

Echo

THE DAYS OF USING PROPER ENGLISH ARE WENT. HOW EMBARRASSMENT

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Flood data shows extent of damage to Byron Shire

More details have emerged around last year's devastating floods, with Greens MLC Sue Higginson receiving answers on October 17 from questions asked on September 25 to NSW Minister of State, John Graham.

Yet the data provided does not reflect homes lost in landslides, or that were known to be washed away in the hinterland.

According to the minister's replies, 817 homes were flooded in Byron Shire in February/March 2022, with 468 in Mullumbimby, 10 in New Brighton, 183 in South Golden Beach, 122 in Ocean Shores, one in Wilsons Creek, two in Upper Wilsons Creek, 26 in Brunswick Heads, and five in Byron Bay.

Lismore City Council recorded 1,585 flooded homes, while 1,648 homes were flooded in Tweed Shire.

Asked how many flood-impacted homeowners in the Byron Shire requested a house buyback, raising, or retrofit, the minister replied in part, 'There have been 977 program registrations in total within the Byron Shire Council area as of September 29, 2023'.

As for 'how many flood-impacted homeowners in the Byron Shire have been approved for a house buyback, raising or retrofit', the minister replied that 'four buyback offers have been approved for homeowners in the Byron Shire Council area as of September 29, 2023'. He added there have been no house raising or retrofit approvals in Byron Shire as of September 29.

Asked 'How many flood-impacted houses in the Byron Shire were uninsured, rentals or primary homes', he replied, 'This

information is not available to the NSW Reconstruction Authority'.

And as for the 'initial and ongoing cost per modular home for the temporary housing program for flood-affected areas in NSW', the minister replied in part that, 'an average cost is unable to be calculated', owing to, 'Establishment and ongoing costs [which] vary greatly over location and time'.

The minister was asked about the breakdown of water levels affecting flooded homes in Byron Shire. He replied that of a total of 817, 157 homes had 1-5mm, 408 had 5-300mm, 188 had 300-1,500mm, eight had 1,500-2,400mm, and two had >2,400mm.

Not noted were 54 homes.

2022 flood not included

And given the flood mapping was changed to not include the 2022 flood data, the minister admitted that 'All 977 registered [Byron Shire] homeowners would qualify for assistance under the program if the criteria for assistance was changed to only reflect impacts from the 2022 event'.

Meanwhile, a spokesperson for the NSW Reconstruction Authority told *The Echo*, 'On June 13, the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) released flood mapping data, which indicated homes prioritised for a buyback offer based on the greatest risk to life for both residents and emergency service responders'.

'The flood mapping data identifies locations where there is the greatest risk to life and predicted to experience more frequent, high and fast floods in the future'.



Cheeky Jack gets the film party started

The Byron Bay Film Festival (BBFF) is now in full flight, with venues across Byron Bay, Lennox Head, Brunswick Heads and Murwillumbah screening dramas, docos, short films, surf flicks. Young filmmakers and home-grown films are also featured. Pictured is BBFF patron and actor, Jack Thompson, with BBFF director, J'Aimee Skippon-Volke. For more info see page 16 or visit www.bbff.com.au. Photo Jeff 'Silver Scream' Dawson

Saddle Road employment hub proposed

Paul Bibby

A large greenfield site on the edge of Brunswick Heads would be turned into an employment hub featuring light industry, a business park and live/work precincts, under a plan proposed by a local developer.

In a proposal coming before this week's Byron Council meeting, developer Creative Capital is seeking planning permission for a multi-use development on a 52-hectare area of land at 66 Saddle Road.

Creative Capital is owned by developer Brandon Saul, and is the group behind the Habitat mixed-use development next to the Byron

Arts and Industry Estate.

The land in question has previously been identified by Byron Council for use as industrial and employment land, a commodity in short supply in the Byron Shire.

6.5-hectare footprint

Nevertheless, the development would dramatically change the character of the site, which currently consists of a large paddock in a picturesque rural setting.

The development would require a series of zoning changes, and the construction of a roundabout on Gulgan Road to accommodate significant traffic entering and leaving the site throughout the day.

As such, the development requires approval not only from Council, but must also go through the state government's 'Gateway' approval process.

The proposed development, which includes 6.5-hectares of built areas, would include a number of separate precincts, one for a business park, and another for a 'traditional industrial precinct'.

There would also be an area designated as work/live dwellings, which appears to be buildings where people can both live and work.

The proposal does not specify the number or exact type of buildings to be included in

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Tyagarah fire expected to continue

Paul Bibby

The bushfire in the north of Byron Shire will remain active for some time, and could flare up again suddenly, according to those fighting the blaze.

More than two weeks after the fire began in bushland behind the Byron Arts and Industrial Estate, a representative from the Main Arm rural fire brigade said it was now 'in the peat'.

This means that while the immediate danger has passed, the fire is continuing to smoulder in the earth, a situation that is not uncommon for bushfires that have burnt for an extended period at high intensity.

The local fire brigade representative said that it was virtually impossible for the smouldering fire to be put out by humans.

'Fires in this state continue to be active,' he said.

'They can pop up again like unwanted house guests.'

'Unless we get 60-70mm of rain, we'll need to stay vigilant.'

The representative said fire fighters were still active on the site, and would



Bruns-Byron fire crews. Photo Main Arm Fire Brigade

continue to be so for some time.

'We'll be using smaller trucks to get right in the forest there.'

'It's an opportunity for residents to revisit and look at their fire plans.'

Injured wildlife

Meanwhile, the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital said it had seen some wildlife that was injured in the fire.

'Last week, we treated some eastern long-necked turtles brought in by a

member of the public from outside the fire zone, with smoke inhalation related illness,' Dr Bree Talbot told *The Echo*.

'They are currently in care.'

'There was also a swamp wallaby, which had to be euthanised after trying to escape through barbed wire.'

'We know that there are some macropods with burns still mobile, but access to the fire zone is still limited by the incident controller for safety reasons,' she said.

Bangalow Road proposal for 24 units promises five as 'affordable'

Hans Lovejoy

Consultation letters have been sent to neighbours of 58 and 60 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay regarding a proposal by Propel Investment Management for 24, one and two bedroom dwellings across three buildings.

The consultation is required prior to lodging the DA, according to the letter by Sarah George Consulting.

'Up to 35 native trees' are slated for removal, which the proponent says represents 'less than one per cent of the current native trees across the site'. Restoration landscaping is proposed, with a planting of 'over 200 native trees'.

A common food garden, pool and recreation area is proposed.

Dedicated affordable housing is also included in the plan, 'as per the state environmental planning policy' (SEPP).

The neighbour, who was not identified, alerted *The Echo* of the proposal and said the 35 natives trees were 30-metre gum trees.

They questioned whether

'cramming 60 plus people' into three two-storey 'worker housing at an already busy intersection was the right solution to Byron housing'.

'What about the social and safety impact?' they asked.

'Affordable' metrics

The Echo asked the proponent to elaborate on what the affordability aspect would be, 'if the 24 dwellings were approved by Council?'

Propel Invest founder and MD, Mark Howard, said, 'Increased number of one bedroom (two) and two bedroom (22) houses in a precinct of Byron Bay which has a relatively small percentage of this housing type. One and two bedroom houses are by nature smaller and more affordable.'

'The majority of one and two bedroom housing options in Byron Bay are situated in the precincts dominated by short-term letting and are therefore mostly used for this purpose.'

As for how the 'affordable' metrics will be applied, he replied, 'A minimum of five houses will be dedicated

affordable houses as per the *State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021 (SEPP)*'.

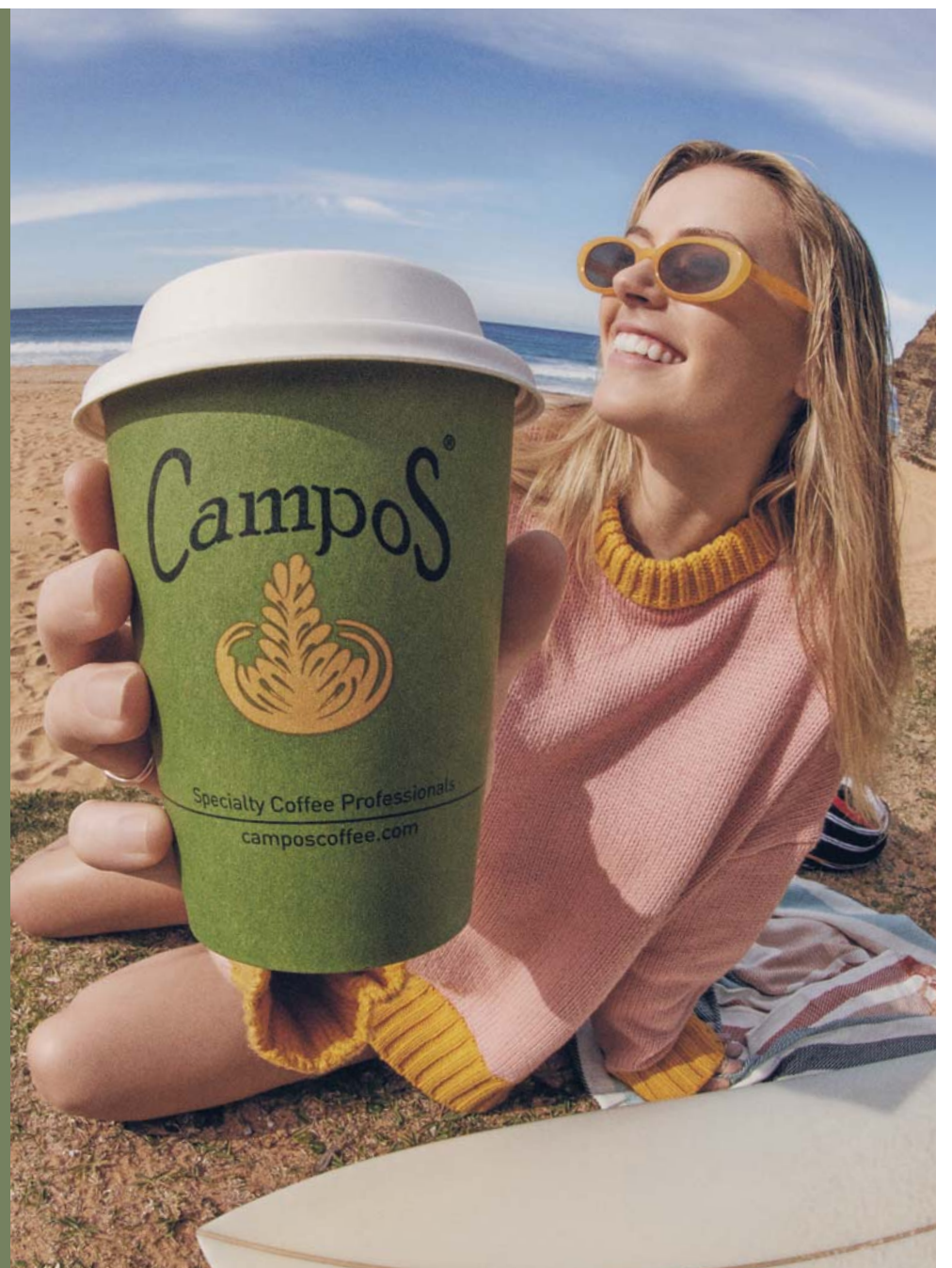
'The SEPP requires the affordable housing portion of the development to remain affordable and be managed by a registered community housing provider for a minimum of 15 years.'

'The affordable housing must be provided to eligible households by a registered community housing provider. Eligible households must be very low to moderate income earners, and rent is set as a proportion of the household's income (up to 30 per cent of their before tax income for rent).'

Howard added, 'Given the shape of the site, most of the land is situated to the rear, away from the streetscape, allowing the buildings to be designed in a way to create a visual appearance of just six townhouses from Bangalow Road.'

'We are very keen to understand more about how the community would like to best use this location to respond to the current housing crises', Howard said.

GUARANTEED
GOODNESS



Cruel Sea smash it for wildlife

Dominic Feain

One might have been forgiven for thinking the Cruel Sea chose Byron Bay's notoriously receptive and forgiving punters for their first gig back in more than a decade.

Instead, the Green Room's near two thousand fans were floored by a well-oiled machine at the peak of its power.

The unexpectedly tight (and very loose) Cruel Sea returned to its spiritual heartland last Saturday night to support the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital, who went into a financial tailspin after funding promised by the NSW Nationals prior to the March election was rejected by the incoming Labor government.

The feel-good vibes were flowing from the start.

Byron's barely-birthed Loose Content might have possibly been the best new band I've never not seen before, while Magic Dirt's enigmatic Adalita wooed, warmed and won us over with just an electric guitar and a bucketful of lush open chords.

By the time the boys took to the stage, the



Matt Walker, Tex Perkins and Kenny Gormly. Photo Jeff 'Jesus Christ What A Pose' Dawson

collective crowd of dubious demographics were dancing, grinning and singing word-for-word as one.

Gesticulating Tex

Tex crooned and gesticulated through the cream of the back catalogue at his rockstar best, filling the spaces in between with a whole-lot-of-love and self-deprecating anecdotes.

Jim Elliot steadied the ship as usual in his rock solid Charlie Watts kinda way,

backed by Kenny Gormly absolutely flogging his bass like a lead guitarist, while Dan Rumour injected sparks of new life into a dozen riffs and tunes long burned into our collective memory.

And a special mention to new guy Matt Walker who admirably and respectfully filled the unfillable place of the very beautiful, late James Cruickshank. Suffice to say we bussed out spent; left it all out on the dance floor.

A Byron Bay Wildlife

Hospital spokesperson told *The Echo*, 'Our estimate is that we raised close to \$100,000'.

'This is incredibly heartening and important, and a real shot in the arm for our veterinary team to know how much community support they have. It helps sustain our efforts to stay operating at current capacity; however, we still need the certainty of funding from the NSW government, which we continue to make our case for'.

Saddle Road employment hub proposed

► Continued from page 1
the development.

However, it indicates that the floor space ratio for the areas set aside for employment land would be 0.9:1, which is the ratio that typically applies in the Byron Arts and Industry Estate.

There will also be a height limit of 11.5m for three of the precincts, well above the 9m height limit that applies across most of the Shire.

The developer says this will minimise the need for earthworks, and that there

will reportedly be 'minimal impact' on the visual amenity of surrounding landowners.

The developer's planning proposal states that buildings will be focused on areas with limited environmental significance. It also intends to revegetate and repair large tracts of land to include rainforest, wet eucalypt forest, and forested wetlands.

Nonetheless, some vegetation removal will be required to facilitate the development, including the removal of a number of

native trees and a portion of 'disturbed wetland area' at the west of the site.

The developer's traffic assessment found that the development would create thousands of additional traffic movements into and around the site every week.

Yet, an analysis of the impact of the development on the three existing intersections near the subject site found that 'traffic impacts are acceptable'.

However, the analysis also found that the existing

capacity issues at Mullumbimby Road and Tandys Lane were likely to be intensified owing to a 'predicted traffic increase of approximately two per cent to 5.5 per cent'.

The developer has given Council a 'letter of offer' to enter into a planning agreement to fund the construction of the roundabout at Gulgan Road to facilitate vehicle access to the site.

Council staff have recommended approval after a number of minor amendments.

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A small group of supporters, led by activist Gareth Smith, called for justice in Gaza at Railway Park on Saturday. Photo Jeff Dawson

Hans Lovejoy

A small group of supporters called for justice in Gaza at Railway Park on Saturday.

And while there were no reported incidents at the vigil, a local woman who danced wearing an indigenous Palestinian keffiyeh scarf on the nearby traffic island said she was verbally threatened by Israeli sympathisers.

While her entire body was covered and her face hidden, she told *The Echo* she was concerned for her safety.

She said that she was 'inspired by protests occurring worldwide that are in solidarity with Palestine, and a deep

cry for a ceasefire and peace'.

The woman said her actions were an 'attempt to jolt us out of habitual, consumerist thinking patterns and into action'.

'It was met with support and love for Palestine, but also with confusion and anger. As an artist, I expected this, and feel my work in part is to evoke and hold space for everyone's internal reactions.'

'The photographer I was with and myself were not prepared for later being verbally attacked, literally inches away from our faces, with violent accusations and threats. Tolerance and freedom of speech are the

most important qualities we can administer right now.

'Myself and my family in no way should be threatened in our shared community.'

'The most important thing right now is that people in Gaza need fresh water. Their desalination stations have been shut down, and people are dying of thirst.'

'I urge everyone in the community to give to charities like Red Cross (www.icrc.org/en), Save the Children (www.savethechildren.org), Humaniti (wearehumaniti.org), and Médecins Sans Frontières, (www.msf.org). We need to get water and aid to the people in Gaza.'

Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital turns first sod



From left: Ballina Greens MP, Tamara Smith; Lismore Labor MP Janelle Saffin; Ballina Mayor Sharon Cadwallader; NSW Greens MLC, Sue Higginson and former NSW Liberal MLC, Catherine Cusack (speaking).

Story & photo David Lowe

The first sod was turned on Monday for construction of the new \$2.8 million Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital on five acres at Lindendale Road, Wollongbar, attracting supporters of all political stripes and other well-wishers from across the wildlife care community.

The Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital (NRWH) is separate, and not affiliated with the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital (BBWH).

Former NSW Liberal MLC, Catherine Cusack, told *The Echo* it had been an 'absolute joy' to join the board of the hospital and lend her support to the project.

She praised the dedicated wildlife carers of the region, adding there was 'nothing more voiceless than wildlife'.

She said it would benefit the various rescue and care groups to have 'one big voice advocating for everyone'.

In her speech, she noted that back in 2003 she had

been the only female MP in the region, a situation that has now dramatically changed. 'I believe you ladies are making such a difference,' she said.

NSW Greens MLC, Sue Higginson, then spoke about the role of 'an incredible giant' in the shape of the late Tony Gilding, formerly of the Macadamia Castle and various international wildlife groups, who had pressed on her the necessity for a local wildlife hospital, in addition to habitat protection.

'They needed critical immediate care in order to survive,' said Ms Higginson. 'We're here today as a result of incredible partnership, politics from all sides, community from all sides, and government coming in and backing the community.'

'But without a doubt, the wildlife carers; it's their tenacity, their vision, and the maintenance of their support and hope for this project that's delivered us here today.'

NRWH board member, and wildlife vet nurse Kim

Hollis-Simpson spoke about the hospital as a dream come true, with the facility to include state-of-the-art surgeries, rehabilitation facilities, gardens to support feeding the patients, and a large flat area to deal with mass casualties during disasters.

Wildlife vehicle

Ms Hollis-Simpson was presented with the keys to the new wildlife transport vehicle, which was funded by a Community Building Partnership grant, with additional signage and fit-out work provided by the Northern Rivers Community Foundation.

Lorraine Vass, from Friends of the Koala and also a board member of the new hospital, said the new facility showed the Northern Rivers was leading the way with wildlife care, both in NSW and nationally.

The Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital is expected to be open in April 2024.

Visit www.nrwh.com.au for more information.

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New Indigenous art for Gateway



Richard Mordaunt, artist Oral Roberts and Council's Andy Erskine at the installation of the artworks. Photo supplied

Eve Jeffery

A small group gathered at the rotunda at the Mullumbimby Gateway on Saturday, October 14 to celebrate the installation of three paintings by Widjabal man, Oral Roberts, on what were once the plain black walls of the rotunda.

The Mullumbimby Gateway project was opened on August 24, 2020 with the burying of a time capsule, and the installation of a new totem pole carved by world-renowned environmental artist, Tonu Shanewas.

A refurbished rotunda also featured an eight-metre panorama of the region, painted by Daniel Hend and

local Indigenous artists Delta Kay, Nickolla Clark and Belle Arnold. Early colonial history of Mullumbimby was also included in the artwork.

Richard Mordaunt from the Mullumbimby Gateway Association said that being on such a dangerous corner, not nearly enough people have visited the space since then. 'We keep on trying to improve it. Oral Roberts' paintings, installed on National Referendum day, have certainly done that.'

'It will become a true Indigenous icon and a great place to visit at the entrance to Mullumbimby. Council has promised a new roundabout and parking area.'

Lessons from recent Suffo court win

Paul Bibby

As the dust settles on Byron Council's court victory over a controversial development proposed for the main street of Suffolk Park, residents are wondering what it means for the site, the village and the Shire more generally.

For two years, a determined group of Suffo residents campaigned against plans for two new three-storey buildings containing units, townhouses and commercial space at 9-15 Clifford Street.

Their argument, that the development would have multiple negative consequences for the town, including traffic, parking, amenity, and aesthetic and environmental impacts was corroborated by Council, which gave the application short shrift.

When the developer, Sydney-based property group Denwol Pty Ltd, appealed this decision to the Land and Environment Court, residents held their breath.

The relief was palpable when Commissioner Dixon dismissed the appeal earlier this month, citing the



The court rejected this vision for Suffolk Park by Sydney-based developer, Denwol. Photo from DA

destruction of a collection of protected cypress pines as the primary reason.

Now, attention is turning to the significance of the decision, both for the site itself, for Suffolk Park, and the region more broadly.

