

Echo

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The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 38 #27 • December 13, 2023 • www.echo.net.au

Carols in a cup



Jarvi, Bill and Theo at Mullum took part in Carols by Candlelight, held on Sunday at the Mullum Showgrounds. School and community groups sang, followed by the rockstar arrival of Santa. Photo Simon Haslam

Council staff push for higher dwelling density

Hans Lovejoy

Plans for up to 6,695 new homes to be constructed in the Byron Shire over the next 20 years will be tabled at Thursday's December 14 Council meeting. Council staff say 286 public submissions were received for the Housing Options Paper, which was on public exhibition until November 6.

Considerable changes have been made to the document by Council's planning staff since it was exhibited, including an increase in density for future dwellings.

An indicative map (on page 73 of the document) shows a six-storey apartment building as a way to achieve a density mix and 'aim for variety, not monoculture'. This is a

radical departure from past community sentiment around urban planning.

And while Shannon Burt, Director Sustainable Environment and Economy and Sharyn French, Manager Environmental and Economic Planning say in their report that the increase is in response to public feedback, there is no indication of where the public have requested it.

As all submissions are confidential, Ms Burt and French's claims are unable to be verified.

As previously reported, the options paper does not reflect the 2022 flood levels, as the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) are yet to release that data.

Nor is there any guarantee that Council's Affordable Housing

Contribution Scheme (AHCS) will deliver any real affordability, given the metrics underpinning affordability are known to be unfit for purpose.

Social housing, which is managed by the state government, has been flagged as 'supported' and 'incentivised' in the options paper, after 'multiple' public submissions called for its inclusion.

North to bear the brunt

Mullumbimby, Brunswick Heads (including Saddle Road) and Bangalow are slated to take the majority of new housing infill and greenfield sites, and if adopted, the housing paper will 'inform the 2020 Residential Strategy Refresh', to be presented to councillors in

► Continued on page 5

Car parks at capacity

Bruns paid parking plans make a return!

Paul Bibby

Byron Council is once again on the brink of introducing paid parking in Brunswick Heads, after a consultant's review found that parking demand in the town has reached the point where intervention was necessary.

The prospect of parking meters in the town has been a source of bitterness and division since it was first mooted nearly ten years ago, with councillors and townsfolk split over the proposed measure.

Some are calling for local residents to be given free parking permits if such a scheme is introduced.

With the matter coming before this Thursday's Council meeting for determination, staff have recommended that councillors endorse the implementation of one of the paid parking scenarios set out in the consultant's report.

This scenario would see parking meters charging \$3 per hour introduced in the town.

Revenue pegged at \$3.1m

It is not clear from Council documents or the consultant's report exactly where the meters would be located. However, it appears that they would cover most of the centre of town, as well as the beach-front parking area on the other side of the river.

This scenario would generate \$3.1 million in revenue each year if implemented, but incur a higher capital cost for implementation than some of the other plans under consideration.

It would include a paid permit

system for local residents similar to that used in Byron Bay.

Staff have also recommended that Council endorse a trial of parking sensors at four separate locations in the centre of the town.

Should the motion pass, Council would start by getting a report from staff detailing the implementation, resourcing and funding to deliver the scheme.

Consultant's review

The recommendations followed a consultant's review of the parking management measures that Council has already implemented in a bid to encourage better parking turnover in the town, including changes to the time restrictions.

A key finding from the study, undertaken by Bitzios Consulting, was that during the low season the centre of town is still reaching a 'trigger point' for further intervention, namely 72 per cent occupancy.

'On the day of the surveys which produced [the study], the weather was generally poor from a beach-going perspective,' Council Traffic & Transport Engineer Judd Cornwall, said in written comments contained in the agenda to this week's Council meeting.

'This indicates that from a base background parking demand point of view, under poor weather and weekday conditions Brunswick is still approaching capacity in the commercial precinct without the tourist overlay.'

This is a key finding because opponents of paid parking in the town have long argued that such a scheme was not needed during quieter periods of the year.

Dance, sing and play more in 2024 ► p10

Will the Dunoon Dam go ahead? ► p18

Local shoppers are winners! ► p20

Silly season shopping made easy ► p25

Ahoy there me hearties! The Echo's annual sun, moon, tides chart ► p28



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

Paul Bibby

Between 150 and 300 dwellings in buildings up to 11.5 metres high could be built on land once occupied by the Mullumbimby Hospital, under new concept plans presented in Thursday's Council meeting agenda.

Three planning options from a two-day design community process feature large areas for residential development arranged in different configurations. Concept two features the highest residential density, featuring a mix of two and three-storey buildings that would yield between 250 and 300 dwellings.

Should this design be adopted, it would become one of the highest density residential dwelling areas in the Shire. Concept three involves the lowest level of density, featuring a mixture of one, two and three-storey buildings yielding 150 to 200 dwellings. Two of the designs involve distinct mixed-use areas with commercial and residential development.

All three concepts retain the existing aged care facility, and feature a subtropical rainforest conservation zone.

A reminder of what's precious



Deborah Pearse, Cameron Johnson, Gemma Veriga-White and some of the students from the girls group, were excited about the delivery of the latest mural to Mullum High School.

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

Students from Mullumbimby High School have been doing their best to get the message across that our native creatures are very precious.

Organised by Deborah Pearse from the Mullumbimby BYS Cottage, around 44 students from the girls groups have completed three murals and a series of wildlife stickers as part of the

Young and Wild project.

Two murals are installed at Global Ripple, and one is about to be mounted at Mullumbimby High.

Wildlife plight

The art project aims to raise community awareness around the plight of our wildlife, and the many risks that cause injury and death.

Funding from Global Ripple made the project

possible, as did the creative direction of Dale Shaddick, and the support of Mullum High teachers, Gemma Veriga-White (Head Teacher Welfare), and Cameron Johnson (Deputy Principal).

Donations welcome

Anyone wanting wildlife stickers or to make donations to keep the project going, please contact Deb on 0409 170 062.

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Two for the price of one! Residents turned out at the Council chambers last Thursday to highlight the dangerous state of Main Arm Road, and also to call on councillors to preserve the fragile ecological area slated for urbanisation in Bruns (Wallum Estate). *The Echo* is yet to hear what Council staff's plans are for improving the road in Upper Main Arm, and will publish a reply when/if received. As for Wallum, things are looking grim for retaining its rare biodiversity, given councillors will vote on whether to allow works to commence this Thursday. Save Wallum spokesperson James Barrie says, 'The subdivision of coastal, flood-prone land would see 260 ecologically significant trees cut down, including 76 old-growth hollow-bearing Scribbly Gums'. Photo Eve Jeffery

Locals fighting to save the Wallum site in Brunswick Heads from development will hold a public meeting at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall, this Thursday from 6pm.

Save Wallum spokesperson and ecologist, James Barrie, says the campaign has 'reached a critical stage' given at this Thursday's meeting Council staff are recommending councillors approve the first stage of construction works.

He says conditions of consent for DA 10.2021.575.1 were 'issued in error, and that there are numerous outstanding ecological and environmental impacts of this proposed development that have not been adequately assessed'.

'The area is home to at least nine EPBC listed threatened species and one endangered ecological community', he says.

Flood protest held at Labor MPs' offices

Hans Lovejoy

Federal Greens candidate Mandy Nolan is keeping up the pressure on both NSW and federal Labor over their response to the 2022 flood recovery, with a joint protest held on Tuesday outside the Tweed offices of sitting Labor MP, Justine Elliot, and the office of Lismore Labor MP, Janelle Saffin.

Nolan says community groups across the Northern Rivers have signed an open letter to the Labor prime minister and Labor NSW Premier, 'calling on them to jointly provide funding to cover the \$700m shortfall for the Resilient Homes Program before the end of 2023 and communicate clear and appropriate timelines for the delivery of 4,000 retrofits and house-raises and 2,000 buybacks for homes affected by the 2022 flood event'.

She says the letter was signed by 38 local

organisations, including residents' associations, Rotary Clubs, CWAs and flood-advocacy institutions.

Noelle Maxwell, a flood-affected Mullumbimby resident, said, 'The floods were deeply traumatic for me and so many people'.

She added, 'But being kept in limbo for nearly two years with no idea if you'll ever receive the support you need to return home has needlessly compounded that trauma'.

The Echo asked Mrs Elliot, 'Are you satisfied with the flood recovery effort outcome so far, and the process around the Resilient Homes Program? What have you, as the local federal MP, done to expedite what looks like a stalled process which lacks transparency?', and, 'Has the NSW government sought federal funding assistance yet, and if so, is there a time frame available to give those seeking flood assistance confidence in government?'

She replied in part, 'In a desperate attempt to divert attention from the Greens' recent destructive actions in the federal parliament, Greens Party candidate Mandy Nolan is now shamelessly using flood victims to try and pretend that the Greens actually care about housing'.

'Protesting outside Janelle Saffin and my offices, while at the same time continuing to block housing help, is just another cheap political stunt by the Greens'.

She said the Greens political party 'don't support housing' as they 'again teamed up with Peter Dutton and the Liberals and Nationals', to block Labor's latest plan to help renters buy a home.

Help to Buy Scheme

'Labor's "Help to Buy Scheme" will change the lives of tens of thousands of Australians. It's a path to home ownership for people who have been unable to

buy their own home'.

But Mandy Nolan's spokesperson told *The Echo* Labor's Help to Buy Scheme would 'only help 0.2 per cent of those seeking to buy a home'.

'And even then, the Productivity Commission says such a scheme would just raise house prices, and give even more advantages to developers, as there so few houses available'.

Mrs Elliot also referred to the Greens 'blocking' a social and affordable housing bill earlier this year – the Housing Australia Future Fund.

While negotiations led to more money on the table, Mrs Elliot said in that in those six months, 'we could have built 6,000 houses in the time'.

'In relation to additional recovery support, I'm advised that the federal government hasn't received a formal request from the NSW state government. We stand ready to assist and work with them'.

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From my family to yours, have a safe and wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year.

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Councillors to consider higher dwelling density

► Continued from page 1
February 2024 for approval to submit to the DPE.

The previous strategy, adopted by Council, was rejected by the state government.

Ms Burt and French say in their report (available at www.byron.nsw.gov.au) that Council's housing target 'exceeds the DPE 2041 implied housing target' of 4,522 new homes (8,590 people) set by the state government.

Sub breakdown

Of the 286 public submissions, staff say that 'Generally, there was support for new housing in areas that are flood-free, close to bike trails or the rail trail, close to town, eco-village structures, with community space and that are family-friendly.'

'On the other hand, multiple submissions were also received opposing any more housing, with concern that creating more housing will not address the affordability problem in the Shire, and that growth conflicts with respecting the character of existing towns and villages.'

'Others submitted that the options have not been comprehensively assessed,

and therefore cannot be supported, and some felt that there needed to be more consultation about any proposed height increases and a focus on community-led solutions.'

Regardless of those concerns, under the heading 'Staff comment', they make the case that, 'Council remains concerned about the housing crisis in the Shire. This is having a significant social and economic impact on the community and requires action by all levels of government as well as the broader community.'

2022 flood levels

With Mullum land pegged for development known to have flooded in 2022, Ms Burt and French defended that the options paper does not recognise those devastating flood levels.

Submissions pointed out that the document 'does not adequately consider the lessons from the 2022 floods' and that the *Floodplain Risk Management Study* needs to be updated with the 2022 flood data levels.

Ms Burt and French acknowledged that, 'further work and updates to Council's current flood management

plans is needed to incorporate the 2022 flood data levels (once this information is publicly available); but is also dependent on state government making formal policy decisions about the 2022 flood events and releasing updated flood planning and development requirements for use by councils.

'This will assist with Council's review of DCP flood planning controls, which is currently underway.

'In the meantime, the DPE is working with councils to determine how the planning for hazards is to occur, including flooding at the strategy and/or masterplan/rezoning stage.

'It is recommended that a new or updated action be included in the *2024 Residential Strategy* to address the issue of current and future flood planning more clearly, having regard to *2023 Flood Risk Management Manual* and latest policy guidance.'

Infrastructure

Public submissions also queried whether there is sufficient infrastructure capacity to support the projected housing growth.

In reply, Ms Burt and

French outlined developer contributions, which 'help fund infrastructure like parks, community facilities, local roads, footpaths, storm water drainage and traffic management'.

They say a review of a 'Development Servicing Plan' which is where water utilities plan future water supply and sewerage needs for local government areas, is 'being progressed parallel to the 2020 Residential Strategy Refresh'.

They gave assurance that water and sewerage infrastructure could cope with an increase in housing.

The Echo has previously reported that the Housing Options Paper relies upon contentious staff plans to source Mullum's water source from Rocky Creek Dam, instead of its local supply in Laverty's Gap.

That is yet to be adopted by councillors.

And on October 25, *The Echo* reported that senior staff members Shannon Burt and Phil Holloway refused to disclose to the public a review underpinning the water and sewage capacity of Mullum and Bruns.

■ See editorial, page 10.

Fed sheds back in Council



Artist impression from revised DA 10.2021.114.1, which if approved, would be located opposite Federal Hall in the centre of the village. Photo from Council website

Paul Bibby

The controversial Fed Sheds development returns before councillors at this Thursday's meeting.

