

## Future housing plan ignores 2022 floods

Hans Lovejoy

With 2022 flooding in Byron Shire and the North Coast at levels never seen before, the public will be asked by Council next week to comment on future housing plans without vital information included.

Council's Housing Option Paper went on exhibition from October 9.

### Mute mayor

The Echo asked Mayor Michael Lyon, 'Why is Council asking the public to comment on future planning that has key information missing?'

He did not reply.

The Echo reported on July 26 that, 'There is still no time frame for when the February/March 2022 flood data levels will be made public by the NSW Labor government, despite Byron Shire Council expressing its concern at how long the project is taking.'

The Echo asked the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) last week, 'Why has this report not been released yet, and why is it not underpinning future planning, given the enormous significance of last year's flood? When can the public expect this data to be available?'

A DPE spokesperson replied in part, 'The post-22 flood event analysis reports are a key priority for DPE. The reports, which cover multiple catchments, are still being finalised. These reports will improve our capacity to understand and plan for flood events in the future. DPE will share the completed reports with Council as soon as they are available.'



Some Byron Shire councillors have jumped on board the campaign to save rare ecological land slated for urban development in Bayside, Bruns. A motion by Cr Duncan Dey is proposed for this Thursday's Council meeting which, if passed, would require scrutiny on the conditions of the DA, and refer it to the federal government for review as a matter of national environmental significance. Pictured are ecologist James Barrie, councillor Duncan Dey, and environmentalist, Nan Nicholson, with councillors, mayor Michael Lyon, activists and concerned neighbours.

Photo Jeff 'More Trees, Less Greed' Dawson

► Full story on page 3

## So what's the plan to help the working homeless?

Hans Lovejoy

Given a housing crisis was declared in April 2021, what has Council done in that time to help those who are the 'working homeless'?

Local man, Duncan Campbell, approached The Echo to raise awareness of what he says is a targeted compliance blitz by Council on those forced to sleep in their vehicles.

Campbell says while he can afford to rent, there is nothing

available, so he lives in his bus, while working locally in hospitality, and as a casual labourer.

Since the housing crisis declaration in 2021, there have been attempts by Council to establish crisis and transitional accommodation, yet it appears those efforts so far have produced nothing.

A mayoral minute from the June 8, 2023 Council meeting requested that NSW Homelessness Minister, Rose Jackson, assist in establishing

an 'Assertive Outreach Program for Byron Shire, which matches the resource allocation for the Tweed Assertive Outreach Program'.

Repeated attempts with both Council staff and Ms Jackson's office to confirm whether Ms Jackson had replied have so far been unsuccessful.

The Echo is also yet to hear from Ms Jackson's office as to whether her ministry or any department is 'considering creating what is done in

Qld, which is to establish emergency zones for those unable to find a home to be safe, with facilities?'

### Secret land audit

In correspondence from Council's general manager, Mark Arnold, to housing advocate group, One Roof Byron on September 11, 2023, Arnold says a recent audit of Council-managed land for the use of emergency housing on public land 'has found

► Continued on page 3

Reconstruction Authority yet to answer questions ► p4

Local mum faces homelessness as lease runs out ► p13

Potoroos at risk of extinction at Bayside ► p20

All eyes on Byron Bay ► p22

Get the scoop! ► p26

Sport and stars, hiding up the back this week ► p47



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## So what's the plan to help the working homeless?

► Continued from page 1

that there is no new Council land or buildings identified for this purpose.

Genevieve Lee from One Roof Byron told *The Echo* they weren't provided with the audit. *The Echo* asked for the land audit, yet the request was declined by staff as it is not 'a public list'.

Staff replied, 'Only three of the nominated sites were accepted by the Housing Taskforce as suitable and these have been developed for that purpose'.

'No other sites were deemed suitable, owing to various issues including land constraints, isolated location, hazard risk, lack of direct connection to services and support.

'Crisis and transitional supported accommodation has very specific needs. Council is respectful of this and continues to work alongside state agencies and other organisations to look for opportunities to set up this



Red Devil Park is one of the few options for homeless people in Byron Shire. Photo Jeff Dawson

type of accommodation with the essential wrap-around services in the right locations.

'This does not preclude any independent organisation seeking out funding, and private or Crown land, through other means for this type of accommodation'.

Staff added that, 'All available land, public or other, that meets criteria for "future housing" is being considered under the current Residential Strategy Refresh process for future housing needs'.

While that policy takes in a 20-year vision, it doesn't provide any immediate assistance for those who work in

Byron, yet can't find a home.

Duncan says the area that he chooses to frequent is around Bayshore Drive, in the Byron Arts and Industry Estate. It's an area that has access to toilets, and is close to his work, he says.

Duncan says, 'Around 20 vehicles were parked on Bayshore Drive, with people sleeping in their vehicles legally, until Council erected "No Parking 1-6am" signs and started fining all vehicles right away. Most weren't being a nuisance'.

'I want to be out of the way, away from housing', he says. 'Those forced to live

in our cars are mindful of residential areas'.

Additionally, Campbell says that caravan parks are not an option for him to stay at, 'because pets are not welcome, and the government forces parks to limit stays to two to four weeks'.

Asked why he didn't apply for emergency accommodation in one of the three pod villages in the Shire, Duncan said, 'I have pets and I'm not displaced by the floods'.

'I didn't think it would be right to take a pod from someone who lost their home, when I had the resources to put a roof over my own head. I'm not looking for a handout, I'm looking for the persecution of the displaced to end'.

### Mute mayor

Mayor Michael Lyon was asked, 'Are there plans to establish a place for the working homeless to park their vehicles in safety without fear of being fined?' He refused to answer the question.

## Operation Save Wallum gains momentum

► Continued from page 1

The campaign to preserve rare environmentally sensitive land in Brunswick Heads from becoming urban development is stepping up, after a big community event was held on Sunday at Paddock Project in Mullum.

The day of art, culture, live music and workshops saw more than 300 locals gather to unify in the movement, organisers told *The Echo*.

As reported on page 1, the Save Wallum group is calling on Byron Shire councillors to vote 'Yes' to an upcoming Notice of Motion by Cr Duncan Dey requiring scrutiny into the conditions of the DA, and referring it to NSW and federal governments over serious

ecological concerns.

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.

With public consultation for the development taking place during the worst of the Covid pandemic, Save Wallum say the public were denied the right to have their say.

The DA is proposed by Clarence Property and was decided by an unelected body, the Northern Regional Planning Panel in May.

The panel determines large developments deemed 'significant', and as such, bypasses the due processes

of locally-elected councils.

'Wallum Estate' features 124 residential lots, three medium density lots and a series of roads and supporting infrastructure.

Save Wallum's James Barrie told *The Echo*, 'There has been a 25-year history of ecologist opposition to this development that has been ignored and even extinguished in the name of developer rights'.

'It's only that the community has now coordinated significant vocal opposition to this development, after learning about what they stand to lose at the eleventh hour, that this is getting the attention it deserves'.

Veteran environmentalist, Nan Nicholson, said, 'This place is extraordinarily

valuable as part of the state's coastal ecosystems'.

'These systems have dwindled so rapidly in the past 20 years, that any further encroachment has to be seen as "extremism".'

'As habitats collapse and species extinctions accelerate, it is not unreasonable to say "not one hectare more can be lost".'

'If any councillors believe that one should pick one's battles and fight only when assured of winning, then remember that we were told exactly that when we started campaigning to save the Terania Creek rainforest 50 years ago.

'Not only was Terania Creek rescued but 120,000 ha of rainforest in NSW were saved as well'.

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## Main Arm family music event returns Oct 15

Music In The Valley (MIV), one of Byron Shire's most loved grassroots community festivals, is returning to Main Arm on Sunday, October 15.

After a four-year absence, organisers say the vibrant one-day family-friendly event is back, bigger and better than ever with headline acts including: Harry James Angus, Emily Lubitz, The Gumboots, Greg Sheehan, Mullumbimby All-Stars, Salve Jorge, Waangenga & Main Arm Dancers, Spaghetti Circus and Main Arm Choir.

Festival spokesman, Bobby Henry, said this year's event was a particularly special one.

'The 2023 Music In The Valley event is about celebrating the community's incredible display of spirit, cohesion and generosity during a pretty wild last couple of years,' Bobby said.

'We're inviting folks from across the Byron Shire to join in the festivities.

'Our family-friendly activities include the Magic Bus, a side show alley, jumping castle, face painting, a craft zone and more.'

Music In The Valley



Lola, Lenny and Otto at the 2017 Music In The Valley. Photo Jeff 'Tuning Strings Since 1986' Dawson

– organised by the Main Arm Upper Primary School parent association – is held on the grounds of Main Arm Upper Primary School, surrounded by the forest under Mount Boogarem.

### High-profile acts

Entry to the event (12pm to 6pm) is free.

'The festival started in 2014 as an event to bring live musical performances to the Main Arm Valley community. It has grown from a humble Friday evening event into a full day music and arts festival that features eclectic and diverse acts from the

Byron Shire and beyond, including high-profile performers.

'Main Arm Upper Primary School was badly impacted by last year's catastrophic floods, with rebuilding of infrastructure expected to be fully completed in the next few months.

'We're excited as this is our biggest fundraising event of the year,' Bobby said.

'All proceeds from the 2023 MIV will go to funding extra-curricular activities for our students in 2024, such as our Stephanie Alexander gardening program, and others to boost health and well-being.'

## Reconstruction Authority yet to answer questions

Hans Lovejoy

The new CEO of the Reconstruction Authority, Simon Draper, is yet to answer questions put to him by *The Echo*, despite many weeks of promises from his latest communications manager that they would be.

Reconstruction Authority is the latest government corporation tasked with flood recovery for the region, and replaced the beleaguered Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRRC), which was established in April 2022 and then subsumed into the NSW Reconstruction Authority in July 2023.

Another government-funded entity tasked with flood recovery was Resilience NSW. Established in May 2020, it was found to be ineffective by the *Flood Inquiry*, and was abolished by the NSW government in December 2022.

All entities operated without any public transparency, owing to their corporate status, and are only accountable to the planning minister Paul Scully, and Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib (both NSW Labor).

*Echo* questions to those ministers were referred back to the Reconstruction Authority, who have to this point not offered any assurances that they will act in good faith with the flood-affected community.

**The following are *Echo* questions put to Mr Draper:**

### Mick Cassel

'According to the NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE), 'In February 2023, Simon Draper was appointed as CEO of the NSW Reconstruction Authority, taking over from interim CEO, Mick Cassel, Secretary Department of Planning and Environment'.

'*The Guardian* recently reported that 'Documents show how ex-NSW planning head was involved in fast-track rezoning for developer he later worked for... FOI documents show Michael Cassel was on first-name terms with Walker Corp CEO and pushed for meetings on his behalf.

'Was this report correct, and if so, what policy is in place that would ensure that this won't happen again? Was there any consequence for Mr Cassel's actions, which could appear to be a conflict of interest and unethical?'

### Resilient Land Strategy

'How will any fast tracked land release, as proposed, deliver homes to all North Coast residents who are both flood-affected and in



CEO of the Reconstruction Authority, Simon Draper, is also permanent secretary of the NSW Premier's Department.

Photo governmentnews.com.au

genuine need of low cost housing?

'The yet-to-be-adopted Land Strategy says \$100 million will go towards "Innovative housing pilot programs" and "Financial support for social and affordable housing development", among other things. When will the public see these details?'

### Affordable housing

'Why is Reconstruction Authority considering financial support for "affordable housing", given the regulations around affordable housing (State Environmental Planning Policies, or SEPP) do not provide genuine affordable outcomes?'

### Home retrofitting, home raising and home buy back programs

'Has all \$600 million now been allocated for all the home retrofitting, home raising and home buy back programs? If not, how much is there to go?'

### Public trust/accountability

'Are there any new benchmarks/KPIs that the Reconstruction Authority has to adhere to – i.e. how is it any different from the previous organisations it replaces (Resilience NSW and the NRRRC)?'

### Communication with the public

'The website [www.reconstruction.nsw.gov.au](http://www.reconstruction.nsw.gov.au) isn't live, and there is no way of seeing any progress with the allocation of grants. The NRRRC website is still live, and once had a dashboard. When will the public be provided this information?'

## Clarification over bank closures in regional Australia story

Further to last week's story, 'Senate inquiry into bank closures in regional Australia', the Comm Bank's Corporate Affairs team contacted *The Echo* to correct what they say was an inaccurate statement attributed to Australian Citizens Party's Robert Barwick.

Barwick said, 'Under the scrutiny of the inquiry, CBA has announced a three-year moratorium on regional bank closures, which saves the Junee branch until at least 2026 – except the

branch is only open one and a half days a week'.

A Comm bank representative said, 'At present, Junee branch operates three half days a week (Mon, Wed, Thu), and our regional representative Norm Swift (Regional General Manager for NSW/ACT), confirmed at the Junee committee hearing that Junee would expand its operating hours to five half days a week'.

Junee Shire Council's submission to the inquiry described dealing with the

bank over the closure as 'sub par', and that consultation with the community was lacking.

### Junee abandond

The Council wrote, 'Years of a self-regulated model governing banking practices has led to this point. The financial support the banking sector has received from successive governments is enormous, and well documented, and still the banks continue to abandon rural communities.'

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## Young whale dead on Tallow Beach

A juvenile humpback whale was washed ashore at Cosy Corner, Tallow Beach in Byron at around 7am last Wednesday morning (October 4).

While some speculated the whale had died of injuries to the face from a ship's propeller, a spokesperson for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) told *The Echo* that 'the cause of death is unknown'.

They said, 'the NSW NPWS closed the beach, nearby carpark and Tallow Beach Road to ensure public



Whale washed ashore at Cosy Corner. Photo N Graham

safety while the carcass was removed for burial.

'The carcass was buried away from the beach on

Arakwal Country, respecting the direction of Bundjalung of Byron Bay Arakwal Native Title Holders'.

## Cruel Sea supports wildlife hospital

The Cruel Sea have reformed, and are headlining a fundraiser for wildlife put together by Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital and Bluesfest.

The event aims to raise awareness and funds for Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital's vital veterinary treatment and care for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife.

The Cruel Sea's frontman, Tex Perkins, contacted the hospital's management team to offer his support after the hospital lost a \$6 million funding grant announced by the NSW government in February.

As previously reported,



Tex Perkins. Photo discogs.com

MLC Ben Franklin (Nationals) made the grant announcement in the lead up to the last NSW election, despite the grant not being confirmed.

'I've seen what these incredibly caring humans do to help wildlife,' Perkins says.

'Playing a benefit gig made sense to kick-start getting back on the road to play a bunch of shows'.

Original band member, Bangalow-based guitarist and keyboardist, James Cruickshank, died in 2015 from bowel cancer, and Don Walker has replaced him.

The ARIA Award-winning rock band will perform at Wild Aid 2023 on Saturday, October 21 at the Green Room, Byron Events Farm in Tyagarah.

They will be joined by Adalita, Loose Content, and Jet Mead. Tickets available via moshtix.com.au.

## Bunyip tops Ingenuity art prize



Pete Neilson's 'Biggest Little Bunyip' won the Ingenuity Sculpture festival on Saturday. The \$7,000 acquisitive first prize will see this fella installed by the river in Mullum's Heritage Park. Photo Jeff 'Numyip' Dawson

Prize winners were announced for the Ingenuity Sculpture Festival, held on Saturday at the Mullum Museum, located at 17 Myokum Street.

Held in association with the Brunswick Valley Historical Society (BVHS), the works will be primarily exhibited outside the museum grounds.

The 'Live Long and Prosper' prize of \$500 was won by Michelle Walker, for her work 'Holding it Together',

referencing the experiences of many locals in the aftermath of the floods.

The prize, given by longtime artist, Christina Khumari, was specifically donated for women artists over 50. Khumari said, 'This cohort is so often rendered invisible by modern society, I thought it was time to redress the balance in some small way'.

According to www.creativemullum.org.au, 'The festival is a showcase for both

professional and amateur artists across the Northern Rivers. The festival celebrates traditional and contemporary knowledge and art, promotes community input into publicly presented sculpture, while advocating for a sustainable future'.

'Combined, the 2018 and 2019 Ingenuity Festivals have showcased more than 60 large works by individual artists and collectives'.

The exhibition runs until October 15.

## Mayor seeks to retain secondary dwellings as permanent

Mayor Michael Lyon is seeking councillor support at this Thursday's meeting for a staff report that could identify how to 'constrain the future use of a secondary dwelling for the purposes of providing affordable and/or permanent accommodation'.

Within his motion in the upcoming October 12 agenda (available online), he says Council is 'currently investigating multiple properties who have used their secondary dwellings for holiday letting in contravention of their

consent conditions'.

He wrote, 'It seems that relying on the enforcement of consent conditions to achieve outcomes in this space is flawed. I wonder whether through a different mechanism, either a voluntary planning agreement (VPA), or some kind of external lease or contract, we could achieve the same aim'.

In reply to the motion, and contained within the agenda, Shannon Burt, Director, Sustainable Environment and Economy, outlined the

historical context where Council waived the requirement to pay section 94 and section 64 charges for secondary dwellings.

She wrote, 'The waiver was discontinued in 2018, as it was found to not be achieving its intended effect owing to matters such as short-term rental usage of the approved secondary dwellings instead of long-term rental usage'.

Ms Burt referred to recommendation five by the Independent Planning Commission Advice

Report on the Byron Shire Short Term Rental Accommodation Planning Proposal.

That recommendation reads, 'The NSW government should give consideration to the legal and policy options and implications of encouraging a return of dual occupancy, and secondary dwelling properties to long-term rental, either by direct requirement, or via an incentive program, and support council in considering these matters.'

### Staff to explore options

Despite the mayor's motion not yet being tabled and voted upon by councillors, Ms Burt wrote, 'As such, staff will work on a report to one of the December meetings of Council on mechanisms to achieve a restriction on the use of secondary dwellings for the purpose of affordable and/or permanent rental accommodation, in exchange for a waiver or deferral of development contributions'.

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Authorised J Elliot, ALP,  
Tweed Heads South

# Bella and Elyse recognised for beach rescue

Photo & story Mia Armitage

A mother screaming ‘save my baby!’ was all 18-year-old Elyse Partridge needed to propel her into Angels Beach’s wild, dark surf with her younger friend, Belana Broadley, ploughing ahead.

‘We just ran,’ Ms Partridge says, nearly three years later at nearby Shelly Beach, ‘you know, it was just insane.’

Moments earlier, the two young women had been ‘just having a picnic watching the sunset,’ Ms Broadley says.

It was January 2021, but there was no one else around.

‘The sun was practically set and we were packing our things to leave,’ Ms Broadley says, ‘and this woman came up to us and said that her girls were drowning and she didn’t know how to swim.’

‘She asked if we could help and then me and Elyse just kind of jumped into it,’ she says. ‘I grabbed an esky lid – we brought an esky with us for dinner – and I used the esky lid as a boogie board.’

‘I swam out to the first girl, gave her the esky lid for her to come into shore with, then I swam out to the farther girl.’



Belana (Bella) Broadley and Elyse Partridge

Meanwhile, Ms Partridge helped bring in the first girl.

Police and paramedics soon met the women and girls on the beach and one of the girls was taken to hospital.

All four youths survived the near-drownings without major injury, but were battered, bruised and exhausted.

The two girls rescued were locals aged ten and eleven at the time, Ms Partridge says.

## Awarded medals

The two women have recently returned from a trip to Sydney, where they received Australian Governor-General’s Bravery Medals (for acts of bravery in

hazardous circumstances), in a ceremony at Government House.

The formal occasion was a rare reunion for the former teen rescuers, who haven’t seen one another much in recent times, each young woman busy working and living on the Northern Rivers.

‘I don’t think like that day will ever really leave me,’ Ms Broadley says, ‘when I go swimming with my little brothers, I’m always worried and I say, “please don’t swim out too far”’.

Ms Partridge acknowledges her time with the surf life-saver youth service, Nippers, when she was younger.

‘I guess maybe the Nippers did help a little bit in running out,’ Ms Partridge says when asked to consider how others might have felt too frightened to enter the surf in her situation.

‘To be completely honest, I just watched a little *Bondi Rescue*,’ Ms Broadley says of her resourcefulness in using the esky lid, ‘I know you need to take something to float on, that’s the key.’

The women describe feeling their bravery medals as undeserved.

‘I kind of felt wrong getting an award for doing something that is like a natural instinct,’ Ms Partridge says, ‘you would just save anyone, I don’t really feel like I deserved it.’

The two women are calling on everyone to learn skills in surf and swim safety.

‘I definitely encourage every parent to put their children in Nippers,’ Ms Partridge says, ‘you are going to not regret it. Do it, do it, do it.’

Ms Broadley also suggests swimming lessons and learning about rips, ‘and when not to go swimming, because the conditions that day were very rough and rippy.’

# BayFM shortlisted for industry awards

BayFM has been nominated for three prestigious awards by the Community Broadcast Association Australia (CBAA), says station president, Ange Kent.

She told *The Echo*, ‘The Community Newsroom, a flagship program of BayFM, has been named a finalist in two categories: Excellence in Current Affairs and News Programming for their live broadcast of the independent commission on the holiday letting inquiry, and Excellence in Journalism for their powerful report titled “Tragedy in Paradise: Byron’s deadly homelessness crisis.”’

‘Additionally, BayFM’s Belly Show, produced by Rasela Torise, has been shortlisted for Excellence in Programming and Innovative Content. The show’s “Byron Farmers Market 20 Year Anniversary Special” captured the essence of the market, featuring interviews with diverse range of locals who discussed sustainable agriculture and the importance of creating an inclusive hub for the community.’