Denwol has 28 days to lodge a further appeal and the head of the company Phillip Wolanski AM told *The Echo* this week that Denwol was 'still contemplating and considering the detail of the Commissioner's decision'.

'Accordingly, we intend to make a decision on the appropriate path forward when we have been able to properly digest and absorb the content

of it,' Mr Wolanski said.

Suffolk Park Progress Association member, Lynne Richardson, said that whatever happened at the site, she and the other residents hoped it would be 'consistent with the village character of Suffolk Park'.

'We're not set up to be a defacto tourism community.'

The court's decision will act as a precedent for any future plans, at least providing protection for the cypress pines on the site, and potentially also limiting the future size and scale of any future proposed development.

Whether this precedent

will ripple out into Suffolk Park more generally remains to be seen.

Over the past five years, Suffo has experienced the type of gentrification experienced by much of the Shire.

It has undoubtedly changed the character of the village.

Overdevelopment?

'We're not anti-tourism, but we are anti-congestion and anti-overdevelopment,' Ms Richardson says.

The residents hope that the recent court decision might deter other developers from putting forward such large plans in future.

But they say the real opportunity is for the decision to galvanise the local community and Council.

'This is an emblematic fight - the battle to preserve our villages,' Ms Richardson says. 'I think we're at a critical point... we are either going to look at a level playing field where community concerns are addressed, or just throw our hands up and say "developers always win".'

'Well I think this decision proves that developers don't always win.'

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Day of the Dead returns October 29

Seventeen years ago, the Natural Death Care Centre (NDCC) saw the need for a non-religious, community ceremony to remember and honour those loved ones who have died.

Members of the NDCC and friends came together and held the first Day of the Dead ceremony and event in Heritage Park, Mullum.

All are welcome to this year's Day of the Dead celebrations, to be held from 3 to 5pm on Sunday, October 29, at the fig trees, Heritage Park, Mullumbimby.

Celebrant and Death-walker, Zenith Virago facilitates the event, and says, 'Over those 17 years, hundreds of people have come with their photos, mementos, even the ashes of their families and friends.'

Healing journey

'This year, so many people have not been able to be with their loved ones, either when they died, or at the funeral ceremony. Coming together into the collective is a powerful step in the healing journey of loss.'

She says that although it has the same name as the



Deathwalker, Zenith Virago at a past Day of the Dead celebration. Photo Jeff Dawson

South American celebration, 'this is a uniquely Australian cultural experience, open to any religion, spirituality, belief or culture.'

'It's an opportunity to celebrate and create positive social and cultural change. It is a wonderful way to introduce children to death and bereavement in a gentle and positive way.'

Artist Sam Collyer will also be on hand 'to inspire, guide and help with her organically themed and sustainable creativity'

'You are invited and encouraged to bring photographs or a special something for the shrine, as well as writing messages for

loved ones. Bring a blanket, or chair, if it is a sunny day, bring a hat.'

Zenith will conduct an inclusive ceremony of 'love and remembrance' at 4pm, accompanied by the Biggest Little Town Choir.

'Children are welcome, but please keep them with you during the ceremony.'

Zenith adds, 'We offer this day towards healing and acceptance. Death is the natural and sacred end of our lives, those we love are always a part of our lives as they continue to live on in our hearts.'

For more info, visit www.naturaldeathcarecentre.org or their Facebook page.

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Connecting to nature through a lens



Brunswick Heads librarian, Mark Seiffert, with his winning photo 'Fog Captain'. Photo Tree Faerie

Brunswick Heads librarian, Mark Seiffert, is the overall winner of this year's Simple Pleasures Photo Competition, with his entry 'Fog Captain', taken on the Bruns River on a cold morning.

Seiffert loves to take photos, and often shares his beautiful shots of Bruns on the local Facebook page.

He is currently taking photos of locals, and telling their stories through his page 'Humans of Bruns'.

In its 18th year, the competition is still a much-loved local event – around 80 entries were judged this year by photographer Davina Bambrick, John Humphries from the Hotel Brunswick, and *The Echo's* Eve Jeffery.

Awards at pub

On Friday, presentations were made at the Hotel Brunswick. The winner in the children's category was

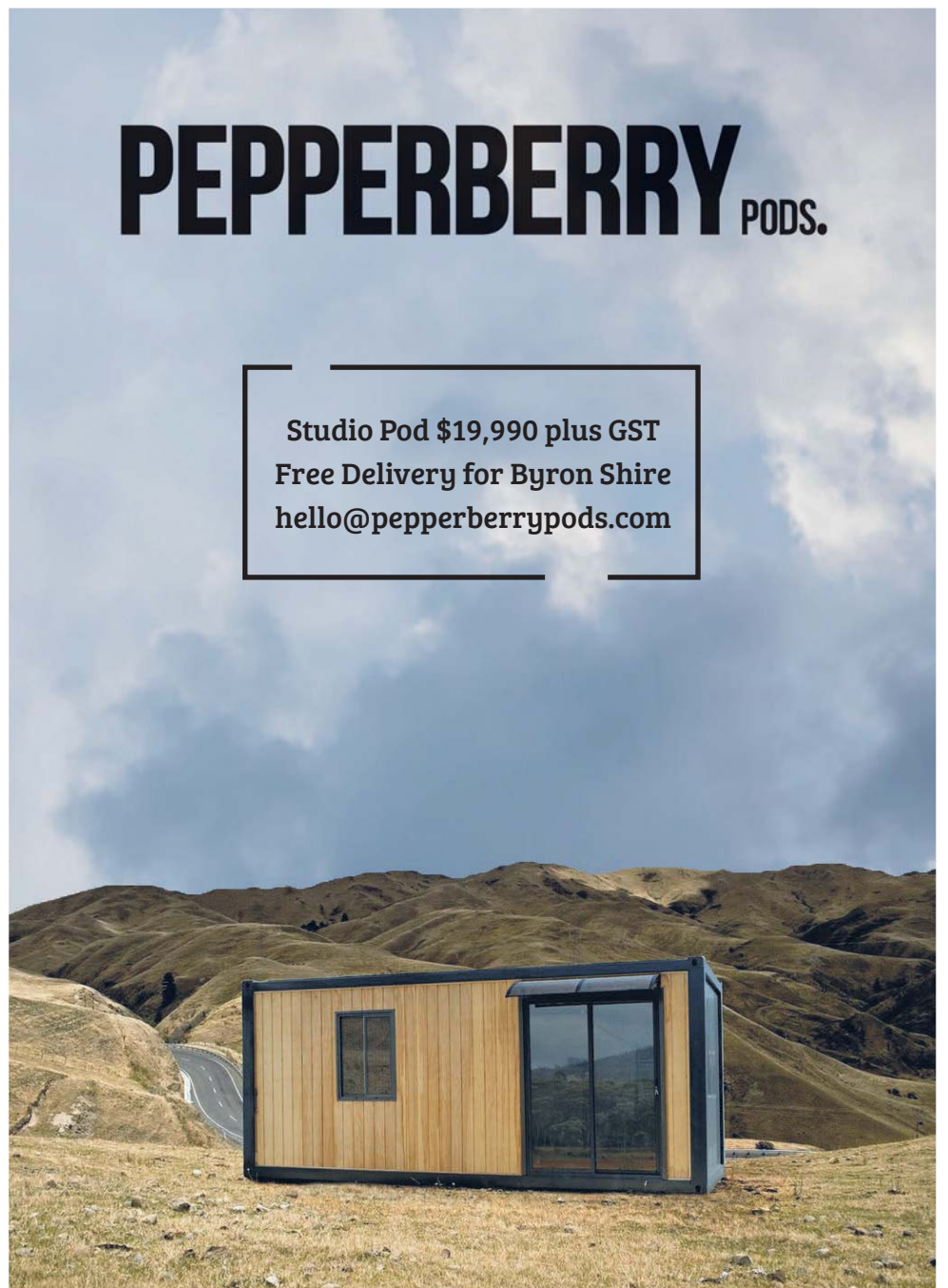
10-year-old Heath from Ocean Shores, whose photo of a seagull was a favourite of the judges.

In the adult category, a stylish and dramatic photo of the lifesaver's tower before a storm was the winning entry, by Pottsville resident, Damian Rousch.

Rousch told *The Echo* that photography is his way to connect with nature, and to better see things he previously didn't notice.

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Council staff refuse to provide info underpinning future housing

Two executive Council staff members are refusing to provide the public with a water and sewer infrastructure review for Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads, which is required to support future housing supply.

In the upcoming Council agenda for October 26 (page 140), Cr Duncan Dey asked if it was available to the public, to which Director Sustainable

Environment and Economy, Shannon Burt, and Director Infrastructure Services, Phil Holloway, replied, 'Technical review documents to support strategy work are for internal use only, and not available to the public.'

No further explanation was provided.

The question was in relation to Council's Housing Options Paper, which is now

on public exhibition, and is a prelude to a refreshed Residential Strategy.

They repeated the same answer when Cr Dey asked when Council's Water & Sewer Advisory Committee would receive the information.

The staff members did say the review indicates there is capacity for increased loads on the Brunswick Valley sewage treatment plant.

Freedom of speech event Oct 30

The second What's Going On event will examine freedom of speech 'and the government's plans for you', at the Byron RSL Club on Monday, October 30, from 6.30 pm.

Organiser David Warth told *The Echo*, 'Following on from the very well attended first event, we will be examining the highly controversial move by the federal Labor government to expand the powers of Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) to combat online misinformation and disinformation'.

'Michael Williamson will be the speaker.

'Michael has recently moved to the area and is a practising chartered accountant, who has worked in the international technology sector for over 30 years.

'Privately, he is focused on geopolitics, globalism and the role of government in society.

Who determines the truth?

'The question of who determines the truth in complex matters confronting

our society is raising alarm. The Australian Human Rights Commission has come out with serious concerns about why the misinformation bill risks the freedoms it aims to protect. This proposed legislation is fast becoming one of the major issues facing the democratic aspirations of our society.

'All are welcome to come and hear the facts on the proposed changes to online censorship in Australia.

Warth adds, 'The implications of these changes will be discussed, and the event will be open to questions'.

Can Council deliver Indigenous homes?

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council would undertake a suite of measures to ensure that local Aboriginal people owned housing on Country, under a motion to be put to this week's Council meeting.

The motion, from Labor councillor Asren Pugh, proposes embedding the delivery of Aboriginal-owned housing for Aboriginal people within the objectives and actions of all of Council's residential strategies.

As part of this process the Shire's Residential Lands Strategy, which is currently being reviewed, would be amended to include specific areas for housing that would be owned and occupied by Aboriginal people.

'In meetings with Arakwal representatives... it has been expressed that the two most important issues facing Arakwal members are housing and jobs,' Cr Pugh said in his written comments in support of the motion.

'Without housing on Country, Arakwal members cannot effectively engage with the community or Council consultation processes, they cannot enjoy the public

art they have created'.

'Native title holders have an intrinsic right to live on Country, and we as a Council have a pivotal role to play in ensuring that happens.'

Cr Pugh said that while there were already some Aboriginal housing initiatives and processes being undertaken by Council staff, this needed to be made a priority, with tangible goals and outcomes being set and achieved.

'Our Residential Strategy spends a lot of time talking about the importance of living on Country, but includes no targets or mechanisms to make it happen,' Cr Pugh said.

'Rather, it focuses on consultation with Aboriginal people when people want to develop on their land. It also needs to be made clear that this is about the rights of native title holders to live on Country, not just through programs designed for low-socioeconomic members of the community.'

Process in place: staff

But Council staff said a process is already in place to achieve the goal of housing Aboriginal people on Country, and that it was being

undertaken in direct consultation with the different local Aboriginal stakeholder groups.

Council's Director of Sustainable Environment and Economy, Shannon Burt, said it was these Aboriginal organisations that were best placed to advise on needs, priorities and goals, and to guide the design and delivery of programs to meet these goals.

'However, they cannot do all the work, particularly in the housing space, and neither can Council,' Ms Burt said.

Ms Burt also noted that the Residential Lands Strategy already contained principles and actions relevant to Aboriginal housing on Country, which would be able to be updated during the current review.

This was consistent with other state and regional plans that also contained measures to address Aboriginal housing, Ms Burt said.

Ms Burt also noted that local government had little ability to influence either Aboriginal housing on Country, or the broader overall housing crisis, compared to other levels of government.

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Big time producer shares knowledge – in Mullum!

Legendary producer, Jim Bonnefond, speaks to local musicians and music-lovers at MixArtist studio in Mullumbimby. Photo supplied

Paul Bibby

For more than 45 years, ‘Celebration’ by Kool & the Gang has been a massive party favourite – drawing people inexorably onto the dance floor.

On October 18, the legendary producer who recorded the famous track came to Mullumbimby to share the story behind it.

Jim Bonnefond took centre stage at the MixArtist studio before an audience of local musicians and

music-lovers.

Bonnefond, who is also renowned for his work with the Cockroaches, and Savage Garden, explored the iconic hit layer by layer.

In-depth insights

‘Jim played the original recordings through the mixing desk, giving us in-depth insights into the sound of each isolated recording signal,’ said the founder and head engineer at MixArtist, Jan Muths.

‘He also told us the story

of how he and Kool & The Gang recorded the song. It was a pretty amazing opportunity for local musicians – we got an insight into the making of the track straight from the maestro himself.’

In addition to Bonnefond’s wisdom, the evening saw the launch of the updated Byron Shire’s Music Industry Directory webpage.

The resource brings all the essential contacts that local musicians need together in one place. Visit www.mix-artist.com.au for more info.



Free desexing for cats in the Byron Shire

Byron Shire Council with RSPCA NSW, NSW Government and Pets for Life are offering free desexing for cats in the Byron Shire.

More information

Places are limited, so book now. For booking details go to:

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This project has been assisted by the NSW Government through its Environmental Trust.



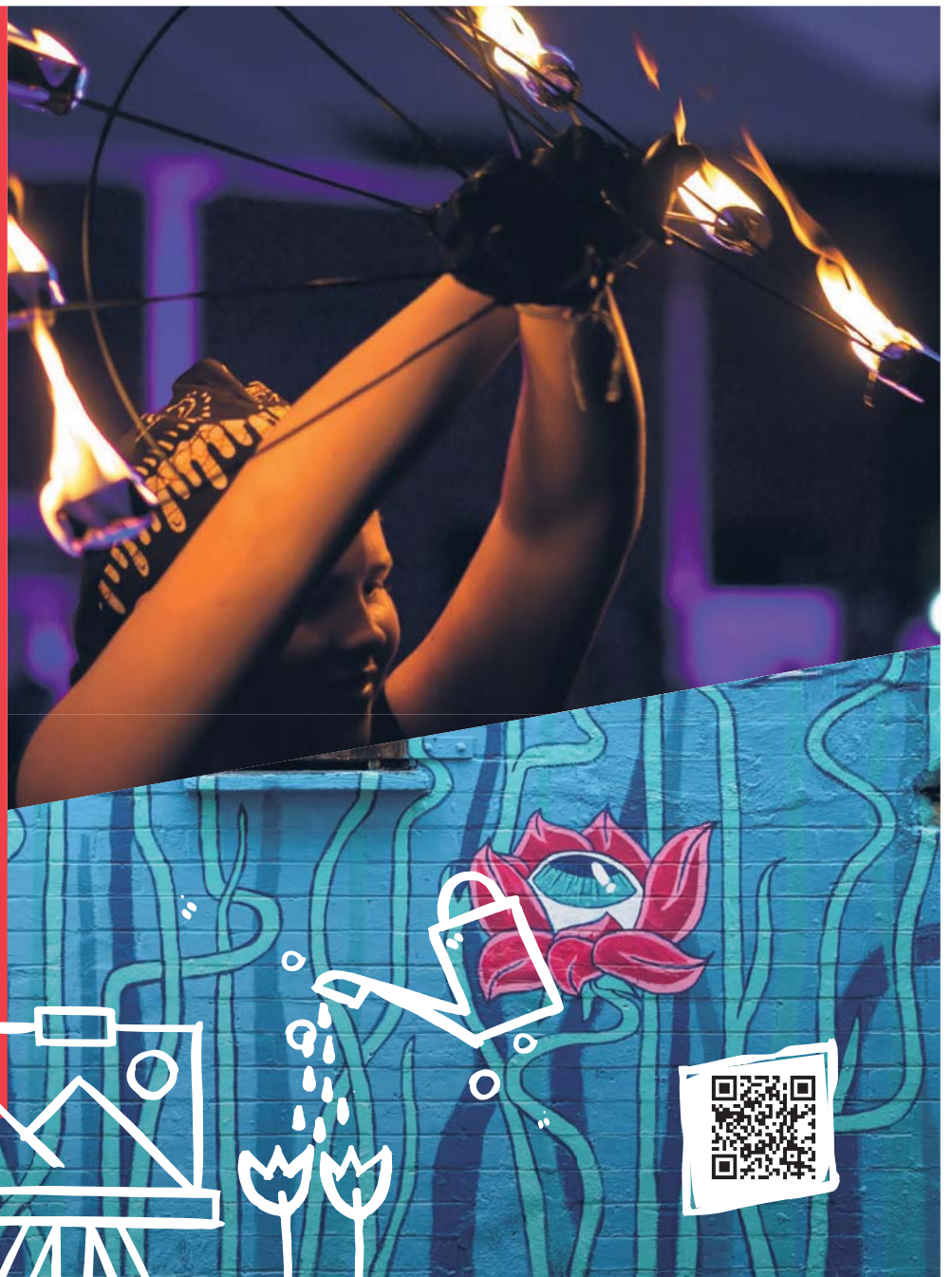
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Echo

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

Lennox vet helps animals beyond borders

Lennox Head-based vet Toni Kealy recently returned from a trip to Vanuatu, where she was volunteering with the international animal charity organisation Vets Beyond Borders.

Tweed's environment heroes recognised at the 2023 Tweed Sustainability Awards ceremony

Last week's biennial 2023 Tweed Sustainability Awards celebrated people who made a demonstrable difference by protecting or enhancing the natural environment.

Coming at koalas from two sides

Friends of the Koala is calling on all levels of government to step up to help protect the iconic species in the midst of a threatening bushfire season.

New DA 'withdrawal guidelines'

The NSW Labor government have announced new DA withdrawal guidelines for councils in an attempt to 'boost housing supply'.

Northbound M1 closed - truck on fire at Stotts Creek

A truck on fire halted busy Monday peak-hour traffic in the northbound lane of the M1 south of Stotts Creek on the approach to Cudgen Road Tunnel.

www.echo.net.au

Evans Head sees great turnout for Disabled Surfers event



Around 110 people including participants, carers and volunteers got in on the surfing on Saturday, 14 October at Evans Head. Photo Disabled Surfers Association NSW Far North Coast

Aslan Shand

The first Disabled Surfers Association NSW Far North Coast (DSAFNC) event for the year at Evans Head brought joy to around 40 participants who had great fun getting on a board.

The DSAFNC run five free events per year between October and March across five locations up and down the Far North Coast from Byron Bay to Yamba.

'We had about 110 people including participants, carers and volunteers on Saturday (Oct 14),' said Dylan Chisholm, President of the DSAFNC.

'The conditions were amazing with super light winds and light swells. We ran three groups and got lots of waves.'

Volunteers needed

The next event will take place at Lennox Head and volunteers are needed to ensure there is plenty of care for everyone who wants to get involved.

To volunteer or find out more information you can go to the DSAFNC Facebook page or check out the Disabled Surfers Association of Australia website: www.disabledsurfers.org.

Drinking water in Ballina's open spaces to be prioritised

Mia Armitage

Ballina Shire Council staff are to make sure all open spaces and parks in the shire have access to drinking water, starting with an audit of current availability.

Councillors agreed to the plan at September's ordinary meeting via a motion from Independent Cr Jeff Johnson.

Cr Johnson had called for the audit and for drinking water to be a priority in terms of funding investigations for

the 2024/25 Delivery Program and Operational Plan'.

Cr Bruem had called for a report on options for a plan to fulfil the goal of available drinking water at all Ballina Council open spaces.

The conservatively-aligned councillor agreed to second a longer version of the typically more progressive Cr Johnson's motion, with his motion added to the list.

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

Celebrating 100 years of the Murwillumbah Philharmonic Society



The Murwillumbah Philharmonic Society Choir in its current incarnation.

Eve Jeffery

It has been 100 years since the Murwillumbah Philharmonic Society and its associated choir and orchestra began and this year they are celebrating.

In May 1923, a meeting was held to form a committee to begin a local community choir in Murwillumbah. A committee was then established and this led to the formation of the Murwillumbah Philharmonic Society, the society included the choir and an orchestra.

This committee also led to the formation of the

Murwillumbah Music Festival, now known as the Murwillumbah Festival of Performing Arts Society Inc.

Music Director, Heather Martin OAM said it's hard to believe it's been 100 years. 'It's true - 100 years ago!'

Two recesses

'The choir had two recesses, the first being during World War II and the second during the late 50s and 60s, I believe because of television coming to town.

Ms Martin said this current third formation of the choir began in 1979 and has continued for 44 years with a minor

recess of two years because of Covid-19 lockdowns. 'The first two choirs travelled locally and to Brisbane and Grafton, competing in eisteddfodau and performing in prestigious local events.