The proposal, sitting directly opposite the Federal Hall in the heart of the village, came before Byron Shire Council in December last year and was refused.

The plans include three buildings to use for light industrial purposes, comprising eight tenancies of varying floor areas, six with mezzanine levels and car parking for 26 vehicles.

The applicant subsequently appealed Council's decision in the Land & Environment Court, with the matter proceeding through

the compulsory conciliation conference process.

With this conciliation process failing, the matter was set to proceed to a full hearing in April 2024.

Legal advice says to approve

However, after receiving legal advice from Council's external solicitors as to the prospects of success in the case, staff have recommended that Council approve the development.

The developer has significantly amended its plans from the original proposal which came before Council, including changes to its storm water plan, and a revised wastewater management solution.

Congratulations to our 2023/24 Community Grant recipients!

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Vale midwife and nurse Pam Sonia

Local treasure Pam Sonia died in Ewingsdale, last Wednesday, December 6.

She was well-known and loved in our community as a midwife and nurse who contributed significantly to her community and touched the lives of many through her work. During the 1980s and 1990s she, alongside Dr David Miller, pioneered home birthing in the area. With home and hospital births combined, Pam delivered some 2,000 plus babies.

She was born in Yallourn, East Gippsland and grew up in Moe. Moët was also her favourite champagne. She was the third daughter of Dr Sonia and Cissy. From a young age she accompanied her dad on his home visits showing an early interest in



medicine. Caring and looking after people was her passion. She worked 35 years with NSW Health; some 20 years in intensive care.

For a time, she was a teacher at Durrumbul preschool where in her final year, 15 of the 20 children were 'her home birth babies'. She was very proud of that.

Pam led a life devoted to caring for others, during births, deaths, and illness.

She often turned up unannounced at just the right time. Many benefitted from her kind words and health care advice. She was always available for others in need and gave of herself freely.

Her legacy lives on through her son Ben, daughter-in-law Nancy, and beloved granddaughter, Ziggy.

She was such an amazing soul. May Pam Sonia rest in peace, and may her family find comfort in the memories of her love, kindness, and the positive influence she had on so many lives.

A funeral service and celebration will be held at Kohinur Hall, Upper Main Arm, from 11am Thursday, December 14.

■ Obituary supplied by Pam Sonia's family.

Shari-Lee's family in need

The sudden death of Suffolk Park mum Shari-Lee Bromley has sparked a GoFundMe campaign to assist her family financially through their difficult time.

According to the campaign, 'Our little Busy Kids community lost a beautiful mother, friend, daughter, sister, partner and all round beautiful human last week unexpectedly'.

Busy Kids

'Shari loved her Busy Kids community, she was so connected to everyone here (children, families and educators) and always brought some cheer to our day.

'We will forever hold her in our hearts and will miss her beautiful smile, her laugh and the loved she beamed from



Shari-Lee Bromley with Sean, Indie and Sadie. Photo gofundme.com

wall to wall in this place!

'As a community we have been absolutely devastated by Shari-Lee Bromley's passing, and our hearts have ached for Shari's partner Sean and their two beautiful children, Indie and Sadie - who lost their rock, their best friend, their idol and

their real life angel.

'We know that life without Shari-Lee will be the most difficult for Sean and the girls and we wanted to do something to help'.

To get involved and help the family, visit www.gofundme.com/f/sharilee-bromley-family-fundraiser.

Wildlife Hospital welcomes new facilities

New wildlife care facilities have been unveiled at the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital.

Organisers say the facilities include 'a new reception area for carers and members of the public with wildlife in their care, new enclosures for birds, mammals, reptiles and

amphibians and office space for our vet team'.

'Through the generous support of the MacRae family and the Seaton Foundation, the MacRae Recovery Area will extend Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital's capacity to recover and rehabilitate sick, injured and

orphaned wildlife for return to the wild.

'Thanks to SIXT Truck and Car Rentals, the region's only all species wildlife hospital will also unveil a new wildlife recovery vehicle to be used for wildlife transport and care by hospital and sanctuary teams'.

Social housing mandated targets needed

Homelessness advocates, Homelessness NSW (HNSW), say that 'mandating social housing in new high-density developments is key to tackling the homelessness crisis'.

As opposed to developer-led 'affordable housing' developments, social housing is a specialised housing service

provided to low income earners by the state government and built by social housing development companies.

As previously reported, government investment in the social housing sector has plummeted in recent years.

HNSW CEO Dom Rowe said in a press release last

week, 'We will not be able to build our way out of the worst homelessness crisis in a generation without ensuring that 10 per cent of dwellings are social housing by 2050'.

'There are 57,000 households on the wait list for social housing and most of them face a decade-long wait'.

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Authorised J Elliot, ALP, Tweed Heads South

Echo

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

Suspected suicide in Tweed mental health ward subject of inquiry

A suspected suicide in the Tweed Hospital's mental health ward more than three years ago is the subject of a state coronial inquest due to start in Lismore this week.

Two teens killed in weekend crash near Casino

Police say a man and a woman died in a single-vehicle crash south of Casino Saturday night.

Tweed development wave continues with \$5.2m unit block proposal for city centre

Developers are proposing to build a \$5.2m apartment complex near the centre of Tweed Heads as the recent wave of development applications in the town continues.

Protestors find endangered gliders in active logging zone

Forest campaigners have today stopped work in the Styx River State Forest north east of Armidale to protect a greater glider and its home.

Lismore to host national junior baseball competition

The biggest junior baseball competition in Australia, which is a feeder into the US World Series will be held in Lismore in May 2024.

www.echo.net.au

High-risk vehicles to be stopped and checked for fire ants at NSW Qld border

Aslan Shand

The detection of red imported fire ants at South Murwillumbah has seen a quick response from the Department of Primary Industries (DPI) who have now started the next wave of their operation.

Operation Victa is a biosecurity blitz involving NSW Police and NSW DPI officers stopping heavy vehicles that are crossing the Queensland and NSW border as part of efforts to contain the movement of fire ants from Queensland into NSW.

'This operation will ensure high-risk vehicles hauling potential fire ant-carrying materials south into NSW are complying with biosecurity requirements,' said a DPI spokesperson.

High-risk materials

All heavy vehicles transporting fire ant carrier materials from Queensland into NSW are required to complete a 'Record of Movement declaration' before departure.

High-risk materials include agricultural and earthmoving equipment, mulch, compost, hay, soil, turf, or potting mix.

'For those transporting



Fire ants trucking blitz, Operation Victa, has started on the NSW Qld border. Photo DPI

these materials from the known infestation zone in Queensland, carriers will also need to comply with cleaning requirements, and lodge a Biosecurity Certificate.'

Random checks

NSW DPI, NSW Police and heavy vehicle compliance staff will be at a range of locations to make sure the Biosecurity Emergency Order is being followed. This operation will be carried out at random locations and at random times. The operation will likely continue into 2024.

'In partnership with the National Fire Ant Eradication Program and Tweed Shire

Council, the NSW government has fully eradicated the recently infested site in South Murwillumbah, with no new infested premises detected in the surrounding control area,' explained the spokesperson.

The NSW government is urging businesses and residents in the Tweed Shire to be on the lookout for fire ants and their mounds.

As part of the community awareness campaign, the DPI with the Department of Education are informing school children about the dangers of fire ants.

'We all have a part to play in the effort to keep NSW fire ant free,' said Minister for Agriculture Tara Moriarty.

Ballina's first conservation zone

Mia Armitage

The state's planning department has approved Ballina's first conservation zone, although it's unclear how the land will stay protected given Ballina Council's recent vote for an 'opt-in' policy.

The land at 550-578 River Street, West Ballina is more commonly referred to as being on Burns Point Ferry Road, near the junction of Emigrant Creek and the Richmond River.

A 2021 Land and Environment Court (L&EC) ruling found parts of the land needed protection from development owing to ecological sensitivities, including endangered communities.

Delayed protection

The L&EC case happened after developer GemLife decided to legally fight the Ballina Shire Council when it refused a development application for a seniors' housing estate on site.

Council staff this year advised Council to rezone the land as a C2 Environmental Conservation, a move that would make it Ballina's first official conservation zone, 11 years after the former coalition state government introduced them into planning regulations.

But the Ballina Shire Council appeared reluctant to follow their staff advice, deferring debate on the matter until the state's planning department declined a request for an extension on a final decision.

Councillors at July's ordinary council meeting found themselves obliged to end a period of regulatory zoning at odds with legal and scientific findings that had lasted 18 months.

Council meetings had heard, in that time, of residential complaints that the land was being mistreated via slashing in an apparent attempt to degrade its ecological value.

Ultimately councillors voted unanimously to seek the land's zoning as C2 Environmental Conservation, only for conservative councillors to return in September with a new approach.

Cr Eva Ramsey proposed an opt-in model of conservation zoning to councillors in September.

Staff at the time advised the opt-in approach lacked transparency without a supporting report.

GemLife is still pursuing the council in court, arguing a right to develop under previous zoning regulations.

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

Pottsville mobile tower approved despite concerns over the environment

Aslan Shand

A failure to provide the requested ecological assessment for the site of a potential telecommunications pole at Pottsville, following the refusal of the development application (DA) on June 1, 2023, has not proved a hindrance to the majority of Tweed Shire councillors

subsequently approving the proposal at an extraordinary meeting on November 30.

The proposed telecommunications facility at 1126 Pottsville Road, Pottsville had previously been refused due to the site containing coastal wetlands, well-established mature native trees located across the site and in proximity to the proposed

development area according to the staff report.

Approval

Councillors Reece Byrnes and James Owen moved an amendment to approve the DA which was approved with Dr Nola Firth against.

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

Water sharing compliance checks

Federal authorities say they'll be carrying out on-site inspections of properties with irrigated agriculture around Ballina, Casino, and Lismore this week.

The Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) says the properties are under the jurisdiction of the Richmond water sharing plan and have been identified using state-of-the-art satellite imagery, water-use records, and

compliance history records. The properties are said to mostly be macadamia farms or to include horticultural greenhouses and feature a mix of dams, pumps, bores, and spearpoints.

NRAR officers are to ensure compliance with water sharing rules, particularly for oversized or unlicensed dams.

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

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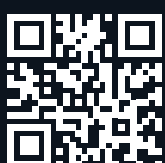


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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #27 • December 13, 2023

Make Mullum Great Again!

Have you been watching the gradual decline of Mullum over the years?

Less attention to curbs and gutters? Virtually no improvements to drainage after a catastrophic flood?

An increase in traffic, less parking? Poorly thought out town planning? It's a busy little place, and one which has become full to capacity.

For someone who went to high school here, and one who has lived here for many years, it seems that the focus of the current elected councillors isn't about making this place a great place to live.

Instead, there appears a desperate agenda of ad hoc, pie-in-the-sky 'affordable' development thought bubbles which go against good planning principles.

While 'Making Council Great Again' could be a matter of waiting until the September 2024 elections, how can Mullum become a better place to live?

All the dumb things

First up: Stop doing dumb things. Proposing to develop on floodplains is clearly in the realms of idiocy, and the NSW Labor government promised they wouldn't do that if elected in March.

Yet this Thursday, councillors will gather to presumably give this dumb idea passage through its Housing Options Paper.

As reported on page 1 and 5, this significant document was presented to the community with a myriad of issues, and lacks transparency and certainty.

A plan for up to 6,695 new homes to be constructed, much of it around Mullum and Bruns over the next 20 years, is way beyond the target even set by the state government – they requested 4,522 new homes (8,590 people).

Council's rationale is that some

land parcels will be later found to be unsuitable. So why propose it in the first place?

Councillors, led by Mayor Michael Lyon, are proposing foolish floodplain development because back in August, then-Sydney-based Deputy Secretary NSW Planning, Marcus Ray threatened Council he would take their precious planning powers away because of its poor performance in approving DAs.

Instead of defending themselves, they collapsed like a poorly baked pavlova. Were they protecting their thin political hides or representing the community's wishes?

Another sure way to ruin any small town on a floodplain is to jack up the height limits.

Increased density has now magically appeared in the Housing Options Paper, thanks to bold and fearless leadership by senior staff. Without evidence, they say it's what the community wants. But is it?

It's not what has been supported in the past. It's the sort of thing that should be an election pledge, not a half-assed gambit by those without any accountability.

So councillors – please stop ignoring the Mullum masterplan (as inadequate as it is) and stop proposing to cram shit developments in tight spaces. Create more open spaces. And improve parking.

Just stop ruining the joint. Make Mullum better instead.

Better shire planning could be developing on flood-free open spaces that could provide small hamlet-style villages. There is a bit of that land in Byron Shire.

That way, these councillors who are desperate to suck up to developers and the state government can show us how that model can produce good planning outcomes.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Dance, sing and play more in 2024

As a fierce sun finally fades, hundreds of people dance in the darkness, stars swirling above.

This is not the Burning Man festival but an outdoor end of year school concert in Byron Bay last week.

A couple feel the sensual pleasure of a simple Cuban salsa move. Not in a Havana nightclub off the Malecón, but a small hall in Mullumbimby.

