



## Saddle Road jobs hub not a Trojan horse, says developer

Paul Bibby

The developer behind plans to build an employment hub in Brunswick Heads has strenuously refuted suggestions that the project is a Trojan horse for residential development.

The plan to build the mixed-use hub on a picturesque greenfield site at 66 The Saddle Road came before last week's Council meeting, where it ultimately received preliminary, conditional approval.

However, during public access, the co-principal of the planning company hired to design the project faced concerted questioning about the motivation behind it.

The concerns centred on a large section of the proposed development that involves live/work spaces.

Mayor Michael Lyon told the meeting that Council had 'received some interesting correspondence in the last 24 hours...' that had made 'assertions' about the proposed development.

'The concern would be that it's de facto accommodation with the "work" component as a front,' Cr Lyon said to the co-principal, Stephen Connelly.

'The idea being that you create the residences, and then have a little bit of a workspace below. Do you have any response to that? That it's a de facto residential development?'

But Mr Connelly strenuously

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## Zombie DAs creating living hell for local communities



Locals are calling on the state government to take action on zombie DAs to support local communities to balance housing, the environment and the homes of threatened species. Photo Jeff 'Hello Ian' Dawson

Aslan Shand

Zombie development applications (DAs), or legacy DAs, are old approvals that are resurrected by a developer and pursued under outdated legislation. Clarence Property's 'Wallum Estate' DA in Brunswick Heads is one of these zombie DAs and it is one of many that have been brought to life up and down the coast of NSW.

A similar zombie DA originally from 1996 saw developers 'moonshape' a site on the Cobaki estuarine floodplain at Tringa Street, Tweed Heads earlier this year according to locals.

'When a zombie DA gets resurrected, it isn't measured against current environmental and natural disaster legislation, but instead is tragically measured against older, out of date standards, that are vastly out of step with local community values and crucial environmental regulations,' explained James Barrie from Save Wallum.

'There are multiple threatened species currently relying on this land [in Brunswick Heads], that would be further threatened with significant impacts and ineffective offsets that are the hallmarks of zombie developments.'

'Zombie DAs are classically out of step with local values, as well as local Council's environmental and development legislation. Attempted against current legislation they would not be approved. 'Byron Council has backed this assertion, with the Mayor Michael Lyon saying, "Just to be really clear, If this DA came to us as Council, without any pre-existing state government overlays and overhangs, there is no way we would approve this, there's no way that we would approve the removal of the trees on the site, or the destruction of habitat, or the bulldozing of endangered

ecological communities; there's no way this Council would approve that''

Lindy Smith, president of the Tweed District Residents and Ratepayers Association told *The Echo* that 'the call from communities for an immediate moratorium on zombie DAs that have suddenly come to life after being asleep for decades has gone unanswered. Urgent immediate provisions need to be established to enable these zombie development approvals be reconsidered under today's information, policies, science and risk factors.'

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## Death-defying tricks coming to the Mullum Show

It will be hard to top last year's Mullum Show but that hasn't stopped this year's committee taking the grand show tradition of Mullumbimby and giving it a go on 10, 11 and 12 November.

There are a number of new events coming to town for 2023 including a trick riding show, motorbike barrel racing and the King Brown Camp Oven King. Of course there will still be all the firm favourites from cooking cakes and jams to whose got the best looking fruit and veg. There are the traditional art and photography prizes as well as equestrian events and who has the best beef cattle in town.

The soft opening on Friday has free entry with stock horse events followed by trotting: the bar and barbecue will open about 3pm. Saturday and Sunday will see the show jumping as well as the motorcycle jumping - neither of which is risk free.

'There is a fully packed program over the weekend with trucks parading on Saturday arriving at 3.30pm followed by nonstop entertainment on the main stage and Saturday evening fireworks,' said show president Mark Ward.

Tickets are available on the website [www.mullumbimbyshow.org.au](http://www.mullumbimbyshow.org.au) and early purchase gets you a discount, otherwise they are available on the gate.

### Tug-of-war

There is a \$300 prize for the winners of the Chincogan Store Tug O' War which is defined as 'a sports event in which two teams test their strength by pulling against each other on opposite ends of a rope'. It is free to enter and 'gloves and a thick cotton



shirt should be worn to help avoid rope burn'

The Sam Handford Trick Riding Show includes fire stunts and Roman riding. Photo Sam Handford Entertainment

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## Another successful BBFF draws to a close



(L-R) Mostafa (Mos) Azimitabar from *Freedom is Beautiful*; festival patron, Jack Thompson; BBFF director J'Aimee Skippon-Volke; Josh Fox from *The End Of Nature* and BBFF Young Filmmaker of the Year, Jack Voegt. Photo Jeff Dawson

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## Housing forum at Byron Council looks to solutions

Aslan Shand

This weekend will see housing action outside the Byron Shire Council chambers as the lack of accessible and affordable housing in the region is being called out.

A solo performance called *No fixed address: Where is my hot shower?* by Sarah-Jane McGrath starts at 8am on Saturday, 4 November in Stan Robinson Park outside the Council chambers at 70 Station Street, Mullumbimby highlighting the issue of homelessness, and the lack of facilities in Byron Shire and the Northern Rivers. This will be followed by House You forum on Sunday, 5 November which is aimed at bringing the community together to support one another and look for housing solutions.

### Housing forum

Starting at 9am on Sunday everyone is encouraged to bring a tent, bedding and other resources and help set up a village for the day at Council. There will be free vegan food served to the community all day and the option to be part of planting a food forest.



Chels Hood Withey, Karyn Roberts, her daughter Karenza and Sarah-Jane McGrath prepare for this weekend's housing forum. Photo Jeff Dawson

'Everyone deserves basic human rights including access to water, housing, and safety,' said organiser Chels Hood Withey.

The housing forum will run from 12 to 2pm with a number of speakers and the opportunity for everyone to voice their ideas.

'It's a safe space to discuss what isn't working now and innovate holistic solutions for the future,' explains Chels.

'This is about the community uniting together to

create a share economy by creating resilient community networks. It is about us all uniting to look after each other.'

The results of the House You forum will then be presented to the Byron Council planning meeting on Thursday, 9 November.

From 3pm onwards there will be a range of workshops including know your legal rights, dumpster dive chef, live music and jam sessions, a healing tent and much more.

'There will be hammocks, board games and art and we'd be really happy if someone was able to bring a ping pong table,' said Chels.

If you have a spare tent or bedding you can donate them on the day to help support homeless people. You can also stay the night in solidarity with the unhoused community - vans, cars and caravans welcome.

For more information email House You at: [hous-eyou.org@gmail.com](mailto:hous-eyou.org@gmail.com) or find them on social media.

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## Liberation Larder continues to rise to the challenge

Aslan Shand

Still going strong after 15 years, Byron Bay's Liberation Larder are making meals, providing food to the homeless and those in need, and saving food from landfill. And it is all done with the generous time and energy of the 40-strong team of volunteers.

In the last year they have rescued 45,408kgs of edible food from landfill, provided 31,170 meals to 6,685 people and given 611 boxes to families in need.

'Its not just homeless

people who use our service, the cost of living and housing affordability have put all sorts of people on the street,' committee member Roland Dickson told *The Echo*.

'We are finding more and more pensioners, single mothers, and both employed and unemployed people coming to us for help as well as rough sleepers and totally homeless people.'

The service is open on Mondays and Thursdays 7am to 1.30pm at the Byron Community Centre and people can collect meals and

produce for free.

People using the service include a 20-year old who is studying and Mrs A who works at a factory six days a week to pay her \$700 rent but still finds it hard to make ends meet so uses Liberation Larder to help her through the week and feed her children.

'We are flood survivors and have had to move a lot and use Liberation Larder for food and veges so we can save money for our son's ongoing medical condition,' said Mrs A.

As well as providing healthy meals to people Liberation Larder also support the Bruns Breakkie and Fletcher Street Cottage with frozen meals.

'We have a seven-day-a-week service that collects spare food,' said Roland.

'We are happy to come to local businesses, etc. to collect any edible food they no longer need. Just give us a call.'

To find out more, donate food or volunteer check them out online at: [www.liberationlarder.org](http://www.liberationlarder.org).

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## Council struggles to get Indigenous engagement

Paul Bibby

Byron Council does not have effective engagement with any of the Aboriginal groups in the Shire, last week's Council meeting heard.

The comments came from Labor councillor Asren Pugh during a protracted debate about effective ways to increase the amount of housing owned and occupied by local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Cr Pugh moved a motion at the meeting proposing that Council undertake a suite of measures to ensure that local Aboriginal people own housing on Country.

He noted Council's existing policy of engaging closely with a range of local Aboriginal stakeholders to develop an effective strategy to provide more housing.

However, he said that this approach had been inhibited

by the inability of Council to effectively engage with the different groups.

'I've found it really hard as a councillor engaging with our local Indigenous representatives,' Cr Pugh said.

He said he was a member of the Council committee, which was set up to engage with local Arakwal representatives, but that it had only had one meeting during the current Council term.

'We don't have effective engagement or consultation with any of the Aboriginal groups in the Shire,' he said.

'I don't think we're going to be effective at setting up effective engagement structures until we start to recognise the concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.'

Cr Pugh said that the message he had received in direct discussions with local Indigenous representatives

was 'just get on with stuff'. 'It's time for us to deliver,' he said.

However, over the course of more than two hours of debate Cr Pugh's motion was amended to the point where it closely resembled the status quo.

Rather than adopting specific measures to create more housing to be owned and occupied by local Aboriginal people, the final version of the motion involves engaging with Aboriginal stakeholders to achieve this aim.

A majority of councillors voted in favour of the motion, including Cr Pugh, Sama Balson (Independent), Deputy Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Greens), Duncan Dey (Greens), and Peter Westheimer (Independent).

Those who voted against were: Mayor Michael Lyon (Independent) and Alan Hunter (Independent).

## Zombie DAs fail to comply with current legislation

► Continued from page 1

Mr Barrie agrees telling *The Echo* that, 'zombie developments are an ecologically harmful leverage of loopholes in planning legislation, which pushes local populations of threatened species all the way

to the edge of their ability to stave off extinction, and robs local communities of places they truly value. Just look at the "Save Wallum - Brunswick Heads" Facebook page to see how loved this place is, and how much the community

wants this zombie DA put back in the grave. 'The accumulative impacts of zombie developments all along the coastline is a "death by a thousand cuts" effect to our threatened species and their rare and beautiful habitats.'



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## Karin's journey from surviving to thriving is set to inspire

Paul Bibby

If you've been feeling the need for something uplifting lately, you may well find it in the story of local surfer and surf coach Karin Ochsner.

Karin lives with a rare immune condition that makes things that many of us take for granted – like living indoors, wearing normal clothes, and eating regular food – potentially life-threatening.

It has forced her to live her life out in the elements with little protection beyond a basic tarp or umbrella, to regularly change her environment, and to carefully watch what she puts in and near her body.

Somehow, Karin has found a way to lead an extraordinary life: sharing her gifts as a surf coach, explorer and adventure guide, and inspiring people.



Local surfer and surf coach Karin Ochsner riding her bike at Broken Head. Photo Sean O'Shae

This tale of healing and thriving against all odds is the subject of a new documentary, *Surviving to Thriving*, which premieres at Byron Theatre at 6.30pm on November 8.

Following on from Karin's first documentary *Surfing to Survive*, the second

film tracks her challenges and triumphs as she confronts her deepest fears and past traumas.

This includes having to live outdoors during the 2022 floods, having a heart-pounding interaction with a shark, and being forced to move around to cope with her condition.

It is also a story of healing, documenting Karin's growing insight and understanding of her health challenges. 'The process of making this film has helped me a lot in understanding my illness better and also for getting the support I need,' Karin says.

It features local legends Delta Kay and former surfing world champion Pauline Menczer, as well many other prominent people from the world of surfing and beyond.

For more information and tickets go to [www.surfingtosurvive.com](http://www.surfingtosurvive.com).

## Vigils for Israel and Gaza with hostage focus as deaths mount

Vigils have been held across Byron Shire following the terrorist attacks and hostage-taking in Israel by Hamas.

The weekend saw the Israeli Byron community and supporters march quietly, to the Byron Bay iconic lighthouse, wearing the names and faces of their families and people still held hostage by Hamas. They hope to increase awareness of the situation and pray for their safe and fast return.



The Israeli Byron community raising awareness of the hostages still held by Hamas. Photo Adi Refaeli

As Israel continues its air and ground offensive in Gaza in response to the Hamas terrorist attacks Byron Friends of Palestine are calling for a 'ceasefire' and 'critical humanitarian aid' to be provided.

They are holding a peaceful rally 'practising respect and de-escalation' on Sunday, November 5 at 11am at Main Beach, Byron Bay. They are fundraising for the Palestinian Children's Relief Fund.

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## Taking the time to honour the dead

October 29 was Day of the Dead and many locals took the time to remember loved ones. 'It was a day of honouring loss and death, both locally and globally. For some their losses were raw and recent, for others it was long ago, together as a community we held and supported each other, assisting us to live on without those people in our lives,' said organiser Zenith Virago.  
Photo Jeff Dawson

## Proposed Saddle Road employment estate

► Continued from page 1 denied the suggestions. 'It's really uncool for people to be making up stories like that when it is just absolutely the opposite,' he said. 'So there's no danger that this is a de facto residential development?' Cr Lyon continued. 'This is primarily a business and industrial lands development that has a live aspect that facilitates the industrial or business use?' 'Absolutely,' Mr Connelly said. He said that the design of the live/work spaces would make it 'impossible' for someone who was not intimately

involved in the business activities to live there. He also said that anyone using the spaces would be constrained by the terms of the development consent, and the strata rules that would apply. With housing at a premium in the Shire, developers and landlords stand to make huge profits from residential development. Mr Connelly's assurances appeared to satisfy Council that the developer of the proposed employment hub was not chasing these riches. Council gave the project preliminary, conditional approval at the meeting. This paves the way for

the proposal to move to the next stage in the planning process, which is to get 'gateway' approval from the Department of Planning. This step is required because the proposed developed involves large areas of the site being rezoned from RU2 rural landscape to business and industrial. The hub, which includes 6.5 hectares of built areas, would include separate precincts, one for a business park, another for a 'traditional industrial precinct', and a larger live/work area. The proposal does not specify the number or exact type of buildings to be included in 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. Significant parts of the broader site would also be regenerated to include rain-forest, wet eucalypt forest, and forested wetlands. All publicly available planning documents in relation to the project can be viewed in the agenda of last week's Council meeting.

## Fine dismissed over parking signage



Aslan Shand

On Monday, October 23, local Byron resident Rocco Marinelli contested a parking fine issued by Byron Shire Council for parking near the pool in Byron Bay. The site where he parked was behind the swimming pool in a designated motorcycle park. Mr Marinelli accepted that he had parked in a motorcycle park but challenged the fine on the basis that the signage was not clear. 'My argument was that the signage was not adequate and could, and was easily missed,' he told *The Echo*. 'Outside Mercarto both the written signs and paint markings on the ground are unambiguous. In the case of the car park near the pool, the sign is so small that I missed it and many other people are missing it on a daily basis. In preparation for my case at court today I would visit

the site and on a daily basis observe that other drivers are making the same mistake. The magistrate agreed with my contention and dismissed the fine,' he said. However, BSC Legal Counsel, Ralph James, maintains that the 'signage is clear' and 'Council has no reason to revisit other fines issued in this area.' 'Mr Marinelli entered a plea of guilty, i.e. he admitted that he disobeyed a motor-bike parking sign,' explained Mr James. Mr Marinelli has questioned why Council has not made the road markings clearer in the style of Mercarto and questioned 'how much revenue this one particular spot is bringing in?'. 'In the case of the car park near the pool, the space is the same size as a car and the indication that it is a motorcycle park is buried at the bottom of the sign.'

