages you will feel the well-meaning genuine nature of the people who are drawn to this experience.

We are drug and alcohol-free, it's a live-in event so it's very relaxing to rest there, eat well and there are wonderful nature walks, waterfalls, a pool and a big fire to enjoy as well.

Taste of Love Tantra Festival runs from 28 September to 2 October at Tyalgum. Visit: tasteoflove.com.au for information and tickets.

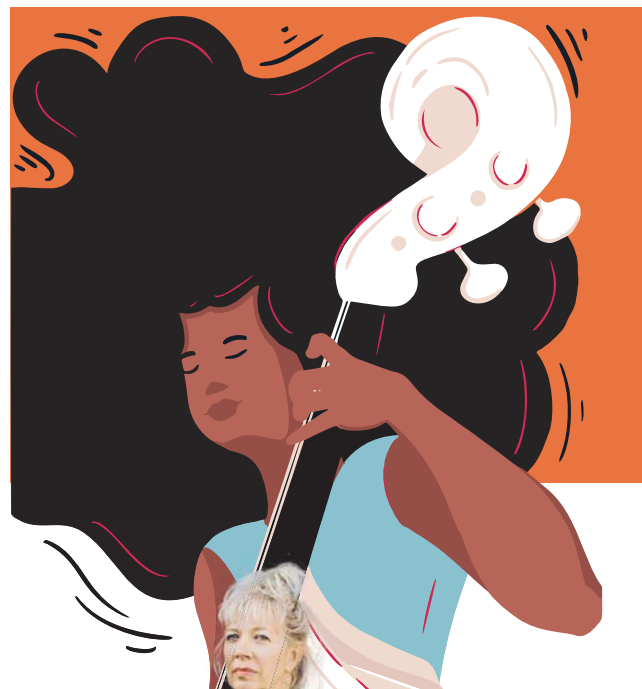


GOLD COAST CHAMBER ORCHESTRA PRESENTS Classical Gems with conductor Chen Yang

Sunday 24th September 2.30pm
Murwillumbah Civic Centre
10-14 Tumbulgum Road
Murwillumbah
Adults \$45
Concession \$40
Students \$20
Students under 18 free

Champagne and afternoon tea included!

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



SING FOR THE VOICE

Do you want to learn three great, simple and inspiring songs to perform at **Brunswick Picture House** on **Monday 9 October**, before the screening of the iconic film **Rabbit Proof Fence**?

The songs are 'The Bridge', by **Yirrmal**, 'Voice!' by local songwriter **Suze Pratten**, and 'If Not Now', by **Paul Kelly**. Rehearsals for this event will be led by **Janet Swain**, a local songwriter and choir leader, who knows that singing together is one of the fastest and most fun ways to create lasting and resilient communities, and will **run over four Thursdays from 14 September to 5 October** at **The Paddock** in Mullumbimby from **5.15pm to 6.15pm**.

BYO musical instruments, or just your big voice. Register your interest by contacting Mishaela mishaelamarie@gmail.com.

THOUGHT PROVOKING STUFF

Every weekday BayFM has shows to fire your synapses, including Make a Change, Eco Futures, Wirritjin, Belly, In the Driver's Seat, Roadtrip, Bohemian Beat and Arts Canvass. Check our online Program Guide for details.

More at bayfm.org

SEVEN



SPRING FAIR – A WONDERFUL DAY FOR ALL THE FAMILY



The renowned *Cape Byron Steiner School Spring Fair* is an absolutely wonderful day out for all the family. This unmissable event is taking place this coming **Saturday, 16 September** and the school is inviting the local community to join in once again in celebrating the start of spring.

Saturday's festivities will take place between **10am and 3pm** with highlights including live music (you'll probably spy a few famous faces among the musicians), a vintage clothing stall, a Ninja Warrior course, a soccer shootout competition, a variety of wonderful teen craft activities (like tote bag painting) a retro photo booth, Steiner-inspired gifts and crafts, an unbelievably generous raffle, a huge array of international cuisine and delicious cakes, chai and desserts served all day long for unbeatable prices.

For the little ones there is a crystal dig, the famous puppet show, clay workshops and silk painting. And for your belly, you'll find a culinary adventure on 'Eat Street'. Take your pick of Indian curries, jackfruit tacos, Mexican plates, falafel bowls or juicy gourmet burgers and smokin' hot BBQ. Then head up to 'The Cafe On



The Green' for dessert and choose from an extraordinary selection of cakes, slices, chocolate strawberries and gelato. And all the while, keep your cool with shaved ice, lemonade or fresh coconuts. Does it get much better?

Every year there is a special theme for the Spring Fair. This year the theme is *Under One Sun* – a collective prayer of unity, warmth, new beginnings and hope. It's a new dawn on a new day in a new season with a fresh zephyr wind and the warm dew rising after the still, quiet winter. And we are here rising – blossoming, learning and growing – together ... under one sun.

So come and join with the school community on Saturday – it's going to be a beautiful day. You will of course also enjoy a wide variety of live music all day long – from class orchestras to our wonderful 'Ensemble Della Mar', bands and acoustic vocals. There's even a songwriting competition (open to all local high school students) which is an opportunity for any high school student in the area to highlight their passion and skill for music.

You may join the school tour (at midday) to learn more about the



beautiful school. And if you feel particularly inspired, there is even a student work exhibition - a display of the unique and meaningful way that students learn and express themselves.

Or if you prefer sitting peacefully, grab a cup of tea and take a break in the cosy knitting tent and contribute to the community initiative of knitting squares (to form a lovely blanket for a family in need) or just wander around aimlessly soaking up the music, laughter and springtime good vibes. There truly is something for everyone this Saturday. Come fill your hearts (and your bellies).

Does this sound like something you want to enjoy? Great! Put it in your diary 'en toute hâte'. **This Saturday, 16 September 10am-3pm.**

Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School is a Steiner school located in the natural environment of Ewingsdale. You will find the school at 216 Balraith Lane but for your ease you are encouraged you to park at The Farm and catch the free shuttle bus (running 9.30am to 3.30pm). The school community can't wait to see you on Saturday – please bring *all* your friends. This will be a fair to remember.

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

TIJUANA CARTEL
WITH THE IMPRINTS & WREN
SAT 16 SEPT, 8PM
THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY
TIJUANACARTEL.COM



GIG GUIDE

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



CINEMA



IT'S GREEK AND IT'S FAT FULL OF FUN

From writer and director Nia Vardalos, the worldwide phenomenon *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*'s third instalment was released to the wild last Friday and is screening in Palace Cinemas this week with a brand-new adventure.

Join the Portokalos family, headed up by Toula Portokalos-Miller (**Vardalos**) and Ian Miller (**John Corbett**) as they travel with their kin to a family reunion in Greece – a heartwarming and hilarious trip full of love, twists and turns. Opa!

Sadly, Kostas 'Gus' Portokalos (**Michael Constantine**) has passed away – in the movie and IRL. Apparently, Gus's last wish was for his family to visit his childhood village and reconnect with their roots. So, they're heading to Greece.

Everything from Auntu Voula bringing a large tray of souvlaki onto the plane to the entire family having to bunk down in one room, with the goats and chickens, to meeting a woman who says they are related because Toula's 'papa's papa was married to her great, great yaya's sister's sister-in-law'. Cousins!

There is young love, old love, more goats, more chickens, an old Greek woman who doesn't understand the concept of vegetarianism, and the mouthwatering backdrop of Athens to showcase a great ensemble cast of Louis Mandylor, Elena Kampouris, Gia Carides, Joey Fatone, Lainie Kazan, and Andrea Martin – there's even someone called Aristotle!

You can get your fill of this fat edition of the *My Big Fat Greek Wedding* franchise at Palace Cinemas in Ballina and Byron Bay this week. palacecinemas.com.au.

WEDNESDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OLE FALCOR**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **PHIL HOWELL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATT ARMATAGE**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **IAN BALL & BEN OTTEWELL**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM **LIVE POETS**

THURSDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASPER O'MALEY**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ROD MURRAY – A TRIBUTE TO JAZZ**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **MARK HEAZLETT**
- LENNOX HEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE **YOUTH CONCERT – SURF TRASH + COUCH WIZARD + PUFF**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **JAM NIGHT**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **BLACK TRAIN**

FRIDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BURNING HANDS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **ANNA STANTON + AUSTIN MACKAY + DJ JAMIE LOWE**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **SCREENING: THE GIANTS**
- YEAH, NICE GALLERY., BYRON BAY, 4PM **JESS HITCHCOCK**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCOR + DJ TAI DANIELS**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 6PM **VINOD PRASANNA**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **BENNY O'DWYER**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **KINKY DRAWERS**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN 8PM **TURN UP THE TAV: TECHNO NIGHT FEAT. DJS HEXAGON HEDGEMAZE, SI CLONE & GEZ, AND MAX WEINMANN**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ XUJA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUMBIMBY WITH DJ PUMAH**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **JOCK BARNES**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 9PM **HARRY NICHOLS BAND**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM, LEVEL ONE 8PM ULTIMATE INXS SHOW**
- SERPENTINE COMMUNITY GALLERY, LISMORE, 6PM **EXHIBITION OPENS – THE THIRD DIMENSION**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7PM **OLD SKOOL ROCK**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **ACID BLEED + DJ NAT WHITE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM **DJ NIGHT RIDER**

SATURDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **RAGGA JUMP**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **INO PIO + THE NEW LANGUAGE + DJ QUENDO**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- MARVEL ST HALL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **DANCING WITH ALOHA**
- BYRON BAY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY 4.30PM **SANCTUARY CINEMA NIGHT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **TIJUANA CARTEL – 'ALECTURA' TOUR, 10PM DJ TAI DANIELS**

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **AS SEEN ON TV**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ NAKED NINJA**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 8PM **DON'T CHANGE ULTIMATE INXS**
- DURRUMBUL HALL 7PM **LITTLE BIG BANG AFRICA MEETS BRAZIL**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **BEN PURNELL**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **CHILDREN OF BOB**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **MILO GREEN**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **GLITTERATI RIOT + DJ OVALS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **DISTRACTION**
- CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM **JESS HITCHCOCK**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BLAKE EVANS**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 8PM **BOOM CRASH OPERA & BACHELOR GIRL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **ELVIS – AN AMERICAN TRILOGY**

SUNDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE LONESOME BOATMAN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK + NO ID**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **DJ ZAC EWING**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12.30PM **TIAGO FREITAS, 4PM DJ JR.DYNAMITE**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **ALEX TILLEY**
- YOU BEAUTY, BANGALOW, 3PM **RECORDS WITH FRIENDS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **BUTTERED**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**

- CLUB LENNOX 3PM **BEN WHITING**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BLUES CLUB WITH IMPERIAL BLUES REVIEW + DAVID BENTLEY**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **LIVING IN THE 80S**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2PM **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **TERRI NICHOLSON**
- THE MEADOW, STOKERS SIDING, 2PM **SERENADES OF SPRING**
- UKI MARKET, **FELICITY LAWLESS AND FRIENDS, WITH PAUL GEORGE AND MSELENEOUS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 2PM **GLITTERATI RIOT**

MONDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS FISHER**

TUESDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TRILLIAH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KAYEL**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **TEA TEMPLE WITH PAUL A GEORGE & FELICITY LAWLESS**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **THE BOYS FROM OZ**

WEDNESDAY 20

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JAMES ALEXANDER**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **HANS – DISCO SPEKTAKULAR**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **IRISH FOLK JAM**

Session Times

Thurs 14 – Wed 20 September

PALACE CINEMAS
108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

OPERA DI ROMA: DIALOGUES DES CARMELITES (KTC)
Sun: 1:00PM
Wed: 11:00AM

ALL FILMS

A HAUNTING IN VENICE (M)
Daily except Fri, Sat: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM
Fri, Sat: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM

ASTEROID CITY (M)

Daily: 1:45PM

BARBIE (PG)

Daily except Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 3:30PM, 6:45PM
Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 3:30PM, 6:45PM, 8:20PM

EGO: THE MICHAEL GUDINSKI STORY (M)

Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:10AM

LAST FILM SHOW (M) NFT

Daily: 11:30AM, 4:15PM, 6:00PM

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - DEAD RECKONING P1 (M)
Daily except Sun: 1:30PM
No screening Sunday

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 3 (PG)

Daily except Wed: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 7:15PM
Wed: 1:30PM, 7:15PM

OPPENHEIMER (MA15+)

Thurs, Mon, Tues: 1:00PM
Fri, Sat: 1:00PM, 6:45PM
Wed: 2:30PM, Sun: 1:30PM

PAST LIVES (M)

Daily except Wed: 11:20AM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM
Wed: 11:20AM, 7:00PM

SCRAPPER (PG) NFT

Daily: 11:15AM, 3:30PM, 5:30PM

SOUND OF FREEDOM (M)

Daily: 4:20PM

THE EQUALIZER 3 (MA15+)

Daily except Wed: 1:15PM, 7:30PM, Wed: 1:15PM

THE NUN II (M) NFT

Thurs, Sun, Mon, Tues: 1:50PM, 6:45PM
Fri, Sat: 1:50PM, 8:15PM
Wed: 1:50PM, 7:30PM

FAMILY FILMS

BLUE BEETLE (M) NFT

Daily: 11:15AM, 4:30PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM

HAUNTED MANSION (PG)

Sat, Sun: 11:10AM

PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE (G) PREVIEWS

Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:30PM

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM (PG)

Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:15AM, 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 5:00PM
Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:15AM, 3:45PM, 5:00PM

Session Times

Thurs 14 – Wed 20 September

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

ALL MOVIES

A HAUNTING IN VENICE (M) NFT

Daily: 10:00AM, 3:00PM, 7:15PM

BARBIE (PG)

Daily: 12:00PM, 5:00PM

BLUE BEETLE (M) NFT

Daily: 10:15AM, 2:30PM, 7:00PM

MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 3 (PG)

Daily: 12:15PM, 5:15PM

PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE (G)

Previews
Mon, Tues, Wed: 9:45AM

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM (PG)

Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 9:45AM, 12:50PM
Mon, Tues, Wed: 12:50PM

THE EQUALIZER 3 (MA15+)

Daily: 2:20PM

THE NUN II (M) NFT

Daily: 4:40PM, 7:30PM

*NFT = No Free Tickets

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

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SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE



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PALACE CINEMAS



HAVE YOU SENT US YOUR GIG?

gigs@echo.net.au



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

Make Bruns the New Bentley

There is *never* nothing we can do. There are just people who do nothing.

With a world that is not on track to meet its climate targets, in the face of government failure it is the community who must act. It is time to do something.

Right now in Brunswick Heads our wild heathland is calling.

It calls us to be people who care for country. To be the line in the sand. To be the community who push back on opportunistic greed. And this development is opportunistic. It's no coincidence that after sitting dormant since 2013, Zombie DA it found its way to the Regional Planning Panel in 2021, during Covid. When we were distracted. With just 3 hours of community consultation. When we were all looking the other way. Well, we aren't looking the other way now. Blocks may be sold, but it's not too late.

It's not too late because it's still there, and while those 230 trees still stand, so can we.

There is so little wilderness left. So little of the environment not decimated by human intervention, whether it's through habitation or extraction.

Last week ecologist James Barrie introduced me to the wallum wildflower heathland salt marsh at the end of Omega Circuit in Brunswick Heads. It's the most extraordinary place.

This wildly beautiful habitat for sugar gliders, koalas, the glossy black cockatoo, microbats, large bent-winged bats, the grass owl, the rainbow bee-eater, native bees, and the Wallum froglet and the Wallum sedge frog. The frogs are both classified as vulnerable to extinction, and the koala and the cockatoo are critically endangered. Australian Wetland Consulting have listed 14,000 fauna at this site. Surely the *Biodiversity Conservation Act* should protect this site? If not, I'd want to



know why? 14,000 species seems pretty bloody biodiverse to me.

There are a range of critically endangered, endangered, vulnerable and threatened species on this site, as well as four threatened ecological communities (vulnerable, endangered and critically endangered), which weren't given proper consideration in light of the DA. Because somehow the Regional Planning Panel decided to green light a luxury development. In a flood plain. FFS. Have we learnt nothing?

Yes we are in a housing crisis. But it is not a luxury housing crisis. The last Census told the truth – when one million homes sat empty, many were giant high-end palaces of privilege.

Maybe the habitat we need to push in on isn't the precious and fragile remnants of wilderness, but the housing portfolios of the super wealthy. According to some sources, stage one has seen some of these blocks, as small as 450 sq metres sell for close to \$1 million. Just around the corner is a pod village of flood victims. This is clearly not going to be their housing. Who is this housing even for? More out of town investors? It's wrong.

We are at a crossroads. We are living in that part of the Venn diagram where the climate crisis intersects with the housing crisis. We need systemic change, we cannot build our way out. And we cannot and must not destroy places like this heathland full of scribbly gums. Scribbly gums that predate colonialism. Scribbly gums that have been luxury housing to so many species for over 400 years.

It can take up to 200 years for a hollow to develop. Imagine waiting that long for your home to be built.

The developers have the hide to call this Wallum. Named after the habitat they are destroying. This is not as the developers suggest 'an ecology-led solution'. This is an ecology dead solution.