The choir will celebrate its 100 years with a concert at All Saints Anglican Church, Murwillumbah on Sunday, December 3 at 2.30pm. If you would like to participate in this performance and have been a past member, please contact Heather Martin (heatherarbil@gmail.com).

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

Dancing stars raise over \$60,000 for cancer

Contestants shook their booties as they took to the floor for the Stars of Northern Rivers Dance for Cancer fundraiser.

The Cancer Council NSW hosted the gala show at the Byron Theatre raising over \$60,000 for cancer research.

The Highest Fundraiser trophy went to Stevey Arena from Sugar Beach Ranch Ballina, and her teacher Briony Guest from Byron Ballet School.



They are all stars - the dancers and their teachers at Byron Theatre.

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FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

New homelessness program welcomed

Not-for-profit organisation Social Futures has described the news that an assertive outreach homelessness program is coming to Byron Bay as a 'highly effective way to break the cycle of homelessness'.

Social Futures say it has been part of the Tweed Heads assertive outreach program since it arrived in that shire in 2019.

NSW Minister for Homelessness Rose Jackson announced on October 12 that the service would be extended into Byron Bay.

And while the Department of Communities and Justice is yet to provide any details of the new outreach program's budget and staff after being asked by *The Echo*, Social Futures CEO Tony Davies gave further details.

Byron initiative

Davies told *The Echo*, 'Homelessness workers travel to areas used by people who are homeless and rough sleeping and explain how assertive outreach works,' Mr Davies said.

'Once signed up to the program, every participant gets a program worker, and a personalised plan to meet



Photo www.socialfutures.org.au

their often-complex needs. The priority is to get them into temporary accommodation first, but assertive outreach also delivers wraparound supports.

'This can include referrals to healthcare professionals such as doctors and dentists, help completing an NDIS application (where needed) and connections to other service providers, such as drug and alcohol treatment.

'The key aim is to support the individual to develop the skills to maintain long-term accommodation opportunities.'

Mr Davies said assertive outreach workers offer person-centred care.

'The case management

is collaborative and holistic. Each plan is developed around the person's unique needs,' he said.

'People who have been sleeping rough for years may have experienced trauma or addiction or mental health challenges – that's why an integrated and coherent response is needed and that's what assertive outreach delivers.'

'The worker supports participants to reset so they gain the skills to maintain a long-term tenancy.'

'Social Futures has been delivering homelessness services in Byron Bay since 2014, and has been supporting the Northern Rivers for 47 years.'

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #20 • October 25, 2023

The biggest burps, ever

Peppers, or those preparing for an apocalypse, may already know, but in 1859, the sun belched trillions of tonnes of plasma at our small pale blue dot, causing major disruptions to primitive telegraph poles.

The Carrington Event is the largest reported geomagnetic storm, or coronal mass ejection (CME).

According to astronomy.com, 'The operators of the telegraphs reported receiving electrical shocks, telegraph paper catching fire, and being able to operate equipment with batteries disconnected'.

An even more massive geomagnetic storm occurred around 774 A.D., writes author David Wallace, which is known as the Miyake Event.

'Ice core samples have shown evidence that large-scale geomagnetic storms with similar intensities as the Miyake and Carrington events occur at an average rate of once every 500 years'.

And on October 13, 2023, www.astronomy.com's Paul Sutter wrote, 'Scientists have found evidence of a solar flare that happened 14,300 years ago that had to be at least ten times more powerful than the Carrington Event'.

According to www.livescience.com, a huge burst of plasma and magnetised particles erupted from the sun on October 28, 2021.

'The massive solar outburst washed over Earth, the moon and Mars, bathing them in radiation. And, for the first time, instruments on all three bodies measured the same event almost simultaneously'.

The irony of course is that humans have developed the technology to measure such events, but will be completely knee-capped by the next big one.

Professor of Applied Statistics in the School of Mathematics at the



Barnaby's burps are no match for what an average-sized sun can do to us.

University of Leeds, Tim Heaton, told astronomy.com, 'Extreme solar storms could have huge impacts on Earth. Such super storms could permanently damage the transformers in our electricity grids, resulting in huge and widespread blackouts lasting months. They could also result in permanent damage to the satellites that we all rely on for navigation and telecommunication, leaving them unusable'.

It's incomprehensible, but try to think of how tech-reliant humans would fare after the complete wipe-out of all electrical circuitry.

Nuts and berries

Clearly, the non-tech-reliant humans would not be so affected, as long as there were enough nuts and berries for all of us.

Such a scenario makes gradual climate change seem somewhat benign, and the pointless wars over religion, land and resources myopic.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) would simply vanish, and no longer loom over us.

Perhaps a large solar burp would reset our oversaturated primitive minds and restore some much-needed collective sanity and empathy?

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Healing in a post-truth world

A great sorrow is upon our land.

The week of silence after rejection of the Voice is now over, but the grieving doesn't end there.

Will Peter Dutton and his Liberal-Nationals coalition members now seek a rapprochement with First Nations people after the 'victory' in convincing fellow Australians to slap away the generous hand of friendship?

It seems not. Having used disinformation to demonise the Voice, supported eagerly by his allies in the Murdoch media, he appears to want to double down on his negativity, judging by his actions in parliament last week.

Former PM Tony Abbott, Dutton's old boss and now Murdoch lackey, applauds Dutton's 'brave decision' and in an article in *The Australian*, insists we now need a full policy reset.

British-born Abbott says, 'Meanwhile, if the people's vote is to be respected, it should mean abandoning or at least scaling back, recent concessions to separatism: such as flying the Aboriginal flag co-equally with the national one (as if Australia is a country of two nations); and the routine acknowledgement of country by all speakers at official events (as if those whose ancestry stretches beyond 1788 are more Australian than everyone else)'.

If Dutton has his way in the future, there will be no truth telling, no treaty and of course no voice. As with Abbott, assimilation would still be the order of the day.

Small consolation

It was a small consolation to learn that 67 per cent of the people of Byron Shire voted 'Yes' to the Voice. The 'Yes' vote went to a high of 75 per cent in enlightened Suffolk Park. The more conservative areas of the Richmond electorate dragged us down into a majority 'No' vote.

So, what happens now? Politically perhaps not very much. Anthony Albanese has expended a lot of political capital and many millions of dollars courageously



'There's an urgent need to pass legislation to ensure truth in advertising, particularly during publicly-funded election campaigns.'

Richard Jones

fulfilling his promise to bring the Voice to a referendum.

It may well have succeeded if Dutton hadn't used First Nations people as political pawns. The blizzard of lies from the 'No' side would not have been as heavy if it had been bipartisan.

Shrill campaign

Pauline Hanson and virulent racists would still have run a shrill campaign, and perhaps Clive Palmer and Gina Rinehart would have funded it, but the Murdoch media would have been more circumspect.

Now there's an urgent need to pass legislation to ensure truth in advertising, particularly during publicly-funded election campaigns.

Those saddened by the result can take some comfort from knowing 40 per cent of Australians weren't fooled by the lies, including the spin that First Nations people didn't support the Voice when the results clearly show the majority did.

It's up to us as a wider community to listen to our Aboriginal sisters and brothers and acknowledge how deeply damaging this has been for them.

We can start the healing right here in Byron Shire, by listening and acting.

Changing inappropriate names could be a start. Byron Bay is actually Cavanbah, meeting place, and was for thousands of years.

It has only been named Byron Bay officially since 1894. Captain Cook named Cape Byron, as he passed in 1770, after fellow global navigator Captain John Byron, grandfather of poet Lord Byron.

Julian Rocks were supposedly named after Captain Cook's nephew and niece, Juan and Julia. This is an important Aboriginal

sacred site and is actually Nguthungulli (Father of the World).

Cape Byron is really Walgun.

It's time to dump these old colonial relics of names and return to their real names. Cavanbah was and is a peaceful meeting place for many people who travelled, and still travel, great distances to experience this healing area. There's a desperate need for peace in other parts of the world right now.

The significant Israeli population in Byron Shire is in agony over the slaughter that has taken place in Israel and now in Gaza.

I have talked with local Israeli friends whose families have been impacted by the tragedy. The shocking massacre by Hamas is now leading to another huge slaughter of innocent Palestinians, who just want to live in peace like everybody else.

Collective punishment, which is evidently happening right now in Gaza, is a war crime. Western leaders, including President Biden and Anthony Albanese, are caught in a cleft stick. They have supported Israel in their right to defend themselves, but they surely cannot now support the mass killing of civilians. It's an impossible situation with no obvious solution. There's a desperate need for peacemakers, not warmongers.

We can start a healing process with our local First Nations people, and each other, straight away. Let's meet at Cavanbah and discuss what we share and start to heal our differences, peacefully. Let us all come together as a community. We all need to be friends, regardless of widely varying opinions. Let us listen to and respect each other.

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



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Phone: 02 6684 1777

Editorial/news: editor@echo.net.au

Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au

Office: 64 McGoughans Lane,
Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager Simon Haslam

Editor Hans Lovejoy

Deputy Editor Aslan Shand

Photographer Jeff Dawson

Advertising Manager Anna Coelho

Production Manager Ziggi Browning



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

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Everybody reads *The Echo!*

Patrick Lenfesty in Italy – the latest *Echo* destination.

Feros residents

Go Feros Byron Bay residents! Great to have our local *Echo* to hear from both sides.

I hope that you get your coffee machine back, however I suspect there may well be several donated coffee machines on your doorstep before long.

Looking forward to 'Byron Feros the Musical'!

Phoebe Havatt
Byron Bay

Russell Brand

Boohoo! Russell Brand, his life is now in total 'upheaval' (Letters, 11 October).

Really? For crying out loud, he's a celebrity who

has made millions and he was lucky enough to have once been married to Katy Perry – who I'm not sorry to say, actually has human decency and a whole lot more personality and talent.

As for the women he allegedly sexually assaulted, it's *their* lives that would be in turmoil. As most people should now understand, for victims of sexual assault to report a crime, it can take a lot of time, courage, energy and pain to come forward and speak up – a measure not taken lightly.

Kim Hamill
Ocean Shores

RFS thanks

Our RFS fire truck was in Brunswick Heads on 17 October protecting properties from the incoming Byron bush fire.

We'd used a lot of fuel during the day so we called into the Ampol servo. As we were retrieving the PIN for the fuel card an announcement came over the servo's PA to say someone had already paid our bill (quite a large sum).

We were so pleased to be appreciated. We hope the person reads this so that we can thank them for the pleasure he brought us.

RFS Federal Brigade
Cat 7 Crew

The Great Reset

As a Yes23 campaigner I encountered many 'Great Reset' conspiracists expressing blanket distrust of the WEF (World Economic Forum), the UN, WHO and anything to do with all levels of government. I even saw its message of fear and distrust written over the body of a car parked in Brunswick Heads, starting with 'Wake up Australia!'

The following link is to ISD Global, or the Institute for Strategic Dialogue, 'an independent, non-profit organisation dedicated to safeguarding human rights and reversing the rising tide of polarisation, extremism and disinformation worldwide': https://www.isdglobal.org/digital_dispatches/the-great-reset-conspiracy-in-australia/.

In my conversations with these conspiracists, I got the impression that *Sky News* is playing an integral part in the spread of misinformation, in particular, *Outsiders* host, Rowan Dean. Murdoch's news outlets and social media have helped in the

▶ Continued on next page

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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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How uninterested voters sank the Voice

Dr Greg Kramer

The Voice referendum was decided by voters who don't know or care about referendums or politics. Indeed, it was a right pain in the bum for them to drive to the voting booth and waste ten minutes of their precious time.

Uninterested voters are demographically lower socioeconomic with their level of education a significant indicator of interest and knowledge of politics. The higher your education the greater likelihood you will be interested in, and knowledgeable about, politics.

While this sounds harsh, it is the case that every study, in every country, at any time in human history has found the same simple fact. We can clearly see the effect of uninterested voters by looking at the election results in the electorate of Maranoa where only 11 per cent achieved university degrees and 16 per cent of voters supported

'Yes'. This contrasts to the seat of Sydney where 52 per cent of voters have university degrees and yet 71 per cent voted 'Yes'.

The 'Yes' vote decreases as education and socioeconomic status decline. But – it's not because uninterested voters are stupid... It is because they lack the interest to garner basic information, especially when the referendum became confusing for them.

A major tactic to confuse uninterested voters was to 'flood the zone with shit', a term coined by Steve Bannon, the former political strategist for Donald Trump and former head of *Breitbart News*, which consistently promotes right-wing conspiracy theories and misleading stories. The purpose is to bombard people with so many contradictory claims, conspiracy theories and distortions that voters simply throw up their hands and say it's all too hard and thereby disengage. And so the 'No' campaign set about 'flooding the zone with shit'.



The faces of the No campaign. Left: Former ALP president turned Liberal Party candidate, Warren Mundine. Right: Nationals Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price.



Lies and deception

We heard that if the Voice was successful the average Australian would have to pay reparations or that the Voice would be a third chamber of parliament. It was incorrectly stated by both Warren Mundine and Jacinta Price that the Voice would lead to a treaty while social media claimed the United Nations would 'take over' Australia if the Voice was successful.

In a nod to Trumpian style politics Peter Dutton attacked

the integrity of the AEC (Australian Electoral Commission) because ticks would be counted as a 'Yes' vote but crosses deemed informal. He didn't back down even after it was pointed out this law has been around for the last six referendums.

Perhaps the most confusing claim was that the *Uluru Statement from the Heart* was too long and complex (it was a mere 440 words long) while at the same time 'No' proponents were arguing there were no details. And in the final phase

of the campaign it was argued that the Voice would be divisive to such a degree that Warren Mundine trumpeted that the Uluru statement was a 'declaration of war'. As the 'shit' was flooding in polls showed support diminishing for the 'Yes' campaign.

Voter manipulation

In the weeks to come experts will pore over why the referendum failed with a rightful focus on lies and deception that manipulated Australian voters. The main characters such as Mundine, Price and Dutton will be targeted but nowhere will you hear that a significant portion of Australian voters simply lacked the interest to see through their lies.

A signatory to the Uluru statement, Thomas Mayo, stated the day after the referendum that 'we have seen a disgusting "No" campaign that has been dishonest, that has lied to the Australian people' while going on to say 'I'm not blaming the

Australian people at all, but who I do blame are those who lied to them'.

It's not just the Voice campaign where uninterested voters are manipulated, it is every single election... but there is never any responsibility placed on uninterested citizens to be responsible voters.

It is the case that the Voice referendum remarkably mirrored the results of the 1999 Republican referendum and Professor Ian McAllister showed that if uninterested voters had not voted in the 1999 referendum then we would have an Australian head of state today. The enduring slogan of the 'No' case, of 'if you don't know then vote no' in both the 1999 and 2023 referendums, is just too compelling for uninterested voters.

■ Dr Greg Kramer is the PhD author of *The Apathetic Country*, an academic study focused on uninterested voters.

► Continued from page 13 dismantling of the Yes23 campaign, as in the UK's Brexit referendum and the challenge to the last election result in the USA.

In my opinion, the failure of the referendum wasn't just due to our usual Australian racists, or those Indigenous Australians who didn't think the Aboriginal Voice went far enough, or the Coalition taking political advantage of supporting the 'No' vote. It seems that the far right is infiltrating social and news media globally.

The planet is in such a mess with the extreme weather events, rising inequalities, and economic hardships, let alone wars. This misinformation will continue to thrive on the fear, ignorance, resentments and further disengagements with democratic processes in Australia.

Sue McLeod
Myocum

95% land value increase

If the mission of the Housing Options Paper (HOP) is

aimed at 'affordable housing', cheaper housing and increasing home ownership, I have little faith in its success.

The NSW state government's target is 4,522 dwellings. Council is aiming for 6,695 across the Byron Shire with Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads taking up 54.5 per cent of that growth. At 2.2 persons per dwelling, that represents an increase in population of 8,027 persons in these settlements.

Investors are well aware of the relatively high land cost component involved in

developments in this Shire. This is confirmed by comparing data from the Valuer General land values from 1 July 2019 to 1 July 2022. Total land value in Byron Shire rose from \$11,892,037,080 in 2019 to \$23,175,570,959 in 2022 representing an increase of 95 per cent. Residential land rose in value from \$7,147,317,810 to \$13,565,649,310 representing an increase of 90 per cent.

How is this related to the HOP? As Hans Lovejoy said (Editorial, 18 October) 'Affordable housing is a myth'. I would add, so is 'cheaper housing' in this Shire.

The HOP has no context other than a demand management approach to increasing supply. It sidesteps any acknowledgement that finance is the driver

behind a decline in home ownership making it harder and harder not only to get into the housing market but to stay in it.

We have, compared to countries across the globe, an extremely high debt to household income [ratio] as the value of dwellings increase relative to income. This has come about by deliberate design and not accident given the deregulation of the finance industry. And the banks continue to be the most profitable in the world.

There are also problems emerging in the rental market which will probably see investors leave like lemmings unless rents increase to absorb increasing costs. These can be summed up as increases in mortgage

indebtedness, costly changes in legislation aimed at rental accommodation, and a lack of capital gains in the foreseeable future making this market relatively unattractive.

This leaves increasing the bulk of the supply of dwellings to social housing and it is unlikely the state or federal government will come to the party given the cost of land and the required infrastructure.

Patricia Warren
Brunswick Heads

Reconciliation

This is a letter to Anne, who was a guest on The Drum (15 October). I can't tell you how dreadful I felt to hear how people treat you and the abuse you have to put up with. I voted 'Yes' for ►

Council is revisiting floodplain management in the north of the Byron Shire

This project is focused specifically on the communities of Billinudgel, Ocean Shores, New Brighton and South Golden Beach.

Independent consultants are reviewing our current adopted floodplain management plans and studies in these areas.

For more information go to www.byron.nsw.gov.au/north-byron-floodplain

Submissions close 17 November 2023.

How can you provide feedback?

- Online at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/north-byron-floodplain
- Call 02 6626 7000 to have a survey posted to you or to provide your feedback to our project officer
- Email cdowsett@byron.nsw.gov.au
- Do the survey when you are next at Council offices.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au

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► the referendum. I live in the area known as Franklin in Tasmania. There is a town but it is also one of the electorates down here. It was the electorate that came up as being the first 'Yes' vote.

We are 60 kms from Hobart. There was also a pocket of Hobart that also voted 'Yes'. I can't put myself in your shoes to know how you and your mob must be feeling, but as a white woman in my 70s, I feel devastated. After all these years I had felt confident that at last something was going to happen.

At the age of 22 I went to live in Darwin. I had just spent six months in Port Moresby. I had my eyes opened to the injustices of the Aboriginal people up there and was sad at what I saw. I've had my eyes opened to the plight of the Palawa people since moving to Tasmania and how they were treated when colonialism took over here.

I am a retired registered nurse who worked in mental health before retiring to Tasmania and now I attend university to help keep my mind active. Please accept my apologies for all those people who did not vote 'Yes'. The Aboriginal people deserve better.

Sandra Kemp
Cygnet, Tasmania

Triumph of misinformation

Sophistry: the use of clever but false arguments, especially with the intention of deceiving.

After writing a big 'Yes' on my voting form last Saturday, my heart sank as I walked outside and passed three people walking in who were all about to vote 'No', because they sincerely believed a 'Yes' vote would mean the United Nations would take over Australia!

Others believed a 'Yes' vote would mean Aborigines will come for their house and land. Others were confused by high-profile First Nations people supporting the 'No' case. Others claimed a 'Yes' vote would racially divide Australia? And of course there was a large dose of old fashioned colonial racism - all of which determined the outcome of this referendum.

In the 1967 referendum, which was simply to count First Australians as people in the census, there was bipartisan political support. Not a single politician opposed the idea and the nation got behind it with a 90 per cent 'Yes' vote. With *this* referendum, the moment Dutton and the Coalition came out in opposition to 'Yes', it was the kiss of death for the outcome.

Deliberately creating confusion and sowing doubt and fear, the naysayers played on the minds of people who didn't know or even want to understand the issues. And all the while the 'No' side accused the 'Yes' side of dividing the nation.

So after all the sophistry, it's good to remind ourselves what this referendum was about: recognising First Australians in the Constitution, while enshrining a First Nations advisory body to advise on matters directly affecting the lives of First Nations people. After losing an entire continent, it didn't seem much to ask.

How such a simple idea gets mashed up into a frightening monstrosity, says heaps about the times we are living in. I think we are all diminished by the outcome of this referendum and I feel ashamed that a majority of we privileged people living in this great southern land, could not find it in our hearts to say 'Yes' to such a simple request. We live in a post-truth world where misinformation and clickbait fills the internet. We may never be able to have a well-informed civil conversation again!

Michael Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek

► More letters on page 17

WHAT'S ON AT YOUR CLUB

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12.15 PM FIRST COURSE
3.00 PM RACE

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FASHIONS IN THE FIELD
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FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER

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18+ Event

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More gems from the Byron Bay Film Festival this week

There's a glittering array of films and screen-related events in the final week of the Byron Bay Film Festival, including a repeat of opening night sensation *The Edge of Nature*, and a family-friendly full moon outdoor screening of some of BBFF's current and earlier festivals' finest short films – including surf titles – at Dening Park on Friday night, where the Festival will fundraise for our hardworking fireys. The event is dependent on the weather: if it's too windy or wet we will reschedule. Please consult the website for updates.