A community choir sing a civil-rights gospel classic in four-part harmony. Its not Birmingham Alabama, but Bangalow, every Wednesday.

You get the idea.

As *Echo* readers already know, there's an embarrassment of musical riches in the Northern Rivers. Not just the big annual for-profit events, but a cornucopia of small musical connections that help make the magic of this place.

Right now, so many of us are weighed down by the climate and housing crises, Big Tech's assault on our souls, and myriad other miseries.

But perhaps we can collectively lighten our load. Dancing, singing, and playing more, in 2024.

Not to mindlessly forget what's wrong in the world and how we might help fix it. But rather to bring more joy, connection, and resilience into whatever we're doing. Hands-on, off-line.

Post-Covid recovery

Part of the work I've been privileged to do this year, is help regenerate the school band program at Byron Public.

Like many schools across the region, and the world, in Byron, Covid restrictions hurled a wrecking ball at the school's long-established bands.

But recovery is well underway. From none, two years ago, in 2024 there'll likely be three bands back at Byron, with up to 60 children learning instruments.

Not only drums and bass, but flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones, and saxophones.



'Learning how to play music with others is a passport to a lifetime of pleasure'

– Dr Ray Moynihan

The program is run with strong support from the P&C, and in collaboration with the Northern Rivers Conservatorium of Music, who are helping regenerate music in other schools across the region.

It's obvious, but worth saying out loud. When kids learn instruments, and sing, dance or play together, it can bring them immeasurable benefits. Determination, persistence, tenacity, confidence, cooperation, fun.

Plato's quoted as saying, 'I would teach children music, physics and philosophy; but more importantly music; for in the patterns of music and all the arts, are the keys to learning'.

Apart from educational benefits, learning how to play music with others is a passport to a lifetime of pleasure.

Now of course we don't need a philosopher, a neurobiologist or a columnist to tell us music can be good for us.

Anyone who's ever been a choir member will know the joy that comes from singing in harmony with others, a form of musical connection carrying great power and potential. In the Northern Rivers, and across the country, choirs help build inclusive communities. In South Africa, and other nations, song helped sponsor revolution.

Diligence, determination

A musical pathway is clearly not always free of potholes. Moving through the squeaks and squawks of being a beginner requires doggedness and diligence in practising a new instrument. Support and encouragement from loved ones are also invaluable, rather than disparaging asides.

I found being a beginner learning tango difficult and sometimes excruciating, both for me and for whoever had the misfortune of trying to follow my dodgy lead.

But then, one day about 18 months after I started classes, something shifted, dramatically.

I will never forget that first moment on the dance floor when I felt I was flying, not flailing.

After a decade-long absence I've just returned to tango and can reliably report the body memory is mostly intact.

And more good news: one of the area's top tango teachers is about to restart classes, another sign of our post-Covid recovery.

Horns, hopes

'Pick up the dusty old horn and give it a blow' is that famous line in Gillian Welch's anthemic alt-country classic 'Hard Times'.

For me, Welch is urging us to rehabilitate that old instrument we used to play at school.

To find those old dance shoes we used to wear and give them a polish. To seek out that community choir we've always imagined we might join.

The outcome, as Welch hopes: 'Hard times ain't gonna rule my mind, no more.'

And let's not forget it's just a month or so until Survival Day, which brings another hope.

That we may again enjoy the song and dance that's been made in this place for tens of thousands of years.

■ Wannabe tango dancer, reliable rhythm guitarist and intermittent chorister, Ray Moynihan is currently Bands Coordinator at Byron Bay Public School.



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COP28

Where are the cops for COP28? Where are the criminal and social justice forces that are on the job, making sure the commitments are kept to?

I guess the problem is there are no rules. Just commitments. If this is number 28, then have there really been 27 previous talkfests, where tens of thousands of people fly in and out to make commitments, to wrangle over the precise language, to lobby for, and to protest against, those who are not doing what they committed to do?

And the scientists of course are a ghostly presence, like offstage sirens, warning in more and more exasperated tones: 'hello, climate change is actually here, in case you haven't noticed the fires and the floods, the heat and the melting icecaps'.

Can you imagine a world where the murderers, the domestic violence perpetrators, the corporate thieves and arsonists all make commitments to change and they all get together on a global stage to put their commitments on, wait a minute, is there actually a table?

It really does mess with the brain eh!

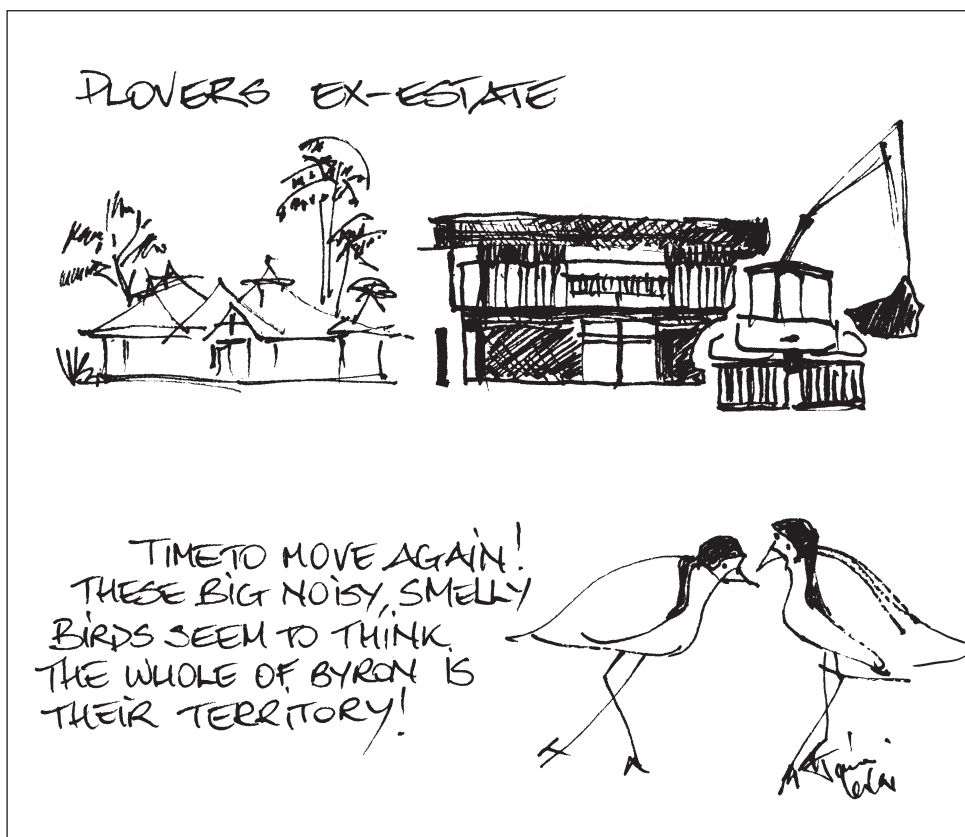
Sandra Heilpern
Bangalow

Wallum Council vote

The 131-lot Wallum housing development application (DA), on precious ecological land in Bayside Bruns, has been a protracted battle for over 20 years.

In 2011, Byron Shire Council and National Parks wrote scathing reports against the development. However, the state government overruled by extinguishing the rights of threatened species and ignored other planning instruments designed to prevent inappropriate development.

On December 14, this week, Byron Shire councillors will vote to seal the fate for the 'zombie DA' at Wallum. Will they vote in favour of the money-centric, myopic Clarence Property land speculators and the pro-development state government's Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP)? Or will councillors vote against the subdivision in line with community concerns and the NSW Director



Cartoon by Tanialeilani Manea-Strebl

General's assertion the Wallum development does not have federal government approval to destroy known endangered species habitat and threatened ecosystems?

Common sense tells us we must protect these important ecological refuges as we live in a biodiversity extinction crisis exacerbated by climate change. The most significant recognised threat to the 24 threatened species found at Wallum is habitat loss caused by coastal development.

If this DA is approved, Council is complicit in putting some of the final nails in the coffin for our endangered wildlife at Brunswick Heads.

Dave Rawlins
Mullumbimby Creek

Buffer zone

Reflections Holiday Parks was ordered to provide a 3m buffer zone along Simpsons Creek in Terrace Park by Justice Nicola Pain from the Land & Environment Court (L&EC) in June 2021.

Reflections' revised Plans of Management (PoM) for Terrace Park, adopted by Byron Shire Council (BSC) in 2018, includes 'non-negotiable' pedestrian access along the riverbank with a 7m setback for campsites and a 10m setback for cabins. Both Massy Greene and Ferry Reserve Holiday Parks have 10m setbacks, and public access remains a permitted activity within the buffer zones in the Local Government Act's holiday park regulations.

The court orders and endorsed management plans require the removal of all obstructions along the buffer zone including the relocation of the remaining permanent dwellings on riverfront sites. No one is being evicted from their site [under the orders]. Most of the contentious dwellings have been removed or relocated by previous managers so it is very disappointing to see Reflections' latest CEO, Nick Baker claiming the relocation requires 'extensive consultation' and it seems outrageous for Council's legal officer Shannon Burt to allege 'matters are complex' (November 29, 2023).

Since 2004, all riverfront residents were forewarned of future relocation by BSC before they purchased their dwelling. Reflections has permitted the on-sale of dwellings since 2007. A riverfront van recently sold for \$500,000, another is being advertised on Airbnb with a photo included of the private patio and garden within the buffer zone. None of the remaining residents have removed the obstructions from their sites and park management and residents are clearly in contempt of court.

BSC General Manager, Mark Arnold and directors, Phil Holloway and Ralph James have been aware of the compliance problems and access issues within Terrace Park throughout this long-running saga, yet BSC officers continue to allow the

parks to ignore BSC licence conditions and court orders and the Local Government Act's legal requirements.

The Foreshore Protection Group wrote to Reflections, Byron Shire Councillors and staff in October 2023 about the ongoing contempt of court and is yet to receive a response from anyone. Brunswick Progress Association (BPA) sent another letter last week outlining community concerns.

Why does Council pursue homeless people with such remorseless vigour yet residents in Terrace Park are a protected species and allowed to ignore court orders and park regulations with no repercussions whatsoever? Are some people special and exempt from the rules?

▶ Continued on next page

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8am St John's Church

10am Our Lady of Lourdes Church

Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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



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THURS 14 DEC	JON J BRADLEY
FRI 15 DEC	HILLBILLY SKANK
SAT 16 DEC	THE WHISKEYS
SUN 17 DEC	FELICITY LAWLESS DUO
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TUES 19 DEC	DAMIEN COOPER
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Israel and Palestine – a multifaceted conflict

Note from *The Echo*

The Israeli/Palestinian conflict has been a consistent topic of letter writers to *The Echo*, even before the latest tragic events.

This newspaper was started when the local media refused to publish complaints of locals about the abuse of police power. Our ongoing

commitment to publishing different, sometimes strong opinions, many that we don't agree with, is why you'll find the conflicting and contradictory opinions of our readers here. They aren't our own opinions.

We can't publish everything we receive, some submissions are not based in fact at all, some are defamatory or too offensive or just

too crazy. But while some readers don't think opinions they disagree with should be given any space in *The Echo*, we don't. We publish opinions we disagree with, and we hope everyone will read them and consider their worth, because we believe that this is an essential part of a healthy democracy – to scrutinise ideas even if we choose to discard them.

Free Palestine

On Friday, November 23 as the four-day ceasefire came into effect Ismail Haniyeh, the leader of the Palestinian terrorist group Hamas praised martyrs as 'the price of freedom, liberation and independence'.

It is for this reason that Hamas has no compunction in using Palestinian citizens as a human shield. They are all 'martyrs' for the common goal – the annihilation of Israel.

What did Hamas expect after their barbaric attack including rape, burning, beheading and killing of over 1,200 civilians, and the kidnapping of 240 on October 7? That Israel would not retaliate?

Israel has the right to defend itself but when Hamas, the elected government, stores weapons beneath hospitals and in

mosques, fires rockets adjacent to schools and hospitals and places the exits to their maze of escape tunnels beneath residential buildings it is inevitable that innocent civilians will become collateral damage. This is their goal, knowing it will reflect badly on Israel.

Last year the UN Human Rights Office estimated that 306,887 civilians were killed between 2011 and 2021 in Syria due to the conflict. This was Muslims killing Muslims.

Why were there no demonstrations in support of innocent civilians?

Why is it that only when Israel attempts to root out the terrorist group Hamas, which, in its charter claims Israel has no right to exist, do Australians feel the need to demonstrate against Israel and for the Palestinians?

If the Palestinians had accepted the UN resolution

of a two-state solution in 1948 as Israel did, there would have been a possibility of 75 years of peace and coexistence.

Vivien Ruth
 New Brighton

Violence in Gaza

I write to you with a heavy heart, compelled to address the egregious misinformation perpetuated by certain letters in *The Echo* attempting to justify the extreme violence in Gaza.

Let's be clear: the claim that the Hamas Charter calls for the wholesale killing of Jews worldwide is a blatant lie and was discussed in this letter: *To kill all Jews? No...* (July 29, 2021).

Hamas' position since the 2004 assassination of Yassin, who wrote the previous charter has changed dramatically. In that same year, they sent their first peace deal.