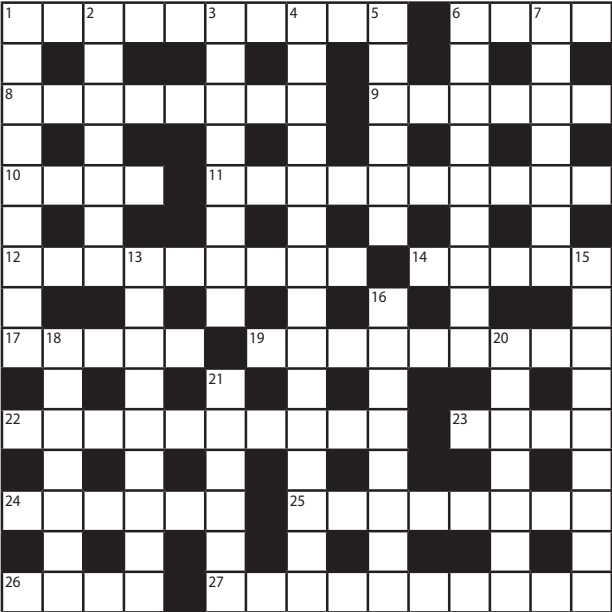
So it's up to us. Let's make Bruns the new Bentley. It's not too late.

It's still here. And while this sensitive coastal area bordering Simpsons Creek remains intact, we can save it. And we should.

Please be someone who does something. Join the Facebook group 'Save the Scribbly Gums' and be part of the community action.

Watch this space.

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #508



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Back to the beginning – drunk with a group of close friends! (4,6)
- Pricey, darling? (4)
- Male model with hot turn covered by grave little man (3,5)
- Rationale needed – cue sex! (6)
- Italian managed the republic (4)
- Runs down set reading program (10)
- Across federal borders, not right to die without a will (9)
- Poets order drinks (5)
- Magistrate to listen to hate speech (5)
- Initial move: S (5,4)
- Concerning manufacturing test following great river (10)
- A right turn for old ship (4)
- Staff turn back painting – a constant refrain (6)
- Trial includes a non drinker – one of the most ragged! (8)
- Middle eastern ship, an untidy business (4)
- Our old earl suggested a former international currency (10)

DOWN

- Stupidities: make a play about it – i.e. Faust! (9)
- Berate the essayist? A good man (7)
- Overflow for popular peacekeeper meeting (8)
- Closet cleric – treasurer, perhaps (7,8)
- Power from unlikely green axis (6)
- Tyrants who read aloud to their followers (9)
- Gold guide, they say – but pretty sparse (7)
- Empties a cute vase – but it's broken (9)
- Follower to drink ale (9)
- Kept apart, out to ladies (8)
- Permission for staff appointment (7)
- Sailor with amphibian to secure road surface! (3,4)
- Englishman breaks wind, rising to attack from the air (6)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Has come a complete 360 degrees! (4,6)
- Beloved (4)
- Diminutive boy of English folklore (3,5)
- Let off (6)
- Previously Persia (4)
- Disparages (10)
- Dying without a will (9)
- Imbibes to excess (5)
- Smudge (5)
- Beginning (5,4)
- Factory-based (10)
- Legendary Greek boat (4)
- Repeated word or sound (6)
- Most unkempt (8)
- Disarray (4)
- US currency deposited in foreign banks (10)

DOWN

- Inanities (9)
- Criticise (7)
- Flood (8)
- Member of executive government (7,8)
- Vitality (6)
- Despots (9)
- Severe (7)
- Abandons; decamps (9)
- Backer (9)
- Remote (8)
- Official command (7)
- Bitumen road cover (3,4)
- Fire on; bomb (6)

Last week's solution #507

B	A	R	B	E	R	S	H	O	P	O	P	E	N
Y	E	V	H	P	M	A	O						
R	E	D	T	A	P	E	T	R	E	E	T	O	P
O	E	P	L	I	G	E	U						
N	O	P	R	O	B	L	E	M	A	R	S	O	N
	L	R	E	A	L		C						
A	R	O	M	A	Y	E	L	L	O	W	I	S	H
R	Y	T				M	N	E					
C	A	S	T	I	G	A	T	E	A	S	S	E	S
H		O	L	D	N								
A	U	D	E	N	O	R	I	G	I	N	A	L	S
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L	I	E	D	B	Y	A	N	D	L	A	R	G	E

STARS BY LILITH

With Mercury mercifully taking his foot off the planetary brake, the wheels of commerce and communication ease into gear again...

VIRGO THE VIRGIN

ARIES: With your boss planet Mars relaxing into more entertaining options, the lone wolf persona may seem less appealing this week than teaming up for the win. There's no need to make life a struggle taking care of absolutely everything when you could enjoy a little help from your friends.

TAURUS: Jupiter making its slow and steady retrograde through Taurus is your chance to redefine and refine your plans and come up with a sustainable path forward. This week energises you to make practical to-do lists and patiently check them off until you achieve the result you envisaged.

GEMINI: As Mercury heads into forward gear this weekend, miscommunication and misunderstandings begin to clarify, and plans get back on track without celestial interference. If arrangements need to be reassessed and altered, remember that changing your mind has always been a Gemini superpower.

CANCER: If the sun, Mercury, Mars and September's new moon have you downsizing closets, making charity drops, revising your budget and scheduling new routines to feed your body healthy fuel, then keep going. If not, consider at least one of the above activities, which could be more enjoyable than you thought.

LEO: With feel-good Venus back in control of your sign, this week's about colour, style, allowing your artistic voice full resonant roar, and taking a look at how you're interacting with others. With the sun and friendly Mercury aligned in service-oriented mode, random acts of kindness will be appreciated.

VIRGO: When the trio of sun, new moon, and your patron planet Mercury moving forward again, are all delightfully aligned in your sign, the celestial gears mesh and this year's cosmic winds lift the life of Virgo into a fresh cycle. Plus beautifier Venus is advocating a style makeover to suit the new you.

LIBRA: This week's planetary swings and roundabouts see Venus and Mercury back in action while six outer planets remain in retrograde. As Mercury moves his all-seeing magnifying glass over the theme of relationships, partnerships could attract some critical thinking during the weekend Libra moon.

SCORPIO: According to Scorpio writer Margaret Atwood, while beginnings are more fun than endings, true connoisseurs favour the stretch in between for its educational challenges. There are still a few hard yards left to navigate during September's retrogrades, but everything you learn this week makes the going easier.

SAGITTARIUS: During your mentor planet Jupiter's retrograde you might find yourself re-evaluating goals and considering whether what you're working towards is still really right for you, and if so whether the way you're going about it needs upgrading. This week encourages being patient with the process.

CAPRICORN: Your planet guide Saturn is strongly suggesting that this is a week for gathering yourself together rather than spreading yourself thin. For saying no to that one extra thing that sends life into overload. For rejigging your relationship with yourself before negotiating with the collective.

AQUARIUS: Feeling stuck? The sun in auspicious alignment with your sponsor planet Uranus suggests that mixing things up and trying different approaches might spark a lightbulb realisation. This week's most useful mantra comes via Aquarian author Alice Walker: "Thank you" is the best prayer of all.

PISCES: Humanity's natural need to pay the bills with work that nourishes our soul is something which periodically benefits from a reality check. The practical, sensible energy of your opposite and complementary sign on the zodiac wheel will support whatever course corrections seem necessary this week.



TOWNHOME #1

SUMMER HOUSE

BYRON BAY

BOUTIQUE SELECTION OF 2 AND 3 BED TOWNHOMES

Dreaming of the good life? Walking to school, cafes, restaurants, town and the beach? Summerhouse delivers in every way... Meticulous in design, spacious, considered and standout in quality to create the ultimate in relaxed but luxurious coastal elegance. Located in the Golden Grid, quietly positioned just a short stroll to the pristine beaches, lighthouse, cafes and shops that Byron is renowned for, warm and inviting with a beautifully understated coastal palette of muted earthy tones, textured mosaics, designer cabinetry, skylights and Oak timber flooring. Considered Modern Living. Simple Luxury, your new serene lifestyle awaits...

INSPECT THURSDAY 5PM TO 6PM AND SATURDAY 11AM TO 12PM
OR BY PRIVATE APPOINTMENT

CHRISTIAN SERGIACOMI
0400 221 653

BRAD CRANFIELD
0401 823 310



ROCKWELL
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20 TAYLORS LANE, EWINGSDALE

Exceptional 4.5 acre Estate with Endless Possibilities

7
 5
 7
 6
 14500M²

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Sat 16th Sept 11-11:30am

Scan QR code for more
details on this property



Helen Huntly-Barratt
 0412 332 232



111 BURNETTS ROAD, NASHUA

Soulful Byron Hinterland Retreat

8
 1
 9
 8

 2.35 HA

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
OPEN | By Appointment

Scan QR code for more
details on this property



Su Reynolds
 0428 888 660



Luke Elwin
 0421 375 635



15/58 ARMSTRONG STREET, SUFFOLK PARK

Stylish Townhouse Near Beaches in Secure Gated Community

3
 1
 2
 1

ONLINE TIMED AUCTION
ENDING | Wed 20th September 12pm
STARTING BID | \$950,000
OPEN | Sat 16th Sept 11-11:30am

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



Sharon McInnes
 0408 659 649



Helen Huntly-Barratt
 0412 332 232



FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

www.byronbayfn.com.au |
 sales@byronbayfn.com |
 35 Fletcher St, Byron Bay NSW 2481 |
 02 6685 8466