The fun begins tonight (Wednesday) at the Beach Hotel with a party that highlights BBFF's Music Video Showcase, including films inspired by songs from Tijuana Cartel and Parkway Drive.

Later in the week meet the rock star artist David Bromley in all his exuberant glory at one of the two Byron screenings of *Bromley: Light After Dark*. Or you can catch the film at the Regent Murwillumbah on Saturday, October 28 at 3pm. Bromley is so well known that just his surname is enough, and he's so well-loved in Byron Shire that his paintings can be found in scores of homes. They're often fun, full of joy, but Bromley has struggled with darkness and admits that even today he can slide off the rails. The Bromley story includes his wife, Yuge, an anchor to his free-floating and sometime fragile mind. Interviews with friends, critics and musicians add perspective and insights. David and Yuge Bromley, as well as director Sean Patrick McDonald and producer Clare Plueckhahn, will be hosting a Q&A at the Friday night Byron Bay screening, and introducing the film on Saturday morning.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 25:

12.30pm, Palace Byron Bay

Freedom Is Beautiful

Encore screening

Encore screening of Lennox Head artist Angus McDonald's uplifting story about two Kurdish refugees' struggle for a normal life free of persecution and captivity.

► Also screening at The Regent, Murwillumbah, Saturday October 28, 5.15pm.



7pm, Palace Byron Bay

Radical

Uplifting dramatised story of a teacher's radical approach to learning making a difference in the lives of schoolkids at a rundown elementary school in Mexico, where crime and corruption eat away at daily life and hopes of a better future. Sergio Juarez, played by Mexico's most popular actor, Eugenio Derbez, reignites his students' passion for learning, and unlocks their potential. Winner of the Sundance Audience Award 2023.

► *Radical* also screens on Saturday, October 28 at 12.30pm, Palace Byron Bay.



8.30pm to 10pm, Beach Hotel

Music Video Showcase

After-party held at Lovers Lane.



THURSDAY OCTOBER 26:

12.30pm, Palace Byron Bay

Let's Get Lost (Ailleurs Si J'y Suis)

Encore screening of the French language comedy in which one man leaves the stresses of modern life and returns to nature.

► Also screening at The Regent Murwillumbah on Friday, October 27 at 1pm.



7pm, Palace Byron Bay

Habana Shakes + Q&A

World premiere

This vibrant doco captures a key moment in history and the lives of a group of young artists in Raul Castro's Cuba. What is it that they want in their Cuba? Does it differ from their parents' generation? Immerse yourself in the music, dance and culture seen in this beautifully made film, which proudly stands as a testament to the extraordinary talent of new generation Cubans.



FRIDAY OCTOBER 27:

3.15pm, The Regent Murwillumbah

Fantastic Machine

Humanity's infatuation with images of itself is explored in this, at times hilarious, documentary from the Camera Obscura to our world of selfies.



4.30pm, Palace Byron Bay

Anatomy of a Fall

An intelligent and gripping courtroom drama that's also a forensic examination of a marriage. This psychological and cinematic tour de force from director Justine Triet scored the Cannes Palme d'Or 2023.



5.25pm, The Regent Murwillumbah

Young Australian Filmmaker of the Year

Check out the work of some of Australia's most promising young filmmakers – screen creatives on the cusp of success.



6pm, free, Dening Park, Byron Bay

Outdoor Screening

A feature of BBFF's outdoor activations, the 2023 outdoor screening promises a special evening for everyone under the full moon. Live music and a fantastic selection of short films from 2023 and earlier festivals, including surfing classics.

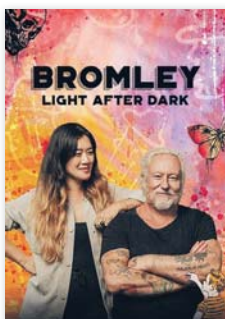


► This event is weather dependent. If it is wet or windy, please consult the website for updates.

7.30pm, Palace Byron Bay

Bromley: Light After Dark + Q&A

A love story for the ages and a rousing exploration of life and creativity through the eyes of prolific larrikin artist David Bromley. 'Art saved my life,' says Bromley, but that's just the beginning of this story.



► Encore screening at Byron Bay Palace on Saturday, October 28 at 12.30pm, to be introduced by David and Yuge Bromley.

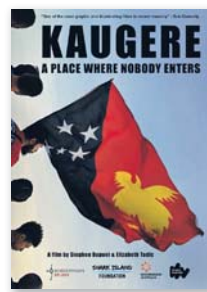
► Also screening at The Regent, Murwillumbah on Saturday, October 28 at 3pm.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28:

3pm, Palace Byron Bay

Kaugere: A Place Where Nobody Enters

A heartening story about one individual's efforts to offer young men an alternative to gangster life in the poverty-stricken and dangerous Papua New Guinea settlement of Kaugere. Footy coach Albert Muri's family has been torn apart by crime and the influence of the 'raskol' gangs, with one son killed by police and another in prison. Albert sees rugby league as a chance to channel criminal minds into sporting heroes. A compelling story, by turns sad and hope-filled.



5pm, Palace Byron Bay

Seeds of Inspiration – Mother Earth Educators, Refugia, Between Earth & Sky

Back by popular demand is this trio of heartening films exploring nature's impact on our lives and its power to heal.



5.15pm, Palace Byron Bay

Club Zero

Alternately darkly funny and disturbing satire on our obsession with diet and body image in which Mia Wasikowska shines as a teacher at an elite boarding school championing the idea of 'conscious eating'. Her more vulnerable students become fervent believers and are lured to extremes. Director Jessica Hausner's stylish direction and Mia Wasikowska's performance as the plausible yet creepy teacher earned the film a place at Cannes 2023.



7.30pm, Palace Byron Bay

Mutiny in Heaven: The Birthday Party

The story of Nick Cave's anarchic punk band The Birthday Party's drug-fuelled rise and inevitable collapse is a thrilling tale of epic struggle, artistic genius and total dysfunctionality. Told in the group's own words, with loads of live footage from their infamous 80s concerts in Australia and Europe.

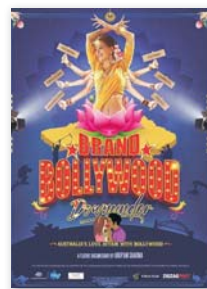


SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29:

2pm, Brunswick Picture House

Brand Bollywood Downunder + Q&A

Brand Bollywood Downunder tells the story of Bollywood's love affair with Australia – at times turbulent, always filled with passion and high style. But Indian cinema goes back long before Bollywood, and this exuberant, colourful and enlightening doco traces its beginnings in 1897 and long life as the world's biggest film industry.



3pm, Lennox Head Cultural Centre

The Edge of Nature + Q&A

Encore screening of the personal yet universally-themed documentary in which filmmaker and famed eco-warrior Josh Fox (*Gasland*) retreats into nature to try to recover from long Covid and has his passion for eco-activism re-ignited by the animals and surrounding environment. Meditative, yet a life-force-fuelled call-out to commit to heal ourselves and the planet.

3pm, Palace Byron Bay

International Shorts: Powerful Foreign Films

Stories from around the world, firmly grounded in their particular cultural context but having global emotional resonance. Several nominees for BBFF2023's Best Short Film Award are featured.

3pm, The Regent Murwillumbah

Through the Local Lens

Dive into this showcase of shorts illuminating the tales and talent of our region. From the cultural richness in *Heart Healing Feeling* and resilience in *Tinnie Heroes*, to introspective journeys in *I Love to Dance* and *I'm Ready*, this session is a canvas of life, art and connection. *Coming Home* and *The Crossing Project* further explore heritage and the landscapes of the country we live on.

5.15pm, Palace Byron Bay

Under Streetlights

The film Australia needs to see, brimming with hope, humanity and sense of connection through the things that unify us – music, family, overcoming difficulties together. It's a joy to experience.



6.30pm, Lennox Head Cultural Centre

Ground Swell: The Other Side of Fear

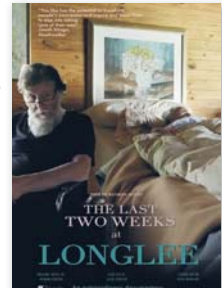
Narrated by Josh Brolin, *Ground Swell: The Other Side of Fear* takes a look at what drives big wave surfers to risk their lives tackling monster waves all over the world, and shows how facing fear is not just for the surf daredevils. An in-depth look at the 2021-22 big wave season through the eyes of Nic Von Rupp, Kai Lenny, Matt Bromley, Torrey Meister, Vini dos Santos and Bianca Valenti.



6.30pm, Brunswick Picture House

The Last Two Weeks at Longlee + Q&A

Experienced Ocean Shores filmmaker Susie Forster takes on her toughest assignment – to chronicle the final weeks of her mother, artist Lee Stephenson, as she lies dying at her Goulburn Valley home. An intimate yet unsentimental examination of death, and the gifts of keeping the dying close and in their own home.



► Q&A with the filmmaker and Byron deathwalker Zenith Virago.

7.30pm, Palace Cinemas Byron Bay

Perfect Days

Acclaimed director Wim Wenders returned to Cannes this year with this poignant tale set in Japan. Hirayama, a humble Tokyo toilet cleaner, is embedded in his daily rituals – self-care, the nurturing of plants, a smiling awareness of the beauty of nature, joy in classic rock music and a good book. But he has a past that demands to be resolved. Koji Yakusho's understated, absorbing performance won him the Best Actor prize at Cannes.



RUNNING ALL WEEK:

Running 24-hours a day is local contemporary landscape artist Jack Bailey's experimental installation upstairs at the Mercato between Palace Byron Bay and Ember, an expansive journey that challenges and transcends the modern boundaries we have been conditioned to.

► The 17th Byron Bay International Film Festival runs until October 29. Details and tickets at www.bbff.com.au.

The Voice

John Howard's impeccable record over many years has cemented his place as the pre-eminent Australian racist. He is the man. Despite his despair during the anti-racist years of Whitlam, Fraser, Hawke, and Keating, Johnny never gave up.

Who can forget his support of Pauline Hanson under the guise of protecting free speech, or the children overboard and Siev X lies, or the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq waged under false pretences; or the fabulous comment about the unacceptable appearance of Asian immigrants, etc.

Individually these tactics display uncanny brilliance; taken together they constitute the greatest comeback of the past 100 years. Singlehandedly Johnny reestablished the popularity of racism in Australia. Unfortunately for Australia, however, the tactics also struck a chord in the 'broad church' of the Coalition, especially amongst Howard's principle acolytes Morrison and Dutton.

Unless we as a nation recognise the 'No' vote for what it is - namely a triumph of racism and stupidity over

decency - we will become a pariah in the world and will run the risk of more Howards, Morrisons, and Duttons infecting our country with their racist bile.

Frank Kelly
Crabbes Creek

How could we?

Like many other people, I am still struggling to come to terms with the sheer volume of the 'No' vote in last Saturday's referendum for the proposed Voice to Parliament and constitutional recognition for the First Nations people.

How could we say 'No' to the longest continual culture on earth, who so eloquently and simply asked if they could have a say in running their own affairs for a change?

I believe, as a nation, who prides itself on humanity and a fair go, that we should take a long hard look at ourselves and seriously question our blind acceptance of the sheer negativity of hard-line, right-wing journalism and politicians which drove the 'No' campaign.

It was 'No' which caused the division, not race.

In refusing to accept the request for *recognition* in the Constitution and a voice to parliament from

Indigenous Australians, we coldheartedly batted away the outstretched hand of friendship from our First Nations People.

If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got. 'No' gets you nowhere.

Christopher Wright
Byron Bay

Still in shock

Waleed Aly writing in *The Age* (27 January 2023) said: The Voice '... is [was] a subtle proposal, but it lands in an age with the least subtle of temperaments... Ours is now a politics of perpetual deconstruction in which majorities only seem to gather around disaffection, with very few exceptions.'

Then Ed Coper, (author of 'How to defeat Fake News') also wrote, in *The Age* (19 February 2023), 'It's our first social media referendum... Social media was never intended to be the place where we formed our opinions about critical issues of importance, it was designed to be a viral advertising platform.'

Whether or not you agree with these comments there is no doubt that the social media platforms are the perfect tools to propagate

doubt. They can then ease the anxiety that has been created, even in otherwise thoughtful readers, by welcoming readers into the fold. And of course if a person's anxiety is thereby mollified that person is a likely agent of further dissemination of largely-untested claims. One of the worst aspects about social media's role in such campaigns is that the most scurrilous, provocative claims become a cheap source of copy for some of the big news outlets.

I'm not implying the referendum would have succeeded in the absence of social media or that all social media is inherently negative.

It is rather that this was always likely to be a difficult campaign to win because it lacked cross-party support and because constitutions are not (and should not be) easy to change. It was fertile ground for disinformation.

I now believe not only that our Indigenous folks should be closely listened to in finding the ways to Close the Gap federally but that each state must proceed diligently to their own 'voice' and treaty agreements.

Frank Lynch
Mullumbimby

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Expressions of Interest for land for natural burial site in Byron Shire

Council is asking for Expressions of Interest from people interested in selling or donating land for a natural burial site.

The land will have to meet a range of requirements such as:

- Zoned RU2
- Minimal vegetation
- Good road access

Submissions close on 3 November 2023.

More information

Go to Council's website for more information or to submit an EOI:

- www.byron.nsw.gov.au/EOI-natural-burial-site
- Malcolm Robertson
- 02 6626 7000



www.byron.nsw.gov.au



Photo Eben McCrimmon

Rusty's Byron Guide 2024

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Israel – Palestine: when will it end?

■ The recent horrific Hamas attacks constitute a war crime. Israel's response has already been disproportionate, another war crime.

Human Rights Watch has confirmed that banned white phosphorus has been used on people in Gaza and Lebanon. Another Israeli war crime. Israel has attacked civilian infrastructure. Another Israeli war crime.

Israel has cut off electricity, food, medicines, aid to people in Gaza. That's collective punishment. Another Israeli war crime. Israel conducts apartheid in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Another Israeli war crime.

Is it okay to kill children with bombs but not with knives or guns?

In a couple of months, when it is highly likely that thousands of Palestinian children are dead, will we still feel the same way that our justifiable anger and disgust make us feel now? Will we be able to justify the deaths of children as necessary? When will we say, 'Enough children have died now, please stop'?

'Let us have the courage to declare a first truth: International law does not give a right to security which engages, in return, a right to occupy and even less so, a right to massacre. There is a right to peace, and that right is the same for all peoples. The security which Israel seeks today, is done so against peace and against the Palestinian people.' – Dominique de Villepin, former French Prime Minister, 4 August 2014

The attacks must stop. The siege must be lifted. We must not be complicit in Israel's genocide of the people of Gaza.

Michael Ryan
Bangalow

■ As the world witnesses another hideous episode in the asymmetrical war between Israel and the Palestinians, it should be borne in mind some truths in why this mindless, and endless conflict continues to go on.

Both Israeli and Palestinian peoples deserve the right to self-determination and yet at this point only Israel has this entitlement, due to historical reasons and circumstances, at the expense of the majority of Palestinian peoples, who have been subjugated by successive Israeli governments since

the formation of Israel in 1948. This is a nuanced part of the history, helping some Israeli and indeed some Palestinians.

The moral argument is compelling for both peoples, the challenge is to find a political solution, which to date has proved elusive and protracted. It is pointless, apportioning blame just on one side, when fault lays with both sides.

The USA being a major financial, military backer of Israel, as part of the geopolitical machinations in the Middle East, must understand that to negotiate as an honest broker will require exercising even-handed negotiations, and power sharing, which presently don't exist, due to a major power imbalance favouring Israel.

The Palestinian people have endured 56 years of occupation by Israel, and steady encroachment of illegal land grabs by new Israeli settlers on Palestinian lands has reached unprecedented levels.

Today the government of Netanyahu, considered the most right-wing government ever, consists of a coalition of extreme elements of ethno-nationalists, opposed to providing any Palestinian self-determination and equal rights.

On the Palestinian side in Gaza, Hamas is the governing authority.

Hamas are political Islamists and are on record for wanting the elimination of the state of Israel.

Objectively speaking, there is now two opposite extremes in government, both corrupt and driven to destroy the other. All the while ordinary Palestinian people continue to be collectively punished by Israel.

What is the solution? As intractable as it appears, this conflict will at some point reach a humanitarian need to address the unresolved question of Palestinian self-determination, and hopefully statehood, demanded upon by the international community.

Each nation, people, must through the framework of genuine consistent democracy and justice negotiations, enable its people to live peacefully, while respectfully acknowledging the other's right to exist and live peacefully.

Human solidarity, and democratic action remain

vital for this noble goal to succeed, charting a new course for both Palestinian and Israeli people to peacefully co-exist.

Boyd Kellner
Newrybar

■ Reading last week's *Echo*, I was shocked and saddened but not at all surprised that Gareth Smith could not show even one ounce of compassion for the 1,500 Israeli men, women and children that were literally butchered by Hamas. In the most brutal of ways there were countless rapes of women in front of their children, kidnapping of babies, burning entire families alive in their homes, the crushing of skulls en masse to make it impossible to identify the victims aside from via DNA testing, etc. Not only that, but he blames the war that Hamas started on Israel.

Yes Gareth, Israel knew it was coming but it was not because of anything Israel did or didn't do, it was because Hamas is a vile terrorist organisation that clearly once again has shown the world that they value death far more than life and literally could not care less about Palestinian civilians let alone Israeli civilians.

Good people of the world have been blinded by complete and utter lies from the Palestinian side for decades, but now Israel has the overwhelming support of the world to literally save Gaza and the good Palestinian people from Hamas.

Tragically as always, the poor Palestinian civilians are paying a terrible price as their scumbag leaders use them as human shields and hope for the highest body count possible. On 17 October Islamic Jihad destroyed a hospital in Gaza killing hundreds of innocent Palestinians – a misfired rocket from Gaza that was on its way to kill civilians in Israel. Hamas as usual lied and said it was an Israeli air strike but it has been proven to be a lie and now even the Palestinians are admitting that it was their fault*. When will the bloodshed end?

I personally have been overwhelmed by locals in the Byron Shire voicing their support for Israel more than in any other time that I have been here, and I am very thankful for that.

Israelis and Palestinians have so much in common and a just peace is very

achievable if the Palestinians elect leaders that will actually consider peace with Israel. I think of my Palestinian brothers and sisters, and hope and pray that the day will come soon and the world will stop funding Hamas, etc. and send funds directly to the Palestinian people. Peace is the only solution.

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

■ Ed note: Most sources accept that the weight of evidence now shows the hospital strike was from a misfired rocket from Gaza, not an Israeli air strike, but this conclusion is not definitive.

■ Danny Wakil's letter (18 October) is so full of lies that it would take me well over letter length limits to reply.

However, I can do no better than quote the Loud Jew collective who say, 'We have been waiting anxiously to hear from comrades in Palestine, seeking out other anti-Zionist Jews, listening to voices from Gaza. Struggling against the weaponisation of grief against Palestinians. Like you we are watching the ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people in horror, and furious to see our governments and the Jewish organisations that supposedly speak for us, give the Israeli military a green light. We see the true face of liberal Zionism [sic] now in the tepid statements endlessly shared – the concern only for Jewish lives and the colonial anxiety at the fact that Palestinians dared to fight back against the settler colonial project that has systemically displaced and oppressed them for so long. But in these terrifying times we recommit to our values of liberation and freedom for Palestinians, to a Judaism and Jewishness of justice and solidarity with all oppressed people. We find comfort in standing together, speaking out and showing up. Please join us at some of these upcoming rallies and events.'

I have invited these Jewish friends to stay with us in Byron and hopefully address a public meeting. Danny Wakil, perhaps you can drum up some friends to hear their voices and learn about what it means to be Judaistic rather than Zionist!

Gareth W R Smith
Byron Bay

What does the current federal government solar discount mean for you?

The federal government provides a solar discount to home owners and businesses in Australia that install a small scale renewable energy system (solar, wind or hydro) under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) to help with the purchase cost. Installing an eligible system allows the creation of Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs). The number of STCs created is based on:

- The amount of renewable electricity the system produces or the amount of electricity consumption it reduces.
- The climate region where it's installed.

Under the package, the federal government will pay around \$300 per kilowatt towards the cost of a solar system.



Let's break it down

Maxine and Daniel are considering a 5.81kW solar system, supplied and installed by ProSolar for \$8,170. The federal government discount for this system is \$2,432 (at time of publishing). This brings their system cost down to \$5,738 saving them \$1,750 per year enabling them to pay back their investment in 3.13 years!

Alternatively the same system can be financed for **\$32 per week**. This can be an attractive way to reduce your bill and put the money you would normally pay your power company into your very own power system in your rooftop.

