

Echo

'YOU FOUND IT OFFENSIVE? I FOUND IT FUNNY. THAT'S WHY I'M HAPPIER THAN YOU.' - RICKY GERVAIS

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 38 #24 • November 22, 2023 • www.echo.net.au

School's out for climate



Around 200 students and supporters marched up Jonson Street on Friday for the School Strike 4 Climate.

Photo and story Eve Jeffery

Around 200 students and supporters gathered in Railway Park in Byron Bay on Friday morning before marching to Peace Park on Main Beach, for a School Strikes 4 Climate event to send a message to the government that coal, gas and oil need to stay in the ground.

Organiser of the Byron Bay event, 16-year-old Lani Field, said she wanted to organise the march to create awareness of the fear in young people. 'It's heartbreaking to see what's going on around the world and know that not much is really changing in Australia.'

'Australia made promises to reach net zero and start acting, but they've opened up nine new fossil fuel projects just this year. And it's just bizarre to me how people

are still turning a blind eye and not doing anything. It's honestly heartbreaking.

'I just thought I wanted to do something to make a difference.'

Field, who is in year 10 at Byron High, had a large team of supporters helping on the day, who also wanted to see changes made.

'I think it's so important just to give us hope, because it can be so overwhelming,' she said. 'We're surrounded by all this stuff all the time, like bombarded on social media, with all these crazy problems, and it feels like we can do nothing.'

'I think if we come together, we have so much power, and we can truly make a difference if we put our mind to it and start taking action in every way we can.'

The march was peaceful, with many adults and tiny tots joining in - marchers were led by a police

escort from Railway Park up through Jonson Street and along the beachfront where they were greeted with entertainment and speeches from local talent and environmental groups.

Field was happy with the turnout and said it meant a lot to see so many supporters.

Important message

'The march was great - very powerful. They were enthusiastic, passionate and very loud. The police presence was great. They led us through slowly and made sure that all the roads were blocked.'

'It was really great and shows how important our message is. Take action. In every way you can, choose it every day, choose the planet. It's our future.'

Similar strikes were also held all around the country.

Height increase repeat for Byron Bay CBD?

Paul Bibby

Just two weeks after Byron Council took a stand against developers repeatedly applying for incremental height breaches in Byron Bay, another proponent is trying its luck with a similar application.

This time, the applicant is the developer behind 'The Bonobo by Raes', a luxury 41-unit development on the site of the old Holiday Village backpackers at 116-118 Jonson Street.

The developer, listed somewhat cryptically as Aidop No 6 Pty Ltd & Aidop No 5 Pty Ltd, received approval for the three-storey \$27.6m development in May last year.

Council documents indicate that the approved development already exceeded the maximum height limit for that part of town, with the proposed lift overrun, privacy screen, roof terrace fencing and pool exterior breaching the 11.5m cap.

Now the applicant is back before Council with an application for 'minor design amendments and modifications' that involve a further additional height breach.

'There is an additional breach of the building height standard involving three building roof-top elements increasing 11cm, 6cm and 10cm...' Council staff said in their report.

Each of these relate to the pool proposed for the roof-top of the proposed development.

The application has similarities to a modification application which was refused by Council at its last meeting for 43 Lawson Street.

That application, for new luxury holiday apartments, also involved modifications to a roof-top pool

area as well. A majority of councillors voted against the proposal, finding that it was still an inappropriate breach of building standards, particularly the rules pertaining to height planes.

The latest application is also similar to the Lawson St one in that it has received a recommendation of approval from Council staff.

Negligible impact: staff

'Having regards to the minor increase in height, it is considered the impact is negligible and the variation is supported in this instance,' Council staff said in their report on the matter.

'The proposed variation to the height limit does not result in a materially different presentation to the Jonson Street (eastern elevation) or western elevation of the building.'

'The proposed variation does not impact on the bulk or scale of the proposed built form.'

'It is considered strict compliance with the height limit provisions in this instance is unreasonable having regard to the minor variations being sought to the elements listed above, and the development standard can be varied in this instance.'

The proposed modification application also results in a shortage of car parking by three spaces.

'This is not supported in its entirety and conditions of consent are recommended to provide for a third car share space to service tourists staying within the serviced apartments,' staff said in their report.

The matter is due to come before this week's Council meeting for determination.

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Jack Johnson - a career worth having ► p27

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Echo

The Byron Shire Echo

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Nicholas Shand
1948-1996
Founding Editor

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

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

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

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House You day calls for immediate action

A free community day was held on Sunday outside Council's chambers to highlight the lack of affordable homes and need for immediate action from all levels of government: local, state and federal to address the housing crisis.

House You, a grassroots movement to get everybody a house, hosted their first village day 'creating a safe space for everybody to come together, share resources, innovate holistic solutions and build resilient networks to leave nobody outside: get everybody a house'.

Lead organiser, Chels Hood Withey, told *The Echo*, 'Byron Shire has the most rough sleepers in NSW, moving house is one of the top five most stressful things we go through, yet we have thousands of empty homes'. 'It's time we, the people



From left, Sarah-Jane McGrath, Natasha Honey, Duncan Campbell, Raisin and Chels Hood Withey. Photo Jacob Miller

unite and be the positive change we need in this world. It's time we move beyond housing for profit and honour housing as a basic human right'.

Chels added, 'The House You village included a free lunch sponsored by local growers and vendors, a No

Fixed Address tea house and art installation, workshops on non-duality activism, and grounded and connected empowerment, a grief and resilience circle discussing human rights, free massages, 1:1 bioenergetic de-armouring sessions, and a popular assembly,

allowing the community the opportunity to work together to create holistic solutions to the question: "How do we get everyone a house?"

'House You and No Fixed Address are currently working with Council to provide immediate relief to the housing crisis: a village to house the unhoused. The village seeks to give our homeless and those in housing stress their basic needs and dignity by providing amenities that can be communally shared on a lot of land.

'We are seeking land from Council, or generous individuals who want to support the community during the housing crisis.

'Sign the House You petition. Join the movement. Reach out to the group on socials and houseyou.org. Share your solutions'.

Bruns hot showers installed for rough sleepers

A jointly funded installation of hot water showers for rough sleepers in Brunswick Heads was launched last week by Reflections Holiday Parks and Byron Shire Council.

Located at the amenity block at Banner Park Reserve, they will be available between 6am and 11am, and to support water conservation, they will run on a timer.

In a statement from Reflections and Council, they say, 'Banner Park Reserve is maintained by Reflections for the local community, and is part of the 15 acres of public

reserves that Reflections looks after in Byron Shire. Reflections uses proceeds from its holiday parks to provide nature reserves, barbecues and amenities for the local community'.

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Joel Taylor crowned parasurfer champ

Lennox Head parasurfer, Joel Taylor, has been crowned World Champion (prone division) after dominating a week of surfing against an international field at California's Huntington Beach.

'I don't think it's sunk in yet, to be honest. I've dreamt of being world champion since I was 13 years old.'

'To actually do it, three decades later, when I thought I wouldn't ever surf again, is surreal,' he said.

'I worked really hard to achieve this goal I set my sights on 12 months ago, and I made a lot of sacrifices and my family did too.'

Following support from the local community for his GoFundMe campaign, Joel was able to travel to the event with his family.

Team captain

Moreover, Joel was team captain at his first ever international competition.

'It was a huge honour to



Joel Taylor after his win. Photo supplied

lead the national team,' he said.

The former Byron Bay High Schooler had five surfs across six days to get to the champion's podium.

'The conditions were surprisingly good,' he said.

'Huntington Beach can be hit or miss, but we got lucky and there was one metre

clean swell for the entire week.'

Joel started surfing as a bodyboarder over 30 years ago before an accident left him a paraplegic.

Joel's return to the surf was facilitated by finding the right equipment.

After an extended search he finally found a board that

was exactly as he imagined.

'As soon as I got my hands on it, I knew instantly.

'This is it,' he said.

Former multiple championship winner, Mark 'Mono' Stewart, missed out on a podium finish this year.

It was the first time this has happened to the Byron Bay local since 2015.

Local MP responds to calls for a ceasefire

Byron Shire supporters of a ceasefire between Israel and Palestine gathered at the office of local federal MP Justine Elliot (Labor) on Monday to highlight the tragedy still unfolding in the region.

They are demanding that the Albanese Labor government add its voice to the global cry for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza.

One activist, Dean Jefferys, told *The Echo*, 'As some may know, Australia was one of 45 countries that abstained from the UN vote for a ceasefire, as opposed to 120 supporting the UN resolution. Labor continues to support Israel and the genocide occurring now in Gaza. I feel Justine Elliot will lose her seat over this.'

Jefferys added, 'Even many Israeli Jews are saying how what is occurring now pushed by the ultra-nationalist Netanyahu, and the IDF, is not helping either get the hostages back, or create a more secure situation for them. The only way forward is a ceasefire, and to stop the violence and negotiate a peace deal that gives land, dignity and sovereignty to the Palestinians. I know many Jews say a negotiated peace plan is not possible, yet they managed to abolish apartheid in South Africa after decades of violence and racism, so I do believe anything is possible.'

Mrs Elliot told *The Echo*, 'This is a deeply distressing time for many in Australia.'

'It's important that here at home we maintain respect for each other. We cannot allow distress to turn into hatred.'

'In the context of the situation in Israel and Gaza, the government's desire is to see next steps towards a ceasefire, as well as a political process for just and enduring peace.'

'But it cannot be one-sided - Hamas is still attacking Israel, using human shields, and holding more than 200 hostages.'

'Australia and many other countries have been calling for humanitarian pauses as a necessary first step, but clearly more is needed.'

'In affirming Israel's right to defend itself after the horrific October 7 attacks by Hamas, so many countries - including Australia - emphasise that the way it defends itself matters.'

Uphold law

'It matters for innocent civilians, who should not pay for horrors perpetrated by Hamas. We call on Israel to honour its commitment to uphold international law and protect innocent lives.'

'The world has witnessed a harrowing number of civilian deaths, including children. This must not continue,' Mrs Elliot added.



Greens federal candidate, Mandy Nolan, with ceasefire supporter, Subhi Awad, outside Mrs Elliot's office on Monday. Photo supplied

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Next wave of authors put pen to paper



Alex Grantham, mentor Sarah Armstrong, Ali Chigwidden, Megan Jennaway and Kiralee Strong were recently tucked away in the creativity-inspiring hills of the Byron hinterland. Photo Eve Jeffery

This month, four lucky participants embarked on a five-day writing adventure, the Byron Writers Festival Residential Mentorship 2023.

Organisers say the residency was an opportunity to work on manuscripts with the guidance of a distinguished mentor, bringing them another step closer to their dreams of becoming published authors.

Mentor and author, Sarah Armstrong, added, 'This is a

really important program for regional writers. We have so many talented writers in this area and it's crucial to support them with programs like this.'

'It's been thrilling to see the four writers' manuscripts develop over the week.

'I look forward to seeing them in print.'

Now in its 22nd year, the Residential Mentorship is a renowned program whose notable alumni include Jesse

Blackadder, Jarrah Dundler, Bronwyn Birdsall, Mirandi Riwoe, Jessie Cole and Russell Eldridge.

If you'd like to enter your manuscript for this unique opportunity next year, join as a member in February 2024 and keep an eye out for when submissions open for Byron Writers Festival Residential Mentorship 2024 at byronwritersfestival.com.

For more info visit byronwritersfestival.com.

Danielle tops Bangalow's show

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

Despite blustery weather on Friday, crowds enjoyed the Bangalow Show last weekend, with a perfect day for Saturday.

With the aim of becoming an ambassador for her local community, the 2024 Bangalow Show Young Woman of the Year winner, Danielle Matthews, was very pleased to be presented the blue sash at the official opening.

The competition is open to any young woman aged between 18 and 24, and is an opportunity to make some friends and learn more about the local community and develop your leadership skills and foster confidence.

Danielle is a fourth-generation Bangalow lass,



On Saturday, 2022 Young Woman of the Year, Ellie Schneider, handed over the baton to the 2023 recipient, Danielle Matthews.

who says that her aunt, her dad and her uncle also competed in the junior section of the competition when they were very young.

'It's pretty exciting to win,' said Danielle who at 17 years

of age has only just graduated from year 12.

Danielle will now go on to represent the area at the next level of competition.

For more info, visit bangalowsow.com.au.

Pod residents oppose on-site pesticide treatments

Aslan Shand

An impending pest treatment at the Brunswick Heads emergency accommodation pod sites has residents raising their concerns over the use of pesticides.

A number of residents contacted *The Echo* to express their frustration, claiming they feel ignored when it comes to the use of chemicals on the site, given a number of residents have medical certificates to say they have toxic sensitivity.

Yet they say they were told that this was not grounds for exemption.

However, it is now understood that the NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSWRA) has, and will, continue to investigate exemption requests on a case-by-case basis.

According to residents, the treatment is for cockroaches and termites.

However, residents pointed out that the pods are

made of metal, so they can't see how there could be a termite issue, and there have been very few sightings of cockroaches.

One resident, who asked not to be named, said she was concerned that pesticide runoff could enter the nearby waterways.

'Two of the products that they want to use in the pods are Advion Cockroach Gel and Bifenthrin, but they can't be used together', she said.

'The Safety Data Sheet says, "Never apply synthetic pyrethroid products with gels this will slow both the consumption of the bait and control of the population", they are proposing to use both.'

NSWRA replies

Following the proposal of a petition, a number of residents, after initial support, backed away from the idea, telling *The Echo* they fear 'anyone seen as a trouble maker will be at risk of

eviction and or have a black mark against their name passed to Housing NSW, etc.'

Responding to questions from *The Echo*, a spokesperson for the NSWRA said, 'The safety of residents living in temporary housing villages is a priority for the NSWRA, and appointed Community Housing Providers (CHP).'

'Pest treatment is required when infestations are detected, and as part of routine maintenance, to reduce damage to the wiring, joinery and surfaces of temporary housing pods. Not all signs of infestation are visible, even in a clean property.

'The NSWRA will continue to work with CHPs to consider resident needs when managing pests including termites and cockroaches.'

It is understood that pest treatment is only conducted within pods and their immediate perimeter.

Treatment is not on surrounding areas including communal food gardens.

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Meet the new Byron chamber pres

Photo & story Hans Lovejoy

Introducing the new Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce president, Matt Williamson.

Matt has taken the reigns from Jason Bentley, who stood down at the last AGM a few weeks ago.

Having been with the chamber for nearly three years, Matt says he has lived for in the area for nine.

He owns and operates insurance brokerage firm Good Cover, which is based in Bangalow.

'My business was a Covid-inspired moment', Matt says of his move to the area.

'I was an executive in an insurance company, and when we got locked-down, I thought it was awesome. I never wanted to go back to a world where I am constantly travelling down to Melbourne and Sydney. So I quit the job and started in insurance brokerage'.

As for the chamber's past successes, he says, 'We did quite a lot of good work last year, with good events'.

'There was a good mixture for members and non-members. When we have



Incoming Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce president, Matt Williamson, pictured at the Bangalow Show while volunteering for Lions.

events, we always make sure non-members can come along. We raised a fair bit of money last year as well.

'I think we pulled around \$10,000 for the Fletcher Street Cottage and the SHIFT project. It was great.

Different year

'But this coming year is different. Last year's focus was post-flood. Everyone's mindset was post-flood and a lot of it was reconnecting after Covid.

'This year, the focus is probably going to be more about business. Business is

tough at the moment.

'There's a lot of empty shops in Byron, and while the remaining shops may not be going bust, they are taking a downturn in their turnover. Addressing that requires a lot of different skills and mindset.

'Hopefully, we will be able to help those business owners - and their staff. And hopefully advocate for them as well with the issues that they might be facing.

'Last year, we didn't do a lot of advocating because people were just happy to roll on - it was such a tough

time with the floods'.

Matt says themes that continue to pop up again and again for local business include the changing face of Byron town.

'Now we have these big retailers that are driving up rents and employing people, but whether they are part of the social fabric or not is another question'.

'So we have these big name brands that would not look out of place in a Westfield shopping centre. That's a dramatic change for the face of Byron'.

'Myself and the board are really open to hear what business has to say, what their concerns are. Not just about the changing face of Byron, but about any issues they might be facing'.

Upcoming events include a Christmas tree initiative and the chamber Christmas party, which will be held Tuesday, December 12, at the Art and Wine Co, located at 1/13 Lawson Street, Byron Bay.

It will be fully catered and have a DJ playing.

To get involved, visit www.byronbaychamber.com.

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Councillors look for pay rise

Paul Bibby

Mayors and councillors have suffered from a 'longstanding undervaluation' of their work and should receive significantly more than the four per cent increase they are offered each year, Byron Council's General Manager Mark Arnold has told the Local Government Remuneration Tribunal (LGRT).

Arnold made the comments in a letter to the tribunal in relation to its annual process of determining fees payable to councillors and mayors.

In the letter, tabled along with a Council resolution to be discussed at this week's meeting, Arnold acknowledged that Byron Council had recently been recategorised as a Regional Centre, paving the way for councillors to access

higher rates of pay.

The maximum a councillor can receive under this new categorisation is \$25,310 per annum, up from \$21,100.

The maximum pay that the mayor can be given has increased from \$46,040 to \$52,510. On top of their base pay, councillors can earn extra income as committee members and claim other expenses.

Four per cent increase 'insufficient'

Councillors are also seeking an additional four per cent pay increase, the maximum annual increase allowed under NSW legislation.

However, these increases were not sufficient compensation for the hard work councillors do, Arnold said.

'Notwithstanding [the increases], Council strongly

asserts its position that a four per cent increase is insufficient to cope with the rising cost of living, and fails to rectify the longstanding undervaluation of the work carried out by mayors and councillors in NSW,' Arnold said.

He also sought the recognition of deputy mayors as a distinct category within the local government remuneration framework.

'Deputy mayors undertake significant responsibilities, including representing the mayor in their absence, chairing committees, and playing a pivotal role in decision-making and advocacy,' he said.

'These duties often demand extensive time, effort, and expertise beyond their role as a councillor.'

The matter will be discussed at this Thursday's full Council meeting.

Affordable art show Dec 1



From left, artists Gerry Brown and Sharon Whittle, President of Coorabell Hall Association Lissa Coote, artists Nina Packer and Belinda Black. Photo Eve Jeffery

A collective of women artists will exhibit their works as part of the 'des Fleurs et des Fruits', which opens at Coorabell Hall on Friday December 1 from 5 pm.

Artists include Sharon Whittle, Kay Knights, Nina

Packer, Gerry Brown, Belinda Black, Christina Khumari, Karena Wynn-Moylan and Carole Coffey.

Organisers say, 'Drop in have a delicious cake and chai, buy a raffle ticket, and shop for Christmas presents.

'Fifty per cent of sales will go towards the Coorabell Hall and program costs'.

The sale continues Saturday and Sunday, December 2 and 3, from 9 till 5pm. To view the artists' work, visit www.coorabellhall.net/art-space.

Youth-focused jobs pathway on offer

Asher Todd

An innovative youth-focused program, in collaboration with Byron Community College and Byron Youth Service (BYS) is set to launch in 2024, and aims to guide and empower school leavers to find their path and purpose.

The 'FSK2019 - Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways' is nationally recognised, and is being offered as a course under the Smart and Skilled program.

There are subsidies for eligible students.

Tailored to offer a unique blend of experiences across various professions, the goal is to create tangible pathways that will lead to further education, gainful employment, or the pursuit of a passion project.

The program will unfold

over three days each week, fostering a dynamic learning environment at both the Mullumbimby Campus of Byron Community College, and the Byron Youth Centre (YAC).

Transport challenge

One of the key considerations in the program's design is addressing the transport challenges faced by young people in the area.

By offering classes at both the Mullumbimby Campus and the centrally located Byron Bay Youth Activities Centre (YAC), the initiative seeks to alleviate some of the logistical barriers hindering access to education and skill development.

To introduce prospective participants and their parents to the program, two parent/student evenings have been scheduled on

November 28 and 29.

These events, also to be held at the YAC and Mullum College campus, will provide an invaluable opportunity for families to learn more about the program, ask questions, and engage with the dedicated team behind this initiative.

The focus on experiential learning and skill development reflects a holistic approach to education, preparing participants not only for immediate opportunities but also for the evolving landscape of the workforce.

To learn more about this transformative opportunity, reach out to the college for further information at www.byroncollege.org.au or call (02) 6684 3374.

■ Asher Todd is Byron Community College marketing coordinator.

Positive change clothing market returns

Following from a successful positive change clothing market in July, students from Byron Bay High School are gearing up for another, to be held on Saturday November 25.