Their election manifesto was based on peace along 1967 lines. When they won the election they duly sent that peace deal again to Israel. It rejected peace and started a bloody military coup against Hamas and the brutal blockade which has killed way more people than all the bombs. Hamas has sent five peace deals in total and Israel has refused them.

Since then Israel has wantonly assassinated anyone it likes, including the children and families of many Hamas officials. If Hamas did that to Israel wouldn't that be war?

How does all of the above not mean Israel constantly rejects peace?

Please stop people saying that the Palestinian resistance wants to kill all Jews – it is wholly propaganda, and disgusting racism and should not be repeated. Such a

► **Continued on page 14**

► **Continued from page 11**

We want the legally-required buffer zone reinstated so pedestrians can once again walk along our riverside track. The only section obstructed between the bowling club and Ferry Reserve is within Terrace Holiday Park. Surely, it's time for park management to comply, our community has waited long enough!

Michele Grant
 Foreshore Protection Group

Racist vote?

I agree wholeheartedly with David Lovejoy's editorial *Don't know, don't care* (December 6) which rightly observes that the referendum result was 'callous' and indicative of a 'don't know, don't care' mindset.

Was the outcome racist or not? Well, yes. I think so. Why? Well, racism is not simply about name-calling or discriminating against a person or group on the basis of assumed characterises - there are plenty of Australians who do just that, of course. Racism can also be expressed via the denigration of languages, customs, beliefs, rituals and practices (cultural racism). We have seen lots of that too

in Australia over the years.

Individuals who voted 'No' in the referendum and who believe they're not racist cannot easily dodge the structural consequences of their decisions. Why so? Well, by voting 'No', most of the 60 percenters have chosen to revert to a system that has produced disproportionately high rates of Indigenous incarceration and child removals, hundreds of deaths in custody, significant ongoing differences in health and education outcomes, as well as a host of other negative indices. In short, the 'No' vote is a vote for the reproduction of a grossly unequal society which shows no sign of abating under the status quo.

Here's the thing, the referendum outcome not only confirmed business-as-usual (structural racism), but was also a vote cast mostly by non-Indigenous people against the expressed wishes of the vast majority of Indigenous people who (despite idiotic views to the contrary) continue to suffer the consequences of violent colonisation. Let's not kid ourselves, Australia remains a racist colony with all the accompanying

attitudes and behaviours. For those who took the bait of fear or who ran amok with conspiratorial thinking; well, how sad. It should surely be discomfoting to realise that by rejecting such a generous, kind offer on the part of Australia's Indigenous people, you have consigned them to more of the same.

Here's a tip for all 'No' voters: over the festive season, please read *Killing for Country* by David Marr, *Another day in the colony* by Chelsea Watego and *The Queen is dead* by Stan Grant.

Richard Hil
 Mullumbimby

Missed opportunity

Further to David Lovejoy's editorial *Don't know, don't care* (December 6), there is another way to view the referendum results. To think 65,000 plus years of an Indigenous symbiotic relationship with this country and the amazing knowledge systems built throughout this time could be 1. failed to be recognised, 2. acknowledged and 3. realise the potential opportunity we are maybe missing – that a fusion of Western and First Nations knowledge could bring to this country (and the world).

What are we missing and denying our future generations in such things as bush medicine, fire and land management strategies, country and landscape-based spiritual connections (in a time of rising mental health)? Are we ignorant or arrogant or railroaded by petty politics?

Wonder how many years of welcome to countries and soulless acknowledgments will go by before the 60 per cent of the voting population actually listen and truly get the meaning behind them.

This will no doubt take time and a groundswell one can only hope is on the horizon. No people have better endured, and understand time, I believe than our First Nations people. Can we listen in our time? That is the collective question.

Graham Murray
 Ballina

Thalidomide

It was great to read your article with regard to Brett Nielsen and the acknowledgement and support he has finally received from the federal government. Great news indeed.

Brett has many wonderful
 ► **Continued on page 15**

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► Continued from page 12 not be repeated. Such a baseless accusation only serves to fuel a dangerous narrative that vilifies an entire people and their legitimate struggle for freedom and undermines any chance for honest discussion.

Peace has always been achieved when the coloniser and human rights oppressor talks to the resistance, never when they refuse.

When Palestinians try to struggle peacefully, as in the Great March of Return, they are mowed down with utmost brutality – including well-documented war crimes. How can there not be violent resistance (and disgusting terrorism) in this situation (not condoning it, just saying it is inevitable)?

I kindly request that *The Echo* takes extra care in verifying the accuracy of statements made in letters to the editor to prevent the perpetuation of false information, especially from those who repeatedly send lie after lie.

Subhi Awad
 Mullumbimby

Solidarity

I support the mass demonstrations around the world in support of the Palestinians' struggle against genocide and for the right to equality

and justice under the banner: 'From the river to the sea Palestine will be free'.

I have been studying the questions of the Palestinian struggle and the establishment of the State of Israel since 1984. I don't put much weight on the mass media except for minor factual leaks between formulaic acceptable mass digestible norms. The norm being – the defence of the status quo.

I am not surprised to learn from recent reading of the knockout book by Antony Lowenstein *The Palestine Laboratory* that the Israeli state has since its inception, and more pronounced today than ever, been in league with the most brutal regimes around the world including the apartheid state of South Africa, and openly embraced by fascists worldwide. Those with a special racial hatred for Jews are in natural alignment with the ghettoization of this 'race' to another corner of the world, Palestinians be damned.

The partitioning of the land of Palestine in support of a racial and even biblical supremacist class of people to block any future Reich from committing another genocide, assumes Jewish sensibilities would not be 'hurt' or my 'humanity' diminished ever again, if

only I could accept that the cost would be borne by a whole other people whose identity, authenticity and humanity is that land – the Palestinians.

Looking to the future my humanity is bound up with the restoration of Palestinian rights in all respects. The 'conflict' will never be over until the Palestinians' rights are fully realised.

Danielle Haliczzer
 Ocean Shores

River to the sea

I have heard or read the rhyme 'From the river to the sea Palestine will be free' denounced numerous times by Israelis and supporters of Israel as antisemitic, ie racist or anti-Jewish.

The irony is, of course, that it is the Israelis who for the past 56 years since 1967 have controlled all the land between the River Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea except for a tiny sliver of land, half the size of the Canberra metropolitan area, called the Gaza strip. They have not yet claimed the West Bank as Israeli territory but it is controlled by their army and occupied by more than half a million religious fanatic settlers supported by the Israeli government. So if the pro-Palestinian rhyme is racist then so must

be the actions of the Israeli government.

This invasion is totally contrary to international law. But 1967 was not the first time Israel invaded Palestinian territory. Since the Great War (WW1) and the end of the Ottoman Empire the territory of Palestine was governed by Britain and controlled (more or less) by the British army. It was known as the British Mandate. In 1947 the newly formed United Nations voted to divide the British Mandate into roughly equal Israeli and Palestinian territories. Within a year of its formation Israel invaded about half the UN-designated Palestinian territory in 1948 and drove the Palestinian population out. The Gaza strip is so heavily overpopulated mainly due to the Palestinians driven out from their homeland in Israeli occupied Palestine. Other Palestinians went to refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan and other countries.

Now that the Israelis have invaded the Gaza strip, who knows what is to become of it or its population. This war is the latest event in the 75-year-old history of Israeli expansion. The Israel-Palestine conflict did not begin on October 7, as many would have us believe.

Michael Trevaskis
 Alstonville

The secret love life of the echidna

Cosmos Magazine

How do echidnas make love? Carefully... of course! No truly – that's a direct quote from the scientist behind the latest discovery about Australia's favourite spiky mammal's love life.

Dr Christine Cooper and her team have just released the first published recordings of echidnas 'talking'. Her research not only proves

that echidnas can vocalise, given that the sounds have only been heard in breeding season, it raises the question; is this the echidnas' secret love language?

'It's not very loud,' she tells me. 'Quite soft – that might be why it hasn't been recorded before. I have heard some members of the public who've contacted me since the paper was released describe it as a purring sound. But to me it sounds like a dove cooing.'

Cooper is based at Curtin University's School of Molecular and Life Sciences in Western Australia. One day, more than a decade ago, while working with a PhD student at their main echidna field site in the Dryandra National Park near Narrogin, 200km south west of Perth, they heard a weird sound.

'We just sort of looked at each other and went, "Did you hear that? Was that the echidna?"' she remembers. 'To be honest, if I'd been there by myself I'd probably have thought I was imagining it!'

The reason for her



The enigmatic Echidna. Photo Leo/flickr.com

incredulity is that echidnas weren't supposed to talk. Smell is their major form of communication. 'We went back through the literature and there was no reference to them vocalising. The only thing we could find was an honours thesis from 50 years ago which mentions this sound, but the study was never published.'

Astonishingly, it was to be another 15 years before Cooper heard the sounds again. Only this time, they had smart phones.

'So we were able to record them. It was just luck.' Over the next month, she and her team heard the mysterious

calls five times and managed to make three recordings. But what exactly were the echidnas trying to say?

'The truth is we don't really know what they mean by it,' Cooper confesses. 'But the first time we heard it was a male in a mating train. So we suspected it was to do with breeding.'

Echidnas are one of only a few Australian mammals with true hibernation (others include pygmy possums, feathertail gliders and some bats).

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

Zionist genocide

An email to Justine Elliot; 'when will the Labor government call for an end to the Zionist genocide. The Israeli leadership cannot refute world-wide accusations or war crimes, when will the government representatives in this country be expelled?'

When will the Australian media stand with the 2.2 million Palestinian civilians trapped in an area a third the size of Canberra, without food, water, medical or sanitation, by the Israeli military, and call for an end to the genocide?

'Get Up' also has an online petition calling for an end to violence, the release of hostages and for the government to do

more to call for a permanent ceasefire.

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

What's fair in war?

I agree entirely with the proposition that military people or militias should not hide behind civilians during a conflict. For one thing it might encourage the one side to blame civilian deaths on the cowardice of their opponents.

I note that in the case of Gaza it is a well-known fact that the enclave is covered with 18-hole golf courses, some of them not even owned by Donald Trump. Accordingly doesn't it seem fair that Hamas operatives should locate themselves on

the courses, perhaps with bullseyes painted around them, on signs saying (in Arabic of course) 'here we are, come and get us?'

Now fair's fair of course, and I think that such a move would have to be accompanied by Israelis climbing out of their 50-tonne steel tanks and doing their bit face to face, like real warriors. Also they'd have to either abandon their helmets, radios, and bullet-proof vests or provide the same to Hamas. Likewise their jet bombers would need to be left at home; I mean who ever heard of an Israeli jet being downed? It's all a bit one-sided, isn't it, especially with Biden and Blinken so committed to the continuing

humiliation of Palestinians.

And that's a huge problem for the rest of us facing the might of China, should we get too close to our best patrons, who might at any time do something really stupid, greedy or meanspirited - as they have throughout their history.

Fast Buck\$
Coorabell

The side of kindness?

David Heilpern, over the thousands of years Jewish people have suffered at the hands of the endless sickness called antisemitism, many books have been written desperately attempting to explain why such a phenomenon exists. Not one has

► Continued on page 16

► Continued from page 12 skills but one you failed to mention in your article was the totally amazing way he can roll a perfect little cigarette. For me, who can't roll a decent durry with two good hands, it's just a marvellous thing to watch. Onya Brett, and congratulations.

Bronwyn Sindel
Mullumbimby

Take directions

On December 6, 2023 there was a head-on collision between two vehicles on

Bangalow Road. Police, Ambulance, the Rural Fire Service (RFS) and a local tow truck company responded.

All crews were fully occupied providing emergency care to victims, clearing the crashed vehicles and a large amount of fuel and engine oil on the road, and providing emergency traffic control. The road was impassable in both directions for almost two hours.

While RFS members managed traffic they received repeated angry

complaints from some drivers about delays and that the road had not been closed nearer to Bangalow to spare them the inconvenience of being turned back at the crash site.

It is important to understand that the RFS is made up of volunteers available 24 hours/day 365 days/year, working in often demanding situations. Many are your neighbours.

On the day both fire trucks, all RFS crew members, police and ambulance

personnel were fully occupied at the crash site. When managing traffic, the RFS endeavour to keep one lane open and manage traffic in both directions, but this was not possible at the accident on Bangalow Road. When you find your route blocked by fire, an accident, or a fallen tree please be patient, obey commands and give some thought to the unpaid volunteers who are trying to deal with the incident.

RFS Member
Name withheld

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► **Continued from page 15** successfully determined a reason.

You, however, have managed to figure it out. Congratulations!

Your reason; it's Israel's fault. Israel in its fight to eradicate Hamas is encouraging antisemitism. Israel is doing everything in its power to avoid civilian casualties, while Hamas terrorists send thousands of rockets and fire RPGs from schools, hospitals and residential homes. But when civilians, including children are killed because Hamas ensures this, Israel is encouraging antisemitism.

Throughout the pogroms of Europe, the Easter and Christmas Day massacres of Jews each year throughout the Dark Ages, the Holocaust itself, were Jews to blame?

Tell me, who was to blame for the hundreds of thousands of German dead during the Allied bombings? The Allies, or the Nazis? David, if there is one thing that does encourage antisemitism, it's a self-loathing Jew.