Mia Armitage, producer of BayFM’s Community Newsroom, expressed her gratitude for the nominations, stating, ‘The work the Community Newsroom is shortlisted for is basic public interest journalism at a local regional level. It was a heart-wrenching experience to record the voices of the homeless and the most marginalised communities, and I hope their courage inspires positive change.’

Ms Kent added, ‘These exceptional projects were made possible by grants from the Community Broadcast Foundation, which supports community media initiatives across Australia.’

## Nov 5 awards

‘The winners of the CBAA Awards will be announced at the CBAA National Conference in Adelaide on November 5, 2023.’

‘BayFM would like to extend its congratulations to all the other nominees and express its gratitude to the CBAA for recognising the station’s dedication to community broadcasting.’

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## Deputy Mayor Ndiaye recognised

Mia Armitage

Local government elections are still a year away, but Byron Shire Deputy Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye (Greens), is already asking passionate community members to consider running.

She has just won the prestigious NSW government's Elected Representative Award - Regional/Rural, as part of the 2023 Ministers' Awards for Women in Local Government, held last week at NSW Parliament House.

'It's not something you can do at the last minute, it's a big commitment,' Cr Ndiaye says, 'but it is a really rewarding way to make a difference in your community, and we need people that are willing to do the work and really get involved and passionate about their community to do that.'

The Greens member says she is encouraging anyone interested to get in touch with her directly or 'find out some other way'.

Not that being in local government is easy, the working teacher and parent adds.

Regional councillors in NSW receive some of the lowest remunerations in



Byron Shire Deputy Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye (Greens)

the country, often less than \$35,000 per year.

The NSW government has only recently introduced councillor training and optional superannuation to the roles.

Historically, working in local government has been regarded almost as a voluntary service, with older white men often the only ones able to find the time.

'The number of women elected to councils rose from 31 per cent to 39 per cent at the last local government elections, and I'd like that percentage to continue to grow, along with an increase

in the number of women in leadership roles in councils,' NSW Minister for Local Government, Ron Hoenig, said recently when announcing the 2023 Women in Local Government awards.

Information from the NSW Office of Local Government showed the most common age group of councillors in the state was 60-69 years, followed by 50-59 years, compared to a median population age of approximately 38.

### Served since 2016

Cr Ndiaye has served on Council since 2016 as a Green, alongside Mayor Michael Lyon, who is a former Greens member.

He turned Independent after failing to be re-endorsed by the party.

While Cr Ndiaye has campaigned for years alongside local community members for greater access to affordable and sustainable housing in the Byron Shire, she says her work during Mullumbimby's flood crisis in early 2022 was a significant part of her award nomination.

She helped coordinate a makeshift emergency evacuation centre for the town.



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# Feros hose down Brad's claims at Bangalow facility

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

A resident of Feros Care Residential Village Bangalow says that his time at the facility has become worse than it already was, since residents of Feros in Byron have been relocated there.

At 67 years of age, Brad Ryan is young compared to many of the residents – Mr Ryan was moved to Bangalow from Lismore Base when his hip rendered him immobile. 'It took just over two years for me to get my hip replaced', he told *The Echo*.

Mr Ryan says he would gladly move out of Feros today to make room for someone else if there was another option.

Mr Ryan says there has been a lot of reshuffling because of Feros in Byron Bay closing down.

He believes that there has been a shortage of staff since the extra people arrived and there are less positive lifestyle assistance (PLA) staff, and a lot of the work that they do is not PLA work.

He also claims staff are becoming burnt out.

'One of the staff was in tears talking to me. I had



Brad Ryan outside Feros Care Residential Village Bangalow.

tissues in my little walker and I gave them to her. There's a fair bit of staff turnover here as well – there's a lot of agency staff.'

Mr Ryan told *The Echo* he has been fed inadequate food which lacks nutrition, and residents have to wait for over half an hour in the dining room only to be served cold food. He also claims residents who are wheelchair-bound are having to spend entire days in their room, and meetings with residents and staff result in nothing of importance.

He said a meeting last week about the food didn't mention the food, instead one of the staff members handed out colour charts.

'Each resident got a pen so they could vote on the colour of new tablecloths.'

'I said, "I don't want one. This is just a distraction. It's got nothing to do with food. Let's talk about food!"'

## Feros replies

A Feros Care spokesperson said, 'Some of these residents have chosen new homes at Feros Village Bangalow where upon their arrival they were warmly welcomed with a special morning tea and personal introductions by dedicated village residents and staff.'

The spokesperson said that as a matter of policy, they do not disclose specific information regarding the

health or status of individual residents.

They said that only 15 per cent of the total workforce was agency staff and staff levels, including their Lifestyle Coordinator, have remained consistent.

'We've continued to maintain our regular activities calendar, with no changes in frequency, unless circumstances like Covid or other outbreaks pose a risk to our residents. The activities program is designed with the residents, and this week they enjoyed a concert, mini golf, bingo and exercise classes.'

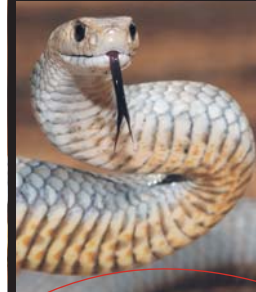
Feros sent *The Echo* an example of the daily menu, which included a vegetarian mushroom fettuccine for lunch and a moussaka for dinner saying that 'fruit is available in all kitchens'.

Yet Mr Ryan says he feels the staff know that things aren't great at the facility.

'Generally speaking, there are lots of nice people here and they're working under duress', he says.

'However, they have mortgages and families and their lives – I understand their reasons for not wanting to blow the whistle.'

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**Echo**

News from across the North Coast online ► [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

**Evans Head fire brought under control**

A fire at Evans Head, that appears to have been deliberately lit, covers 1,235ha. It is understood that the fire could have been started by an illegal campfire.

**Jack and Max raise awareness of suicide after losing their mate Eden**

Max Sandstrom and Jack Mitchel lost their friend Eden Buckingham to suicide last year. They are running 700km to raise awareness about suicide and money for the Beyond Blue foundation.

**Man dies a week after alleged assault in Lismore**

NSW Police have reported that a 89-year-old man has died in hospital following an alleged assault at his home in Lismore a week ago.

**Draft Master Plan for Wardell Village Centre**

Ballina Shire Council says that following extensive community consultation, they have developed a Draft Master Plan to help revitalise Wardell village centre.

**What is the future of Burringbar?**

The Tweed section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail has proven highly popular and now the Tweed Shire Council is looking forward to how they should upgrade the Burringbar Memorial Reserve and Masterson Park.

[www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

**Pressure on NSW planning over Ballina Shire Council's 'opt-in' conservation zones**

Mia Armitage

The NSW planning department is to review the Ballina Shire Council (BSC) decision made last week concerning conservation zones.

At the council's ordinary September meeting Mayor Sharon Cadwallader used the power of her casting vote to pass a motion supporting what Councillor Rodney Bruem has referred to as 'property rights'.

The amended motion offered more detail than what was featured in the agenda from Cr Eva Ramsey.

Cr Bruem called not only for landowners impacted by Council staff is proposed conservation zones to be given the right to 'opt in' to the scheme, but for objecting landowners to have their land re-zoned according to regulations from the 1980s.

**Resisting C2 conservation maps**

The former Coalition state government introduced conservation zones more than a decade ago.

But resistance from Ballina's conservative councillors to the conservation measures has stymied progress on their introduction in a shire reported to have less than 20 per cent of its native vegetation left.

The Ballina Environment Society last week highlighted that 83 per cent of Ballina Council survey respondents said they were extremely/very concerned about biodiversity loss in the shire.

Last week's vote pre-empted one expected to happen in November on a review of the C2 conservation zone mapping staff have been working on since 2012.

Last week's motion applied only to land mapped in the 2012 recommendations, which doesn't include ecologically sensitive West Ballina land recently submitted to the planning department for C2 Ecological Conservation.

**Mayor's casting vote**

Speaking to *The Echo* on Monday, Greens Cr Simon Chate said staff had worked hard to address the mayor's concerns for property owners and was surprised that the mayor used her casting vote, against convention, to support her own view rather than the status quo.

Cr Chate told *The Echo* he and fellow Greens Cr Kiri Dicker had approached Ballina MP Tamara Smith over Council's decision to relinquish powers over the proposed C2 zone map.

Ms Smith confirmed she had written to Minister for Planning Paul Scully for advice and to seek counsel on the matter.

'We are in an extinction crisis, with some of the highest value biodiversity in the world in Ballina Shire,' Ms Smith said.

'Environmental protections are not an opt in - they must be immovable if we are to have any hope of protecting our coastlines, wetlands, our rich biodiversity, and our threatened species,' she said.

The Ballina MP said it was developers who thought removing what little environmental protections existed for new developments was a good idea.

'Who speaks for nature?' she questioned.

■ Read full story on *The Echo* online: [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au).

**It is time to get out and creative in Ballina**



This Saturday get out and enjoy the exciting range of free activities and events at the inaugural Ballina Contemporary Art Market from 10am-7pm at the Northern Rivers Community Gallery and Ignite Studios creative precinct.

Above: Photographer, Sam McPherson; installation artist, Kate Stroud; Imbi Davidson, Northern Rivers Community Gallery co-ordinator; Dave Sparkes, painter and multimedia artist; Mia Zapata, Sprung dancer; and Tara Coughlan the NRCG's creative program producer all prepare for this weekend's free fun. Photo Jeff Dawson

► Read more in *Seven* on page 28.

**Riders pumped to try out Uki's mountain bike park**

Rain wasn't going to stop riders testing out the new mountain bike park and pump track at Uki after it was officially opened on Saturday.

This track is Tweed's first official mountain bike park and pump track and is open to riders of all ages, experience and abilities with more than 6.4 km of trails.

Mayor of Tweed Shire Chris Cherry welcomed visitors to the park, saying it was another jewel in the crown of the Shire's growing recreational attractions.

'Tweed Shire Council is extremely proud to deliver this fantastic facility, which is already proving a hit, attracting more than 800 people a week since completion a few weeks ago,' she said.

**Entry is free!**

Uki Mountain Bike Park is at 165 Smiths Creek Road, near Uki. Entry is free, with



Semi-pro mountain bike rider Dane Folpp showing how it's done at the official opening of the Uki Mountain Bike Park. Photo supplied

opening hours from 6am to 6pm daily. The park may close at any time due to weather conditions (rain, wet or muddy tracks, high winds, fire danger) or club events.

A Facebook group has been set up for the community to share their experiences and tips for the park, including park closures during weather events.

Follow Uki Mountain Bike Park Community Group.

The facility is part of Council's commitment to providing the community with opportunities to be active and healthy, as well as ensuring the Tweed is a vibrant place to live and visit.

■ Read full story on *The Echo* online: [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au).



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## Local mum faces homelessness as lease runs out

Photo & story Mia Armitage

Watching Amber's\* gorgeous children playing in Byron's Railway Park, it's almost impossible to imagine them ever facing homelessness.

Almost. But this is Australia, and this is the Byron Shire, where hundreds of people have recently been counted as rough sleepers, and hundreds, if not thousands, more were displaced in last year's flood and landslide disasters.

Amber and her children moved house 15 times in 18 months after their home was lost in the disaster, until they received help from the Womens Village Collective (WVC) charity.

'Women's Village Collective started in 2020 as a grassroots movement to bring awareness to the housing crisis facing women and children in the community,' charity founder, and Byron Shire councillor, Sama Balson says.

'Since then, we've become a fully registered charitable organisation with DGR status,' she says. 'That means you can donate to us and get a tax deductible donation.'

'We're also a public benevolent institution,' Ms Balson says.

### 549 women in need

The charity recently recorded 549 women have called for help finding a home. Many were impacted by, if not made homeless by, the disasters.

'Amber had a home before the floods, and lost it as a result of the floods,' Ms Balson says. 'Having children go to local schools, their support networks, all of that type of thing, was really considered in the selection process.'

'We were originally entirely volunteer run, we have had most of our volunteers flood-affected, actually,



Amber and Cr Sama Balson.

being from this region,' she says. 'Then we received a state government grant for flood recovery for one year.'

The grant money has recently expired.

Ms Balson says WVC isn't just seeking funding, it's also trying 'to get women into long-term secure and permanent housing, not just band-aid solutions, because that's what people really need in this community.'

### Stressful life post-flood

'We were moving more than every month,' Amber says, 'and I couldn't get my son in school!'

'It was just the epitome of a stressful year.'

Amber says she saw an ad from WVC saying they had some houses available.

'Sama arrived, I ended up getting the house, it was

a six-month lease,' she says, 'this is after me applying for so many houses and being rejected so many times.'

Amber says she never received a reason as to why her applications were being rejected, and real estate agents never gave her any advice.

'There was no support,' she says, 'and what I really needed at that time was support in getting a house, because the cycle was me being housed by the government, more or less, month to month.'

'In that moving, I didn't even have much time left to go and drive around the whole Shire and look at houses, which I did do in the spare moments that I had, and then fill out new applications every time,' she says.

Of Amber's three children, only one is old enough to attend school.

'The others are younger,' Amber says, 'so I only had a tiny baby when the floods happened.'

### Funding shortfall

Amber's lease has since been renewed for another six months, but at a more expensive rate, because WVC can no longer afford to take on head leases on behalf of the women it supports.

'I'm still looking diligently for a house, and it's a full-time job,' she says.

'It's not easy, to be on a phone or a computer in my spare time, instead of working and getting money and working so that I can get a mortgage one day.'

The charity is trying to work out whether there are any funding opportunities available via the recently announced Labor state budget, or whether it needs to turn to philanthropy.

In the meantime, previously held head leases on dwellings for women and their children have been handed over to real estate agents.

While WVC can no longer provide head leases, it's still overwhelmed with need.

To learn more, visit [www.womensvillagecollective.org.au](http://www.womensvillagecollective.org.au).

\*Amber's name has been changed to protect her privacy.

## Brides celebrated at Bangalow exhibition

'Brides, Bridesmaids and Ballgowns' is the latest exhibition at Bangalow Historical Society's Heritage House.

Dresses on show reflect the changing fashions for weddings over eight decades.

Organisers say, 'As well as brides and bridesmaids'

dresses, there are some debutante dresses on show, and a vast collection of wedding photographs, dating back to the first wedding that took place at St Kevin's Church, Bangalow (before its name change from Byron Creek) when, on 21 May 1894, Frederick Reading

married Bridget Rohan'.

The Heritage House exhibition will run for six weeks. The museum is open from 10am to 2pm, Wednesdays to Saturdays, or by appointment.

For enquiries phone 6687 2183, or email [bangalowhistorical@bigpond.com](mailto:bangalowhistorical@bigpond.com).

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The Byron Shire Echo  
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## Saying 'Yes' to the Voice



**T**he Voice is a matter of conscience, not division.

Australia was not 'terra nullius' when England claimed it 200 years ago. It held a rich tapestry of people and culture, language, lore and relationship to Country.

This was not recognised by the invaders; rather it was the Indigenous Australians they sought to destroy as they claimed their lands and attacked their culture.

They did this in a multitude of ways, from displacing people from their lands, to massacres and taking away their children. The inevitable outcome is that today our First Australians continue to suffer from these injustices across the board in education, health, housing, lower life expectancy and over-representation in our prisons.

### Closing the Gap

The *Closing the Gap* agreement is one way that governments have sought to respond to these disadvantages yet, as the Productivity Commission recently made clear, the government continues to fail to partner with and consult with Indigenous communities.

The proposed Voice to Parliament is a way to move forward, as the outcome of the 2017 National Constitutional Convention that produced the Uluru Statement from the Heart. It was the 'largest consensus of First Nations peoples on a proposal for substantive recognition in Australian history' ([ulurustatement.org](http://ulurustatement.org)).

It is an opportunity for representatives of First Australians to have an influence in the way the government will address the ongoing issues that disadvantage First Nations people.

But for non-Indigenous Australians it is something so much more. It is an opportunity to recognise First Australians, to acknowledge the wrongs of the last 200 years. It is the chance to take a small action towards healing the division. We can say unequivocally that we want to move forward together.

To vote 'Yes' is to recognise that this country is prepared to strive for equality – for everyone.

**Aslan Shand, deputy editor**  
*News tips are welcome: editor@echo.net.au*

# The ultimate 'me' movement

**A**part from tragedy, what do the following three police siege deaths in the last 12 months have in common?

First, the shooting and killing of Krista Kach with a 'bean bag' round by police in Newcastle in September.

Second, the suicide of Daniel Whelan following shots fired at police near Lithgow in July.

Third, the murder of two police and a neighbour by Nathaniel, Gareth and Stacey Train (who were then killed by police) at Wieambilla, Queensland in December 2022.

Krista Kach was clearly mentally unwell at the time of her killing, sparking calls for more involvement of mental health specialists rather than armed police. It is clear from the reports so far, that the police did not want to kill or seriously injure her, and the bean bag round was only meant to incapacitate. The use of this 'technology' has been suspended for now.

No doubt, the coroner will have some findings in that regard. However, the live stream showed her spouting sovereign citizen theories and a diatribe about rights all throughout the siege.

Daniel Whelan was well entrenched in the sovereign citizen movement, and had countless social media posts claiming the usual self-separation from the corporate state, Magna Carta, and that the law did not apply to him. When reality caught up, it did not end well.

The inquiry into the tragedy at Wieambilla continues, but I have seen several social media posts by the Trains, where they declare themselves sovereign citizens and their loyalty to similar extreme right-wing proponents in the United States.

And it is in the United States that the highest toll of police deaths, other murders and suicides following siege by sovereign citizens continues. While statistics vary, and there are crossovers with white supremacists and Trumpian fanatics, the numbers of deaths are worryingly in their thousands and increasing.

The Oklahoma bomber and fellow conspirators held sovereign citizen views. There was a significant presence of avowed sovereign citizens in the January 6 attack on Capitol Hill.



*'There is an obvious attraction to pseudo-law for those already suffering from or vulnerable to delusion or psychotic episodes'*

**David Heilpern**

Many now rot in prison.

Sovereign citizens (Sovcits), or more accurately, pseudo-law adherents, commonly adopt a grab-bag of ideas to argue that the law does not apply to them. You can see them regularly in social media videos telling police that the road laws aren't real, or submitting that judges have no power, or that fines are unenforceable. They swing their attention with agility to the so-called freedom marches in anti-vax land, and more recently to the 'No' campaign in the referendum. The Voice is all a United Nations conspiracy in case you didn't know.

Returning to the three recent Australian sieges, I am not suggesting that all pseudo-law adherents are dangerous or suicidal.

Many are simply exploring the common law and its history, and are attracted to rebellion. However, it is equally clear that many unwell people are attracted to and adopt sovereign citizen views. Or perhaps, and this is only anecdotal, these groups have the potential to reinforce delusion and push adherents further toward extremism.

This is unsurprising in one sense, because the adoption of pseudo-law by adherents is akin to a grand delusion.

One of the smartest commentators in this area is Robert Sudy, who runs an encyclopaedic Australian website pointedly titled 'Freeman Delusion'.

'Bizarre delusions' are defined as those which are impossible or inherently implausible and not accepted or understandable by peers. An example I saw in court regularly is a delusion that all your internal organs have been replaced, without leaving a scar.

The scientific equivalent are flat-Earthers, but at least with them you can actually just walk and swim east until arriving circuitously at the same spot. Sovereign citizen delusions are bizarre, because they are not accepted

by legal authorities anywhere. They hold, ultimately, an aspirational belief in what they want the law to be. The delusion is that the law actually reflects their belief.

Interestingly, delusions are not entirely idiosyncratic – they tend to be thematic. Common delusions in psychosis include persecution, control and grandiosity.

The language of sovereign citizens is typically persecutory – they believe they are under attack, primarily from the state, and often assorted religious, racial or ethnic groups. They also are resistant to a heightened level of control of their everyday activities such as driving and paying tax. Sovereign citizens typically believe that they are superior, unique, and of inflated importance. Pseudo-law is the ultimate 'me' movement.

It is in this context that there is an obvious attraction to pseudo-law for those already suffering from or vulnerable to delusion or psychotic episodes.

I reckon there is an inherent match to the delusions of the sovereign citizen movement – the road rules don't apply to me because I have separated myself from excessive state persecution and control. And I can produce my own licence with CAPITAL letters.

And those canny, manipulative pseudo-law adherents profiting and proselytising in that space should take note.

Their own flirtations with delusion might merely result in relatively harmless failed election (or nomination) results, ridicule, conviction in court and bankruptcy. However, for some vulnerable followers and their horrified loved ones the consequences are likely to be prison at best, or death of self or others at worst.

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



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## When will it be fixed?

On August 8, 2018, while walking along Stuart Street, I tripped on the concrete footpath. Why did I trip and fall? Because part of the concrete was broken and protruding.

An X-ray revealed I'd sustained a glenoid fracture. I reported the fall and injury to Byron Shire Council (BSC), filled in the form and had a consultation with a staff member. My wish – to have the concrete fully repaired.

Today, October 2023, some five years later – notice as you pass by 51 Stuart Street – the concrete is still broken and protruding. A dull yellow line is just visible, marking the spot, but certainly doesn't give any warning of danger.

I wonder how many other pedestrians have tripped on this same piece of concrete?