55 LILLI PILLI DRIVE, BYRON BAY

Secluded Pavilion-Style Residence Nestled in Nature's Embrace

6 3 5 6
2137M²

PRICE | \$3.3M-\$3.5M
OPEN | Sat 16th Sept 11-11:30am

Scan QR code for more details on this property



Maggie Kelly
0416 013 788



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



179 MAIN ARM ROAD, MULLUMBIMBY

Sublime Retreat with Convenience of Town Living

4 2 3 2
18210M²

PRICE | \$2.5M-\$2.75M
OPEN | Sat 16th Sept 11:30am-12pm

Scan QR code for more details on this property



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049



85 ARTHUR ROAD, CORNDALE

Property Will Be Sold! 37 Acre Ranch minutes to Clunes Village

4 2 2 7
149734M²

PRICE | CONTACT AGENT
OPEN | Sat 16th Sept 1:30-2pm

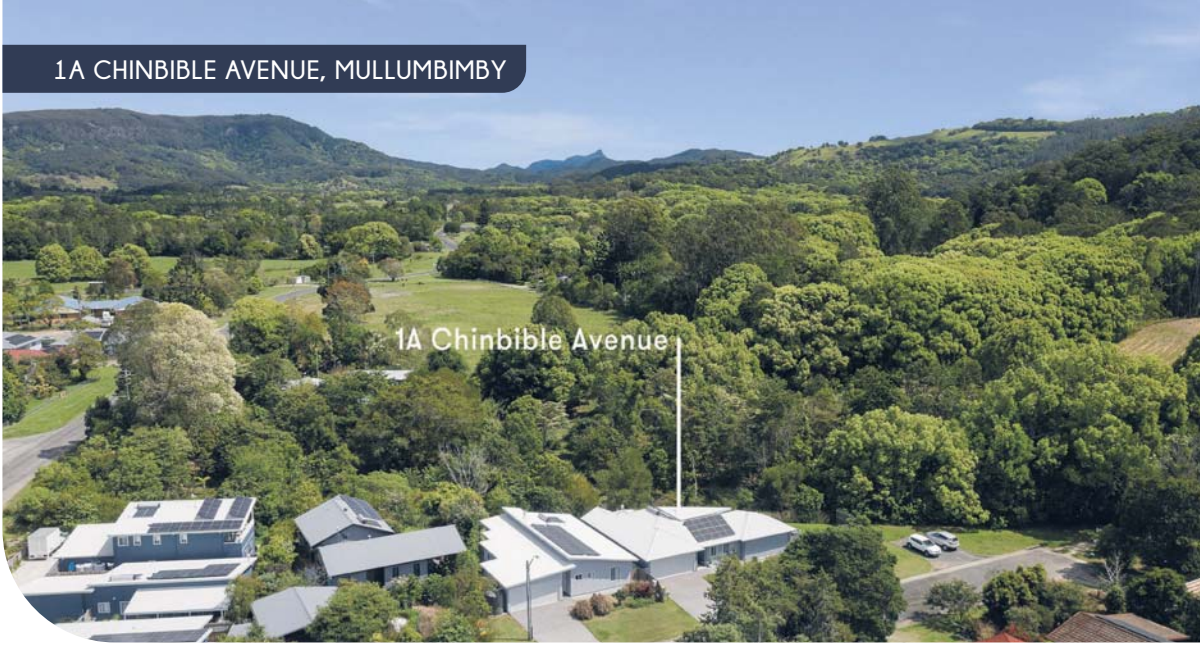
Scan QR code for more details on this property
*Agent declares interest



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649



Paul Prior
0418 324 297



1A CHINBIBLE AVENUE, MULLUMBIMBY

Fantastic Family Home with Picturesque Bush Reserve Backdrop

3 1 2 2

PRICE | \$1.15M-\$1.25M
OPEN | Fri 15th Sept 11-11:30am
Sat 16th Sept 9-9:30am

Scan QR code for more details on this property



Paul Prior
0418 324 297

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

www.byronbayfn.com.au | sales@byronbayfn.com | 35 Fletcher St, Byron Bay NSW 2481 | 02 6685 8466





SALE

154 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay

Rarely does the opportunity to purchase private acreage in the heartland of Byron Bay present itself.

- Two separate quarters - guest or family accommodation .
- Amazing array of fruit trees perfectly placed to provide year round produce.
- Certified organic for 20 years.
- Irrigation by the spring fed dam.
- Permaculture design by Bill Mollison.

WHY WAIT?

Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222



RayWhite.

6 3 5 7.5acr

Auction

6 October 2023 at 11am Onsite



Michael Gudgeon

0419 495 494

michael.gudgeon@raywhite.com

View

Wed 13 Sept 1-1.30pm Sat 12.30-1pm
or By Appointment

rwbyronbay.com



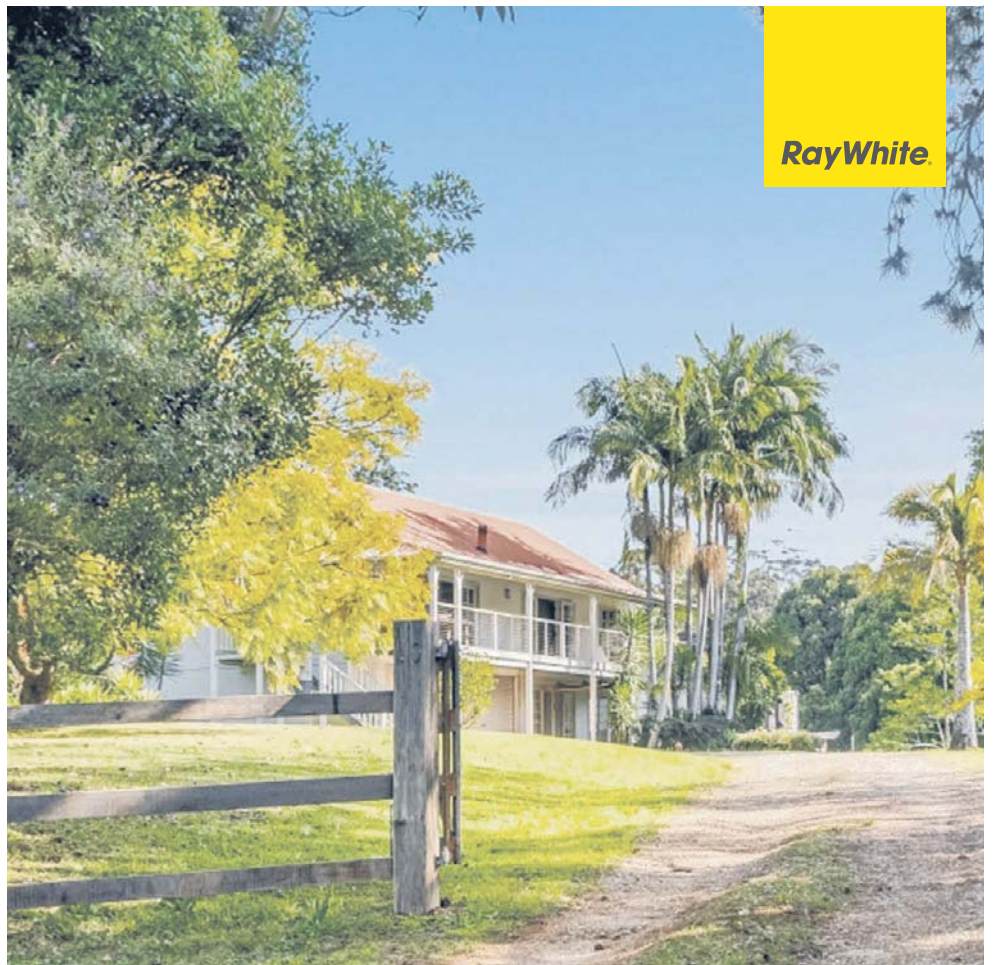
AUCTION

10 Byron Creek Road, Coopers Shoot

Discover a truly remarkable family haven nestled in the heart of the hinterland. This exquisite property embodies privacy, tranquillity, and seclusion, offering an oasis nestled alongside the serene Byron Creek. With 5.6 acres of north-facing, flat, and usable space, this property is a canvas of possibilities. The prime location marries charming rural ambiance with convenient proximity to both Bangalow and Byron Bay. An exceptional opportunity to acquire a Coopers Shoot blue-chip property.

WHY WAIT?

Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222



RayWhite.