M McCormack
Billinudgel

War crimes in Gaza

Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza presents the US-led West with an ideal opportunity to double down on its

double standards and demonstrate for the whole world to see its spectacular talent for appalling hypocrisy. We are witnessing the demise of Western hegemony.

In Ukraine, every civilian death is loudly decried as a war crime in the Western press and invariably blamed on Putin. Comprehensive sanctions were imposed on Russia, its foreign reserves were seized and the ICC was ordered to indict Putin on charges of transferring children out of the warzone.

But when it comes to Gaza, Western politicians have been loath to condemn Israel's slaughter of civilians and reluctant to call for a ceasefire. The corporate media typically and predictably exhibits pro-Israel bias, peddling morally bankrupt narratives, like blaming Hamas for Israel's actions, while American warmongers cheer on their imperial outpost in the Middle East.

In my opinion, on October 7, whether due to failure, incompetence, or some other reason affecting Israeli defences, Palestinian fighters managed to break out of their concentration camp and give the Zionist occupation regime a tiny taste of its own medicine, killing and capturing some

of their oppressors.

As I see it, this unprecedented operation supplied the pretext for Netanyahu to unleash indiscriminate and disproportionate force, razing Gaza in furtherance of the Zionist project. His enabler in Washington, a partner in collective punishment, could end the killing with a single phone call but instead vows unconditional support for Israel.

It looks like Washington, humiliated by its failure to weaken Russia in Ukraine, hopes to restore its self-esteem by defeating the defenceless Palestinians. But just like its counterpart in Tel Aviv, Washington lacks the capacity to foresee that the reputational damage it inflicts on itself will do far more harm to Israel than Hamas ever could.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Common humanity?

Mirror images of warfare continues after 60 days in Gaza between Hamas and Israel as thousands of innocent people including innocent children are offered senselessly (one in every 200) to the power of the 'military industrial complex'. War is a bloodthirsty creature. We view the 'hunting out' of the

atrocious enemy, whilst at the same time witnessing another narrative of war, and the ongoing atrocities of war. That being what I'd call the mounting genocide of innocent Palestinians. How does this strategy help the innocent hostages of war? Why do innocent children have to pay the price of the war machine's lust for death?

Indiscriminate warfare is harming innocent non-combatants. This is considered a war crime.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has no means now of entering Gaza. Many doctors and journalists have died in service to humanity during the genocide of Gaza. The United Nations President has invoked Article 99 which recognises the situation in Gaza as *apocalyptic*.

Physicians state they are watching as hospitals turn into morgues and ruins. Such facilities are bombed, shot at by tanks and guns killing patients and medical staff. Medics Sans Frontieres (MSF) have written to the Security Council imploring for an immediate ceasefire after MSF vehicles were destroyed by tank fire by Israeli troops.

In international humanitarian law, the law governing actions during warfare note

that any response must be proportionate.

The military strategy in Gaza according to doctors 'is based on disproportionality' the campaign by Israel is a 'flagrantly excessive reprisal'.

Wolker Turk UN High Commissioner for human rights noted his colleagues on the ground in besieged Gaza stating 'that there is no safe place in Gaza, as Gaza starves according to the World Food Program. The UN further estimates nearly 70 per cent of those killed 'have been women and children'.

The issue of peace negotiations has never been more important. We are all responsible for the loving care of species on Earth.

Jo Faith
Newtown

Palestinian refugees?

As this terrible war to remove Hamas from Gaza rages on, civilians are tragically being killed as Hamas uses them as human shields, have you ever wondered why not one of the almost 60 Muslim countries in the world will take *even one* Palestinian civilian as refugees?

The sad fact is that Palestinians have been so severely radicalised that even Muslim countries are frightened to take them.

Even Egypt, who shares a border with Gaza and Jordan only a short drive from the Egyptian border, refuses to take even one Palestinian civilian, and the reason is that they don't want radical Islamists in their country. Egypt ousted the Muslim brotherhood from their parliament a number of years ago for this very reason. The Muslim brotherhood, Hamas, Isis, Islamic Alkaeda, Boko Haram, they all have the same goal to destroy *all* Western democracies. This is nothing new, and they all proudly declare it.

It is a tragic fact of war that civilians on both sides will die in a conflict but have you noticed that the Gaza ministry of health run by the terrorists of Hamas never mention how many Hamas fighters are killed fighting against Israel every day, since that is who Israel is obviously targeting? Hamas want you to think that they are all civilians which is obviously one of their ongoing huge lies.

Palestinian communities need to be taught the real history including the fact that the Jews are indigent. Only then does peace have any chance at all.

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel



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Reconciliation stalwart Pat Dodson hangs up his hat

David Lowe

As a torrid year in Australian politics draws to a close, it's a good time to look back at the life and career of the man known as the father of reconciliation, who recently announced he's permanently departing the federal arena.

Yawuru elder Pat Dodson began his life in Broome, but his family had to flee Western Australia when he was a small child, due to laws forbidding mixed race families. Disaster followed when he and his younger brother Mick lost both their parents when Pat was just 12, making them wards of the state.

After winning a scholarship to a boarding school in Victoria, Pat Dodson upset expectations by shining as an academic and sporting leader, before becoming the first Aboriginal person to become a Catholic priest.

Reportedly finding it impossible to reconcile the different elements of his spirituality, he later left the priesthood, but carried a sense of mission into numerous senior roles, including as

Commissioner into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody, then Chairman of the Council for Aboriginal Reconciliation.

Politics

Pat Dodson's federal political career began when he was appointed by Labor to fill a WA Senate vacancy in 2016, before being re-elected in his own right in 2019. Promises of a ministry came to nothing when Bill Shorten failed to win government, although Mr Dodson served on the inquiry into the destruction of Juukan Gorge and supported the Uluru Statement from the Heart, which he was later charged with implementing, in full, following Labor's victory in 2022, when he became Special Envoy for Reconciliation.

As the stress surrounding the referendum campaign intensified, Mr Dodson was diagnosed with lymphoma, which meant he was physically incapable of playing the central role of bridge-builder and advocate for the Voice which he was uniquely qualified for.

Very late in the campaign, following chemotherapy, he



Senator Patrick Dodson. Photo CC/DFAT

addressed the National Press Club via video link from Broome, unrecognisable to many without his flowing white beard, but still wearing the hat which made him a distinctive sight in the corridors of political power.

He talked about his fear as a child that he and his

people would all disappear, which motivated much of his later activism, on issues ranging from suicide to incarceration, poverty to injustice, all stemming from the unique post-colonial history of First Australians.

'We're going nowhere and the "No" campaign

wants to stay there,' he said. Mr Dodson suggested the Voice offered the chance for Australia to find the basis for unity, hope, courage and trust, saying 'there's nothing to fear with this referendum.'

Alas, the voices of fear were already overwhelming by this stage, drowning out everything else.

Sorrow

Mr Dodson has recently said the reason for his early departure from politics is that he's unable to fulfil the duties of his office while continuing his treatment for cancer, but it's clear the loss of the Voice has also been a heavy blow.

As he put it, 'I do leave this place with some sense of sorrow, in that as a nation we were not able to respond positively to the referendum. I think that would have helped our country.'

Both sides of politics have commended Senator Dodson's contribution to the cause of reconciliation. Prime Minister Anthony Albanese described him as a figure of grace, dignity and inspiration. 'There are

few more reassuring sights in parliament than seeing Patrick and his hat coming down a corridor towards you,' said Mr Albanese.

'You would gladly follow him into battle yet he's made it his life's work to make peace. From the moment he entered parliament, he has made this place a better one,' he said.

Pat Dodson's departure from the Senate is a great setback for both Australia and the ALP, which tragically lost another of its better angels recently with the death of Victorian MP Peta Murphy, who fought the gambling industry as well as cancer during her short time in office.

Hopefully Mr Dodson will at least now have a chance to recover and continue to contribute to his country from outside the political tent. Always a man who understood the power of symbolism, Pat Dodson has announced he's leaving politics on Australia Day 2024.

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

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Will the Dunoon Dam go ahead?

Nan Nicholson

We have not heard much about the Dunoon Dam lately and many people are asking: 'What is happening with that dam?'

The short answer is that Rous is definitely planning on building the Dunoon Dam as part of Stage 3 of its Future Water Project.

Six of the eight councillors on Rous are strongly in favour of the dam. They will decide whether it goes ahead. These same six councillors circulated a petition in 2021 which specifically discounted all permanent water supply options other than a new dam. Based on that petition they do not accept recycling ('toilet to tap' as they call it), or groundwater, or desalination plants.

Kerbside push-poll signatures for this petition were collected by asking: 'do you want to drink toilet water or do you want a new dam?' Rous incorrectly counted 1,000s of these signatures as valid submissions to its public consultation process for its revised Integrated Water Cycle Management Plan in 2021. (This was the plan which excluded the Dunoon Dam). The result was an apparent majority in favour of the dam.

Aside from this petition, all of the other submission processes since 2020 have yielded responses that have been overwhelmingly against the dam:

- Rous' consultation on the Future Water Project in mid-2020: 98 per cent against the dam.
- Dept Planning and Environment (DPE) consultation on the Draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy in late-2020: 95 per cent against the dam.
- DPE consultation on the second Draft Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy in 2022: 97 per cent against the dam.
- There is clearly a lack of social licence for the dam and a strong social movement against it.

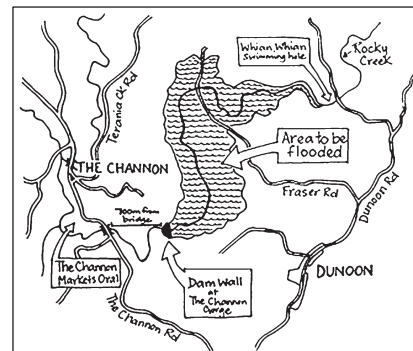
The DPE released the final Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy in June 2023. The dam was not included in the shortlist of options. They took account of the strong community opposition, the 'major to extreme' environmental effects, and the lack of cost effectiveness of the dam.

Nevertheless, the DPE has not precluded Rous and the four LGAs (Lismore, Ballina, Byron and Richmond Valley) from going it alone in their pursuit of the dam. The dam could still be constructed by Rous, despite the evidence that the dam is not viable economically, socially, culturally, environmentally, or in the provision of drought or flood security.

For those who are new to this issue here are some of the reasons why this community and region do not need the Dunoon Dam.

Cost

The original \$220 million cost of the dam is now estimated by DPE at \$514m, or \$841m if the service area were extended to include independent water supplies such as Nimbin and Mullumbimby. Dam construction costs habitually blow out by 50 per cent so this figure could be expected to rise.



Location of proposed Dunoon Dam. Image supplied

This huge upfront cost would place a large financial burden on residents who would be paying water storage costs from day one without any benefit for forty years or more. With government funding unlikely, it would be financed primarily by current and future water users.

Rous has not provided an estimate of the effect of the dam on the price of bulk water to the local government areas (LGAs). A very rough calculation could be done by dividing \$814 million by the 40,100 water connections but no doubt there would be other variables as well.

Water security

Dams don't defeat drought, especially when global heating is already making extremes the new normal. Rainfall-dependent water sources in a drying climate are inherently insecure, as our state and federal governments are acutely aware.

The proposed 50GL dam would have 3.5 times the capacity of the existing 14GL Rocky Creek Dam upstream but has only half the catchment area. Rocky Creek Dam holds roughly one year's supply of water. With four years of minimal rain and no wet season, both Rocky Creek and Dunoon dams could be empty. A full dam in a flood year is no security for a prolonged drought.

Droughts more than a decade long have been recorded in the past and will be more likely in the future. The high cost and the all-water-in-one-bucket approach of a new dam would impede other water strategies that show a higher cost/benefit ratio, i.e. they would cost a great deal less and provide real benefits.

Catastrophic events can occur, making a new dam a less safe option than the alternatives. Blue-green algae contamination already occurs at Clarrie Hall Dam and Emigrant Creek Dam. Increased heat and evaporation makes contamination events more likely.

Dam failure is not out of the question. In the 2022 flood, Rocky Creek Dam came so close to over-topping, and hence failing, that downstream residents were warned by text 'Dam failure. Evacuate now'. If the earth-wall dam did fail and the released water hit a rolled-concrete wall a few kilometres downstream the results would be unthinkable. Such extreme weather events as we saw in 2022 are predicted to occur more frequently.

As for flood mitigation, over 1,000GL moved through Lismore in the 2022 flood. A 50GL dam upstream, even if completely empty at the start of the event, could do very little to reduce that volume.

Cultural effects

The Widjabul Wia-bal people of the Bundjalung nation have said repeatedly since the dam was first proposed in 1995 that they do not accept it. In 2011 senior knowledge holder, Uncle John Roberts, revealed to anthropologists the location of a burial ground and other significant evidence of Aboriginal occupation at the site (2011 Dunoon Dam Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA)).

Two years later, this information was confirmed in the 2013 CHIA in which the eminent archaeologist, Dr Douglas Hobbs, stated that the burials were likely to be pre-European.