It will be held at the school, located at 2 Arakwal Ct, Byron Bay, from 8am till 2pm.

Organisers say it aims to 'support the circular economy, reducing, reusing and recycling in a fun way'.

'It's a social event, where people can buy a 3x3 metre area, to have a space to sell their items for the day, and have the opportunity to sell their own wares to the community, whether it be old clothes or accessories'.

Head teacher of HSIE (Human Society and Its Environment), Stuart Galletly-Salisbury, told *The*

Echo, 'While on the surface, hosting an event may seem a simple feat for an organisation the size of Byron Bay High School, it has forced students to learn a range of life skills with an immediate and real world connection'.

Successful market

'Inspired by their achievements from the past market, students opted to host another market on November 25, recognising their role in promoting the future they wish for.

'However, the second time around, the inspiration provided by the initial novelty was reduced, and the realities of insurance, profitability and strategic marketing campaigns hit home.

'It was here that the students' determination

shone through. Their passion for the cause sustained them through the challenges that any start-up business would face. All this was achieved alongside managing the demands of Year 10, selecting courses to study into Year 11 and 12, coupled with their own job commitments and teenage lifestyle.

'They have been outstanding role models and citizens the community should be proud of', Galletly-Salisbury added.

For more information and to book a stall or donate, visit positivechangebbhs.wixsite.com/positivechange or socials: @positivechange_bbhs.

The event is run by students from year 10 Geography, with guidance from teachers and the P&C.

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\$1m pool for disaster recovery groups

A \$1 million Community Resilience Grants Program to support grassroots groups undertaking vital disaster recovery efforts has been announced by the NSW Labor government.

In a press release they say the program 'will strengthen the recovery across all seven Local Government Areas (LGAs) of the Northern Rivers, and is funded through the Reconstruction Authority (RA)'.

'The program will be delivered by the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF), a community-based philanthropic organisation that helps build healthy and resilient communities across the region.'

'The grants will support organisations delivering a range of community-led recovery assistance, such as support for legal and mental health referrals, help organising renovations, the

provision of personal protective equipment and connecting communities with charitable organisations.

'This announcement comes in the wake of the devastating floods of 2022 and an earlier than expected start to the fire season'.

The Community Resilience Grants Program is open until December 4. For more information and the full eligibility criteria visit the NRCF website at nrcf.org.au/grants.

Dangerously Poetic launches *Paper People*

Dangerously Poetic Press is launching their 16th publication, *Paper People*, by Kathryn Boorman.

Organisers told *The Echo*, 'Rich with quirky characters encountered through a wealth of life experience, these lyrical poems were crafted over a 20-year period'.

Kathryn Boorman has lived in Suffolk Park since 2000, when she joined the Dangerously Poetic community.

'Mick O'Regan will be launching the collection on Sunday, November 26 from 3 till 5pm at Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall, 22 Fingal



Kathryn Boorman with some of her paper friends. Photo Eve Jeffery

Street. A reading from the collection and *Harmonies from The Songbirds* will be followed by champagne and

treats. The book will be sold at a special launch discount of \$15 and entry is \$10 cash at the door'.

Dr Heyning recognised with award

Congrats to Dr Marc Heyning, of Brunswick Heads Medical Centre, who is one of three Australia-wide recipients of the Australian Rural and Remote College's Distinguished Service Award 2023.

The award recognises those individuals 'who have provided a specific and significant contribution to rural and remote medicine'.

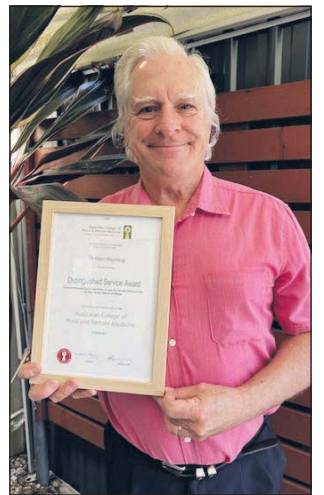
Dr Heyning was recognised 'for outstanding advocacy and medical services in his community in the Northern Rivers of NSW'.

He has provided Rural

Generalist (RG) obstetric, emergency, and inpatient medical services to the Northern Rivers community for more than 35 years.

Marc says, 'I stopped counting the number of babies whose births I have been at when I reached 1,000, and that was many years ago'.

'I am now delivering the next generation of families. It's so rewarding watching mothers have their babies, and then seeing those babies grow up. It's equally rewarding watching registrars become the next generation of RG obstetricians'.



Dr Marc Heyning from the Brunswick Heads Medical Centre. Photo supplied

Massinger St tree house faces chop

Paul Bibby

Has the much-loved tree house on Massinger Street, Byron Bay, hosted its last children's tea party?

Five years after it was saved from demolition by a community campaign, the famous structure will face the chop again at this week's Council meeting.

A report from Council staff states that one of the gum trees supporting the tree

house has died, meaning that it no longer has 'structural integrity'.

According to the report, an inspection of the site found building waste at the bottom of the tree.

'The site of the building waste likely contributed to the death of the tree,' the report states.

This was grounds to terminate the lease that the owners of a nearby house had taken on in relation to the

tree house, the report said.

The lease was part of an agreement between the home owners and the Council reached in 2018 in relation to the structure, because it lies on a Council road reserve, rather than private land. Council staff pushed to remove the structure back then owing to liability concerns, but councillors relented after the home owners agreed to take on a lease for the structure.

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4WD driver fined nearly \$5,000 after National park trespass

A 4WD driver who ignored signs advising a Northern Rivers national park was closed, got stuck and abandoned the car, has been fined nearly \$5,000 for the adventure.

Wanted: Northern Rivers hospital volunteers

Thirty volunteers have donated nearly a thousand hours of time and care to hospitals across the Northern Rivers since June as part of an official program launched this year.

Celebrating 30 years of Big Scrub conservation

Big Scrub Rainforest celebrations will take place between 23-26 November to celebrate 25 years of the Big Scrub Rainforest Day and 30 years since the formation of the Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy.

Two dead in Tabulam stolen car crash

Emergency services were called to Plains Station Road,

Tabulam at about 3.20am Saturday, 11 November, after reports of a single-vehicle crash.

Have your say on angled parking, in-ground sensors in Ballina CBD

In-ground parking sensors would be introduced to Ballina's central business district under changes to council policy recommended by consultants hired to carry out a recent parking study.

Overnight lane closures for Pacific Motorway, Tweed Heads

Greenway Drive overpass will have lane closures overnight from Sunday, 19 November to Thursday, 23 November for maintenance work.

Learn about preventing violence against women

A new report released by White Ribbon has revealed that 86 per cent of men say they have a role to play in taking action against violence but only six per cent take action to prevent it. Nearly two-thirds (64 per cent) believe that 'not being an offender' is doing enough to help end violence against women.

www.echo.net.au

Stink pipes cause a commotion in Bilambil

Aslan Shand

Did you know that the sewer needs to 'breathe'? The place that quietly deals with all those little pressies we deliver via a quick flush of the toilet needs a little fresh air to make sure they are processed effectively and without too much stench.

This little nugget of information came to the fore following the October 26 Tweed Shire Council (TSC) meeting after residents near the intersection of McAllisters Road and Buenavista Ave and surrounding areas in Bilambil Heights sent a petition to TSC 'to stop all future works from construction' and for 'designers to go back to the drawing board to investigate and find alternative locations that is not out the front of someone's home and other homes where residents are affected by stink pipe'.

According to a spokesperson from TSC there are 'about 225 vents across the Tweed's gravity sewer network and another 12 ground-mounted vents' and they are 'required under the Plumbing Code of Australia (AS 3500). These vents are in addition to the smaller odour vents commonly found on all houses as part of sewerage services to the home'.

Mayor Chris Cherry was quick to explain that 'when we are providing our sewage services, these kinds of vents where the system can take in fresh air make sure that what's transported in the pipes doesn't



One of the vents at 1 Liriope Street, Casuarina. Photo supplied

become anaerobic. When it doesn't have enough oxygen then it actually becomes a lot stinkier.

'It is important to have these kinds of vents everywhere and as we heard in community access earlier today, every house does have a small vent for exactly the same purpose. There's only one time when they will produce odours and that is if a system fails.'

A spokesperson for TSC confirmed the purpose of the vents telling *The Echo* that the vents, 'allow the sewerage network to "breathe" by allowing air to leave the system as well as for air to be sucked into the system. One of the

main purposes of these vents is to avoid odour issues, not create them.'

Not toxic

The Tweed also has 214 sewer pump stations which all have vent poles, the majority located in residential areas.

'This is a normal part of living in an urban environment that we have these vents,' said Cr Cherry.

'They don't create toxic fumes. The worst that they can give off is a sulphuric kind of a thing, but that is then dissipated into the atmosphere. So it's not going to create a health risk for our residents.'

Review conducted

After being alerted to residents' concerns, Council's Engineering team conducted a review of the design of the 10m vent stack and its placement. Their findings are as follows:

'The manhole selected (located at the corner of McAllister Road and Buenavista Drive) for the 10-metre-high vent is deemed the most appropriate option. Other options increase the risk of sewer overflows or have the potential to impact the operation of residences' internal plumbing.'

'More details about sewer ventilation, including information about the 10-metre-high vents, can be found on our website at tweed.nsw.gov.au/sewer-ventilation.'

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



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RoR Lismore: flood survivors to meet weekly on Lismore floodplain

Mia Armitage

Frustrated survivors of last year's devastating floods in Lismore are to meet weekly on the floodplain indefinitely while their struggle for bureaucratic transparency in the official recovery process continues.

Reclaim our Recovery (RoR) Lismore said around 50 people went to a 'community conversations' public gathering in South Lismore earlier this month that member Antoinette O'Brien described afterwards as a 'people's assembly'.

A smaller group of 15-25 people met again last Wednesday, founding member Andrew George said, with weekly Wednesday meetings at the same floodplain venue to continue indefinitely.

Members last week were trying to work out what to do next after sending a letter to key politicians and bureaucratic leaders outlining their concerns.

Mr George said RoR sent 'a big letter' after the 'community conversations' session to the NSW Reconstruction



A ROR (Reclaim Our Recovery) gathering earlier this year. Photo supplied

Authority, local members, state ministers for emergency services and planning, the Federal Member for Page, federal minister for emergency management, and Lismore City councillors.

Greater transparency

'To start with, we sent them exactly what happened at the conversations because they need to be accountable to the people that were there,' Mr George said.

The RoR members said government and bureaucratic transparency on decisions made as part of official recovery grants and support programs was still the group's main desire.

'People really want better transparency about the buybacks and about the whole reconstruction effort,' Mr George said.

The founding RoR member said data on what else, specifically, people wanted transparency about would be useful.

'I think that's pretty straightforward,' he said. 'When we know specifically what people expect and want for transparency, we can take that to the Reconstruction Authority,' he said.

Meetings are followed by a 'pot-luck' or 'bring a plate' dinner.

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

Ballina man charged over alleged online grooming

Sex Crimes Squad detectives have charged a man following an investigation into online grooming in Ballina under Strike Force Trawler.

Strike Force Trawler is an ongoing investigation by Sex Crimes Squad's Child Exploitation Internet Unit (CEIU) into the sexual abuse and exploitation of children facilitated through the internet and related telecommunications devices.

With assistance from the Queensland Police Service, a Ballina man was identified allegedly using a social media platform to groom a teenage girl for the purpose of sexual activity.

About 6.30am Thursday, 16 November 2023, strike force detectives executed a search warrant at a home in Ballina where they arrested a 35-year-old man.

The man was taken to Ballina Police Station where he was charged with use carriage service to groom under 16-year-old for sex, use carriage service to procure under 16-year-old for sexual activity and use carriage service to send indecent material to person under 16. He was refused bail to appear at Ballina Local Court.

Police allege the man was planning to meet up with a

young teenage girl during upcoming school holidays for the purpose of sexual activity.

As inquiries under Strike Force Trawler continue, Commander of State Crime Command's Sex Crimes Squad Detective Superintendent Jayne Doherty said parents are reminded to talk to their children about online safety.

Parents can find more information at 'Think U Know' - www.thinkuknow.org.au/resources-tab/parents-and-carers.

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

Bruxner Highway upgrade axed, for now

Ballina Mayor Sharon Cadwallader says the recent release of the federal government's infrastructure spending review brings with it a disheartening revelation for the Ballina Shire and the Northern Rivers region.

In particular, one significant funding loss was for the Bruxner Highway - Wollongbar to Goonellabah project, which initially held a federal commitment of \$6.8 million.

The Bruxner Highway serves as a link between the

regional centres of Ballina and Lismore, making its capacity a concern for the Northern Rivers region.

The now lost funding was intended to address capacity issues on this route, she said.

In light of these developments, Ballina Shire Council is calling upon the NSW government to continue the planning stage of the Bruxner Highway project, arguing that this is not just a matter of regional development, but a pressing

necessity for the safety and wellbeing of communities in the Northern Rivers region.

'The potential consequences of neglecting this critical project are too significant to ignore, and immediate action is imperative to ensure the security and prosperity of Northern Rivers NSW communities,' added Mayor Cadwallader.

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

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #24 • November 22, 2023

Council's \$250k deficit

Another enthralling Byron Shire Council meeting will be held on Thursday!

Among the many pressing issues on the agenda are budget adjustments, which are proposed by James Brickley, Council's Manager Finance.

If adopted by councillors, Council would see a \$250,000 deficit for 2023/2024.

In his report, available in the upcoming meeting agenda, Brickley suggests decreasing and increasing funds across Council's general fund, water fund, and sewerage fund to achieve the outcome.

The report reveals where many of Council's projects are at, and where staff are juggling priorities.

No doubt flood related projects have helped push the needle into the red. For example, \$162,000 is needed to be found owing to a 'grant being approved for a river flood level warning system funded by the Department of Regional NSW, NSW Public Works'.

And: 'In the Infrastructure Recovery program, it is proposed to decrease income and expenditure owing to a number of natural disaster affected projects within the program not having a written funding agreement in place'.

Yet the deficit isn't a concern for the 'Responsible Accounting Officer' – Brickley writes that the officer considers 'the short term financial position of the Council is still satisfactory for the 2023/2024 financial year, having consideration of the original estimate of income and expenditure at the 30 September 2023 Quarter Budget Review'.

Legal costs down

Interestingly, general legal expenses of \$54,468.79 were incurred as of September 30, 2023.

This is far lower than the \$210,000 budget allocated for 2023/2024.

This could be seen as a win for staff in prudent financial management, or a loss for a community that expects its councillors to push harder against inappropriate development.

The revised estimate would see an operating revenue of \$108,734,700 and expenditure pegged at \$121,749,200 for the year.

Vanity projects

Given the financial tightrope Council is walking, it's worth pondering whether there would be more financial security if it wasn't for the vanity projects that were spearheaded by the previous Council.

They include a large ambitious bioenergy plant next to Byron's sewage treatment plant (STP), a massive solar project in Myocum, and the flood-prone and now 'on hold' Lot 22 'affordable' housing project next to the Mullum Community Gardens.

A lot of time and money was spent exploring these projects – and others.

But the unforeseen Covid impacts and the floods have taken their toll, and it's unclear whether these grand plans will ever be realised.

For those unaware of the politics behind the scenes, the current mayor, Michael Lyon, was mentored by the previous mayor, Simon Richardson. Both were originally elected as Greens councillors, but over time, distanced themselves from that platform. Lyon joined Richardson's team seven long years ago, and much of what happens in the chamber still reverberates around Richardson's legacy.

What will be the Lyon legacy?

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Will Albo go to an early election?

Anthony Albanese has been 'hoist by his own petard', meaning he is about to be blown up by the [political] explosives that he planted.

He has locked himself into an impossible situation with his dogged determination to not break election promises.

While that is admirable, especially when the electorate is used to governments making promises only to break them the minute they are elected, such a rigid position does not allow for rapidly changing circumstances and budget blowouts.

He promised to introduce a referendum to give First Nations people recognition and a Voice guaranteed by the Constitution.

The moment Peter Dutton decided to use this as a political weapon, the referendum was as good as dead. Of the 45 referendums held, only eight have passed and all but one had bipartisan support from both major parties. Despite overwhelming odds, with barely a two per cent chance of success, the PM pressed on to fulfil his promise.

Even though Labor opposed the enormously expensive Stage 3 tax cuts when introduced by the Morrison government, Albo made an election promise not to repeal them. These tax cuts mostly benefit high income earners and will cost the budget an eye-watering \$313 billion over ten years.

The Australia Institute surveyed 1,600 Australians, and only 17 per cent supported keeping them. Twenty five per cent favoured scrapping them altogether, and 44 per cent think they should be restructured to give more benefit to middle and low income earners.

Despite less than one in five polled supporting these tax cuts, it would appear the Albanese government would rather make spending cuts, like those just announced to infrastructure projects, than risk the wrath of the Murdoch shock jocks and attacks from Dutton's mob.

Those infrastructure cuts will cost jobs of traditional Labor supporters, as well as making life difficult for Labor governments.



'When people are hurting, they blame the government, even when it is completely out of the government's control.'

– Richard Jones

Much has changed since the election in May last year, including worsening impacts of global heating. Fear generated by wars and climate impacts has a tangible effect on economies. People tend to clamp their purses and wallets shut – it's the sea anemone effect. Disturb the waving tentacles and they're withdrawn rapidly.

We are living in volatile and uncertain times. There was a recent article in *The Economist* entitled: The world economy is defying gravity. That cannot last.

Jamie Dimon, chair of JP Morgan, America's largest bank, said the combination of Israel's war on Hamas and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have produced 'the most dangerous time the world has seen in decades.'

These conflicts potentially have 'far-reaching impacts' on energy prices, food costs, international trade and diplomatic ties.

Albanese and his government may feel the need to renew their mandate before the budget situation worsens. Either that or start breaking promises.

The lack of tax reform in many areas, including capital gains tax gutted by John Howard, and these Stage 3 tax cuts, severely tie the hands of the Albanese government when they need to assist struggling battlers.

Fabian-style government

Albo wants to make Labor the natural choice of government and to do this he feels he can't be as radical as Gough Whitlam, who changed the face of Australia in three turbulent years.

A Fabian-style softy-softy approach simply can't work though in these tumultuous times.

He needs to bite the proverbial bullet and behave like an authentic Labor government.

Bob Hawke won office convincingly for Labor in March 1983, after seven years of LNP rule. He stayed on as prime minister until 1991, having had four consecutive election wins.

In December 1984, Hawke went to an election 18 months early on a flimsy pretext, but perhaps the real reason was he was much more popular than opposition leader Andrew Peacock.

Hawke had an approval rating as high as 75 per cent while Peacock rarely scored over 40 per cent.

If Albo wants to stick with his promise of not scrapping or tinkering with the Stage 3 tax cuts, yet wants to claw back the money for health, education, climate action and housing, he would need to call an election around March 2014, 14 months early.

He would need to spell out the reforms in his election campaign and lock them into his renewed mandate. Calling an early election may not be popular with voters, but it may be the only option he leaves himself.

It's also a risk going early, but it may be an even greater risk for him going full term. The economic situation may well deteriorate.

When people are hurting, they blame the government, even when it is completely out of the government's control. He could lose office after three years having achieved relatively few reforms.

His honeymoon is well and truly over. His polls are beginning to sag. If he waits full term the people may want a divorce altogether, especially if he has crippled the budget by not recovering those billions a year going to the wealthy. He might be well advised to contemplate these matters on his Christmas break.

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

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4WD access at South Ballina Beach

It has come to my attention that at the next Ballina Council meeting on Thursday, November 23, there will be a motion brought forward to again discuss/alter the present status of the [currently prohibited] South Ballina Beach 4WD access.

The decision to ban 4WDs from this beautiful and, unfortunately, one of the few remaining beaches which you can visit in this area without 4WDs, is yet again up for discussion.

I would urge anyone who has an interest in keeping the South Ballina Beach free of 4WDs, to read the Ballina Shire Council agenda for the next meeting on their website, where it will be available this Friday, and to let their concerns be known to all councillors by email.

It is important that this beach remains without 4WD access, to protect the endangered pied oyster catcher and beach stone curlew. Evidence from National Parks and Wildlife Service suggests that the numbers of these species have more than doubled since the closure of the beach to 4WDs.

On the other hand, the arguments concerning the effective management of 4WD access to the beach and the environment through boom gates, cameras, etc. with extra rangers to manage it, and that income from permits and fines would cover this cost, are highly doubtful.

Louisa Clifford
Alstonville

Doesn't pass pub test

The Scarrabelotti family donated to Council a special corner of their land at Coorabell. It's so everyone could enjoy what their family enjoyed. A breathtaking view over the Myocum Valley hinterland and beyond to the Byron coast and ocean.