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## Heritage House hopes to stand on its own stumps

Paul Bibby

The Bangalow Historical Society says it can successfully operate the Bangalow Heritage House on its own without the significant level of intervention proposed by Byron Council.

The Heritage House, located on 4 Ashton Road, is a museum containing many photos and artefacts which tell part of Bangalow's story.

But the space has struggled financially in recent years due to the impacts of COVID-19, the floods, and other challenges.

Byron Council, which owns the land holding the heritage house, is set to step in to ensure the space remains viable.

A motion coming before last Thursday's Council meeting sought to allocate \$12,000 from the community buildings budget to explore the multi-purpose use of the site. It also sought to undertake an expressions of interest process to bring in one or more not-for-profit organisations, and a commercial cafe operation.

While the museum would continue to operate under the new set up, the character of the space would change significantly.



**Bangalow Heritage House.** Photo Byron Shire Council

But in an address to councillors during public access, the Bangalow Historical Society's publicity officer Christobel Munson said the committee was well on the way to righting the financial ship, and asked that they be allowed to continue.

The financial turnaround had been achieved, in large part, by hiring part of the space out to various community groups.

'Spending \$12,000 on an options study is overkill,' Ms Munson said.

'Come and meet with us. We have enough expertise within our team and community to assess collaboratively the best way forward.'

'The motivations of the people who volunteer and our community should be nurtured. Any perceived threat to our community and the work we do is demoralising and counterproductive.'

Ms Munson said that the Historical Society had run several popular exhibitions at the Bangalow Heritage House recently.

She said the committee was exploring how the space could become Bangalow's first official information centre, and was also looking at partnering with a young local couple to provide a 'low-key coffee cart' in keeping with the all-natural parklands precinct.

Ms Munson's arguments convinced a majority of councillors to hold off on the scoping study and other plans, at least for now.

The councillors voted to defer consideration of the matter until no later than December so that Council could engage with the society.

Labor Councillor Asren Pugh was appointed as a councillor representative.

## BBB prepares for Charity Golf Day

The Byron Bay Boardriders (BBB) are running the 12th annual Skullcandy Byron Bay Boardriders Charity Golf Day on 10 December.

The event has raised over \$70,000 since its inception and the club wholeheartedly thanks the Byron Bay Community for generously donating through hole sponsorship and raffle donations. In addition to helping fund BBB junior programs, the club has used the funds to help community members recover from setbacks such as sudden loss of a parent, fighting cancer, and brain trauma.

### Get involved

The event also features the 11th annual Surf Industry Challenge which allows local surf companies to compete to get their names on the



**Danny Wills keeping his eye on the ball, or vice versa, and Kraka with the spire trophy at the Byron Bay Golf Club.** Photo Jeff 'Eyeballs Are My Skull Candy' Dawson

coveted perpetual trophy designed by Mark 'Mono' Stewart and to display the trophy for the coming year. Local surf companies are highly encouraged to play, especially as Willsy has finally lost his eligibility and the trophy can be taken back from perennial

winners Quiksilver. You don't have to be a good golfer to join in and the event is open to all. Surfction will again sponsor the junior golf event on the day. To play contact Byron Bay Golf Club. For hole sponsorship or raffle donations please contact 0431 570 574.

## Save a man's life! Free men's health checks in Byron

Men are notorious for being completely in the dark about the state of their health with 41,000 Australian men dying of heart disease each year.

To combat this, a confidential health screening program, sponsored by Rotary, is seeking out local menfolk who haven't seen

the inside of a doctor's rooms for years – the blokes who are likely to drop dead because nobody saw it coming.

The Men's Health Education Rural Van (MHERV) will be in Byron Bay offering local men quick five or ten minute health checks. They

will be located at the Byron Bay RSL car park, 132 Jonson Street on November 8 from 9.30am till 3.30pm. Then at the Byron Bay Bowling Club car park, 18-20 Marvell Street on November 9 from 9.30am till 3.30pm.

While men are the key target all adults are welcome.

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## Sales in Ballina Shire

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35 Deegan Dr	12 Simmons St	11 Range St	28 Seaswell Cres	34 Cerreto Cct
48 Lismore Rd	93 Temple St	29 Silver Gull Dr	10 Silkwood Rd	14 Eskimo Ct
1 Tyrone Pl	7-9 Skinner St	11 Wattle Cres	67 Stewart St	35 Hellyar Dr
17 Whipps Ave	<b>CUMBALUM</b>	<b>LENNOX HEAD</b>	<b>MEERSCHAUM VALE</b>	18 Rifle Range Rd
38 Whipps Ave	62 Unara Parkway	17 Beryl Pl	475 Bagotville Rd	
<b>BALLINA</b>	1 Highfield Tce	31 Beryl Pl	<b>SKENNARS HEAD</b>	
18 Bolding St	<b>EAST BALLINA</b>	7 Dress Circle Dr	4 Kerry Ct	
35 Burnet St	19 Bayview Dr	18 Dress Circle Dr	13 Killarney Cres	
1/41 Catherine Cres	81 Eyles Dr	1/36 Fox Valley Way	5 Trinity Pl	
103 Crane st	11 Lakeview Cct	99B Hutley Dr	<b>WEST BALLINA</b>	
17 Harrier St	5 McKinnon St	7 Karalauren Ct	1/12 Dolphin Dr	
29 Martin St	23 Peppercorne Pl			



## Sales in Byron Shire

<b>BRUNSWICK HEADS</b>	<b>COORABELL</b>	14 Murwillumbah Rd	<b>OCEAN SHORES</b>	<b>SUFFOLK PARK</b>
9-11 Mullumbimbi St	525 Coorabell Rd	10 New City Rd	128 Balemo Drv	4 Alcorn St
14 Park St	<b>FEDERAL</b>	2 River Tce	16 Bulgoon Cres	36 Alcorn St
82 Tweed St	453 Federal Dr	70 Station St	22 Glendale Cres	132 Alcorn St
<b>BYRON BAY</b>	<b>MULLUMBIMBY</b>	<b>MYOCUM</b>	6 Kolora Way	52 Beech Dr
10 Burns St	10 Cudgerie Crt	18 Bilin Rd	9 Miami Pl	56 Brandon St
8 Centennial Cct	27 Dalley St	815 Myocum Rd	31 Yalla Kool Dr	148 Broken Head Rd
39 Marvell St	81 McGoughans Lane		11 Yungarup Pl	<b>Upper Main Arm</b>
47 Paterson St			6 Yungarup Pl	1363 Main Arm Rd



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**Avoid handling bats to protect against lyssavirus**

Northern NSW residents are reminded to avoid handling or touching injured or dead flying foxes and microbats to protect themselves against infection from viruses including Australian bat lyssavirus, which is very dangerous to humans.

**Lismore forum tucks into the topic of food security**

How can we create a food system in the Northern Rivers that's not only secure but also fair and flourishing? The Living Lab, 11 Woodlark Street. 2 November, 10.30am-12pm

**Man in 50s killed in Stokers Siding crash**

A man believed to be in his 50s has died in a crash at Stokers Siding on Monday morning, police say.

**Water restrictions likely before Christmas**

Much of the Northern Rivers could be on water restrictions by Christmas unless there is significant rain.

**Ballina's bouncing boundaries**

Many people assume that in a civilised country like Australia, electoral boundaries are all taken care of by impartial officials, but in Ballina, it turns out councillors have some say in deciding their own ward boundaries within the shire.

**Country mayors call for regional crime inquiry**

Ballina Mayor Sharon Cadwalader used a mayoral minute in the Ballina Shire Council meeting to call for a parliamentary inquiry into crime, law and order in regional NSW, in line with a recent report from the Country Mayors Association.

**Helping homeless 'not core business' but 'we have to help each other' say Tweed Council**

Tweed Shire has the third highest rate of homelessness in NSW and in the 2021 census 'we had the biggest increase in homelessness across NSW and it is time to take action'.

www.echo.net.au

# Fireworks over C zone debate in Ballina

Last week's Ballina Shire Council meeting saw accusations and insults hurled across the chamber as councillors split down the middle on the contentious issue of conservation zones.

The question boils down to whether rural landowners should be able to decide for themselves if there are C zones on their properties, ('opting in'), or whether these areas should be identified in collaboration with Council staff on the basis of evidence and negotiation, as part of the modernisation and integration of rural zones.

Progressive councillors brought on a rescission motion in an attempt to undo the previous (very tight) decision to support opt-in C zones, noting that Council staff and the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) have expressed concerns about Ballina Council's direction on the issue.

**Conservation or conservation zones?**

There was a surprising deputation from koala

activist Maria Matthes, who said, 'I almost can't believe that I am speaking against conservation zones, but this is about conservation and not conservation zones.' She suggested that inconsistencies in the application of conservation zones risked alienating landholders, with potentially negative implications for wildlife corridors, especially when weedy areas are identified as holding conservation value.

'I would like to see Ballina Council go back to where it should have been 11 years ago, with the new biodiversity strategy in hand, and bring landholders along for the biodiversity conservation journey,' she said.

During the debate that followed, Cr Jeff Johnson said he'd seen some bad decisions on Council over his last 15 years, 'but the proposal to make a major decision on property zoning classifications before the end of an extensive public consultation period, or reporting back to Council, has to be one of the worst.'

He said the recent feedback from the state government indicated that

the new approach failed every test. 'I'm shocked at the way this final process has been hijacked; that proper process isn't being allowed to be followed.'

Cr Johnson said Council staff had already alleviated concerns about C zones from Cr Eva Ramsey and others, when they made it clear 'that no existing farming practices or areas would be impacted, or would be proposed to be impacted by the zoning review.'

**A practical environmentalist**

Describing himself as a practical environmentalist with a family background in farming, Cr Johnson said concerns about weedy areas being inappropriately protected had also been addressed, with aerial vegetation mapping to be followed by more detailed analysis on the ground.

'I don't believe any councillor at this table wants to stop existing farming operations within the Shire,' he said. Cr Johnson said it was totally inappropriate for many years of work

from staff to be halted due to a 50/50 split decision of councillors. 'The casting vote of the mayor, in my opinion, is a total misuse of that important role.'

Cr Johnson then described the advice from the DPE in response as 'damning', with negative implications for the high conservation value land adjoining Burns Point Ferry Road (recently nominated for C zone protection, and the subject of a law suit from the developer, GemLife).

He said that if the rescission motion was unsuccessful, then Ballina Council would be brought 'into further disrepute, costing ratepayers even more money.'

Cr Rod Bruem argued that according to his understanding of state law, C zones and agriculture were not compatible. This was refuted by staff member Matt Wood, who said 'it is possible to have conservation zones and still have some agricultural land uses as the Council sees fit.'

There is more to this story. You can read it online at [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au).

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# CCTV images released as part of investigations into attempted Murwillumbah robbery

NSW police have released CCTV images and are asking the public for help as part of investigations into an attempted armed robbery at Murwillumbah last week.

Officers say they were called to a service station on Murwillumbah's Tweed Valley Way around 2.50pm on Tuesday, 24 October after reports of the incident.

Upon arrival, officers heard a man had entered the store and produced a gun before threatening staff and firing a shot into the ceiling.

## No one injured

No one was injured, and the man fled empty-handed in a white Holden ute. Police say they tried to stop the ute on Byangum Road and took chase when the driver failed to stop as directed but shortly ended the pursuit for safety reasons.

Officers have released CCTV images of the ute and a man they believe can help with their investigation.



A CCTV image of the man police want to question in regards to an attempted armed robbery in Murwillumbah.

The man depicted is shown wearing a white shirt with a black chest motif, black pants, blue face mask, a red Coca-Cola bucket hat, and white Nike sneakers

The white Holden Colorado ute in the footage

is missing licence plates and appears to have damage to the front left-hand side wheel arch.

Anyone with information, or relevant dashcam footage, can contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

# Iron Gates housing development – how many chances will the developers get?

The development application (DA) for the Iron Gates housing development outside Evans Head has been refused by the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) and in a review by the Land and Environment Court (L&EC).

The registrar said it looked like a new DA compared to the one submitted nine years ago, yet the developers are continuing to pursue the multi-amended version of the 2014 DA even though many of the latest amendments have not seen public scrutiny.

At the case management conference of the L&EC on Wednesday, 25 October the second respondent in the case (Simone Barker) pushed for the case to be dismissed altogether, but this request was rejected by the court. Instead the case was rescheduled for hearing on 3 to 14 of June 2024.

The hearing scheduled for this Friday was vacated with the applicant to pay the costs of Richmond Valley Council and Simone Barker.

It was Graeme Ingles of Goldcoral Pty Ltd who took the DA to the L&EC for review following its rejection by the

NRPP in September 2022.

Goldcoral Pty Ltd was then put into 'administration' and a new firm of lawyers, Corrs Chambers Westgarth took over legal proceedings in the L&EC on behalf of new clients. Those clients are thought to be 'the money' behind the Ingles development.

At Wednesday's L&EC conference the lack of public scrutiny of the latest range of changes was raised by the solicitor acting for Richmond Valley Council (RVC) who pointed out that residents should have the opportunity to be heard.

It appears that opportunity is now available at next year's June hearing. Dr Richard Gates, spokesperson for Evans Head Residents for Sustainable Development said today that the continuation of the Goldcoral matter beyond the ninth birthday of the original application raises serious questions about a number of matters including but not limited to:

1. How many bites of the cherry an applicant should get for an amended DA,
2. The enormous cost to the

community in both money and time and related increased burden in insurance and infrastructure costs which will necessarily arise over time.

3. The changing circumstances of an area zoned more than 40 years ago for residential development particularly when there are dramatic increases in fire and flood risk as climate change and ocean level rises bear down on coastal properties.

4. The climate change legacy costs future generations will have to bear for failure to acknowledge the changing and volatile environment where a sea level rise of up to 5 metres from the rapid melting of the Western Ice Shelf of Antarctica will impact the site, not the middle-of-the-road, Scenario 3, sea level rise of 900mm that Richmond Valley Council has chosen for its recently-adopted 2023 flood studies. Such a conservative decision is 'kicking the can down the road' and flies in the face of intergenerational equity, he said.

You can read more of this story at: [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au).



## Have your say on the draft Single-use Packaging and Materials Policy

We want to phase out unnecessary single-use packaging waste in the Byron Shire.

If you are involved with events and markets on Council land, use Council facilities or volunteer for Council then this policy will impact you.

Find out more about the Policy and make a submission on Your Say Byron Shire.

Feedback closes 28 November.

### More information

- 🌐 <https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/single-use-policy>
- ✉ [rrwastecollection@byron.nsw.gov.au](mailto:rrwastecollection@byron.nsw.gov.au)
- ☎ 1300 652 625



[www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au)



The Byron Shire Echo  
Volume 38 #21 • November 1, 2023

# Israel. Palestine. Gaza.

## Time for drug law reform

The ACT is leading the way and it is time for NSW to step up and address the adverse impact of current drug laws.

On Saturday, 28 October the ACT decriminalised illicit drugs in small quantities, including cocaine, heroin, ice and MDMA. These changes are taking place around the world, as it is recognised that the 'war on drugs' has failed and a health-based approach is needed.

'A shift to a focus on health-based and community responses for drug use and dependency rather than seeing the police and the courts as the place where we seek to address this, is long overdue but warmly welcomed,' said Alice Salomon, Uniting NSW ACT's Head of Media and Advocacy.