Rous has decided to impose yet another study on the Widjabul despite their resistance and their determination to follow Uncle John Roberts' wishes of 'No dam, no more studies'.

This site is Australian heritage; we must not lose it.

Environment

The DPE's Draft Strategy determination that the environmental effects would be 'major to extreme' deals just with the aquatic ecology.

The terrestrial effects would be even worse. The Dunoon Dam Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment of 2012 revealed that an Endangered Ecological Community of lowland subtropical rainforest would be destroyed by the construction of the dam. This rainforest on the western edge of the Big Scrub represents about six per cent of the remaining one per cent of the original Big Scrub.

72 ha of koala habitat would be drowned, cleared or fragmented. Koalas are now classed as endangered, mainly because of loss of habitat, which drives deaths from disease, car strike and dog attack. Three kilometres of platypus habitat in Rocky Creek would be lost – a big lake is not what platypus need.

Offsets

A new environmental study is to be done, insisted on by the pro-dam councillors. We can expect it will recommend offsets which will propose setting aside some non-alike vegetation to compensate for the destruction of the subtropical and warm temperate rainforest at the site. Rous has already proposed revegetating the weedy slopes at the site as an offset for the unique warm temperate rainforest on sandstone in The Channon Gorge.

The Indigenous and environmental issues both face considerable federal cultural and environmental heritage hurdles. These are effectively what stopped the dam in 2020, before it was put back on the table by populist politics.

The Dunoon Dam is being promoted primarily to cater for unsustainable growth of housing and tourism on the coastal strip. This should not be at the expense of our beautiful hinterland. Please keep informed and be prepared to continue defending this precious place.

■ Nan Nicholson is a member of WATER Northern Rivers, a group which is opposed to the proposed Dunoon Dam: www.waternorthernrivers.org.

Fresh Eyes on Byron Bay



A WORD FROM THE BYRON BAY CHAMBER

As 2023 draws to a close, the Byron Chamber of Commerce celebrates a year marked by nine impactful events, including the Meta-sponsored Digital Marketing workshop, the Twilight Discovery Tour of the A&I Estate, and the Business Awards Gala Night. The charity fundraiser lunch at Ember, coupled with another event, raised \$10,000 for Fletcher St Cottage, demonstrating that business success can and should be intertwined with social responsibility.

Looking ahead, the Chamber pledges to host more events with discussions on current business challenges and fostering collective problem-solving. The Chamber remains committed to advocating for local businesses and contributing to a year of growth and support, enhancing the vibrant and unique character of Byron's business landscape.

www.byronbaychamber.com



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The Chinny Charge is an iconic annual Mullum event. Photo by Jeff Dawson

One of the key events that the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and Community (MCCC) has brought back to the town is the Chinny Charge.

The run up Mullumbimby's local Mt Chincogan was first run in 1960, and the second race was run in 1967 as the town continued to raise money to build the swimming pool. The fundraising had first begun with an 'Ugly Man Competition' in 1950 that raised \$1,221 towards the building of 'proper learn-to-swim facilities' in Mullumbimby.

From 1968 the Chinny Charge ran annually along with the Chincogan Fiesta until 2002. After the MCCC was created in 2016 they were quick to bring back the Chinny Charge in 2017 and have run the event every year

since apart from the two years during the covid pandemic. The Chinny Charge operates as a key fundraiser to support a range of other activities and events that the chamber supports and puts on.

'We have provided support to groups like, Landcare, the Mullumbimby Gateway project, Spaghetti Circus, the neighbourhood centres, the postcard project through BSA, we support Mitre 10's Cancer Council morning tea and we give money to other events like The Mullum Show, school fetes, and The Brunswick Historical Society (Mullum Museum),' said former Chamber president and executive committee member Jenelle Stanford.

'In MCCC we have a strong network through our businesses, our community, schools, police, fire and rescue. We run, and are involved in, a wide range of community

events like a couple of long table dinners in the main street, carols by candlelight that was held on the weekend as well as sculpture shows and the Blue on Burringbar festival. We have another small festival in the pipeline for early next year.'

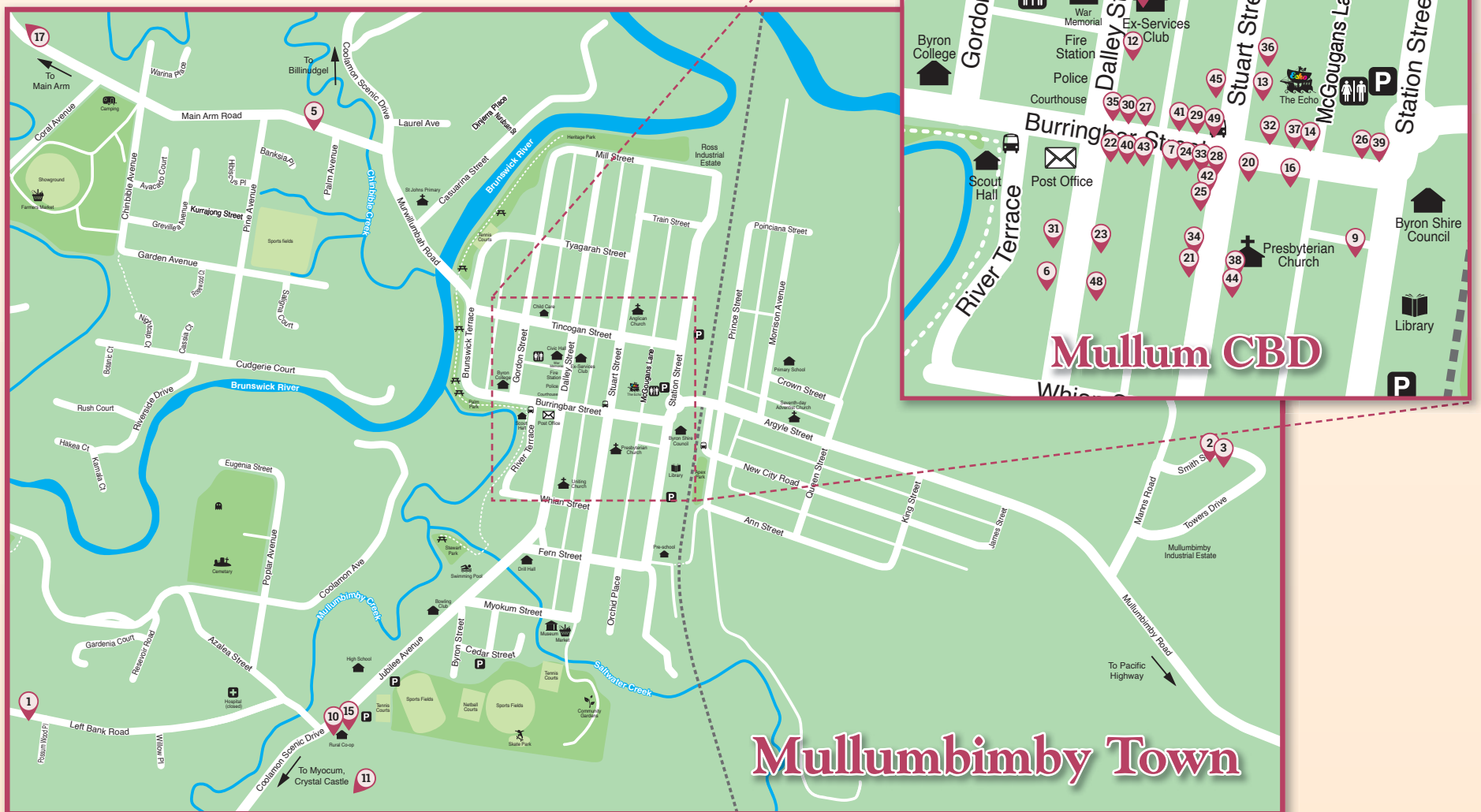
If you would like to join the chamber or get involved in one of their events look them up online at www.mullumbimby.org.au or call on 6684 2127.

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



Mullum Shop Local this Christmas!

PARTICIPATING STORE LOCATIONS



PARTICIPATING STORES

ART / GALLERIES:

1. Studio Suvira

AUTO / TYRE / MECHANICAL:

2. B-Line Auto
3. Chincogan Mechanical
4. Liberty Mullumbimby
5. Main Arm Mechanical
6. Mullumbimby Tyrepower

BOOKSTORES:

7. The Bookshop Mullumbimby

BICYCLES:

8. True Wheel Cycles

EQUIPMENT & SUPPLIES:

9. Mullumbimby Hire & Sales
10. Mullumbimby Rural Co-op

EXPERIENCES:

11. Crystal Castle

FOOD / BEVERAGE:

12. Byron Bay Pork and Meats
13. Devine Quality Meats
14. Dino's IGA Mullumbimby
15. Floyd The Barista
16. Heaps Good
17. Main Arm Store & Bottlo
18. Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club
19. Paseyo
20. Santos Organics
21. Spice it Up Thai Restaurant
22. The Court House Hotel Mullumbimby
23. The Mullumbimby Chocolate Shop
24. The Patch
25. The Source Bulk Foods Mullumbimby

GIFTS / CLOTHING:

26. Altar
27. Amore Mullumbimby
28. Bodypeace Bamboo Clothing
29. Hemp Culture
30. Made In Mullum
31. Mockingbird Vintage
32. Stewart's Menswear

HAIR & BEAUTY:

33. Barbarella

HARDWARE:

34. James Hardware Mitre 10 Mullumbimby

HEALTH:

35. Mullum Advantage Pharmacy
36. Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre
37. Mullumbimby Soul Pattinson Chemist

HOMEWARES / ELECTRICAL:

38. Bridglunds Betta Home Living
39. Cactus Hill
40. Linen House
41. Mullum Instyle Living
42. Portobello Vintage Wares

MUSIC:

43. Son of Drum

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:

44. Colleen Reilly Optometrist
45. Mullum Mac
46. Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
47. Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce (not on map)
48. Mullumbimby Vet Clinic

STATIONERS:

49. Mullumbimby Newsagency

Good Taste


Eateries Guide

BYRON BAY




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

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



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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.
 Menu and more details
 @mainstreet_burgerbar
'Make a meal of it'
Add chips and a drink, just \$5.



Success Thai
 Open Lunch Wed–Fri
 12–2.30pm.
 Dinner Mon–Sat 5–8pm.
 Closed Sunday
 3/31 Lawson St, Byron Bay
 www.facebook.com/
 pages/Success-Thai-Food/237359826303469

All your favourites, every lunch and dinner. Experienced Thai chefs cooking fresh, delicious Thai food for you.
 BYO only.
 Welcome for lunch, dinner and takeaway.
 Menus available on Facebook.



The Rocks
 Brunch 7am–1pm
 Dinner 5pm–10pm
 14–16 Lawson St,
5642 0149

Happy Hour 6pm–8pm
 \$6 tap beer or wine
 \$12 selected cocktails
\$25 Pasta & Wine/Beer + Garlic Bread
 Live Music Thursdays and DJ Saturdays
 Open for dinner Wed–Sun

therocksbyronbay.com.au
 @therocksbyronbay



KARKALLA Byron Bay
 Native Indigenous Restaurant
 Cnr of Bay Lane & Fletcher St,
 Byron Bay
5614 8656

KARKALLA BYRON BAY
 Ancient food and modern flavours.
 PROUDLY BUNDJALUNG
Sunset Sessions Drink & Snack specials – 4–5.30pm
Friday Gin & Oyster specials – 4–5.30pm
Sunday Live & Local Music – 5.30pm
 X-MAS & NEW YEAR'S EVE
 Seasonal festive native inspired set menu - Bookings limited



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

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



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 VEGAN KITCHEN + BAR.
 BYRON BAY
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 0481 148 007
 @nobonesrestaurant

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS
 Gather your nearest and dearest for a festive 5 course feast that embodies the magic of exceptional food and great company, inspired by locally grown produce and native flavours.
book online - www.nobones.co




Loft Byron Bay
 4 Jonson Street,
 Byron Bay
6680 9183
Book online:
 www.loftbyronbay.com.au

Signature cocktails, and casual dining with ocean views.
Happy Hour | Every day from 4–6pm.
 \$8 loft wine or lager, \$10 spritzer,
 \$14 margaritas & \$30 house wine bottle
 Half price deli board & \$2.50 fresh oysters
Espresso Martini Nights | Every day 9pm–close,
 2 for \$25 Classic Espresso Martini.
Open 7 days from 4pm. Sat lunches from Noon.



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 www.legendpizza.com.au

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BYRON BAY continued



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 Byron Bay
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 liquor@northbyronhotel.com.au
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 10am–9pm through Summer

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 Natural wines
 Craft beers
 Specialty tequilas


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

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 Dinner from 5pm

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 Live Music Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
 Bookings essential.
 Head to lennoxpizza.com
 Follow on Insta: @lennoxpizza

MULLUMBIMBY



The Empire
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6684 2306
 Open for brunch and lunch,
 Fri–Wed (closed Thurs)
 FB/Insta: EmpireMullum
 empiremullum.com.au

Now open for Sip and Graze, Friday and Saturday evenings!
 Mediterranean-inspired share plates
 Happy hour 4–5pm, \$5 beers, \$10 cocktails
 The seasonal menu features classic and modern dishes with innovative twists. Find something for all tastes, from epic burgers to vegan delights. Enjoy delectable treats and good vibes at this Mullum icon.