ProSolar provides advice and guidance in a simple and easy way, to ensure you select the optimal solution for your home and budget. This is the best opportunity Northern Rivers families and business owners have ever had to generate your own power. **For more information, call ProSolar on 02 7912 0760 or 0482 082 304.**



ProSolar has designed three great packages to help you take advantage of the federal government discount.



4.15kW Solar System

- 10 x Canadian 415W panels with a 25-year product and 25-year performance warranty
- 1 x GoodWe 4.2kW inverter with a 10-year premium warranty
- Cost \$5,995
- Less federal government discount of \$1,710
- **Total cost after discount = \$4,285 or \$22 per week**

6.64kW Solar System

- 16 x Canadian 415W panels with a 25-year product and 25-year performance warranty
- 1 x GoodWe 5kW inverter with a 10-year premium warranty
- Cost \$9,300
- Less federal government discount of \$2,774
- **Total cost after discount = \$6,526 or \$33 per week**

8.71kW Solar System

- 21 x Canadian 415W panels with a 25-year product and 25-year performance warranty
- 1 x GoodWe 8.5kW inverter with a 10-year premium warranty
- Cost \$12,454
- Less federal government discount of \$3,648
- **Total cost after discount = \$8,806 or \$45 per week**

The above prices include supply, installation (standard installation on a tin roof) and GST. The federal government discount is subject to change at anytime.



ProSolar Australia 91 Lockton Road, Bexhill, NSW 2480
02 7912 0760 | prosolaraustralia.com.au

making SPACES

Eden at Byron

Late spring is hydrangea time. With lovely, neat mounds of lush green leaves topped by clusters of little buds that grow plumper by the day, they are a highlight in semi-shaded situations from now through to the end of summer. In full bloom, the large, striking flower heads in shades of blue, purple, pink, cerise and white are just gorgeous.



Hydrangeas are an easy-care, fast-growing shrub. One of the very cool things about them is that the flower colour can change depending on the pH of the soil. Acidic soils will generally produce bluer flowers, whereas alkaline soils will produce pinker flowers.

Hydrangeas are long-lived and easy to grow in a partly-shaded spot protected from strong winds and hot afternoon sun.

140 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay
02 6685 6874

FarmCare Mullumbimby

FarmCare Mullumbimby is leading the charge towards a more sustainable future for yard maintenance with its latest lineup of electric tools. With a focus on eco-friendly innovation, their home and garden tools powered by state-of-the-art batteries ensure quieter, emission-free operation without compromising on performance. The recent addition of Milwaukee power tools is a testament to their commitment to quality and efficiency. These cordless, high-performance tools provide an eco-conscious alternative to traditional gas-powered equipment.

FarmCare not only sell reliable, repairable products, they also partner with suppliers to ensure responsible battery recycling. Additionally, their range includes robotic electric mowers, further reducing the carbon footprint and automation of yard care.

Ensure the beauty of your property doesn't come at the expense of our planet.

Join FarmCare in embracing a sustainable future.

101 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby
02 6684 2022
www.farmcare.com.au



Juno Energy

Take charge with Tesla Powerwall 2

Tesla Powerwall 2 is the next step towards energy independence. Your solar system can fill up your battery and get your home or business through the night. Tesla Powerwall is also the key to get your home or business through blackouts and keep essential circuits humming. Tesla is currently offering \$750 cash back to customers who install a battery before the end of the year. Juno Energy is offering vouchers for battery buyers to spend at local establishments.

Enquire today to find out more.

Habitat Office 26, 20/1 Porter Street, Byron Bay
0425 256 802
www.junoenergy.com.au



Beds R Us Byron Bay

Create your sleep sanctuary!

Is your bedroom uninviting, uninspiring or burdened by excessive clutter? It is common to underestimate how profoundly the spaces we rest influence our overall wellbeing. Fortunately, Beds R Us Byron Bay offer an enticing selection of bedroom furniture and Australian-made mattresses, designed to assist you in crafting your ideal sleep sanctuary. Your bedroom serves as your sanctuary from the stresses of everyday life, and stepping into a beautifully curated space can significantly enhance your ability to unwind at bedtime. With their range of high-quality furniture and mattresses, you can transform your bedroom into a tranquil haven, ensuring a restful and rejuvenating sleep experience. Visit them in store to create a space that promotes your mental and physical wellbeing.



16 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay
02 6685 5212

Byron Built

Byron Built design + construction is your local builder specialising in architecturally designed homes. They manage the whole process from design and approvals to the construction of your new dwelling. Their focus is to customise a design that suits your property, budget, and style.

They currently have two cabins open for viewing at their display village. Their one-bedroom cabin, thoughtfully designed with disabled access in mind, harmoniously blends functionality and style. It's a space where everyone can experience the comfort of modern living without barriers.

Their two-bedroom cabin boasts a spacious deck, providing the perfect backdrop for enjoying outdoor moments with family and friends. They invite you to explore these gems in person, open for viewing once a month or by appointment.



hello@byronbuilt.com
FB/Insta: @byronbuilt
www.byronbuilt.com

Dominique Mills Interiors

If you are looking to furnish or decorate beautifully but feel frustrated because of the associated costs, working with an expert like Dominique gives you access to a much wider range of options and cheaper prices - a whole world of interiors are out there to be discovered and enjoyed by visiting trade showrooms. Our closest trade options are in Brisbane, where you'll find fabulous furniture ideas, a huge array of decorative pieces and stunning fabric showrooms.

Dominique Mills offers you the opportunity to visit those businesses that are mostly restricted to designers, retailers and architects. They'll collect and transport you, help you with your choices and return you home. You'll benefit from significant discounts on any trade purchases. Visit their website for more info.

0419 498 249
dmillsinteriors.com.au



Protractor

Need to tidy up your property for fire season or get it ready for sale? With over 25 years of Australian experience, Protractor has expert knowledge of how to handle challenging terrains, different types of grass, optimal mowing schedules, and the right techniques to keep all kinds of outdoor spaces healthy and aesthetically pleasing.

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What about whistleblowers?

David Lowe

Professor Peter Greste and Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen made a strong case for protecting truth tellers in their joint appearance at the National Press Club last week.

Having spent 400 days in an Egyptian jail on terrorism charges, media freedom fighter and ex-foreign correspondent Peter Greste knows a thing or two about what happens when governments decide journalists are the enemy.

For her part, data scientist and engineer Frances Haugen worked at Google and Pinterest before her job at Facebook, where she led the civic integrity team until it was dissolved. In 2021 she revealed

the details of the social media giant's repeated prioritisation of profit over public safety, which she said had contributed to dangerous political violence in countries including the US, India, Burma and Ethiopia.

Ultimately Haugen released 22,000 pages of damning internal documents to the world, but unlike Australian whistleblowers, she was protected by US law.

In Canberra, she emphasised that as big tech companies become more opaque (and more powerful than governments), the only people who will actually know what's going on beneath the public facade will be company employees, making the protection of whistleblowers absolutely vital, wherever they work.

Worse than Egypt?

Australian Peter Greste explained how he'd become caught up in the whirlwind of national security laws passed in Egypt in the wake of the September 11 attacks, but noted that no country had passed more such laws than his own, in the process 'criminalising much of what previously would have been considered as legitimate journalism.'

Since 2019, he and his organisation the Alliance for Journalists' Freedom have argued that because Australia has no explicit constitutional or legal protections for media freedom, national security laws were effectively



Is media freedom becoming a thing of the past?
Image Cloudcatcher Media



Frances Haugen testifying before US Congress in 2021.

intruding on the media's ability to perform its democratic role – namely to hold government to account. Greste suggested that the 'uncomfortable journalism' which put him in prison in Cairo was now equally risky for those here in Australia seeking to investigate what *The New York Times* has called 'the world's most secretive democracy'.

There are numerous examples, including the Bernard Collaery/Witness K case regarding dodgy happenings between the Australian government and East Timor, the potential life imprisonment of whistleblower Richard Boyle for revealing debt recovery misconduct at the ATO, and David McBride's imminent prosecution for allegedly leaking information about Australian war crimes to the media (which became the basis of the Afghan Files).

While Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus says things

What's the solution?

Peter Greste said the ideal would be an amendment to the Australian Constitution enshrining protection for media freedom, like other liberal democracies, 'but given the experience of last week's referendum and the way most people see journalists here, I reckon it would be easier to get them to vote for cane toads.'

As an alternative, he suggested the federal government could implement a Media Freedom Act modelled on the Human Rights Acts of Queensland, the ACT and Victoria, which would have 'profound implications' for the relationship between government and media, along with the people both are supposed to serve.

It's hard to argue with his proposition that his responsible whistleblowers working with responsible journalists can only enhance national security.

Greste quoted Anthony Albanese, who said (from opposition, in relation to Bernard Collaery), 'the idea that there should be prosecutions of whistleblowers for what is a shameful part of Australia's history is simply wrong.' And yet, the cases of David McBride and Richard Boyle have been used to frighten other potential whistleblowers and media collaborators here in Australia, much as Julian Assange is being used internationally.

None of these brave individuals deserve to remain in legal limbo for revealing uncomfortable truths. Hopefully they won't be for much longer.

■ Read David Lowe every Monday on *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au/articles

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Policy Exhibition:

Draft Policy Commercial Activities on Coastal & Riparian Crown Reserves

Council is asking for public comment on its Draft Policy Commercial Activities on Coastal & Riparian Crown Reserves.

Interested persons are invited to make a submission on the Draft Policy within 28 days.

Submissions will open 11 October 2023 and close 8 November 2023.

Submissions must be made by visiting Councils website at: www.byron.nsw.gov.au/public-exhibition.

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

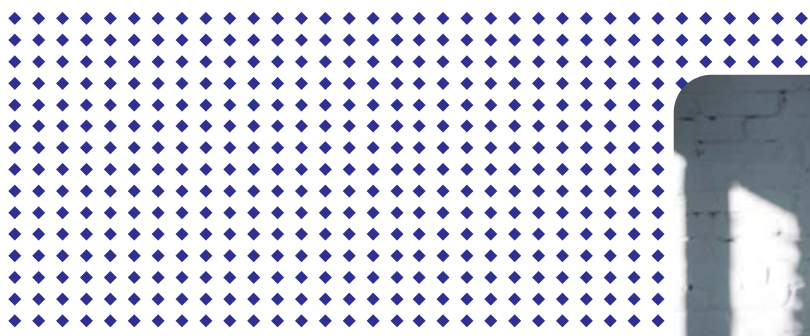


BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL



www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Byron Arts & Industry Estate



1. DAUGHTERS OF INDIA

Discover the essence of timeless elegance with ethically handmade creations. Each Daughters of India piece tells a story of femininity and ancient artistry. With delicately hand-printed and hand-loomed materials, their collection embodies both style and sustainability. Embrace the beauty of slow fashion and adorn yourself with pieces that transcend trends, empowering you to be truly unique.

Open weekdays, 10am-4pm.

Shop 3B 11 Banksia Drive, Byron Bay
www.daughtersofindia.net
[@daughtersofindia](https://www.instagram.com/daughtersofindia)



2. SHACK PALACE

Shack Palace have recently relocated into a new showroom. Find their signature curation of artisan, functional pieces for the home as well as incense and teas alongside a growing collection of larger furniture pieces and artefacts in their new space.

Currently open weekdays, 10am-4pm.

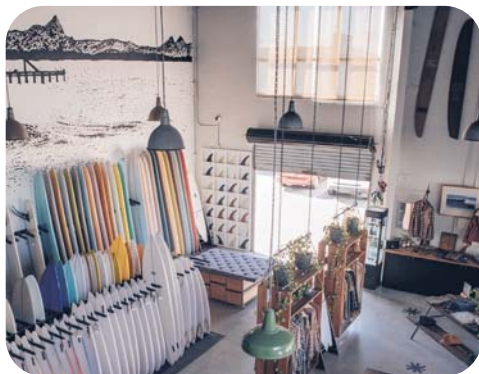
1/2 Banksia Drive, Byron Bay
www.shackpalace.com
 0488 616 408

3. THE MEDITATION PEOPLE

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 0404 884 490
www.themeditationpeople.com
[@themeditationpeople](https://www.instagram.com/themeditationpeople)



4. MCTAVISH SURFBOARDS

McTavish is the ultimate destination for all things surf. Grab a pre- or post-surf coffee and browse the range of handcrafted surfboards (all made on-site in the factory behind the showroom), surf accessories and apparel, or borrow a demo board for the weekend.

Surfboard Factory, Surf Shop & Cafe
 91 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
www.mctavish.com.au
[@mctavishsurf](https://www.instagram.com/mctavishsurf)



5. BYRON BAY CAMPING & DISPOSALS

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

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

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

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

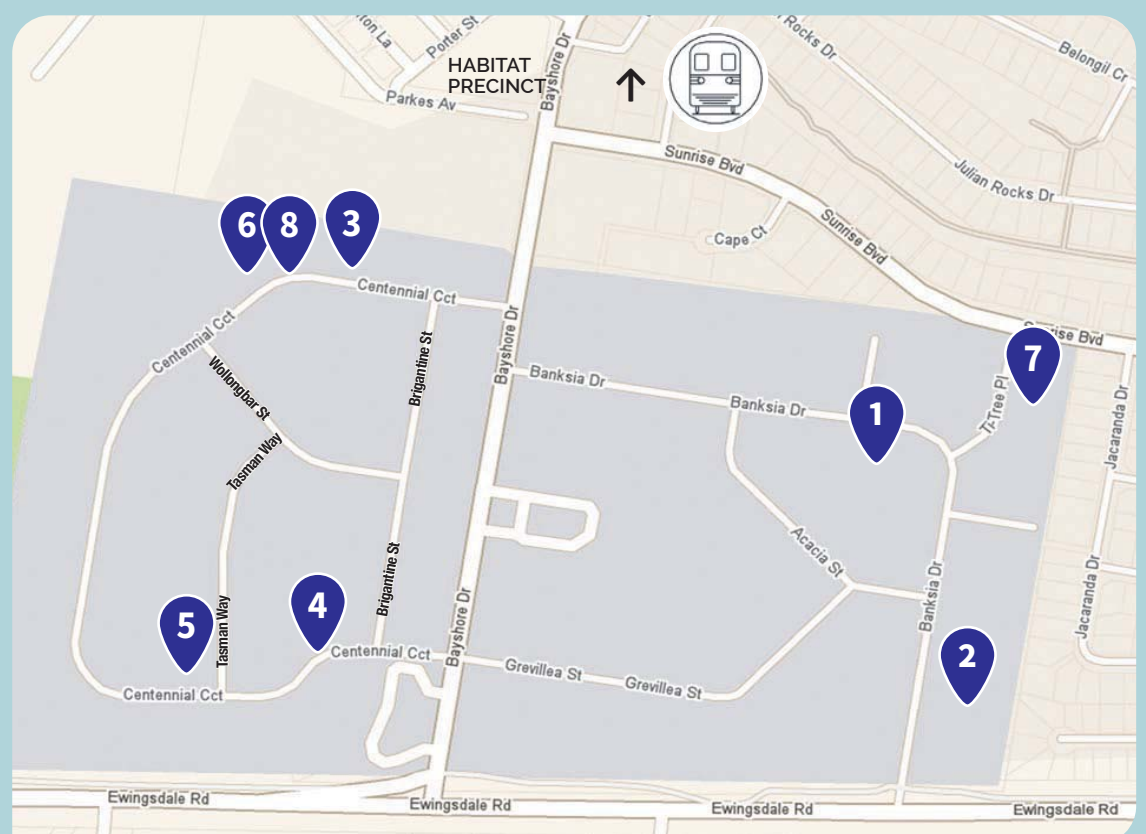


6. BODHI LIVING

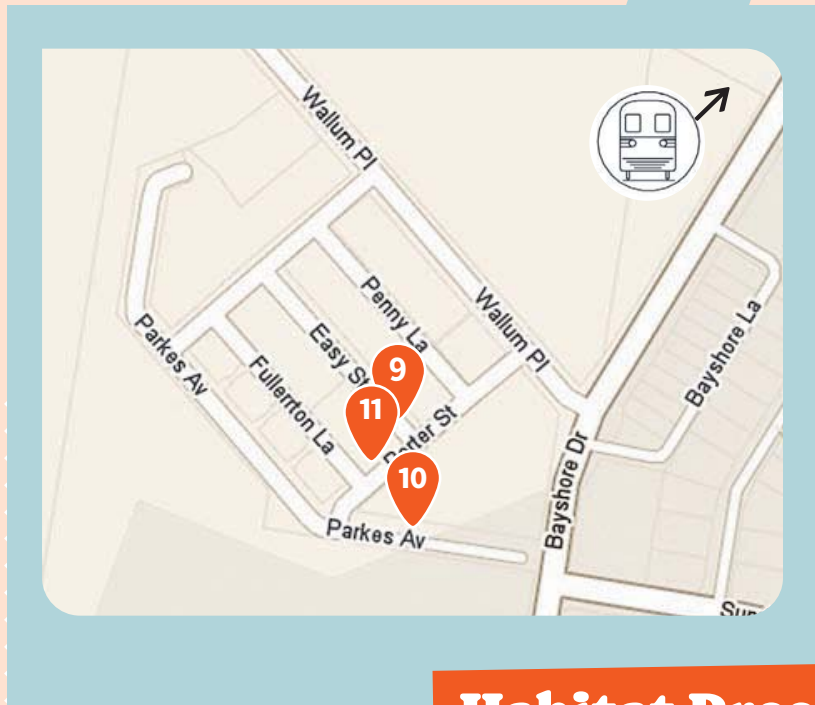
Bodhi Living showcases a carefully curated collection of furniture, homewares, rugs and lighting, sourced both locally and globally. They have recently introduced a sustainable range of furniture designed in-house, using natural materials such as rattan, timber and recycled fabrics. The brand encapsulates the freedom of spirit and the soul of the individual as represented through one's home.

Shop 1/18 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
www.bodhiliving.com.au
[@bodhi.living](https://www.instagram.com/bodhi.living)

Byron Arts & Industry Estate



Habitat Precinct



Habitat Precinct

Habitat is a cleverly designed village in Byron Bay, where you can live, work and play, all in one place.

Over 20 years in the making, Habitat combines the best of old-school Byron (community, creativity, respect for the environment) with the latest in design and thinking (renewable energy, car sharing, hybrid live + work spaces) along with plenty of good times (bars, cafes, fitness, shopping) to create a little oasis within one of the most beautiful places on Earth.



9. EASY STREET

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

Easy Street



10. DEPARTMENT OF SIMPLE THINGS

Clothing and accessories inspired by vintage workwear, military surplus and sportswear. They also show their love of surf and skate culture with an eclectic collection of skateboards, hot sauces, books, eskies and even a barbershop (call to book).

Monday-Friday: 8.30am-4pm
Sunday: 10am-2pm
Suites 39-41, Building C3
248 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay
02 8215 0723



11. BYRON FAMILY LAW

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

1 Porter Street, Byron Bay
02 6687 2774
www.byronfamilylaw.com.au



7. BODYPEACE BAMBOO CLOTHING

Sample sale and warehouse clearance. Men's and women's XXS-XXL. Prices from \$15. Every Wednesday-Thursday-Friday, 10am-3pm.

Bodypeace Bamboo Clothing has been dressing locals and visitors for over a decade. Bamboo fibre is naturally breathable, moisture-wicking, thermo-regulating and hypoallergenic. Their signature blend is a popular choice for underwear, activewear and everyday wear. Their warehouse shop is open every Wednesday - Friday!

2-4 Ti Tree Place, Byron Bay
www.bodypeacebamboo.com
@bodypeacebamboo
facebook.com/bodypeacebamboo



8. ART KIND BYRON BAY

Art Kind is a beautifully curated contemporary art gallery and creative studio exhibiting paintings, ceramics and jewellery. Owner and artist Bec Duff facilitates art programs for children and adults - check the website for program schedules.

Open Tues-Fri 10am-2pm, Sat 9am-1pm.
3/18 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
0404 946 553
www.artkind.com.au
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BYRON BAY



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

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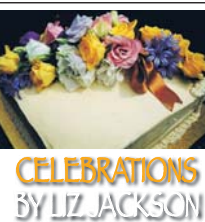


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[@harvestnewrybar](https://www.instagram.com/harvestnewrybar)

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Summer is here again in Byron!



Simon Haslam

Impressive cocktails at Loft Byron Bay. Photo Jess Kearney

One of the wonderful things about living in this fantastic area is that, no matter how long you've lived here, you can fall in love with Byron again and again. It was a beautiful day on Saturday, but our domestic chores took so long that we didn't arrive in Byron for lunch until around 2pm. How cool to be able to chill out upstairs at Loft Byron Bay, overlooking Jonson St, with a cocktail and the lunch menu?

My partner ordered the ceviche, perfect for a hot day, and we shared the vegetarian roast zucchini and the delicious cabbage salad (shaved cabbage, mint, orange, and sheep's yoghurt with Nimbin Valley pecans). Of course, it's a very comfortable, stylish place with good service,

but one of the highlights for me was sitting on the southern side near the bar, looking over Jonson St, an activity that never seems to lose its appeal for me.