3 2 2 2.29h

Auction

Friday, 6 October 1pm Onsite



Michael Gudgeon

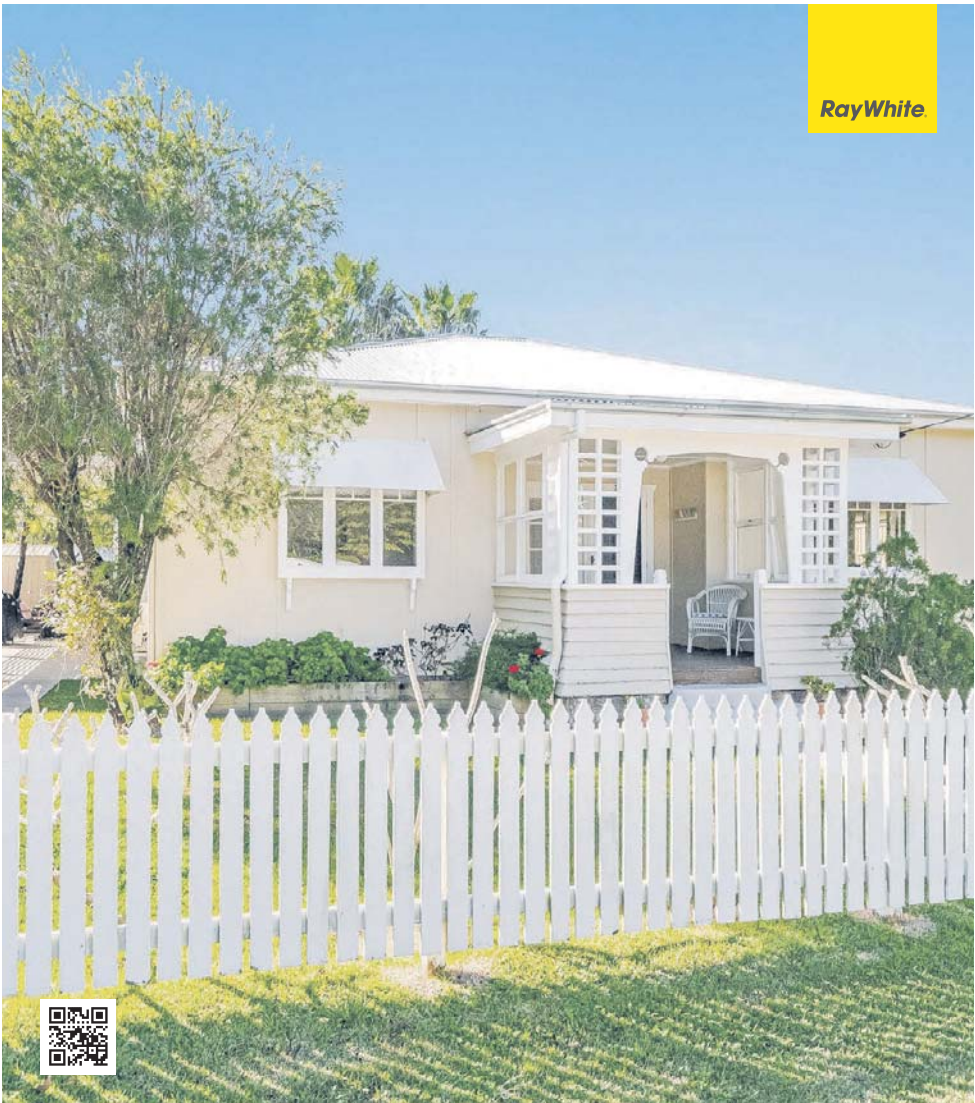
0419 495 494

michael.gudgeon@raywhite.com

View

Wed 2-2.30pm / Sat 11-11.30am
or By Appointment

rwbyronbay.com



RayWhite



SALE

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.

WHY WAIT?
Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

4 2 2 561.4

Sale
Contact Agent



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

View
Open Homes
Thu & Sat 1-1.30pm



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

rwbyronbay.com



RayWhite



SALE

9/19-21 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay

NOW OFFERING VACANT POSSESSION or BRAND NEW TENANT

- Great exposure
- Spacious bathroom + kitchen facilities
- One on site car space
- Large high bay roller door plus sliding door entry

WHY WAIT?
Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

1 1 1 125

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



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

View
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3 1 3 797m2

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

View
Sat 16 Sept 11-11.30am
or by appointment



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

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SALE

2/182 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park

Positioned amongst the pine trees, just 500m from the Suffolk Park shopping village and minutes to Byron Bay. This 2 bedroom unit is ideal for investors, downsizers or first-home buyers. Close proximity to the white sands of Tallows Beach.

WHY WAIT?
Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

2 1 1 129sm

Sale
Contact Agent



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

View
Sat, 16 Sept 10-10.30am



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

rwbyronbay.com

Modern home + secondary dwelling


106 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park

6

4

3

price guide \$3.25M



The main home wraps around the outdoor living, courtyard and heated mineral pool. Inside living features an expansive open plan living/dining area with timber feature wall, polished concrete floors, butler's pantry and beautiful kitchen connecting to alfresco dining.

The main bedroom overlooks the pool and includes a spacious walk-in wardrobe and modern, en-suite bathroom. The other generous bedrooms have built-in robes and desk space. The property also features a dedicated office, media room, rumpus/studio and mud room.

In addition, the property has an approved second dwelling with its own parking and access.

This exceptional property backs onto Lake Suffolk Park and walking track, with easy access to the skate park, tennis courts, playground and Baz and Shaz general store. 1km To Suffolk Park Village tavern, café and shops. Luxury properties of this size are rarely available.

Inspect:

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Contact:

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- 1 Flatley Drive, Clunes. Sat 11.15–11.45am
- 447 Eltham Road, Eltham. Sat 12–2.30pm

Ruth Russell Realty

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

Real Estate of Distinction

- 35–37 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 10–10.30am
- 40 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30–1pm

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- 154 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Wed 1–1.30pm
- 10 Byron Creek Road, Coopers Shoot. Wed 2–2.30pm
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Thurs 12–12.30pm
- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 1–1.30pm
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 2/182 Broken Head Rd, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
- 13 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.30 am
- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 10 Byron Creek Road, Coopers Shoot. Sat 11–11.30am
- 109–111 Broken Head Rd, Suffolk Park. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 154 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30–1pm

Byron Shire Real Estate

- 11 Waranga Crescent, Burringbar. Sat 10–10.30am
- 15A Weeronga Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 8 Weeronga Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 6/33 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 29 Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm

North Coast Lifestyle Mullumbimby

- 4/46 Durrumbul Rd, Mullumbimby. Fri 10.30–11.15am
- 421 Left Bank Rd, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.45am

North Coast Lifestyle Brunswick

- 55B Mylestom Circle, Pottsville. Sat 9–9.30am
- 5/2 Langi Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 11 Riverside Cres, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1 Byron Street, New Brighton. Sat 10–10.45am
- 104 Geles Road, Upper Burringbar. Sat 11–11.30am
- 14 Goolara Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.00–11.45am
- 4/1 Bindaree Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 12/2 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 33/12 Hazelwood Cl, Suffolk Park. Fri 10.15–10.45am
- 115 Stewarts Road, Clunes. Sat 9–9.30am
- 3 Warina Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30–10am
- 78 Owenia Way, Broken Head. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 10–10.30am
- 8 Hakea Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.15–10.45am
- 43 Rankin Drive, Bangalow. Sat 10.30–11am
- 62 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11.45am–12.15pm
- 55/12 Hazelwood Cl, Suffolk Park. Sat 12.45–1.15pm

Mana RE

- 2A Oba Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 9 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Sat 10–10.30am
- 59 Riverview Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 10–10.30am
- 73B Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2 Clifford Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 3 Kallaroo Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 105 Braeside Drive, Uki. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 121 McLoed Street, Condong. Sat 1–2pm

Century 21 Plateau Lifestyle RE

- 3/33–35 Green Street, Alstonville. Sat 9.15–9.45am
- 44B Ocean Drive, Evans Head. Sat 10.30–11am
- 6 Patches Beach Road, East Wardell. 12.30–1pm

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- 3/33–35 Green Street, Alstonville. Sat 9.15–9.45am
- 44B Ocean Drive, Evans Head. Sat 10.30–11am
- 6 Patches Beach Road, East Wardell. Sat 12.30–1pm

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

- 26C Coomburra Cres, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2/3 Newberry Pde, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30am
- 38 James Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.30am
- 37 Excelsior Cct, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11–11.30am

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 13 Shoalhaven Street, Alstonville. Sat 9–9.30am
- 14/3–13 Sunset Avenue, West Ballina. Sat 9–9.30am
- 129 Ballina Road, East Lismore. Sat 9–9.30am
- 165 Baraang Drive, Broadwater. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2 Marina Place, West Ballina. Sat 10–10.30am
- 14 Kite Avenue, Ballina. Sat 10–10.30am
- 589 Ballina Road, Goonellabah. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2/5 Henry Philp Avenue, Ballina. Sat 10–10.30am
- 3/27 Claire Street, West Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am
- 7 Daydream Avenue, West Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am
- 115 Burnett Street, Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am
- 150 Burnet Street, Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am
- 5 Blue Wren Place, Goonellabah. Sat 11.15–11.45am
- 4/13 Tamar Street, Ballina. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 2/14 Barrett Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 1106 –1108 Tamarind Drive, Tintenbar. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 57 Anderson Street, East Ballina. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 2/51 Gibbon Street, Lennox Head. Sat 1.15–1.45pm
- 54 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 2.30pm–3pm

First National Byron Bay

- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 2–3pm
- 28 Coolamon Scenic Dr, Mullumbimby. Fri 10–10.30am

- 1A Chinbible Avenue, Mullumbimby. Fri 11–11.30am
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Rd, Goonengerry. Fri 12–12.30pm
- 1/48–50 Cedar Crescent, East Ballina. Fri 2–2.30pm
- 28 Coolamon Scenic Dr, Mullumbimby. Sat 8.15–8.45am
- 1A Chinbible Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 9–9.30am
- 57 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 9–9.30am
- 2/5 Chinbible Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30–10am
- 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 69 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 38 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2/51 Cummings Crescent, Cumbalum. Sat 10–10.30am
- 15/58 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
- 4 Yoorana Glen, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 55 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 20 Taylors Lane, Ewingsdale. Sat 11–11.30am
- 1/48–50 Cedar Crescent, East Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am
- 179 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 147 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 509 Rosebank Road, Rosebank. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 85 Arthur Road, Corndale. Sat 1.30–2pm

Auctions

McGrath Byron Bay

- 33/12 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Fri 10.45 am

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- 10 Byron Creek Road, Coopers Shoot. Friday 6 October 1.00pm onsite
- 13 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Friday 6 October 2.30pm onsite

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AGENTS



We felt fully supported through out the whole process. Tara and her excellent team went the extra mile, helping & guiding us right from the start and continued right through settlement. Tara is a joy to work with yielding formidable results.