'For over 20 years, we have run the Kings Cross Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) and have seen first-hand that when we treat addiction as a health issue and offer appropriate supports to people, that positive changes happen.'

NSW Labor Premier Chris Minns had promised that a NSW drug summit would be held if he was elected but has not confirmed when that will take place. It was NSW Labor leader Bob Carr who held the 1999 drug summit that led to the development of the safe injecting rooms, an idea that has been picked up around the world to address drug addiction. Carr had also made it an election promise and fulfilled that promise within two months of being elected.

'I think we can all agree that real reform when it comes to our

**'Changes are taking place around the world, as it is recognised that the 'war on drugs' has failed and a health-based approach is needed'**

unfair drug laws is long overdue and incredibly important,' pointed out Ms Salomon.

'We are particularly watching what happens in NSW and the announcement from the NSW premier on the date and time for the long-promised drug summit in NSW.

'In the ACT they have taken an evidence-based approach and shown a willingness to act in line with community values to support people and treat drug use as a health and social issue – that's good government.

'The Queensland government has also committed to drug checking and are exploring expansion of drug diversion for all drugs. NSW is so far behind,' she said.

It is time for Minns and the NSW Labor government to step forward and take action. The 2020 Ice Inquiry was clear that action was needed and that it was time to reframe NSW drug policy towards a health response.

With summer on its way, no pill testing available and inaction from the NSW Labor government in regard to drug policy reform, we will see more unnecessary deaths and more people criminalised.

Aslan Shand, acting editor

There is a beautiful apocryphal story I heard shortly after the twin towers were attacked in New York. A Native American lawyer was asked by her elderly great uncle to take him to see the cavernous site where the buildings once stood. The old uncle stood there for several minutes, tears rolling down his cheeks. The lawyer asked her uncle what he was feeling. The uncle answered:

'I feel that there are two wolves fighting in my heart. One is the wolf of anger, revenge, war and hatred. The other is the wolf of forgiveness, reflection, peace and love.'

'Which wolf will win Uncle?' asks the lawyer.

He answers 'the one I feed'.

And that is how I felt after the attack on southern Israel where friends of friends and family of family were mercilessly mutilated, tortured, killed, raped or taken. I was aghast and appalled at the horror and loss of life, especially of the kibbutznics, many of who were in turn aghast and appalled at their own government's right-wing religious fanaticism and treatment of the Palestinians.

And we can see which wolf the Israeli government fed immediately after the terrorist violence – and it wasn't the second. Feasting on Nazi references and dehumanising language there was not a hint of taking stock, securing the borders and giving some space to think 'where to from here?', or 'how did we get here?'

There was no deep breath. And as I watched the retribution or self-defence killing, bombing, starvation and banishment of civilians in Gaza – many no doubt utterly opposed to the zealotry and oppression of Hamas – I ruminated at the mess of blood and arrogance and eye-for-an-eye that the Middle East had become. I felt blessed that our First Nations people have reacted so peacefully to the latest stab in the eye that we meted out to them. (It was just a fucking advisory group that somehow the Dutton/Murdoch machine turned into a misclaim of racism and division).



**'I felt blessed that our First Nations people have reacted so peacefully to the latest stab in the eye that we meted out to them'**

David Heilpern

America reacted to the twin towers with wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. More US soldiers died in those wars of retribution than all victims of 9/11 and for what – the Taliban are back in control in Afghanistan and Iraq is a despotic democracy-free basket case. Let alone the hundreds of thousands of civilian and enemy military deaths.

How have others reacted to terrorism? Well, the English in Ireland, in retrospect, did not do too badly, and resisted for example carpet bombing the Catholic areas of Belfast to smother the 'terrorists' from there. Largely (and not without blemish) they used the criminal justice system and the rule of law. My favourite-accented people have achieved peace where few thought it would ever come.

The Dali Lama appeals to his followers regarding Chinese repression of Tibetans – teaching that 'they should practise non-violence and not waiver from that path, however serious the situation might be'.

Christians promote (and before them the Buddha promoted) turning the other cheek, but there is not much of that in the Middle East right now.

And what happens if Israel invades and removes the key personnel from Hamas? What will fill that vacuum in a nursery of hatred and bile? What choice does Israel have but to invade?

Can we really expect them to do nothing while missiles still rain down? Of course the letter writers to *The Echo* have all the answers, choosing sides with their PhDs in international law.

But these questions are very challenging for we merely mortal, uncertain, disconnected, irreligious North Coasters of Jewish heritage

right now, although even that statement feels like a self-indulgence in the face of the terror felt by civilians on both sides.

Most of us long ago gave up critiquing Israel on anything, even as it staggered toward the extreme because of the barrage of commentary, letters and abuse from Zionists who labelled us 'self-hating Jews' and 'internalised anti-Semites'. Of course, I believe in Israel's right to exist, many of us just think that in the long run it is more likely to survive by complying with international law, cutting out the repression and treating Palestinians decently. And we reckon that there will be less Jewish world-rule conspiracy garbage here, there and everywhere if they stop conflating any criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism.

Just now I am capable of feeling great aching sorrow for the loss of innocent life and suffering on both sides. If I were a better person I'd be finding space in my heart for the slain Hamas boy terrorists and their families too. It is not a question of moral equivalence, it is a question of blood, sweat and tears. We all bleed, perspire and cry just the same whatever our religion or flag. I don't care who fired the first, or the worst shot, or who was there before others 2,000 or 200 years ago. I just pray it will stop. Please stop killing children.

In the name of Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed and God, just stop.

Each night the wolves in my heart are fighting too, but I am drip feeding the one of forgiveness, reflection, peace and love. I hope it will prevail.

■ David Heilpern is Dean of Law at Southern Cross University.



The Byron Shire Echo  
Volume 38 #21 November 1, 2023  
Established 1986 • 24,500 copies every week

www.echo.net.au

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Nicholas Shand  
1948–1996  
Founding Editor

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

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

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

– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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## Repent?

Beware, the end is nigh!  
**Peter Walters**  
 Ballina

## Treaty now!

The NSW government took the land, and Treaty is a long time coming. Keep it simple and call the Treaty now. Treaty is a consensus of hearts and minds whether partial or full. Why do we need suffer through more disconnection and ill-education? All interested parties will benefit in some way and if you're not interested that's fine too. The ideal is the Treaty so call it now.

**Kim Komesarook**  
 Byron Bay

## Future housing

Am I wrong or is the proposed development of thousands more houses to be added to the Byron Shire unrealistic?

Ok, so where are the proposed schools, shops, and industrial centres to cater for the influx of residents? Where are the proposed upgrades for sewage and water? When will Byron Council fix up all the stuff-ups with stormwater infrastructure that exist? This just seems like a complete lack of planning to me and again Council seems to just ignore the obvious – that we need to have infrastructure and functional infrastructure not patched-up patches of failed infrastructure. This is absolute madness. We have not got even a connection of footpaths or cycleways. Here we have a Council with development plans for our future that cannot even fix our existing problems. This has to stop, it is ludicrous.

**Annie Radermacher**  
 Brunswick Heads



Cartoon by Brendan Kelly

## Milk of human blindness

Media stories of the strikes in the dairy industry mostly discuss possible shortages in shops and the likelihood that perishable milk will be wasted. There are mentions of the exploitation of the drivers and factory workers, but what of the main victims – the cows and calves?

One farmer has reported tipping 14,000 litres of milk down the drain. That represents the milk produced by about 700 cows in a day, not for greedy corporations but for their calves, who are instead taken from them and killed, or forced into the same cycle of endless artificial insemination until worn out.

This is a brutal industry. 'Bobby calves' are shot, hit on the head with hammers,

or trucked for up to 30 hours to slaughterhouses at five days old, hungry and terrified. The mothers, often suffering chronic mastitis, can be heard frantically crying out for days after their babies have been torn from them.

Only this industry could define allowing a baby to drink milk as 'waste'. You can help! Stop buying dairy products, and the giant dairy corporations will stop this vile cycle of breeding and killing.

**Desmond Bellamy**  
 Special Projects  
 Coordinator PETA Australia

## In essence

The essence of the last four unpublished *Echo* Letters from this writer is that the journalist, Tucker Carlson, says, 'there will be a hot war between USA and Russia next year'.

A letter sent to *The Echo* on October 6, a day before the latest war began, stated: 'War is outdated: there are no winners in war, just endless suffering. Proponents of war are driving this world toward its final conclusion'. The Muslim countries will have around five million troops available, Pakistan has offered to loan Turkey nuclear weapons and Russia has guaranteed Iran's security.

Within weeks, a million could die of thirst. A letter sent months ago stated, 'by 2025 the war will have spread everywhere'. The Ukraine war and mid-east war may eventually morph into a single world war. The US elections may be cancelled due to the war.

For those who really do want the Indigenous to have a voice, I am sure you will now support immediate Voice legislation, with a similar role as suggested by the referendum. If a Voice Commission is not now legislated by parliament, that will mean politicians do not want the Indigenous to have a voice.

**Peter Olson**  
 Goonengerry

## Bibby is right

Paul Bibby is absolutely correct regarding the palpable relief of residents following Commissioner Dickson's dismissal of the appeal by Denwol Suffolk against Byron Shire Council's determination of a refusal for the mixed-use over development in Clifford Street, Suffolk Park.

The destruction of the protected cypress pine forest at the site may have been the primary reason for Commissioner Dickson's decision to

▶ Continued on next page

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## Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

## AND THE FAMOUS RAILS KITCHEN

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 Garry Griffin, with over 30 years' experience, is a dedicated naturopath and a beacon of holistic wellness, empowering individuals to achieve optimal health through the integration of nature-based healing methods and modern medical insights. With a passion for natural medicine, and a commitment to individualised care, Garry has become a trusted authority in the field of naturopathy.

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 When Life \*Breaks Our \*Precious \*DREAMS.  
 Or as **GENIUS** JIMI HENDRIX says,  
**If UR 6 \*Turned out 2B 9\***



**69**

If the sun refused to shine  
 I don't mind, I don't mind  
 If the mountains, fell in the sea  
 Let it be, **it ain't me**  
 Got my own world to live through  
 And I ain't gonna copy you,  
 Yeah, sing the song brother. **Dig.**  
**\*Now if 6 turned out to be 9\***  
 I don't mind, I don't mind  
 If all the hippies cut off all their hair  
 I don't care, I don't care...

More than just another Hendrix **EXPERIENCE!**  
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 Jimi Hendrix one of a kind, **was so ahead of his times.**  
 The world **has never caught up. And never will.**

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 with these beautiful words, (1967).  
**UCAN** find my graph plotting **Road Fatals vs Suicides**, almost top of  
 homepage, with **DATA sources used** at bottom of Graph.  
 With **100,000 ACTUAL \*Suicides** last 43 years since 1980, **75% \*Males!**  
 That's a **HUGE # of Good Aussie Reasons** for changing the Thinking, Research,  
**Actions/Delivery of \*Suicide Prevention; including USER-END/FRIENDLY,**  
**WHOLE COMMUNITY EDUCATION,** Australia wide.  
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**\*Emergency 000, Any \*Doctor, \*Lifeline 13 11 14.**  
 Created by sheep farmer Tim Barritt. Barossa Valley, S.A.

► Continued from page 13 refuse consent. However, it is important to emphasise that it was not the only reason. According to advice from Council's legal experts, the issue of ecology concerning the Coastal Pine Endangered Ecological Community (EEC) was determinative. Once the DA was refused on biodiversity grounds there was no need to go into other critical matters such as traffic congestion and risk, tourist accommodation, etc. The commissioner was simply not required to do so. This information may be of interest to others fighting large-scale developments of a similar type throughout the shire. Twenty-two reasons for objections to the modified DA by concerned residents were cited in the commissioner's judgement. The apparent disregard of most of these is common in appeals and happens often. Legal advice added that subsequent delving into other issues is not a great use of public resources. So, while additional areas of specific community concern may have been omitted, they are not diminished. Some were addressed briefly and explicitly in the judgment, such as the impact of removing trees on the character of the locality. Others

were broached implicitly in conditions imposed by Council or amendments (e.g. no tourist accommodation and flooding provisions) or discussion of wider impacts (e.g. koala habitat). We are not celebrating yet. The recent fires have increased this community's anxiety regarding bushfire evacuation and survival. Suffolk Park's single road out of the village intersects with a sub-arterial road. Along with the development's impact on other areas, in addition to ecology, concerns are yet to be allayed whilst the community awaits the developer's decision on the 'appropriate path forward.' It is envisioned that the decision by the developer is in the public interest and not yet more litigation.

Lynne Richardson  
 Suffolk Park

**The gang of four**  
 Prior to Dec 2021, the Ballina Council under the stewardship of Mayor David Wright was a relatively progressive, well-balanced council largely free of corrosive party politics - what a difference two years makes. The election of Mayor Sharon Cadwallader, and Councillors Eva Ramsey, Nigel Buchanan and Rod Bruem under the deceptive banner of 'Independents' appears to

have opened up a cache of opportunistic conservative politics. First they try to dismantle Ballina's strong environmental regulations by resting the imposition of a review of the C2 Conservation Zone initiated by Council mapping staff, and allowing landholders to 'opt in' to a scheme where they can have their properties rezoned to outdated, less restrictive environmental regulations from the 1980s. Cr Bruem calls this 'property rights', and our 'Independent' Mayor Sharon Cadwallader again had to use her casting vote to carry Cr Bruem's motion. Full credit to Crs Johnson, Chate, Dicker, Meehan and McCarthy for standing up for the last remaining 20 per cent of Ballina Shire's natural vegetation.

Keith Duncan  
 Pimlico

If the proposed changes this gang of four ultra-conservative councillors are trying to force through the Electoral Commission are approved, regarding the redistribution of A and B Wards, it will be harder to remove them at the upcoming local government elections, and that's a very scary thought.

**A community vision**  
 Northern Rivers Rail Ltd are excited about the news that a potential local development includes an offer to help extend train services towards Mullumbimby. Michael Hunter, who owns the property at 29 Buckleys Road, Tyagarah, wants to provide housing, including low cost, with a special section for women. He has a vision that is community and environment-focused. He will provide a 'Tyagarah Sanctuary Peace Train' station near his property for local access to the train services we are working towards providing. If you support these initiatives please write a note of support on the Byron Shire Council website by Monday, 6 November. The link is: [tinyurl.com/TyagarahHousing](http://tinyurl.com/TyagarahHousing). This can help to bring flood-free housing, in a beautiful environment as well as a climate-friendly train service, to the Byron Shire. We are also holding an information evening at Bangalow Bowlo on Thursday, 16 November from 6pm. Please come along if you support trains returning.

Lydia Kindred  
 NRRL Secretary

*Oh I could drink a case of you darling  
 and I would still be on my feet  
 oh I would still be on my feet*  
 - Joni Mitchell



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# All the way where with the USA? The PM in Washington

David Lowe

Anthony Albanese missed out on the B-52s, but he did talk to lots of people about nuclear submarines on his latest trip to the USA. He also made announcements about cybersecurity, minerals and technology sharing.

With the American political system held hostage by extreme Republicans in the House of Representatives, there was no opportunity for Mr Albanese to address a joint sitting of Congress, as planned by ambassador Kevin Rudd, so the prime minister had to make do with a series of side meetings.

For a black tie dinner at the White House with President Biden, he took partner Jodie Haydon and a grab bag of other Australians, including rapper The Kid Laroi, chair of the Australian Rugby League Commission Peter V'landys, Bluescope CEO Mark Vassella, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry head Andrew McKellar and Macquarie boss Shemara Wikramanayake.