After Loft, with the wind from the north, we set up our cabana on the sand dunes out of the wind at Cosy Corner and watched the surfers. With no trouble getting a park (that day!), and no-one around us, we were right under the spectacular ridgeline

topped by the lighthouse, with nothing but beach and headlands stretching into the distance in the south. Walking back to the car with the afternoon sun lighting the vegetation at the back of the dunes, it's not hard to see why Byron is such a desirable place to live.

■ Loft: loftbyronbay.com.au
@loftbyronbay
Open: Sun-Fri, 4pm-late
Saturday, noon-late

Local winners

Hats off to Raes Dining Room Wategos (two hats) and new kid Bar Heather at 139 Jonson St Byron (one hat) for their standing in the SMH Good Food Guide. Along with Bistro Livi (M'bah) the only other regional hat winners were two restaurants each in Canberra and Orange, and one in Newcastle, proving the quality of restaurants in our immediate vicinity.

Bangalow Coffee's good brew

Victoria Cosford

Maybe the sort of people who frequent farmers' markets are a different breed to the rest of the general population when it comes to their coffee, those challenging customers in café queues demanding ludicrously elaborate concoctions like 'half-strength decaf latte on oat, piping hot please.'

I'd asked Michelle Clarke of Bangalow Coffee if she encountered much of the preciousness which permeates our coffee culture. Ever the diplomat, she agrees that 'certainly people are more discerning regarding their coffee' – although does concede that 'sometimes all the milk options can be challenging on a busy part of the morning, but we work our way through it!'

And indeed they do, Michelle an unfailingly patient and warm presence at farmers' markets for well over a decade now. 'Even though some are mainly looking for a caffeine hit', she continues, 'most just want a good brew.'

A good brew is definitely what you'll get when you visit Michelle's stall. She and husband Andy established their Nashua plantation in 1998 and started harvesting several years later. They planted one variety of coffee only, K7 (Arabia), which had been recommended by the NSW Department of Agriculture. 'It was the most suitable for



Bangalow Coffee's Terri Tompkins, Michelle Clarke and Kaya Love.

the Northern Rivers at the time', Michelle tells me. The flavour doesn't vary much from year to year, and the Clarkes allow their raw dry beans to mature over 4-6 months, for a richer flavour.

They're that rare thing up here, coffee growers whose own beans they harvest then sell – no blending, as that would involve an overseas bean. 'Our coffee', says Michelle,

'is hand-picked over many months and only the ripest cherries are harvested. This allows the end product to be very sweet and mellow.'

That some regular customers have been frequenting their stall for over ten years is surely testament to that!

Bangalow Coffee are at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am.




Open 6am – 12pm
Monday – Saturday
Shop 6/108 Stuart Street
Mullumbimby.
@bimbi_coffee_shop
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threeblueducks.com

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Dec 25th
5 course degustation
12 - 2.30 & 3 - 5.30pm

Dec 31st
Dinner Service 5 - 9pm
After Party 10 - 2am
DJ, BAR, SNACKS



seven

Volume 38 #20
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 Editor: Eve Jeffery
 Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
 Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday
 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
 P: 02 6684 1777
 W: echo.net.au/entertainment

LATIN PASSION ON FIRE IN BYRON

The **18th annual Byron Latin Fiesta** is back and ready to set Byron Bay ablaze with Latin passion. Running **2–5 November**, this event promises a vibrant program offering a much-needed opportunity for connection, dancing, learning, beachside relaxation, and, of course, more dancing. The fiesta is held over four nights and three days at Byron Theatre, and is Australia's longest-running Latin dance festival.

Founded in 2006, the Byron Latin Fiesta was born from a profound love for Latin American music, dance, and culture, combined with an unwavering affection for the enchanting Byron Shire and its unique charm. Get captivated by the world of Latin dance. The Latin Fiesta offers dance workshops from beginners to experienced dancers. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or just dipping your toes into the world of Latin dance, you can learn from talented artists, be inspired, and build your dance confidence. The party nights include dance performances and DJs for social dancing to all Latin rhythms including salsa, bachata, kizomba, zouk, tango and more. Saturday night features live Afro-Cuban band **Chukale**.

The 2023 event features international dance artists

Junior and Carolina (Dominican Republic/Colombia) who specialise in bachata, and **Carlos and Anna** (Angola/Finland) who specialise in kizomba.

Various ticket options are available, accommodating diverse budgets. The full event passes and the beginner passes are the best value for money. Day passes and party passes are also available. Please book your tickets in advance. Numbers are limited owing to the venue capacity.

For more info and to book: byronlatinfiesta.com.au

Look for them on socials:

www.facebook.com/ByronLatinFiesta



FUN FRIDAYS AT HARVEST

Only in **Newrybar** – on **Friday, 3 November** and **Friday, 1 December**, it's Newrybar's favourite end-of-week celebration: **Fun Friday**.

Held on the Harvest village green on the first Friday of every month, Fun Friday is a free, family-friendly, community event open to everyone.

Bring your family and friends, find a spot on the green, and enjoy the spring evening. We'll have live music, the garden bars will be in full swing, and our chefs will be cooking up some delicious eats from the wood-fired

oven. As always, there will be loads of entertainment for the little ones too, so bring the family and raise your glass to the weekend.

Fun Friday is a free event, but RSVPs are required to secure your spot and will also enter you into our door prize raffle! You can RSVP via the QR code in our ad.

It's important to note that Fun Friday is a licensed event. Only alcohol purchased from our garden bars may be consumed onsite.

Harvest village green, Friday 3 November from 5pm.

DIS-GO BALL

Join us for a night of unashamedly joyous dancing!

Pop up performances, drama on the red carpet and a celebration of community.

Dress to impress.

5pm - 6:30pm
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 22 FLAVOURS OF SPAIN
 27-29 BYRON BALLET

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BYRON THEATRE



IS SHE THE GODDESS OF BLUESFEST?

I hadn't even heard of Jackie Venson until Bluesfest PR guru Gaynor Crawford insisted that I speak with her (Gaynor knows best!)

I have to say Venson was one of the most delightful interviewees I've ever had the pleasure of speaking to. She is an incredibly talented and smart musician with some great insights into music and life.

I for one can't wait for: A) her album *Ghost in The Machine* to come out next month – the innovations she is implementing are fantastic; and B) to see her at Bluesfest next year – and you, *you'd* be tripping if you didn't get yourself down to Tyagarah to see this amazing woman.

Jackie, you play incredible guitar – you have been likened to Gary Clark, Jr. – but you also have a very beautiful voice and you write some amazing songs, do you feel you are a guitarist/singer/songwriter, or a songwriter/guitarist/singer, or a singer/...? What do you feel is your priority?

I think that the priority is always the songs. I think the songs are what separate artists from other artists. The songs are so so so important. And I think that they have an unlimited ceiling. I could be the greatest guitar player in the world, but a songwriter is going to pass me and go on to a whole other galaxy that I'm not even capable of getting to if I was just a guitar player.

Songs are everything, they are literally *everything* – they override everything. If you're a great songwriter, you don't even need to be a very good musician. Yeah. Like how many people out there are terrible to listen to singing? But they're like the greatest songwriters in the world.

Have you been to Australia before?

No, never. I've always wanted to go to Australia because I heard that Australians are huge fans of the blues and rock and that's not always true over here in the States.

I'm excited, because I've gotten a lot of support on the internet, from younger people and older people, but also, an overwhelmingly large number of young people in Australia seem to be catching on to my stuff. That's really cool. So I'm looking forward to kind of being in that atmosphere of people who are like that.

So how many people are you bringing with you?

I'm gonna bring my mum, my tour manager, my husband, my drummer, and my drummer is gonna bring his wife... but it's gonna sound like, 'Wow'. Like there are seven of us. I'm a future girl and I like to use technology.

Will we hear new music at Bluesfest 2024?

I do have a new album coming out at the end of this month, 30 October. It's called *Ghost in the Machine*. And it's a complete departure into jazz-rock – that's what I'm calling it: jazz-rock. If you don't like jazz and you don't like rock, you're not gonna like this album.

What do you love about *Ghost in the Machine*?

What I love about this album is that every track has a corresponding outro jam track. So you hear it and it's like what you would expect. It's arranged and it's well recorded. It's hifi, but then what I noticed, when I didn't have these in between jams – now, we have some time with each song – you can deconstruct it and that's what's so exciting about this album.

• Ed – I had so many questions for Venson they don't fit on the page, so you'll have to check out *The Echo* entertainment page online (www.echo.net.au) to get the full interview.

You can catch this amazing artist at Bluesfest 2024 – for more details, visit: www.bluesfest.com.au.

OMFEST

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www.omfest.com.au

Join us for a unique social impact Festival nestled in the natural beauty of Byron Bay
FULL FEST / ONE DAY / HALF DAY TIX available

MUSIC

Opening night with Krishna Das (SOLD OUT)
Sacred Earth, Murray Kyle, Edo, Dubarray, Amir Paiss, Vijay Krsna, Lulu & Mischka ...and many more!

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Yoga with Live Music, Chanting, Meditation, Workshops, Sound Healing

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Herbal Elixirs, Ayurveda, Zenthai Shiatsu, Chai Tent, Delicious Food, All Ages, Drug and Alcohol Free

OMEGA CLOSING NIGHT

World Mantra Fusion Ecstatic Finale from 6.30pm





COPPELIA – THE ORIGINAL BARBIE STORY

This weekend **Byron Ballet** audiences will reveal Barbie's origin story – the true vintage doll that village hunk Franz (aka Ken) falls foolishly in lust with. They will show how Franz's true-life girlfriend exposes Coppelia (aka Barbie) to be the mute mannequin we suspected all along.

Coppelia is one of the funniest and best ballets out there, with mind-blowing classic music by Delibes that only Tchaikovsky can rival (Tchai was a huge fan of Delibes).

Special guest dancer **William John Banks** has an intimate connection with Barbie too, having recently performed in the Hollywood Barbie movie as a dancing Ken. He comes to Byron between performances throughout the world in classical and contemporary productions, including London, Berlin, Broadway, Tokyo and Monte Carlo... all of the places you would expect to find your typical Barbie and Ken.

This is a Byron Ballet production not to miss. Since 2006 they have continued to present unique productions at a level that can only be matched by major city companies. A host of professional guests complement their local pre-professional advanced dancers and signature community performers.

Coppelia is artful and alive entertainment for the whole family.

Come prepared to laugh and smile with this joyful tale.

Eclipse the celluloid and screens this weekend.

Book now – 4 shows only. 27, 28, 29 October at Byron Theatre. Tickets: www.byroncentre.com.au.



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OM IS WHERE THE HEART IS

Directors of **OM Fest**, **Edo Khan** and **Caroline Crowly**, are delighted to announce a unique social impact festival with a world-class program of musicians, yoga and meditation teachers for this, first of its kind, event in Byron Bay.

OM Fest will be held at **The Green Room** in the natural surrounds of the iconic **Byron Bay Bluesfest – Tyagarah Tea Tree Farm**.

The program is a curated, retreat-like experience to help participants immerse in the practices of mantra, movement, breath and meditation. These ancient tools of bhakti yoga help us to realise our limitless nature, connecting us to the unconditional love in our hearts and the universal wisdom of OM (totality).

Edo and Caroline have designed a journey that will be nurturing and nourishing for body, mind and spirit. A balance of movement, deep relaxation, meditation and musical elation. Sacred sound vibrations will be woven into all sessions and throughout the entire program.

OM Fest will begin on the evening of **Wednesday, 1 November** with legendary chant master **Krishna Das** (USA) followed by three days of diving deep into the bliss of bhakti yoga with world class musicians, teachers and facilitators. OM Fest concludes on **Saturday night, 4 November** with a mega musical celebration 'Omega' – an uplifting ecstatic festival all-stars collaboration of world-fusion-conscious-devotional-music concert, like no other.

OM Fest is a celebration of community, consciousness and compassionate living. OM Fest is a non-profit festival with 100 per cent of profits going towards making a tangible difference in our world through the work of A Sound Life and Help A School Foundation. By attending OM Fest you are supporting the artists and teachers you love, as well as transforming the lives of people in need.

The Om Fest village will have delicious vegetarian food stalls, chai tent, herbal elixirs, natural spring water for drinking, Ayurveda, bodywork, Vedic fire ceremony, as well as other delights.

For information and tickets visit: thegreenroombyron.com.



Krishna Das

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Byron Latin Fiesta
 2ND-5TH NOV 2023
 4 NIGHTS & 3 DAYS
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WORLD MUSIC
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Shaku - Shakti

Featuring: Tabla Maestro Maharshi Raval, Shakhachi Master Riley Lee, Indian Slide Guitar Shivam Rath

Palm Wine Ambassadors

Food: Authentic Indian Catering available from 4pm

Support: AWUWA Visionary Chants, DJ Papa Richie

Join us for a festive trip around the world with local & International artists launching their new albums, *InZen* & *Shady Cabal*.

Sat 11th November
 Kohinur Hall, Upper Main Arm



SIR ANTHONY HOPKINS FILM OPENS BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL

The **2023 Cunard British Film Festival** returns to **Palace Cinemas** this November with a stunning selection of films from the British Isles. This year's line-up boasts an array of dramas, comedies, true stories and documentaries, featuring several of Britain's finest, much loved acting and filmmaking talents.

Opening this year's festival is the Australian premiere of *One Life*, starring **Sir Anthony Hopkins** and arriving direct from its world premiere at the Toronto International Film Festival. The film is based on a deeply moving true story of kindness and compassion that was almost forgotten for 50 years. Hopkins delivers a remarkable performance as Sir Nicholas Winton, also known as the 'British Schindler', who helped rescue hundreds of children from Europe on the verge of World War II. The film also stars **Lena Olin, Romola Garai, Alex Sharp, Jonathan Pryce, and Helena Bonham Carter** in supporting roles.

A new documentary that takes a deep dive into cinema history, *My Name Is Alfred Hitchcock*, offers fans old and new an inspiring portrait of a truly iconic filmmaker. Extensively and intricately researched, this insightful documentary weaves footage from virtually every film Hitchcock ever made to offer a fresh profile of the masterful movie maker and his practice.

Another much-loved name in British cinema is **Ken Loach**. The festival is delighted to



present the Australian premiere of his new film *The Old Oak*. The latest work from the revered filmmaker tells the story of a publican who struggles to hold onto his small-town pub as tensions rise upon the arrival of Syrian refugees seeking asylum. True to form, Loach continues to examine social and human rights issues and delivers a heartfelt narrative on the power of acceptance and community.

Engaging with notions of masculinity, self-discovery and gender expression with touching honesty and insight, writer-director **Dionne Edwards'** *Pretty Red Dress* is a beautifully poignant journey supported by a stellar cast and featuring the music of Tina Turner. Set in South London, the exhilarating sojourn weaves a story of powerful self-expression, confronting the past and of course, a glorious red dress.

Marcus Markou's *The Wife and Her House Husband* features an honest, tender script navigating the highs and lows of married life – Markou crafts an engrossing and engaging drama fuelled by solid central performances. Charting the breakdown of a marriage, a forgotten letter brings the couple together to face their past and their most intimate feelings for each other.

The festival opens on Thursday, 2 November in Byron Bay and runs until Wednesday, 29 Nov.

The full program is online: www.britishfilmfestival.com.au

Keep in touch with the festival: Instagram and Facebook @BritishFilmFest #BFF23 #BestofBritish

THE FLAVOURS OF WORLD MUSIC

Get ready for the full flavours of world musical mastery from across the globe – from traditional Japanese flute by **Riley Lee** to Indian classical rhythms, raga, African beats, harp and fresh fusion funk – this double CD launch event promises an electrifying fusion of cultures and genres.

Living legend in the world music scene, Riley Lee, will grace us with his presence in this one-of-a-kind event as a member of **Shaku-Shakti**. The trio consists of three virtuosos: shakuhachi grand master, **Riley Lee**; **Maharshi Raval**, highly versatile Indian tabla player; and **Shivam Rath**, the Hindustani slide guitar maestro. Each artist shines solo, but when they come together they create a unique and transcendental sound that is unparalleled.

The evening kicks off with an opening act by **AWUWA**, 'Visionary Chant' + **DJ Papa Richie** on the decks, spinning funky world grooves and beats in between sets. He'll take the grooves into the night.

The second set features the fiercely groove-able force known as **The Palm Wine Ambassadors**. A nine-piece ensemble led by **Jason Alexander Burns** on the African harp known as the kora. Guaranteed to keep you on your feet with their energetic performance.

There will be authentic South Indian food available so please bring some extra cash for the mouth-watering meals, snacks, chai, lassi and sweets.

Locals tickets are available at the Main Arm Shop, or if you're an early bird, head over to Eventbrite, Shaku Shakti INZEN album launch with Palm Wine Ambassadors. Key code 'Local' for \$5 off. Free admission for kids under 15.

Saturday, 11 November at the Kohinur Hall from 4pm.

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Harvest

FUN FRIDAY
NOVEMBER 3

Join us on the Village Green for Newrybar's favourite end of week celebration. The garden bars will be in full swing, serving up some botanically-inspired beverages, and our Deli Chefs will be cooking up some delicious eats from the wood-fired oven.

As always, there will be loads of entertainment for the little ones too, so bring the family and raise your glass the weekend!

RSVP TO ENTER THE DOOR PRIZE

seven

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



KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON

Leonardo DiCaprio, Robert De Niro, and Lily Gladstone lead an ensemble cast in *Killers of the Flower Moon*, an American epic revisionist Western (telling it a bit more like it is, with less 'Howdy Pardner'), crime drama directed and produced by **Martin Scorsese**, who co-wrote the screenplay with **Eric Roth**.

Killers of the Flower Moon is based on David Grann's broadly lauded best-selling 2017 book of the same name.

The plot centres on a series of Oklahoma murders in the Osage Nation during the 1920s, committed after oil was discovered on tribal land.

Osage elders somberly bury a ceremonial pipe, mourning the assimilation of their descendants into white American society. Wandering through the badlands of their Oklahoma reservation, several Osage find oil gushing from the ground. The tribe becomes fabulously wealthy after the exploitation of oil on their lands, but the reservation laws require white 'guardians' to manage their money.

Oil brought a fortune to the Osage Nation – they became some of the richest people in the world overnight. The wealth of these Native Americans immediately attracted white interlopers, who manipulated, extorted, and stole as much Osage money as they could before resorting to murder.

Based on a true story and told through the improbable romance of Ernest Burkhart (Leonardo DiCaprio) and Mollie Kyle (Lily Gladstone), *Killers of the Flower Moon* is an epic saga, where real love crosses paths with unspeakable betrayal. The film also stars **Brendan Fraser** and **Jesse Plemons**.