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 Weddings + Events
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 www.apexdining.com.au
 @apexdining

A hinterland 'destination dining' favourite with spectacular views, first or last stop on the Rail Trail from M'bah station.
 Modern cafe / bistro fare featuring regional produce with a cheeky Asian twist.
 Excellent coffee, fresh artisan pastries and a full a la carte brunch and lunch menu accompanied by a natural wine list, cocktails and house made soft refreshments.

NEWRYBAR

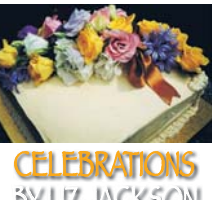


Harvest
 18–22 Old Pacific Highway
 Newrybar NSW 2479
02 6687 2644
 www.harvest.com.au
 @harvestnewrybar

RESTAURANT
 Lunch | Wed–Sun | 12–3.00pm
 Dinner | Thurs–Sat | 5.30–8.30pm

DELI
 7 days | 6.30am–3.30pm

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson
 lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

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Echo
 .net.au

Yulli's secret song



Cliffy and I amble into Yulli's Byron Bay for an early Thursday night dinner. We're greeted warmly by Gabby, the lovely restaurant manager, along with fragrant chilli and garlic cooking in the kitchen. Cliffy promptly orders his favourite Yulli's Brews beer, the Norman Australian Pale Ale, and starts with the beer chat. Before he really gets on a roll, I cut in with my Chilli Margarita order. Gabby knows us well and there's an unspoken question: 'Banquet for two?' At \$44 a head it's an absolute bargain and a great way of sharing lots of little bits from the menu.

Our dinner opens with Yulli's secret song, the Tom Yum Broth. Not mentioned on the menu, this flavour-packed broth is a punchy mix of citrus and spice with a savoury finish that preps our palates for our meal.

Our first course is a very pretty tasting plate of zingy Leek and Ginger Dumplings, gorgeous Edamame and Coconut Money Bags and decadent Korean Fried Broccoli.

My margy is slipping away and I think it's time for a glass of skin contact wine to enjoy with our second course. First off are Falafels served on Swiss Chard. We dollop the pineapple and ginger salsa and harissa relish onto the crunchy little balls then eat through the leaf. All the elements come together with a bang!



Next we have the Kratong Tong and... OMG. This is my favourite dish of the night. Served in activated charcoal cups, they burst with flavour – think umami peanuts, textural water chestnuts, a subtle vegetable sweetness then an explosion of kaffir lime.

By now, Cliffy and I have melted into our chairs and conversation. The final

savoury course includes a Turmeric Cauliflower Pad Thai, Eggplant Involtini and a mixed leaf salad. The diverse styles work together with the zesty Pad Thai complimenting the deep flavours of the Involtini, and then the mixed leaves give a balanced freshness.

Well, our silence professes our satisfaction and before I can whisper the words 'elegant sufficiency',

Gab is setting us with dessert spoons. We tuck into a couple of absolute crowd pleasers in Sticky Date Pudding and Berry and Rhubarb Crumble served with scoops of house-made coconut and apple and cinnamon ice cream.

As we wander to the flicks, Cliffy comments that something about Yulli's is just right. The beautiful food plus professional, caring staff and an edgy but comfy venue make for a wonderful dinner out.

■ yullisbyronbay.com.au

Unique dishes from Japanese Kitchen



The Japanese Kitchen crew – from left: Gota Hareyama, Taishi Kayamoto, Tomoka Ichinose and Satomi Hook.

Victoria Cosford

It's referred to, variously, as a Japanese pancake or a Japanese omelette. The gloriously named (and tricky to pronounce!) Okonomiyaki loosely translates as 'however you like it, grilled' and is a popular street food native to both Osaka and Hiroshima, consisting of a wheat-flour batter to which ingredients like cabbage, meat or seafood are added then cooked on a flat grill, with toppings such as bonito, pickled ginger, and mayonnaise.

Japanese Kitchen serves these gorgeous things up for breakfast at the farmers' markets, although, chef-owner Takayuki tells me, they are usually eaten for lunch or dinner. 'It's probably

because we use eggs', he suggests, so similarities to fritters are understandably drawn. It's not only eggs, however, that make Taka's Okonomiyaki special – and especially delicious. The batter has been fermented, unheard of in Japan. Taka tells me that 'at food festivals I'd eat it – but it was too doughy.' He wanted to recreate this savoury dish but render it a lot healthier than it traditionally is, so started making it with the same culture as the bread they make. 'It's just like a sourdough', he explains. 'The gluten breaks down during the long fermentation – it turns out so well! The dough is so melty!'

The other hugely popular breakfast they offer is also

healthy and also all about fermentation. The hako boxes – 'hako' means fermentation – consist of mixed rice with grains and beans, pickles and tempeh and miso eggplant. Meanwhile, Taka is currently experimenting with what he describes as a 'bread-ish rice bread.' Utilising rice instead of rice flour, he's not completely satisfied yet but is foreseeing the future wherein it's offered as toast. 'It would be really good with butter and honey!' Of this I have no doubt: something magical happens at this market stall – and indeed at the 'mother-ship' Doma, in Federal.

Japanese Kitchen is at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am.

Bordeaux to Byron: modern mead as a sparkling rose

Aurum Modern Honey Mead has taken mead, the oldest beverage in the world, and has catapulted it into the 21st century.

Chief meadmaker and former winemaker/brewer Louis Costa has created an exquisite new range of modern honey wines, or 'meads', made from local Byron manuka and macadamia honey and native botanicals, that taste just like a fine wine or champagne – but with no grapes!

These premium 'modern meads', as Aurum has called them, are not sweet, but dry and elegant, and have surprised and delighted sommeliers worldwide with their finesse, taste and

complexity. A great choice for those with traditional wine allergies, or looking for a healthier alcoholic beverage that doesn't leave you with a nasty hangover, they also pair delightfully with food – especially foods with unique and intricate flavours that are often hard to pair with traditional wine.

'We have some of the best honey in the world right here in the Northern Rivers', says Costa, a French winemaker originally from Bordeaux, and former Stone & Wood brewer who had been missing



winemaking since moving from France to Byron to be with his partner 11 years ago. 'I wanted to create a range of still and sparkling wines that truly reflected the beautiful

area in which we live - the terroir of the Northern Rivers'.

Aurum is at the forefront of a new revolution for the mead industry, which is

seeing a resurgence recently due to the health benefits of honey. Louis has been a pioneer in this area, and differs from other meaderies by creating a highly premium wine-style product that can be seen on the tables of the finest restaurants in Australia and Europe. 'I want people to see how honey-based wines, made the right way, have the potential to hold their own amongst the most prestigious grape-based wines on the market,' he says.

Not yet open to the public, although a local

cellar door is in the pipeline for later in 2024 (stay tuned!) you can buy Aurum's range directly from their online cellar door at www.aurummead.com and find it at some local restaurants and a few select bottleshops such as the Bangalow Cellars, Bottle and Hoop, The Natural Wine Shop and the North Byron bottleshop.

If you live locally, pop in the discount code BYRONLOCAL for 10% off and free shipping on your first order. The cut-off for ordering before Christmas is December 21, they will be closed from December 21 to January 13.

■ [@aurummead](http://www.aurummead.com)

THE SCOOP

HARMONY EARLY LEARNING JOURNEY



Make the most of the Lennox Head lifestyle with true work/life balance. Harmony Early Learning Journey Lennox Head is located in the heart of the Lennox Head community and offers flexible work arrangements so you can truly live your best life. The centre has experienced significant growth and is now looking for locals who have a genuine love of nurturing children, to join their team in

both casual and full-time positions. The generously resourced and stunning environments provide everything you need to walk straight into a learning studio and be able to get on with the job.

As part of the rapidly growing Harmony network, you will be offered industry-leading training and development programs, and career progression opportunities. Contact Harmony Lennox Head for further information.

5 Outrigger Road, Lennox Head • 02 8319 5637 • www.harmonylearning.com.au
www.instagram.com/harmony_lennoxhead

BIGGER BACKYARD NORTHERN RIVERS

How good would it be if businesses in the region were doing more business with other businesses and seeing that decision bolster our Northern Rivers regional economy?

That is the intent of the Bigger Backyard Northern Rivers initiative recently launched by Business NSW - a dedicated App designed to connect businesses with local products and services, shorten supply chains and promote spending in our own backyard first.

'I get frustrated when I see business spending go outside of the region when I know we have what they need right here,' says Jane Laverty, Regional Director Business NSW.

Northern Rivers businesses are invited to create their profile - it's easy to do and it is free. Be part of creating a stronger Northern Rivers today.

www.biggerbackyardnorthernrivers.com.au



NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



The Northern Rivers Community Foundation congratulates recipients of the 2023/24 Community Grants Round. A total funding pool of \$551,581 is being distributed, supporting 38 community organisations across diverse projects. These include everything from river restoration through to engaging kids in reading with the assistance

of classroom dogs, through to breast milk pumps for First Nations mothers, through to multi-year disaster recovery for a flood impacted community hub.

The four funding streams for this year's Community Grants Round are:

- Local Impact: \$283,997
- Recovery and Resilience: \$112,584
- Housing and Homelessness: \$35,000
- Thriving Together: \$120,000

A sincere thanks to our network of donors who have made these grants possible, and a huge congratulations to our community organisation recipients. We look forward to supporting you through the completion of your projects.

<https://nrcf.org.au>

BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S YOUTH-FOCUSED PROGRAM

Byron Community College, in collaboration with Byron Youth Service, is looking to create brighter futures for our early school leavers, aged 15-18 years old.

In 2024 they'll be offering the innovative 'FSK20119 - Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways' course, a nationally recognised and subsidised* program under the Smart and Skilled initiative.

A unique blend of experiences across various professions, equipping students with essential skills necessary for a successful transition into further work and study. With a goal of empowering disengaged youth to express themselves freely, explore passion projects and create fulfilling career paths.

Reach out for further info: www.byroncollege.org.au or call (02) 6684 3374

*For eligible students. This training is subsidised by the NSW Government

RTO: 90013



CAPE BYRON RUDOLF STEINER SCHOOL



As we embrace the festive season, the spirit of Christmas resonates profoundly within the Cape Byron Steiner School community. Steeped in the values of compassion, creativity and community, the essence of Christmas aligns deeply with the core principles of Steiner education, inviting us to nurture a sense of wonder and gratitude, fostering a spirit of generosity

and understanding. We cherish the opportunity to celebrate the festivities but also the profound sense of unity and warmth that comes from shared experiences. The spirit of Christmas illuminates our hearts, guiding us toward a new year filled with joy, learning and harmonious growth. On behalf of the Cape Byron Steiner School, we wish the Byron Shire community a Merry Christmas and a season of profound connection, love, joy, and peace.

216 Balraith Lane, Ewingsdale
www.capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

MY GEEK MATE

Most people are pretty secure when it comes to online banking in Australia. However there's currently an alarming loophole that allows strangers direct access to the money in your bank. If someone has your name, address, phone number, date of birth and email it's enough for most banks to allow a person to change the account phone number. 47% of Australian citizens have had their private data leaked.

Once your phone number has been changed your banking password can be reset allowing full access to your accounts. They can also install the banking app on a smartphone, use your cards and apply for credit cards in your name.

So do yourself a favour this Christmas, call your bank and add a phone password and security question. Merry Christmas.

1/53 Tamar Street, Ballina • 0431 122 057
www.mygeekmate.com.au



BYRON SHIRE'S GO-TO MAC GUY

Due to popular demand, Mr Mac is tutoring clients to get the most out of their systems - including basic keyboard shortcuts, accessing more iCloud storage, backing up your files with Time Machine or just updating software. This can be done in the workshop (Brunswick Heads) or in your own home or office in the Byron Shire.



Alongside this, Mr Mac also offers:

- System transfers, upgrades and updates
- Application troubleshooting
- Email setup and repair
- New Mac device purchase advice
- RAM upgrades (where possible)
- Battery replacements
- Productivity software
- Anti-malware applications
- General system maintenance

Call 0418 408 869 for an appointment.
www.mrmacintosh.com.au



FESTIVE SEASON

CELEBRATE THE BEAUTY OF HOMEGROWN CREATIONS!

Embrace the spirit of local support as you explore the range of uniquely crafted gifts. Each item, a piece of wearable art, a symbol of the vibrant spirit that thrives within our community.

Join the countless others who have made Honey Hunt art fashion their wardrobe staples. Browse their collection designer linen, leggings, stretch skirts - your best travel wear, made locally! Experience the perfect blend of convenience, comfort and style. Work, travel or exploring, this is your go-to wear - Honey Hunt redefines summer fashion.

Stunning sand-free towels are the perfect gift for the entire family, ideal for the beach, or as a lightweight travel, gym, yoga or hand towel. Visit Honey Hunt today and embrace the spirit of supporting local.