Wasn't long ago that I remember a Council development meeting where a decision was being taken on the now approved restaurant development nearby. Various councillors including Cr Cameron talked passionately about the significance of this lookout to the community and the legacy left by Joe's father. Cr Cameron passed comment: 'We must celebrate the important value



Cartoon by Ron Atkinson

this site has for the community'. Similar passionate comments were made at the time by other councillors and Mayor Richardson.

Before Covid, as Council have never bothered to maintain the family's gift to the community, Joe Scarrabelotti would take it upon himself to tractor slash and whipper snip the lookout area. That included using the whipper snipper around lots of human excrement and toilet paper left on the ground by the illegal campers who Council have never bothered controlling. Joe made the effort because he was proud of his father's legacy. A legacy that now belongs to all the community and is especially loved by the Coorabell locals.

The state of the lookout now does not align with the pride and passion espoused by the various councillors on that day. It's a crying shame that the councillors' love and passion for this special place cannot be reflected and respected with having it cleaned up, starting with the removal of the large rocks which have prevented Joe doing his regular voluntary cleanup because the Council cannot be bothered to carry out its duties.

At the start of Covid, locals requested Council to close the lookout so that illegal campers, hunted out of Byron at the time by Council, would be prevented from spreading the illness amongst themselves and the wider community. Council placed large rocks to block the entrance from Coolamon Scenic Drive.

After Covid, when the Council reopened the

lookout, the rocks were not removed and were just shunted around the perimeter of the lookout carpark. Trouble was, they now blocked Joe's ability to slash with his tractor as he had always needed to do.

So the lookout area is now overgrown with weeds and long grass without Joe's ability to care for his father's legacy which he quietly did before in his own time, with his own equipment and fuel.

The local community has made formal representations since September 2022 to have the large rocks removed. At a site meeting in October 2022, Council agreed to remove the rocks before Christmas 2022. Continued correspondence with Council has unfortunately resulted in nothing being done.

It should be a priority for Council to respect the legacy left by Joe's father and respect Joe's and my repeated requests to remove the rocks so he can keep it clean. Even if Council can't.

The place now looks appalling compared to what it was. Overgrown with weeds and piled up toilet paper and excrement in the long grass and weeds. Not a great advertisement for tourists coming to Byron who frequent the much-loved lookout during the day.

It's now the end of 2023 and we have now been advised formally that the long overdue task is no longer even on Council's radar. The latest response from Council just doesn't pass the pub test I'm afraid.

As recognised by the councillors, the lookout is a special place that needs to

be looked after. The Council's response this week is very sad and the Scarrabelotti family and wider community deserve better.

Anthony Stante
Coorabell

Flood preparation

Isn't it important to give people in Lismore some straightforward advice on what to do when the next floods come?

How much warning and how high? Will I be safe on my roof and how long before I can climb down again to use the toilet, etc?

I have been to a few get-togethers. Well organised, but no real handy hints! Back in 1953 there was one big flood, but never another one since in Zeeland (The Netherlands).

Strange to get such complicated names for action groups. I hear cries from locals who get nowhere and wait and wait. One here and there gets a buyback,

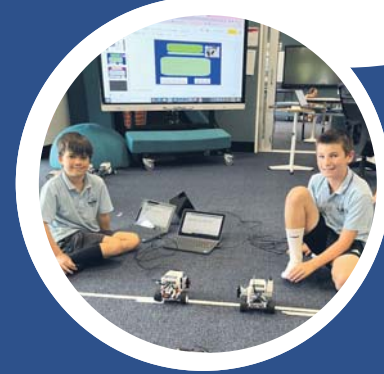
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Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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.

It is time to look for common ground if people are to move forward with peace

Our values on Gaza?

'This is the press, an irresponsible press. It will make the criminal look like he's the victim and make the victim look like he's the criminal. If you aren't careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed and loving the people who are doing the oppressing.' – Malcolm X.

Journalist William Greider once wrote: 'Everyone's values are defined by what

they will tolerate when it is done to others.'

Makes you think, doesn't it?
Warren Kennedy
Mullumbimby

'Ceasefire Now' rally

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent 'Ceasefire Now' rally held at Main Beach, Byron which, contrary to its stated goals, devolved into an unsettling display of anti-Israel sentiment.

The event, which promised a balanced and peaceful call for ceasefire, unfortunately presented disturbing visuals and messages. Among these were banners that carried implicit violence in their blood-red imagery and misinformation about Israel's defensive actions. It is crucial that as a community, we scrutinise the content of such messages and understand the implications they carry.

Most disconcertingly, the rally included chants of 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.' This slogan, beyond its surface appeal to liberty, is associated with a narrative that denies the right of Israel to exist and has been used by groups including Hamas, which is recognised as a terrorist organisation by the Australian government among others. Such rhetoric does not contribute to peace

but rather sows division and hostility, undermining the values of coexistence and mutual respect.

As Australians who cherish the principles of democracy and free speech, we are saddened to see these values manipulated to foster a one-sided narrative. We believe in constructive dialogue and the importance of recognising the rights and security of all peoples, including Israelis.

We urge our community to maintain a compassionate and balanced perspective, and to seek peace in ways that affirm the dignity of every individual involved in this conflict. Let us not forget the importance of context and the complex history behind the headlines.

Yuval Refaeli
Ocean Shores

► **More letters on the Israel-Gaza conflict, page 16**

► **Continued from page 11** like next door, but still the home is empty, whilst people still sleep in caravans.... I could find 200 more words to describe the AI (another word for bureaucrats!) and the lack of true response and useful info.

Hope for a down-to-earth action group or better still the Republic of Lismore and we'll fix it all ourselves.

Now, I'll get on with scraping the mud from under the floorboards... Hope all councillors will LISTenMORE. Scary a bit to give my full name.

God bless, Bob.

Robert Miller
South Lismore

Giant devil's fig

Thanks to *The Echo* for a timely article on a couple of nasty weeds (November 8). Giant devil's fig has been around as an occasional plant for years, but has gone troppo since last year's flood.

A single plant may look pretty harmless, but it produces fruit filled with seeds which are spread by birds, as well as by floodwaters, vehicles, slashers, etc. It can proliferate into dense impenetrable stands several metres high and very prickly.

It is listed as a priority weed by Rous Weeds, who say: 'under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015, every person has a responsibility

to prevent, eliminate or minimise the biosecurity risk posed by weeds.'

They have an excellent booklet out, 'Weed Biosecurity - Priority Weeds of the Far North Coast NSW', with details including good photos of more weeds than you want to look at, but should, know about. I'm told it can be downloaded from www.rous.nsw.gov.au, and there there should be hard copies available at the Mullum Co-op, Council and the library.

The other weed mentioned in *The Echo* article, tropical soda apple (TSA), is not so common around here, and has several native relatives,

at least one of which is more common, and is hard to distinguish from TSA.

I suggest anyone who finds what they think is a TSA not to attack it, but to send several photos to weeds@rous.nsw.gov.au. If they think it might be TSA they will send someone to check it out. You are required to notify Rous Weeds if you do find TSA.

These weeds can be prevented from becoming an ecological nightmare if all landowners control them on their own land, and if Council and Crown Lands take responsibility for these weeds on land they control, like roadsides and waterways. Their response

to the questions is to say that it is Rous Weeds' job, but of course they don't give them enough money to do it.

Matthew Lambourne
Mullumbimby

No poisons

An efficient and herbicide-free way of eradicating giant devil's fig is by ring barking. Using a strong, steel, sharp knife or machete carve a deep circle around the plant's trunk. Herbicide-free land guardians are finding this method highly effective.

It's estimated that 75 per cent of our food crops rely on pollinators with 95 per cent of our food coming from soil. Herbicide use has a far

greater negative impact than the eye can see. Way beyond the target plant; leaching into the valuable biomass and into waterways.

Another local concern arose when two pythons (carpet snakes) were found dead. My suspicion is rat poison. Most rats, many indigenous, die slowly making them easy prey for goannas, snakes, owls, kookaburras etc. If a rat is dying slowly through being poisoned it is likely that the poison will still be active. Less snakes, more rats.

Peppermint oil and leaves deter mice.

Don Drinkwater
Huonbrook

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Teals show their strength

David Lowe

In a week when the major parties raced to the bottom in reaction to the High Court's decision on indefinite detention, the teals in Canberra showed another way of doing politics, on issues including lobbying, forests and truth in political advertising.

The latest strategy of the loosely grouped cross-bench representatives is to support one another where there's common ground, in an attempt to cut through the usual oppositional approaches which stall so much political progress. While this group can't ensure legislative changes on their own, they can put a spotlight on issues that would otherwise be ignored, and steer the resulting debates.

The recent Voice referendum showed the teal independents' strong leadership roles within their own communities, with all but one of their electorates voting 'Yes'. As the Coalition drifts further into Trump-land, these seats may well be permanently unwinnable by the Liberal Party, with more likely to join them after another election.

Issues

Mackellar representative Dr Sophie Scamps led out on Monday with her launch of the forest pledge, designed to end logging of public native forests in Australia, at a time when 19 local ecosystems teeter on the brink of failure, in the midst of an extinction and climate crisis.

'We need to act and we need to act now,' said Dr Scamps. 'In this context, continuing to log our beautiful native forests is simply madness; it's morally wrong.'

Her forest pledge has already found the support of 36 organisations and 29 scientists, experts and academics, including several former senior politicians.

Later in the green chamber, Dr Monique Ryan of Kooyong read her Lobbying (Improving Government Honesty and Trust) Bill a second time, saying 'Sunlight is the best medicine, and it's time to shine a light into the halls of this place to illuminate the workings of the light on the hill.'

'We need to know who has the ears of our politicians and we need to close and stop that revolving door. Australians deserve to be able to trust their government,' she said.



The Force is strong amongst the Teals. Cloudcatcher Media

Dr Ryan's bill seeks to rein in the secretive, multi-million dollar commercial lobbying industry, enforce currently optional codes of conduct, and prevent politicians from stepping directly from portfolios into affected industries, as happens now.

Curtin MP Kate Chaney backed her up, saying 'we have a right to know who is accessing our ministers and executive so citizens can make up their own minds about whether our government is focused on the public interest or private and vested interests.'

Stop the lies

Warringah representative Zali Steggall followed with her Commonwealth Electoral Amendment (Voter Protections in Political Advertising) Bill, which seeks to protect voters from misleading and deceptive political advertising.

'Voters want a debate based on policy and facts, not lies and fear mongering,' she said.

She noted the disingenuous smear campaigns of shadowy organisations like Advance Australia (her political opponent Tony Abbott is a director of that organisation), as well as misinformation campaigns run by the ALP, such as Medicare.

'A sceptic might claim that lies have always been part of politics,' said Ms Steggall. 'But research shows that the sheer quantity of false political advertising is growing.'

She asked her fellow representatives what they were so afraid of. 'Are your claims not valid? Can you not back your claims up or prove them? Just like any manufacturer or business cannot scam consumers, you should not be able to scam voters.'

Zali Steggall's bill was seconded by Kate Chaney. It will be interesting to watch how the major parties wriggle when this bill is debated.

Playing politics with lives

Late in the week, teal independent and former journalist Zoe Daniel spoke about the threats to social cohesion in Australia as those seeking to exploit the situation conflated Hamas with the wider Palestinian community, and the actions of the Israeli government with all Jewish people.

She said a narrowly-averted riot in Caulfield demonstrated what the Director-General of ASIO has described as the 'direct connections between inflamed language and inflamed community tensions'.

Zoe Daniel suggested Australian multiculturalism was facing its greatest test since the 1970s.

'We must pull this up here, in Australia; we must pull back from this tipping point, where hate and anger become so dominant that any nuance, any capacity for reasoned conversation or empathy for others, is lost.'

Ms Daniel again took the floor as parliament scrambled to respond to the High Court's decision to release a number of people convicted of serious crimes from indefinite immigration detention.

'Humanity must be at the centre of all policy,' she said, noting that both sides of government knew this day was coming, and should have been prepared. Zoe Daniel said she would support the government's bill in the knowledge that there would be further changes to it when the High Court published its reasons.

'We must now work to protect our communities, while adhering to basic human rights for people who are refugees. This legislation must be neither misused by the government nor weaponised by an opposition that plays politics with people's lives.'

A factual and humane political response in late 2023. How about that!

While some would say the election of the teals forced the Liberal Party further to the right, and into short-sighted extremism, it could equally be said that the capture of major parties by vested interests has led to the creation of alternative, mostly female voices, with what was once the centre now looking like the left.

Time will tell if these new voices are marginalised, or strengthened.

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

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A Gambit for the Muse

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– Grandmaster Ian Rogers, *Canberra Times*

White Horses and Dark Knights, paperback, 245pp, is available for \$20 at *The Echo* office.

Truth-telling beyond the Voice referendum

Professor Jeffery Lewis and Dr Belinda Lewis

In order to transcend the disappointment of the Voice referendum, many political and Aboriginal leaders are focusing on 'truth-telling'.

The starting point for this shift could be the truth of the public's rejection of the Voice.

In explaining the outcome of the Voice referendum, many 'Yes' supporters have focused on: 1. The power of the conservative media; and 2. The apathy, gullibility or racist dispositions of 'No' voters.

While these explanations may have some validity, it's important to look more broadly at Australia's complex national psyche to understand the rejection.

By 'psyche' we mean the aggregation of our diverse communities and their defining knowledge systems.

Knowledge systems are comprised of an individual's information about their world. This information is internalised and personalised through experience, sensibilities and the nefarious qualities we call 'values'.

We reference to these relatively organised knowledge systems in order to make sense of ourselves and the social conditions in which we live.

These knowledge systems are acquired, developed and shared between the individuals with whom we identify and have particular bonds.

This sharing may be through family, friendships, community, recreational groups, political affiliations or various media systems – including mass and social media.

So, when individual electors were making their decision about the referendum – 'Yes', 'No', or informal – they referenced to their primary knowledge systems.

We already have information about the voting patterns of various geographical and social categories. There are exceptions within these patterns, of course, but they do provide some clues about the rejection of the Voice.

We know, for example, that the 'Yes' vote was strongest in inner city electorates, and weakest in rural areas. It was also weak in outer suburban areas, such as western Melbourne and Sydney.

So let's look at this more closely.

Voters in the ACT and inner-city Melbourne and Sydney are often university educated, professional, or affluent. Their knowledge of the world is shaped by relative privilege, abstract ideas, and a sense of social leadership.

Whether they vote Green, Liberal or Labor, these voters mostly interact with one another, consume ABC media, and read 'ideas' newspapers like *The Australian*, *The Guardian*, *The SMH* and *The Echo*.

They are often world travellers, but very few have regular or direct interaction with Indigenous Australians. Where interaction does occur, it's usually media-based rather than in the shared locale of the affluent suburbs.

Impact of life and history

Rural residents, on the other hand, are more likely to encounter Indigenous Australians living in conditions of struggle. This clearly affects the ways in which rural knowledge systems engage with

It's important to look more broadly at Australia's complex national psyche to understand the rejection of the Voice

Aboriginal issues and people. These experiences possibly contributed to the strong 'No' vote in those areas.

Generally, rural voters live quite material lives. Their work is less shaped by abstract ideas or concepts. The rural economy and lifestyles are largely based around farming and farmer-based services. Farming fundamentally involves the cultivation of crops, and the rearing and slaughter of animals. Rural residents' lives and survival are vulnerable to frontline crises like floods, fire, and drought.

There was similarly a strong 'No' vote in the western suburbs of Melbourne and Sydney. These areas have significant numbers of first and second generation migrants, along with longer term residents who work in trade and the shorter-training workforce.

Like farmers, many migrants – especially refugees – have an acute understanding of physical threat and struggle. While their religious and community leaders may well have exalted the Voice – many members of migrant communities have little interest or time to appreciate Australia's complex and violent racial history.

For first and second generation migrants, a troubled history is their own lived experience. Australia represents their opportunity for personal, familial, and community renaissance. It's less about regret on behalf of others.

There also appears to be a strong 'No' vote among other trade and shorter-training worker categories. This is not so much about 'apathy' as 'relevance'. Long hours of material and physical work make little concession for abstract concepts like 'historical redress'. Many are snared within the daily struggles of personal and familial survival, working toward greater security and prosperity.

Whether in the major cities or elsewhere, these individuals made perfectly rational decisions about the Voice according to their personal knowledge systems and circumstances – some choosing 'Yes', others choosing 'No'.

Suspicion of authority

The other feature that a number of 'No' voters shared was a suspicion of authority. The heavy messaging of the prime minister and other 'Yes' campaigners could have alienated many prospective 'Yes' voters, including some Indigenous people themselves.

Some of this may be linked to a suspicion of state power, politicians and the professional progressives more generally.

It is possible that some 'No' voters were persuaded by the campaign's 'unity' arguments. In a country that now lionises 'social cohesion' as an effect of 'multiculturalism', the idea of special privileges for one particular ethnic group may have seemed anathema to the ideals of unity.

The 'Yes' campaigners denounced this argument as calumny conjured by

right-wing broadcast and social media. Commentary and opinion articles in the Murdoch media have been singled out as 'muddying' the debate and confusing voters.

As a great deal of research has shown, however, media

messaging usually just reinforces existing ways of thinking and frames of knowledge. People choose their media and its form of messaging according to pre-existing opinions, experiences and sensibilities.

That is, their primary knowledge systems.

People's media consumption habits are quite stable. Murdoch readers and viewers were already consuming that sort of media before the proposed referendum was announced.

Similarly, social media algorithms customise messaging according to the users' established tastes, preferences and patterns of media consumption. In other words, users received the messages they wanted to receive.

The Voice referendum forced voters to sift their knowledge systems and vote only 'Yes' or 'No'. This binary choice simply subsumed the complexity of the issue, without regard for the equally complex knowledge systems of voters.

This doesn't mean that people are eternally gullible, fixed or incapable of change. It simply means that knowledge systems are actually more nuanced than political and social leaders often appreciate. Knowledge systems are intrinsically porous and capable of new learnings and change.

That's precisely why voters switched from 60:40 in favour of the Voice to 60:40 opposed.

Individuals are always alert to new ways of making sense of their world. So, just as the 'Yes' voters based their decision on reasoned arguments and intuitive responses to the world – 'No' voters did exactly the same thing.

Ultimately, though, the Voice referendum amendment, and the 'Yes' campaign more generally, failed to properly engage with the national psyche. The proof is in the result.

Aboriginal Australians have suffered from generational privations directly linked to the history of war, invasion, and exclusion. This is an unequivocal fact.

And this fact should be a primary feature in all Australians' history education.

Beyond that fact, though, we need a truth that engages with our national psyche and what it means to be a member of a complex modern nation like Australia.

In particular, we need to confront the violent hierarchies that define all modern nations, including Australia. Indigenous Australians should be central to a redress of these hierarchies. Not in isolation, but in relation to all other groups with particular social and economic needs.

The framework of 'inclusion' is not enough in itself. It must be mediated with the redress of these hierarchies.

If we are to shift the national psyche, there needs to be more equitable sharing of the resources that comprise the nation's wealth and wellbeing. In our view, no nation is worthy of itself, when significant communities of its people are excluded from that sharing.

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- **Total cost after discount = \$8,806 or \$45 per week.**

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Israel Gaza war – time to find connection in a time of grief

Explosive

According to many sources, at least 25,000 tonnes of explosives, and counting, have been dropped on the besieged refugee camp of Gaza, that's 66 tonnes of explosives for every square km. Shredded to pieces include hospitals and medical staff, schools, and teachers, crucial infrastructure and aid workers, but mostly just families cowering in their own homes and of course the heart of my nation.

Some in the Israeli military are calling us 'human animals' and using openly genocidal rhetoric, meanwhile 11,000 people have been killed including 4,500 children. Recent reports from Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF – Doctors Without Borders) detail the grim reality within Al Shifa Hospital, where patients and two nurses have been killed by Israeli snipers after the hospital itself was bombed. Strikingly, MSF notes that they have never seen Hamas officials within the hospital.

The atrocities endured by our Israeli cousins were grotesque, a horrific crime. And the atrocities we are

enduring, as you read this, are also grotesque, and also a horrific crime.

I ask those who support this slaughter: how many more innocent Palestinian humans must die to help you heal your grieving heart? 100-fold? How many more grotesque atrocities must we endure, how many more can you justify to yourself?

There is something disturbing and fundamentally wrong when we abhor the killing of civilians on one side, and justify the killing of civilians on the other side, isn't there?

One million people have lost their homes, how many more homes must be destroyed for Israel to build justice for itself? Isn't justice for everyone or isn't justice at all? Aren't human rights for all humans or they aren't human rights at all?