Killers of the Flower Moon is on at Palace Cinemas, Byron bay and Ballina. www.palacecinemas.com.au

WEDNESDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MARSHALL OKELL**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6.30PM **SCREENING: BLACK COCKATOO CRISIS**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, **COMEDY COMMUNE OPEN MIC**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 6PM **ART EXHIBITION 'HALLOWED GROUND'**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **BEN WHITING**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **GILLIAN COSGRIF: ACTUALLY, GOOD**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ LAINIE GODIVA**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **THE ALMIGHTY SOMETIMES**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 9PM **THE SWAMP CATS**

THURSDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DONNY SHADES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, **KENZO CRUZ**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **BENNY O'DWYER**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **THE ALMIGHTY SOMETIMES**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **JAM NIGHT**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7PM **THE BIG GIG COMEDY NIGHT - DAMIAN POWER + ALEXANDRA HUDSON, MC ELLEN BRIGGS**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **GLASS MCCANN, 7.30PM POETRY COMPETITION**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **CHRIS**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM **THE LACHY HAMILTON TRIO + WARWICK ALDER**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM **DJ NIGHT RIDER**
- PASTURE & CO., CURRUMBIN VALLEY, 6PM **TIN PARLOUR**

FRIDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MOJO RISING**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **JASON DELPHIN + JEROME WILLIAMS BAND + NO ID**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **BYRON BALLET - COPPELIA**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **DJ YASMIN**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **ROB SARIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **KIM CHURCHILL**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **THE ALMIGHTY SOMETIMES**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ JAKOB JON**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **AMIR PAISS - PRAYERS FOR PEACE**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **INO PIO**

SUNDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE LONESOME BOATMAN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **LISA HUNT + DJ REFLEX + LAZYWAX**
- BYRON THEATRE 5PM **BYRON BALLET - COPPELIA**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4PM **DJ JR.DYNAMITE**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **LUKE BENNETT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **DUBBARRAY**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM **BBFF2023: BRAND BOLLYWOOD DOWNUNDER, 6.30PM BBFF2023: THE LAST TWO WEEKS AT LONGLEE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN-MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ ABEL TORO**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **THE ALMIGHTY SOMETIMES**

MONDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FELICITY LAWLESS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KELLY BROUHAHA**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 8PM **THE BLACK SORROWS**

TUESDAY 31

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BEN WHITING**

WEDNESDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: FRANKENSTEIN (VERSION 1), 6PM EDENGLASSIE: MELISSA LUCASHENKO IN CONVERSATION WITH KERRY O'BRIEN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE LEMON TWIGS**
- SHEARWATER HALL, MULLUMBIMBY CREEK, 7PM **SHEARWATER WAVE 2023 - THE GATEKEEPER**

Session Times

Thurs 26 October - Wed 1 November

PALACE CINEMAS

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

NT LIVE: FRANKENSTEIN V1
(ENCORE) (CTC) Sun: 3:00PM

NT LIVE: FRANKENSTEIN V2
(ENCORE) (CTC) Sat: 3:00PM

TAYLOR SWIFT | THE ERAS TOUR (CTC)
Thurs, Fri: 6:30PM
Sat, Sun: 3:15PM, 6:30PM

FAMILY FILMS

PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE (PG)
Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, Sat: 11:00AM, Sun: 10:30AM

SCARYGIRL (PG) PREVIEWS
Sat, Sun: 10:30AM, 1:00PM

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES: MUTANT MAYHEM (PG)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, Sat & Sun: 10:45AM

ALL FILMS

A HAUNTING IN VENICE (M)
Thurs: 11:15AM, 1:20PM, Fri: 11:30AM, 1:20PM, Sat, Sun: 1:20PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:30AM, 1:20PM, 7:30PM

BARBIE (PG)
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:40PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 3:40PM, 6:30PM

CARAVAGGIO'S SHADOW (MATS+1) Daily: 1:10PM, 3:40PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM

DUMB MONEY (MATS+1) Daily: 11:30AM, 1:45PM, 4:00PM, 8:15PM, Fri: 11:30AM, 1:45PM, 4:00PM, 7:30PM, Sat: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 3:00PM, 7:30PM, Sun: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 3:00PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:30AM, 1:45PM, 4:00PM, 6:20PM

FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S (M) Daily: 11:00AM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, Fri: 1:00PM, 3:15PM, Sat, Sun: 10:40AM, 1:00PM, 6:00PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:00PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM

11:00AM, 1:20PM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM, 8:15PM

KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 3:00PM, 6:15PM, 7:00PM, Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 6:15PM, 7:00PM

OPPENHEIMER (MATS+1) Thurs: 3:30PM, Fri: 4:00PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 12:00PM, 4:00PM

THE CREATOR (M) Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:15AM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:15AM, 8:15PM

THE KILLER (MATS+1) Daily: 11:00AM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM

THE LAST NIGHT OF AMORE (M) Thurs: 1:00PM, 3:15PM, 6:00PM, Fri: 1:00PM, 6:00PM, Sat, Sun: 10:40AM, 1:00PM, 6:00PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:00PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM

Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking validation for all Palace Cinemas customers
Session times subject to change - check web for most up to date sessions. *NFT = No Free Tickets
Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au

Session Times

Thurs 26 October - Wed 1 November

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

All Films

DUMB MONEY (MATS+1) Daily: 2:10PM, 4:20PM, 6:30PM

FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 12:15PM, 3:30PM, 6:20PM, Sat, Sun: 12:15PM, 3:45PM, 6:20PM

KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON (M) Daily: 10:15AM, 2:30PM, 6:00PM

PAW PATROL: THE MIGHTY MOVIE (PG) Sat, Sun: 9:45AM, 11:45AM

SAW X (MATS+1) Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:00PM

SCARYGIRL (PG) SAT, SUN: 10:00AM, 1:45PM

THE CREATOR (M) Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:20AM

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*NFT = No Free Tickets

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PALACE CINEMAS

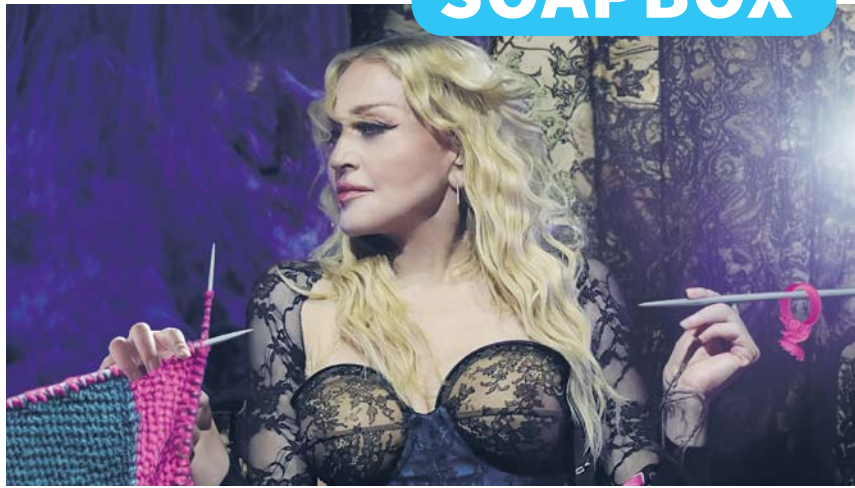
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Submit your event to the Echo's free Gig Guide. Running in *The Echo* and online at echo.net.au.

Praise the Madonna!



I love Madonna. Not her music so much. It's not my jam. She's such an incredible artist, that doesn't matter. Because she is more than her music - she is iconic. I love her. I love how brave she is. I love how relentlessly authentic she is. I love how she doesn't give a F. I love how she doesn't listen to the dominant narrative. I love how she becomes the narrative. I love her sense of play. Her lack of shame. Her ability to stand in who she is and radiate positivity. It's powerful. And it's unique.

I love how she is 65 and she is still the centrepiece of conversations about 'appropriate' behaviour for women. I love that she is still making people uncomfortable. That she is asking us to have a conversation about what it means to be an older woman. She is one of the world's most successful women, in one of the world's toughest industries. And still, she won't go home.

Her latest tour: Celebration, is a tribute to her extraordinary 40-year career. She dances on stage with an avatar of her younger self. She tells her younger self she is proud of her. She is unashamedly sexual. She embodies the generations where she made music and somehow became an intrinsic part of the soundtrack of most of our lives. She has been a powerful advocate for the LGBTQ+ community. And I watch her, a woman ten years my senior still be dangerous. Still be discussed and critiqued. While some are saying her show is triumphant, there are others who want her to go home and pick up her knitting.

Although if Madonna did knit, it would be cock rings, not cardigans. Over the weekend I've watched the conversation about her age, and this push back from commentators that she is too much. Or that she hasn't evolved. And I wonder if they realise it doesn't matter what they say. She is on their lips. Her choices are the subject of the conversation. She is *not* invisible. Because that's what happens to older women. They disappear.

While some are saying her show is triumphant, there are others who want her to go home and pick up her knitting. Although if Madonna did knit, it would be cock rings, not cardigans.

Not her. Not even flesh-eating bacteria can keep her down. She's made a recovery and she's back, in a knee brace and a corset. Why aren't we celebrating, as her tour suggests? Why are we criticising? It's a performance. A show. It's art. But somehow, detractors have made it very personal. The truth is, the world wasn't ready for her overt sexuality when she was young. It certainly isn't ready for her senior sexuality. It isn't ready for that sort of confidence. OMG imagine a world where older women claim visibility. Where they refused to go quietly.

The world asks older women to cover up. It tells us we are no longer on show. That we better not draw attention to ourselves. Just blend in girls. Fade. Do it quietly and do it with grace. Step back. No one wants to see your veiny legs. Or your wrinkled face. Or your desire.

We are told to put away short skirts and cut our long hair short. We button up our blouses. We send our heels to Vinnies. We head to the land of sensible shoes. Which is fine if that's your choice. But maybe it's not even about that. Maybe it's about the narrative that exists around our disappearance that Madonna is disrupting the most. Maybe that's why for some it's so uncomfortable. Because they don't want to see it. It's confronting. It's not safe. It's complex and unexpected and unforgettable. You can't unsee her.

I love that Madonna has continued to redefine what it is to be a goddess. And not one that is consumed through the male gaze. No. Madonna directs. Always more of a Kali than an Aphrodite. And in her show, the one that has so much chatter she delivers everything.

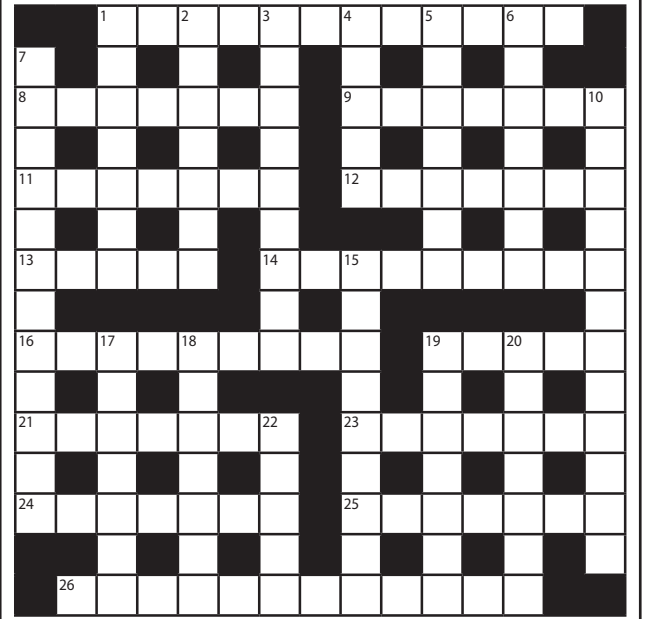
Mother. Goddess of time, change, creation, power, destruction and death. She is a truly feminist goddess. She is unapologetic because there is nothing to apologise for.

She is bloody amazing. For difficult, loud, angry, unusual, sensual, quiet and unseen women everywhere she continues to be a trailblazer. I have nothing but immense respect and gratitude.

I see what she does, and I get it. Fuck the haters. Praise the Madonna!

- Mandy Nolan

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #514



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Stubborn - aim over Australian sailors and retreating American soldiers (12)
- Run, work with English estimate (7)
- Old model, girl among 199! (7)
- Small drama - soft, put down, allow (7)
- Cult, one working a bit (7)
- Echo signal - echo! (5)
- Rig arrest, problem for official recorder (9)
- Francoise Sagan says bonjour to French melancholia (9)
- 101 - add up, return to art form (5)
- Hold down work with media (7)
- Perot, popular Italian composer of opera (7)
- More cheeky - rise clumsily over idiot (7)
- Joinin' broadcast for Honest Abe (7)
- Confused embers and spears - they look the same (12)

DOWN

- Freeze light in the North Atlantic (7)
- Camper or teaser? (7)
- A purer set devised for openings (9)
- Loots and fires (5)
- Looks briefly for subtle shots! (7)
- Retsina - gone off, and more unpleasant (7)
- Workings together for enclosure over a long time, into difficulties (12)
- Agreement over charges for the onset of childbirth (12)
- Freedom fighter - sounds like one from Rwanda! (9)
- Stalemate - I'm over it (7)
- Strange thin eel - stop to draw it! (3,4)
- Mother, involving sound of the Oddfellows (7)
- Navy - is solar the new way? (7)
- Bush the damaged brush (5)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Unyielding (12)
- Perform surgery (7)
- Vintage (7)
- Short dramatic piece (7)
- Segment (7)
- Device for detecting and locating objects (5)
- Trainee medical specialist (9)
- Sadness (French) (9)
- Melody (5)
- Persecute (7)
- Composer of 'The Barber of Seville' (7)
- More impertinent (7)
- Assassinated US president (7)
- Similarities (12)

DOWN

- Country of fire and ice! (7)
- Caravan (7)
- Holes (9)
- Large bags (5)
- Peeks (7)
- More objectionable (7)
- Collaborations (12)
- Shrinkings (12)
- Partisan (9)
- Deadlock (7)
- Its drawn in the sand! (3,4)
- Lodge where members conduct ancient rituals (7)
- Mariners (7)
- Woody plant (5)

Last week's solution #513



STARS BY LILITH

With the sun and Mercury joining Mars in resourceful Scorpio, sign of transformation, what you focus energy and attention on this week is where change will manifest...



SCORPIO

ARIES: This week requires you being aware of the difference between responding and reacting. Under provocation, step back and assess the best course of action. A calm and considered approach is likely to get better results and less blowback than an expression of Aries temperament.

TAURUS: This year's annual full moon in Taurus on 29 October highlights just how far you've come in a particular area of your life throughout the year's accelerated changes. Take the time to reward yourself by fully acknowledging your progress and celebrating this special growth marker.

GEMINI: When your planet ruler and communication principle Mercury slides into secretive mode, it's best to strengthen passwords and keep confidential information under wraps for the time being. If your trust alarm goes off, listen. Put anything that feels sketchy on hold and conduct due diligence.

CANCER: This week's full moon on 29 October in the sign of money and material security supports a revamp of your financial habits. No need for austerity though: just make certain that you keep enough aside to cover the basics, then go about enjoying your usual smorgasbord of earthly delights.

LEO: Fiery Mars in a fixed sign like your own is known to generate no mean amount of steam heat. If this week brings issues to a crescendo, stay in observer role and let dramas play out. Approach protagonists again once the air clears and smoke stops pouring out of their nose - and carefully.

VIRGO: Your mentor planet, mind master Mercury, moving into the sign of forensic investigation means this isn't a time for idle chitchat or superficial small talk. As communication dives from cheap to deep, this week supports in-depth, honest conversations with yourself, with others, and if necessary a professional therapist.

LIBRA: In astrology Libra traditionally rules the kidneys, the body's twin organs of detoxification. This week offers a unique opportunity to delete some old conditioning around conflict management, and the possibility of handling certain behaviour patterns differently. Your personal balancing act? Between discipline and experimentation.

SCORPIO: The sun and Mercury joining Mars in your deep water sign announce your annual high season for... well, just about anything. You're absolutely in your element this week, and if anyone knows how to maintain an air of mystery that keeps people wanting more, that would be your Scorpionic self.

SAGITTARIUS: If that financial situation you were hoping would magically go away by itself shows no sign of dissipating, get pro advice if needed, and know that the best way to address this is one step at a time. This week's celestial energy supports your patience and persistence levels.

CAPRICORN: Metamorphic transits like the current one are not one-size-fits-all; everyone navigates them differently. Some people relish them and flourish; for others they bring a dark night of the soul. Whatever your experience this week, positive planetary support is available, so listen for downloads.

AQUARIUS: Yes, there could be surprise revelations this week which nobody expected. Your personal pressure test will be remaining open-minded, flexible and negotiable in situations where no one's willing to give an inch, or to offer information which would help. Trying... but do your best.

PISCES: Rocking the boat isn't Pisces' style, because you already know from past experience how that can cause way more than a gentle wave. As this week waters the lawns of your emotional landscape, trust that doors will open and the way forward will become clear. Be alert for clues.

6B BELONGIL CRESCENT, BYRON BAY



Turn-Key Ready!

3 bedrooms 1 living area 2 bathrooms 1 car

397M²

- Recently renovated by Avenue One Design, featuring timber veneer cabinetry, concrete benchtops, and brass finishes
- Perfect for downsizers, small families, and investors looking for a low-maintenance residence
- Architectural concept plans included adding further development potential
- Highly desired North Byron location, close to beaches and amenities

PRICE | \$1.7m - \$1.75m
OPEN | Sat 28th October 10-10:30am



Oliver Aldridge
0421 171 499

41 GORDON STREET, MULLUMBIMBY



Central Location Character Cottage Plus Separate Studio - Contact Agent

4 bedrooms 3 living areas 2 bathrooms 3 cars

740M²

- The main residence, built circa 1904, features, high ceilings, hardwood timber flooring and a cast-iron combustion fireplace
- A fully approved, architecturally designed secondary dwelling provides extra income potential
- Solar-heated, tiled magnesium plunge pool
- Beautifully landscaped gardens including a colourful 120-year-old frangipani tree

PRICE | \$1.45m - \$1.495m
OPEN | Sat 28th October 2:15-2:45pm



Paul Prior
0418 324 297



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649

2/70 CENTENNIAL CIRCUIT, BYRON BAY



Fully Approved Commercial Kitchen

1 bedroom 1 bathroom 1 car

- 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 Torkola
0423 519 698

388 COOPERS SHOOT ROAD, COOPERS SHOOT



Rare Opportunity to Build Your Dream Hinterland Home!

7600M²

- 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 | \$2.8m - \$3.08m
OPEN | Sat 28th October 10:30-11am



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

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





26 HENDERSON LANE, MULLUMBIMBY

Boundary lines are approximate



Tightly Held Ridgeline Position on 1 Acre with Lighthouse and Ocean Views

4 beds 2 sofas 2 bathrooms 3 cars

4836M²

- Breathtaking panoramic ocean and ridgeline views, of the lighthouse, Julian Rocks, and Koonyum Range
- Development opportunity with DA approved architectural plans for a luxury build
- Established fruit and nut trees and a majestic fig tree add character without obstructing the views
- Close proximity to Mullumbimby, Brunswick Heads and Byron Bay

PRICE | \$2m - \$2.2m

OPEN | Sat 28th October 9-9:30am



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668



8/24 SCOTT STREET, BYRON BAY



Accepting Bids Now! Luxury Two-Bedroom Apartment in Exclusive Resort

2 beds 1 sofa 2 bathrooms 1 car

- 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

ONLINE AUCTION | Thurs 9th November 12pm

STARTING BID | \$960,000

OPEN | Thurs 26th October 1-1:30pm

Sat 28th October 1:15-1:45pm



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649



24/8 BYRON STREET, BYRON BAY



Modern Spacious Central Byron Apartment

1 bed 1 sofa 1 bathroom 1 car lift

- Situated in the heart of Byron Bay, easy access to the beach, entertainment and amenities
- Lofty, raked ceilings create a bright and airy atmosphere filled with natural light
- Live-in or holiday-let year round, low maintenance property with onsite management
- Communal pool

PRICE | \$850,000 - \$900,000

OPEN | By appointment



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594



85 ARTHUR ROAD, CORNDALE



AUCTION THIS WEEKEND! 37 Acre Ranch minutes to Clunes Village

4 beds 3 sofas 2 bathrooms 7 cars

37 ACRES

- Circa 1900's farmhouse with crows-ash flooring and tongue and groove walls
- Originally part of the Corndale Tennis Club, the property includes a full-size tennis court with night lighting
- The original dairy bails has been converted into a separate guest accommodation / studio
- An abundance of established fruit trees and home to diverse wildlife

*Agent declares interest

AUCTION | Sat 28th October 10am

OPEN | Sat 28th October 9-10am



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649

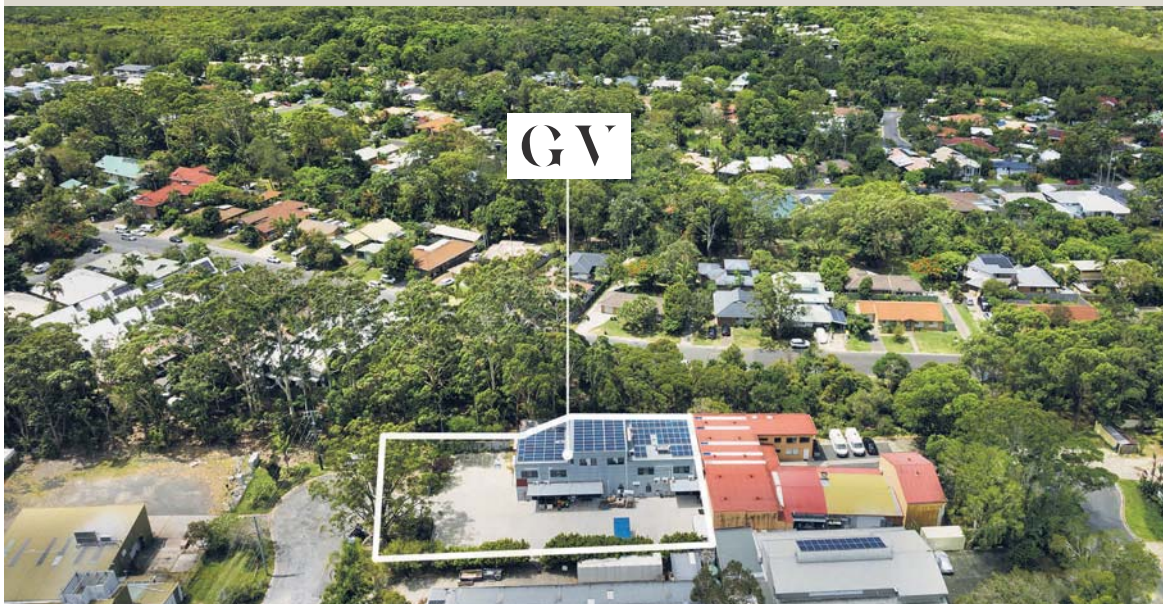


Paul Prior
0418 324 297

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GV



6 Boronia Place, Byron Bay NSW

For Sale
\$3,950,000

An opportunity of growth for current food business

- Food production facility
- Large cool rooms
- Certified organic kitchen
- Packing rooms
- Storage areas
- Very low maintenance solid steel construction
- Tenanted offices upstairs
- Fully furnished managers residence
- New 40kw solar system, fencing and gate
- 21 Parking bays
- Current gross income \$270,000 per annum

For further information contact
Antonio Mercuri 0434 629 521
antonio@gvpropertygroup.com
www.gvpropertygroup.com

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Ten successful sales already this Spring for Team Phillips.