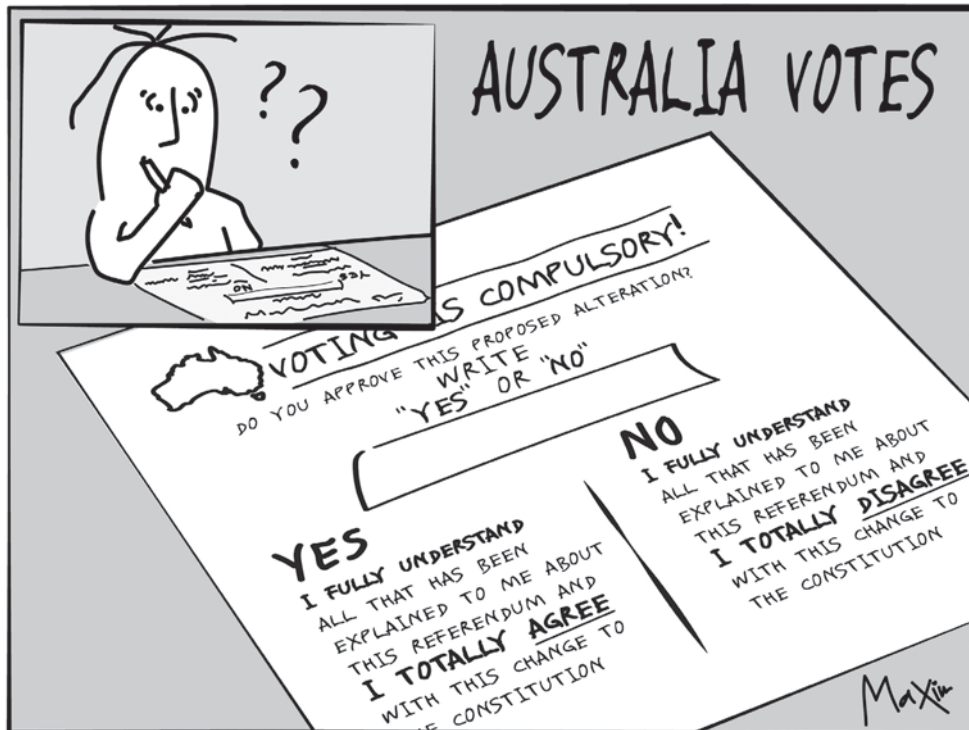
Shame, shame, shame on BSC for not mending this footpath five years ago.

**Arion Trivett**  
Mullumbimby

## Soils ain't soils

Now, if you were to build a 150-home residential site on a wetlands site (like the one proposed for West Ballina), you would obviously need to construct a very firm foundation for your project. Especially if it has recently been inundated by over two metres of floodwater!

So, the necessary importation of mega-tonnes of so-called 'fill' required to actually 'raise' the site and firm it down, begs some serious consideration and thoughtful questions. Not only for its potential impact to 'divert' existing natural water courses, but also that of the native wildlife and flora which it must 'bury' in the process. There'll be no warning sign put up for them!



Cartoon by Matt Brady

Considerations: 1) Is it 100 per cent organic and non-toxic?

2) Is the soil content (if any) primarily clay, sand, or a fertile loam 'compatible' with the existing medium? Note: clay soils impede water flow with no absorption qualities.

3) Because you just don't find mega-tonnes of nutrient-rich, fertile, unpolluted loam laying around for the taking, will it then be rubble/stone sustainably sourced from an authorised quarry, or a mixture of general garbage waste?

4) Will it need to be relentlessly pounded into a firm base and/or will it require the even more unacceptable noise levels associated with the drilling and machine hammering down of concrete pylons continuously for 8-10 hours per day, as was the case with Bunnings', and Emmanuel College's, recent constructions to elevate 'their' sites and so escape the flood devastation

around them? Then, after all the frogs, lizards and other non-flying animals who can't escape the onslaught of encroaching machines are buried alive, will the icing on the mud-cake be a thick layer of concrete? To ensure they don't do a 'Lazarus'?

Now, sceptics might say 'hey, the engineers must know what they're doing', but remember 'they' also designed our highway bypass just before the '22 flood! Which I, and many others believe exacerbated the resulting devastation. They also dumped a 'testing pad' mound in the wrong place allocated to them by Ballina Shire Council, and which is now a potential 'tool' for the same developers trying to obtain Land and Environment Court approval for their project. Funny, that!

Remember, as the Boss told Sol: soils ain't soils!

So is it bye, bye, all God's creatures ask why? We just can't breed any more, when

our wetlands are dry. Frogs now squat on cement, birds on telephone wires, singing this'll be the day that I die, this'll be the day that I die!

(Apologies Mr McLean.)

**Laurence Johnstone**  
West Ballina

## Et tu, Mandy?

Russell Brand has yet to be charged with anything. Four anonymous women have apparently told their stories.

Over the past few weeks there have been numerous stories, speculations and historical incidents smeared all over social media. Perhaps you should switch your column from Soapbox to Bandwagon? What happened to the presumption of innocence? This man's life, love him or hate him, is in total upheaval.

Are we just accepting 'trial by media' now?

**Rachael Terry**  
South Golden Beach

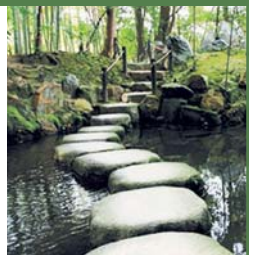
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## Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

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For information on lodging a submission, and where to address it, refer to the "Lodging a Submission" section within Councils website.

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SCAN TO BOOK

# This weekend will see you cast your vote on the Voice

■ 'Yes' represents hope for the future and recognition of the potential to improve First Nations people's lives by listening, respecting, and supporting self-determination.

The *Uluru Statement from the Heart* and the Voice are a reasonable request from the peoples whose land was stolen, who were massacred, taken from their families, communities, land and culture and suffer from intergenerational trauma as a result of these actions. It's a shocking history that could move toward healing by voting 'Yes', and it's the fair thing to do.

Over three decades I've seen positive outcomes that result from self-determination but too often governments haven't listened. Let's change the future and unite this country by respecting, recognising, and delivering a Voice to those whose lives are affected by decisions of governments. I hope this country will do this.

If you are able to connect with family and friends, even if they are influenced by the negative position or if they aren't sure, just ask if they can give it a go. Voting 'Yes' doesn't have a downside for the majority of Australians but 'No' would be a lost opportunity for a better future for all Australians.

**Jan Barham**  
Broken Head

■ Those voting 'No' in the referendum often claim they have done their own research. But can they explain why their research has led them to the complete opposite conclusion to that of people who have

devoted much of their lives to this question? People with vastly more knowledge than them on this subject and many with lived experience? Marcia Langton, Noel Pearson, Julian Leeser, Pat Dobson, Linda Burney, not to mention the representatives of the majority of Indigenous peoples, who created the *Uluru* statement? Most former and present premiers and prime ministers also support the Voice.

Any non-Indigenous person who does reach a contrary conclusion to these authorities should consider their real motives for denying our Indigenous people a Voice.

**Patrick Lenfesty**  
Ballina

■ When the referendum was first announced and explained I thought it was a no-brainer decision – of course most people would vote 'Yes'. Of course most people want to see our First Nations folk have better housing and education, better health outcomes and better access to employment. Of course an advisory body enshrined in the Constitution would be the best way to go as that would mean that successive governments can't keep changing its mandate or take it away. Of course this stable advisory body, with members chosen by the people it is to represent, is the right way to go. After all, other mechanisms haven't worked.

But there is no 'of course'. There seems to be a good chance of a successful 'No' vote. This is unbelievable to me and to my friends

and relatives who live in the country from where I originally came.

Where is the Australian people's humanity and empathy? If the 'No' vote wins then I am not sure how much more squirming I can take. Can I still hold my head up in my adoptive country of over 50 years?

Australia, do the right thing and vote 'Yes'.

**Su Dorland**  
Mullumbimby

■ Thank you Eli Cook for the 2020 Storylines article *Advance Australia where?* ([www.echo.net.au/storylines](http://www.echo.net.au/storylines)). My difficulty is, as a white person and being someone active in the town planning process in Byron and surrounding shires, that there appears to be no place to talk with my First Nations brothers and sisters.

I have questions like what makes these sacred places? What makes the songlines? What is the meaning behind native people translocating? What is a rainbow serpent?

As we enter a new astrological age there appears to be an opportunity to engage in discussions that will allow white and native understanding of each other's perspective on life and a way forward that will benefit us all.

European cultures have quashed the intuitive for tens of thousands of years. We are now in this new age and have the potential opportunity to gain understanding from a culture that embraces the intuitive and feels inextricably linked with Country.

Our white culture is poised on the edge of realisation

or destruction. We can no longer ignore the lore of the land that your culture embraces now, always has and always will. Communication between cultures is no easy task as your native culture has difficulty coming to grips with white man law and our white culture has difficulty coming to grips with your native lore.

As the oldest culture your people have a resilience and a basic knowing of what is right for the land, and the patterns of understanding underly a knowledge of the land in energy centres and connecting energy lines. This unwritten lore has historically been overridden and denied by our culture by not acknowledging the subtle energies that influence all our lives.

The way forward for indigenous people is to hold and rebirth the ancient knowledge and lead the way to a more sustainable and enduring future. Hopefully we can find a sharing place to talk our stories into the fire of life so that we give ourselves a chance to walk together and pool knowledge.

My feeling is that we as a nation need a bill of rights that respects gender, culture, and nature but this seems a long way off. To start with, let's see if we can sit down, talk and agree about the way we see things in Bundjalung country and start to derive a meaningful way forward for our local people.

The blending of knowledge through communication is the first step and then the so called 'industry' will follow. ▶

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– which side of history do you want to be on?

▶ As one of those lovely ladies on the *ABC Drum* said: ‘We need connection, purpose and responsibility’.

**Boyd Warren**  
Main Arm

■ See page 19 for Eli Cook’s *If not now then when?*

■ Spending more than ten years living and working on several Aboriginal communities my heart says ‘Yes’. But... my head says ‘No’.

Most governments and the Australian people want to help and stop the most awful situations happening on the ground in these remote and regional areas. Billions of dollars are spent yearly.

The complexities of the cultural issues and the power of certain community individuals combined make it difficult. Add in the ‘Aboriginal industry’ with some ‘other’ fellas being kept in highly paid jobs and passing ‘privileges’ to powerful Indigenous individuals/groups. Fraud/corruption exists.

Reading 57 of FOI Voice pages including the 13 city ‘dialogues’ done in 2017 it reminds us how complex the issues are and always will be.

2021 – the committee (52 people) codesigning the Voice said legislate first and put all the issues, facts/details and a draft bill on the table to be discussed thoroughly by all Australians. The how, the why and the where! They realised the people should have their questions answered. How much detail have we been given?

Let’s cut to the chase. First and foremost audit all the organisations and make everyone accountable for the dollars spent.

Cut back on wasteful expenditures. Get the billions to these communities that need it the most. Just do it.

**Nick & Perina Oliver**  
Federal

■ It is long past time to recognise and properly acknowledge the past and present experiences of First Nations peoples in Australia.

For most of the time since 1788 right up to our lifetime, many Aboriginal people have had their lives controlled by governments who failed to consult with or listen to the people whose lives were detrimentally affected. Sadly political and bureaucratic cultures have yet to fully shake off this paternalism and allow faster progress on closing the gap.

Fair dinkum acknowledgement starts with listening to the voices of Aboriginal Australians. Vote ‘Yes’.

**Basil Cameron**  
Goonengerry

■ Noel Pearson says he is approaching the referendum results with a mixture of hope and terror. Terror obviously, because of the possibility that a ‘No’ result will intensify the division and racism stirred up by the ‘No’ campaign.

As a fervent and active ‘Yes’ campaigner, I also feel Pearson’s terror, but as for hope, I actually feel something stronger than hope.

As the days go by, and I meet up with my fellow campaigners to work at information stalls at the markets and on the streets, and in reading the daily flood of upbeat messages from ‘Yes’ HQ, I am feeling a deeper and deeper sense of achievement. An achievement of being part of a powerful change, an upwelling of a wave of fellowship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians that has almost arrived at ‘critical mass’.

It has been slow coming, but it is now more than a wary acceptance – it is a genuine and warm partnership – a kind of a group hug,

a dawning realisation that we are all brothers and sisters. A large swathe of non-Indigenous Australia seems to have finally discovered our humanity.

And it is not just a ‘Byron thing’. I sense it’s happening all around the country, sometimes in unlikely places, notwithstanding the challenge of the malignancy and madness of the ‘post truth’ phenomenon and racist fearmongering.

Many of us are now happily embracing the generous and poetic invitation of friendship and community expressed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart and have started the walk around the sacred rock of solidarity to go across the continent as one family. We have found our collective Voice, and it is growing louder.

**Christine Willmot**  
Byron Bay

■ I am part of the 96 per cent of Australians who probably won’t feel a thing after the referendum on Saturday. But four per cent will. They will know that their +50,000-year presence here is being recognised.

What happens after that – all the subsequent steps – will be decided through legislation by governments that everyone elects. All the Voice can do is make suggestions to those elected governments based on the culture and needs of Indigenous Australians.

So, let us not be a divided country but one, with one people and walk together by saying ‘Yes’.

**John Davies**  
Mullumbimby

■ There were far more letters than we could fit in this week’s *Echo* newspaper. For more letters check out *The Echo* online at: [www.echo.net.au/letters](http://www.echo.net.au/letters).

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# Dramas to uplift, intrigue and amuse at Byron Film Festival



Under Streetlights

THE BYRON BAY FILM FESTIVAL has a fine record of bringing exciting feature dramas from around the world to local screens.

This year, the organisers are proud to have a wholly Australian-made drama in the line-up, a world premiere from the nation's heart, Alice Springs, and one that, following the national division of recent months, will act as clarion call for harmony and hope.

## Under Streetlights

*Under Streetlights* is a story about achieving unity, about the things the people of this country have in common – music is one of them, family another. It is also about courage in the

face of adversity, self-belief, and looking after each other across gender and race lines.

Based on true events, *Under Streetlights* tells the story of two young adults from very different backgrounds who are brought together by their common love of music and the challenge they both face of having an alcoholic parent. The film explores the issues within the context of a moving story of friendship and the drive to create that motivates young people across cultures.

The stars of the film are Izak, an Indigenous rapper played by Amatjere man Jacob Harvey, and Ella, a young Salvadorean/American played by Madison Hull. It is written and directed by Danielle Loy,



Club Zero

a Northern Territory resident, with cultural advisors Leighton Mason and Lynette Ellis also playing roles as Izak's dad and auntie.

The project is the first all-locally crewed and cast feature film to be shot in Alice Springs. The filmmakers' initial aim was to offer training to young people at a grass-roots level in song-writing, acting, public speaking, singing and story writing.

The result was the group significantly added to their skill set and experience in filmmaking and media, including developing the heart-warming story that became the film script.

Real musicians were cast in the lead roles. Jacob, aka Kng Jay, is already a star on



Let's Get Lost

the rise, with several singles released and a growing fan-base. Co-lead Madison is also a songwriter and performer. The pair's joy in making music together provides the beating heart of the film.

A heartwarming ode to hope, connection, and the melodies that bind us, *Under Streetlights* will uplift, inspire, and leave you humming its tunes long after the credits roll.

Director Danielle Loy says that during filming, 'we learned that people are very different, and while it is wonderful for that difference to define us, it no longer needs to divide us.'

## Anatomy of a Fall

Division is very much at the heart of this intriguing courtroom thriller from France.

Directed by Justine Triet, *Anatomy of a Fall* unfolds at a leisurely pace which belies the tension it provokes and maintains throughout. There are brilliant performances from the lead, Sandra, played by Sandra Huller, and her disabled son Daniel (Milo Machado Graner) as they come to terms with the inexplicable death of their husband and father from a fall.

The family's apparently serene life in a secluded French Alpine town is suddenly upended – and exposed, leading to a trial for murder in a courtroom where the prosecution becomes increasingly aggressive and convincing.

It's an unforgettable watch, and Triet's cinematic brilliance, underscored by haunting steel drums, earned the film the Cannes Palme d'Or 2023.

## Club Zero

A very different but equally suspenseful film is the 2023 drama thriller *Club Zero*, directed and produced by Jessica Hausner and featuring Mia Wasikowska (*Alice in Wonderland*, *Judy and Punch*) as an idealistic teacher at an elite English boarding school

championing the idea of 'conscious eating'.

Her lessons and message of purity quickly attract a fervent student group. The most vulnerable of them – their parents variously disengaged or absent – sign up for 'Club Zero' – not eating at all. This darkly amusing fable of our times, a Palme d'Or nominee at Cannes, balances humour and tension as it explores themes of youthful anxiety and rebellion, body obsession and the appeal of cults.

## Let's Get Lost

Altogether more light-hearted is *Let's Get Lost*, whose 'hero's journey' many will identify with, or envy. Mathieu, fed up with trying to balance the pressures of work and a failing marriage, decides one day to walk into the forest near his home in the French countryside, finds a lake to swim in, takes off his clothes and stays there.

Initially mystified and scathing, his friends and colleagues start to see the good sense in his decision to return to nature, and begin to re-evaluate their own choices. Gradually they're compelled to reflect on the cost of their conformity. It's a wry take on modern life and social constructs.

## Perfect Days

You might not think a toilet cleaner would love his job but Hirayama, the central character in *Perfect Days*, seems pretty content. It may have something to do with his personal hinterland, which is fed by a passion for music, books and photographing trees.

This poignant drama, Japan's Oscar entry for Foreign Film at Cannes 2024, comes from German wunderkind Wim Wenders, from a script he wrote with Takuma Takasaki. Typical Wenders themes about memory, loss, time and nostalgia are all revisited in *Perfect Days*, with Lou Reed crooning in the background. The film was selected to

Perfect Days

compete for the Palme d'Or at Cannes 2023, where it won the Best Actor Award for Koji Yakusho.

## Radical

There are plenty more inspirational ideas, as well as humour, pathos and conflict in Christopher Zalla's *Radical*, a film inspired by true events and a winner of Sundance's Audience Award.

The setting is an elementary school in Mexico, where students face not just academic hurdles but also violence, corruption and poverty. Hope emerges in the form of Sergio Juarez, played by one of Mexico's best-known actors, Eugenio Derbez, an innovative teacher who tries a radical new method to unlock his students' curiosity and potential, incurring the wrath of his superiors but also reigniting their passion for learning.

## International Shorts

Showcasing films from Italy, Luxembourg, Argentina and more, this session epitomises the power of cinema. While each story is anchored in its unique cultural context, collectively they resonate, stirring emotions and empathy. Significantly, among this global line-up are several nominees for BBFF 2023's Best Short Film Award and a Best Short Film Oscar nominee, *The Red Suitcase*.

## Young Australian Filmmaker of the Year

The Young Australian Filmmaker of the Year competition has been an integral part of BBFF since 2007, a beacon for budding filmmakers, calling out to those who dare to dream big.

■ The 17th Byron Bay International Film Festival runs from October 20-29. For tickets to all screenings, including the red carpet opening night world premiere gala, visit [bbff.com.au](http://bbff.com.au).

# If not now then when?

Eli Cook

In 1901, when Australia's Constitution was originally determined, there was no direct mention of First Nations people. In fact, it was designed to deliberately exclude us. This, in turn, gave the states control over Aboriginal affairs, allowing for over 60 years of racist policies to take hold, laying the foundation for the disadvantage we see in our communities today.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were under the control of the states. In NSW, this gave the government's Aboriginal Protection Board complete control over where Aboriginal people could live and how they could participate in the economy. This was the policy of segregation which led to the establishment of missions and reserves, designed to keep the Aboriginal population distanced from the white population.

At the time, those who might be considered as capable of integrating within the white population were often taken and placed with white families or in group homes. The vast majority of those who were taken were Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, the 'Stolen Generations'.

My father grew up in this racially divided nation. He grew up in a country that not only did not recognize him in the Constitution (it still doesn't), but he also grew up in a country that was determined to devalue his existence.

He recalls growing up on Cabbage Tree Island under the watchful eye of a white mission manager. He remembers his mother and father having to seek permission from the manager to travel to Kempsey to see his relatives. He remembers the Aboriginal Protection Board coming to his household and checking for cleanliness.

If the house was unkept, there was a real possibility that he and his siblings would be removed. He talks of the inspectors putting on white gloves and running their fingers over windowsills checking for dust. He remembers the fear on his mother's face and the frantic cleaning she would engage with every day to avoid the potential loss of her children.

The 1967 referendum handed over the control of

Indigenous affairs to the Commonwealth under what is known as the 'race power'.

However, the referendum left several key issues unresolved, including the disadvantage and division which had taken hold. It did not guarantee fairer or even equal treatment, and at the time, still allowed for the omission of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people from voting in state elections.

## Recognition

Since then, the Constitution in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people has remained the same. What we have been arguing for from this point has been the concept of 'recognition'. In general terms, the idea of 'recognition' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, is enshrining within the Constitution, a guarantee for fairer and equal treatment. Some may question why such a request needs to be enshrined within the Constitution – it is simply to ensure that those guarantees are binding and cannot be altered at the change of a government or policy position.

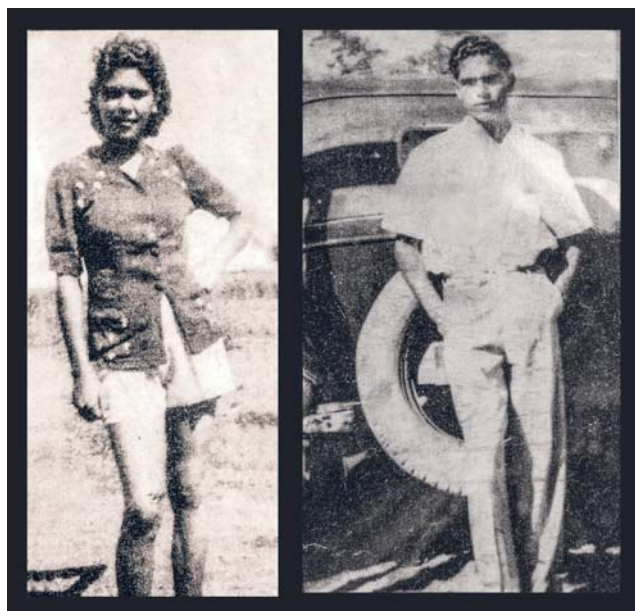
In order to achieve meaningful 'recognition' for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people we, as a nation, have been proposed a 'Voice' to parliament. This Voice will be a body which will have the opportunity to make representations to the Australian Parliament on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Effectively providing us the opportunity to have a say in the way policy is determined and delivered in areas that impact on our lives. This in essence is the foundation of self-determination for First Nations people providing us with the agency to make change in an environment that has failed us so badly in the past.