How many more decades must Palestinians live as racial inferiors, under Israel's racist military rule, or under blockade? For how much longer can we possibly pretend that peace can exist under this type of violent oppression?

How many more of our

little angels and your little angels will go to heaven before we understand that none of us are whole if we don't treat both lives as equally precious?

Salam.

Subhi Awad
Mullumbimby

Suffering and loss

No one wants war. Neither do rational people want terrorism. Despite differing narratives, most people cry about suffering and loss of all innocent life.

It is a fact that terrorists execute horrendous actions, they hunt down, knife, shoot, rape, torture, mutilate, decapitate, burn, murder, kidnap. In 2023, vicious terrorists perpetrated such a hideous pogrom, against innocent civilians, at a music festival, and in people's homes, in Israel.

The carnage by these cowardly terrorists from Gaza were against babies, toddlers, children, teenagers, young, middle-aged, and old adults; some Holocaust survivors, some, 'women who wage peace' members, and, some, people of different faiths.

Recognise what happened there! The extent of suffering of victims; their families' grief; the despair and agony of families of innocent children, innocent adults, still held hostage in Gaza. Who knows where? Who knows how?

Shame on doubters and deniers. Nothing justifies the Hamas-led barbaric actions of October 7, 2023; nor prior suicide bombing and ongoing rocket attacks. Israel was bound to retaliate for the recent heinous pogrom. What a disgrace, that supporters of Gaza, celebrated this year's horrific terrorist attacks against innocent civilians in Israel, and chanted 'gas the Jews'.

Jewish people, today, (whose ancestors, are as indigenous to the Middle East, as are Palestinians), are duty-bound to confront atrocities, provocations, untruths, antisemitism, and anti-Zionism.

Beverly Joffe
Wilson's Creek

Expansionist Israel

It is nonsensical for M McCormack to treat the chant, 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,' as antisemitic, despite what the Anti-Defamation League may say.

I'd love to hear Israel apologists chant the same refrain with 'Israel will be free!' but that would be too limiting for Israel's expansionist ambitions.

When Isaac Chotiner asked Daniella Weiss, a prominent settler and former mayor of Kedumin what Israel's boundaries were, she replied, 'The borders of the homeland of the Jews are the Euphrates in the east and the Nile in the southwest!' She stated that Palestinians would have to accept Jewish

sovereignty and would not be allowed to vote. As for Gaza, she said settlements would once again be built there and Palestinians would have to relocate to Egypt, Turkey or the Sinai (<https://www.newyorker.com/news/q-and-a/the-extreme-ambitions-of-west-bank-settlers?>). Danny Wakil doesn't mention that according to a *New York Times* investigation, half the greenhouses were destroyed by Israeli settlers (Erlanger, Steven, 'Israeli Settlers Demolish Greenhouses and Gaza Jobs' (*New York Times*, July 15, 2005) and synagogues were similarly destroyed because Israelis did not want them desecrated.

It's true that settlements were removed, but Israel controls all Gaza's air, sea and land and, like the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto and the Soviets in Stalin's Ukrainian Holodomor, food is weaponised. Israel referred to putting Gazans on a diet but right now it is starvation.

Gareth W R Smith
Byron Bay

Looking to peace

Last week's incredibly anti-Israel letter by Michael Ryan is sadly filled with absolute lies, complete distortions of truth, and a few cherry-picked facts. You are clearly well read and know better, so how are you not ashamed to pen such a letter?

One of the most ridiculous claims is: 'The Arabs have repeatedly outstretched a hand to peace and Israel has always rejected it, more than ten proposals spurned between 1948 and 1965 alone'.

I challenge you Michael Ryan in front of all *Echo* readers to show any actual evidence of this preposterous claim.

The actual truth is that Israel has gone to incredible lengths to create peace with all Arab states, and achieved this with Egypt and Jordan many decades ago, and has peace and solid relations and trade with most Muslim countries.

Around 1935, approximately 500,000 Arabs moved to the Jewish parts of the region of Palestine from other Arab countries and other parts of Palestine to take advantage of the better living conditions and paid work from the existing Jewish communities.

The UN voted to partition the remaining region of Palestine after Jordan, etc. was chopped out, into separate Jewish and Arab states. The Jews accepted the plan and the Arabs rejected it and in 1948 one day after Israel declared her statehood, five huge Arab armies invaded intending to attack the Jews and divide the land up (mainly expanding Egypt and Syria). They did not intend to create a Palestinian state. Israel by pure miracle survived.

Since then Israel has offered solid very generous two-state solution proposals to the Palestinians in 1993 (US president Bill Clinton said that Arafat was at the peace talks for 14 days and said no to everything). Again in 2000, and 2008.

Israel then unilaterally gave the Palestinians Gaza in 2005 and look what Hamas did with it. The Palestinians rejected the offers and have never come back with counter offers, even though they were getting almost 100 per cent of what they were asking for, aside from the 'right of return' which is simply a plan for anyone who identifies as Palestinian (even if they have no

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Scratch your bum and give idleness a chance

Richard Hil

Mandy Nolan's recent Soapbox article on the mental health crisis was a ripper. Spot on (November 1). She's right about one of the principal causes: capitalism. Sounds too easy doesn't it, to blame our collective misery on a flaying, fundamentalist economic belief system. But it's true, according to James Davies in *How Modern Capitalism Created Our Mental Health Crisis*.

The latest iteration of this system, neoliberal capitalism, is the most egregious example of aberrant ideas that anyone could conjure. It's competitiveness, greed, selfishness and destructive impulses are about as inhumane, anti-species and anti-life as it gets. And contrary to what Clive Hamilton suggests, we may be on a path of total fucked-up-ness.

The idea that we can somehow, miraculously get out of the mess that is climate breakdown and biodiversity loss, is becoming less and less convincing.

Meanwhile dear old mining magnate Twiggy Forrest is strutting the globe telling us that he's one of the 1,000 people most responsible for the trashing of our planet. But that's *okay*, he and his like-minded philanthropic billionaires are here to make amends. Tell that to the millions already impacted by climate breakdown and to future generations who are facing an uninhabitable Earth.

The troubled soul

But I digress. What is the mental health crisis? Well, that's the official badge for a very complex problem. Its effects are human misery on an epic scale, especially in rich Western countries.

The health angle is in fact a metaphor for social sickness or, more prosaically, the troubled soul. When the most fundamental values that make life worthwhile – belonging, love, attachment, connection, kindness, compassion, mutual care, etc. – are either eviscerated or utterly compromised, then hey presto, misery arises.

This of course is amplified by material circumstances, like the absence of affordable accommodation, low income, poverty, precarious work and the like.



Time to disconnect from social media and reconnect with family, friends and nature. Photo David Lowe

It's also fuelled by the fragmentation of communities, the privileging of the material over the social and, by the way, the meanness and gullibility demonstrated in the referendum. The triggers are manifold. So are the symptoms.

Personally, my soul sickness – always lurking in the shadows – re-emerged as a result of a growing awareness of climate breakdown, and all that goes with it.

Eco-anxiety doesn't really capture what I'm feeling. It's more to do with witnessing human hubris and selfishness, and the suffering of the world's most vulnerable and powerless. How can this be otherwise, one asks inanely, just as we do when viewing horrific events in the Middle East, the Ukraine, Myanmar or wherever cruelty presents.

These events however, pale against the unfolding realities of climate breakdown. The lived effects are visceral. Personally, it's taken me months to recover from the 2020 floods. Sleeplessness, anxiety, melancholia – all that and more. These are the telltale aftershocks of witnessing all the human suffering, the destruction, and the meanness of governments that offer flood victims zilch to raise their houses. Zero. Nowt. But, hey, there's AUKUS and all those fossil fuel subsidies and tax concessions to pay for.

Building a future

OK, no more. Let's talk about some ways that you and I can address embodied misery. Johan Hari and

others are good on this. Easier said than done, of course. You can't just wave a wand and fix material problems. But there are some props we can use, like: connecting with others, doing voluntary work, exercising, eating as best you can, getting sleep, meditating, yoga, having a different relationship with your thoughts, getting out into nature, being compassionate and kind to others, and yourself, avoiding too much misery talk, and putting a lid on alcohol and other stuff.

Easy-peasy? Not really. But it's a start. The thing I've found most helpful has been yakking with my friends, stacks of laughter, and doing heaps of activist work. Avoiding vexatious people helps too, as does getting off the computer and reducing your attachment to social media. The FOMO bullshit that comes with 'hyperconnectivity' is a killer – sometimes literally. The more we indulge the fantasies and encroachments of social media, the more we feed into the imperatives of surveillance capitalism. So, ditch as much as you can.

Instead, have a chat with your neighbours, do a drawing of your favourite flower, hit some tennis balls, walk through Heritage Park in Mullum, have a glass of something with a mate, hug friends, say you love them, play the uke, join a protest, campaign for human rights and social justice, pull some weeds, play some Lennon, and scratch your bum. Celebrate idleness. Don't buy into turbo capitalism.

► connection to the land) to move to Israel instantly making Jews a minority in their own country.

Interesting that the Palestinians including the 'moderate' Abbas stated that not even one Jew will be allowed to live in the future Palestinian state.

I will tell you what 'my peace' looks like in my next letter.

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

Displacement

In 1948, 700,000 Arabs (Palestinian) became refugees. Currently, the number has

grown to five million.

Someone in Israel is not succeeding. Genocide means a reduction and destruction of people. So clearly, there has been no genocide of the Palestinian people. Conversely, the Hamas Charter calls for true genocide of all Israelis.

The chant, 'from the river to the sea Palestine will be free' calls for this. It is heard at all pro-Palestinian rallies, including the recent Byron Bay rally.

65 million people were displaced post-WW2, all were refugees. Imagine if those people believed,

as Palestinians do, that not only should they have refugee status, but also claim generational refugee status.

Palestinians include their children and grandchildren in the tally and considered refugees in perpetuity. What about the 800,000 Jews expelled from eight Arab countries post 1948? Should they claim right of return?

Arabs have their own set of rules in war. Since 1948 they have initiated every conflict against Israel with completely murderous intent. When losing, they throw their hands in the

air, call for a ceasefire and claim they are the victims. Hamas, if you can't accept the consequences don't start the fight.

Hamas and its woke supporters have raised a flag. Jews now know that that age old antisemitism festers as in the Nazi era, but now as left-wing hypocrisy. Israel doesn't need the world's agreement. They are on their own. To you against Israel's right to exist, your sense of disappointment will continue.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Simon McCormack
Billinudgel

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Mr Mac

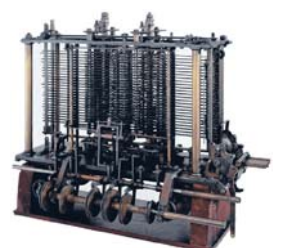
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BYRON BAY & BEYOND



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Eden at Byron

Eden at Byron is full of beautiful plants and pots to decorate your home and garden for the festive season, as well as great gifts.

Living Christmas trees have arrived. Australian native Norfolk pines will live happily inside from now until the new year, when you will need to put them outside and gently acclimatise them to full sun again. Lush native Kauri pines make a great long-term indoor plant year-round.

Olive trees are a nice contemporary alternative to the classic pine.

You'll also find beautiful orchids, bonsai, bromeliads, venus fly traps, succulents, gorgeous indoor plants, and edible plants like fruit trees, chilli bushes and herbs.

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02 6685 6874
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Escape to your backyard

Pepperberry Pods is a family owned business committed to creating stylish and affordable backyard spaces. As a Class 10a space, no council approval is required. However they now also offer a habitable studio pod that can be council approved to be an Airbnb or secondary dwelling.

The standard studio pod is easily transportable and can be affordably craned over your existing house if side access is an issue.

Since 2018, Pepperberry Pods have been operating in Hobart and have now expanded to Coffs Harbour, Western Australia, and Byron Bay.

At just \$19,990 +GST, the studio pod is fully insulated, with a double-glazed glass sliding door and window. Pepperberry Pods are the most affordable way to create a safe, insulated, lockable space in your backyard.

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making SPACES



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The Wellwater Summer offer continues until December 30, contact 0488 411 237 for a local demonstration.

Create your sleep sanctuary with Beds R Us Byron Bay

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



16 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay
(02)6685 5212



Mullum Shop Local this Christmas!

The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce has been an important part of the local community for the last eight years bringing businesses and the community together.

The chamber was created after Jenelle and Dean Stanford, who own the newsagency, brought Mullumbimby businesses together to run a marketing campaign in the lead up to Christmas 2014.

'I went around to all the businesses in Mullum and asked for \$200 so we could run a six-week TV commercial, and ads on Bay FM and in the three local papers,' said Ms Stanford.

50 local businesses came on board and following the success of the campaign were approached with the idea of starting the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce. Working with NSW Business they successfully got the chamber going.

'Over the years NSW business has tried to change our name to Business

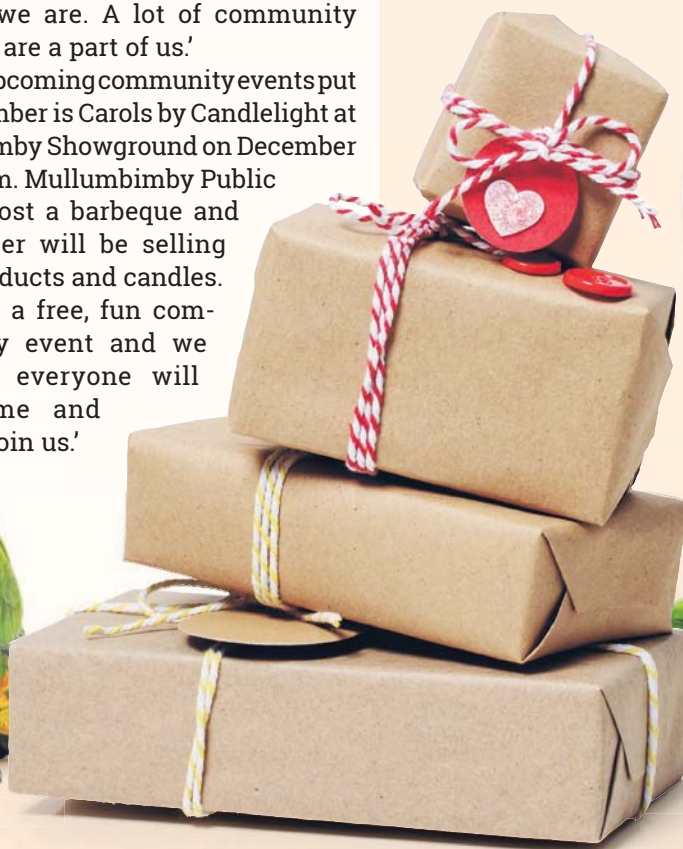
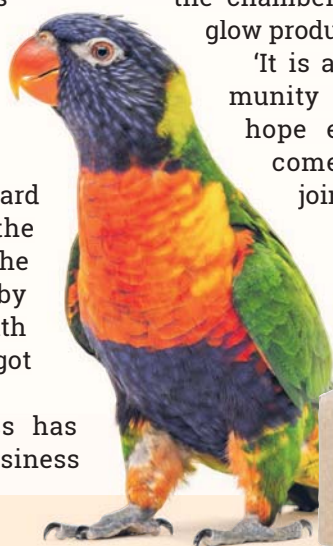
Mullumbimby but we prefer Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and Community because the community is a really important part of who we are. A lot of community organisations are a part of us.'

One of the upcoming community events put on by the chamber is Carols by Candlelight at the Mullumbimby Showground on December 10 from 6.30pm. Mullumbimby Public School will host a barbeque and the chamber will be selling glow products and candles.

'It is a free, fun community event and we hope everyone will come and join us.'

It's back!

20x
\$100
vouchers
to be won!



SHOP LOCAL & WIN!

GET YOUR ENTRIES IN TO WIN: Spend \$20 or more during the Mullum Shop Local campaign for your chance to win one of 20 \$100 shopping vouchers*

*Voucher must be redeemed before March 31, 2024. Licence type: Lottery-Trade Promotion-Single Promotion.

PARTICIPATING STORES:


ART / GALLERIES: Studio Suvira	EXPERIENCES: Crystal Castle	The Mullumbimby Chocolate Shop The Patch	HARDWARE: James Hardware Mitre 10 Mullumbimby	
AUTO / TYRE / MECHANICAL: B-Line Auto Chincogan Mechanical Liberty Mullumbimby Main Arm Mechanical Mullumbimby Tyrepower	FOOD / BEVERAGE: Byron Bay Pork and Meats Devine Quality Meats Dino's IGA Mullumbimby Floyd The Barista Heaps Good Hooked & Cooked Main Arm Store & Bottlo Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club	The Source Bulk Foods Mullumbimby	HEALTH: Mullum Advantage Pharmacy Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre Mullumbimby Soul Pattinson Chemist	MUSIC: Son of Drum
BOOKSTORES: The Bookshop Mullumbimby	BICYCLES: True Wheel Cycles	GIFTS / CLOTHING: Altar Amore Mullumbimby Bodypeace Bamboo Clothing Hemp Culture Made In Mullum Mockingbird Vintage Stewart's Menswear	HOMEWARES / ELECTRICAL: Bridglands Betta Home Living Cactus Hill Linen House Mullum Instyle Living Portobello Vintage Wares	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: Colleen Reilly Optometrist Mullum Mac Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce Mullumbimby Vet Clinic
EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES: Mullumbimby Hire & Sales Mullumbimby Rural Co-op	HAIR & BEAUTY: Barbarella			STATIONERS: Mullumbimby Newsagency

Look out
for the map of
Mullum Shop Local
businesses in next
week's Echo

An initiative of the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce
and proudly sponsored by The Echo



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Web – quartzgallery.com.au

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Summer tastes at Barrio Byron

Barrio Executive Chef Daniela Maiorano has been joined by her brother Attilio at Barrio Eatery & Bar as she launches the new summer menu. Known as everyone's 'nonna' in Byron Bay, for her modern twist on traditional family style dining, Daniela is bringing an abundance of Mediterranean shared plates with a strong focus on Italian flavours, to the table. Gather your mates for courtyard drinks and snack on freshly baked focaccia, chicken liver pate, cured meats, and pumpkin hummus.

Inside, the vibe is equally inviting as long lazy lunches turn into dinner with a Feed Me menu featuring handmade pasta, charred



veggies, wood-roasted meats, and zesty salads. Wrap it up with tiramisu for the ultimate sweet ending.

Chef David Moyle, who has been consulting on the project says, 'Daniela is a fourth-generation Italian chef with a passion for transforming local produce. We

love her energy and what she is bringing into the kitchen.'

It's all about meeting, eating, and sharing at Barrio, as wood-fired ovens and charcoal grills meet nonna-style cooking. Summer has never tasted so good.

Bookings and info: barriobyronbay.com.au

A tomato that is oh so perfect

Victoria Cosford

Sometimes you come across a tomato so perfect – bright red the whole way through, flesh taut and almost seedless – that you know it needs nothing other than a little salt and pepper and olive oil. On a plate, knife and fork, just that.

Heather Armstrong's tomatoes are shining examples of this and there's no better evidence than the never-ending line of customers queuing in front of her stall. She's back after the customary winter break, and clearly much missed. Bulgy bulbous Bulgarian beefsteaks; cherry tomatoes in yellow, gold and red; black and yellow beauties – but there are also glossy new zucchini and baby cucumbers. The EFTPOS machine is down this morning but that doesn't prevent Heather from juggling cash, conversation, scales, warm banter and answering my scattered questions.

I want to know about



green tomatoes: is there a specific breed? 'There is a Spanish breed we used to grow – and we tried to grow a Mexican one but it was a failure,' she tells me. 'All tomatoes start off green and for special orders we pick them green.' I'll never forget a glorious gratin of green tomatoes I ate once in Italy, rich with bubbling cheesy cream, and of course there's the famous 'Fried Green Tomatoes,' but apparently, Heather says, a lot of people use them for pickling.

One woman hands over two huge beefsteaks for weighing, her face gleaming with joy. 'My mum used to grow tomatoes like

these!' she says. 'She used to get the seeds from Macedonia, where she's from.' Heather will always welcome seeds from customers. 'We're willing to grow them and see how they go', she says.

'My stepson just ate one whole!' exclaims another customer – and that's it: Heather's beautiful tomatoes, in reality, do not need a single thing other than your own teeth to sink into that sweet flesh.

■ Coopers Shoot Tomatoes are at New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday from 8am till 11am.