Novelty '80s hit-makers the B-52s were invited, but

replaced at the last minute as musical performers by the White House military band, considered more appropriate for a time of war.

In his speech, Anthony Albanese quoted Joe Biden's late son Major Beau Biden, who reportedly said that in wartime 'when there's an Australian with you, they'll always have your back.' This remains true, both in a small and big picture sense, but it's unclear if the reverse applies. Since 1941, when Prime Minister John Curtin transferred our allegiance from the UK and said Australia looked to America 'without inhibitions of any kind', we have followed our giant, unpredictable ally across the Pacific to wars in Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf. Now both governments are apparently in lockstep on Israel.

Time will tell if this partnership has made the Pacific or the wider world any safer, but both countries are significant arms suppliers, which makes the talk of desire for peace from both leaders more than a little hollow.

With a staggering \$368 billion heading in America's direction for nuclear



submarines to be delivered in the distant future, Anthony Albanese was anxious to shore up the deal, which is dependent on the US government remaining stable enough to keep their end of the bargain. This is impossible for Biden or anyone else to promise, considering that if extreme Republicans get their way, the United States will soon be unable to pay their own federal

employees, with further chaos guaranteed to follow.

## Make America gaga again

After meeting confused Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, the Australian prime minister sat down with newly elected House leader Mike Johnson.

This was shortly after Johnson was elevated from

obscurity to the country's second most powerful political position, thanks to the blessing of Donald Trump, a man facing 91 charges and rising. Whether Mr Johnson had any idea who Albo was is unclear, but he certainly gave no assurances about AUKUS.

Johnson has publicly propelled the lie that the 2020 US election was stolen, wants homosexuality criminalised, and believes global warming is a hoax. Guns are much-loved by the National Rifle Association, so it's unlikely the two leaders discussed Australia's approach to gun violence, even with the latest mass shooting in Maine fresh in everyone's minds.

Reaffirming Australia's status as the quarry of the world, the most senior government figure to accompany Mr Albanese on his trip to the US was Resources Minister Madeleine King. In line with Biden's vaunted green energy revolution, this time she wasn't talking about coal and gas but 'critical minerals' such as cobalt, lithium, manganese and rare earths, which are currently largely mined and processed by China. There will be

another \$2bn in (Australian) taxpayer money to support the growth of a local industry aimed at export, with the US presumably the main market.

Mr Albanese also announced that Microsoft was going to be Australia's new national cybersecurity partner, inspiring alarm in anyone who has wasted months of their life staring at the blue screen of death.

Off the official agenda was Julian Assange, still sought by the USA for extradition from Belmarsh Prison for revealing war crimes to the world, although Mr Albanese said he did raise the matter privately with Joe Biden. He told journalists 'Australian officials are working very hard to achieve an outcome' although a recent freedom of information request from Rex Patrick revealed little evidence of this.

The next stop on Albo's world tour is China. Can he solve the pressing global issue of Australian wine tariffs, or will backbencher Scott Morrison's recent intervention in Taiwan upstage him? Stay tuned for next week's exciting instalment!




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## DAY CHANGE

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# Further reflections on the Voice referendum

## Copping flack

Having copped some flack for voting 'No' in the proposed referendum change, I must explain. The 1975 *Racial Discrimination Act* plainly states that we are all equal under the law, and must not discriminate between people on the basis of race. Accordingly, I had no choice but to vote 'No'.

**John Jennings**  
Numinbah

## Broke politics

Now that the Australian people have given the right answer to the wrong question, perhaps voters of this shire still sore at the demise of a righteous pipe dream can meditate on how \$400 million could have been better spent towards those actually in need?

Recently, I saw an advert with Bob Brown decrying the destruction of Tasmanian forests. Boy did that take me back. It took me back to the 1980s with Temagami and Carmanah; fights to protect old-growth forests. It took me back to a time when environmentalists were actually environmentalists and stuck

to their knitting: toxins in the water, toxins in the air, toxins on the land, toxins in the food and the preservation of significant geographical heritage. Exactly the kind of heritage currently home to endangered koalas now set for destruction by the Lotus Creek Project for yet another Don Quixote 'Climate Justice' wind farm.

It is long past time to salvage what was right of the environment movement from the wreckage of 'woke' politics. Don't shoot the messenger.

**Edward Kent**  
Suffolk Park

## Does a 'No' voter get a voice?

It was no surprise to see the range of letters to the editor in *The Echo* condemning the failure of the Voice to Parliament referendum and offering a range of insults and denigration to explain their views being rejected by a 2/3 majority of their peers, well not peers in their eyes obviously.

Of course there was also a range of reasons that people voted 'No' and it's likely that

some of those insults might even fit some of those voters.

The referendum question was straightforward, neither too subtle nor too complex for a person without a university degree to understand.

The Uluru Statement was heralded as an invitation. An invitation can be declined, no matter how much pressure is applied to the invitees.

We can be sure that people voted 'No' because they believed it was in their self-interest to do so, many of those voted 'No' because they believed it was in the nation's best interest and many of those voted 'No' because they believed it was in the best interests of the disadvantaged section of the Aboriginal population.

We can see now by the fury of those whose 'invitation' was declined that it was a spurious invitation, it was really more of a demand.

Government statistics show that in 2011, 56.5 per cent of partnered Indigenous males had a non-Indigenous partner, slightly lower than the corresponding figure of 59.0 per cent for Indigenous females. These figures do

not take into account that many Indigenous areas have no non-Indigenous population to marry into. This is the future of Aboriginal affairs. Unity, not division. Has anyone thought to ask their opinion?

**Tom Gubler**  
Murwillumbah

## Voice debacle

*The Echo* editorial prior to the referendum saw the intent of the referendum as being to recognise, heal the wounds and bring together all Australians.

In reality, the referendum became a plaything of the prime minister, to be used for political gain and personal aggrandisement.

In their de facto editorials on pages 10 and 12 of *The Echo* of 18 October, columnists Dr Ray Moynihan and David Lowe, respectfully, skirt around the real causes of the referendum defeat.

Dr Moynihan fails to even mention Anthony Albanese and David Lowe doesn't lay a glove on the PM, continuing the Dutton / misinformation and ignorance line.

In reality, Peter Dutton had

only a minor influence on the result, apart from opposing the question, but allowing his parliamentary colleagues a free vote on the issue.

Both correspondents fail to understand that a new and different Indigenous force, Price and Mundine, who were obviously not part of the ELITE, saw that a 'Yes' vote was a continuation of the same failed policies.

At the start of the campaign, the PM had around 70 per cent support and despite massive taxpayer funding of over \$350m was able to reduce that to sub-39 per cent.

It was the PM who broke the Indigenous hearts by mistake after mistake, putting his ego above the country.

To attempt to introduce an 18-page document into the Constitution, that [he] had not even bothered to read is the height of ignorance and arrogance, sufficient to call for his resignation.

The foul and decisive language of the likes of Marcia Langton and Ray Martin will not be quickly forgotten nor forgiven.

But all is not lost.

There always has been and continues to be a strong willingness to solve the Indigenous issues and in Price and Mundine we have a way forward.

In no particular order, schooling and education will cease to be optional, domestic violence and child abuse no longer a 'cultural thing', but a serious offence, active employment positive and meaningful, Indigenous health urgently upgraded and alcohol abuse treated respectfully, with family income protection.

The majority of Australians saw a 'Yes' vote as being a continuation of old failed practices and voted for a new, more respectful approach.

**Tim Harrington**  
Lennox Head

■ This week we had too many letters for the available space. You can see more opinions on the Voice referendum from Sheri Buob from Pottsville and Michael Balson from Upper Wilsons Creek in *The Echo's* online edition. Visit: [www.echo.net.au/letters](http://www.echo.net.au/letters).



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Byron Bowling Club  
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facebook: [byronbayrotaryclub](https://www.facebook.com/byronbayrotaryclub)





# New Tyagarah Sanctuary vision supports low-cost housing and non-road public transport for the Byron Shire

Following on from page 9 of *The Echo* October 4 publication editorial 'Time to Have Your Say on Future Housing Supply'.

A proposed development on flood-free land is set to raise the bar in providing much-needed housing and public transport options in Byron Shire.

The 'Tyagarah Sanctuary' has already attracted keen attention from Byron Councillors and NSW Planning. It knits in well with a decision by the local council to plan for public transport options, extending solar train services from Byron Bay through to Mullumbimby.

The owner of the property, adjoining Tyagarah Nature Reserve and the railway corridor, Michael Hunter, says the environmentally sensitive development has been in the planning phase since 2006. 'It is critical to provide a balance for community needs into the future without changing the charm and character that attracts tourists and those seeking a positive lifestyle change in Byron Shire.'

Michael continued, 'Our proposed development in Tyagarah at 29 Buckleys Road, now known as 'Tyagarah Sanctuary' will provide an important option to help answer the growing needs of our Byron Shire community with a positive effect on the ecological significance of the property, by increasing the area and conservation zones suggested by Council environmental staff.'

'The proposed development has 22 hectares of flood-free land. This can provide for home sites that fulfil up to 10% of the 4,500 home-sites required by state planning in the Byron Shire over the next 20 years.'

29 Buckleys Road, Tyagarah, now known as 'Tyagarah Sanctuary' was recently considered for the Byron Shire's *Housing Options Paper* in the Byron Shire Council's Refreshed Residential Strategy. It was referred to on page 9 of *The Echo* October 4 publication.

A resolution to include consideration of this property for the housing options paper was unanimously voted in for inclusion by the Council, with the Mayor seconding the motion.

Michael Hunter, the property caretaker and owner who has nurtured this property for the last 25 years, said, 'It was a peaceful result in that the Councillors overcame any doubts they may have had to proceed and unanimously voted for the future needs of our Byron Shire community.'



Big thanks to our firefighters, helicopter pilots and NPWS who helped protect valuable habitat and property in and adjacent to the Tyagarah nature reserve, an amazing effort. Image: Chopper accessing water from Tyagarah Sanctuary Lake to douse fires.

Michael went on to say, 'The development had been previously submitted to Byron Shire Councillors in 2017 and approved for the Rural Land Use Strategy.'

State Planning returned it because the Rural Land Use Strategy is overridden by the Urban Land Use capacity suitability of the site and asked for it to be included in this strategy, thus paving the way to allow smaller blocks and increased dwellings on 22 hectares. This reduced footprint of dwellings has allowed for the major part of the property of 96 hectares with 34 hectares of untouched habitat to include an additional environmental acreage for ecological benefits.

**The property has many benefits for denser urban development as it already has town water, power and access to reticulated sewerage.**

**Part of the proposal includes a manufactured home estate, which would enable up to 110 lightweight affordable homes, all within walking distance to a train station.**

As the railway corridor runs across the western part of the property the proposed development includes its own train station which Michael has affectionately named; 'Tyagarah Sanctuary "Peace Train" Station.'

As 29 Buckleys Road is not flood-prone, it requires no fill, and it will not be susceptible to septic leakage because the homesites will be connected to town sewage. These assets are crucial to maintain the current ecosystem of the property. Many other urban developments have had to rely on undertaking major earthworks and filling the floodplain.

The property currently has fencing to protect the E2 zone (which is the highest category of

ecology) to protect this area from any farm animal encroachment. Michael has spent numerous years rehabilitating the quarries into lakes earning it W2 zoning.

Part of the infrastructure of the property includes firefighting roads which have been recently used to the benefit of saving the Tyagarah Sanctuary E2 zone. Firefighting helicopters also accessed water from the property's lake to douse the fires in the adjoining Tyagarah Nature Reserve (see image).

Michael said, 'The property has recently been zoned by Council and State Government as RU2 - Rural Landscape, therefore it does not have the same agricultural constraints as RU1 (primary production zoned property) does.'

Michael continued, 'I have opted not to develop a resort on the property even though I have significant approvals to build a resort similar to Elements.'

'Instead, I wanted to wait for an opportunity to be included in a forward-thinking residential strategy. This is an opportunity for the Council and the community to achieve something special and to lock in a sustainable future for Byron Shire. Providing affordable housing that has direct access to a train station is exactly what the Council and the community should be demanding, not just supporting. We, as a community, spend too much time making up reasons why we can't do something. If it's a good idea and benefits the community with next to no impact on the environment, we should be providing reasons why we can do it. We have seen what happens when you constantly say no to urban land release. You end up getting development forced upon you on sites like West Byron.

Michael notes that the 'Tyagarah Sanctuary' proposal fits strategically within our Shire and its future needs and that the purpose behind bringing this to *The Echo* reader's attention is the critical action required now for people to support the *BSC Options Paper* which will include 29 Buckleys Road, Tyagarah, now known as 'Tyagarah Sanctuary', which due to the late addition is not shown in the current *BSC Options Paper*, but will be added in the next update.

**However, please write a submission/note of support for the 'Tyagarah Sanctuary' proposal in the *Housing Options Paper* which closes on Monday, November 6, 2023. Please go to this link and generally support it regarding new housing options in Byron Shire: [www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Your-Say-Byron-Shire/Have-your-say-on-future-housing-options-in-Byron-Shire](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Your-Say-Byron-Shire/Have-your-say-on-future-housing-options-in-Byron-Shire).**

**Invitation:** Join Michael Hunter and other guest speakers working to bring back trains at the **Bangalow Bowling Club on November 16 at 6pm** for an information evening hosted by Northern Rivers Rail Ltd.

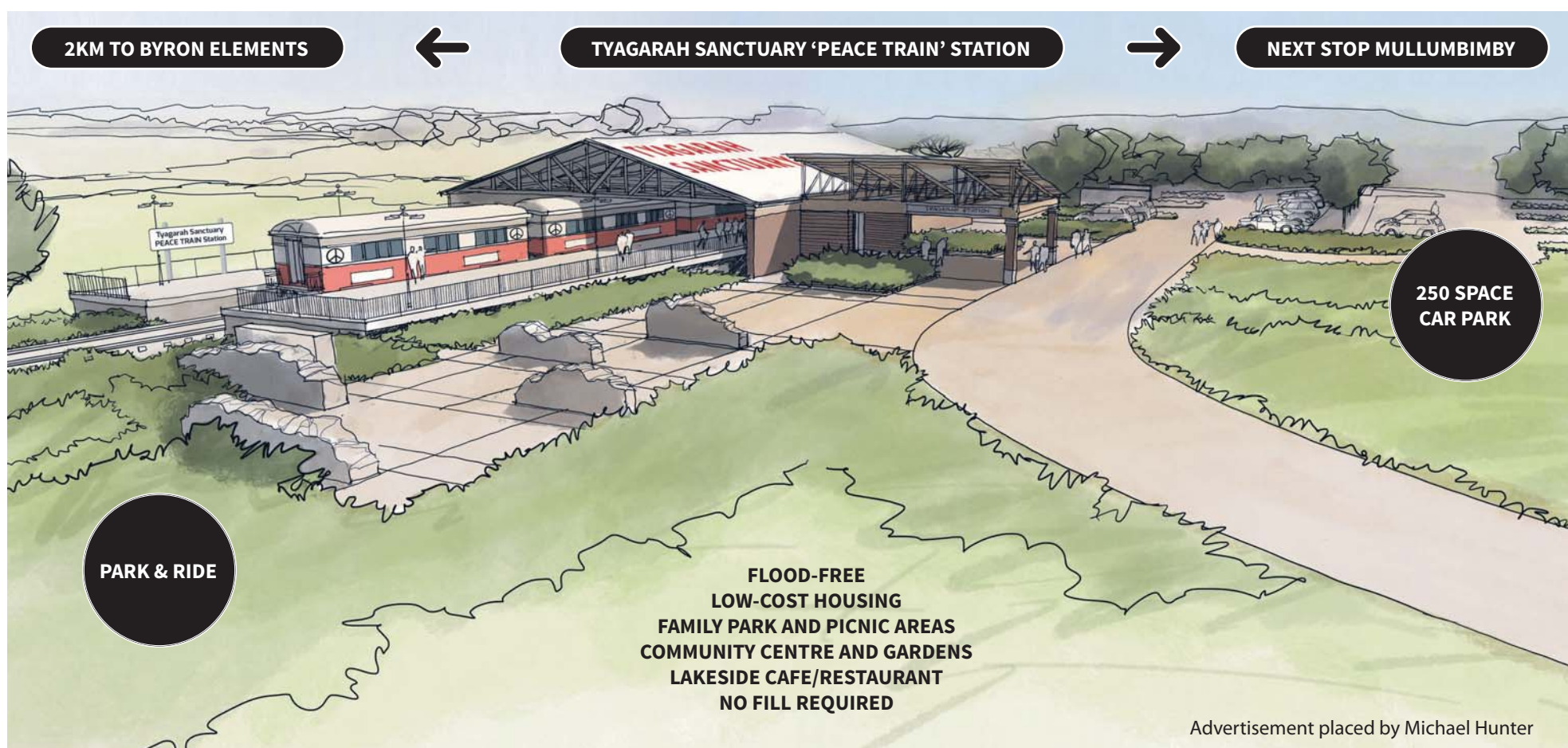
Michael will be presenting drawings of his proposed 'Tyagarah Sanctuary "Peace Train" Station' which will welcome back trains to the Byron Bay to Mullumbimby railway tracks, as an important public transport feature of his 'Tyagarah Sanctuary' development.