## Time for change

For too long we have allowed disadvantage to take hold and fester within this country. We have turned a blind eye to policies that have negatively impacted on First Nations people. In my lifetime, there has been little to no progress in areas such as health, education, housing, incarceration, deaths in custody, and child removal. We continue to lose our children, bury our young, and



Eli with his grandfather Lewis and his father Glen in the front row and his brothers Kris and Josh Cook in the back row.



Lurline and Lewis Cook – as young Indigenous people they were not afforded the same rights, privileges and concessions as white Australians.

Photos courtesy of the Cook Family archives

be held back by ineffective government programs and organisations.

Next Saturday, 14 October we have the opportunity to make change. You will be asked to vote 'Yes' or 'No' to a proposal that can improve our nation for the better. A vote of 'No' is a vote to continue along the path of consistent failure in policy and implementation. A vote of 'Yes' will allow our people to finally have a seat at the table to provide feedback on policies that affect 'us'. It will provide us an opportunity to have a say in determining our futures – a Voice that cannot be taken away with the stroke of a pen.

A vote of 'Yes' is not divisive. We are already divided. A vote of 'Yes' will be defining. Defining who we are as a nation moving forward into the future.

Defining a path towards reducing disadvantage and achieving greater outcomes for First Nations people. Towards a more united and fairer country.

I vote 'Yes' not for myself but for my children, and their children, with the hope that they have the opportunity to grow up in a more united country. Every generation has the opportunity to define a stronger nation. On Saturday, it is our turn.

Vote 'Yes'.

■ Eli Cook is from the Nyangbal clan of the Bundjalung nation.

His family are descendants of the South Ballina tribe.

As a local school teacher from the Ballina area he has worked closely with the Aboriginal community for the past eight years.

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# Potoroos at risk of extinction at Bayside Brunswick Heads

Gary Opit & Carmel Daoud

Everyone loves the cute quokkas though few realise that they were hunted and bulldozed into extinction in Western Australia and avoided annihilation only because a few remained on Rottnest Island and now generate vast wealth as tourist selfie subjects.

We have our own NSW North Coast quokka equivalent, the gorgeous truffle-eating northern coastal potoroo, smallest of the kangaroos. Tragically there are no islands for them to hang out on and they are now on the very edge of complete extinction.

For many millions of years, potoroos have tended their delightful garden, the scribbly gum, banksia, cypress pine, wildflower heathland coastal sand plains where they act as ecosystem engineers. They dig the truffles out of the sandy soil, aerating and turning it over, spreading the fungal spores that the plants need to grow in association with their roots. The truffles feed the plants and the plants feed the entire ecosystem.



Long-nosed Potoroo

Long-nosed potoroo. Illustration by Frank Knight

This ecosystem has been around for over a hundred million years and once spread along the Gondwanaland coast all the way around ice-free Antarctica to South America and Africa. It is the habitat where flowers, butterflies, bees, songbirds and marsupials evolved. It possesses some of the most ancient of flowering plants like the prehistoric banksias, scribbly gums, and hundreds of others.

It is full of honeyeaters, whipbirds, fairy wrens, grassbirds, whistlers, warblers, robins, finches, treecreepers, rainbow bee-eaters and critically endangered birds

like glossy black cockatoos, ground parrots, bush stone-curlews, bush-hens, and grass owls.

## Sacred Wallum

This endangered bushland is full of unique mammals like the tiny, nectar-feeding blossom bats that hover above the flowers at night, and marsupials like the endangered pygmy possums, koalas, squirrel gliders and spot-tailed quolls. Tiny carnivorous marsupials like the dunnart, planigales and antechinus live alongside long-nosed and brindled bandicoots, and ancient egg-lying echidnas. It is full

of unique reptiles, frogs, and invertebrates, some like the Wallum froglet and sedge tree frog are critically endangered.

Sacred to the Bundjalung and known as Wallum this now endangered bushland covered much of South-East Queensland and the New South Wales coast. Like the once vast subtropical rainforest it has been decimated, not by agriculture but by urban development.

Until recently the potoroo was still acting as a keystone species maintaining the last small Wallum wildflower heathlands at Cudgen until preparation for a housing

estate exterminated them. They have also gone extinct at Tyagarah. Some are hanging on at Wardell, though the highway upgrade bulldozed right through them.

Some of the last surviving northern coastal potoroos now exist at Brunswick Heads adjacent the western shore of Simpsons Creek. This was determined by ecologists Jill Smith and Mick Andren of the NSW Office of Environment and Heritage, Ecosystems and Threatened Species division, along with ecologists David Milledge and David Scotts.

Their distribution was mapped in the September 2018 edition of the *Australian Zoologist*, published by the Royal Zoological Society of NSW. One would have expected that action would have been taken by government to protect the potoroos and several other critically endangered species from complete extinction.

They are only just surviving in four undisturbed, threatened, and critically endangered ecological communities at this location. Undisturbed old growth forest full of 400-year-old trees, 230 of them, the oldest

trees in Byron Shire full of rare nesting hollows carefully studied by government ecologists.

## Approved for annihilation during lockdown

Science, our life-supporting natural environment, our community, our mental health, and our survival means nothing to money and power. The NSW Liberal-National party (LNP) government and their Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) ignored the fact that a massive real estate development proposed adjacent the Simpson Creek Sanctuary Zone of the Cape Byron Marine Park and the Bayside Estate at Brunswick Heads risks exterminating these protected endangered communities and species.

They approved the last Wallum potoroo habitat for annihilation during the pandemic lockdown so you may have missed the three-hour-long community consultation.

Byron Shire will be remembered as the location of the last mass extinction event.

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## Scrivener reply

For questioning his opinions, John Scrivener has accused me of an ad hominem attack, implying I composed the heading 'Scrivener's Ukraine'. This is surely an ad hominem attack. I raised Wagner because it is almost certain that a Russian troll farm is the origin of his opinions, whether he knows it or not. People died in the streets to rid Ukraine of Putin's puppet regime, and of course the US was supportive (at least until Putin's 'useful idiot' was elected in 2016).

Putin started the war, you can't blame the US. He sees it as acceptable to slaughter tens of thousands of innocent people and destroy their country to rectify what he views as the 'greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century', the dissolution of USSR.

As for 'Biden's corrupt dealings', would that refer to the five-year-long investigation by US Republicans to get dirt on the current president? Pathetic waste, a gun charge and a tax charge. Absolutely nothing involving Ukraine or Joe Biden.

If somebody objects to being labelled 'antivax', then maybe they shouldn't oppose essential public

health programs. If not for the vaccines we would still be in lockdowns and wearing masks.

Alan Watterson  
Hastings Point

## MPs for Assange

We appreciate the initiative of the six cross-party parliamentarians who recently travelled to the United States to make direct representation to members of the American Congress on behalf of Australian citizen, journalist and publisher Julian Assange.

A major objection that the Australian MPs voiced is the fact that Julian Assange, who is not an American citizen, nor living or working in America, can be subjected to extraterritorial legal reach of the United States.

The material on US war crimes published by Wikileaks originated from US citizen Chelsea Manning who at the time was a serving member of the US military in Iraq.

Chelsea Manning's sentence of 35 years was commuted by President Obama.

The parliamentarian group carried a letter to the US government signed by 63 other MPs, making the

case for the charges against Assange to be dropped, allowing him to return home.

The Australian people and the parliamentarians expect Julian Assange's extradition and prosecution to be high on the agenda of coming talks between PM Albanese and President Biden.

Particularly if they expect the AUKUS deal involving an expenditure of Australian taxpayers' money exceeding \$A368 billion to proceed smoothly without objection from the Australian electorate.

Julian Assange's father John Shipton continues with his long journey for his son's freedom. He is back in Lismore on Thursday 12 October.

As detailed in Eve Jeffrey's article and interview in last week's *Echo* with former military lawyer and army major, David McBride, John Shipton will be speaking at the Star Court Theatre together with McBride and well-known local social justice lawyer Edwina (Eddie) Lloyd.

Following the showing of the film *David McBride: Declassified* all three speakers will participate in a Q&A.

Roy Drew  
Mullumbimby



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Who looks inside, awakens."**

**Carl Jung**

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# Fresh Eyes on Byron Bay



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wormticklers.com



## A WORD FROM THE BYRON BAY CHAMBER

## LEADERSHIP THROUGH LOCAL KNOWLEDGE

I hope everyone is enjoying the start to spring, it was wonderful to see Byron businesses pumping during the spring school holidays. We are anticipating this momentum will carry through to a phenomenal summer season. In October we celebrate Small Business Month and we have our event 'Leadership Through Local Knowledge' on October 19 sponsored by NSW Small Business. The event will be facilitated by local business leaders sharing knowledge and insights focused on key business priorities including sustainable tourism, start ups & scaling, risk management, digital strategy, people & culture, supply chain optimisation and immersive technology / AI. We hope that the event will organically create collaboration opportunities, initiatives and business strategies to continue our focus to grow together as a business community.

**Jason Bentley**

[www.byronbaychamber.com](http://www.byronbaychamber.com)



## FEATURED CHAMBER BUSINESS

## PLANET EARTH VENTURES

Planet Earth Ventures supports businesses that are supporting the planet - working exclusively with businesses that have sustainability as their key focus. The main areas of support are Mastermind Groups, 1:1 Advisory and some helpful tools and resources.

Visit [www.planetearthventures.co](http://www.planetearthventures.co) for more info!



## 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. Free parking and health fund rebates available. Winter special \$100 pp for massage.

0423 714 875  
5-37 Broken Head Road, Byron Bay  
[nuhacollective.com.au](http://nuhacollective.com.au)



## OTTWAY THE LABEL

Timeless unisex clothing consciously crafted in small batches using premium fabrics and moving away from fast fashion.

With every purchase you help install clean energy to the community! So far they have contributed to the installation of 700 solar panels in community-owned projects around Australia. Their mantra: *Life is for Living!* Drop on in, explore their range, and make a difference.

15 Lawson Street, Byron Bay  
[ottwaythelabel.com](http://ottwaythelabel.com)  
[@ottway\\_the\\_label](https://www.instagram.com/ottway_the_label)



## LEO TERRANDO DESIGN

Léo Terrando Design is an acclaimed Australian-based French design practice, located in Byron Bay. Focusing on premium luxury interiors for hospitality, residential and commercial projects, his unique perspective on design allows Léo to introduce depth and layering that tell stories through their multifaceted complexities.

125 Jonson St, Byron Bay  
[leoterrando.com](http://leoterrando.com)  
[@leoterrando](https://www.instagram.com/leoterrando)



### THE HUM

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](http://thehumco.com.au)



### NO BONES

**No Bones Byron Bay:** Discover the original restaurant on Fletcher Street. Experience local DJ sets on weekends, daily happy hour 5-6pm, and tapas-style share plates - all 100% plant-based!

**No Bones Ocean Shores:** They've got something for everyone - daily salads, Bali banana pancakes, kitchari, burgers, fresh cold-pressed juices, smoothies and cocktails! Open daily from 8am til 2pm.

11 Fletcher St, Byron Bay  
 82 Rajah Rd, Ocean Shores  
[@nobonesrestaurants](https://www.nobonesrestaurants.com.au)



### PIXIE FOOD & WINE - WEEKEND LUNCH SPECIAL

Pixie Food & Wine have extended their lunch offer! Enjoy an entree and main of your choice plus sides for just \$55 per person every Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 12-3pm. Both inside and outside dog-friendly dining options available, along with onsite parking located under the Jonson Lane precinct.

139 Jonson Street, Byron Bay  
[pixiebyronbay.com.au](http://pixiebyronbay.com.au)



### SUFFOLK FISH AND CHIPS

Suffolk Fish and Chips is your local takeaway shop serving traditional Aussie fish and chips alongside a ripa 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!

3 Clifford Street, Suffolk Park  
 (Next to Spar)  
[@suffolk\\_fishandchips](https://www.instagram.com/suffolk_fishandchips)



### DR MOOSE

Dr Moose is a family-owned local business, since 1995. They offer same-day custom digital printing on t-shirts, stubby coolers, hats, tote bags and more. They use the finest quality AS Colour and ethically sourced 100% cotton t-shirts which are pre-shrunk and made to last.

Open every day 9.30am-5.30pm.

02 6685 5825  
 48 Jonson Street, Byron Bay  
[drmoose@drmoose.com.au](mailto:drmoose@drmoose.com.au)  
[drmoose.com.au](http://drmoose.com.au)



### BAREFOOT BLVD

Barefoot Blvd is a locally-owned, family-operated business carrying a large range of footwear and lifestyle products for everyone.

Brands such as Birkenstock, Blundstone, Yeti, CoolCabanas, Crocs and Frank Green are some of the names you'll find in store, as well as ladies footwear brands such as Django & Juliette, Mollini, Teva, Billini and Freedom Moses to name a few.

0426 260 943  
 13 Lawson Street, Byron Bay  
[barefootblvd.com.au](http://barefootblvd.com.au)  
[info@barefootblvd.com.au](mailto:info@barefootblvd.com.au)



### ORBIT ECO DRY CLEANING

Byron Bay's eco-friendly dry cleaner will professionally clean your clothing and household items using their gentle biodegradable and non-toxic process. It's safer for the environment and for the health of their customers and staff. Suits, coats, jackets, dresses, wedding dresses, silk, leather and suede, lounge covers, doonas, blankets and more! Gerard and Shelley look forward to welcoming you into Orbit!

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100% Pets Byron Bay is your local family-owned-and-operated pet supply store.

Come and see their friendly and knowledgeable team for all your pet needs.

The extensive range of quality products at 100% Pets enables them to become your pet care partner for the lifelong journey of your pet. Their priority is the health and wellbeing of your pet, whether it's a dog, cat, rabbit, guinea pig, bird and/or fish.

02 6680 8121  
 4/55 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay

# Good Taste


# Eateries Guide

## BYRON BAY



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

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



**Main Street**  
Open for takeaway daily,  
12 midday until dinner.  
Menu, more details –  
@mainstreet\_burgerbar  
18 Jonson Street  
6680 8832

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.  
Menu and more details  
@mainstreet\_burgerbar  
**'Make a meal of it'**  
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**Success Thai**  
Open Lunch Wed–Fri  
12–2.30pm.  
Dinner Mon–Sat 5–8pm.  
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www.facebook.com/  
pages/Success-Thai-  
Food/237359826303469

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5642 0149

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\$12 selected cocktails  
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therocksbyronbay.com.au  
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**Thursday** 5–9pm.  
**Friday & Saturday** Drinks & snacks from 4pm.  
**Sunday** Live and local music from 6pm.  
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Native Indigenous Restaurant  
Cnr of Bay Lane & Fletcher St,  
Byron Bay  
5614 8656



**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.




**NO BONES**  
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0422 355 928

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#brusselsnotbeef  
www.nobones.co




**Loft Byron Bay**  
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Byron Bay  
6680 9183  
Book online:  
www.loftbyronbay.com.au

Signature cocktails, and casual dining with ocean views.  
**Happy Hour** | Every day from 4–6pm.  
\$8 loft wine or lager, \$10 spritzer,  
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## BANGALOW



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Bangalow  
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7am–2pm weekends.  
6687 1209  
www.bangalowbread.co  
info@bangalowbread.co

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6684 2306

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## MURWILLUMBAH



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## NEWRYBAR



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Newrybar NSW 2479  
02 6687 2644  
www.harvest.com.au  
@harvestnewrybar

**COFFEE CART**  
7 days | 6.30am–3.00pm  
**RESTAURANT**  
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Dinner | Fri & Sat | 5.30–8.30pm  
**DELI**  
7 days | 7.30am–3.30pm

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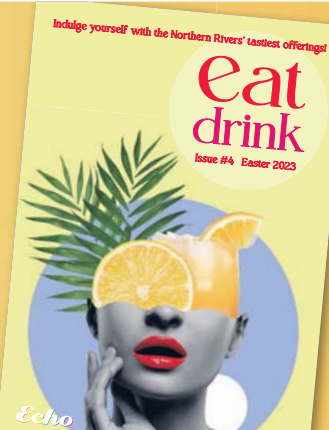


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# Good Life

## Fig Tree Christmas events: Byron style and fine food

Perched atop the first hill overlooking Byron Bay, Fig Tree Restaurant's sweeping ocean views, manicured Mediterranean gardens and relaxed Byron style have made it an iconic destination to dine, celebrate and be wed.

For the past 40 years, their award-winning team have had the pleasure of cooking and serving within this community, not only at their fine dining restaurant, but for countless events across the Byron Bay region when they have taken Fig Tree Restaurant 'on location'.

Their carefully crafted menus are drawn from a passion for travel and respect for tradition and the slow food movement, and a focus on flavour, creativity and selection. Their chefs and gardeners work together to use ingredients that are hand-picked from Fig Tree's thriving vegetable garden and citrus orchard. Everything else? What they can't grow, they source locally from this region's fine artisans, fishmongers, butchers and producers from neighbouring farms.

If you are planning an event this Christmas season, the Fig Tree take your fun seriously! Work with their incredible team of planners, stylists, and chefs to create a bespoke event and discover just



how easy and enjoyable planning your Christmas event can be this festive season! You can expect a diverse array of cuisines matched with next level service – exquisitely executed with the home-grown and thoughtful 'Fig Tree' touch!

You can be sure that your guests will leave raving about the food as, according to the Fig Tree team, 'We believe the food at your special occasion should be the true highlight of your celebration. We relish in your guests gathering around the table sharing stories, laughter and creating fond memories, while enjoying our thoughtfully created dishes which have purposely been designed to share.'

And of course the Fig Tree Restaurant also offers a truly unique and beautiful backdrop to make your occasion unforgettable. Imagine your event unfolding within lush gardens, or an idyllic olive grove, with cocktails under the grapevine, and jasmine blooming in the warm breeze.

Transition into their dining room as the afternoon unfolds for a decadent, multi-course dining experience, all while savouring the breathtaking views.



Contact the team on 02 6684 7273 or email their events team at [info@figtreerestaurant.com.au](mailto:info@figtreerestaurant.com.au) to book your Christmas celebration with Fig Tree.

## Woodland Valley Farm's hens are rebuilding the earth

Victoria Cosford

From strength to strength, that's been their trajectory for the past few years. Woodland Valley Farm's list of awards – for, variously, their custards, their pastas and 'excellence' in both 'small business' and 'manufacturing' – continues to swell. Fabian Fabbro and Jodie Vickers are the regenerative farmers at the heart of the Fernvale-based operation in the Tweed Valley, one that began with the supply of eggs at markets and has since then expanded to include a deli in Murwillumbah.

Pasta'bah came about, Jodie tells me, as a result of the floods in February last year which inundated the farm's commercial kitchen, necessitating a search for a new production facility. 'We lost most of our



Jodie Vickers from Woodland Valley Farm.

equipment,' Jodie says. 'The current home of the Pasta'bah was the perfect location... so we decided to open the doors and sell our products directly.' Those products include sauces, custards, biscuits, ready-made meals and their famous pasta, whose manufacture can be viewed

through a large in-store window.

But not only that, 'our business,' Jodie tells me, 'came about initially to ensure we had zero waste with respect to the eggs we produce.' In addition, their hens contribute approximately one tonne of fertiliser to their land,

'providing a slow-release source of macro and micro-nutrients, acting as soil amendment,' says Jodie.

Most significantly, in the past two years they have achieved 350 tonnes of soil organic carbon sequestration, carbon drawn from the atmosphere and stored in the earth, through practices such as rotational grazing and native riparian zone management. It's a triumphant story, but the ever-modest Jodie, who's so much more than a pretty girl selling eggs, says that 'we are truly thankful to our customers... as it is their support that allows us to continue the work we do to rebuild the ecosystem on our farm.'

Woodland Valley Farm is at New Brighton every Tuesday from 8 to 11am and Mullumbimby every Friday from 7 to 11am.



Bimbi:

## at the heart of Mullum

Bimbi Coffee Shop has settled nicely into Mullumbimby's cafe culture – interacting with the wonderful Ellie and her staff is a fun and rewarding way to start your day. Ellie has grown up in Mullumbimby and it's obvious that she takes a lot of pride in owning and operating her business in a town that she loves.

Bimbi is a piece of the heart that keeps Mullumbimby real; they're committed to friendly service with excellent food and drink in a clean, safe, fun environment.

They're open from 6am daily, serving Allpress coffee any way you want it, with a full selection of milk products available. They also serve Calmer Chai tea selections and

a range of iced beverages for the warmer months.

Bimbi's Instagram will show you the daily menu selection of exotic fresh rolls, wraps, pastries and old school cakes and cookies.

Tucked away in the back of the Stuart Street Arcade, Bimbi has created a true nesting place for friends and colleagues who need time out.

Shop 6/108 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby.  
[@bimbi\\_coffee\\_shop](https://www.instagram.com/bimbi_coffee_shop)



Delightful!

Kim Stephens from the Smoking Camel team, and Eddie Brook from Brookie's Gin, have been friends for a long time, and now they've got together to combine both their passions. They're pictured at the launch of the 'Turkish Delight' gin, used in the eponymous martini-style cocktail that's being served at the Smoking Camel late night bar and restaurant at 3/17 Lawson St Byron Bay.