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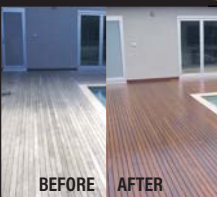
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PUBLIC NOTICES



**BYRON
SHIRE
COUNCIL**

ROAD CLOSURES

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSING UNDER SECTION 38B ROADS ACT 1993

In pursuance of the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, notice is hereby given that Byron Shire Council proposes to close the following council public roads listed in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1:

- Part road reserve adjoining 55 Coolamon Scenic Drive Coorabell Lot 2 DP 1003768.
- Part road reserve adjoining 865 Broken Head Road Broken Head Lot 8 DP 840653.
- Part road reserve adjoining 89 Massinger Street Byron Bay Lot 7 DP 548466 & Lot 1 DP 44807.
- Road Reserve running through 198 and 200 Middle Pocket Road Middle Pocket Lot 1 DP 1059516 and Lot 1 DP 1258568 respectively.
- Part road reserve adjoining 154 and 156 Lighthouse Road Byron Bay Lots 4 & 5 DP 246401 respectively.

Upon closure of the road, council intends to sell the land to the adjoining landowners.

All interested persons are hereby invited to make submissions concerning the proposal to the General Manager Mark Arnold, Byron Shire Council, PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482, within twenty-eight days of the date of this advertisement. Please note that under the provisions of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, such submissions may be referred to third parties for consideration.

Once the submission period is completed, Byron Shire Council will consider all duly made submissions before deciding whether to continue with the road closure proposal.

Council Ref: #E2023/39490

Enquiries: Deanna Savage

Telephone: 02 6626 7000

This document will be available on Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice.

Submissions Close: Friday 13th October 2023

Please note: The canvassing of Councillors or Council staff in relation to this tender will automatically result in disqualification of offending tenderers.

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UNIQUE PROPERTY 3 bedroom comfortable home, new flooring, new outdoor awnings, tinted glass in living areas. Eight fertile organic acres on two deeds. Three bores. Inside town limits, three bay shed. Professional four stable complex & tackroom. Near racecourse, equine centre and showground. High rental demand. Also suit investment. \$540,000. Inverell 0412877122.

TO LET

LOCAL REMOVAL
& backloads to Brisbane. Friendly, with 10 years local exp. 0409917646

Small House
Newly painted and fully furnished,
1 person \$500pw,
2 people \$580pw.
No outgoings, includes Wi-Fi.
Ph 0402 061 110

TO LEASE

IN A CREATIVE SPACE, STUDIO / OFFICE / SHOWROOM Centre of Mullumbimby. \$250p/w. 2.5 x 7m inc sink. Also a shared toilet. Text 0403663284

POSITIONS VACANT

PART-TIME BOOKKEEPER
Are you passionate about wanting to make a difference in the community? The SHIFT Project Byron Inc is seeking a dedicated part-time bookkeeper to join our dynamic social enterprise, Linen SHIFT, Laundry with a Conscience. Send your resume and a cover letter to management@shiftproject.org.au

HOUSEKEEPER/ CARER
1 day pw. Bangalow. Ph 0402061110

LUNCHTIME COOK 3 or 4 days p/w, 11am-2 pm, \$30p/h. **LUNCHTIME FRONT OF HOUSE** staff member. No experience needed, full training provided. 2, 3 or 4 days p/w 12-2pm, \$25p/h. Call Damo, Yokos Catering 0475040733

LADIES WANTED, MUST BE 18+ Work available in busy adult parlour. Travellers welcome. 66816038 for details.

EROTIC MASSAGE STAFF reliable and friendly for Gentlemen's Relaxation Centre 18+. Tweed. Grace 0418185791

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED
Flexible work hours - perfect 2nd income
Email operations@byronbaytaxi.com

WORK WANTED

WORDPRESS WEBSITE CREATION
Fair rates info@wordpressit.com.au

TUITION

FRENCH • ITALIAN • GERMAN
Eva 0403224842
www.language tuitionbyron.com.au

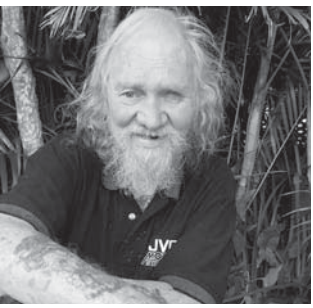
Adobe Tutoring
Experienced Professional Tutor

- Photoshop
- Indesign
- Illustrator


contact@thinkblinkdesign.com
www.thinkblinkdesign.com

DEATH NOTICES

PETER SIMPSON (PIRATE PETE)
6/9/1946-9/8/2023




Pete, you were an amazing, caring, loving person with a heart of gold. You will be in our hearts forever. All are welcome come and join us at Kohinur Hall, 1297 Main Arm Road at 11am on Saturday 16 September to say goodbye and celebrate his life. With love from Dan and Ben Simpson.



DUDLEY GRAHAM WEIR
05.04.1934 ~ 06.09.2023

Passed away peacefully at Uniting Kingscliff Aged Care, late of Byron Bay. Dearly loved husband of Florence for 68 years. Much loved father and father-in-law of Dudley & Robyn and Janelle & Alan. Loving poppy of his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Loved brother of Peggy, Phyllis and Maureen. "Forever In Our Hearts"

 **GUARDIAN FUNERALS BALLINA** 6686 7036

IN MEMORIAM

GEORGIA MADELEINE ENTER
22/06/1994-13/09/2013
My darling Georgia
It's ten years since you danced into



the heavens and shot across the night sky. Ten years darling closer to holding you and never letting you go. My heart beats with the love of you and seizes in the loss of you. I am a thousand pieces gathered together - patched up with the silken thread of memory, the absolute love for you and for Nic and the delicate hands of friends that held me while I reconstituted. So much love Georgia that has never waned and so much sorrow that has never diminished. You are the inspiration that pulls me forward, the laughter that tinkles in my mouth, the path that guides me and the light that burns in my eyes. I hear you in my mind everyday demanding I change the world as you did and would do, holding us all accountable, rolling your eyes dramatically as only you could at our imperfect standards whilst making us think and laugh with your outrageousness. Our one precious life. I shall find you again my darling girl and together we will ride the night.
Love Always,
MUM

POSITION VACANT

URGENT! CANTEEN MANAGER (PAID)
MULLUMBIMBY PUBLIC SCHOOL

*Are you a whiz in the kitchen?
Do you love supporting our kids to have healthy, delicious and nourishing food?
Would you like to work in a BRAND NEW commercial kitchen?
Our school's Canteen has been unable to operate since the floods & we are finally ready to re-open!
Come and be a part of the team!*


Casual position of 2 days a week during school terms to start 9 Oct 2023. Position is currently 14hrs per week with occasional Special Events.
Mon - 7:45am - 1:45pm; and Fri - 6:45am - 2:45pm.

Duties include: stock management, food preparation, money handling, customer service and kitchen cleaning routine. Applicants will be required to provide a current Working with Children Check. It is *preferred but not necessary* for applicants to have a safe food handling certificate or prior food industry experience.

Mullumbimby P&C Association
Working together to support the learning & wellbeing of our students

PLEASE EMAIL COVER LETTER AND RESUME TO:
mullumbimbypublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au
Closing date: 19 Sep 2023

LIFE CELEBRATIONS



MICHAEL (MICKO) GREG EVANS
9/02/1959-1/09/2023
Passed peacefully surrounded by family, friends and music. All warmly welcomed to celebrate his life at Torakina Park, Brunswick Heads, Thursday 14 September, 3pm til sunset.