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60 Massinger Street, Byron Bay	Under \$4m
149 The Manse Road, Myocum	\$3,871,000
20 Wallaby Close, Ewingsdale	\$3,600,000
170 Dudgeons Road, Mullumbimby	\$2,500,000
5/174 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow	\$2,400,000
4/54 Lawson Street, Byron Bay	\$2,350,000
9C Mott Street, Byron Bay	\$1,750,000
13 Luan Court, Byron Bay	\$1,650,000

Will Phillips
0488 508 111
willphillips@mcgrath.com.au

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Noble Lakeside - Site 213

Park/Village Name: Noble Lakeside – Kingscliff

🏠 2 🚗 1 🚗 2

\$525,000



Rarely available in this location, this inviting well-presented home is ready for new owners to move in with nothing left to do but unpack and enjoy. This home showcases a charming front entrance verandah, an exceptional master bedroom as well as a 2nd bedroom that runs the full width of the home. This 2nd bedroom has the potential to be converted into two separate rooms to create either a 3rd bedroom, home office or a fabulous craft/hobby room.

The refurbished modern kitchen has ample storage and bench space and is complemented with a built-in fan forced oven and a ceramic cooktop. The unique enormous master bedroom is complemented with a large built-in wardrobe and can still accommodate a king size bed, reading nook, dressing table as well as a chest of drawers.

Generous size three-way bathroom is in good condition and features a large vanity unit, fully tiled shower room and a separate toilet. This home would be ideal for mobility impaired people, requiring enough room to move around easily.

Energy efficient home with 2Kw solar system and a solar heat pump hot water service.

Retirement living at its best without the associated costs of exit fees and NO stamp duty.

Inspect: By appointment
Contact: Kelvin Price 0423 028 468 / Heike Wilson 0403 713 658
Mr Property Services

OPEN FOR INSPECTION



Amir Prestige

- 146 McGettigans Lane, Ewingsdale. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 61 Garden Avenue, Nunderi. Sat 12.30-1pm

Atlas by LJ Hooker

- 61 New City Road, Mullum. Sat 10-10.30am

LJ Hooker Brunswick Heads

- 38 James Street, Mullum. Sat 11-11.30am
- 9 Blackbean Road, Wilsons Creek. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/3 Newberry Parade, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm

Mana RE

- 52 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 73B Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Thurs 4-4.30pm
- 59 Riverview Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 9-9.30am
- 10 Beach Avenue, South Golden Beach. Sat 9-9.30am
- 17 Koellner Road, Cumbalum. Sat 9.30-10.30am
- 9 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Sat 11-11.30am
- 3 Kallaroo Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1345 Tyalgum Road, Eungella. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 73B Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 11 Dignan Street, Burringbar. Sat 11.45-12.15pm
- 14 Waramboool Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2 Clifford Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 121 Mcleod Street, Condong. Sat 1-2pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 18 Edward Place, Knockrow. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/5 Kumbellin Glen, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 51 New City Road, Mullum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 238 Old Byron Bay Road, Newrybar. Sat 10-10.30am
- 5 Jarvis Street, Clunes. Sat 10.30-11am

- 43 Kingsley Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am

- 90 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 65 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 5A Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm

North Coast Lifestyle

- 421 Left Bank Road, Mullum. Sat 10.00-10.45am
- 1 Cassia Court, Mullum. Sat 11.00-11.45am
- 4/46 Durrumbul Road, Mullum. Sat 12.00-12.45pm
- 5/2 Langi Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 25/2 Langi Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30pm
- 11 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am

- 3 Paldi Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.00-12.30pm
- 199 Palmwoods Road, Palmwoods. Sat 2-2.45pm

Ray White Byron Bay

- 7 Gardenia Court, Mullum. Wed 4-4.30 pm
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Thurs 12-12.30 pm
- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 1-1.30pm
- 2/4 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 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
- 7 Gardenia Court, Mullum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 43 Jacaranda Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 3 Lofts Road, Coorabell. Sat 11-11.30am
- 24 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Mullum. Sat 11.30-12pm
- 2/4 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm

Ray White Rural Bangalow

- 33 Blackwood Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 11-11.30am

Ruth Russell Realty

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

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 51 Tristania Street, Bangalow. Sat 9.30-10am
- 9 Karinya Place, Clunes. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 62 Forest Road, Uralba. Sat 12.15-12.45pm

First National Byron

- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11-11.45am
- 8/24 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 1-1.30pm
- 85 Arthur Road, Corndale. Sat 9-10am
- 26 Henderson Lane, Mullum. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2 Seastar Court, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 69 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 38 Avocado Crescent, Ewingsdale. Sat 9.30-10am
- 6B Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3/64 Kingsley Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 5/37 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 299 Myocum Road, Ewingsdale. Sat 10.30-11am
- 388 Coopers Shoot Road, Coopers Shoot. Sat 10.30-11am
- 509 Rosebank Road, Rosebank. Sat 11-11.30am
- 8 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 4/7 Oceanside Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 98 Wallace Road, The Channon. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 816 Federal Drive, Federal. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 15 Dinjerra Place, Mullum. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 14 Rifle Range Road, Bangalow. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 8/24 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1.15-1.45pm
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AGMs

BRUNSWICK VALLEY MEALS ON WHEELS SERVICE 10am, Wednesday 22 November at the Brunswick Valley Community Centre, South Beach Rd, Brunswick Heads. All welcome. Enquiries 66851498



The Mullumbimby Rural Co-Op wishes to advise its members that the AGM will be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at the Co-Op.

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

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Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

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- Retail Assistants -
- Drivers and Co-driver -
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WANTED

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

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16 ALOOTA CRES, O/S At Adele's. Sat 8am. Lovely women's clothes, jewellery, bric-a-brac, cruiser bike gd cond, h/wares.

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BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday Seb
We love you!



Happy Birthday Liz!

Thanks for all the wonderful cakes and savouries
The Echo Feeders

MUSICAL NOTES


GUITARS, RECORDS, HI-FI
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UKELELE

Our small informal group is looking for new members, daytime meet ups. Call Lizzie if interested 0407292501

IN MEMORIAM

ROSS PEPPER
10th anniversary: 13.06.1965-23.10.2013



Dad, we love you and miss you so terribly. How we wish you were here with us today
Love Avalon, Bodhi and Mebbin

Albert McLean
21/11/1923 - 27/10/11

Grief and sadness is the price we pay for loving you. But we wouldn't have it any other way. You are and always will be a very special part of our lives. You are not gone. We carry you in our hearts and all the memories we hold on to forever. There is not a day we do not miss you, we love you always.

Lyn, Cheryl, John & families.

PETS



KATIE was born to be cuddled and to cuddle. She arrived with a fresh litter of cuddly kittens all of whom have already been adopted. Katie is about five so she is extremely experienced in both delivering and receiving this therapy. Very soft and inviting mixed grey fur. She is currently looking after her carers at PFL, but is anxious to have her own permanent family.

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SUN, MOON & TIDES
- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Oct/Nov)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
25	W	5:59 19:00	15:08 3:36	0616 1.24 1834 1.63	0016 0.25 1156 0.34
26	TH	5:58 19:01	16:15 4:12	0708 1.39 1924 1.63	0100 0.17 1255 0.26
27	F	5:57 19:01	17:20 4:45	0756 1.53 2009 1.59	0137 0.10 1349 0.21
28	SA	5:56 19:02	18:26 5:18	0842 1.64 2051 1.51	0214 0.06 1441 0.19
29	SU	5:56 19:03	19:32 5:53	0926 1.72 2132 1.40	0248 0.06 1531 0.21
30	M	5:55 19:04	20:39 6:31	1009 1.76 2212 1.27	0323 0.08 1623 0.26
31	TU	5:54 19:04	21:45 7:14	1051 1.74 2252 1.14	0358 0.14 1715 0.32
1	W	5:53 19:05	22:47 8:01	1133 1.69 2332 1.03	0431 0.22 1808 0.39
2	TH	5:52 19:06	23:44 8:54	1216 1.61	0507 0.32 1904 0.46
3	F	5:52 19:06	9:50	0018 0.94 1303 1.52	0546 0.42 2004 0.51
4	SA	5:51 19:07	10:48	0115 0.89 1356 1.43	0638 0.51 2108 0.53
5	SU	5:50 19:08	11:46	0240 0.87 1457 1.37	0750 0.59 2210 0.51
6	M	5:49 19:09	12:42	0408 0.92 1601 1.34	0915 0.62 2304 0.47
7	TU	5:49 19:10	13:37	0514 1.02 1701 1.35	1033 0.60 2348 0.42
8	W	5:48 19:10	14:31	0602 1.13 1753 1.36	1136 0.56

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

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1st SUN Byron Bay	6685 6807	5th SUN Lennox Head	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	kyoglebazaar.com.au		
4th SUN Bangalow	6687 1911		
4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764		
4th SUN Murwillumbah	0413 804 024		
4th SUN (in a 5 Sunday month) Coolangatta			

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

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

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

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Free ukelele fun

Our small, free, informal ukelele group is looking for new members. Daytime meet ups. Call Lizzie if interested on 0407 292 501.

ownership by desexing, microchipping and keeping your cat safe at home. Visit Council's website: <https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au> for more information.

BV Probuc Club

The Brunswick Valley Probuc Club meeting Tuesday, 7 November, 10am at the Ocean Shores Country Club. No Guest Speaker as it is Melbourne Cup Day. Visitors welcome. Inquires ring Margaret 6680 3316.

Children and grandparents

Calling all children and grandparents to celebrate the special relationship by joining us at Mullumbimby library for a special Grandparent's Day Storytime event. There will be story reading, activities to share and a morning tea on Monday, October 30 at 10am. For more information please phone the library on 6684 2992.

Richmond-Tweed

Family History Society

The next Richmond-Tweed Family History Society meeting is on Saturday, 4 November, at Players Theatre, 24 Swift St, Ballina, from 2-4pm. Carmel Crosby will present on Newspapers and where else to look besides Trove. All welcome, afternoon tea is available for gold coin donation.

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.

Shedding AGM

Shedding Community Workshop Inc will hold their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, 14 November at 18 Prince Street, Mullumbimby from 5.30-8pm. The event will include a potluck dinner at 6pm so please bring something to share or a donation. Can't wait to tell you about our amazing community and achievements this year! RSVP required, text Sophie on 0490 501 745 to confirm.

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.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina, South Tweed and Ballina. Attendees must be Exit Members. For further Information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina & South Tweed) or Peter 0429 950 352 (Ballina).

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.

Free cat desexing

Byron Shire Council together with Pets for Life, RSPCA NSW, and NSW Government are offering free desexing for cats in the Byron Shire. Free desexing is being offered as part of the Keeping Cats Safe at Home Project, which encourages responsible pet

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.

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

Ocean Shores pro golfer wins prestigious award

Ocean Shores Country Club (OSCC) was recently in the spotlight when long-time Byron Shire local Chris Graham clinched the prestigious PGA Queensland Club Professional of the Year award.

Chris, flanked by his wife, and several of the OSCS staff, graciously accepted the accolade.

They were in a crowded room filled with nearly 500 golf industry luminaries at the Gold Coast Convention Centre on October 18.

Gavin Kirkman, CEO of the PGA of Australia, made the trip from Melbourne for the event.

'I am humbled for the honour of winning Queensland Club Professional of the Year. It is a nice reward for the years of dedication to the golf industry,' Chris said.

'Awards like this would not be possible without the support of my staff, OSCC members, my wife and kids and all those who trust their



Chris Graham has had his contribution to teaching golf recognised by PGA Queensland. Photo: Inside Golf magazine

golf with my coaching.'

Chris's journey is a testament to hard work and consistency that has seen him establish himself as one of the best PGA professionals in Australia.

'We are lucky to have him in our backyard and you only have to look to the dizzying heights that one

of his pupils, Dave Osborn, reached recently in the Saturday comp at Mullumbimby to know that while golf can be a cruel mistress, even the wiliest of golfers can shine,' local golfer Andrew Crockett said.

'You can't teach this stuff, but Chris Graham has found a way.'

Local cycling races attracts record numbers



A 'recent' record of 40 cyclists enjoyed warm weather and racing across various grades last Sunday at the Cavanbah Centre cycling track. Photo Shane Ryan

Boosted by increased women and young riders the Byron Bay Cycling Club (BBCC) hosted 40 participants at its elimination racing day held at the Cavanbah track last Sunday.

'It was a fantastic day, the weather was great, and we had a lot of first time competitors,' BBCC spokeswoman Rachel Pearson said.

'We got in touch with our sister club, the Byron

Tri Club, and a lot of their women athletes turned up.

'We had 40 participants, the highest number in recent history. There were also young athletes, as well as veterans who have a lot of experience and valuable information,' she said.

The Cavanbah track lends itself to race styles that are normally used on velodromes.

'We tried to make the day

more exciting with elimination racing. It involves the last rider on each lap having to retire, which means there is plenty of justling for position and excitement throughout the race.'

Next race day at the Cavanbah is morning racing on November 5. The last for the year is twilight racing on November 19, which will include a bicycle buy, swap and sell.

Quick runs put Terranora Lakes cricketers in top four

Terranora Lakes have hit their way into the top four of the Ballina District second grade cricket competition with a quick win over Pottsville at Bilambil last Saturday.

Pottsville won the toss and went in to score 9/152 off their 40 overs, after falling to 4/31 at one stage. Menzie Tucker (40 runs) and Geoff Tucker (31no) were the top run scorers.

Terranora's Lachlan Mison was the chief destroyer bowling 3/49 off his eight overs, backed up by Ian Rowlings who returned 1/12 off eight.

But the fireworks came in the second innings when Terranora chased down the total in just 16 overs with the loss of two wickets.



Nic Asser celebrates his 5/33. Photo supplied

Terranora's Harjinder Singh scored 74 off 52 balls while opening partner Gabriel Araujo hit 29 from 34. Pottsville, themselves, chimed in with 28 extras including 21 wides.

Terranora (15 competition points) sit fourth on the ladder behind Colts Seniors (20) and Byron Bay (19). All

have two wins this season.

Lennox Head (24) is on top and is undefeated for the season with three wins.

Lennox Head had a win over Bangalow last Saturday, after bowling them out for 159. Lennox Head captain Nicolas Asser backed up his 5/33 the week before with 1/26 off seven, while Nicholas

Winkler-Maloney 3/31 and Max Ingram 3/41 did most of the damage.

In reply Lennox Head chased down the total with 16 overs to spare. Adam Fisher gobbled the total by scoring an unbeaten 96 from 67 deliveries.

Byron Bay seconds also had a win over Murwillumbah after sending them in to bat at the Cavanbah Oval. The visitors were held to 102 with Byron's Brendan Mitchell (3/14 off four overs) and Sebastian Campbell (3/6 off five) doing the best bowling.

Byron stumbled to 2/13 after losing both openers for ducks, but recovered to win in the 27th over. Top scorer was Mitch Barnes with 37.

Anthony wins karate silver



Anthony scores on his way to silver. Photo supplied

Byron Bay Jin Wu Koon Karate club member, Anthony Dinh, claimed a silver medal in the open men's kata at the 2023 Australian Martial Arts Championships (AMAC) held in Nerang on October 15.

Anthony also fought well in the kumite section to finish fourth in two events.

'He has only been training at the dojo ten months which makes this a good achievement and evidence of how sustained focus and hard work leads to success,' Sensei Ric Light said.

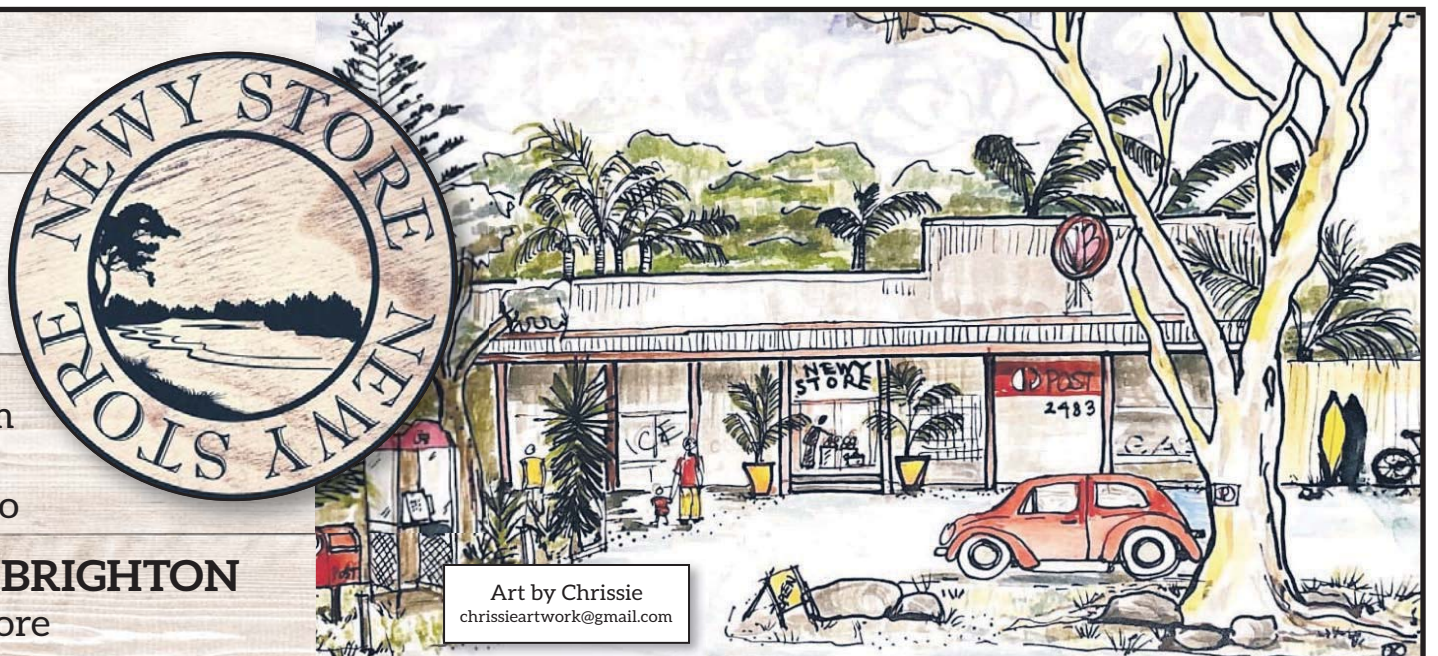
The club, reestablished by Sensei Ric Light early in 2021, focuses only on karate at its Ewingsdale Hall base.

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Who really runs Council? It doesn't appear to be the elected councillors and mayor. Two senior staff members, Shannon Burt and Phil Holloway, think that the public shouldn't see the review underpinning the water and sewage capacity of Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads. ICYMI, Council's Housing Options Paper is now on exhibition and proposes a major up-scaling of housing, yet doesn't include the 2022 flood data. See more on page 8.

Saturday's benefit night for the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital was a great success, with a full house enjoying the return of the mighty Cruel Sea at the Bluesfest's Green Room. While organisers were careful not to mention any names, it was Nationals MLC Ben Franklin who promised \$6m in funding for the hospital prior to the 2023 NSW election. After Labor's win, Environment Minister, Penny Sharpe, rejected the funds, which were never secured by Franklin.

Congrats Jules Hunt from Honey Hunt, who has been awarded 2023 Australia Post Local Business Hero – her small business clothes design company was selected from over 4,000 applicants. She told *The Echo*, 'I am passionate about all we create and to be recognised for this contribution to small business by Australia Post is an amazing honour'.

It's been a month since NSW Premier Chris Minns (Labor) committed to ask the Commonwealth government for a second tranche of flood funds, after a question from local MP, Tamara Smith. On



Painting titled 'Why can't you leave the toilet seat up for me?' Photo Classic Art Memes

October 20, Federal Member for Richmond, Justine Elliot (Labor) told *The Guardian* that the NSW government is still yet to ask.

'As societies grow decadent, the language grows decadent, too. Words are used to disguise, not to illuminate, action: you liberate a city by destroying it. Words are to confuse, so that at election time, people will solemnly vote against their own interests' – US author Gore Vidal (1925-2012)

A new preparedness campaign, called Get Ready NSW, was launched last week by the NSW Labor government. Visit visit.nsw.gov.au/get-ready for more info.

Reuters reports that Switzerland's right-wing party, Swiss People's Party (SVP), has surged in the polls over immigration concerns, and is likely to win Sunday's election. 'The party campaigned on a platform of preventing the country's population – currently at 8.7 million people – exceeding ten million'.

of recognising this may be incapable of morality'

'It takes real chutzpah for the federal Coalition to have occupied the government benches for 21 of the last 27 years, and blame everyone else for failures in Indigenous policy' – Tweet by Frank Bongiorno, historian at the Australian National University.

SMH (Nine) reports that cardboard mogul, Anthony Pratt, paid for access to Trump and monthly retainers of \$25k to former PM Paul Keating and \$8k to former PM Tony Abbott. Surely Abbott would be unhappy to learn he is worth 68 per cent less than Keating?

How many sociopaths does it take to change a light bulb? None – they all use gaslighting. Boom-tish!

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3PM- SHRINE & MEMENTO MAKING WITH SAM COLLIER

4PM- THE CEREMONY OF LOVE & REMEMBRANCE WITH ZENITH VIRAGO

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