Photo Jeff 'Smoking Camels & Delighting Turks' Dawson




Open 6am – 12pm  
Monday – Saturday  
Shop 6/108 Stuart Street  
Mullumbimby.  
[@bimbi\\_coffee\\_shop](https://www.instagram.com/bimbi_coffee_shop)  
ALLPRESS ESPRESSO

# THE SCOOP



## ROTARY BYRON BAY

It's no secret that Byron Shire residents suffer more than their share of life's challenges, with a huge impact on mental health. Rotary Byron Bay is all for the betterment of others and they love to get behind wonderful services that tackle adversity, like Fletcher St Cottage and the Women's Resource Service, as well as supporting Rotary's 'No to Domestic Violence' campaign. Mental wellbeing starts early so they're delighted to be sponsoring 'Body Bloom in Byron', a school program for teenage girls, 50% of whom worry deeply about body image, often with dire consequences. Do you share their passion for helping young people develop mental resilience and a brighter future?

Why not come to a meeting and see what they're all about?

**Meet Tuesdays 5.30pm, Byron Bay Services Club**  
[byronbayrotary.org.au](http://byronbayrotary.org.au)



## MY GEEK MATE

If you're aged 50 or over, then come along to your free government-sponsored 'Be Connected' digital literacy class at My Geek Mate. It's a 1.5hr session in a maximum class size of 3 humans. 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. Please call Mark on 0431 122 057 or pop in and see him at 1/53 Tamar St, Ballina. 'I am currently having fun with "Midjourney" AI image generation! I used the phrase "A giant Buddha meditating under a waterfall in the Australian bush, godrays, in the style of cyberpunk futurism -ar 4:3";' said Mark.

**1/53 Tamar St, Ballina**  
[www.mygeekmate.com.au](http://www.mygeekmate.com.au)

**0431 122 057**

## CAPE BYRON RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL

Connecting with community is important in developing understanding and empathy in our young people.

Class 7 visited RSL Lifecare earlier this year sharing their love of music with the residents.

Class 9 hosted these residents at school, where there showed them an exhibition of K-12 classwork while listening with quiet admiration to the elderly guests' stories.

'When I heard we had elderly visitors coming to school I wasn't sure what to expect, but when they arrived they were just so lovely. I showed a lady named Jude around the Spring Fair exhibition, she was just the funniest woman ever. She made me miss my grandma more. At the end of the morning my face hurt from smiling so much. It was such a good opportunity'. – Adi Class 9.

**216 Balraith Lane**  
**Ewingsdale**  
**02 6639 9300**



## IKON INSTITUTE OF AUSTRALIA

**What is transformational learning, and does it have an impact on your healing journey?**

Transformational learning is a profound form of acquiring knowledge that surpasses mere surface-level strategies. It entails shifting from passive acceptance of information towards a reflective, conscious learning process, resulting in a fundamental shift in one's worldview. It involves becoming critically aware of concealed assumptions and assessing their significance in our comprehension.

'The Ikon Institute of Australia has been dedicated to teaching transformational learning for four decades. Choosing to study 'Counselling and Psychotherapy' or 'Arts Therapy' at Ikon can have a profound impact on your life and enable you to make a positive difference in the lives of many others.' – Dr. Judith Ayre. Head of School, Counselling at Ikon Institute of Australia.

**Apply: [ikon.edu.au](http://ikon.edu.au)**  
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**Phone: 1300 613 801 (ext 1)**  
**Online & on campus**



# THE SCOOP



## BYRON COLLEGE

Did you know there are only 81 days left in 2023? Don't panic, there is still time to learn something new, chase that dream or start a new career at Byron Community College!

Learn about the anatomy of the human body whilst developing skills for a new and exciting career in their FEE-FREE\* 8-week 'Introduction to Massage' course. Study the muscle, bone and fascia systems of the body and how to provide relaxation and physical wellbeing using the ancient healing modality of massage. It may even ignite the spark to become accredited in their nationally recognised HLT42015 - Certificate IV in Massage Therapy training.

\* Course fees are fully subsidised for eligible students. This training is subsidised by the NSW government.

Learn more  
[www.byroncollege.org.au](http://www.byroncollege.org.au) or  
 call 6684 3374. RTO: 90013



## 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, 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](http://www.mrmacintosh.com.au)  
 Mr Mac is also on Facebook (Mr Macintosh) or Instagram (@mrmacbyronbay).

## WORRIED ABOUT CYBER HYGIENE OR A RANSOMWARE ATTACK?

You don't need reminding what happens when your oral hygiene decays or when your body hygiene stinks. You also know that the key to protection is knowledge about what allows these problems to occur and how to stop that from happening. It is the same with cyber hygiene.

Too often businesses don't worry about a breach or ransomware attack until it happens.

In all matters of cyber security the greatest threat is the lack of knowledge. On Tuesday, 17 October at the Byron Community Centre from 5.30 to 7.30pm Salvanote will present a seminar that checks best current practices in cyber threat prevention against common mistakes made by businesses and their employees.

Seating is limited. Cost is \$20.  
 Booking: [www.salvanote.com/bookings](http://www.salvanote.com/bookings)



## HOLD A GARAGE SALE THIS SECONDHAND SATURDAY!

The North Coast's biggest day of garage sales is back on 4 November and registrations to hold a garage sale are now open.

Selling and buying pre-loved goods is a great way to keep items circulating within our community and reduce the cost of living. Garage sales are about reducing waste – and helping combat climate change. Buying just one small appliance secondhand, for example, can save around 167kg of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Residents who register for Second Hand Saturday can hold their own garage sale, or can hold one with family and friends. Fundraisers are also welcome!

Garage sale listings will appear live on the website immediately after registration. You can have a print listing as well. Register online at [www.secondhandsaturday.com.au](http://www.secondhandsaturday.com.au) or contact your local council.

Contact: Linda Tohver  
 North East Waste Education Coordination  
[www.newaste.org.au](http://www.newaste.org.au)  
[linda@newaste.org.au](mailto:linda@newaste.org.au)  
 0427 770 198  
[www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)



## WALLACE & CO

If you need some retail therapy, you can't go past locally-owned Wallace & Co, in the heart of River Street, Ballina!

Offering expert advice and good old-fashioned customer service, they specialise in men's and ladies' clothing and footwear. Shop the biggest and most sought-after range of linen and bamboo clothing from Industrie, Kingston Grange, Gazman and Blazer, as well as Birkenstock and Doc Martin shoes and famous Australian brands like Akubra and RM Williams. Shop their great range now.

Open seven days for your shopping convenience, or shop online.

6686 2081  
 109 River St, Ballina  
[wallaces.com.au](http://wallaces.com.au)

# In the shadow of a coming referendum: the light of progress

On 15 October I hope this country wakes up with a 'Yes' for the Voice referendum. In putting forward my view, I have been savagely trolled. I've had some opportunistic 'No' people use my platform to prosecute their agenda. I have not gone on the page of 'No' supporters. I have not abused them. I have seen the proliferation

of misinformation and the use of fear and conspiracy to inflame uncertainty and to keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people voiceless in our colonial system.

So this week I have asked my nephew, Levi Murray, a Wakka Wakka/ Kubi Kubi man to share his insights. Levi is the Strategic Director

with the Indigenous Studies Unit at Melbourne School of Population and Global Health and Strategic Manager of Indigenous Data Network at the University of Melbourne. He is an expert health strategist and has worked in a dynamic range of primary healthcare settings throughout Australia.

He currently works alongside Marcia Langton. His view is broad and informed by data, his compassion is immense and his connection to culture and country is present in everything he does. He is one of the smartest people I know. Maybe you will listen to him.

– Mandy Nolan

## Levi Murray

Life has an uncanny way of echoing the narratives of art, and presently, we find ourselves caught in a script that feels all too reminiscent of the opening scenes in disaster movies. Picture this: scientists, their pleas falling on deaf ears, rushing

to confront impending catastrophe. It may sound clichéd, yet the resonance with reality is undeniably unsettling. However, this time, these scientists are not mere actors; they are esteemed experts and, in my case, colleagues such as the distinguished Redman Barry Professor Marcia Langton AO.

While I cannot speak for the experiences of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, my journey toward a forthcoming referendum spans not just the preceding months of 2023 but a decade marked by unwavering commitment and progress. Throughout this extended period, and my lifetime, I struggled to recall a moment when public discourse and rhetoric did not confine me—physically and spiritually. It seems that my experiences, intentions, and actions, both past and future, have all been sequestered.



*'We need to reach out to everyone with words that inform but do not inflame. We need to encourage everyone to prepare but not to panic.'* – Levi Murray

and Human Services, Michael O. Leavitt, continues to resonate: 'We do not know when a pandemic might strike. But we can be sure of two things. Everything we do before a pandemic will seem alarmist. Everything we do after a pandemic will seem inadequate. This is the dilemma we face, but it should not stop us from doing what we can to prepare. We need to reach out to everyone with words that inform but do not inflame. We need to encourage everyone to prepare but not to panic.'

My vote is unequivocally 'Yes.' It has always been 'Yes,' but arriving at this conclusion required education and introspection. Whenever I am asked how I reached this stance, my answer is rooted in the belief that we, as a collective society, have thrived when we have said 'Yes'—not just for Indigenous priorities but broadly across society. As we approach the referendum in the following weeks, days, and hours, whatever your position has been, I want you to remember that standing on the banks of the river upstream, the river may seem to split. However, if you look further upstream, that is where the river meets and joins in confluence.

I am not trying to convince anyone, but rather – reassure, that in the wake of a 'Yes' outcome, you won't wake to find a post-apocalyptic world where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the supreme overlords or driving down glittered-rainbow roads for that matter (as a small, and secular portion of society would have you believe about the LGBTQI+ community ahead of the postal survey for same-sex marriages).

In the event of a 'Yes' outcome, Australia will have it watershed moment, we'll have entered a new era and maturity.

### Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #512

1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8
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22						23							24	
25													26	
27														28

- #### Cryptic Clues
- ACROSS**
- Plot maps to implement safety measure in the streets at night (4,4)
  - A circle with a writer and the queen – and David Warner, perhaps! (6)
  - Not available: Hawke, the big shot (5)
  - Grill, maim, torture the little lightweight (9)
  - Parrot prunes, suggested Spooner of the sweets (9)
  - Egyptians remove silk from their sacred beetles! (5)
  - Merit? Take it away! (7)
  - Essay, an article with the small sibling (6)
  - Artist's paintbox – about taste, from the sound of it (6)
  - Role bearing right for an intimate companion (7)
  - Russian dictator swaps ends for resources (5)
  - Peacekeeper work suggested and not contested (9)
  - CUL, an incongruous alliance (3,6)
  - Blackbird, a wild dance number (5)
  - Rate idiot female? (6)
  - Suspension for Lincoln, co-ordinate with new church (8)
- DOWN**
- Bring gentlewoman back to earth – she takes in lodgers! (8)
  - Unruly band with a single line to procure a fuel provider (5)
  - Advertising family open to all (6,9)
  - Aggregate came first, said no one in particular (7)
  - No trespassing! Soldier on suitable limits of territory (7,8)
  - Story told, country about Australia – right, right! (9)
  - Forgetful about the girl (6)
  - Shut the bar cupboard (6)
  - Tread heavily on English, from the French in headlong rushes (9)
  - Caution, Ms Goward (8)
  - Time with bums – or presidents! (6)
  - Saw offer of evidence for the extremes of rhubarb (7)
  - 1999, very big Australian tropical bush (6)
  - Odd number – small, and divisible by two? (5)

- #### Quick Clues
- ACROSS**
- It illuminates the roadway (4,4)
  - Starts the batting (6)
  - Tycoon (5)
  - Unit of weight (9)
  - Candy; suckers (9)
  - Ethnic group in the Middle East (5)
  - Earn (7)
  - Dissertation (6)
  - Flat, wooden transport platform (6)
  - Business associate (7)
  - Contribution (5)
  - Unanimous (9)
  - Unlikely pair (3,6)
  - Crow (5)
  - Evaluate (6)
  - Dormancy (8)
- DOWN**
- Proprietress (8)
  - Petrol company (5)
  - Image management (6,9)
  - Person (7)
  - Personal estate (7,8)
  - Account (9)
  - Neglectful (6)
  - Wardrobe (6)
  - Frenzied charges: routs (9)
  - Wisdom (8)
  - Outperforms (6)
  - Adage (7)
  - Cocktail of champagne and orange juice (6)
  - Days in the week (5)
- Last week's solution #511**
- |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| S | O | M | E | T | I | M | E | S | C | O | P | E | S |
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| E | N | T | R | A | N | C | E | A | R | O | U | S | E |
| I | B | E | C | D | L | D |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| G | L | O | B | A | L | W | A | R | M | I | N | G |   |
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| D | E | V | E | L | O | P | E | D | C | O | U | N | T |
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| C | L | I | M | A | T | E | C | H | A | N | G | E |   |
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| N | E | E | D | E | D | P | R | I | S | O | N | E | R |

In moments of introspection, the words of the French philosopher and essayist Roland Barthes come to mind. Barthes dissected photography from three angles: the operator, the spectator, and the spectrum. The operator, the photographer, captures the image—the 'to do.' The spectator, who gazes upon the photograph in exhibitions, newspapers, or albums, undertakes the act of 'looking at.' The spectrum, the subject being photographed, undergoes the 'undergo.' In Barthes' framework, we encounter the essence of storytelling, where each element—the photographer (operator), the subject (spectrum), and the viewer (spectator)—plays a crucial role in shaping the narrative.

I have found myself uniquely positioned in our ongoing quest for justice and recognition. I have become the operator whilst simultaneously being part of the spectrum, offering a detached yet pluralistic spectator's view of reality. This experience was unforeseen, as my journey transitioned from operator to becoming part of the spectrum amid the ongoing battle for Indigenous rights and a seemingly elusive referendum.

In my current capacity, I am the Strategic Manager of Indigenous Data at the University of Melbourne and the Indigenous Data Network. Over nearly two decades, my work has spanned various domains, including health and education, and I have donned many hats. This journey has encompassed the spiritual, educational, emotional, and physical realms, with thousands of kilometres travelled and hundreds of communities experienced across all states and territories. This journey has essentially been a quest for a voice, not just for myself but for my family, friends and broader communities to which I am intrinsically connected and responsible.

Throughout my nearly 20 year journey in education and health, the revolving door of government and the prevalence of government-contracted consultancy with firms such as PWC and KPMG have underscored one apparent reality: we need a mechanism that allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people not only to problematise effectively but also to prioritise and find viable solutions. This is not to say we have not experienced moments of alignment or periods of significant collegial success throughout history. Instead, as a nation, we

cannot afford to begin waning on our way to new horizons. During the peak of the global COVID-19 pandemic, I served as the Executive Manager of Clinical Excellence for Population Health with the Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation. In that capacity, I witnessed the potential value and benefits that a Voice to Parliament could offer. Imagine the strides we could make if the government continues to collaborate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the same manner they did during the pandemic's height. Entirely new models of care, clinical design, and governance were not merely conceptualised but brought to fruition because we had critical seats at the table and an effective means of voicing community needs for our priority populations.

The momentum, synergy, and goodwill that carried us forward and through the darkest phases of the pandemic should not wane as we emerge on the other side. Nor should we regress to flawed and outdated systems that proved inadequate, not just for any societal group but for all.

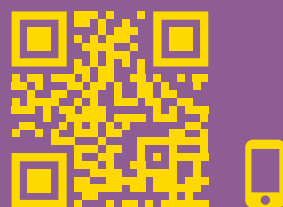
From the onset of the pandemic to the present, former Secretary of Health

# VOTE

# YES!



**Yes23**  
**.com.au**



Authorised by Dean Parkin, Australians for Indigenous Constitutional Recognition Ltd, L6, 110 Walker Street, North Sydney, NSW

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# Severn

## Ballina Contemporary Art Market

The inaugural **Ballina Contemporary Art Market (BCAM)** is a free, one-day, fun-filled arts and cultural event taking place on **Saturday 14 October** from **10am to 7pm** at the **Northern Rivers Community Gallery + Ignite Studios** creative precinct in Ballina, showcasing the creative talent of the region.

This free event will feature more than 60 arts and crafts stalls selling a range of artworks, products, and wares by artists and artisans from across the Northern Rivers.

Some of the artists featured include **Casino Wake Up Time, Dave Sparkes, Dreaming of Country, Karena Wynn-Moylan, Natalia Santos, Nic Palmer, Outpost Studios, Penelope Sienna, The Field ARI, Vickki King** and **Yao Mikami**.

Throughout the day, an exciting program of free creative workshops will be available for marketgoers. BCAM will also feature live music, food stalls, and a chance for kids to meet the amazing dinosaurs from acclaimed theatre company **Erth Visual & Physical Inc.** The event will close with a twilight laneway party featuring a musical performance from local six-piece Byron favourite the **Versace Boys**.

BCAM market stalls and food stalls start at 10am. Public art Go Play on the Road by **Kate Stroud Murals, Beki Davies, Gala Jane** and **Allan Leisk**.

**Free workshops** include: ceramics wheel throwing demo, 11am-1pm; dinosaur puppet making for kids, 11.30am-1.30pm; weaving with Jugan Dandii, 2-4pm; and collage for kids with **Claudie Frock**, 2-5pm.

There will be **roving performances** from 10am with Erth and Sprung! creatures: 11am meet the Australovenator dinosaur; 3pm meet the Australovenator dinosaur; and 4.30pm Erth & Sprung! deep sea diver.

The laneway stage starts at 10.30am and will have wonderful entertainment until 7pm, beginning with Welcome to Country with **Aunty Nancy Walke** at 10.30am, followed by **DJ Chop Suey** at 10.45am, the Paradise FM busking competition from 12pm, DJ Chop Suey again from 2pm, and live music from **Myki Jay Duo** at 3.30pm and then the **Versace Boys** from 5pm.

This event has been made possible through funding from the NSW government.

**Ballina Contemporary Art Market 2023, Saturday 14 October 2023 from 10am to 7pm.**

**Northern Rivers Community Gallery + Ignite Studios creative precinct, on the Corner of Cherry St and Crane St, Ballina.**

[www.ballinacontemporaryartmarket.com.au](http://www.ballinacontemporaryartmarket.com.au).



18TH ANNUAL 2ND-5TH NOV 23

## Byron Latin Fiesta

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 LATIN BAND | DJs

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Cancer Council

# STARS

OF NORTHERN RIVERS 2023

Byron Theatre  
 October 14th 2023  
 doors open 5.00pm

Watch our brightest stars as they dance to raise funds for a cancer free future

Tickets on sale now via  
 Byron Theatre

\$120 + GST + BF  
 includes nibbles on arrival and light refreshments at intermission.  
 Drinks available for purchase from bar.  
 Dress code: cocktail

More info:  
[www.stars.cancercouncil.com.au/event/stars-of-northern-rivers](http://www.stars.cancercouncil.com.au/event/stars-of-northern-rivers)

# I'M NOT FAT, I'M BOLD

word choice matters but fonts speak too

GRAPHIC DESIGN, PRINT, DIGITAL, BRANDING, TUTOR

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# MUSIC IN OUR EARS, AND THE VALLEY

The very popular Music in the Valley is back at Main Arm Upper Public School this weekend – this event is a celebration of a vibrant and family-friendly community music festival featuring a host of homegrown and Australian talent and non-stop entertainment.

This year's edition features **Harry James Angus, The Gumboots, Greg Sheehan, the Mullumbimby All-Stars, Salve George, The Waangenga** and **Main Arm School dancers, Spaghetti Circus** and the **Main Arm School Choir**.

Also on this stellar bill is local singer/songwriter **Emily Lubitz**, known for her delicious voice and bulls-eye-accurate lyrics. Lubitz spoke to *The Echo* last week about her upcoming appearance at Music in the Valley.

### What is it you love about Music in the Valley?

Music in the Valley became more than just a school fair in 2019 when we turned Main Arm Primary School into the site for a mini music festival.

With Covid and floods, we haven't been able to do another one since – until now!

Music in the Valley takes place on stunning Bundjalung country, with Mt Boogarem looking down on us, a natural landscape fit for a postcard.

There will be a wonderful musical lineup, an amazing array of foods provided by our multicultural parent community, a bar, and all the horse rides, face painting and jumping castles a kid could ask for.

We even have The Magic Bus giving rides, to bring a bit of Mullum Music Festival nostalgia.

### Why are events like Music in the Valley important for small communities?

These little festivals help build the fabric of our community. They bring us together for all the right

reasons. We work hard as a community to put them on, with most people volunteering their time, and then we get to enjoy the day together. Our kids get to perform with the school choir and dance troupe and see their school full of colour and music.

Also, all the money raised from this festival will go towards providing extra equipment, experiences and services for the kids throughout the year which is very much needed after the very disrupted 18 months they have had since the floods.

### What other performances are you looking forward to?

All of them! But in particular, Waangenga and the Main Arm School dancers, The Gumboots, and the Harry James Angus and Greg Sheehan collaboration.

### What will you be performing at the event?

I will be performing my solo stuff with my mate **Matty Green** joining me on guitar.

Apart from great music, the Music in the Valley event will also host a sideshow alley, jumping castles, food stalls, a craft zone, face painting, as well as barista coffee and a licensed bar.