The event will host a fundraising auction and raffle with music by Tapestry Road. Entry by donation. **For more info contact NRRL: 0422 007 724**

## Michael Hunter's background

I am a specialist chemist whose company Bracton produces non-hazardous, environment-friendly chemicals. Most recently my research has led to a COVID-19-killing disinfectant, active in 30 seconds, TGA registered. I have a passionate love for community and preserving our natural environment and my daughter has a Doctorate in Environmental impacts of urban parks on human mental health. She was mentored here in Byron Bay by Peter Parker, a local, respected ecologist.

For more information contact Michael Hunter, 'Tyagarah Sanctuary' **email: [mike@bracton.com](mailto:mike@bracton.com)**



Advertisement placed by Michael Hunter

# War, what is it good for? Absolutely nothin’!

## Repatriation flight

My name is Vahideh Hosseini. I am from Lismore. On 9 October my husband, our children, and I landed in Tel Aviv. We had planned this trip for well over a year. Upon our arrival, we found out that the country was at war. We had booked our stay in Haifa as we are Bahá'ís and most Baha'i holy places are in Akko and Haifa. We immediately planned to return to Australia. We booked five different flights, but every time we went all the way to Tel Aviv airport, while waiting in the queue to check in, we were informed that our flights had been cancelled. We were getting desperate as we had already experienced 'red alert' sirens and were running to shelter for protection. Fortunately, the Australian government, with the support of Qantas, came to our rescue. It was such a relief when we arrived at the airport on Saturday 14 October to know that our flights were not cancelled. After London, we were flown to Dubai and then back to Sydney. Coming back to Lismore is a

big relief, but sad for thousands that have lost their lives and thousands that have lost their loved ones. There are many stories to share, such as that of an Israeli soldier sitting next to us who was called back from his holiday, and of families who were meeting other family members to hear the sad news that a loved one had either been kidnapped or died.

**Vahideh Hosseini**  
Lismore

## Gaza and Palestine

I have reasoned that Israel, and its Jewish population and anyone else who happens to feel an instinctual hostility towards Arabs, should move to the Negev desert as the leader of Egypt briefly entertained as a reasonable solution to the Palestinians' plight. The Palestinians have, unlike the Jews of that land, never left, and as of the advent of Zionism in Odessa – only recently did the basis for a mass influx of Jews to Palestine take place, from Europe in flight from either fascism or from the collapsing

feudal order and its history of pogroms on the Jews, viz a viz the British Balfour declaration with Winston Churchill's blessing – to Palestine. The surprise offensive by Hamas on Israel has been paraded as a mass murder. The last time I heard those words it was in relation to Hitler which was in the vicinity of 6 million body count. I think the words chosen by the mass media are deliberately obfuscating an ongoing genocide against the Palestinians whose existence side by side with other mostly Arabic states, would be more peaceful and acceptable than the US proxy state of Israel and its project on the Palestinians which is a top earner for police states worldwide.

**Danielle Haliczzer**  
Ocean Shores

## Hospital ships

Calls for a humanitarian pause in Israel's blitzkrieg of Gaza are shockingly obscene. They are akin to a condemned person being offered a meal and cigarette and then executed. What is

desperately needed now is an end to Israel's slaughter in Gaza which is heading towards 6,000 dead, including more than 2,000 children. The largest hospital ship in the world, Global Mercy, plus US and other navies' hospital ships should be despatched ASAP, to cater for the massive number of wounded which Gaza's defunct and bombed hospitals will have to abandon. Australia has donated nearly \$1 billion to Ukraine, so it shouldn't balk at sending its hospital ship HMAS Adelaide to Gaza. Congratulations Israel on your return to the worship of Moloch who must be well pleased with the Everest of human sacrifices you are making in Gaza. You know his demand for blood is insatiable, but you'll not find that a problem thanks to US weapons.

**Gareth Smith**  
Byron Bay

## No genocide in Gaza

I don't believe that a letter to the editor column is an appropriate place to publish a reasonable position on the ongoing conflict in the Middle East but I do believe that the editor has to note egregious claims as being false. I refer to Michael Ryan's claim that there is an Israeli campaign of genocide against the people of Gaza.

I'm pretty sure he also makes such claims about an Israeli campaign of genocide on the West Bank as well.

Since 1947 when 750,000 Palestinians left Israel their numbers have increased dramatically. Over two million in Gaza, over three million in the West Bank, over two million in Israel and another seven million worldwide.

While one can laugh at such absurd claims of 'genocide' a reputable media organisation should not allow such statements to be published without comment.

**Tom Gubler**  
Murwillumbah

## Stop wars

It is hard to find words of justification for the horrific wars that are erupting. From Russia, with Putin's attack on innocent children and adults in Ukraine, the ongoing 65-year colonial war in Gaza, the suffering of Palestinians and Israelites. Dead children in their thousands.

No moral clarity is presented. We remain locked in

binary discourse. Good/bad, black/white... no application of transcendence of consciousness for humanity and sentient beings. No demand globally or collectively for a total ceasefire targeting young children. It is a time to END brutal tyranny. Recognise tyranny and aspire for a global peaceful consciousness, devoid of binary discourses.

Like many children in the 1940s, during WW2, at the age of five, I was institutionalised. The Dominican nuns in South Australia were taking in children including young refugees from Europe. These dear children carried the scars of war. Terrified of the night they would sit and rock backwards and forwards, crying and missing their parents. We all cried.

I could never understand the holy pictures of Jesus with a strong halo around his head and the prayer that said 'Suffer little children to come unto me'. I developed deep anxiety for all children, the big people's world was not a safe place to be. I entered my creative imagination emanating music, dance, singing and beauty. I spoke to Jesus of these things, to give him joy.

My five-year-old self walks with me all of the time these days. I cannot look at TV with our prime minister eating fancy food with the US 'Pres' and the military-industrial complex, as AUKUS is planned. I weep for colonised Australian First Nations people who offered forgiving heart and a national rejection of same; and aided by conservative think tanks.

My adult self says: 'always will be yes'. It talks to my terrified five-year-old inner child. We can collectively raise our consciousness in the big person's world and not let the devouring Saturn/military-industrial complex dictate our socialised consciousness from birth onwards! The big person's world is a terrible world to exist in!

**Jo Faith**  
Newtown

## Hamas has to go

Gareth Smith in last week's letter claimed that my letter was filled with lies, but chose not to elaborate. What is this – kindergarten? If you could have contested anything that I said, you would have.

It is shocking and distressing that in our own amazing

region, Mullumbimby High School saw fit to use their beautiful students to spread this incredible bias in a shocking anti-Israel performance in its recent school play that I believe had five packed out performances.

A large proportion of the 220 Israelis that were kidnapped were young women and children. Hamas fighters that were captured in the week after they started the war admitted that the women and babies are being mass raped in Gaza.

We now know that hundreds of Palestinian civilians came into Israel when they knew that they caught Israel by complete surprise, and participated in the mass rapes and murders.

As usual Hamas are now safe and hiding deep underground and firing rockets from civilian homes etc, hoping Israel will return fire. Hamas forces its civilians to remain in their homes hoping they will be killed. Hamas literally could not care less about the poor Palestinian civilians and do everything to put them in harm's way.

The tragic Palestinian civilian deaths were completely avoidable had Hamas not started these horrors, but Hamas have greatly inflated the number of dead and injured and everyone has seen the footage online of people in body bags, laughing and playing along, and makeup artists making fake wounds on mass.

Social media and the media in general have much to answer for, peddling lies and creating division. Please do your own research as a huge percentage of Palestinian posts are fake which does not help the Palestinian cause. Please google Mosab Hassan Yousef who is the son of the founder of Hamas, and you will see that the incredible suffering of the Palestinian people is due to the actions of his father and all other Palestinian leaders. Nobody is a greater authority than him as he WAS a Hamas terrorist.

Peace is the only answer and there is no chance of peace with a death cult like Hamas in charge. If you want to really help Palestinians as I genuinely do, please listen to him.

**Danny Wakil**  
Billinudgel

Magazine  
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# The vicious cycle needs to be broken

## Where to for constitutional reform after the Voice failure?

Klaas Woldring

The participation of the Indigenous people in the colonial Australian Constitution of 1901 has been blocked by the 'No' vote.

Surely this is an additional reason why Australians urgently need a new constitution. The idea of a Treaty can be incorporated in that. It would also be entirely desirable if Australia is to become a republic. It has been almost impossible to change anything in this colonial constitution for over 123 years. The vicious cycle needs to be broken. In the meantime, measures aimed to improve the situation for the Indigenous people should be legislated as soon as possible.

Australia as a colony is one of the few modern countries where the colonisers were not forced to go home after WW2. The British, the French, the Dutch, the Belgians, the Portuguese, the Spaniards and the Italians, had to leave their colonies; these became independent countries.

Australia is an exception because it had a much larger British population than the smaller Indigenous local population and was settled somewhat like the United States and Canada. Strong European migration after WW2 further strengthened the permanency of the settlers.

Increasingly the country also became more multicultural as a result of more recent Asian, African and Pacific immigration. The uniqueness of this development demands an altogether new approach which incorporates the Indigenous population.



In practice, the First Nations people and their historic connection to local land areas is already widely recognised. However, constitutionally this is not the case at all; the failure of the Voice referendum has continued this lack of constitutional recognition. The Albanese government can make a mark of renewal.

The recent campaign for the referendum has undoubtedly also provided realities that need to be addressed.

The knowledge of problems and history of Indigenous people in wider society is seriously inadequate and superficial. Furthermore, the teaching of governance systems generally and the Australian Constitution has had low priority. Objective and comparative political education in Australia at high schools and universities has often been perfunctory. Rapid improvements in this situation are essential. It is not just how it works, but also, even more so, what is

wrong with it and how it can be improved.

The existing Australian Constitution has become archaic. Modernising proved virtually impossible. The constitution was written in the late 1890s for white colonial settlers from Britain; it deliberately avoided Indigenous people altogether.

It is now completely inadequate for this now culturally very diverse modern society. Most constitutional lawyers are well aware of that but have been unable to convince major parties and governments to address these many constitutional issues. The government should appoint a specialist committee to rewrite the entire constitution and abandon further piecemeal tinkering.

The single member district electoral system is responsible for an oppositionist, polarised governance culture that produces two opposing parties in lower houses. The result is that the opposition party's principal task appears

to be to find arguments against government initiatives. Most Australians do not realise how utterly negative this aspect is.

In countries which have proportional representation-party list systems (85 of them) the parliamentary cultures tend towards cooperation with a larger number of parties forming majority government. The result is a more democratic and fairer system than what we have now in Australia's multicultural society.

The Indigenous minority of 3.2 per cent clearly has no hope at all of representation via the existing principal electoral system.

The ignorance of some voters has affected the referendum negatively. They were advised to vote 'No'.

Even after the loss of the republic referendum it was found by a major Senate Inquiry in 2005 that lack of knowledge of the issues was a major cause of the loss of the republic referendum. Regrettably this did not result in greater emphasis on political education.

Racism was of course another reason, also based on ignorance. A first step to improve objective political education could be taken by the ABC via TV and radio. What is needed are impartial explanations of how the governance systems work.

Discussion also of existing alternative systems is even more important. There is a good deal of ignorance about this in Australia. This has blocked reform for far too long.

■ Klaas Woldring is a former associate professor of Southern Cross University.

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## No bones here

No Bones is the brainchild of Tahlia, Yasmina and Laurie. The restaurant in Byron opened its doors in April 2018 with a vision of bringing people together over good food – meat eaters and vegans alike – in an attempt to change the way we think about what we put in our mouths. Let's face it, the future of food must be one of sustainability and every time you choose a vegan meal, you're helping reduce your footprint, so every meal counts.

With each passing year, No Bones has evolved, driven by the determination to do better for both our community and the environment. Striving to become 100% carbon neutral, the restaurant has embarked on a journey to reduce its ecological footprint.

Supporting Australian made and grown produce and products has become a top priority, ensuring a lesser environmental impact and building connections with local farmers to

secure the freshest, most regeneratively grown produce.

No Bones are part of a plant-based movement and invite you to join them on their expedition to save the Earth one Brussels sprout at a time.

### ■ #brusselsnotbeef

No Bones Ocean Shores open seven days a week from 8 to 11am.  
No Bones Byron Bay open seven nights from 5pm.

## Future farmers market rescheduled

The next Mullumbimby Farmers Market will be held on Friday, 3 November as usual. However the following market, that would usually be held on Friday, 10 November will be held earlier, on Wednesday, 8 November. The change, just for that one week, is to make way for the Mullumbimby Show which will be held from 10 to 12 November.



## Snacks, sunsets and regenerative dining in Byron Bay



Photo Jess Kearney

### Summer Sundowners at Frida's Field

Frida's Field is a 120-acre regenerative farm and restaurant located in the picturesque hamlet of Nashua, just ten minutes from Bangalow in the Byron Bay hinterland. Since launching in September 2020, their three set menu lunch services per week have cemented their reputation for distinctive contemporary country cuisine which is seasonal, produce-driven and hyper-local. Now, Frida's Field is expanding its offering with a Summer Sundowners sitting on Saturday afternoons from 4pm starting 11 November.

Set up al fresco on the venue's expansive lawns, guests will enjoy casual snacks and drinks while watching the sun set over the lush pastures, orchard-lined hills and newly-planted 500-tree rainforest regeneration project. Think ploughman's plates with house-made terrines, pickles, chutneys, locally-made cheeses and vegetable crudités. Plus a selection of

tartines (open-faced sourdough sandwiches) – including grilled beef with Café de Paris butter; fish rillette with farm pickles; or grilled zucchini and ricotta.

Curated by Scottish-born and trained chef Alastair Waddell (previously Harvest Newrybar), the evolving snacks menu will follow a similar ethos to their signature lunches with seasonal produce sourced directly from the on-site market garden, food forest orchard, and, when available, herd of holistically-reared Angus-Wagyu beef cattle. Local dairy products and additional produce is sourced via weekly trips to the Byron Bay Farmers Market.