The Levee Lounge and Bar, Lismore



The Levee is a cosy and relaxed, down-to-earth bar, that reflects Lismore's eclectic heart. It's a warm and friendly space where you can expect a quality wine list, great local beers, and cocktails. They create amazing deli, cheese and vegan platters, and have a selection of bar snacks, including locally made sweets from the Muddle Puddle cafe. Their cocktails use only the best spirits and homemade syrups to ensure a quality tippie.

At The Levee they are all about creating just the right mood for your afternoon catch up with friends: chilled music and mood lighting in a beautifully designed space, with cute antique furniture. Whether you are a couple on a date night, or a group of friends catching up, they have a space for everyone.

The Levee staff are all about providing excellent customer service, and the bar staff go above and beyond to greet you with a friendly smile and create a delicious beverage for you to enjoy. They also have plenty of great recommendations if you are struggling to decide what to have. So many cocktails, so little time!

The Levee loves supporting the Lismore music and art scene; there is live music every week on Thursday and Sunday



afternoons, either inside or out on the deck. They also have regular poetry nights, comedy performances, DJs, drag shows, and art exhibitions. The Levee Bar is an inclusive, queer-friendly space with a fabulous vibe right in the heart of Lismore.

So make the trip to Lismore and head to The Levee Lounge and Bar. It is definitely worth it!

■ Levee Lounge and Bar is open Thursday–Saturday 4pm–late, Sunday 2pm–9pm. 88 Magellan Street, Lismore. 02 6619 2900 theleveebar.com.au info@theleveebar.com.au



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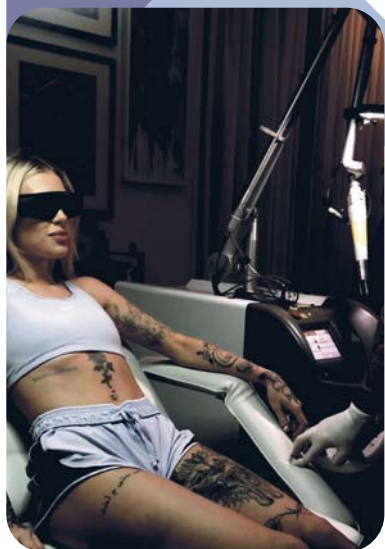
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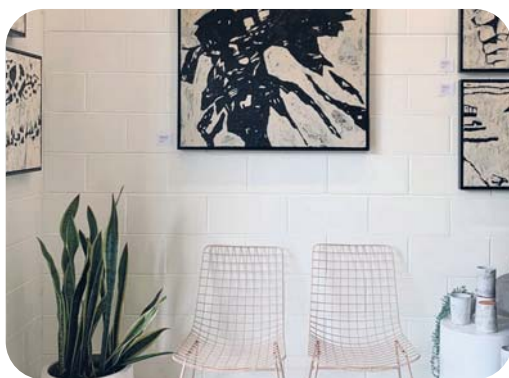
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0406 188 060
info@byrontattooremoval.com.au
www.byrontattooremoval.com.au
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2. BODYPEACE BAMBOO CLOTHING

Sample sale and warehouse clearance. Men's and women's XXS-XXL. Prices from \$15. Every Wednesday-Thursday-Friday, 10am-3pm. Bodypeace Bamboo Clothing has been dressing locals and visitors for over a decade. Bamboo fibre is naturally breathable, moisture-wicking, thermo-regulating and hypoallergenic. Their signature blend is a popular choice for underwear, activewear and everyday wear. Their warehouse shop is open every Wednesday-Friday!

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



3. ART KIND BYRON BAY

Art Kind is a beautifully curated contemporary art gallery and teaching studio with a rotating exhibition program showcasing paintings, ceramics and jewellery. Artist Bec Duff facilitates creative programs for children and adults. Check the website for program schedules.

Open Tues-Fri 10am-2pm, Sat 9am-1pm.
3/18 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
0404 946 553
www.artkind.com.au
[@artkindbyronbay](https://www.instagram.com/artkindbyronbay)



4. BODHI LIVING

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

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



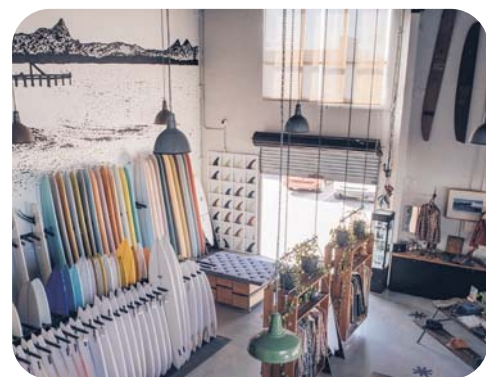
5. BYRON BAY CAMPING & DISPOSALS

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

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

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

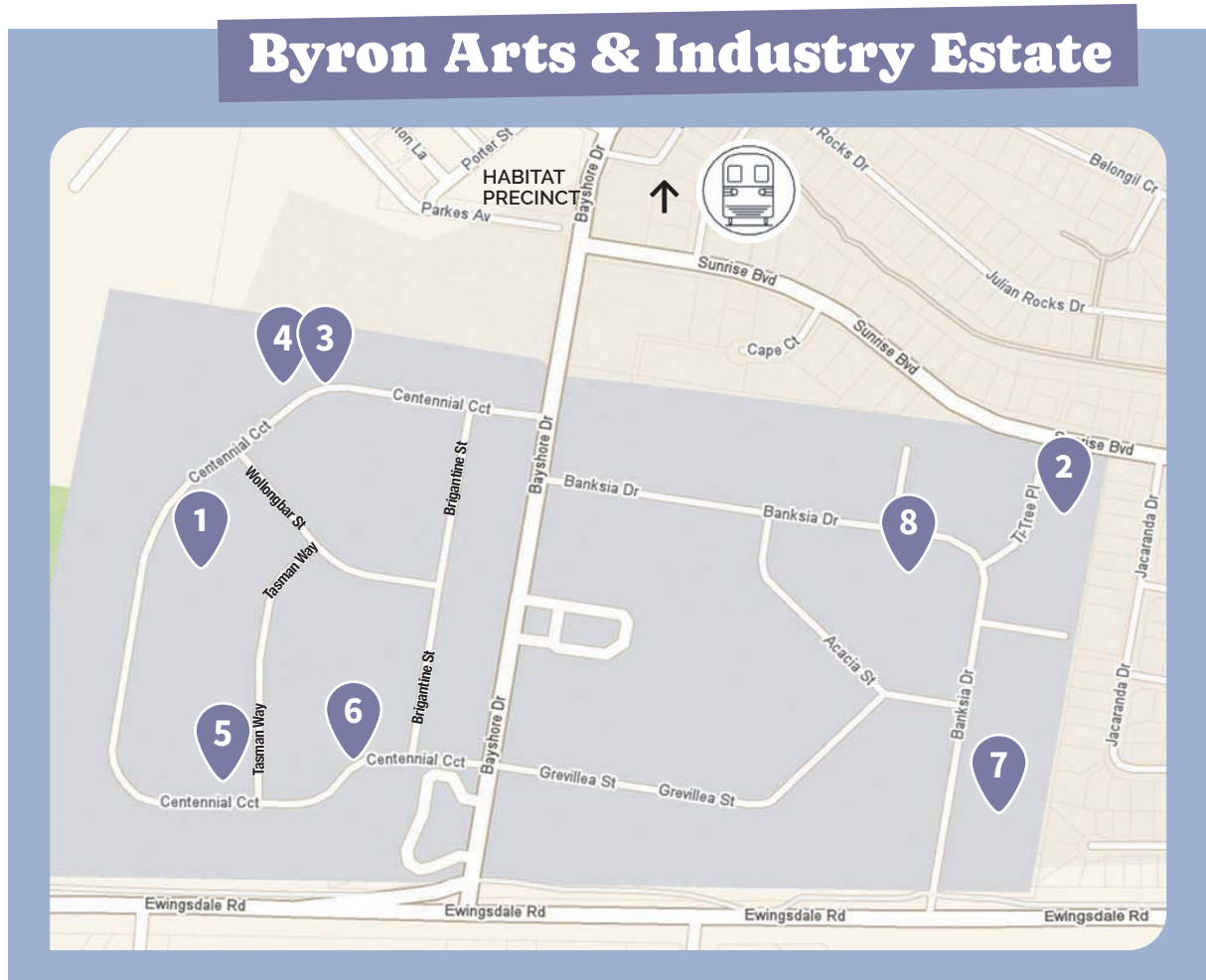
1/1 Tasman Way, Byron Bay
www.byron-camping.com.au
0439 212 153



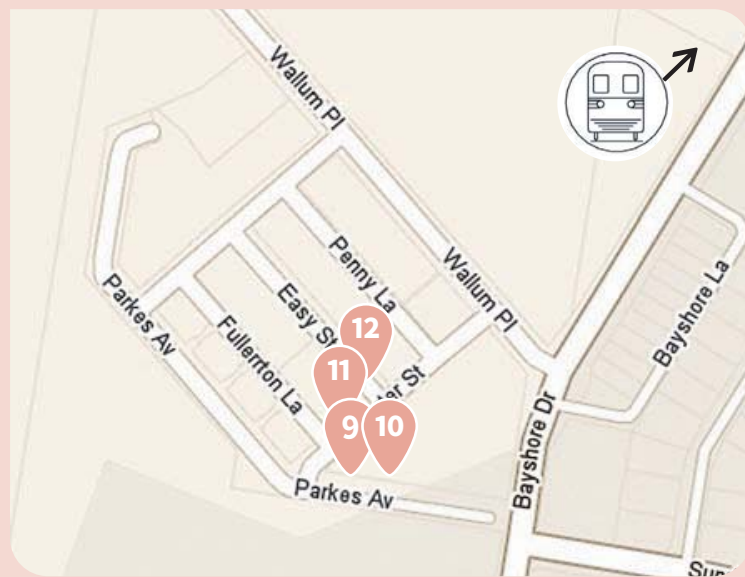
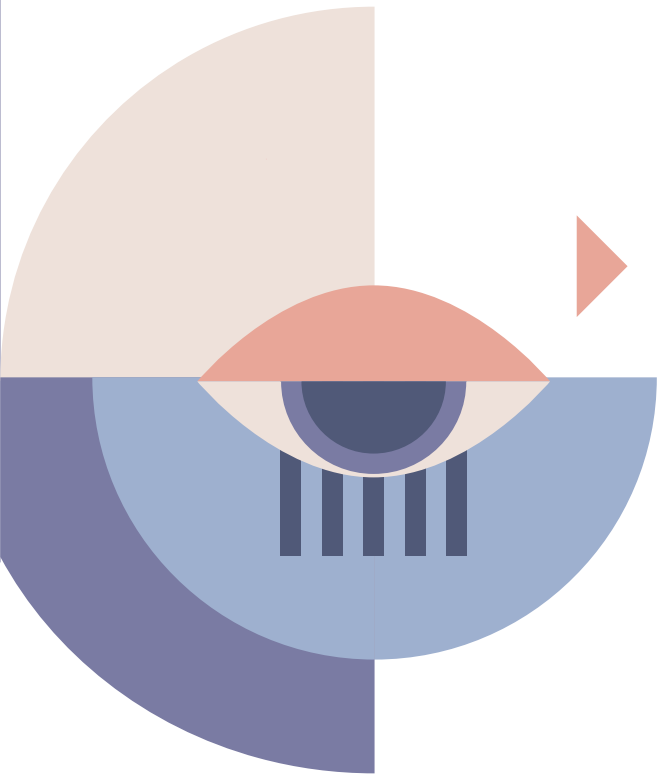
6. McTAVISH SURFBOARDS

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

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www.mctavish.com.au
[@mctavishsurf](https://www.instagram.com/mctavishsurf)



Habitat Precinct



Habitat Precinct

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

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



7. SHACK PALACE

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

Currently open weekdays, 10am-4pm.

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

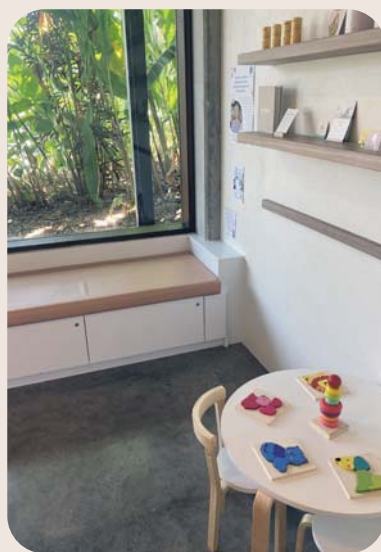


8. DAUGHTERS OF INDIA

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

Open weekdays, 10am-4pm.

Shop 3B 11 Banksia Drive, Byron Bay
www.daughtersofindia.net
@daughtersofindia



9. BYRON BABY

Byron Baby is a boutique general practice in Habitat. Run by GP Dr Emma Bourke, Byron Baby specialises in women's health, pregnancy and children.

Services include cervical screening, breast checks, contraception, pregnancy advice, shared care, antenatal care, and care for children including immunisations. Bulk billing is available for children of all ages.

60/1 Porter Street, Byron Bay
02 6617 5950
www.byronbaby.com.au



10. DEPARTMENT OF SIMPLE THINGS

Clothing and accessories inspired by vintage workwear, military surplus and sportswear.

They also show their love of surf and skate culture with an eclectic collection of skateboards, hot sauces, books, eskies and even a barbershop (call to book).

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



11. BYRON FAMILY LAW

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

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

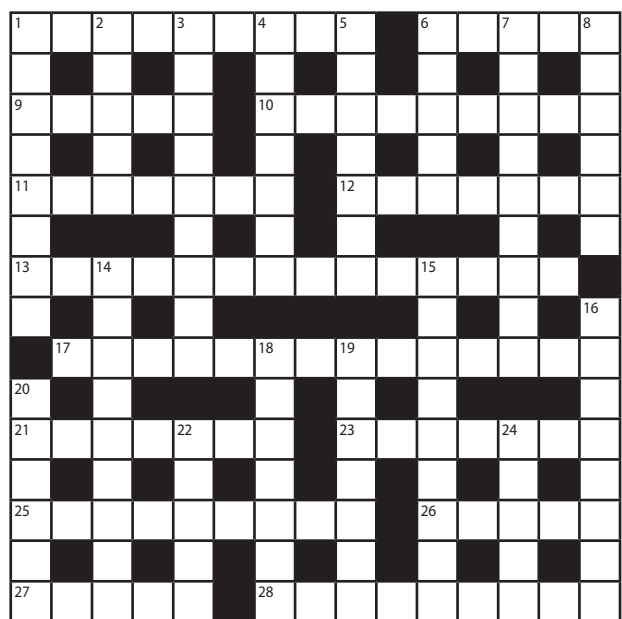


12. EASY STREET

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

Easy Street, Byron Bay

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #518



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. T – pretty bloody awful (5,4)
6. Iron the newspapers (5)
9. Approaches – close to south (5)
10. Most elite selection and sacred to 20 (9)
11. Watch for smell returning – wait on! (7)
12. Declare seniority, but it's only normal (7)
13. Defeat territory ruler, our star's time to freeze – sacred to 20 (6,8)
17. 13 June 21 (3,8,3)
21. Studies again, about ... about puffery? (7)
23. A single move forward, running English cats and dogs around (3,4)
25. One thousand try to settle dispute – very urgent (9)
26. East in American lake – weird! (5)
27. Sontag not available with southern states (5)
28. Simple poles manufactured or novice skiers (4,5)

DOWN

1. Both hands raised – 1.50! (3,2,3)
2. Communication aids for islands around the residence (5)
3. Red steers disturbed by rats! (9)
4. Pointless to target fewer (7)
5. Learns, unhappy over new tangle (7)
6. Bean shows a sign of life (5)
7. Thrilled, way in with 500 (9)
8. Guy, perhaps, prophet over Eastern thousand (6)
14. Agreement over hot Indian heroes for Japanese plays (3,6)
15. Wrecked state, with fewer – vulgar! (9)
16. Report of setter with bits lenses (8)
18. Working in the theatre, or working the step in the process (2,5)
19. Horns to store away (7)
20. Is Rudd involved with old priests? (6)
22. Publicity with Bradman – make it extra! (3,2)
24. Small hills, ring – trunk! (5)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Mediocre (5,4)
6. Where linen is kept (5)
9. Approximates (5)
10. Parasitic plant (9)
11. Notice (7)
12. Mean (7)
13. The longest night! (6,8)
17. The consequence of 13 across (3,8,3)
21. Goes over (7)
23. Done in a single operation (3,4)
25. Prompt (9)
26. Creepy (5)
27. A lazy one can be found in a restaurant! (5)
28. Gentle incline (4,5)

DOWN

1. The time is 1.50 (3,2,3)
2. Apple tablets (5)
3. Absconders (9)
4. Scattered (7)
5. Trap (7)
6. Throb (5)
7. Bewitched (9)
8. Aspirant (6)
14. Ancient form of Japanese theatre (3,6)
15. Bland (9)
16. The glass at one end of a microscope or a telescope (8)
18. Performing; live (2,5)
19. Pipers (7)
20. Members of old Celtic religion (6)
22. Supplement (3,2)
24. Body excluding head, neck and limbs (5)

Last week's solution #517



www.echo.net.au/soap-box

End Patriarchy. End Violence.

When I was six years old my father was killed in a car accident. By then I had witnessed countless incidents of domestic violence. I had seen my father physically and verbally abusing my mother. I had been locked in a room for safety, only to have the door smashed in with a chair. I've seen my mother pushed. I've seen her punched. I've heard her crying and begging. I've felt the fear. I've heard people whispering about me. I've felt the shame.

As a young woman I was in several relationships where I have been assaulted. Every time it came out of nowhere. I've been slapped, pushed, punched in the face and strangled. I struggle to describe what it feels like because the degradation and the betrayal is so intense that something inside you breaks. It is terrifying. The person you love is transformed with rage.

The 'nice' guy becomes a monster and you are a witness. It's why it's so dangerous. When it's happening you realise you could die here. Once the storm has passed I retrace the events that led to an ordinary situation escalating into terror. And it doesn't make sense. The raised eyebrow. The querulous tone that led to this. The broken plates. The torn clothing. The blood on my lip. The shame building like a bruise. The broken and destroyed woman trying to work out what to do next. Sometimes I left. But many times I stayed. And I was judged. The compounding fracture of my self-esteem.

I understand this story of violence because I have been inside it. I have stayed. And I have left. And I have done years of therapy and self-examination to forgive myself and work out what happened. And why me. But now I know it's simple.

Men must stop killing women.

November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, is day one of the 16 Days of Global Activism worldwide to call for an end to violence against women and girls. It ends on December 10, Human



MANDY NOLAN'S
SOAPBOX

In Australia around one woman is murdered every week at the hands of her partner or ex-partner.

Rights Day. I ask that we have this conversation without the comment 'men are victims too'. That statement appears in every conversation I have ever had about violence against women, and every time it derails it into an argument so the focus moves from violence against women, to violence against men. To me that is a violence in itself, our narrative is coerced so that men are victims instead of perpetrators. This is a conversation about misogyny. About how violence, and the murder of women is the toxic end-game of patriarchy. We are collateral damage.

So while there may be occurrences, let's park that and focus on gender-based violence against women and girls. Because one in three women globally experience it. And here in Australia around one woman is murdered every week at the hands of her partner or ex-partner. If one man was murdered every week by his wife or girlfriend I think

we'd have recognised this as gender terrorism. Most weeks the women who have been murdered go without any of us hearing her story. But I read them every week. I hold the story of that woman in my heart. A stranger, but also a familiar. And a reminder that we have a lot of work to do.

We must end gendered violence. And to do that we need all of us. Men too. The patriarchy must be dismantled. Patriarchal beliefs of male, heterosexual dominance and the devaluation of girls and women lie at the root of gender-based violence. Patriarchy is a structural force that influences power relationships whether they are abusive or not.

And yes, in this space men are victims too. Of patriarchy. Of this system crafted to enshrine masculine power, that has created a yoke of separation where the love language is domination and violence. The stats tell us the harsh truth. Men are more likely to kill women and girls. And more likely to kill themselves. The patriarchy is killing us.

Let's finish it.

Support Women Up North Fundraising Gala this Saturday, 25 November at 6pm. It's at the Hotel Metropole in Lismore and features the incredible Lisa Hunt - tickets on Humanatix.

- Mandy Nolan

STARS BY LILITH

Four outer planets in retrograde? Who cares when the fiery sun and hothead Mars join communicator Mercury in speed-talking Sagittarius to rev this year into its final furlong...



SAGITTARIUS THE ARCHER

ARIES: When the sun and Mars burst into entrepreneurial, free-ranging mode in a fellow fire sign this week, expect a tonic blast of positive, can-do energy you can ride into the silly season. Though in this fast and furious vortex you could lose your cool, so breathe deep, keep calm and relaxez-vous.