**The Magic Bus** will run from town to the festival for the entire event from **12pm until 6pm**.

**Music in the Valley is on Sunday at the Upper Main Arm Public School and entry is FREE.**



## Vanessa and her teardrops

Fabulous, filthy and downright hilarious, **Vanessa Larry Mitchell** returns to the Northern Rivers with her smash hit solo show **Teardrops on My Dildo** set to hit the **Brunswick Picture House!**

Recently touring Edinburgh Fringe, London and Belfast, Mitchell picked up her first international reviews with one of the most prestigious comedy reviewers in Scotland who said: 'You will pretty much laugh for an hour. And that is a rare thing. Vanessa is more relaxed and direct behind a comedy mic than anyone I have seen.' – *The Scotsman*.

After two sell out shows at the Star Court Theatre in Lismore and one at Byron Theatre earlier this year, we know that this show is also highly likely to sell out! Grab your girl mates, or bring your brave partners and get ready for a night of side-splitting hilariness on **14 October, 7pm at Brunswick Picture House.**

**For tickets: brunswickpicturehouse.com. 18+ recommended.**

### Brunswick Valley Landcare presents a film fundraiser:

**Planet Fungi – A Pioneering Fungi Adventure**  
in the remote Eastern Himalayas  
on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October - International Fungi Day.

Film starts 4pm, doors open 3.30pm. Kiosk will be open.  
Tickets \$25 or \$20 concession/ house mates.

Each ticket sold helps Brunswick Valley Landcare do more plantings, habitat restoration and bush regeneration projects across the Byron Shire.


To learn more about the film and buy tickets:  
[www.brunswickpicturehouse.com](http://www.brunswickpicturehouse.com)



Bluesfest presents **WILD AID 2023 FUNDRAISER**

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PERFORMING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TEN YEARS!



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## LOOSE CONTENT

## JEZ MEAD

BYRON BAY WILDLIFE HOSPITAL +

ALL PROCEEDS TO BYRON BAY WILDLIFE HOSPITAL

**SATURDAY 21st OCTOBER 5pm.**  
**THE GREEN ROOM. BYRON EVENTS FARM**  
TICKETS@MOSHTIX 18+ HOME OF BLUESFEST

# Severn



## Flavours of Spain in music

Experience the enchanting melodies of Spain like never before at *Flavours of Spain*. Presented by **Byron Music Society** this event will be a mesmerising afternoon of music, where the passionate rhythms of the guitar, skillfully played by the renowned **Karin Schaupp**, intertwine with the graceful melodies of the piano, masterfully performed by the talented **Alex Raineri**.

Immerse yourself in the rich tapestry of Spanish music and let your senses savour the distinct and captivating flavours of this vibrant culture. Don't miss this extraordinary concert that promises to transport you to the heart of Spain, right here at Byron Bay Theatre. Get your tickets now and indulge in an unforgettable musical journey that will leave your soul dancing.

**22 October, 3pm. Tickets \$19.50 - \$49.50.**  
[www.byroncentre.com.au](http://www.byroncentre.com.au)

## It's all about fungi, black cockies and lyrebirds

**Brunswick Valley Landcare** is very excited to be organising community screenings of three films at the **Brunswick Picture House** – you could call it a little fundraising film festival.

Proceeds from the tickets will go towards more tree plantings, habitat restorations and bush regeneration projects across the Byron Shire.

*Planet Fungi: North East India* will screen on **Sunday, 15 October** and will include a **Q&A** with the filmmakers on International Fungi Day!

*Planet Fungi: North East India* is a pioneering fungi adventure in the remote Eastern Himalayas.

Internationally acclaimed fungi photographer **Stephen Axford** and local tribal guides take us on a journey of

discovery into a world of extraordinary, beautiful and bizarre mushrooms – a world beyond imagination.

Stephen's images of mushrooms have been featured in leading science and nature magazines across the globe. His exquisite time lapses of fungi growing are showcased in several award-winning documentaries and now in this documentary, *Planet Fungi: North East India*.

*Black Cockatoo Crisis* screens on **Wednesday, 25 October** and includes a short talk from the **Glossy Squad**.

*Black Cockatoo Crisis* looks at the plight of our special cockatoos and what we can do to stop these threatened species from disappearing forever.

While set in Western Australia, this is a universal story of biodiversity loss and what can be done to reverse the situation. Western Australia's iconic black cockatoos are in crisis. Their numbers have fallen dramatically over the past few decades and all three species in the south-west of WA could become extinct in just 20 years unless something is done to protect their habitats.

Owing to habitat loss and other factors, Carnaby's black cockatoos, Baudin's black cockatoos and the forest red-tailed black cockatoos are all under threat.

*The Message Of The Lyrebird* screens on **Wednesday, 15 November** and includes a short talk from a local lyrebird expert.

No other bird on the planet can do what the lyrebird can do. In 1998, wildlife filmmaker **Nick Hayward** captured *The Life of Birds* on film, in which Australia's most creative song-bird imitates the sound of a chainsaw chopping down a tree.

The bird was filmed in captivity, but ever since then, the world of birding enthusiasts have wondered, do lyrebirds imitate man-made sounds in the wild?

This question begins a journey deep into the native forests, where a cast of characters help us not only understand the sophistication and complex artistry of the lyrebird, but what its message may be for humanity.

**Tickets for the three screenings are \$25 and can be purchased from the Brunswick Picture House website: [brunswickpicturehouse.com](http://brunswickpicturehouse.com).**

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WHENEVER**

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**BYRON  
THEATRE**

**OCTOBER**

3 THE LISTIES | 6 BRIGHT LIGHTS  
 7 FROZEN JR. | 13 MAGIC OF THE MUNDANE | 14 STARS OF NORTHERN RIVERS  
 15 TUBULAR BELLS FOR TWO | 18 FUNNY MONDAY  
 22 FLAVOURS OF SPAIN  
 27-29 BYRON BALLET

BYRON THEATRE .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



### Expendables

A clay model pretending to be Sylvester Stallone (it is actually Sly) heads up the cast for the fourth instalment in *The Expendables* franchise – *Expendables* (see what they did there?).

The film has an ensemble cast including Jason Statham, Dolph Lundgren, and Randy Couture reprising their roles from previous films, with Curtis '50 Cent' Jackson, Megan Fox, Tony Jaa, Iko Uwais, Jacob Scipio, Levy Tran, and Andy Garcia joining the cast.

The film is directed by Scott Waugh from a screenplay by Kurt Wimmer, Tad Daggerhart, and Max Adams, based on a story by Spenser Cohen, Wimmer, and Daggerhart.

The adrenaline-fueled adventure reunites the team of elite mercenaries and new team members, all armed with every weapon they can get their hands on.

The *Expendables* are sent to Libya to prevent mercenary Suarto Rahmat from stealing nuclear warheads for a mysterious terrorist named Ocelot, whom they failed to apprehend 25 years prior.

The team is led by Barney Ross (Stallone's clay model) and formed by members Lee Christmas, Toll Road, and Gunner Jensen, with new members Easy Day and Galan. However, they are incapacitated when all of their vehicles are destroyed in a big fight. When Rahmat shoots their plane down, the team find Barney's burned body in the wreckage, identified by his ring.

There are good guys and bad guys, punches, kicks, guns and smash, bang and kaboom!

There is pretty much everything an action movie lover could ask for.

Catch the crew this week at both the Ballina and Byron Bay, Palace Cinemas – [palacecinemas.com.au](http://palacecinemas.com.au).

### WEDNESDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, PHIL & TILLEY
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM JOCK BARNES
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, ST. ALI ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM MATT ARMATAGE
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, LIVE POETS

### THURSDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, THE GIN BUGGS
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM CINNAMON SUN
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, ST. ALI ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM TIM DEGEN
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM ALEX BOWEN
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM CHEV WILSON
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM RADICAL REELS TOUR 2023
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM THE ALMIGHTY SOMETIME
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM JAM NIGHT
- THE LEEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM BRUCE WORRAL
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM STILL & BARREL KARAOKE

### FRIDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, BULLETPROOF 2.0
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM ANNA STANTON + MONDEO + NANA'S PIE
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM ENCORE – TENDER HOOKS 'THE MAGIC OF THE MUNDANE' BY MT WARNING
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, ST. ALI ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM DJ YASMIN
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM RESONANT HAND
- BANGALOW HOTEL ROO
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM CALLUM CREELMAN

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM THE GREATEST SURF MOVIE IN THE UNIVERSE
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ PAPA BITCHO
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM THE ALMIGHTY SOMETIME
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM KRAPPYKOE WITH JESS
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM ADAM BROWN
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 9PM BEN WALSH DUO
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM LUKE YEAMAN, LEVEL ONE 9.30PM DEAN DOYLE WITH SOPHISTICATION MORNING MELODIES
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM PISTOL WHIP + DJ BEATDUSTA
- CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM FELICITY URQUHART & JOSH CUNNINGHAM
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM FELICITY URQUHART AND JOSH CUNNINGHAM
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM STEPHEN LOVELIGHT
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM DJ NIGHT RIDER

### SATURDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM THE WHISKEYS
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM BRIAN FIELDING DUO + DJ QUENDO
- BYRON THEATRE 5PM STARS OF NORTHERN RIVERS
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, ST. ALI ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM LUKE YEAMAN, 5PM DJ ABEL EL TORO
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM DAN HANNAFORD
- BANGALOW HOTEL NATHAN KAYE
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 7PM BANGALOW BOUJEE BUSH BALL
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM JORDAN MAC DUO
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM VANESSA LARRY MITCHELL – TEARDROPS ON MY DILDO
- MEMORIAL HALL, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM HOUSE OF BLISS KIRTAN
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ AFRODESIA

- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7.30PM THE YEARLINGS + LUCIE THORNE & HAMISH STUART + JIMMY DOWLING
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM THE ALMIGHTY SOMETIME
- NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY (NRCCG), BALLINA, 10AM BALLINA CONTEMPORARY ART MARKET FEAT. DJ CHOP SUEY, MYKI JAY DUO, VERSACE BOYS, 12PM PARADISE FM BUSKING COMPETITION
- CLUB LENNOX 3PM PINK ZINC DUO, 7PM ANDREW & MAL
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM LENNOX GROOVE
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 8PM PAULY FENECH SUPERCHARGED COMEDY
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM THUNDER GOD OF THE MULTIVERSE + THE APOSTLES + DJ BOZ
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM GLENN SHIELDS
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM LEE-ANNE JOY
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM ROCKETMAN
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7PM SWIFTLY THROUGH THE ERAS – A TAYLOR SWIFT TIME TRAVEL PARTY

### SUNDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM THE MAJESTIC NIGHTS
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM SOUL'D
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM TUBULAR BELLS FOR TWO
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, ST. ALI ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12.30PM ANIMAL VENTURA
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM LOKI HOUGH
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM OPEN-MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM DJ ARUANDA SUNSET PARTY
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM THE ALMIGHTY SOMETIME
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM BILLY OTTO
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4PM SCREENING: PLANET FUNGI: NORTH EAST INDIA

- MAIN ARM UPPER PUBLIC SCHOOL 12PM MUSIC IN THE VALLEY
- LENNOX HEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE 9AM MOZART'S MASS IN C MINOR COATMAN OKYAY JOINED BY SHANI FORRESTER AND CASPER HALLNDUCTED BY NICHOLAS ROUTLEY WITH THE BIG SING CHOIR & LISMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 2PM DEAN DOYLE WITH SOPHISTICATION – AROUND THE WORLD, BOARDWALK 2.30PM BALLINA BLUES CLUB WITH LEZ KARSKI TRIO & GUEST GEOFF WRIGHT
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM LEGLESS LIZARDS
- THE LEEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM THE LONESOME BOATMAN
- UKI MARKET 9AM ATMAN OKYAY WITH SHANI FORRESTER & CASPER HILL

### MONDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, SARAH GRANT
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM LEIGH JAMES
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, ST. ALI ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL

### TUESDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, ANIMAL VENTURA
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM ANGUS KAFTAN
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, ST. ALI ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL
- ELTHAM HOTEL 3PM WILLIE WATSON
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM OPEN MIC

### WEDNESDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, DAN HANNAFORD
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM ALLY PALMER
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM FUNNY MONDAY – SHAHAR HASON & YOHAY SPONDER
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, ST. ALI ITALIAN FILM FESTIVAL
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7PM JO JO SMITH
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7.30PM 30 YEARS OF STRUNG OUT W/ FRIENDS WITH THE ENEMY

### Session Times

Thurs 12 – Wed 18 October

PALACE CINEMAS  
108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

#### SPECIAL SCREENINGS

ROYAL OPERA: DAS RHEINGOLD (12C)  
Sun: 1:00PM  
Wed: 11:00AM

TAYLOR SWIFT THE ERAS TOUR (12C)  
Fri: 6:30PM, 7:30PM  
Sat, Sun: 11:30AM, 12:30PM, 3:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:30PM, 7:30PM

#### ALL FILMS

A HAUNTING IN VENICE (M)  
Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:30PM, 1:45PM, 6:15PM  
Sat, Sun: 1:45PM, 6:15PM

BARBIE (PG)  
Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:30PM, 3:50PM, 7:30PM, 8:30PM  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:30PM, 3:50PM, 8:30PM

BLUE BEETLE (M)  
Daily: 11:10AM, 8:15PM

#### EXPEND4BLES (M15+)

Daily except Sat, Sun: 5:15PM  
MY BIG FAT GREEK WEDDING 3 (PG)  
Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 11:00AM, 3:00PM  
Sat, Wed: 3:00PM

OPPENHEIMER (M15+)  
Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 3:00PM, 6:30PM  
Fri: 3:00PM, 7:15PM  
Sat, Sun: 7:15PM

PAST LIVES (M)  
Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM  
Sat, Sun: 3:45PM, 6:00PM

SAW X (M15+)  
Daily: 8:30PM

SHAYDA (M15+)  
Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 2:45PM, 6:10PM  
Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 6:10PM

THE CREATOR (M)  
Daily: 11:00AM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM

#### THE CRIME IS MINE (M)

Daily: 4:00PM, 6:15PM

THE EXORCIST: BELIEVER (M15+)  
Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:50PM, 7:15PM, 8:30PM  
Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:50PM, 8:30PM

#### FAMILY FILMS

PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE (PG)  
Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM  
Sun: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:00PM  
Wed: 1:40PM, 4:00PM

RUBY GILLMAN: TEENAGE KRACKEN (PG)  
Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:15AM, 1:00PM  
Sat, Sun: 11:15AM, 1:30PM

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM (PG)  
Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:20AM, 1:40PM, 5:00PM  
Sun, Wed: 11:20AM, 5:00PM

For all Italian Film Festival session times, please visit [www.italianfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.italianfilmfestival.com.au)  
Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking Validation for all Palace Cinemas customers  
Session times subject to change - check web for most up to date sessions. \*NFT = No Free Tickets  
Book Online at [palacecinemas.com.au](http://palacecinemas.com.au)

### Session Times

Thurs 12 – Wed 18 October

### Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

#### BLUE BEETLE (M)

Daily: 2:30PM

EXPEND4BLES (M15+)

Daily: 12:15PM

PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE (PG)

Daily: 10:00AM, 12:00PM

RUBY GILLMAN: TEENAGE KRACKEN (PG)

Daily: 10:15AM, 12:30PM

SAW X (M15+)

Daily: 2:00PM, 7:30PM

#### TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM (PG)

Daily: 10:30AM, 5:00PM

THE CREATOR (M)

Daily: 2:30PM, 7:15PM

THE EXORCIST: BELIEVER (M15+)

Daily: 4:30PM, 7:00PM

THE NUN II (M)

Daily: 5:15PM

\*NFT = No Free Tickets

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

Ballina Fair Shopping Centre FREE parking

Book Online at [palacecinemas.com.au](http://palacecinemas.com.au)

PALACE CINEMAS



# HAVE YOU SENT US YOUR GIG?

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SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE



Submit your event to the Echo's free Gig Guide. Running in *The Echo* and online at [echo.net.au](http://echo.net.au).

107 BATES ROAD, FEDERAL



### Introducing 'Hill Top Abode' A Luxurious Acreage Retreat with Sweeping Condong Waterfall Views

5 bedrooms 2 living areas 3 bathrooms 6 car spaces

12.09HA

- 500-square-meter interior featuring stone textures, cathedral ceilings, and a wood fireplace
- One-kilometer tree-lined driveway, harmoniously merging the property with nature
- 14-meter mineral infinity pool and fully-equipped BBQ area
- All bedrooms have direct access to the spacious decks

PRICE | Contact agent  
OPEN | By appointment



Denzil Lloyd  
0481 864 049

21 PALM-LILY CRESCENT, BANGALOW



### Beautiful Queenslander Home in Family-Friendly Neighbourhood

3 bedrooms 1 living area 2 bathrooms 2 car spaces

688M<sup>2</sup>

- Renovated home with high-quality finishes and a contemporary designer aesthetic
- Spacious yard with Council approval for a secondary dwelling
- Gourmet kitchen fully stocked with high-end appliances
- Heated magnesium swimming pool, enjoyable at any time of the year

PRICE | \$1.775m - \$1.85m  
OPEN | Sat 14th October 11-11:30am



Su Reynolds  
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield  
0400 028 594

388 COOPERS SHOOT ROAD, COOPERS SHOOT



### Rare Opportunity to Build Your Dream Hinterland Home!

7838M<sup>2</sup>

- Rare two acre vacant block with ideal North orientation
- Sweeping views from mountains to Byron's famous lighthouse
- Sealed driveway, perimeter fencing, and power access ready for building
- Convenient location: short drive to beaches, town centres, and nearby schools and airports

PRICE | Contact agent  
OPEN | By appointment



Denzil Lloyd  
0481 864 049

3/64 KINGSLEY STREET, BYRON BAY



### Sunlit Apartment in Byron Bay's Golden Grid

2 bedrooms 1 living area 1 bathroom 1 car space

- Elevated first-level apartment in a boutique block of four units
- Open-plan living space features raked ceilings and large windows for ample natural sunlight
- Covered balcony perfect for entertaining or enjoying a morning coffee
- Unbeatable location close to Byron's town, beaches, and schools

PRICE | \$1.295m - \$1.355m  
OPEN | Sat 14th October 11-11:30am



Su Reynolds  
0428 888 660



Chris Hanley  
02 6685 8466

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

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



2/70 CENTENNIAL CIRCUIT, BYRON BAY



### Fully Approved Commercial Kitchen

🛏 1 🍳 1 🚗 1

- Prime location in Byron Bay Arts & Industrial Estate, close to shopping center and CBD
- Versatile layout measuring a total of 112m2. The lower level is 72m2 and the upper level is 40m2
- Equipped with a 1200L grease trap, stove, cool room, and more for food-related businesses
- Fully compliant with Byron Shire Council regulations, certified grease trap, and safety works

PRICE | \$995,000 - \$1.085m  
OPEN | By appointment



Tara Torkkola  
0423 519 698

27 REDGUM PLACE, SUFFOLK PARK



### Exciting Development Potential plus Spacious Family Home

🛏 4 🍳 2 🚗 2

🏠 2276M<sup>2</sup>

- Permissible development opportunities include dual occupancy, multi-dwelling housing or subdivision for a secondary dwelling with separate access (STCA)
- Four spacious bedrooms and multiple living spaces make this an ideal family home
- Sliding doors from the family space open onto an extensive covered deck, perfect for alfresco dining
- A separate large well built shed offers a variety of uses for recreation, business or storage

FORTHCOMING AUCTION  
OPEN | Sat 14th October 2-2:30pm



Sharon McInnes  
0408 659 649

8/24 SCOTT STREET, BYRON BAY



### Luxury Two-Bedroom Apartment in Exclusive Resort

🛏 2 🍳 1 🚗 2

- Resort-Style Living with access to luxury amenities including a heated pool, tennis court, spa, sauna, and gym
- Views from the large private balcony overlooking the pool and Arakwal National Park
- Open-plan living space with a well-equipped kitchen featuring high-end appliances
- Close proximity to Byron's town and beaches, including a ten-minute walk to Tallow Beach

FORTHCOMING AUCTION  
OPEN | Thurs 12th October 1-1:30pm  
Sat 14th October 1:15-1:45pm



Sharon McInnes  
0408 659 649

A3/62-64 LAWSON STREET, BYRON BAY



### Two-Bedroom Beachfront Apartment in Central Byron

🛏 2 🍳 1 🚗 2

🏠 102M<sup>2</sup> (floor size)

- Highly sought-after beachfront location offering views of Clarke's Beach
- Top floor apartment featuring a bright, open plan living space
- Renovated to include a wraparound kitchen with quality appliances
- The two bedrooms at the rear of the property overlook bushland

PRICE | \$2.1m - \$2.3m  
OPEN | Sat 14th October 11-11:30am



Su Reynolds  
0428 888 660



Oliver Aldridge  
0421 171 499

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

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





## EAGLE PEAK RETREAT - THE FIRST LIGHT IN THE BYRON SHIRE



**amir prestige**

📍 170 BOOGAREM ROAD, KOONYUM RANGE

4 🛏️ 2 🚿 2 🚗 🏠 29Acres\* 🏡 Disclaimer \* = approx.

One of a kind Paul Uhlmann multi award winning architecture, rare escarpment living on 29 acres, 30 minutes to Byron Industrial, 20 minutes to Mullumbimby. Set on solid bedrock foundations 600 metres above sea level with panoramic views from Byron Bay lighthouse to the Queensland Border Ranges. The jewel in the crown of Byron, this escarpment build is a never to be repeated phenomena in Byron Shire, private - secure retreat set behind iron gates down a 200-metre asphalt driveway.

Built on ancient lava flow from Mt Warning with crystals abounding, you will be vitalised by the magnificence and vastness of spirit of this land. Front entrance presents a walkway bridge cascading "life truth change" water feature lotus pond as you enter through double opening glass doors. You step into the highest most easterly home in the nation, views which expand out into the Open Sea, the North Easterly aspect of this property is exquisite.