Cheers the spectacular golden hour light, with a range of cocktails comprising local spirits and house-made syrups using Frida's homegrown ingredients like lemon myrtle, elderflower, and fresh herbs. Local beers and minimal-intervention wines are also on offer.

Co-founder, Jeanie Wylie, explains: 'those few hours around sunset are just the most magical time of day at Frida's Field. The venue faces northwest, which is the perfect orientation to see the sun setting and capture that incredible golden hour light which makes all the trees and fields sparkle. Our long lunches will always be our signature experience where Chef Ally's talent absolutely shines, but we can't wait to welcome people onto the terrace to enjoy a casual sundowner.'

Immersed in the beauty of nature with views that roll on forever, Summer Sundowners at Frida's Field is designed to showcase the taste of the Northern Rivers and foster a relaxed and festive atmosphere as people start to unwind for Christmas and summer holidays. Bookings are encouraged, (fridasfield.com) but walk-ins are welcome.

## Iona Herbs' bountiful basil

Victoria Cosford

Beautiful bountiful basil, that's what's blooming at the moment. I hardly need Pam Morrow to tell me this though: for someone as disastrous a herb grower as I am, I've recently witnessed a profusion of basil on our sunny balcony and I'm not even sure where it came from!

Pam of Iona Herbs is herself a master herb grower, evidence being her stall of potted seedlings, all certified organic, all so vigorously, greenly healthy. She tells me that not only is it basil's time to shine but also that of thyme, oregano, sage, marjoram – herbs calling out for tomatoes – and that this is when you should be planting them.

I want to know the difference between marjoram and oregano as I'm aware they're similar. According to Waverley Root, 'the two have been thoroughly confused since the beginning of their histories' – but in fact oregano 'smells and tastes stronger than the delicate sweet marjoram.' Pam knows this, of course, and shows me the two, the oregano with darker fatter leaves. 'Some companies mix it up,' she tells me, 'they sell marjoram as oregano.'

But back to that basil. Related to mint, its pungency means that at the slightest touch, its fragrance is released. Most excesses of basil find their way into pesto, that Genovese paste commonly stirred through pasta, but I've long loved using it in an utterly simple Claudia Roden recipe for fish. Ideally the fish used should be a firm meaty one like tuna or swordfish, which you arrange in an oiled baking dish and strew with pitted black olives, capers, chopped tomatoes and an entire bunch



Pat Morrow from Iona Herbs is a master herb grower.

of chopped basil. Scatter over seasoning, dried breadcrumbs and a slick of olive oil then bake in your hottest oven until done, by which stage the basil has crisped up gorgeously.

Iona Herbs is at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am.



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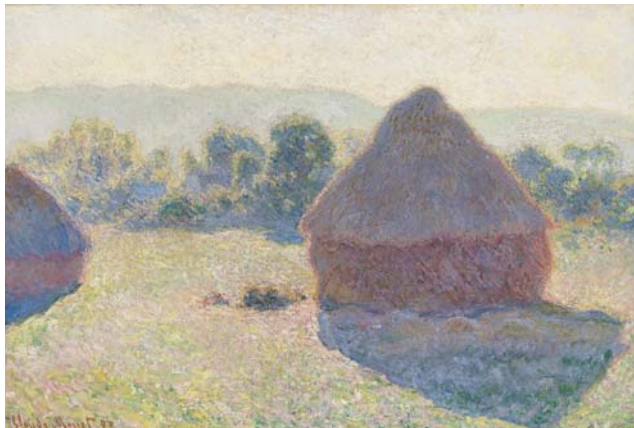
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# THE ARTS



Claude Monet *Meules, milieu du jour* [Haystacks, midday] 1890, National Gallery of Australia, Kamberrri/Canberra, purchased 1979.

## Tweed Regional Gallery

Claude Monet's *Meules, milieu du jour* [Haystacks, midday] from 1890 is the first of five works to be shared with the Tweed Regional Gallery as part of the National Gallery of Australia's Sharing the National Collection initiative. The remaining works will be shared with the Tweed from February 2024.

*Meules, milieu du jour* [Haystacks, midday] 1890 is a glorious work from Monet's Haystacks series, filled with dazzling light and luminous colour.

The Sharing the National Collection initiative will see major works of art from the National Gallery of Australia's collection exhibited across regional and suburban communities.

This work of art is on long-term loan from the National Gallery of Australia with support from the Australian Government as part of Sharing the National Collection.

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## Robyn Davidson: Unfinished Woman

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Join Davidson as she discusses her brave and revealing memoir, which asks the eternal question: how do we learn to be 'at home everywhere'?

Don't miss this special event with one of the most adventurous writers in Australian literature.

Friday 8 December, 6pm at Byron Theatre.

Bookings essential via  
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Robyn Davidson:  
Unfinished Woman

BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL

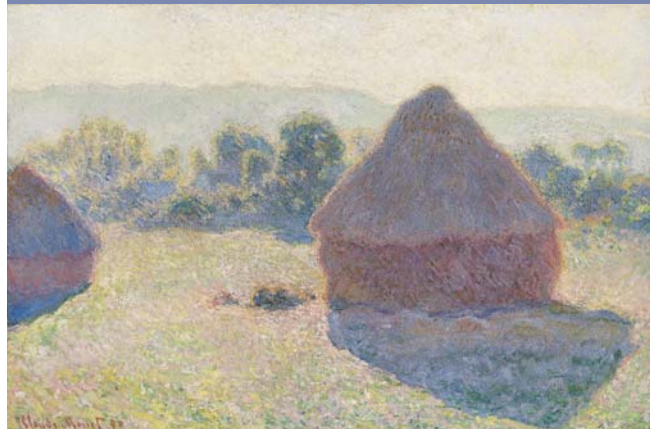
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## A Monet in Murwillumbah Sharing the National Collection



1 November 2023 – 26 October 2025

Claude Monet *Meules, milieu du jour* (Haystacks, midday) 1890  
National Gallery of Australia, Kamberrri/Canberra, purchased 1979

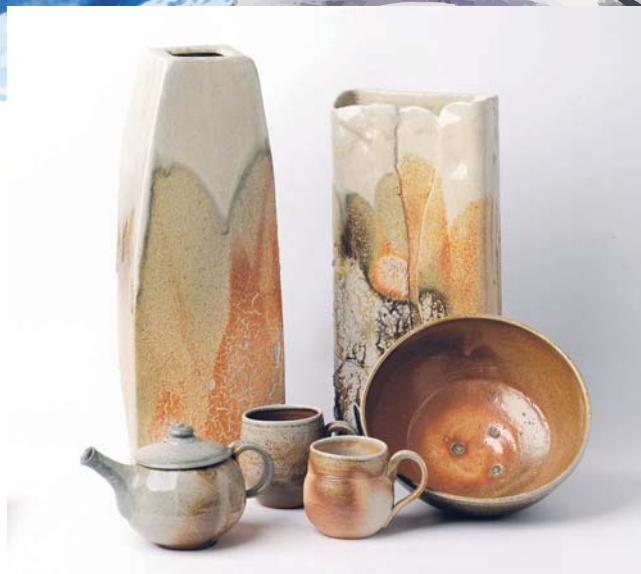
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This work of art is on long term loan from the National Gallery of Australia with support from the Australian Government as part of Sharing the National Collection. Share #artacrossaus

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## Studio Suvira

Step into the enchanting world of master potter Suvira as he unveils the summer showcase at his studio on Left Bank Road. Marvel at the delicate nuances of his smaller works, inviting you into moments of pure enjoyment. These treasures, perfect for special episodes, showcase the richness of wood-fired ceramic artistry. In contrast, be captivated by the grandeur of Suvira's larger vessels, where the dance of flames leaves intricate ash deposits, creating a visual symphony of texture and form. Join him as Suvira opens the doors to his creative sanctuary. A journey through pottery, where tradition meets innovation.

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## Art in the heart of Mullumbimby

Art-lovers look no further than the Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre - home to the H'Art Gallery. Featuring more than 30 artworks by 10 local artists, the gallery is an absolute must-see.

Graphic impressionist Solveig curates the two-floor gallery and rotates the exhibition every six months. The space provides local artists a platform for an extended period to display and sell their work.

Visitors to the health centre are greeted by the art, which provides a distracting escape from stress and concern while creating a vibrant, healing atmosphere.

Conveniently located on Stuart Street, the H'Art Gallery is art in the heart of Mullumbimby.

**Enquire at [info@solveig.com.au](mailto:info@solveig.com.au).**



Image credit to Shaz Rhodes

## Nine Volts: an exhibition by Byron School of Art second year students

Nine Volts, the Byron School of Art (BSA) second year student exhibition, opens Friday, 3 November from 6-8pm at the BSA Project Space, Mullumbimby. It features a dynamic array of artworks from a diverse group of emerging artists. Nine Volts runs until Tuesday, 15 November and is open from 10am to 3pm, Monday to Saturday.

**[byronschoolofart.com](http://byronschoolofart.com)**



## Ballina Art Society 2023 Exhibition

Each year since 1972, the members of Ballina Art Society have showcased their latest artworks for the public. This year's exhibition will again be held at the historic Tintenbar Hall where you can meet the local artists and enjoy refreshments and homemade treats.

Friday 17 November 1-5pm with the Exhibition opening and awards at 6-8pm

Saturday 18 November 10am-5pm

Sunday 19 November 10am-4pm

Come to see over 160 artworks across a range of styles and mediums, created by both well-known and emerging local artists. All artworks are for sale.

**For more information contact Cecily Barrack on 0435 835 102.**

**BSA BYRON SCHOOL OF ART**

# NINE VOLTS

An exhibition by  
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# Exhibition

## Ballina Art Society

17, 18 and 19 November - Free Entry

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 Awards Ceremony  
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Helen Waddell

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ENTERTAINMENT

Volume 38 #21

1-7 November, 2023

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## GET SPRUNG AT THE DIS-CO

**Dis-Co Ball** is Sprung's new annual disability community ball, bringing people together for an evening of unashamed joyous dancing, inspired by and featuring our community artists.

Drawing inspiration from the Met Gala (one of New York's most prestigious and glamorous events of the year) Dis-Co Ball is a night for everyone to live large on the red carpet. Sprung is reimagining this glamorous affair in a way that centres and celebrates access and inclusion.

Expect pop-up performances from Sprung artists, drama on the red carpet, and a collective celebration of difference on the dance floor. Artists and audience alike are invited to dress to impress.

This event will be Auslan interpreted and is wheelchair accessible, (including bathrooms). A quiet room is available for use throughout the event.

For additional venue accessibility information please visit Lennox Head Cultural Centre website: [www.communityspaces.com.au/v1/parklanetheatre](http://www.communityspaces.com.au/v1/parklanetheatre).

Join Sprung for a night to celebrate community, joy, connection and inclusivity on **Sunday, November 12**, from **5pm** at the **Lennox Head Cultural Centre**.

**Cost: \$25 / \$15 for kids under 12**

**Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/dis-co-ball>**

If you have additional questions or concerns relating to access please contact the team at [info@sprung.org.au](mailto:info@sprung.org.au) or **0478 879 706**.

## BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

### TENZIN CHOEGYAL

in Concert



Be the Ocean  
Featuring Cye Wood

BOOKINGS/INFO



SUN 5 NOV @4PM

LIVE MUSIC

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

CUNNING STUNTS

# nudge nudge Wink wink

PARTY WITH A CONSCIENCE

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KIRA SUNDAY  
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SATURDAY NOV 4 / 4-11PM / The Billinudgel Hotel

BUY TICKETS / [www.cunningstunts.com.au](http://www.cunningstunts.com.au)

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# DIS-CO BALL

Join us for a night of unashamedly joyous dancing!

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

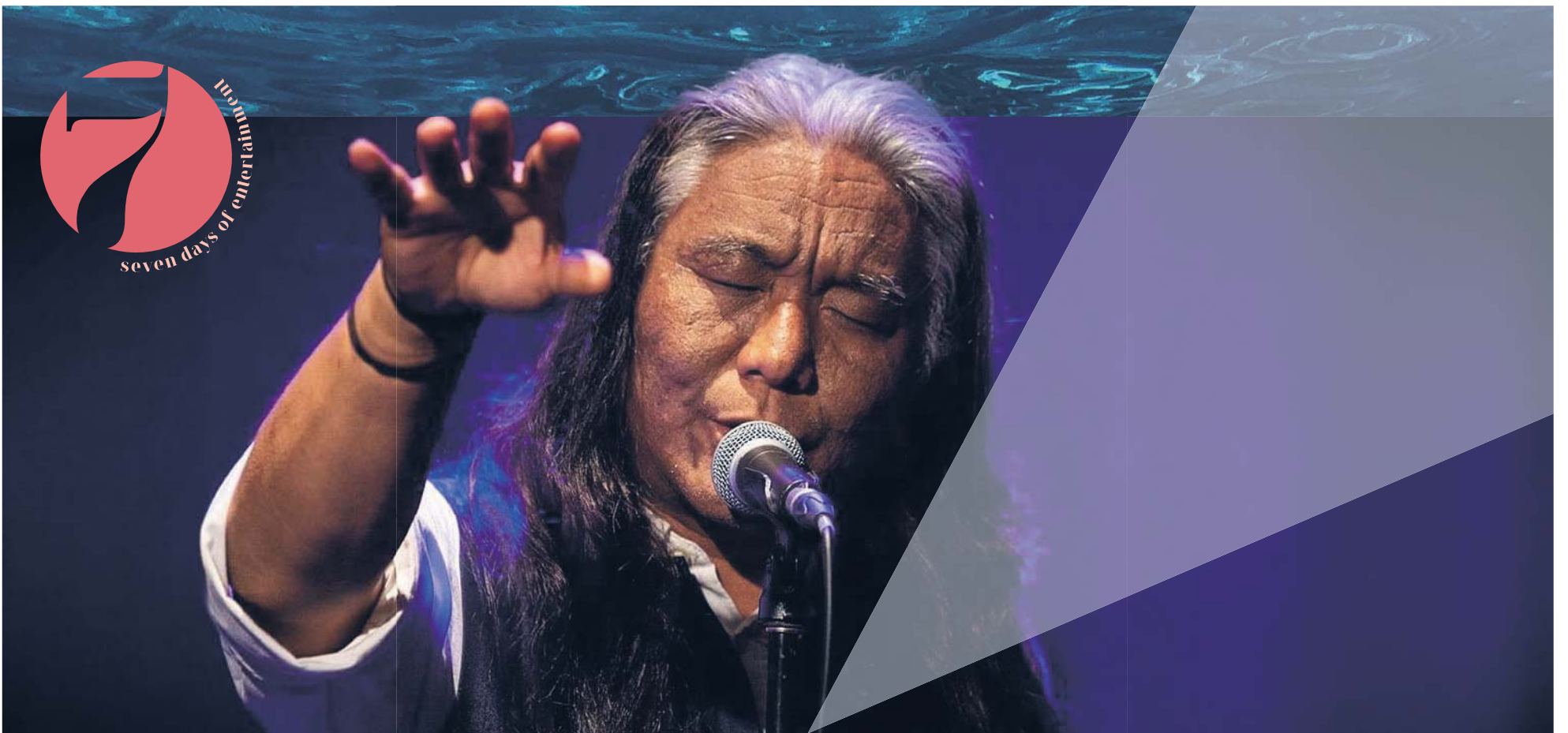
Dress to impress.