TAURUS: This week's panoramic outlook suggests that a change of scene or routine will work wonders to renew your joie de vivre for the upcoming festive season, so explore beyond your core crew and connect with people outside your familiar zone. Be open to diverse perspectives and differing opinions.

GEMINI: Full moons tend to bring completions or turning points, so if you've been waiting on news, then annual Gemini full moon on 27 November in your sign could bring a clear answer. And Mercury's current placement recommends having that air-clearing talk now, before the season of unreason sets in.

CANCER: For you lunar creatures, articulate full moon on 27 November in the sign of kindred spirits shines on interactions in your local neighbourhood. Full moons often highlight where people's paths are diverging, so if your heart's no longer in this or that, be honest and make the break.

LEO: Cosmic energy in your fiery house of creativity can also fan all sorts of other flames. If it starts getting hard to keep your temper in check, vent to a level-headed friend until that blood pressure settles. Focus on the outcome you want, and try to maintain a solution-oriented mindset.

VIRGO: As the year heads into its home stretch and to-do lists get longer, this week's speedy astrology needs you to pace yourself. To unplug and recharge your batteries so you can hear the rich inner downloads of this transit, which you won't even notice if you're in constant motion.

LIBRA: Librans are the jugglers of the zodiac, and this week's astral energetics in your socialising sector requires what you do best: blending and balancing. Not suggesting it's an either/or situation, just a matter of choosing the right mix of what you can reduce or eliminate and what you can keep and enjoy.

SCORPIO: This full forward week arrives with a real risk of saying yes to more than you can realistically handle – even you. So stretch restrictive edges by all means, but extending too far too fast is only likely to fry your circuits. Don't spread yourself too thin – employ the 'no' word.

SAGITTARIUS: This week's sun and Mars blazing into Sagittarius join communicator Mercury to announce a month of celebrating you know who. With your sizzle factor through the roof and your personal mojo off the charts, happy birthday Archers and good luck finding someone to keep up with you.

CAPRICORN: This week's planetary trinity in your sector of closure recommends taking inventory of your life just as it is right now. And not just obligations – even too many invitations can feel like overload. Start wrapping-up and signing-off on business projects. Feel the freedom of not overbooking your schedule.

AQUARIUS: The energetic trio of sun, Mars and Mercury in your astrological zone of community and groups could bring an opportunity to collaborate this week. So it's especially worth reaching out to colleagues and connections when full moon on 27 November shines in the sign of kindred spirits.

PISCES: Recent weeks haven't exactly been agenda-free, and if you've been getting mixed messages or wondering 'What the?', this week's tell-it-like-it-is astrology supports asking direct questions. If answers direct you towards the exit ramp, then bow out with grace and gratitude and look to the path ahead.

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seven



A MEETING OF TRADITIONS



Metin Yilmaz (kaval) and **Damian Wright** (flamenco guitar) present a meeting of two distinct yet strongly rooted cultural and musical traditions. Kurdish Dengbej influences improvised with the meditative sounds of the kaval will dance with the sounds of captivating flamenco guitar.

ARIA-nominated flamenco guitarist Damian Wright (Bandaluzia) and kaval/bilur player Metin Yilmaz (Kurdish/Turkey) bring their unique styles and deep musical experiences together with their own compositions, alongside expressive improvisations as well as makams (musical scales from the East) and melodies from Anatolia.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* says Damian Wright is a brilliant flamenco guitarist: 'Wright showed what a captivating solo player he is on his own "In Time," and elsewhere his articulation of complex lines was fluid and dripping with conviction.'

Sunday, December 3 at 7.30pm at Kulchajam, 1 Acacia St, Byron Bay.

THE LAST TWO WEEKS

Local filmmaker **Susie Forster's** extraordinarily candid documentary draws back the blinds to reveal the last two weeks of Victorian artist **Lee Stephenson's** life, as she chooses to die at home with the support of her family. The gentle message of the film is dying at home can ultimately be a healing experience for the family, and that state-funded palliative care is available to us all, for free.



Through the film we are granted a very intimate window into the last two weeks of the life of Susie's previously robust and vibrant mother, Lee. Shot at Longlee, the artist's home in the beautiful Goulburn Valley, we watch the artist navigate her own death with varying levels of grace, bad temper, clarity and humour. We meet: Roger, her devoted husband and now main carer, mobilising around his headstrong, dying wife; Susie, the dutiful daughter in a time honoured role-reversal with her mother; and Domini, Lee's singer-songwriter granddaughter, who shares Susie's feelings about seeing her grandmother dying at home. Assisted by the Victorian palliative home care service, accompanied by original music played in the house by Domini, surrounded by Lee's art and in the thick of Covid restrictions, they work together to grant Lee her final wish – to die at home.

Susie will be joined by Byron Bay Nurse Practitioner **Joshua Cohen**, in a **Q&A** after the film to talk about **end-of-life choices in the Byron Shire**. The feature film is preceded by two award-winning short films, *The Fine Art of Being Zion* and *Meeting Mick*. Chai and cakes available.

Screening on November 30 at 7pm, at the Mullumbimby Drill Hall Theatre. Tickets: eventbrite.

EXIT EXHIBITION



Byron School of Art's (BSA) third-year students will be holding the opening for their graduate exhibition, *Exit 9*, on **Friday from 6pm to 8pm**.

The exhibition's title is a reference to the nine graduating students (**Emily-Sarah Boldeman, Isabell Heiss, Anne Hicks, Greg Hughes, Victoria Rehn, Dean Stewart, Luke Thomas, Emma T Woodburn and Elizabeth Allen**) and will feature a diverse selection of work, including works on paper, painting, sculpture, found object art, installation, video and multimedia.

During the students' final year, they have worked under the direction of BSA Directors and teaching staff including, Emma Walker, Christine Willcocks, Michael Cusack, and Travis Paterson. *Exit 9* will showcase their collective works which demonstrate a willingness and determination to push boundaries while exploring materiality and contemporary concepts. All works will be for sale and this is a fantastic opportunity to support local emerging artists.

BSA would like to warmly welcome the community and art lovers alike to the opening event on **Friday, November 24** from 6pm to 8pm to celebrate this talented group of artists.

The exhibition runs from 10am to 3pm, Monday to Saturday, until 9 December at 112 Dalley St, Mullumbimby. More at: byronschoolofart.com.

LIVE JOHN WATERS

RADIO LUXEMBOURG

SMASH HITS FROM THE 60'S

with Stew and The Chartbusters

Friday 1 December - 7.30pm
BYRON BAY THEATRE

BOOK NOW * byroncentre.com.au/bct/byron-theatre * 02 6685 6807

The Animals
The Stones
The Who * *Steppenwolf*
Small Faces * *Joe Cocker*
The Troggs * *The Hollies*
The Kinks * *The Bee Gees*
The Spencer Davis Group
The Moody Blues
 PLUS...

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CHARLEY CROCKETT

WED. 31 JANUARY
THE GREEN ROOM BYRON
HOME OF BLUESFEST
WITH EMMA DONOVAN

PRESENTED BY LOVE POLICE & FRONTIER TOURING

seven



GYAN AND SI WITH STRINGS

ARIA award winner **Gyan**, sang her hit *Wait* from the cliffs of Kiama on Countdown then followed an international career trajectory, working with the likes of Bon Jovi, Ricky Martin and LeAnn Rimes. Returning to Byron as part of The Museagency, she scooped a Sydney Theatre Award for her collaboration with Leunig at Sydney Opera House, runner-up/shortlist awards for her album *Superfragilistically* (*Sydney Morning Herald*), and children's book, *How Weird is That?* (Children's Book Council of Australia).

Gyan is performing an encore show *Gyan & Si with strings* at **St Martin's Memorial Church this Sunday** (All Souls Church sold out in Bangalow a couple of months ago).

Gyan says the music industry is very different from what it once was. 'But essentially, I still feel the core meaning of music is connection. In fact, in the midst of these tragic times of division, it's the safest space you can be mentally and otherly.'

In the past Gyan said the song *We're All One* is the one that moved her the most, but there is another with special meaning. '*Where You're Sleeping* is a song I wrote for my partner, Si, early in our relationship. It has a beautiful string chart by David Campbell (Rolling Stones, Radiohead) and we're working it up for the show on Sunday. I've actually been writing behind the scenes about how we made some of my songs on substack.com', she says

Gyan is looking forward to Sunday and beyond. 'Hopefully I get to hang out with a like-minded crew as we go deeper with some new string arrangements in a 'God is in the House' space with fabulous acoustics. I'm very excited to be planning a collaboration with good friend and celebrated choreographer Meryl Tankard for 2024.'

Gyan and Si with strings is at St Martin's Memorial Church, Stuart St, Mullumbimby, this Sunday, November 26 at 4pm. Tickets via Try Booking. \$35 and \$25 concession.



Could you be BayFM's next Treasurer?

Put yourself at the heart of BayFM Community Radio - currently Australia's most awarded community station.

Our Treasurer is stepping down after several years, so we urgently need an experienced hand to hold the purse strings.

You don't need to have formal accounting qualifications (it's an advantage of course), but you do need to know your way around a P&L and be an experienced business manager.

BayFM is a registered charity and we run on the smell of an oily rag. This voluntary role requires just a few hours a week, working together with our longstanding bookkeeper.

For more details please email president@bayfm.org.



bayfm.org

TUNING INTO JOHN

The newest show from **John Waters**, featuring **Stewart D'Arrietta and the Chartbusters**, presents a phenomenal walk through nostalgia and an era of music that remains in the cellular memory of fans over several generations.

From the evocative strains of Peter Saarstedt's *Where Do You Go to My Lovely*, and the memory dredging *Waterloo Sunset* by the Kinks and *To Love Somebody* by the BeeGees, to the infectious grooves of *Itchycoo Park* by the Small Faces and the anthemic *My Generation* by The Who, Waters and his band reprise and reinvent the classic hits. With a six-piece band and singers in brilliant voice, Waters recounts anecdotes and moving memories of the music of the era, taking the audience through the time continuum to songs that resound over decades, and remain as relevant as ever.

Born in London, Waters was in his teens and early twenties during the 1960s and considers himself one of the luckiest music lovers as a result. At a time when commercial radio licences were not available in the UK, pop and rock music of the day was broadcast from continental Europe. This access was courtesy of the independent principality of Luxembourg - a clever move by the British record industry to circumvent the laws of the day.

'The great boom in pop music, which started in the US with Elvis Presley and his contemporaries, took a quantum leap with the arrival of the British-led "revolution" and was opened up to me and a whole generation by that great invention: the transistor radio,' says Waters.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS

It's fair to say that **Byron Community College** is a bit of an institution and a much-loved asset for the local folks of the Byron Shire.

With over three decades dedicated to education, creating opportunities and fostering resilience in the Northern Rivers, it's a collaborative achievement made possible with the support and generosity of the wonderful local community.

To commemorate this remarkable milestone and pay tribute to the incredible individuals who have supported, studied and enriched the College over the years, they think it's time for a bit of a street party (of sorts!).

Head on down to the Mullumbimby Campus for a morning of festivities on the corner of Burringbar and Gordon Street, Mullumbimby.

Join them for an open day and suitcase rummage - a classic Aussie get-together.

Bring a suitcase, sell your old clothes, and discover pre-loved treasures from others. The festivities include a retro-style coffee van, live music, and free workshops. It's your chance to check out the newly renovated campus, meet the dedicated staff and trainers, and explore the unique and interesting courses on offer.

With a commitment to the success and wellbeing of their students, and a focus on accessible education for all, many of the course are funded* and nationally recognised. The College



'We could hide under the bedclothes to muffle the sound from our parents' ears, tune in to 208 on the medium waveband, and listen to Roy Orbison and Frankie Avalon, Motown, The Four Seasons and Dion. The list was long beyond our wildest dreams. When we no longer had to hide, the Beatles exploded onto the scene followed by so many others, and the "British Invasion" really began including bands like The Moody Blues, the Kinks, The Who and scores of others. This was our identity.'

Waters is shameless about his passion for the music and says that aside from nostalgia that it represents one of the best and most influential eras in contemporary music.

'This show is a special "thank you" to our amazing audiences and such a thrill for us.'

Tune in to Radio Luxembourg on Friday, December 1 at the Byron Theatre at 7.30pm and December 2 at The Regent in Murwillumbah at 8pm.



is a place of inclusivity, diversity, and thoughtful collaborations that support the genuine needs of the local community of the Northern Rivers.

After a year spent injecting new life into the College, not just in response to floods but also in its commitment to meeting student and community needs, new partnerships have been forged to bring impactful opportunities to their beloved community. With much-needed renovations to the campus and facilities, a slew of new course offerings and a fresh new website and rebrand that reflects the vibrancy of this community, 2024 is looking bright for all!

Join in all the fun and create your future, together!

The open day and suitcase rummage is on Saturday, December 2 from 8am to 1pm.

For further information head to www.byroncollege.org.au or call (02) 6684 3374. *For eligible students training is subsidised by the NSW Government.

One night only
Thurs 30th Nov
 Screening at 7pm
 Mullumbimby
 Drill Hall Theatre
 Tix \$20 cash at the door
 or book online

THE LAST TWO WEEKS
 at
LONGLEE

*'It's such a truthful & honest film...
 a beautiful portrait of life'*
 Darius Devas
 Director 'Unravelling'

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NOVEMBER

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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

BYRON THEATRE .COM

A CAREER WORTH HAVING

Ahead of his Bluesfest 2024 show, last week Seven spoke to Jack Johnson from his home in Hawaii. For a generous and philanthropic man, who cares for the planet and its people, who has talent, intelligence and looks, who is happily married to his college sweetheart, who has a lovely family with three kids, who gets to gig across the globe and surf some of the best beaches – living the dream – we really only had one big question:

How are you going being the father of teenagers?

Ha ha – I think like everybody else. Some days it feels like I'm doing great, and other days I'm wondering 'How do you do this? This is crazy!' It's a different time. It's a transition.

You're heading down to Australia again. Are you bringing the family with you?

Yeah. We have so many friends and family we really like to visit with when we're there.

Is Bluesfest a great festival for you?

Yes, it kind of is for a few reasons. It's kind of the quintessential festival to me. For one thing it was the very first time that I got to play in front of an audience that big. I had been on tour with Ben Harper. I think he put the good word in for me, and there must have been somebody else who pulled out at the last minute and somehow I got a slot that was better than I should have – I got to play right before Ben and the whole crowd was already there.

I still get goosebumps thinking about that performance because, being in a surf community, I think they were just really excited that it was one of their own getting the chance to be up on a stage. I felt that energy. You know, the day before and the day after I was seeing everybody out in the water when I was going for surf. I just felt right at home with everybody.

Also, besides just being a personal memory for me, it is really a very collaborative festival. I find there's some festivals where everybody's kind of isolated in their own spots, and you barely see people, you kind of come and go. And then there's other festivals they set it up in a way that people run into each other and start coming up with ideas about what you can do on stage – at this one,

backstage is real collaborative, so that ends up leading to a lot of sit-ins, which is always my favourite.

I always like to look who's on the bill way ahead of time and start thinking about what songs we could do together and that kind of thing.

It's not just me, it's everybody in my band because we do a lot of shows together and even though every night does feel different for us, it's the same four guys playing the songs. So whenever we get a chance to have a musician that we all look up to come and sit in with us, we love to take that. Everybody in the band is pretty proactive. Like sometimes the piano player, ahead of time will say 'hey, I saw we get to be on the same bill with so-and-so – I know that they've done this song before, we should learn the chords so that we can show up ready.' And so we actually do think ahead and try to figure out songs so that we can kind of make it easy, because we really like to open our stage up and have other people sit in.

What music will you have for fans next Easter? Are you going through your catalogue?

Yeah, it'll be mostly the catalogue – a few songs off the new record, probably lots of different covers. Sometimes we'll throw in a song by one of the other artists – some songs by other people who are on the bill. But in general, we kind of like to challenge ourselves to play old songs we haven't played in a while plus a couple of new songs. We definitely do try to represent the whole catalogue and try to hit songs off every record if we can. As a band, we do kind of have discussions about challenging ourselves to play a song we haven't played for a few years. It's fun to do.

I want to talk about your foundations. You do a lot of work for other people and for other issues. You and Kim have created two foundations. Do you find that you get the chance to do much hands-on with those?

We get to be quite active with them. One of them is actually here in Hawaii, where we live and that's the one we're working on every day. And then the second foundation, the Johnson Ohana Foundation is a lot to do with grant-giving to other



groups that we work with when we're on tour, so money from the shows can go into groups as we're on the road.

This morning I was down at our farm – we have a learning farm for kids – and I go down there most days to check in and do some work, and it's just a lot of fun, there's always something really great happening there.

In the last four years, we've done a lot of the hard work of developing it to the point where we can now have field trips [visit us]. So now when I go down there, there's always a volunteer group or a third-grade class or something around. It's really fun to hear the kids laughing on the farm and just to see all the hard work of our whole staff. It's has finally gotten to this point where we can host kids and do the fun part.

Do you feel that there's a sense of responsibility or a sense of an obligation to try and push the causes that you believe in?

Yeah, I do. I mean, I think it's a hard one and I guess I don't expect it from every artist – I've always just naturally felt it myself, a responsibility to use this for something bigger than myself. And I think a big part of that is my wife, we've been together since we were 18-years-old. She's my manager too. She always

used to work the merchandise booth, or the door, when we were playing clubs. She's been along for the whole ride. So I think it's a big part of her job, she's always felt like taking that spotlight and not letting the light shine only on me, but shining it on things more important and I appreciate that. It's been nice to have her doing that. I wouldn't have been able to start these organisations we were just talking about without the partnership that we have. It's really us together doing it.

But, I've always felt the responsibility – I think, partly because I've felt like it was a lucky thing that any of this happened. I kind of would have to pinch myself and be like, 'do I get to keep doing this?' I get to keep putting out albums. It's so much fun – so we like to do it. You know, it's something important to us.

It sounds like you're living the dream – are you?

I feel good. With some of this, the nonprofit organisations we've done, we've definitely had times when we think to ourselves, 'what have we done?' We could be just cruising, but we ended up working a lot. And I ended up appreciating all that work, though. I mean, it's kind of made this whole thing feel like a career worth having – and it's an easy way to explain to

my kids what we do for work. You know, we go around and we gather people and we raise funds, and we're able to kind of support every community that we play in. Again, it was just the partnership we had and the way it naturally occurred for us. But it's a lot of work. And we've bitten off more work than we needed to. But we enjoy it.

Jack, what, as a person inspires you?

ALL OF IT! And that's not just an easy out, you know. Some songs, they're like deeper cuts on the album, or like, I write at three o'clock in the morning sometimes, and they're the things that are just looming back in my mind, and then they creep out at some time. I don't always control what the songs are going to be about. And then there's other times it is just the opposite of a dark thought, and instead, it's just the lightest thought in a world and me wanting to make my wife laugh, you know? Some songs to me are just, that's the goal of the song is to make people laugh and feel good.

So a song can kind of come from anywhere, there's a whole spectrum. But having time to reflect on it definitely helps a lot, and being out in nature, and away from the phones and away from all that kind of stuff. I do this (interviews. etc.) at certain times,

but I need to be away from it a lot to be able to kind of reflect enough to dig those things out and to make the songs.

Are you having enough fun?

Yes. I do think so. I felt, like you'd mentioned earlier, I think you have to feel good about what you're putting into the world if you're lucky enough to get to make art for a living. You have to have confidence in what you're doing, but you also have to realise that it takes a lot of luck. I don't mean to say the luck part is some kind of false humility or anything, it's like you have to have something you believe in, but then, I look around, and I have so many friends that are amazingly talented and I just love their work so much, and sometimes they just didn't have those few lucky things lined up to let it all happen – so I'm very aware of all the little lucky things that lined up in my life to make it where I get to continue to do it and to be allowed time to create things. So I think that makes me feel like I do get to be happy. Am I having enough fun? I'm having enough fun. Every time I'm in my studio making songs. I'm very aware that it's a blessing to get to do this.

You can see Jack Johnson live on Good Friday at Bluesfest 2024: www.bluesfest.com.au.

Dangerously Poetic PRESS
Launches
Paper People
by Kathryn Boorman
Sunday, 26th of September
at 3pm Memorial Hall, Brunswick Heads.
featuring The Songbirds
All Welcome!