Inspection by Appointment

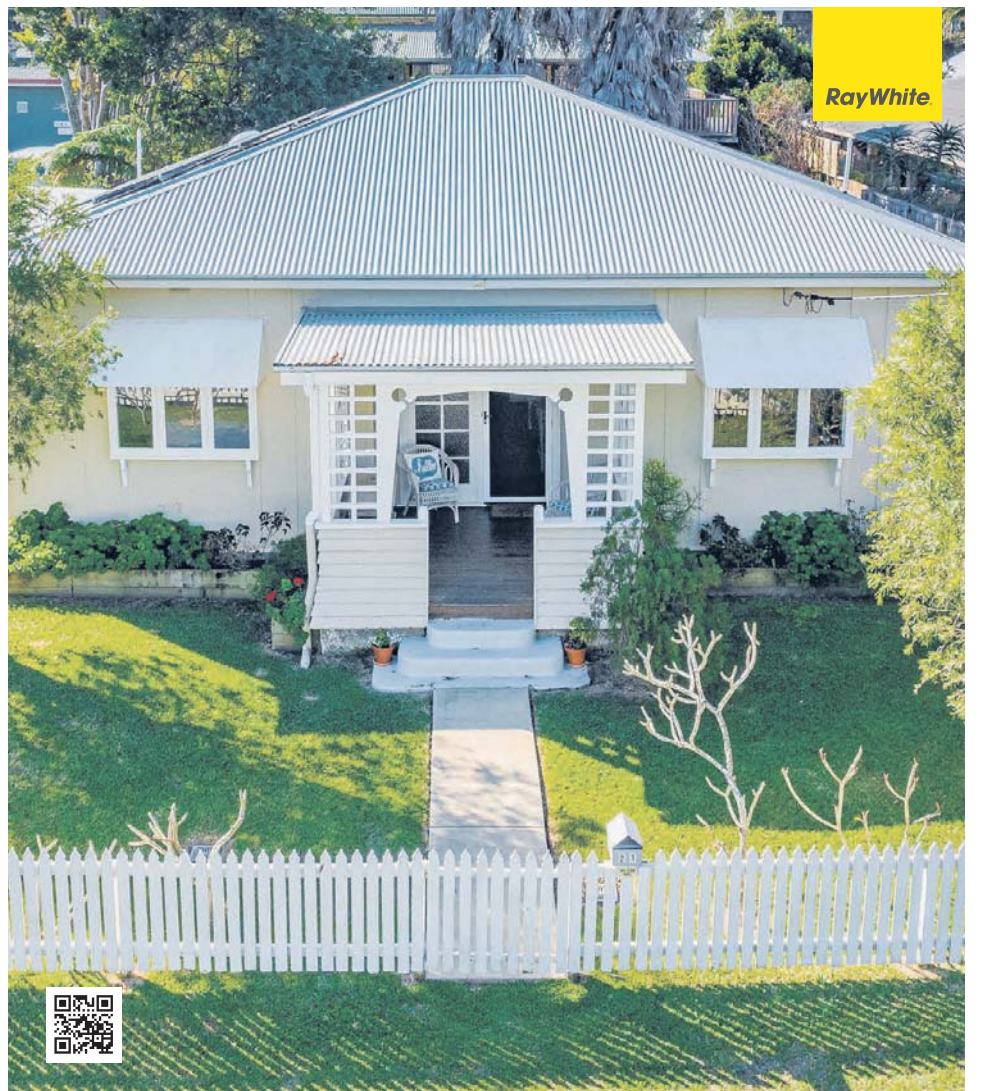
*Contact the Listing Agents*

**Oliver Hallock** 0419 789 600  
oliver@amirprestige.com.au

**Colleen Brunt** 0437 533 943  
colleen@amirprestige.com.au

amirprestige.com.au





**SALE**

**31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay**  
 Located in a highly desirable enclave amidst the breathtaking Arakwal National Park and just opposite Tallow Beach, this property boasts a prime position.

Within a mere minute, you can find yourself on the soft sands of Tallows,

**WHY WAIT?**  
 Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

3 3 2 721.2

**Auction**  
 Friday, 3 Nov at 2pm onsite

**View**  
 Thu 2-2:30pm  
 Sat 11-11:30am  
 or By Appointment

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

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

[rwbyronbay.com](http://rwbyronbay.com)

**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

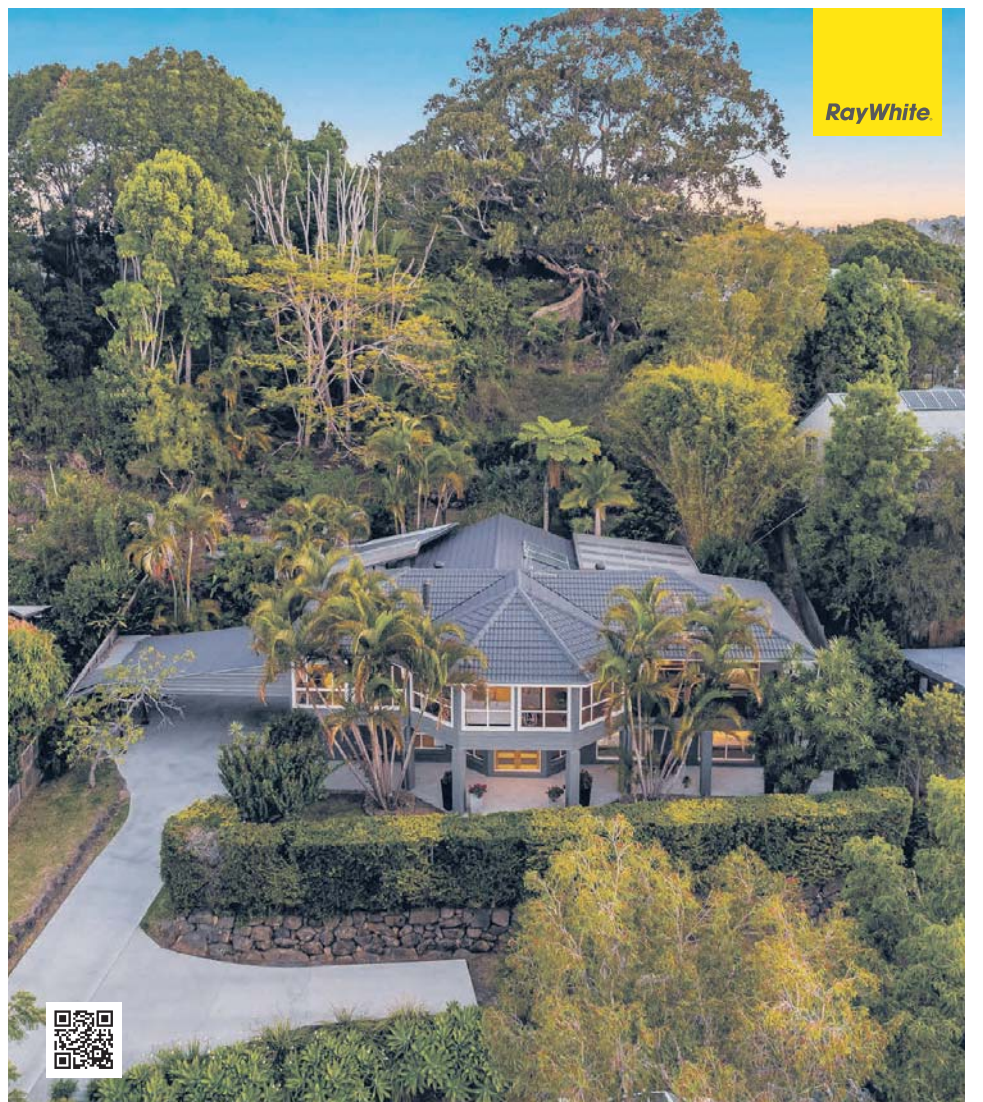
**Sale**  
 Contact Agent

**View**  
 Thu 1-1:30pm  
 Sat 10-10:30am  
 or By Appointment

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

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

[rwbyronbay.com](http://rwbyronbay.com)



**SALE**

**2/4 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay**  
 This super funky free-standing home is a must to inspect. Downstairs showcases high cathedral ceilings an open plan kitchen, a spacious living area and a formal dining area which flows seamlessly out onto your private outdoor entertaining area.

**WHY WAIT?**  
 Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

3 1 1 390sm

**Sale**  
 Contact Agent

**View**  
 Thu 2-2:30pm  
 Sat 11-11:30am  
 or By Appointment

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

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

[rwbyronbay.com](http://rwbyronbay.com)

**SALE**

**7 Gardenia Court, Mullumbimby**  
 Elevate your lifestyle with a dream home in Mullumbimby's prestigious Gardenia Court. Spectacular views, spacious living, abundant light, and modern amenities. Don't miss this opportunity. Make this home your haven. Privacy, comfort, and charm in abundance.

**WHY WAIT?**  
 Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

5 3 4 1031

**Sale**  
 Contact Agent

**View**  
 Wed 4-4:30pm  
 Sat 11-11:30am  
 or By Appointment

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

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

[rwbyronbay.com](http://rwbyronbay.com)



## The Trig on Mount Arthur

Award-Winning Eco Accommodation and Family Home

Tasmania, Australia



345 Mountain Road, Lilydale TAS 7268

This off-grid productive property includes 3 tourism accommodations (with locations for more) and a main residence.

Nestled in the picturesque North East region of Tasmania, The Trig is a truly unique 45-acre property offering an exceptional blend of natural beauty and sustainable living. This stunning property comprises approximately 25 acres of pristine bushland and 20 acres of pasture, providing an ideal balance of serenity and productivity. Located only 20 minutes from Launceston, the property offers as well as excellent income, convenience and accessibility to the region.

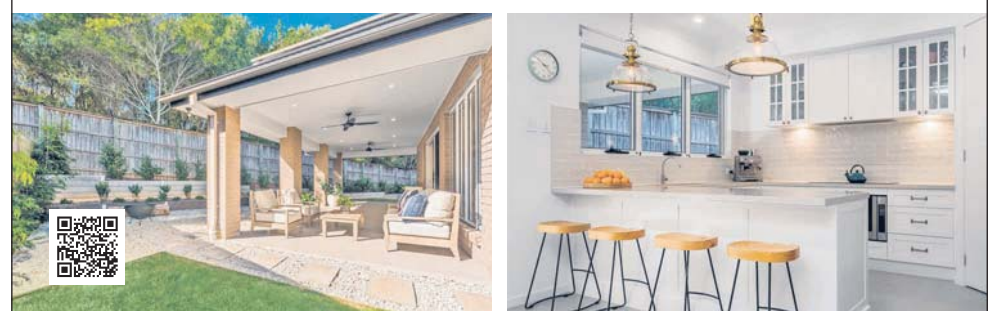
From its elevated position, it offers breathtaking panoramic views spanning from the Western Tiers to the Tamar River, including Ninth Island and West Sandy Cape.

[livingherelaunceston.com.au](http://livingherelaunceston.com.au) - 7735404

<https://thetrig.com.au>



RayWhite



### AUCTION

33 Blackwood Crescent, Bangalow

- Character and space combine with modern family amenity
- Open plan living areas partner snug formal spaces with a flexible layout
- Crisp interiors with soaring ceilings flow to grand covered alfresco entertainment area

**View**  
Wednesday 2-2.30pm  
Saturday 11am -11.30pm

**Greg Price**  
0412 871 500  
greg.price@raywhite.com

**Auction**  
4 November

4 2 2

**WHY WAIT?**  
Ray White Rural Bangalow | 02 6687 2479

[raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au](http://raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au)

## Large Family Home with 3 Bay Shed

40 Rycas Drive, Clunes

4 2 4

\$780 pw



Situated in the popular village of Clunes, this home has everything a family is looking for! The home has a welcoming atmosphere with a spacious open plan lounge and dining room with an air conditioner and study nook, this



opens out onto the large covered entertaining area. The good-sized kitchen has plenty of cupboard space. The large master bedroom has a built-in-robe and ensuite. The other 3 bedrooms with built-in-robos, large family bathroom with separate toilet and internal access to the home from the garage. As a bonus: There is side access with a concrete driveway leading to the extra-large 3 bay shed that has room for additional cars and to store garden tools and additional items. The large backyard has a variety of fruit trees and a large lawn space with easy to care for gardens. Situated in a quiet street in a cul-de-sac, it is perfect for a family. Conveniently located only 600m from the main street of Clunes for Café and shops, 14km to Bangalow.

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

## Immaculate Designer Home

2 Seastar Court, Byron Bay

6 4 2

Price Guide \$5.2m to \$5.35m



Immaculate designer home moments from Tallow Beach

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac just meters to Tallow Beach is this exquisite new build with beautiful designer finishes. With the option to walk to the beach, bike ride into town or stay put and relax by your own mineral pool, this property truly offers it all!

You will be immediately impressed with the design and scale of this home. Greeted with wide French Oak floorboards and white finishes as you enter the home, and an abundance of light throughout the open plan living, the space is truly breathtaking. A central feature is the high end Escea integrated gas fireplace with a stunning natural sandstone feature wall. Offering five spacious bedrooms in the main house, (two of the rooms with beautiful en-suites) and the main bedroom with a large walk-in robe, ocean and National Park views. In addition, this property includes a separate, ground floor studio with private access and yard. This extra space is perfect for guests or some extra income.

**Inspect:** Open Home Sat Oct 14, 9am  
**Contact:** Su Reynolds - sreynolds@byronbayfn.com - 0428 888 660  
Renee Schofield - renee@byronbayfn.com - 0400 028 594

## A Luxurious Acreage Retreat

107 Bates Road, Federal

5 3 6

Price Guide \$4.7m to \$5.2m



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Inside, the 500-square-meter interior spaces effortlessly combine stone textures and warm timber accents. The open-plan living area boasts cathedral ceilings, polished timber floors, and a cosy wood fireplace, leading to a spacious timber deck.

At the heart of this home, a stunning 14-meter mineral infinity pool is perfectly placed to relax and enjoy the stunning verdant vistas. A fully-equipped built-in BBQ area makes this space perfect for outdoor entertaining all year round.

**Inspect:** By appointment  
**Contact:** Denzil Lloyd - denzil@byronbayfn.com - 0481 864 049

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- 103 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry. Fri 1-1:30pm
- 2 Seastar Court, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9:30am
- 85 Arthur Road, Corndale. Sat 9:30-10am
- 6B Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10:30am
- Unit 2/24 Paterson Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10:30am
- 19 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10:30am
- 98 Wallace Road, The Channon. Sat 10:30-11am
- 3/64 Kingsley Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11:30am
- 5/37 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11:30am
- A3/62-64 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11:30am
- 21 Palm-Lily Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 11-11:30am
- 147 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 11:30am-12pm
- 14 Rifle Range Road, Bangalow. Sat 12-12:30pm
- 6/22 Bay Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12:30pm

- 15 Dinjerra Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 12-12:30pm
- 9 Bulgoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 12:30-1pm
- 2/5 Chinbible Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 1-1:30pm
- 8/24 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1:15-1:45pm
- 41 Gordon Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 1:45-2:15pm
- 57 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 2-2:30pm
- 27 Redgum Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 2-2:30pm

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- 7 Gardenia Court, Mullumbimby. Wed 4-4:30pm
- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 1-1:30pm
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Thurs 2-2:30pm
- 2/4 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Thurs 2-2:30pm
- 109-111 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9:30am
- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay Sat 10-10:30am
- 2/182 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10:30am
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11:30am

- 7 Gardenia Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11:30am
- 2/4 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay Sat 11-11:30am

### Ray White Rural Bangalow

- 33 Blackwood Crescent, Bangalow. Wed 2-2:30pm
- 33 Blackwood Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 11-11:30am

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- 54 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11:45am

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## INDEX

Accountants & Bookkeepers .....	41	Landscaping .....	43
Acupuncture .....	41	Locksmith .....	43
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration .....	41	Painting .....	43
Architects .....	41	Pest Control .....	43
Asphalt .....	41	Photography .....	43
Automotive .....	41	Physiotherapy .....	43
Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters .....	41	Picture Framing .....	43
Bricklaying .....	41	Picture Hanging .....	43
Building Trades .....	41	Plastering .....	43
Bush Regen & Weed Control .....	41	Plumbers .....	43
Cleaning .....	41	Pool Services .....	43
Computer Services .....	41	Removalists .....	44
Concreting & Paving .....	41	Roofing .....	44
Decks, Patios & Extensions .....	42	Rubbish Removal .....	44
Dentists .....	42	Self Storage .....	44
Design & Drafting .....	42	Septic Systems .....	44
Driveway Maintenance .....	42	Solar Installation .....	44
Earthmoving & Excavation .....	42	Television Services .....	44
Electricians .....	42	Tiling .....	44
Fencing .....	42	Transport .....	44
Floor Sanding & Polishing .....	42	Tree Services .....	44
Furniture Maker .....	42	Upholstery .....	44
Garden & Property Maintenance .....	42	Valuers .....	44
Gas Fitters & Suppliers .....	42	Veterinary Surgeons .....	44
Graphic Design .....	42	Water Filters .....	44
Guttering .....	42	Water Services .....	44
Handypersons .....	43	Welding .....	44
Health .....	43	Window Cleaning and Repairs .....	44
Hire .....	43	Window Tinting .....	44
Insurance .....	43	Writing Services .....	44
Landscape Supplies .....	43		

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## INDEX

Annual General Meetings ..	45
Birthdays.....	45
Business For Sale.....	45
Caravans .....	45
Death Notices.....	46
For Sale .....	45
Garage Sales .....	45
Health Notices.....	45
House Sit.....	45
Life Celebrations .....	46
Musical Notes.....	45
Only Adults .....	46
Pets.....	46
Positions Vacant.....	45
Professional Services.....	45
Public Notices.....	45
Social Escorts.....	46
To Lease.....	45
To Let.....	45
Tradework .....	45
Tree Services.....	45
Tuition.....	45
Wanted.....	45
Work Wanted .....	45

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## WANTED

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

## GARAGE SALES

**39 KINGSLEY ST, BYRON, 4 H/HOLDS**  
 Sat 14 Oct. 7-11am. Furniture, surfboards, tapware, designer clothes, mens/womens/kids, bric-a-brac.

**1109 BOOYONG RD, CLUNES** Sat 14 Oct, 9am start. Furniture, garden tools, designer clothes, toys, bric-a-brac.

## Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

**0408 210 772**

## The biggest day of garage sales on the North Coast is happening on the 4th November.

Register your garage sale for free and find the garage sales across the region at:  
 www.secondhandsaturday.com.au

## CARAVANS

CARAVANS  
 We buy, sell & consign. All makes & models.  
 0408 758 688

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

HAIR SALON Long established. Owner retiring, low overheads. WIWO. \$22k. 0434028328 acutaboveballina@gmail.com

## HOUSE SIT

HOUSE SITTING AND PET CARE  
 Experienced and caring house / pet sitter.  
 References available.  
 0488717814

## TO LET

## LOCAL REMOVAL

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

BEAUTIFUL, SPACIOUS 1BDR cottage set in tropical gardens in Byron with lovely interior. 5 mins walk to Roadhouse, 12 to Tallows Beach. No pets or off-street parking. \$650p/w. 0428562378.

## TO LEASE

STUDIO SPACE, MULLUMBIMBY Station Street Studios. Brick building stand alone. Suit prof services or practitioner. Main space 6.4m x 6.4m. Attached bathroom 2.5m x 2.85m. Air con, 24/7 access, parking. Avail now. \$495 p/w inc GST. 0419887775

## POSITIONS VACANT

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

## THE ECHO

The Echo has a contract position available now, delivering papers to: LENNOX NORTH 1100 papers including delivery to shops

This straightforward job involves inserting, folding and (in wet weather) bagging and delivery of papers both to shops & throwing them accurately to driveways from a car.

The work tends to suit a semi-retired or underemployed person/couple who just want a reliable job to do at their own pace at the same time every week. The successful applicants will have an ABN, a reliable vehicle, a strong throwing arm, and it's normally more lucrative if you live near the distribution area. They will collect the papers/ inserts from Ballina (before 7am) or Mullumbimby (7.30–8am) or Byron A&I Estate (around 10am) on Wednesday and will have delivered all the papers by 6pm Wednesday. Suit mature or stable person.

Commencing asap.  
 Email simon@echo.net.au  
 or phone/text 0409324724

## CASUAL GROUND CREW

## Balloon Aloft

Local Hot air Balloon Operation. Handy with trailers/4WD. Positive, flexible, enjoy early mornings & people. LR licence is essential.  
**Call or text 0412 777 653**

## WORK WANTED

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

## TUITION

FRENCH • ITALIAN • GERMAN  
 Eva 0403224842  
 www.languagetuitionbyron.com.au

## Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Tutor

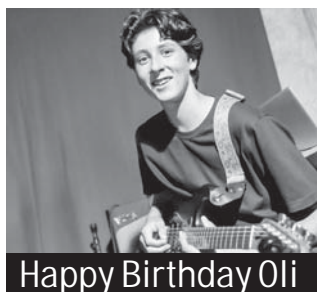
- Photoshop
- Indesign
- Illustrator

contact@thinkblinkdesign.com  
 www.thinkblinkdesign.com

## MUSICAL NOTES

GUITARS, RECORDS, HI-FI  
 WE BUY AND SELL 66851005

## BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday Oli



Happy Birthday Nina Ning Nong Nooo

**LIFE CELEBRATIONS**

# James Gerald D'Arcy Rankin

May 19, 1930 – September 6, 2023

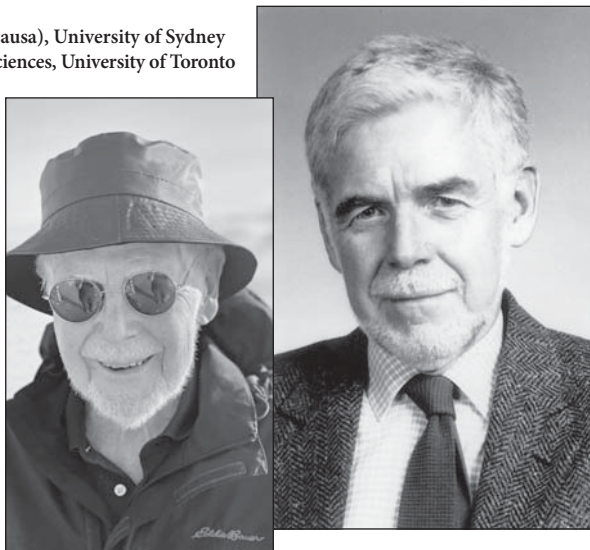
MBBS DMedSci (Hon)  
Doctor of Medical Science, (honoris causa), University of Sydney  
Emeritus Professor of Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto

Dr James (Jim) Rankin, who throughout his career contributed significantly to research and education in the fields of hepatic disease and alcohol and drug-related problems, died recently not far from his home in Suffolk Park, NSW.