5pm - 6:30pm  
Sunday 12 November  
Lennox Cultural Centre  
\$25

Auslan interpreted & wheelchair accessible

**Sprung!!** [info@sprung.org.au](mailto:info@sprung.org.au) | 0478 879 706 | [www.sprung.org.au](http://www.sprung.org.au)





## BE THE OCEAN

Byron Shire is in for a treat as **Brunswick Picture House** welcomes **Tenzin Choegyal** and his show **Be the Ocean** featuring **Cye Wood** in a musical journey to the heart of Tibet.

Tenzin Choegyal feels a particular connection to the music of the Himalayan plateau and remains dedicated to preserving Tibet's musical traditions. At the same time, he effortlessly embraces diverse genres and musical styles, bringing Tibetan music firmly into the contemporary world. Tenzin's talent as a singer-songwriter has earned him a 2021

Grammy nomination and established him as one of the most significant Tibetan performers on the international stage.

Tenzin takes audiences on a musical journey that transcends cultural boundaries and reveals ancient wisdom. Tenzin sees music as a universal form of communication with no boundaries, 'like drifting clouds that fly freely over the man-made geographical borders in this infinite space of possibilities'.

For Tenzin, music is life, no matter where he is. 'My music has evolved through

my own journey from Tibet to India to Australia and around the world. But wherever I am in the world, my music also connects me to my homeland of Tibet.'

Joining Tenzin is Mullumbimby's Cye Wood – a highly respected and gifted composer/multi-instrumentalist. Cye joins Tenzin for his 2023 tour.

In a long list of music projects and collaborations – including Eartha Kitt, Lisa Gerrard, Tim Finn and Christine Anu – Cye has contributed string arrangements and solo violin to

numerous albums, dance performances and film projects.

The two come together in a beautiful fusion that crosses cultural boundaries and conjures up images of the high plains and mountains of Tibet. Cye's unique improvisational style on violin blends perfectly with Tenzin's soaring vocals and the distinctive, spontaneous melodies of the Tibetan nomad.

**Be the Ocean, Sunday at 4pm at the Brunswick Picture House. Tickets from [brunswickpicturehouse.com](http://brunswickpicturehouse.com).**

# Steve Banks and The SIDEMEN



ex-  
Jo Jo Zep / Max Merritt  
John Butler Trio / Black Sorrows  
Procol Harum / Small Faces  
Manhattan Transfer / Cliff Richard  
Brian Cadd / Russell Morris  
Renee Geyer / Alex Lloyd  
The Sea Benz

**Mike MILLS - Grant GERATHY - Al PARK - Jeff BURSTIN - Geoff WRIGHT**  
with **Steve BANKS** out front - and special guests **Vanessa BAKER** and **Amie STUART**

**7:30pm Friday Nov.10 @ Lennox Head Cultural Centre**

playin' favourites and telling tales ~ foyer bar's open ~ **TICKETS @ [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)**



# seven



## ROLL UP, STEP UP, STEP OUT

Step up, step out, support our region's women and children – that's what November's **Nudge Nudge Wink Wink** is about.

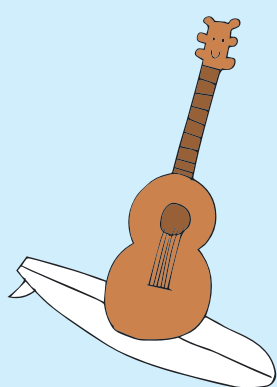
The Ultimate Party with a Conscience will have you boogie, twist, jump, and shout to November's DJ line-up, a guaranteed knockout: international guest DJ **Scott Pullen**, locally-based DJ **Kira Sunday**, and the incredible resident DJs **Lord Sut** and **Dale Stephen**.

For the November and December 2023 events, Cuning Stunts are donating to important funding needed for Northern Rivers Women and Children's Services (NORWACS) to continue providing health and wellbeing services for the diversity of women and their children in the Northern Rivers region to be well, safe, strong, and empowered to thrive.

Nudgers have helped raise \$389,646 so far, supporting 37 local charities since December 2015. Community supporting its own!

Get your Nudge on this Saturday from 4pm. This is a ticketed 18+ event at The Billinudgel Hotel.

The event has **SOLD OUT** - there will not be tickets available at the door. Any legitimate tickets being resold are only available via [tixel.com](https://www.tixel.com).



## LISTEN TO SOMETHING ELSE

There's no 'same old, same old' at BayFM. Our wide range of music shows are diverse and dangerous (and a couple are deadly).

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More at [bayfm.org](https://www.bayfm.org)



## ASH GRUNWALD HELPS THE MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC MEMORIAL HALL REOPEN

**Ash Grunwald** returns to the Mullumbimby Civic Memorial Hall to launch his new LP – *The Bluesfest Studio Sessions* with very special guest Emily Lubitz.

Grunwald set the Mojo Stage alight at Bluesfest earlier this year, with a scintillating show featuring the Moog synth wizardry of Ian Peres and tropical ambassador of rhythm 'n' groove, Bobby Alu. It also marked Grunwald's tenth appearance at Bluesfest, which cast Ash into Australian blues folklore and enshrined the living legend as an institution at Australia's most iconic music festival.

To commemorate the momentous occasion, Grunwald entered Brooklet Recording's studios with Ian Peres (Wolfmother, Bernhard Fanning), Bobby Alu (Xavier Rudd), and producer Nick DiDia (Springsteen, Pearl Jam, Rage Against The Machine) to record the set the trio smoked at Bluesfest 2023. Entitled *Bluesfest Studio Sessions*, the new LP features all your favourites, curated from a career and catalogue spanning 20 years, and will be released on Friday, 17 November through Delta Groove/MGM.

Ash Grunwald has inspired a generation to hit the road in an old beat-up Bedford to 'surf by day jam by night'. Throughout his career, he has supported legends James Brown, The Black Keys, Jack Johnson, Xavier Rudd, and Keith Urban, and many others, and played sold out festivals across Europe, Japan, and North America. With six Australian Top-50 albums to his credit, alongside five ARIA and four AIR Award Nominations, two APRA Awards, and a gong for Best International Act at the LA Music Critic Awards in 2014, Grunwald is cast in bronze among Australia's most successful blues musicians.

Grunwald will join his great mates Ian Peres and Bobby Alu live on stage – for the first time since Bluesfest 2023 and for one night only – on Saturday, 18 November with special guest Emily Lubitz.

Live on stage, Ash rocks the house yet touches the soul, serving a tsunami of dance, beats, roots, bass 'n' blues... Come and celebrate the reopening of the Mullumbimby Civic Memorial Hall and launch of the *Bluesfest Studio Sessions* LP - a wonderful evening of blues, roots 'n' community.

**The Bluesfest Studio Sessions are on Saturday, 18 November at the Mullumbimby Civic Memorial Hall. Doors open 7pm | Show starts 7.30pm | Food and beverages available.**

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- 10 DEEPDOWN | 12 PROTECT AUSTRALIA'S OCEAN
- 17 CALYPTE | 18 MURPHY'S PIGS
- 24 GREATEST SURF MOVIE
- 25 BRIGHT LIGHTS
- 30 SOUTHERN BLAST

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# THE SIDEMEN FRONT AND CENTRE

Once a businessman, Steve Banks has done a U-turn and returned to his previous life as a muso. Steve Banks and The Sidemen are ready for an awesome show at Lennox Head next week and *Seven* caught up with Steve on the weekend.

### What's going on here Steve?

The whole 'sidemen' concept came together some years ago now. I recorded an album with Jeff Burstin from The Black Sorrows along with other session musos based in Melbourne. That relationship blossomed...

I moved to the Northern Rivers about eight years ago, I was able to bring Jeff and Bruce up from Melbourne but needed a rhythm section locally.

I came across a plethora of amazing musical talent. We are talking players that have been on the world stage like **Grant Gerarthy** (John Butler Trio), **Rick Fenn** (10cc), **Al Park** (Cliff Richard's Musical Director for 20 years), **Bruce Haymes** (Paul Kelly), and others including **Mike Mills** (Alex Lloyd, Christine Arnu), and **Geoff Wright** (JJ Cale, Max Merrit). They all talked about themselves as if they were sidemen.

We played once and the chemistry was definitely there. I came up with the idea for the show, which was to shine a light on and celebrate the amazing achievements of these 'sidemen' of rock and roll – most of whom you wouldn't recognise if you fell over 'em.

### With such a mix, what do you play?

The set list comes from this stable of bands along with a few tunes we've written as The Sidemen. The set list is kick-ass. It's a true soundtrack of our lives and the audience has really embraced it with our shows so far.

We can only assemble a few times a year owing to touring commitments.

### So I hear you are channelling Stuart Wagstaff?

Yes. I liken my job as the frontman of The Sidemen (no middle man) to Stuart Wagstaff, as the narrator à la The Rocky Horror Show – in our show, we interview each player on stage between songs and show images of them on the screen behind as much younger and very groovy up-and-comers. It's a hoot. As the narrator I get to sing too, along with two amazing female vocalists Vanessa Baker and Aimee Stuart – songbirds of some repute to say the least.

### Why do we need to know the sidemen (and women) of the music industry?

When you think that people don't buy CDs anymore, the only way you can make money is by touring and selling merchandise. Unless you're in the top 1 per cent, like Taylor Swift, you're just not earning.

The thing that's killed it, of course, is the streaming of songs and people don't pay for music anymore.

My little vendetta is I want to try and get some of the power back in the hands of the musicians again, so that they can actually live – so that's what I'm all about. I'm lucky in what I've done in my life. And for me, this is an absolute ballbuster. I just want to shine the light on these wonderful musicians.

### It all sounds great, but, are you having enough fun?

Oh, definitely. I mean, there's a part of it that is difficult – it's like herding cats, but I'm a musician myself, so I know. But I'm pretty organised because of my business life. When we do it and you get on stage, you forget about all the admin. You just get on stage and enjoy it. You know, so that's a yes!

**Steve and The Sidemen can be enjoyed on Friday 10 November, 7.30pm at the Lennox Head Cultural Centre. Tickets are \$41 from Eventbrite.**

## CO-CREATING OUR REGENERATION

Byron Bay is known for being many things, but one of the more becoming titles is the epicentre of health and consciousness in Australia. This November we are given the opportunity to live up to that reputation as international thought-leaders converge on our coastal town to co-create Australia's regenerative future at **Re:Connection 2023**.

The event is hosted by **Farmer's Footprint Australia**, a not-for-profit that serves to accelerate Australia's adoption of more regenerative practices. They will bring **Zach Bush MD** to our shores once again (founder of Farmer's Footprint in the US) to join in conversation with key Australian voices to support our reconnection to nature.

Against a backdrop of mounting environmental and economic turmoil, Re:Connection 2023 aims to explore the dynamic intersection between food, health, and culture, and ignite ideas that will shape our pathway towards a regenerated future.

At the core of human and planetary existence lies our food systems. Pioneers of regenerative agriculture will be given centre stage to share their perspectives on how we can co-create abundance through harmony with nature's rhythms.

The way we view health is entering a transformational phase and Re:Connection 2023 will catalyse discussions that merge ancient wisdom with modern advancements. By exploring

holistic approaches to wellbeing and fostering space for preventative practices, we can envision a healthier population that is in tune with nature and attuned to their bodies.

Re:Connection 2023 is highlighted by the visionary perspective of **Zach Bush MD**. A beacon in the regenerative movement, Zach's insights weave a thread between scientific knowledge and the innate wisdom of the Earth.

Supported by a live address from **Charles Eisenstein** and featuring **Joost Bakker, Dr Prahm Yoganathan, Jade Miles, Amanda Cahill, Darren Doherty, Matthew Evans, Laura Dalrymple** and **Kate McBride** the event will be woven together with meditation, movement by Bangarra Dance Theatre dancer **Waangenga Blanco**, and a special musical performance by **Kyle Lionheart**.

More than a mere gathering, Re:Connection 2023 is a call to action. We are invited not just to be passive observers but active participants in the movement towards a regenerative future. By fostering connection and collaboration, Re:Connection 2023 emerges as a pivotal event, one that could potentially chart the course for a regenerated nation.

**For more information go to [farmersfootprint.org.au](http://farmersfootprint.org.au) or scan the QR code. Use code: FFA10 for a 10 per cent discount.**

All proceeds go towards supporting non-profit organisation Farmer's Footprint Australia.

# OMFEST

## 1-4 NOV

THE GREEN ROOM BYRON BAY  
[www.omfest.com.au](http://www.omfest.com.au)

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### MUSIC

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**OMEGA CLOSING NIGHT SAT 4 NOV \$36**

**Ecstatic World Music Fusion from 6pm**



# We're not OK

Everywhere I turn there are conversations about someone dealing with extreme mental health issues. Friends, family, young people, older people who are struggling. People reaching out looking for services that sometimes aren't available, are booked out, or aren't helping. We are sad. We are scared. We are worried. We are lost. We need to find a way through.

The system is broken, and it seems it's not just the climate that pays, there is a human cost.

Us. Our mental health. Our happiness. Our sense of the future. Our meaning and purpose has disappeared. While we log on to Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok... our hearts have logged off.

Is our declining mental health the true cost of capitalism? I believe so.

Fracturing of community and family, the elevation and isolation of the individual, the glorification of achievement, the disconnection from nature. It hurts us.

At no point in history have humans been so connected but so utterly disconnected at the same time. So many are lonely. So many people are struggling to get by. Housing stress is crippling. Cost of living is on the rise. Our news feeds are full of war and violence. We know so much, but sometimes we know too little.

People live with the threat of homelessness just a rent rise away. The world is full of fear. Corporations continue to churn profits while governments look the other way. We live in the climate space that Professor of Public Ethics at Charles Sturt University in Canberra, Clive Hamilton, called 'fucked but not completely fucked'. We have this tiny slither of hope. But it's closing fast.

Mental health conditions are increasing worldwide. Here in Australia recent stats tell us 20% of Australians have had a mental health issue, with anxiety and depression being the most commonly reported.



MANDY NOLAN'S  
**SOAPBOX**

## While we log on to Facebook, Instagram, Tik Tok... our hearts have logged off

I've experienced it first-hand. And solutions can be hard to come by, especially in a regional area with limited funding and resources. I've had to wait in line. Been sent home. Been told that people are booked out.

In a conversation I had with local police, our Byron Head of Command, Inspector Kehoe, told me that some weeks up to 50% of the call outs for local police officers were for mental health. He stressed that he believed that mental health is not a criminal issue. It's health. He's absolutely right. Police should not be attending mental health calls. But they do, because the system is overloaded. We need to do so much better. At the time of our talking, we had the second-highest suicide rate in the state.

We survived the floods. But many are not in recovery, they are still in disaster mode. We are facing a summer of fires. We are doing it tough. And young people in our community are doing it toughest of all. Options for

support for young people with mental health conditions in regional areas are limited. Some kids presenting with mental health issues are as young as ten years old. Parents in our region are desperate for solutions. For holistic support.

In a couple of weeks, I am doing a three-day walk of the Scenic Rim to fundraise for Human Nature – a mental health program for young people in our region that reconnects adolescents with nature. It's a remarkable and unique program and it saves lives.

I am joined by my friends Danni and Zenith. Will you sponsor us? All the money raised goes directly to programs for young people from Tweed to Ballina.

It's not much, but having the conversation, supporting services at the front line, reaching out is the least we can do.

Love, connection and finding the path back to your purpose and meaning is the only way home.

**WALK WITH US.**  
Donation link is:  
<https://humannature-scenicrim-2023.raisely.com/t/danni-zenith-mandys-team-page>

**ARIES:** Keep your antennae tuned for guidance from November's deluge of serendipities, synchronicities and coincidences. Aries are one of the fastest signs in the zodiac to connect the dots, and this month could see you accelerating and swerving in swift succession according to directives from the universe.