'intensely beautiful, emotionally honest, sensitive and seductive'...The AGE
Strawberry Moon
by gyan & si
with strings
St Martins Church | Stuart St Mullum
Sun 26 Nov | 4PM
tix @ trybooking.com

BSA BYRON SCHOOL OF ART
EXIT 9
BSA GRADUATE EXHIBITION
Exhibition Opening:
Friday 24 Nov 6-8pm
Exhibition runs until
Saturday 9 Dec
10am-3pm
Mon-Sat
Byron School of Art
112 Dalley St
Mullumbimby
byrnschoolofart.com

GIG GUIDE

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

seven

WEDNESDAY 22

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OOZ**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JESSE HIGGINS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **MULLUM UKE - 'GALWAY GIRL'**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **KARAOKE**

THURSDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PHIL & TILLEY TRIO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DEVU**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM **RESONANT HAND**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **JEROME WILLIAMS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **SISTER CITIES TOUR FT. YT DINGO, MC FITZROY LEE AND PRODIKAL-1**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **ROD MURRAY - A TRIBUTE TO JAZZ, 7.30PM POETRY COMPETITION**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7PM **STILL & BARREL KARAOKE, 8PM TEX PERKINS**

FRIDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SALARYMEN + SUPPORT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **GABRIELLE LAMBE, JEROME WILLIAMS BAND + NO ID**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM **THE GREATEST SURF MOVIE IN THE UNIVERSE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **DJ YAZMIN**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 12PM **CAR612 SPORTS PERSON FUNDRAISER LUNCH**

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **THE LYRICAL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **HUSSY HICKS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ TAZ**
- BYRON SCHOOL OF ART, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **EXIT 9 EXHIBITION OPENS**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUMBIMBY WITH DJ PUMAH**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB BURRENBAR 6PM **CARB ON CARB, SKIN + THE BLANKETTES**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 9PM **EPIC**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 8PM **LISA HUNT**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM **RENEE & ROO + ROOFTOP DJ ORION**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **GLENN SHIELDS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **ADAM BROWN**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **THE TERRYS - PRICEY & BEAN MAGAZINE**

SATURDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **THE WHISKEYS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MARKET MEMORIES**
- BYRON THEATRE 6PM **BRIGHT LIGHTS AWARDS SHOW**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **ANIMAL VENTURA, 5PM DJ KAI NOON**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 3PM **TINS OF GLORY**
- SHARA MUSIC TEMPLE, OCEAN SHORES, 5PM **JANET SWAIN - VANILLA MONOLOGUES**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **THE 4'20 SOUND**
- COURTHOUSE HOTEL, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **THEM CULPRITS**

- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **ANDY JANS BROWN DUO**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **WAX ADDICTS VINYL DJ SET**
- SHAWS BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 6PM **KANE MUIR**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 7PM **TIM STOKES**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **WEAR THE FOX HAT**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **ISABELLA MANFREDI**
- TWO MATES BREWING, LISMORE, 5PM **SAM GREEN**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6PM **LISA HUNT - WOMEN UP NORTH FUNDRAISING GALA**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **CHRISC**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **BLAKE EVANS + MCKENZIE**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **AMBER JOY POULTON**

SUNDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BEN GERRANS + JAKE WEBB**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12.30PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **TAY OSKEE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BYRON YOUTH THEATRE: TRIGGER**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- ST MARTIN'S, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **GYAN & SI**
- CLUB LENNOX 3PM **OOZ**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB WITH JB'S BLUESBREAKERS**
- SHAWS BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **THE JACKS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2PM **ANDREW MORRIS**
- TWO MATES BREWING, LISMORE, 2.30PM **SUNDAY SESSIONS OPEN MIC**

- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **ROYAL DUCK**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM **TARUNI**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2.30PM **WHO'S CHARLIE**

MONDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS FISHER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LAURA KING + WOLTERS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BYRON YOUTH THEATRE: TRIGGER**

TUESDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TRILLIAH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **KELI HOLIDAY**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 3PM **BASS INVADERS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **MIKE WINKWORTH**

WEDNESDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **KANE MUIR**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TYSON O'BRIEN + HUNTER DEMASE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **BRITISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **KAYEL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **FACING UP**
- BALLINA PLAYERS 8PM **ASTR AND BALLINA PLAYERS PRESENT 'BEAUTIFUL - THE CAROL KING MUSICAL'**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **THE SONORAN DOGS**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **COMEDY COMMUNE OPEN MIC NIGHT**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY - FEAT JACKIE LOEB**



ECOCIDE

Linking ecocide to religion, **Dr John Wilson** brings psychedelics, psychology and ecology together in his latest book *Ecocide*.

Regarding our ecological crisis as more urgent than the urban distress he was attending, Dr Wilson left his medical practice as a Consultant Psychiatrist to join the Timbarra campaign, opposing cyanide gold mining at the source of our Clarence River. Then with the New Zealand Peace Flotilla, he sailed the Pacific, opposing French nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll.

But our ecological vandalism and the onslaught of global economic growth continued regardless, provoking the view that none of our existing institutions can prevent our sixth mass extinction event. Only total cultural review might slow it down.

Living for 30 years as a green nomad in his campervan in the bush, his research traces the roots of our culture back through its informing institutions – our monotheistic religions – to Plato in ancient Athens, and beyond, to the pagan religion of Orpheus and Dionysus, god of intoxication – by whatever means.

Also speaking at this event are: **Dr Harry Freeman**, pianist and well-known psychiatrist serving the region for 50 years, an outspoken critic of the medical model in psychiatry; **David Heilpern AM**, poet, short-story writer, author of *Without Fear or Favour*, eco-activist, Aboriginal advocate, retired magistrate, now Dean of Law Southern Cross University; **Chris Dewhirst OAM**, once a school teacher, turned high-adventurer, international rock climber, international hot air balloonist, and author, who also started rafting down Tasmania's fabled Franklin River; **Louise Graves**, nurse, psychedelic therapist, consultant to the terminally ill; and **Michael Balderstone**, President of the Hemp Embassy and Legalise Cannabis.

Dr Wilson is launching *Ecocide* on Friday, December 1, from 6pm at the Marvell Hall, 37 Marvell Street, Byron Bay with some brief words from friends and an open discussion. Everyone welcome.

HAVE YOU SENT US YOUR GIG?

gigs@echo.net.au



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

Session Times Ballina Fair Cinema

Thurs 23 – Wed 29 November 47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

- FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S^(M)**
Daily except Sat, Sun: 4:40PM
Sat, Sun: 5:00PM
- KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON^(M)**
Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:15AM
- NAPOLEON^{(MATS+1) NFT}**
Daily: 12:15PM, 3:30PM, 6:45PM
- THANKSGIVING^(R18+)**
Daily except Sat, Sun: 2:15PM
Sat, Sun: 2:40PM
- THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES^{(M) NFT}**
Daily: 9:45AM, 1:00PM, 6:30PM
- THE MARVELS^(M)**
Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 4:10PM, 7:10PM
Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 4:10PM, 7:30PM
- TROLLS BAND TOGETHER^{(G) NFT}**
Sat, Sun: 10:15AM, 12:30PM

To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!

SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE



*NFT = No Free Tickets
Palace Cinemas is proud to be preserving Ballina's cherished community cinema, where we'll continue bringing exceptional movie experiences to the vibrant Ballina audience!

Ballina Fair Shopping Centre FREE parking Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au

PALACE CINEMAS

Session Times

Thurs 23 – Wed 29 November

PALACE CINEMAS
108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

- SPECIAL SCREENINGS**
- BOTTOMS^{(IC) MOVIE CLUB PREVIEW}**
Tues: 6:30PM
- CALLAS - PARIS, 1958^(G)**
Sat, Sun: 1:30PM
- UPROAR^{(M) WEEKEND PREVIEWS}**
Sat, Sun: 3:45PM
- FAMILY FILMS**
- TROLLS BAND TOGETHER^{(G) PREVIEWS}**
Sat, Sun: 10:45AM, 12:45PM, 1:45PM - Previews
- ALL FILMS**
- CAT PERSON^{(IC) NFT}**
Daily: 11:15AM, 1:45PM, 4:15PM, 6:45PM
- DUMB MONEY^(MATS+1)**
Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:00AM
- FIVE NIGHTS AT FREDDY'S^(M)**
Daily except Wed: 5:30PM
- KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON^(M)**
Thurs: 3:00PM
Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 3:00PM, 6:30PM, 7:30PM
Sun: 6:15PM
- NAPOLEON^{(MATS+1) NFT}**
Daily except Thurs: 12:00PM, 1:00PM, 3:15PM, 4:15PM, 6:30PM, 7:30PM
Thurs: 11:30AM, 12:30PM, 2:45PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 7:00PM
- SALTBURN^{(MATS+1) NFT}**
Thurs, Fri, Tues: 11:00AM, 2:45PM, 8:30PM
Sat, Sun, Mon: 11:00AM, 2:45PM, 7:50PM
Wed: 10:45AM, 2:45PM, 8:10PM
- STOP MAKING SENSE - 4K REMASTER^(G)**
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:00AM
Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:40PM
- THANKSGIVING^(R18+)**
Mon, Tues, Wed: 8:30PM
- THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES^{(M) NFT}**
Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:10AM, 1:00PM, 4:10PM, 7:15PM
Sat, Sun: 1:00PM, 4:10PM, 7:15PM
- THE MARVELS^(M)**
Thurs: 1:40PM, 4:10PM
Fri: 10:45AM, 1:40PM
Sat, Sun: 10:45AM
Mon: 10:45AM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM
Tues: 10:45AM, 4:00PM
Wed: 10:45AM, 3:45PM
- THE MUSICAL MIND: A PORTRAIT IN PROCESS^{(M) NFT}**
Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:10PM
Sat, Sun: 11:30AM
- THE ROYAL HOTEL^{(MATS+1) NFT}**
Daily: 2:10PM, 4:15PM, 6:20PM, 8:30PM
- THE TASTING^(M)**
Daily: 11:30AM

For all British Film Festival session times, please visit www.britishfilmfestival.com.au
Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking Validation for all Palace Cinemas customers
Session times subject to change - check web for most up to date sessions. *NFT = No Free Tickets
Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au



Open House
Saturday November 25th 10-10.45am

GOLFERS HAVEN

3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 5 car spaces

2/80 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores.

- Picturesque views over the 12th green & adjacent lake.
- Architect designed, built 2015, direct golf course access.
- Polished timber floors, high 2.7m ceilings, quality appointment.
- Energy efficient, solar power, air conditioned, rainwater tanks.
- North facing covered entertaining decks, Private gardens.



Agent: Mark Lycos
Phone: 0438 680250
Email: mark@nclp.com.au

PRICE \$1,295,000



Open House
Saturday November 25th 10-10.30am

BRUNS LIVING AT ITS BEST

5 bedrooms 3 bathrooms 2 car spaces

20 Fawcett Street Brunswick Heads.

- The perfect combination of prestige, style & space.
- Sensational covered entertaining area complete with indoor/outdoor kitchen
- Street to lane block with river views from front deck.
- Stunning louvre window hallway, auto gate entry & 16.8kw solar system.
- Walk to river, park, beach, shops & the famous Hotel Brunswick.



Agent: Nathan Donnelly
Phone: 0421 942630
Email: nathan@nclp.com.au

AUCTION ON SITE
11am Saturday 9 December



North Coast Lifestyle
PROPERTIES

Shop 2/28-30 Mullumbimbi St
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E: sales@nclp.com.au

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28 CARLYLE STREET, BYRON BAY



'Carlyle House' History Meets Modern Luxury in The Heart of Byron

4 3 5 2

539M²

- Quintessential luxury, opulent finishes and historical authenticity
- Expansive home - 3 living spaces including a separate guest suite
- Spacious alfresco dining and outdoor kitchen overlook the private fresh water pool
- Located in central Byron with easy, level walk to Main Beach and the vibrant heart of the CBD

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | By appointment



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660

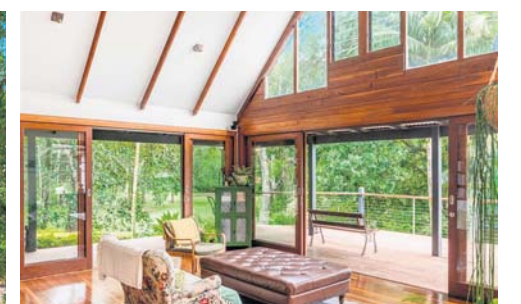
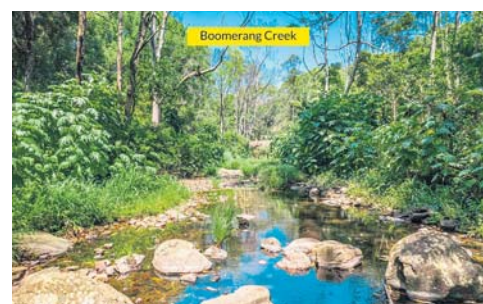
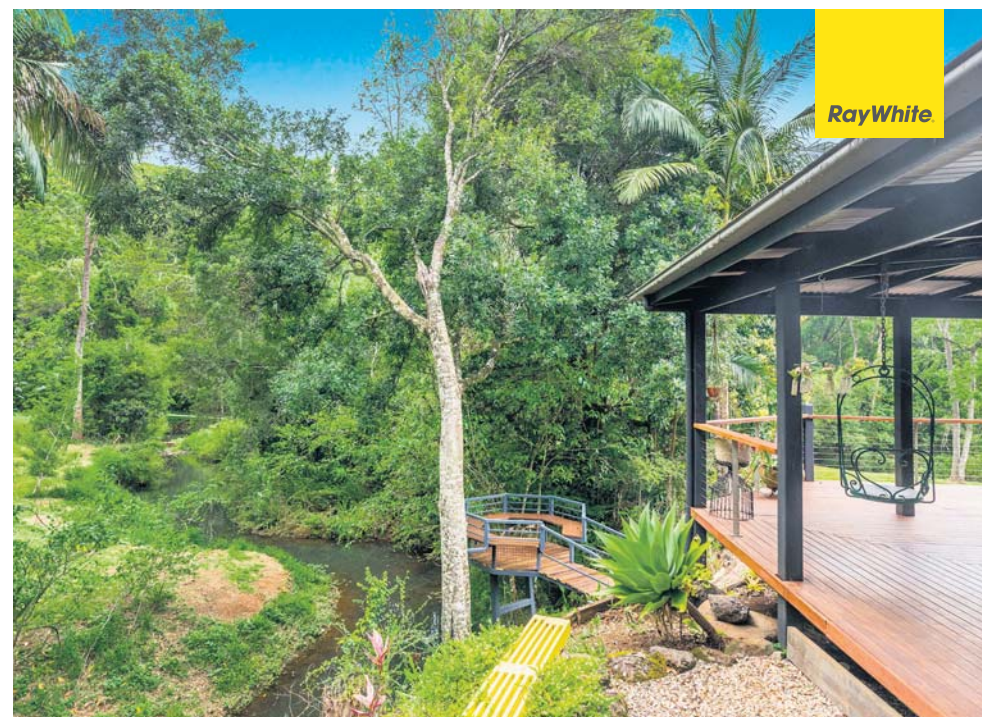


Renee Schofield
0400 028 594



FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

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



AUCTION

Deceased Estate Sale on 2 Titles

- Prime, elevated 54 acres running down to pristine Boomerang Creek
- Potential for 4 separate homes STCA
- Solid timber homestead, outbuildings and self contained studio
- Stunning panoramic Nightcap Range vistas to the north

Auction
9 December

View
Saturday 11.30am

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

raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au

WHY WAIT?
Ray White Rural Bangalow | 02 6687 2479

3 2 4

AUCTION

Tranquil Farmlet on Turkey Creek

- Uniquely positioned overlooking postcard pretty swimming holes on 7 manicured acres
- Character and atmosphere flow out to rainforest viewing decks
- Privacy on northerly aspect land with huge shed and studio

Auction
9th December

View
Saturday 10am

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

raywhiteruralbangalow.com.au

WHY WAIT?
Ray White Rural Bangalow | 02 6687 2479

3 1 2

25 MOON STREET, BALLINA



Character Ballina Cottage in Central Location

3 bedrooms 1 bathroom 2 car spaces 1 car

333M²

- Weatherboard cottage with original hardwood timber floors and ornate high ceilings
- Open plan living connects seamlessly to the north facing deck through large French doors
- The main bedroom includes a walk-through wardrobe and ensuite
- Landscaped, low-maintenance garden within a secure, fully fenced yard, ideal for families and pets

FORTHCOMING AUCTION

OPEN | Thurs 23rd November 2-2:30pm
Sat 25th November 9-9:30am



Helen Huntly-Barratt
0412 332 232



Maggie Kelly
0416 013 788

'FIRST LIGHT', FEDERAL - ADDRESS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST



Escape, Indulge and Retreat at this Superb Byron Hinterland Estate

10 bedrooms 6 bathrooms 8 car spaces 2 cars

1.99HA

- This private and elevated sanctuary offers breathtaking ocean, lighthouse, and hinterland views
- Within walking distance to Federal Village, this property provides a rare combination of tranquility and convenience
- Open-plan living with bi-fold glass doors, connects to a vast outdoor entertaining space, complete with a fire pit, sauna, and pool
- Resort-like features including a yoga space, traditional barrel sauna, and a lagoon-style pool

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | By appointment



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049

5 HAKEA CRESCENT, SUFFOLK PARK



Luxury Family Home and Secondary Dwelling in Quiet Neighbourhood

6 bedrooms 3 bathrooms 4 car spaces 5 cars

721M²

- Kitchen features high-end appliances and premium finishes
- Spacious and filled with natural light
- Approval for a pool
- Independent access to a secondary dwelling, perfect for multi-generational living, guest accommodations or additional income generation

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Sat 25th November 10-10.30am



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594

13/11-19 COOPER STREET, BYRON BAY



Private Villa with Leafy outlook

2 bedrooms 1 bathroom 1 car space 1 car

- Situated at the end of a quiet cul-de-sac with no through traffic
- Generous lawn and garden spaces maintained by strata, making it ideal for low-maintenance living
- Over 55s Community: Located within the Cape Byron Estate, no extra entry or exit fees
- Light-filled living and dining areas, and a covered veranda with a leafy green outlook

PRICE | \$745,000 - \$785,000
OPEN | By appointment



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

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





Escape to Your Personal Paradise!

14 Palm-Lily Crescent, Bangalow

Nestled within a quiet enclave, this great family home, with multiple living areas, enjoys a private and peaceful setting in one of Bangalow's most sought after locations. Tranquil, and overlooking spectacular gardens, this home is a haven amidst native birdsong and functional spaces. The 1502 m2 block expands north down to a gorgeous neighbouring creek, said to host a resident platypus.

WHY WAIT?
Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

4 2 4

Auction

Thu 7 December 11:30am onsite
Open from 11am

View

Private Inspection or Open Home
Sat 10am-10.30am, Wed 2pm-2.30pm



Michael Gudgeon

0419 495 494
michael.gudgeon@raywhite.com



Martine Gudgeon

0431 055 421
martine.gudgeon@raywhite.com

rwbyronbay.com



Dual Purpose Investment Opportunity: Habitat Byron Bay

22 Parkes Avenue, Byron Bay

Discover the allure of Habitat Byron Bay - your gateway to a vibrant community and an incredible investment opportunity. This contemporary two-story live/work townhouse is bathed in natural light, offering dual income potential. The top floor hosts a one-bedroom apartment, while the lower level accommodates a second bedroom or office connected to a versatile commercial area. Complemented by a range of amenities, this unique property in coveted Byron Bay is a rare find. Don't miss out - contact us for more information and to schedule a private inspection today.

WHY WAIT?
Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

2 2 1 1

Auction

Thursday 7 December 5pm

View

Friday 4-4.30pm
Saturday 11.30-12pm



Brett Connable

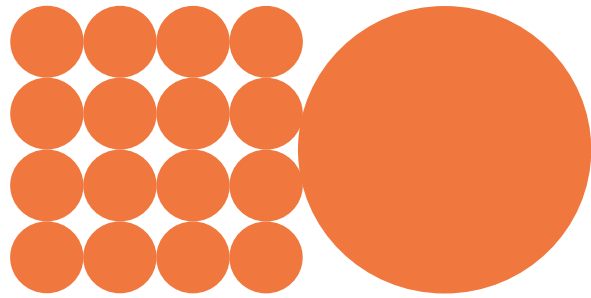
0408 155 931
brett.connable@raywhite.com



Nick Russo

0405 977 049
nick.russo@raywhite.com

rwbyronbay.com



MANA



Architectural Masterpiece

14 Warrambool Road
Ocean Shores

Scan QR for more details
and open home times.



Contact Agent

Adrian Howe
0477 222 457



Coastal Oasis Retreat

7 Yengarie Way
Ocean Shores

Scan QR for more details
and open home times.