Jim grew up in Sydney, graduating from medicine at the University of Sydney in 1954, and training at St Vincent's and The Royal Prince Alfred Hospitals. Moving to St Vincent's Melbourne in 1964, Jim established the first medically-based combined clinical and academic program for the treatment and study of alcoholism in Australia. His groundbreaking interest in alcohol and drug addiction took him to Canada in 1970, where he joined the Addiction Research Foundation and the University of Toronto conducting scientific research and policy work in a little-studied field. In the early 1980s he pioneered harm reduction research and trials, including the methadone program.

Jim was a key participant in numerous national and international societies, commissions and government committees. Jim was instrumental in the establishment of and served as the first President of both the Australian and Canadian Medical Societies on Alcohol and other Drug-related Problems. Since his retirement in 2000, he continued to pursue his interests in the drug and alcohol field, and just a few weeks ago was discussing a possible research paper with colleagues.

Despite a busy family life and career, Jim had a multitude of interests that gave him so much pleasure – politics, photography, cooking, travel, model boat building, beach walking, and sailing. His family will fondly remember him as an incurable tinkerer.



Devoted husband of 66 years, of the recently deceased Pat (nee Weiley). Deeply mourning his death are his six children Adrienne (Derek Fisher), Sabina (Leigh Grossmith), Tricia, Judy, Lizzy, and James (Beth Haworth); his 15 grandchildren, James, Amy, Ian, Regan, Katherine, Sarah, Erin, Tallulah, Georgia, Alex, Finley, Oscar, Michaela, Lauren and Gwen; his great-granddaughters, Maggie and Alice; his brother David, and his 16 nieces and nephews. His steadfast commitment to family, friends and colleagues, and his strong values, curiosity and intellect will continue to guide us all.

## Life celebration, October 28

Family and friends are invited to a celebration of Jim's life at Suffolk Park on Saturday, October 28 between 1 pm and 4 pm in their garden that he and Pat treasured for the last 30 years.

Please let the family know if you will join us by emailing [tricia.v.rankin@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.v.rankin@gmail.com).

**DEATH NOTICES**

## BOWER, LONA IRENE.

Passed away with family at her side. Loved wife of Ronald Bower (dec). Much loved mother of Priscilla and Neville (dec).

Aged 100 years

A family graveside service has taken place at Mullumbimby Lawn Cemetery for Lona as per her wishes.

Michael Currie at  
**BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS**  
6684 6232

**PETS**

Indy is a 3 year old, 16.4kg, Kelpie X Border Collie. She is fun-loving and has lots of energy to burn.



She is great with school age children, cats and other dogs. Indy will need a fully fenced yard or acreage, or someone who is willing to take her on long daily walks. Indy is in foster care in Murwillumbah. M/C # 94100025593208

If you are interested in meeting Indy, please fill out an expression of interest.

[www.friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/](http://www.friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/)

Visit [friendsofthepound.com](http://friendsofthepound.com) to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338



This photograph was taken moments before Larissa leapt out of her bed to rush to her carer to give and

receive affection. She is a lovely two year old tabby with honey coloured eyes and is super playful, talkative and smoochy. She's not a lap cat but loves to give and receive attention. Larissa is like a dog and follows you around. She is the full package....ready and waiting. Perhaps you?

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped. No: 991003001088234 **PETS FOR LIFE**

Please make an appointment 0403 533 589 • Billinudgel [petsforlifeanimalshelter.net](http://petsforlifeanimalshelter.net)

## Byron Dog Rescue (CAW)

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

# Community at Work: On The Horizon

## DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' to [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au).

### BV VIEW

Brunswick Valley VIEW Club will hold a luncheon on 12 October, 2023 at Brunswick Heads Bowling Club at 10.20am for 11am start. Any members who cannot attend please ring Wena on 0449 563 580 or email: [wjhunt@yahoo.com.au](mailto:wjhunt@yahoo.com.au) no later than Monday 9 October.

### AIR

The next meeting for the Association of Independent Retirees (AIR) will be held on Friday, 6 October at the Ballina RSL Club, River St, Ballina. Arrival time 9.30am for 10am meeting. Morning tea will be served at this meeting followed by the guest speaker, Ben Sharkey from Ballina Wellness Centre, who will give an insight on how to keep fit and active as we age. Members and visitors are welcome. Enquiries to Secretary Bob Taylo: 0421 972 192.

### Prostate Cancer Support

The next meeting of the Northern Rivers Day Prostate Cancer Support Group will be held on Wednesday, October 11, 10am till 12 noon at the Alstonville Plateau Sports Club, Deegan Drive, Alstonville. Men previously and newly diagnosed with prostate cancer are urged to join with the group to experience the personal cancer stories told which give a great opportunity for all present to share, learn and benefit from each other. Partners and Carers are also most welcome to attend as family are very much involved with the process and treatment of those with this diagnosis. Enquiries phone Bob Corney 0493 075 612.

### Friends of Libraries

#### Byron Shire AGM

Friends of Libraries Byron Shire are holding their annual general meeting on October 18 at Marvell Hall, Byron Bay at 10am. Author Rod Setterlund will then introduce his book No Mountain is Too High: Village Development in Nepal

### Brunswick CWA market

Brunswick Heads CWA's next market day on Saturday, 7 October from 8am to 1pm at CWA room Corner of Park & Booyun Streets. Craft work, home made cakes, jams & pickles and plants & flowers. Come early to avoid disappointment. Cash only. For further info contact 0431 908 063.

### Zonta Club

Northern Rivers Zonta Club monthly meetings take place on the third Wednesday of the month at 6pm at the Alstonville Bowling and Sports Club, 10-14 Deegan Drive, Alstonville. The focus of our club (and Zonta International) is to build a better world for women and girls. For more information contact Bobbi Crane, President, 0409 980 729.

### Richmond-Tweed Family History Society

The next general meeting of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society is 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 [presidentrtfhs1@yahoo.com](mailto:presidentrtfhs1@yahoo.com).

### 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](mailto:newmums8@gmail.com).

### 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.

### 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.

### Mullumbimby potters & sculptors

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

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

## SOCIAL ESCORTS

LOTS OF GORGEOUS LADIES available for your pleasure nearby. Spoil yourself. In-house & outcalls. 7 days. 0266816038.

## SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Oct)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
11	W	6:13 18:51	4:27 15:46	0718 1.19 1926 1.49	0117 0.36 1300 0.40
12	TH	6:12 18:52	4:55 16:39	0753 1.29 2000 1.51	0146 0.30 1340 0.35
13	F	6:11 18:52	5:22 17:32	0826 1.37 2033 1.50	0213 0.25 1416 0.31
14	SA	6:10 18:53	5:49 18:26	0900 1.45 2105 1.46	0239 0.21 1454 0.30
15	SU	6:09 18:54	6:17 19:21	0934 1.52 2137 1.41	0304 0.19 1531 0.30
16	M	6:08 18:54	6:47 20:19	1009 1.57 2209 1.33	0331 0.18 1611 0.32
17	TU	6:07 18:55	7:20 21:20	1045 1.59 2244 1.24	0400 0.19 1653 0.35
18	W	6:06 18:56	7:59 22:23	1125 1.59 2321 1.14	0430 0.23 1741 0.40
19	TH	6:05 18:56	8:44 23:26	1208 1.57	0504 0.28 1837 0.45
20	F	6:04 18:57	9:37	0006 1.04 1300 1.53	0545 0.35 1947 0.49
21	SA	6:03 18:57	10:38 0:28	0106 0.96 1402 1.50	0639 0.43 2107 0.49
22	SU	6:02 18:58	11:44 1:24	0230 0.93 1518 1.49	0755 0.48 2224 0.44
23	M	6:01 18:59	12:52 2:14	0403 0.98 1634 1.53	0926 0.48 2327 0.35
24	TU	6:00 18:59	14:01 3:08	0518 1.09 1739 1.59	1047 0.42
25	W	5:59 19:00	15:08 3:36	0616 1.24 1834 1.63	0016 0.25 1916 0.41

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

## MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415
1st SUN Byron Bay	6685 6807
1st SUN Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333
2nd SAT Woodburn	0439 489 631
2nd SAT Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159
2nd SUN The Channon	6688 6433
2nd SUN Lennox Head	6685 6807
2nd SUN Chillingham	0428 793 141
2nd SUN Coolangatta	
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	6684 3370
3rd SAT Murwillumbah	0413 804 024
3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina	
3rd SUN Federal	0433 002 757
3rd SUN Uki	0487 329 150
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338
4th SAT Evans Head	0439 489 631
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar	<a href="http://kyoglebazaar.com.au">kyoglebazaar.com.au</a>
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 Durabah Rd (Tropical Fruit World)	
Each SAT 8am-1pm Uki	6679 5530
Each SAT 8.30-11am Lismore	
Each SAT 8.30-12am Blue Knob	
Each SUN 7-11am Ballina	0493 102 137

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

**John David Coe**  
17.2.51 - 4.10.23

Coe's family invite his friends to share stories and honour this remarkable man. Join us at his farm 2pm, Saturday 14 October. 1278 Caniaba Road, Clovass 2480 Ph: 0408 740 093

**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!

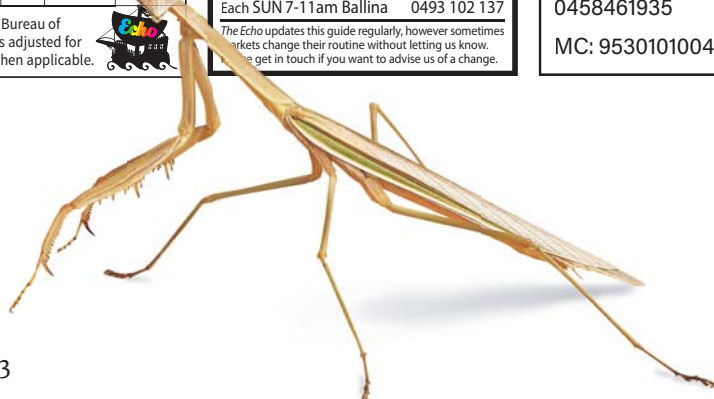
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Healing Through Pleasure [massagebyronbay.com](http://massagebyronbay.com) or 0425347477

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Large variety of toys and lingerie 6/6 Tasman Way, A&I Est, Byron Bay 66856330

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## Local girl surfers earn podium finishes at the Gromsearch in Newcastle

Le-Ba surfer Ocea Curtis and Byron's Halo Blanchfield both reached the finals of the second round of the Gromsearch series held at Merewether Beach in Newcastle earlier this month.

In the U/16 girls division Ocea Curtis made it through to the final after winning her semi-final. She was pitted against Ava Arghyros, who dominated her own semi-final, but ended up penalised for an interference.

While Ocea did pick up the top ride of the final, she couldn't find good waves consistently and had to settle for third place behind Alice Hodgson.

The U/14 girls also had a big weekend of competition. The four finalists are no strangers to competing against each other.

They seemingly take the win on rotations from comp-to-comp, but this time it was



Ocea Curtis at Merewether surfing her way to the finals of this year's Ripcurl Gromsearch series. Photo Surfing NSW

Talia Tebb (Kincumber) who managed to come out on top against the other three athletes Lani Cairncross (Kiama Downs), Halo Blanchfield (Byron Bay), and Mali Adam (Crescent Head).

Halo got plenty of waves in the final but couldn't get

the scores she needed to challenge the frontrunners.

A top-three finish for both local girls guarantees them automatic entry into the national final that is scheduled to be held in Melbourne at the URBNSurf wave pool later this month.

## Byron Bay set to host festival of rugby 7s

Australia's largest rugby 7s tournament will be back in Byron Bay this weekend with a full card of 62 teams competing across three categories - competitive, social and womens.

'We weren't sure if we could get things organised this year but Rugby NSW have offered some support, and local businesses have given their support as well,' Byron Bay Rugby Club organiser Eddy Brown said.

'The players have responded very positively and we have 62 teams booked, the most we have ever had. The women's competition has attracted 20 teams, the most we have ever had in that category as well.'

'It's just more evidence of the growth of women's sport.'

'There are no foreign teams this year, and the bulk of the competitive teams are from the Brisbane



At least ten hours of rugby 7s will be played this Saturday as 62 teams vie for Byron Rugby 7s trophies. Photo supplied

premiership.

'The standard will be very good and with last year's winner unable to make it up from Sydney, it is there to be won,' he said.

Altogether there is \$10,500 worth of prize money up for grabs.

The action kicks off from 8am on Saturday (October

14) and will run through till 6pm, before resuming on Sunday. All the games are at the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds.

'We will be running the most games we have ever run on Saturday. There will be plenty of rugby.'

The Byron Bay rugby 7s is free event.

## Soccer season closes with local teams crowned Champion of Champions in Coffs Harbour

Local junior teams have backed up their premiership wins with great results at the Northern NSW Champion of Champions tournament held in Coffs Harbour last weekend.

Local premiership teams took on the best teams across six other zones in Northern NSW (basically north of Newcastle) to secure even more silverware for 2023.

### Bangalow

The Bangalow Bluedogs U/16 side lost one game on their way to the Championship final, which they were able to win 2-0 against Port

Maquarie side, Port United.

'It was an awesome end to the season,' said coach Damian Bisoqni.

'They are a beautiful bunch of kids, from different schools and with different backgrounds, but they really gelled as a team.'

'As they'll be in seniors next year, there is a chance this was the last time the team will play together. Some players have been in the side for the last 10 years.'

### Byron Bay FC

The Byron Bay boys U/14 side also came away from Coffs Harbour with a



Bangalow Bluedogs finished their season in fine style with a trip away and another trophy. Photo supplied

Champion of Champions trophy after beating Coffs City United in the final, but not before a nail-biting penalty shoot out.

'Both sides missed their first shot, but Coffs also missed their last, while we were able to put ours away,' coach Guido Marchetti said.

'It was the perfect end to the season,' he said.

The Byron Bay girls U/14 also had a good competition winning their first three games of the competition.

Their efforts took them to the finals where they were beaten 1-0 by rivals Tintenbar East Ballina, a side that didn't concede a goal for the whole tournament (six games).

### Alstonville

The Alstonville U/15 boys side also had a cracking tournament and claimed the Champions trophy after being undefeated

throughout, and winning the final 5-0 against Woolgoolga.

Their U/13 boys side also became Champion of Champions when they won the penalty shoot out (6-5) to win their final against Iona SC Roar.

## Send us your sport stories!

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

## STARS BY LILITH

It's all happening in the heavens this week with Venus moving into Virgo, Mars into Scorpio, Pluto heading forward in Capricorn and a beautiful new moon in Libra...



### LIBRA THE SCALES

**ARIES:** Mars diving into the sign of secrets and intrigue escalates this week's intensity levels, causing an increase in competitive flare ups and power differentials. The benefits? Bonds can deepen and certain connections strengthen under this transit, as you get a better sense of who you can trust.

**TAURUS:** As your guiding planet Venus relaxes from a fiery element into an earth sign like your own, there's strength in numbers this week, so consider teaming up on a co-operative project or communal income opportunity. Is there some way to consolidate resources for a mutually beneficial win-win?

**GEMINI:** Busy Geminis are often in a rush, but slowing down and negotiating patiently is the key to harmonious relationships and communications this week. As October progresses, Mercury is advocating taking back control of your time from the droves of data-tracking apps absorbing your everyday attention.

**CANCER:** For lunar-ruled Cancerians, the new moon eclipse on 15 October, nicely aligned with objective Mercury, promotes fair judgment based on facts, not feelings, and presses restart on personal and professional partnerships. Could your work benefit from a collaborator who complements your skill set?

**LEO:** If your majesty has been feeling a little off-centre in these days of rampant change, and who hasn't, this week recommends indulging your heart and brain in some of that awesome creativity you were born with. And yes, looks definitely do matter this week, so style up for a win.

**VIRGO:** Last month others loved you up, and this month now it's your turn. When Venus steps into your precise and fastidious sign this week for Virgo's annual season of self-love, allow yourself to be pleasantly surprised and pleased by your own qualities, capabilities and achievements.

**LIBRA:** New moon in Libra on 15 October, your annual gift from the heavens, is a potent solar eclipse. The first in your sign since 2016, it refreshes relationships and supercharges partnerships for the coming six months, while Venus leaving luxurious Leo for healthy Virgo opens up a fresh chapter of self care.

**SCORPIO:** Fire-starter Mars steams into your sign this week with energy to burn and the definite likelihood of power plays. With the feisty planet lighting a match to your volcanic personality, it may take all of your considerable willpower not to get triggered by someone pushing your buttons.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Patience isn't a Sagittarian virtue, but efforts to empathise this week will win more hearts than your normal straightforwardness. Been running on empty? Venus shifting into her healthy place suggests restoring with what you enjoy: whether that's a dance class, kickboxing or a walk in nature, the original antidepressant.

**CAPRICORN:** Completing its intensive four month retrograde in your sign, Pluto's forward turn this week brings some welcome relief. Now the possibly uncomfortable realisations that became obvious during Pluto's powerful downshift become simpler to process, decision fatigue eases and an existential weight seems to lift.

**AQUARIUS:** After an extended emphasis on close relationships, Venus moving to her healthiest placement this week shifts the focus back to you and your personal wellbeing, so think about rebooting some of those wellness routines that may have lapsed. Or investigating a few new ones to restore your glow.

**PISCES:** Artistic Neptune in your sign supports this month's strong aesthetic to revisit unfinished creative projects, while ethical Saturn - also in Pisces - insists that if you feel something isn't sitting right, even though you mightn't be inclined, this is the time to speak up rather than letting it slide.

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Lic #78609

It's not just the 'Yes' signs being removed from properties on the lead up to the October 14 Voice referendum – a cattle farming family in Main Arm who had a 'Vote No' sign on their property told *The Echo* that not only was their sign taken down and smashed up over the weekend, but their gate was left open which let their cattle out. The resident said, 'I would never do anything like that to a "Yes" voter. Leaving our gate open endangered our cattle and the public. It's just so wrong.'



Photo found randomly on the internet. Note: This is NOT in Byron Shire. Repeat: NOT in Byron Shire.

Congrats to former WA Premier Mark McGowan (Labor), who quit in exhaustion last June – his new gig is with BHP and Mineral Resources. He really did quit politics to spend more time with his family.

assessment timeframes and not request unnecessary information or unnecessarily ask applicants to withdraw DA proposals'. What could possibly go wrong when you fast-track development on sensitive wetlands with a lack of oversight (for example)?

an "effective ban" on PwC. The "limited tender" contract is to "map government programs and policies"

ICYMI: As part of the Ingenuity Sculpture Festival on October 6-15, artists are participating in the 'Mullum Art Drop' on

Saturday October 14. For more info, visit [www.creative-mullum.org.au/events](http://www.creative-mullum.org.au/events).

Psst: The Day of the Dead Ceremony is coming up on Sunday, October 29, and will be held at the fig trees, Heritage Park, Mullumbimby from 3pm. For more information, see [www.naturaldeathcare-centre.org](http://www.naturaldeathcare-centre.org).

With the NSW Labor government foisting more development on the North Coast than was expected, or perhaps even wanted, they made a pledge last week of \$2 million for feasibility studies to 'increase water supply for Ballina, Byron, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Casino including bores, a new dam, de-salination and new storage options'. Consultants! Break out the champagne!

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Congrats NSW Labor government for edging ever so slowly towards long-overdue drug reform, and declaring it a health, rather than criminal issue. Their pre-court diversion scheme will see \$400 fines for small drug possession waived if you agree to attend 'health programs'. Yet *SMH* reports, '[Premier] Minns has not supported calls to introduce a pill testing trial in NSW ahead of the upcoming music festival season, saying Labor would not consider it before holding a drug summit in its first term of government'. Portugal has seen huge success with its drug reforms, enacted in 2001.

The concerns of Cabbage Tree Island residents who are facing eviction from their island, south of Ballina, will be tabled at a meeting with Jali Local Aboriginal Land Council on October 23 at 5.30pm.

Israel's Defence Minister Yoav Gallant has ordered a complete siege of the Gaza Strip after Hamas attacks. He said, 'There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed. We are fighting human animals and we will act accordingly'. Are horrific crimes against civilians redeemed by more horrific crimes against civilians?

In an effort to appease wealthy developers, oops sorry, 'address the state's housing shortfall', NSW Labor have announced new DA guidelines 'to accelerate DA

Independent journalist Anthony Klaxon reports, 'The "Indigenous" arm of disgraced consultancy PwC has been given a new \$121,000 taxpayer contract – despite

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