MUSICAL NOTES

GUITARS, RECORDS, HI-FI
WE BUY AND SELL 66851005

LOST & FOUND

FOUND: MOBILE IPHONE Dalley St outside Vinnies. 0423942215

PETS

WHISPURR



Whispurr is our new arrival who is definitely one to be shouted about. She's a pocket sized beauty who delicately struts around showing off her gorgeous coat & fox like tail. With a beautiful temperament to match, we are hoping that she has people lining up to meet her.

To meet Whispurr & our other cats & kittens, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm, Thurs 3-5pm, Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 0436 845 542

Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R251000222



ONLY ADULTS

BALLINA EXCLUSIVE
34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late. In & Out Calls. 66816038. Ladies wanted
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

FULL BODY RESTORATION
Healing Through Pleasure
massagebyronbay.com or 0425347477

KRYSTAL ADULT SHOP
Large variety of toys and lingerie
6/6 Tasman Way, A&I Est, Byron Bay 66856330

LICENSED TO THRILL
Premium Massage & Play
touchofjustine.com/byron-bay-outcalls

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



PODGE

18-month-old desexed male Great Dane x Mastiff x Bull Arab 'Podge' is the epitome of gentle giant.

Affectionate, sweet and goofy, great with other dogs and children.

Needs some more training.

Please contact Shell on 0458461935
MC: 953010100459338



LUCINDA is a 6 year old Havanese. She is a shy girl so her owner will need patience and she will come around in her own time. She loves her twice daily walks. We would like Lucinda to go to a home with another dog of her size, approximately 7kgs. Please no cats or small children and you will need a securely fenced yard. M/C # 941000019577190

If interested please submit an expression of interest to
www.friendsofthepound.com/
adoption-expression-of-interest/

Visit **friendsofthepound.com** to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338



Here, once again is beautiful BELLE. She is just over twelve months old, yet has already had a litter of kittens... they all died. Belle was a stray and now that she is safe she can leave the trauma of her kittenhood behind and adopt a human family... she has so much TLC to give and is very playful and loving. Her gratitude for letting her adopt you will be endless. She says please help !... Belle has waited a long time.

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.
No: 953010002741658 PETS FOR LIFE

Please make an appointment 0403 533 589 • Billinudgel
petsforlifeanimalshelter.net



TOUCH of JUSTINE



Devoted to Pleasure
• Couples, Men & Women •
touchofjustine.com
0407 013 347

SOCIAL ESCORTS

LOTS OF GORGEOUS LADIES available for your pleasure nearby. Spoil yourself. In-house & outcalls. 7 days. 0266816038.

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads.....6629 7510
Mullumbimby6629 7570
Byron Bay.....6685 9499
Bangalow6629 7500
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding...132 500
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue.....6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER.....6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL.....6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby)6684 1286
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line.....1800 656 463
LIFELINE131 114
MENSLINE1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily6680 7280
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE6687 2520
HIV/AIDS - ACON Confidential testing & information6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS.....6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service...6628 1898

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

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS


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

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

SUN, MOON & TIDES
- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Sept)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
13	W	5:47 17:37	4:54 15:59	0720 1.21 1938 1.61	0130 0.34 1301 0.31
14	TH	5:45 17:37	5:24 16:52	0753 1.27 2010 1.62	0157 0.30 1336 0.27
15	F	5:44 17:38	5:52 17:45	0826 1.33 2041 1.60	0223 0.27 1411 0.26
16	SA	5:43 17:38	6:19 18:38	0859 1.38 2110 1.55	0248 0.25 1445 0.28
17	SU	5:42 17:39	6:46 19:32	0932 1.42 2139 1.47	0315 0.24 1521 0.32
18	M	5:41 17:39	7:14 20:27	1008 1.45 2209 1.38	0342 0.25 1600 0.37
19	TU	5:39 17:40	7:44 21:25	1046 1.45 2242 1.27	0410 0.27 1643 0.44
20	W	5:38 17:40	8:19 22:26	1128 1.45 2318 1.15	0440 0.31 1733 0.52
21	TH	5:37 17:41	8:59 23:29	1216 1.43	0515 0.36 1839 0.58
22	F	5:36 17:41	9:47	0008 1.04 1318 1.41	0600 0.42 2008 0.60
23	SA	5:35 17:42	10:43 0:33	0124 0.95 1439 1.43	0707 0.47 2143 0.55
24	SU	5:33 17:42	11:47 1:33	0301 0.94 1600 1.51	0835 0.47 2257 0.44
25	M	5:32 17:43	12:56 2:29	0428 1.02 1708 1.62	1000 0.40 2350 0.32
26	TU	5:31 17:43	14:07 3:19	0532 1.14 1804 1.72	1108 0.30
27	W	5:30 17:44	15:18 4:01	0626 1.27 1854 1.79	0034 0.21 1206 0.19

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



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 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 from 1.30pm. **Financial counselling** **Staying Home, Leaving Violence program.** Information, referral, and advocacy. **Gulganii 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

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

Low-cost or free food

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

Respite Service

Byron Shire Respite Service 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 5–6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8–16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert’s Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place.

1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au.

ACA

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

Drug support groups

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

Support after suicide

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

Volunteer call out

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

End-of-Life Choices

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

Carers’ support

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

Rainbow Dragons

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

Women’s circle

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

Older adult exercise

Chair-based older adults exercise classes run by a qualified instructor,

that feel more like fun than exercise, are held every Thursday at 10.15am in the Brunswick Memorial Hall. Cost \$10. All welcome. Just show up or if you have any questions please contact Di on 0427 026 935.

\$5 pilates classes

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

Pottsville Community Association

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

Language exchange

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

Brunswick Valley Historical Society

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

Library fun

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

Byron Bay Cancer Support Group

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

Social sporting groups

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

Toastmasters

Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters meetings coaching in communication and self-development run on 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6.15 for 6.30pm at Byron Bay Services Club, Byron Bay. Online attendance allowed. **Mullum Magic Toastmasters:** Mullum Magic provides a safe and fun environment for members and guests to develop their public-speaking and leadership skills. Meeting 6.30–8.30pm every second and fourth Thursday of the month at

thePresbyterian Church, 104 Stuart St, Mullumbimby. New members and guests welcome. Contact Bruce 0418 515 991 or Ninian 0411 629 982.

Meditation

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

Brunswick Heads CWA

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

Byron Gem Club

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

Lions Club

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

Craft group

The Uniting Craft & Social Group meets every Monday 9.30am–2.30pm at the

Uniting Church in Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Bring lunch and whatever else you need. Small cost. All welcome. Do you prefer patchwork and quilting? Come along on Monday evening same place at 6pm. Enquiries Tilly 6685 5985.

Gnosis Society

Gnosis: Course in the mysteries of life and death. Topics include: the knowledge of oneself, awakening conscious faculties, alchemy, tantra, kabbalah, the path to self-realisation, sacred symbolism, the elements of nature, establishing order in the psyche, the death of the ego, meditation and esoteric practice. Monday nights in Byron at the Gnostic Society. By donation. More information and the address phone: 0412 020 243 esotericstudies.com.au.

Op shops

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

Mullumbimby potters and sculptors

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

CWA Bangalow

If you are interested in making new friends by supporting the Byron Shire community through fundraising and lobbying, pursuing craft interests and

learning new skills, think about joining Bangalow CWA. Come along to our rooms, 31 Byron St, Bangalow between 10am & 2pm Monday to Friday to find out more. We are open Monday to Friday 10 to 2 and Saturdays 9 to 12. Our popular cake stalls are on the last Saturday of the month 8 to 12. Find us on Facebook or contact cwasecbangalow@gmail.com

Toy Library

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

Up your skills

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

Muslim prayer

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

Landcare

Bangalow Land and Rivercare working bee every Saturday 8.30–10.30am. Email: bangalowlandcare@gmail.com. Noelene 0431200638.

Sex & Love Addicts Anon

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

Volunteers sought

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

for MAP, Medical Aid for Palestinians. We’re seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help make this event a resounding success. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Subhi on 0408 760 991.

BV Scrabble Club

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

BB Hospital Auxiliary

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

Baby/toddler drop-in centre and clothes swap

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

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.

GCAT

The Green and Clean Awareness Team’s monthly Dunecare Day is on Sunday 17 September, 9am to 12 noon. Meet in front of the Beach Cafe at Clarkes Beach at 12 noon. Inquiries to Veda 6685 7991 or Miles 0403 206 190.

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Bangalow GM

The next general meeting for the Bangalow Community Association will be held at 6pm on Wednesday, 20 September at Bangalow Mens Shed, off Station St carpark. All citizens of the 2479 postcode are invited to attend and comment on community-wide matters relating to development and infrastructure, with some game-changing items on the agenda. An engaged community can deliver better outcomes for our village so come along and become involved.

BV VIEW

Brunswick Valley VIEW club will have a meeting on 14 September at Brunswick Valley Bowling Club at 10.30am for an 11am start. Apologies to Wenda on 0449 563 580 or email: wjhunt@yahoo.com.au no later than Monday before.