**TAURUS:** What can November's focus in your opposite sign on the astro-wheel teach you? About subtlety, layers and nuance. That the world is not logical, sensible, straight forward, cut and dried. And what can you offer? Your grounded practicality and calm to help others weather this month's storms and alarms.

**GEMINI:** Looks like your mentor planet Mercury might drop a few truth bombs during the first half of November. So if exchanges get uncomfortably candid, don't underestimate the effectiveness of a well-timed joke or witty comeback (both Gemini super-skills), or the power of laughter to defuse a charged situation.

**CANCER:** Watch what you download or post on socials this month, and if you need to retreat to your personal safe space, do, because with Mars in his pushiest placement, scamsters are ascendant. If you're feeling pressured, pause, investigate further, and talk things through with someone you trust.

**LEO:** November's dramatics are less the extrovert Leo kind, more brewing and stewing, volatile and eruptive, making it important to keep your cool. This month's volcanic energies in a fixed sign like your own are known to intensify Leo's stubborn side, so try to stay flexible rather than digging in your heels.

**VIRGO:** As the scouts of the zodiac, Virgos like to be prepared. And Venus in your savvy sign for the first week of November assists in getting an early head start on holiday planning, with everything ideally locked in before astral travel agent Mercury goes AWOL next month for the rest of 2023.

**LIBRA:** As the zodiac's cardinal air sign, Librans like to keep communications light so ideas can take flight. But current astral energies are intense, and uninterested in small talk. Which makes your November challenge to gracefully navigate human behaviour in all its divine and disappointing, delightful and unsavoury array.

**SCORPIO:** The sultry Sun, expressive Mercury and magnetic Mars all working the law of attraction in Scorpio have November drawing even more moths than usual to your seductive flame. Though with impetuous Mercury and impulsive Mars riding tandem in your incisive sign, employing the sting could cause serious fallout.

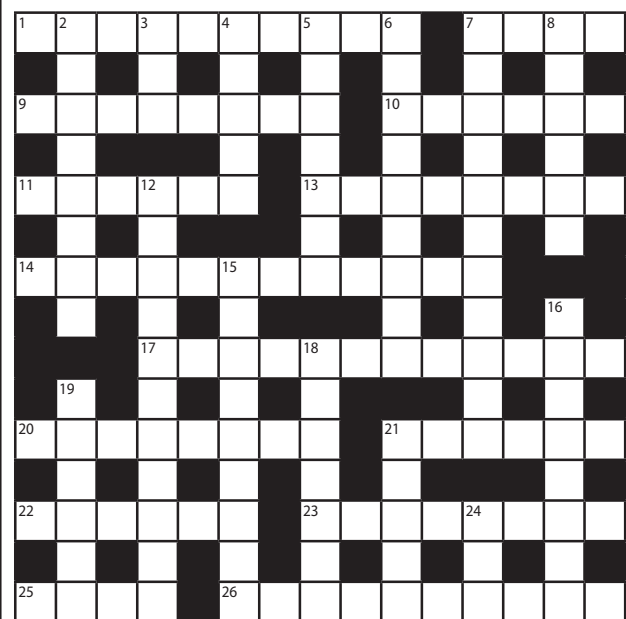
**SAGITTARIUS:** Enjoy November's colourful stories by all means, but don't get sucked in by hype or groupthink. Look under the hood and dig for the deeper storyline, but also be extra careful about respecting peoples' privacy. Hidden agendas are quite likely to surface, along with other unexpected information.

**CAPRICORN:** Since June, your planet ruler Saturn has been in reassessment mode: a period of deep self-examination. Fun not so much, but growth and maturity plenty. Now, as Saturn moves forward, you're readier than ever to offer your service and gifts to the world in an exciting new way.

**AQUARIUS:** November offers excellent cosmic conditions for researching, editing and/or crafting behind the scenes. For being watchful, strategic and paying attention to subtle cues, which this week can speak volumes. Would the current circumstances benefit from readjusting what you believe about a certain situation?

**PISCES:** Neptune represents the cosmic ocean of creative imagination, while Saturn ushers this potential into tangible form. Both planets are transiting Pisces, and Saturn turning direct brings opportunities to activate that dream of starting an artistic project, opening your own business or going adventure travelling.

## Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #515



### Cryptic Clues

#### ACROSS

- Hold down after bun, in good kitchen aid (7,3)
- Laugh running back to old sailor (4)
- Support all, without grog (8)
- Power with the French symbol of Australia (6)
- Traces messy cases (6)
- Entices around bearings, and storms (8)
- Extraterrestrial, or 17? (12)
- Usual partner strange, hard to believe (12)
- Time to stray with current queen, she regularly levels the hillside (8)
- Thanks, popular success with the Italian island (6)
- Time to play with England – but if it's l'oeil, it's an illusion! (6)
- Sounds as if two fruits cause disease (8)
- Walk to return favourites (4)
- Foster loan carelessly – unavailable to purchase (3,3,4)

#### DOWN

- Exaggerate ball's speed (8)
- Look at time and fate (3)
- Observes group running backwards (5)
- Petty officer spilt litre – less crass! (7)
- Novel is made into radio and TV, perhaps (4,5)
- Uncover myth complex – but only a little bit (3,4,4)
- Gives out a line with plenty (6)
- Calculate a device to lure and catch prey, suggested Spooner, studying the chart where the loot is (8,3)
- Completely erase – I place new clues (4,5)
- What is over, spoken in the countryside (8)
- Unlikely portion for a tasty cheese snack (7)
- Clandestine cult around resistance, irrational (6)
- Roots around in trunk (5)
- Under/over public transport (3)

### Quick Clues

#### ACROSS

- Implement used to flatten dough (7,3)
- Ark skipper (4)
- Abstemious (8)
- Acacia (6)
- Boxes (6)
- Gales (8)
- Ethereal (12)
- Paranormal (12)
- Machine that creates flat platforms of earth on a slope (8)
- French Polynesian island (6)
- An apparatus that supplies air in a forge (6)
- Illness caused by Vitamin B deficiency (8)
- Pace (4)
- Off the market (3,3,4)

#### DOWN

- Value too highly (8)
- Parcel of land (3)
- Records (5)
- More respectful (7)
- It communicates current events (4,5)
- Rarely (3,4,4)
- Allocates (6)
- It leads to the location of hidden loot (8,3)
- Remove all the evidence! (4,5)
- Bucolic (8)
- Melted cheddar sauce on toast (7)
- Confidential (6)
- The head, arms and legs are connected to it (5)
- Coach (3)

### Last week's solution #514



## STARS BY LILITH

Saturn's planetary acceleration in Pisces eases this week into eclipse season: the time for outgrown goals, relationships or lifestyles to eclipse themselves so newer, more relevant alternatives can step into the light...



### SCORPIO



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

<https://thetrig.com.au>

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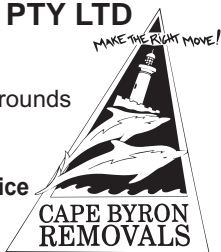
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**AGMs**

**THE BYRON ENVIRONMENT CENTRE** is holding its AGM and general meeting on Tuesday 14 November at 2pm in Byron Bay at the RSL Club on Jonson St. For more info please email Renee renee8@aapt.net.au. All members are invited to attend.

**BYRON SHIRE RESPITE SERVICE INC** The AGM will take place at 4.30pm on Tuesday 21 November 2023 at the Brunswick Valley Community Centre, 42 South Beach Road, Brunswick Heads, NSW 2483. All members welcome. For more information, please email Hanne at mgmtcommittee@byronrespite.com.au

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The Department of Planning and Environment - Crown Lands is running a targeted Fox-baiting program at South Ballina beach using sodium fluoroacetate products, also known as '1080' baiting. Baiting will be done from **Monday 25 September 2023** until **Monday 18 December 2023** on Crown land (Lot 7303 DP 1163711 - including the beach and some dunes) between Boundary Creek Road in the south and Richmond River Nature Reserve in the north. Departmental contractors will place 1080 baiting signs at all beach entrances along the beach where baits have been laid.

The program aims to protect the breeding of threatened shorebirds by strategically managing Fox pests - which is a priority action of the NSW Fox Threat Abatement Plan.

**Keep dogs and pets safe**

During and after 1080 fox baiting, visitors to Crown land between Boundary Creek Road in the south and Richmond River Nature Reserve in the north should keep domestic dogs on a leash and prevent them from eating any unknown items on the ground. Muzzling your dog while in the area can help prevent accidental poisoning. If you suspect your dog has taken a 1080 bait, contact your vet immediately.

For more information, call DPE -Crown Lands on 1300 886 235.

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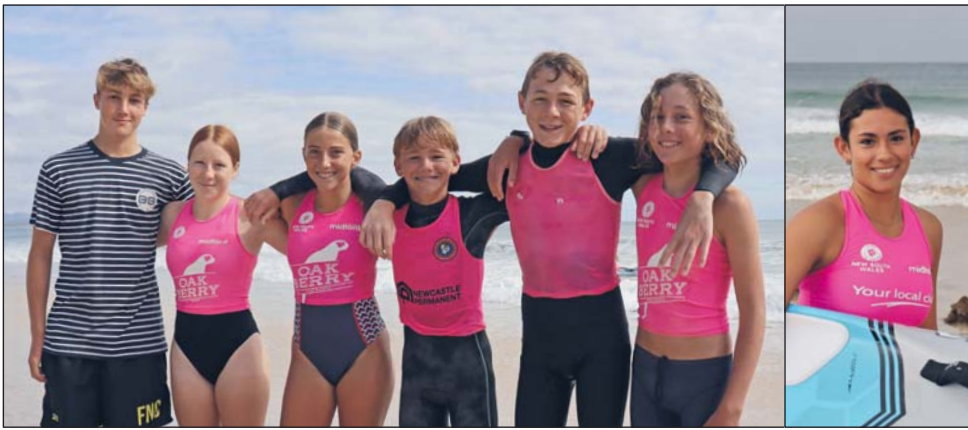
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## Local nippers selected to represent Far North Coast



Aspiring surf life saving champions: (L-R) Orlando, Lily, Delilah, Will, Felix and Elijah and Daniella (insert) will take on statewide competition in December. Photos supplied

Congratulations to seven athletes from the Byron Bay Surf Life Saving (SLS) Club who have been selected to represent SLS Far North Coast at the 2023 NSW Interbranch Championships

at Fingal Beach NSW in December. The Byron athletes will make up a team of forty FNC competitors aged from U/12 to U/17. The Interbranch

Championship is a team-based competition contested by the 11 SLS branches across NSW and will involve a number of events including sprints, flags, swim and board race, and iron person.

## Champion Bull Sharks team back in the pool for the water polo season



The Byron Bay Bull Sharks do a recruitment wave ahead of their round two game against the Ballina Chooks at Ballina Pool. Photo supplied

The Byron Bay Bull Sharks women's water polo team are back in the water and ready to defend their championship title.

The season got off to a good start when they had a 14-4 win over in the Alstonville Axalotls in the first round of the season earlier this month.

But they couldn't back it up in the second round

when they went down to the Ballina Chooks 11-6 at the Ballina Pool.

'It's good to be back in the water and to have the team back. It's most of the old team plus a couple of new players,' said captain Kerry Hardey.

'We have a pretty strong team, even with the new players, we know each other pretty well.'

But the side is still in need of new recruits as they had to play the first game of the season without a reserve bench. Playing other teams who have two or three fresh players ready to go, gives away too much of an advantage.

The competition runs across summer at three pools: Ballina, Mullumbimby and Alstonville.

## Mullumbimby High School's girls futsal team wins North Coast championship again



The Mullumbimby High girls futsal team led by Macey Donnelly, produced a big comeback performance to reestablish their championship credentials. Photo supplied

**Brian Hedge**

Mullumbimby High School's U/16 girls won a hard fought final against Port Macquarie High in the Combined High Schools North Coast Futsal finals, earning themselves

back to back titles.

Down 3-1 at half time this champion team produced an amazing comeback performance, storming home winners 5-3.

The team, led by stalwart captain Macey Donnelly,

included Lilly Donnelly, Ella Brittain, Monet Shortland, Summer Browning, Polly Jefed, Honey Mowbray, Rhianna Browning, Luna Delaney and Zilla Wolff.

Another great result for Mullumbimby High School.

## Nash has been selected for West Ham football academy, but needs support

Footballer Nash Muller has been invited into the West Ham United training academy in London in late November, and friends of the family have set up a Go Fund Me campaign to help him get there.

'Nash has played for the Byron Bay Soccer Club since he was six years old. He plays for Northern NSW at a representative level and his absolute dream is to make a career out of his soccer,' mum Leah Wallace said.

'Nash is a talented goalkeeper and is so very excited for this opportunity to travel to the UK and play with some of the best academies.'

Family friend Leah Wallace has set up the Go Fund Me campaign.

'Anyone who knows Nash will agree he has been soccer obsessed since the moment



Nash is looking to take his goalkeeping to the next level with a training camp at West Ham United. Photo supplied

he could kick a ball,' Leah said of the campaign.

'He has lived and breathed this sport all his life and has developed his soccer skills to an exceptional level beyond his years.

'Nash competed against kids from all over Australia and New Zealand to be selected for this prestigious

and rare opportunity. He and his family will have to travel to London and stay whilst Nash undertakes intensive training.

'These longstanding locals would never ask for help so this is where I come in.'

Nash's Go Fund Me page: <https://gofund.me/41479eb5>.

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'Children in the back seat cause accidents, and accidents in the back seat cause children.' Wisdom from the back alleys of Mullumbimby.

The Echo online has been under DoS attack over the last week – our site is being overrun by bots. We have our tech team onto it and we are working on getting the site back to running smoothly as soon as we can.

Second Hand Saturday is taking place throughout the Northern Rivers this Saturday, November 4. It is the biggest garage sale of the year! If you have some pre-loved treasures to sell then you can register online until Friday, November 3. To register a garage sale or find the best ones near you check out [www.secondhandsaturday.com.au](http://www.secondhandsaturday.com.au).

Bangalow's Connecting Generations will be coming together again on November 12 at the Bangalow Bowlo between 2.30 and 5pm. Connecting Generations aims to link young families with older members of the community with a range of interactive activities. There will be free face painting, live music and nature-inspired arts and crafts, such as painting rocks, making clay prints out of leaves and shells and discovering wonder boxes filled with surprises.

Cats have 276 facial expressions researchers have found in a recent study of a colony of 50 cats in Los Angeles by medical student Lauren Scott and evolutionary psychologist Brittany Florkiewicz. Humans only have 44 facial expressions, canines

## Echo editor married his love on the weekend



The Echo family wishes Paula and Hans much love and joy in their future together. Photo Jeff Dawson

have 27 and chimps have a whopping 357 reported [science.org](http://science.org).

The NSW Police Force Suspect Targeting Management Plan (STMP) on children and young people has been called out as potentially leading to 'unlawful' police actions by the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) in a report tabled this week. After reviewing the LECC's draft report, the NSW Police Force said they stopped using the STMP on young people in October 2023.

'The fact is that worth is a matter of opinion, and opinion is informed by culture. And if that culture is as male-biased as ours is, it can't help but be biased against women. By default.' Author Caroline Criado-Perez in her book *Invisible Women*.

2,000-year-old rock carvings have been exposed in the Amazon rainforest due to the current severe drought. They

depict humans, animals and geometric shapes according to indigenous archaeologist Carlos Augusto da Silva, from

the Federal University of Amazonas, who is studying the petroglyphs.

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