Contact Agent

Adrian Howe
0477 222 457



Beachside Dreaming

18 North Head Road
New Brighton

Scan QR for more details
and open home times.



Contact Agent

Adrian Howe
0477 222 457



2
Clifford
Street

Tropical Beachside Escape

2 Clifford Street
South Golden Beach

Scan QR for more details
and open home times.



Contact Agent

Julie-Ann Manahan
0411 081 118

Urgent message for all potential sellers!

Buyers are actively searching
for properties and time is of the
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approaching, don't delay and
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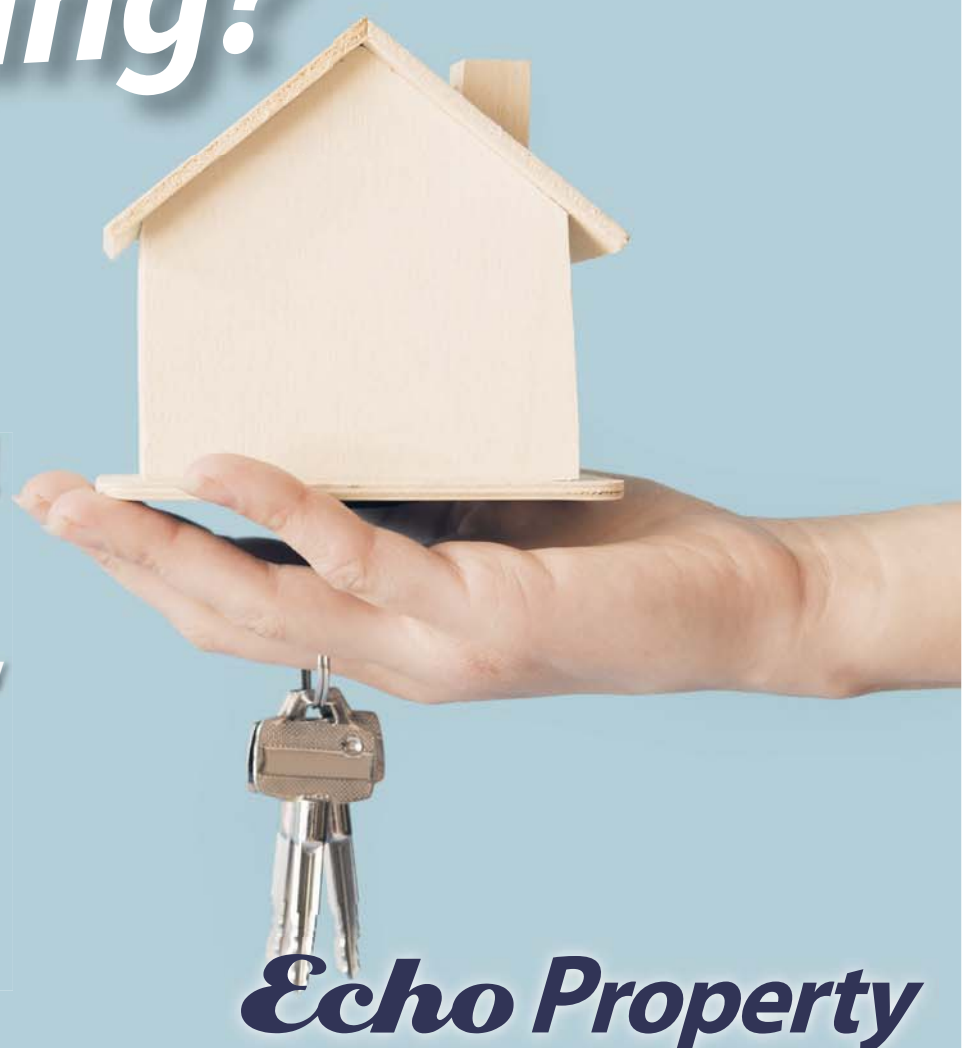
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- 25 Moon Street, Ballina. Thu 2-2.30pm
- 41 Gordon Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 25 Moon Street, Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 8/24 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 69 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 14 Larelar Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.30-10am
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- 10 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 108 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
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- 509 Rosebank Road, Rosebank. Sat 11-11.30am
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- 2/31 Clover Hill Circuit, Bangalow. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 128 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 12-12.30pm
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- 2 Clifford Street, South Golden Beach. Wed 3-3.30pm
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- 7 Yengarie Way, Ocean Shores. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 4/4 Halyard Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 10 Beach Avenue, South Golden Beach. Sat 9-9.30am
- 18 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 10-10.30am
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- 2/80 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.45am
- 54 Mullumbimbi St, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- Unit 220, 2/6 Pandanus Parade, Cabarita Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 14 Goolara Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.45am
- Lot 4, 46 Durrumbul Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 12-12.45pm
- 111 Geles Road, Upper Burringbar. Sat 12-12.30pm
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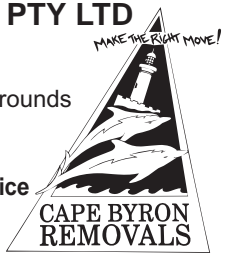
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- 190 St Helena Road, McLeods Shoot NSW 2479 (RFNSA ID: 2481001)

The proposed works on site will involve:

- Installation of new panel antennas
- Removal of some existing panel antennas
- Replacement of existing equipment cabinets with new equipment cabinets at ground level
- Removal and installation of ancillary equipment including feeders, cabling and works within the equipment shelter

NBN regards the proposed installations as a low impact facility under the telecommunications (low-impact facilities) determination 2018. In these circumstances, it does not require planning approval from council.

Further information on these specific proposals can be obtained by calling Adriana Tadic on 0488 320 864.

Written submissions can be sent to L3, 357 Collins St, Melbourne VIC 3000 or via email to NBNCo.Submissions@servicestream.com.au.

The closing date for submissions is **5pm Wed 6 December 2023**.

For general info on the nbn, email info@nbn.com.au, or visit our website at www.nbnco.com.au.

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BYRON DOG RESCUE
COMPANION ANIMALS WELFARE INC
ARE YOU OVER 55 AND WITH CENTRELINK?

Would you like to help us? Would you like to contribute to the community and work with other like-minded people? We are looking for mature people who would like to volunteer in our Brunswick Heads Op Shops for a few hours a week. If this appeals to you, pls call Kylie 0492861905.



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honeyflow.com.au/jobs

Applications close Friday 8th December 2023



Shearwater, the Mullumbimby Steiner School currently has the following exciting opportunities available:

Receptionist x 2 positions (Part Time, 4 days and 3 days per week)

High School Music Assistant (Part time, 4 days per week)

Applications will be assessed as they come in, but the latest applications will close is at **9am on Tuesday 28 November 2023**

Please refer to website for position descriptions and details on how to apply at www.shearwater.nsw.edu.au/work-at-shearwater/

TAX PREPARER

Part-time/casual in Byron Bay office. Must have experience preparing basic individual and sole trader tax returns or be prepared to complete a tax preparation course. Busy time is July to December. Flexible hours/days.
Send resume to ByronTaxWork@gmail.com or phone/WhatsApp 0423 763 053



SCHOOL COUNSELLOR Commencing January 2024

We are currently seeking a School Counsellor. The successful candidate will be professional, motivated, and suitably qualified.

Applications close 4th Dec
See advert on page 10
Position description and application process
capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

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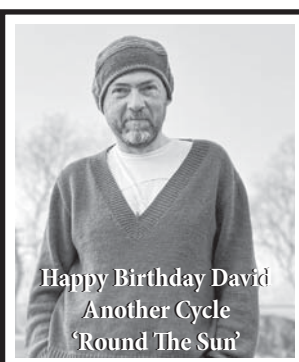
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BIRTHDAY



PET



Cheyenne is shouting out to all of you who might like to give her a home in time for Christmas. She's such a sweet, gentle girl that likes nothing better than to snuggle up with you & share her love. To meet Cheyenne and our other cats and kittens, please visit the **Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.**

OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm, Thurs 3-5pm Sat 10am-12 noon
Call **AWL on 0436 845 542**
Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R251000222



Stitch is a 2 year old Kelpie X. She would suit an active family who can provide her with plenty of space to run around and adventures to keep her smart brain engaged. M/C # 900164002075887

For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128.
Interested? Please complete our online adoption expression of interest.
<https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>
Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
ABN 83 126 970 338



STEVIE has just arrived at the shelter. A very majestic tabby with the classic hallmarks of the oriental breed. Only four months old which has been long enough to win many hearts. He is an easy going, friendly, pert and active youngster who is just ready and waiting to share an exciting and loving life with his own humans. All cats are special, but Stevie is "special" special.

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.
No: 953010006636906 **PETS FOR LIFE**
Please make an appointment
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petsforlifeanimalshelter.net

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



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

DEATH NOTICES

MICHAEL MAYNARD
11/08/1939-09/11/2023
Late of Alstonville.
Passed peacefully surrounded by family. Loma and family would like to thank everybody for their flowers and support. A private service and wake will be held.

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SUN, MOON & TIDES

- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Nov/Dec)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
22	W	5:41 19:21	14:03 2:12	0457 1.20 1702 1.51	1030 0.47 2337 0.24
23	TH	5:41 19:22	15:07 2:45	0557 1.35 1800 1.47	1141 0.43
24	F	5:41 19:23	16:10 3:17	0649 1.49 1852 1.42	0020 0.18 1245 0.39
25	SA	5:41 19:24	17:14 3:50	0738 1.62 1940 1.35	0100 0.14 1345 0.35
26	SU	5:40 19:25	18:20 4:26	0824 1.72 2025 1.27	0137 0.12 1439 0.32
27	M	5:40 19:26	19:26 5:05	0908 1.78 2109 1.19	0214 0.12 1530 0.31
28	TU	5:40 19:31	20:31 5:50	0950 1.79 2151 1.12	0249 0.15 1620 0.32
29	W	5:40 19:27	21:30 6:41	1031 1.77 2232 1.06	0326 0.19 1707 0.34
30	TH	5:40 19:28	22:24 7:36	1112 1.72 2314 1.02	0402 0.26 1753 0.38
1	F	5:40 19:29	23:11 8:34	1152 1.65 2356 0.98	0441 0.33 1837 0.42
2	SA	5:40 19:29	23:51 9:33	1232 1.57	0522 0.41 1922 0.46
3	SU	5:40 19:30	00:45 10:31	0045 0.95 1315 1.50	0610 0.49 2009 0.48
4	M	5:40 19:31	01:26 11:27	0145 0.95 1402 1.43	0708 0.56 2059 0.48
5	TU	5:40 19:32	02:56 12:21	0300 0.98 1454 1.37	0816 0.62 2150 0.47
6	W	5:40 19:33	04:13 13:13	0413 1.05 1550 1.32	0930 0.65 2238 0.43

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415
1st SUN	Byron Bay	6685 6807
1st SUN	Lismore Car Boot	6628 7333
2nd SAT	Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159
2nd SUN	The Channon	6688 6433
2nd SUN	Lennox Head	6685 6807
2nd SUN	Chillingham	0428 793 141
2nd SUN	Coolangatta	
3rd SAT	Mullumbimby	6684 3370
3rd SAT	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
3rd SAT	Salt Village Market, Casuarina	
3rd SUN	Federal	0433 002 757
3rd SUN	Uki	0487 329 150
3rd SUN	Ballina	0422 094 338
4th SAT	Evans Head	0432 275 765
4th SAT	Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglebazaar.com.au
4th SUN	Bangalow	6687 1911
4th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764
4th SUN	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
4th SUN	Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)	
5th SUN	Nimbin	0458 506 000
5th SUN	Lennox Head	6685 6807

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

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

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Please stick this by your phone

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

Mullumbimby Tennis Club celebrates 30 years



Some of the Mullumbimby Tennis Club's 167 members made it to the latest evening of social tennis. Photo supplied

A facility that started as a 'dream' by a group of players in 1992 to build a community tennis centre has turned 30 years old, and club members have told *The Echo* how the club came to be.

The club's Jonathan Hartland told *The Echo*, 'It started with lobbying local government to obtain crown land and once agreed, then

raising the money to build while submitting a plan of the complex to Council'.

'Fundraising filled every waking moment, and with perseverance, patience and positive thinking, the dream started to become a reality.

'The side benefits of the fundraising were the close friendships that were forged in a common purpose.

'Finally, after much wrangling, the go ahead was given in late 1998.

'Six courts were laid, and in April 1999, building of the club house commenced, with the official opening taking place in August 2000.

'The fundraising machine continued working to service loan payments. Initially, these were very substantial, but after ten years of intense fundraising, the club finally paid back the loan (circa \$190,000).

'It was a huge effort by everyone involved.

Celebrate this Sunday

'On Sunday, November 26, we will be celebrating this momentous milestone from 2pm at the club. All members past and present are invited to share food, fun and happy memories'.

Local triathletes look for three-peat



The Tri Club got a good start in Yamba chasing their third championship. Photo supplied

Byron Bay Tri Club kicked off the 2023/24 North Coast Interclub Triathlon Series in Yamba last weekend.

'The day offered impeccable conditions that set the stage for a spectacular showcase of swimming, cycling, and running. The calm waters, light winds, and a touch of cloud was the perfect trifecta,' club member Deborah Fuller said.

'We have won the last two series in a row and will battle

it out to make it three'.

The clubs in this season's league include Macksville, Port Macquarie, Hat Head, Coffs Harbour, Grafton, Yamba, Ballina, Tweed and Byron Bay.

'With the first race in the books, we've tried hard to set the bar high for what lies ahead in this series.'

Outstanding performances included: Jaime Cascajares who won his age division and came third

overall.

David Mildren was second in his division and eighth overall.

Cara Brisbane topped her age division and came second overall in the womens.

Christie Horsley was seventh overall while Gracie Richter was first in her age division and eighth overall.

Deborah Fuller also topped her age division and came in 12th overall.

Ellen King wins a tight Womens Classic golf tournament at Ocean Shores

Ocean Shores Country Club hosted the Womens Classic golf tournament where over 75 women participated each day across the November 13-14 weekend.

Women from Ocean Shores, Mullumbimby and Byron Bay were joined by golfers from Ballina, Grafton, Tenterfield and the Gold Coast to play across three divisions.

The course was in prime condition, the greens were smooth, the hazards were testing and the weather was perfect.

Teenager Elly Petrie had a day one lead of six but this was erased on day two by Ellen King.

A three-hole playoff was required with the more experienced Ellen maintaining her momentum and winning by two shots.

The event began in 1999



Just some of the talent that took part in this year's Ocean Shores Country Club Womens Classic. Photo supplied

as the Ocean Shores Ladies Amateur Challenge and this year was rebranded as the Womens Classic and sponsored by Byron and Beyond Fencing and Patios.

Winners known to have gone on to have a career in golf include Amanda Fisher (1999), Carlie Butler (2000),

Katy Jarochowicz (2001), Heather Warren (2003), Heidi McCulkin (2004), Sunny Park (2006), and Bree Arthur (2008).

Carlie Butler, in winning the event in 2000, set a new course record for women of 68. This was matched by Bree Arthur in 2006.

Local tennis star ready to take on the state's best

Byron Bay junior tennis player Sonny Reid has been selected to play in the Champion of Champions event in Western Sydney this weekend.

Sonny has been playing tennis seriously for just over a year and plays approximately 10 hours a week including competitions.

'He has an incredible work ethic and really is committed to being a great future tennis star,' Andrew Bates from Byron Bay Tennis said.

Sonny has been selected by NSW Tennis Country to compete in the U/10 Boys at the 2023 NSW Champion of Champions event to be held in Springwood/Nepean on November 25-26.

Players will compete in a 32-player draw to decide the best players in the state.

The event features boys and girls competitions across



Sonny has only been playing tennis seriously for a year but is vying to become a state champion. Photo supplied

four age groups including U/10, U/12, U/14 and U/16s.

All up 235 players from across the state have been selected to play at the tournament.

Send us your sport stories!

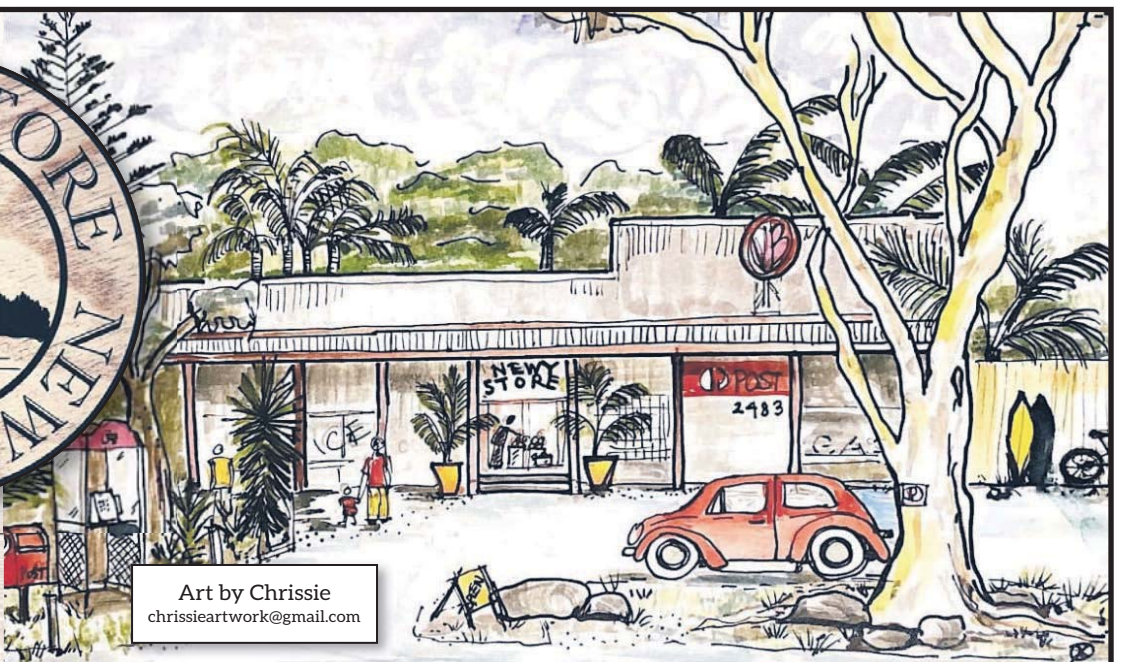
We would love to run all kinds of local sport on these pages so please send your photos and stories to sport@echo.net.au.

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With councillors likely to vote for a pay rise at this week's meeting, will more Council wages (i.e. your money) result in better governance for the pothole-suffering public? See page 6.

Satirical news media, theshot.net.au, reported on the shocking lack of Middle East knowledge by Sky News (Murdoch) anchor Tom Connell at the National Press Club last week. As host, his question made the very articulate and informed UN Special Rapporteur on occupied Palestinian territories, Francesca Albanese, gasp in disbelief. The story is entitled, 'Australian media annihilated by someone who knows what they're talking about'.

Military whistleblower, David McBride, has no options left but to now plead guilty for leaking classified information, after Justice Mossop rejected his public interest defence last week. This means that the two 'interests' - military and public - are not aligned. How is Australia a democracy if the military's interests are more important than the public's? Asking for 25.69 million people.

Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure company, EVX has installed two pole-chargers in Byron Bay. According to EVX, the two dual Australian made chargers are located on Childe Street, Belongil, and Wordsworth Street, Byron Bay.

A salient reminder for all the dodgy politicians and bureaucrats - if Optus CEO Kelly Bayer Rosmarin can resign because she failed to do her job, then so can you.



Ash Grunwald, Emily Lubitz, Ian Peres and Bobby Alu pumped life back into the Mullum Civic Hall on Saturday night - the launch of Grunwald's latest album *Bluesfest Studio Sessions* was the first event in the hall since it closed for repair work after the 2022 floods. Photo Eve Jeffery

Congrats to the Social Futures Tweed Assertive Outreach team, who last week won the 2023 Premier's Award in the Connecting Communities category. Organisers say, 'The program has significantly reduced the number of rough sleepers in the Tweed Shire, resulting in housing for 140 individuals with a 95 per cent tenancy success rate'. A similar outreach program is now underway for Byron Shire.

Psst: A piano has magically appeared in the Sound Shell in Bruns. Let's hope it gets treated lovingly X.

Turns out inflation is trickling down upon us. The OECD's 2023 *Economic Outlook* found that corporate profits have been a major contributor to inflation in Australia and elsewhere. Given the major political parties are embedded with corporate interests, how will they spin their way out of that?

Here's a great life hack: turn any sofa into a bed by telling your wife to 'calm down'.

Welcome to Byron Shire, Schoolies, Toolies and Zoolies. Have a safe and enjoyable stay!

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