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society

The next general meeting of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society will be held on Saturday, 4 November at Ballina Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina, 2–4pm. The presentation by Carmel Crosby is on ‘Newspapers’ and where else to look besides Trove. Enquiries: contact Victoria Evans at presidenttrfhs1@yahoo.com.

Friends of the Library AGM

Friends of Libraries Byron Shire are holding their annual general meeting on 18 October at the Marvell Hall, Byron Bay at 10am. This will be followed by author Rod Setterlund introducing his book *No Mountain is Too High: Village*

Development in Nepal, which tells the story of the Tamang people living in villages northwest of Kathmandu.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Alcoholics Anonymous – the doors of AA are open at 7pm this Friday, 8 September. AA is holding a local public AA meeting open to anyone in the community and professionals. If you want more information on what AA is, what AA does and what AA doesn’t do, and how we might be able to help the suffering alcoholic come along to this free event at the Bangalow A&I Hall. Phone 1800 423 431 for further details.

Fellowship of First Fleeters

The next meeting of the Northern Rivers Fellowship of First Fleeters will be held on Sunday, 24 September at the Cherry Street Sports Club, Ballina at 10.30am. Anyone interested in their convict family history from any of the many fleets who journeyed here are very welcome to join our group. Our guest speaker will be Alan Hicks speaking on the history of trains in Ballina. If you wish to attend please contact Roddy Jordan on 6687 5339 or via email hollysbuddy1@bigpond.com.

Friends of Palestine

The Byron Friends of Palestine are planning a cultural evening of movies, food, and music in the Coorabell Hall on 23 September. We’re featuring two movies and two short films showcasing creative Palestinian cinema (not war and death, or anything too political), cultural food and music, with a dance party afterward. All of this is to raise money

Mullumbimby High continues futsal prowess

Brian Hedge

Mullumbimby High School's futsal program has continued to produce representative players and great results in local competitions, despite another year without an onsite training facility. After last year's heroics at the Scholastic Nationals two students have recently returned from overseas futsal tours.

Ella Brittain, a Year 11 student had an exciting tour in the US playing for an U/16 Australian Futsal Association (AFA) team and Honey Mowbray from Year 10 travelled to Brazil with an AFA U/15 team.

Six students have also been selected to represent South East Queensland in this year's national tournament.

Polly Jefed and Honey Mowbray will be playing in the U/15 girls competition, while Finn McKenzie and Neehal Wijaya are in the U/15



Mullumbimby High's all-girl futsal contingent. Photo supplied

boys team. Archie Baines and Rueben Polo-Angeli have also been selected in the U/13 boys team.

At last week's Combined High Schools (CHS) Far North Coast Titles the Mullumbimby High U/14 and U/16 boys teams both finished third, which was a fabulous result considering both teams were a year underage.

The U/14 girls also finished third only going down by one goal to a strong Tweed River team who went

on to win the final.

The U/16 girls team continued on their winning way taking out the final 11-0 and will travel to Coffs Harbour next month to defend their CHS North Coast Title.

In co-operation with Brunswick Valley Football Club the four astroturf courts across the road from the school have now been opened, after the destruction from the floods of 2022. So things are starting to look up for the students going forward.

Byron Bay set to play Bangalow for top men's football premiership

Men's premier league football fans are in for a big game as Bangalow and Byron Bay are set to play for the premiership this Saturday.

The Byron Bay side made a big comeback in their semi-final against South Lismore last weekend to make it into the grand final.

Playing at home Byron Bay was down 2-0 at half-time before pushing on to win the game with three unanswered goals in the second half.

Byron Bay and Bangalow have swapped first place on the competition ladder throughout the year.

Byron Bay's championship side has also made it the grand final this weekend, where they will play Richmond Rovers.

In other results the Byron Bay fifth-grade side won



Byron Bay won the 2023 fifth grade premiership after beating South Lismore on penalties. Photo Matt Colbey

their premiership after winning a penalty shootout 4-2 over South Lismore, after the game was drawn 1-1 after extra time.

It was an especially sweet win for Wayne 'Groover' Procter who has waited over 60 years to win a grand final.

Women

It's also a big weekend for Lennox Head whose

women's teams will contest both the premier league and the second grade grand finals against Alstonville and Dunoon United, respectively.

Correction

In the August 30 edition it was stated that the U/7s Shores United Crocs won a grand final. U/7s don't play grand finals. It was, rather, their final game for the year.

2023 fours bowls champions crowned at Brunswick Heads



The Brunswick Heads Women's Bowling Club determined this year's fours champions when the finals were played at the club on Tuesday, 29th of August.

In the deciding match the team of M Darby, M Essery, E Scattergood and K Dexter scored 21 and were able to defeat the combined efforts of J Smith, J Sanderson, J Andrew and L Fitzmaurice,

who garnered 19.

'It was a close game throughout, and it was literally the final bowl which determined the win,' club spokeswoman Kristine Pryor said.

'All ladies should congratulate themselves on a really good demonstration of sportsmanship and etiquette. Well done.'

Photo supplied

All welcome for road race cycling in Lismore



The Byron Bay Cycling Club (BBCC) will be hosting the inaugural cycling road race on closed roads at Lismore on Sunday morning, 24th of September, 2023.

The BBCC is raising money for the Rescue Helicopter Service based in Lismore, as well as attempting to provide a spectacle for the local community.

The race will be open to grades A-D. There will also be beginners and e-bike

sections, in male and female, and U/18 categories. Cost is \$35 or \$20 for U/18.

All racers must have a race licence through AusCycling, but the good news is this is free to new riders on a four-week 'Come and Try' program.

There will be a breakfast BBQ at the start/finish area in Browns Creek car park from 7am. See: www.byron-baycycleclub.org.au.

Photo supplied

Cudgen Hornets win two league grand finals over Ballina



The Cudgen Hornets have dominated the grand finals of the NRRRL after winning both first and reserve grade at Ballina's Kingsford Smith Park last Sunday

The day didn't start well for the hosts Ballina, who saw their reserve grade side go down to Cudgen 22-6.

Then in the first-grade game the minor premiers also succumbed to Cudgen

losing the game 18-4.

The visitors put on three tries to one in the first half. Tim Cassidy scored Ballina's only points.

Cudgen held on through a scoreless second half to claim the premiership.

Cudgen's only regret on the day was losing the Ladies League Touch grand final 10-4 to Bilambil.

Photo supplied

Echo

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The revamped Byron Shire Council Chambers in Mullum will officially reopen for Thursday's Council planning meeting. Staff say, 'The general public are welcome to join a small opening ceremony, including a Welcome to Country, at 10.30am on Thursday September 14'. As astute *Echo* readers would be aware, white ants were found after inspecting the flood damage, which has led to a very long repair process. So who was found to be white-anting Council?

Psst: The biggest corporations on the planet you have never heard of, BlackRock, State Street and Vanguard, own 89 per cent of the S&P500, and manage nearly \$22 trillion (US) in assets, according to *The New York Times* (2022).

Nima Fazelihas outlined the conflict of interest in investor-paid credit ratings at <https://blogs.law.ox.ac.uk>.

An estimated 10,000 peaceful protesters gathered in The Hague to demonstrate against Dutch government subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, which according to www.ilo.org, total at least 37.5 billion euros a year.

Ouch, *The Guardian* reports that 'Documents show how ex-NSW planning head was involved in fast-track rezoning for [a] developer he later worked for... Fol documents show Michael Cassel was on first-name terms with Walker Corp CEO and pushed for meetings on his behalf'. Makes the fast-track-develop anything-post-flood a bit sus, doesn't it?

Ten years ago, *The Echo* reported that while the Tony Abbott-led Liberal-Nats won the federal election, Labor's Justine Elliot retained the electorate after Greens prefs. The strap under *The Echo* masthead was: 'Remember to wind your clocks back 60 years', and everything went really well after that.

NABOO INTERMINABLE TRADE ROUTE TAXATION NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUE INTO FOURTH DECADE

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STOP THE SMALL SHIPS!
Tarkin taskforce to tackle illegal Tatooine migrants

DISHY DARTH VOWS TO INCREASE DEFENSE BUDGET (AGAIN)
SEE PAGE 7

EXCLUSIVE 5 CREDITS OFF BLUE MILK WITH THIS PAPER
COLLECT TUBNEY

As two billion die in galactic tragedy, we ask...

WERE REBELS TO BLAME FOR DESTRUCTION OF ALDERAAN?

By Martin Palpatine
Political Editor

The planetary fragments have hardly had a chance to cool but woke Jedi activists are seeking to politicise the Alderaan incident. The obliteration of the once-vibrant planet has sent shockwaves throughout the known galaxy, leaving countless questions in its wake with many voices pointing fingers at the shadowy Rebel Alliance as the possible instigators of this tragedy.

LEFTY LEIA: "DON'T CALL THEM EWOKS"
Now we have to call them Native Endorians!

NEW COLUMNIST JAR-JAR JOHNSON ON THE INNOCENT JOY OF GUNDARK HUNTING PAGE 16

Emperor Rupert Murdoch's intergalactic media empire, as usual, punches down rather than up. Photo from internet.



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