1 Centennial Circuit (On Bayshore Drive)
10-4 Mon-Fri, 11-3 Saturday
Byron Arts & Industry
0408 766 546
www.honeyhunt.style

LINEN HOUSE MULLUMBIMBY

Linen House Mullumbimby is the ultimate destination for all your Christmas needs, and is home to their sought-after pure linen collection. The extensive Nimes range is crafted from super-soft flax, showcasing a marvellous vintage style and drape—perfect for bedrooms, living spaces and dining areas.

Recognised for its exceptional laundering and softening qualities over time, the Nimes collection needs minimal ironing. Infuse earthy tones and depth into your bedroom with their pure linen quilt cover set in clay, complementing it with the cinnamon sheet set – an ideal combination for achieving an effortlessly natural aesthetic.

Versatile and boasting a dreamy colour palette, the Nimes range is a perfect festive gift for any household—a durable and environmentally friendly investment. Visit Linen House to curate the ultimate Christmas bundle.

33 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby
(02) 4334 4876
www.instagram.com/linenhouse_outlets/



Pure Linen

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 Byron Arts & Ind 0408 766 546

www.honeyhunt.style



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Stories from the beating heart of rural Australia

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THE ROO

AUSSIE ICONS

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SHAKER INCLUDED

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THE BOOK WAREHOUSE

The Book Warehouse looks forward to helping you with your Christmas gifts over the coming weeks and don't forget they have the best range of beautiful artist gift cards in the area plus art supplies, games and a huge selection of bargain titles.

Merry Christmas from Sarah and the team at The Book Warehouse, Lismore, Coffs Harbour, Ballina and Grafton.

Lismore: 107-109 Keen Street, Lismore | 02 6621 4204

Ballina: 85 River Street, Ballina | 02 6686 2436

Grafton: 89 Prince Street, Grafton | 02 664 25187

Coffs Harbour: 26 Harbour Drive, Coffs Harbour | 02 6651 9077

www.thebwh.com

TOYWORLD

At Toyworld you'll find everything you need to make your child's Christmas truly magical. Featuring more toys and games than ever before with exclusives such as Jellycat, Radio Flyer, and Connetix Magnetic Tiles, let their toy experts help you find the perfect gift for all your kids, big and small! There is a huge range of family board games to choose from along with jigsaws, arts & crafts, and beach gear to keep you entertained all holiday long.

Toyworld also has everything you need for your baby's first Christmas. Walkers, Kinderfeet Ride-On's and wooden toys that teach while they play make enduring gifts for an extra special Christmas Day. Locally-owned and operated in Byron for over 25 years and open every day until Christmas!

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02 6680 8811

64 Woodlark Street, Lismore

6621 3473

www.mytoykingdom.com.au

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www.mytoykingdom.com.au

TOYWORLD
where the best toys come from

BYRON BAY
2/103 Jonson St Opp Woolies Ph: +61 6680 8811
 @toyworld_byronbay_lismore

LISMORE
64 Woodlark St Ph: +61 6621 3473
 @toyworldbyronbaylismore



Sun, Moon & Tide Times for

DAY	JANUARY						FEBRUARY						MARCH						APRIL						MAY						JUNE														
	DATE	MOON PHASE/NOTES	SUN RISE/SET	MOON RISE/SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)	DATE	MOON PHASE/NOTES	SUN RISE/SET	MOON RISE/SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)	DATE	MOON PHASE/NOTES	SUN RISE/SET	MOON RISE/SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)	DATE	MOON PHASE/NOTES	SUN RISE/SET	MOON RISE/SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)	DATE	MOON PHASE/NOTES	SUN RISE/SET	MOON RISE/SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)	DATE	MOON PHASE/NOTES	SUN RISE/SET	MOON RISE/SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)									
MON	1	New Year's Day	5:51 19:47	23:24 10:11	0545.04 1914.04	0012.107 1238.156													1	Easter Monday	6:56 18:43	23:16 13:09	0829.68 1917.58	0139.151 1344.104																					
TUE	2		5:51 19:47	23:51 11:04	0631.052 1952.045	0058.107 1315.148													2		6:56 18:42	14:07	0958.67 2039.62	0250.150 1513.101																					
WED	3		5:52 19:47	11:56	0725.060 2035.045	0152.108 1354.139													3		6:57 18:41	01:19 14:59	1117.059 2215.059	0415.153 1648.106	1		6:13 17:13	23:23 12:42	0838.057 1932.063	0133.161 1413.108															
THU	4		5:53 19:47	0:17 12:49	0830.068 2122.045	0258.112 1441.130	1		6:16 19:42	23:12 11:33	0648.059 1928.044	0105.124 1306.137							4		6:57 18:39	1:26 15:45	1217.049 2335.050	0530.161 1802.118	2		6:14 17:11	0:30 14:01	1036.043 2216.054	0354.165 1640.131															
FRI	5		5:53 19:47	0:44 13:42	0945.072 2210.043	0408.119 1535.121	2		6:16 19:41	23:42 12:28	0745.067 2007.047	0156.125 1344.126	1		6:37 19:18	22:15 11:17	0627.058 1830.044	0030.142 1227.131	5		6:58 18:38	2:35 16:26	1305.038 2403.030	0630.171 1900.132	3		6:14 17:11	0:30 14:01	1036.043 2216.054	0354.165 1640.131															
SAT	6		5:54 19:48	1:13 14:38	1106.071 2259.040	0512.129 1639.114	3		6:17 19:41	13:24	0857.074 2056.049	0259.127 1434.115	2		6:38 19:17	22:52 12:14	0719.066 1904.049	0114.140 1303.119	6		6:59 18:37	3:45 17:03	1401.016 2403.030	0711.182 1950.148	4		6:15 17:10	1:37 15:10	1123.034 2322.047	0454.168 1737.146	1		6:31 16:56	0:32 13:08	0953.038 2159.059	0311.161 1413.108									
SUN	7		5:55 19:48	1:45 15:38	1222.065 2346.036	0606.141 1743.111	4		6:18 19:40	14:25	1028.075 2157.049	0414.132 1545.106	3		6:39 19:16	23:35 13:15	0830.072 1952.054	0208.139 1355.108	7		6:59 17:37	5:01 16:38	1515.101 2403.030	0755.179 1938.162	5		6:15 17:09	2:42 15:08	1204.027 2322.047	0547.168 1829.162	2		6:31 16:56	1:36 13:41	1039.033 2310.055	0413.108 1413.108									
MON	8		5:56 19:48	2:23 16:42	1325.056	0657.153 1844.110	5		6:19 19:40	15:28	1202.069 2303.046	0526.141 1708.103	4		6:39 19:15	24:02 14:17	1008.073 2104.057	0321.139 1515.101	8		6:59 17:37	5:01 17:12	1615.101 2403.030	0755.179 1938.162	6		6:16 17:09	3:48 15:42	1202.040 2322.047	0637.164 1916.176	3		6:31 16:56	2:41 14:15	1123.029 2310.055	0510.161 1413.108									
TUE	9		5:56 19:48	3:08 17:47	0033.030 1417.046	0745.165 1940.112	6		6:20 19:39	16:32	1312.058	0629.153 1825.105	5		6:40 19:14	0:27 15:18	1144.066 2232.055	0446.145 1654.101	9		6:59 17:37	6:10 17:48	1717.048 2403.030	0837.171 1938.162	7		6:16 17:08	4:56 16:18	1322.020 2322.047	2003.186 1916.176	4		6:32 16:56	3:47 14:52	1205.026 2310.055	0601.161 1413.108									
WED	10		5:57 19:48	4:02 18:52	0121.024 1506.037	0832.176 2032.115	7		6:21 19:38	17:34	1404.046	0725.167 1929.112	6		6:41 19:13	1:27 16:16	1250.055 2351.046	0600.156 1815.108	10		6:59 17:37	7:19 18:26	1919.158 2403.030	0919.158 2153.186	8		6:17 17:07	6:05 16:58	1400.021 2322.047	0809.148 1916.176	5		6:32 16:56	4:55 15:34	1115.045 2310.055	0651.161 1413.108									
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SAT	13		6:00 19:48	7:26 21:32	0345.013 1722.021	1053.194 2301.124	10		6:23 19:36	20:04	1614.019	0949.197 2200.137	9		6:43 19:09	4:58 18:33	1502.022	0841.191 2057.145	13		6:59 17:37	10:44 20:51	2325.177 2403.030	1130.112	11		6:19 17:05	9:28 19:33	1638.050 2322.047	2350.171 1916.176	8		6:34 16:56	8:12 18:18	1452.035 2310.055	0921.161 1413.108									
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MON	15		6:01 19:48	9:46 22:47	0527.021 1852.023	1222.184	12		6:25 19:35	21:17	1733.017	1115.192 2333.148	11		6:44 19:07	7:18 19:45	1617.014	1007.190 2228.164	15		6:59 17:37	12:37 22:48	2403.030 2403.030	1215.158 1350.097	13		6:20 17:04	11:15 21:35	1649.057 2322.047	2403.030 1916.176	10		6:35 16:56	9:51 20:21	1617.049 2310.055	1052.048 1413.108									
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FRI	19		6:05 19:47	14:02 22:04	0958.064 2204.038	1541.121	16		6:28 19:31	23:41	2017.042	1407.122	15		6:46 19:02	11:50 22:19	1845.040	1250.124	19		6:59 17:37	15:02 23:49	2403.030 2403.030	1252.150 1808.130	17		6:22 17:02	13:31 21:02	2016.072 2322.047	2403.030 1916.176	14		6:36 16:56	11:58 20:08	1758.076 2310.055	1443.108 1413.108									
SAT	20		6:05 19:47	15:06 23:00	1130.065 2300.039	1653.110	17		6:28 19:31	24:03	2115.049	1510.106	16		6:47 19:01	12:56 23:08	1929.051	1342.108	20		6:59 17:37	15:29 23:33	2403.030 2403.030	1266.152 1844.140	18		6:23 17:01	13:57 21:18	2107.050 2322.047	2403.030 1916.176	15		6:36 16:56	12:24 21:23	1823.077 2310.055	1544.108 1413.108									
SUN	21		6:06 19:47	16:09 24:12	1253.060 2358.038	1615.154 1810.104	18		6:29 19:30	24:25	2228.053	1643.098	17		6:47 19:00	13:58	2031.060	1458.097	21		6:59 17:37	15:55 23:25	2403.030 2403.030	1276.149 1917.149	19		6:23 17:01	14:23 21:20	2210.045 2322.047	2403.030 1916.176	16		6:37 16:56	12:51 20:53	1949.050 2310.055	1611.161 1413.108									
MON	22		6:07 19:46	17:10 22:27	1354.052	0711.162 1915.105	19		6:30 19:29	16:04 1:14	1254.061																																		

FESTIVE SEASON

LOVE BYRON BAY

CHOCOLATE...DELICIOUSLY ESSENTIAL THIS CHRISTMAS

Love Byron Bay's artisan gifts of chocolate, small indulgences, French cakes and gourmet confectionary hampers are a delicious essential this Christmas.

Dating back to the 12th Century, gifting chocolate meant you considered the recipient someone very special. A sign of nobility, chocolate was a very precious commodity due to its nutritional qualities and health benefits. Considered a gift from the gods, only a select few such royalty, warriors and explorers were presented it by the Aztecs.

This Christmas, delight those special to you with a quality selection of chocolate praline & truffles boxes, hand-made rocky road, gourmet nougat, European marzipan, wine-and-cheese pairing cacao, as well as Christmas novelty themed chocolate suitable for any taste or dietary preference (V & GF).

Deliciously essential this festive season.

Shop @ Love Byron Bay crêperie and chocolate boutique.

3 Lawson St, Byron Bay (Opposite The Balcony)

Open 7 days 10am-10pm

6685 7974

www.love-byronbay.com



BALLOON ALOFT

As another year laps the sun, make sure to treat yourself, friends and family to a special summer treat this Christmas! Taking your loved ones on a beautiful balloon flight over the Northern Rivers is a gift like no other. Serenely drifting above the tree tops and distant landscapes is a great opportunity to chill out and reflect on the season ahead.

Employers and business owners alike find hot air ballooning the ultimate Christmas present or staff get together, bonding together with the fun paddock pack down and celebration breakfast afterwards at the Three Blue Ducks Restaurant, The Farm.

Check out Balloon Aloft at @balloonaloftbyronbay or visit their website to book in at www.balloonaloftbyronbay.com



LET'S GO SURFING

Join the Let's Go Surfing team for an awesome time surfing or stand-up paddleboarding (SUP) this school holidays. They offer private and group lessons and tours for all ages, as well as a two hour kids only lesson.

Their lessons include all equipment and expert instruction in really small groups.

This lesson provides education, maximum fun and safety for your kids. They cover the basics from warm-up to paddling, catching waves and standing, while also catering to intermediate and advanced students (technique refinement and style improvement). Your kids will also learn important surf and safety rules including info on rips, tides, sandbanks and waves.

They offer lessons in Byron, Ballina, Lennox and SUP tours on flatwater in the Brunswick River and Lake Ainsworth.

Open 7 days 8:30am-4:30pm

Shop 5, 11 Fletcher St, Byron Bay

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

(02) 6680 9443

letsgosurfing.com.au



Come
Fly
with us

DAILY SUNRISE BALLOON FLIGHTS
Includes breakfast at Three Blue Ducks restaurant - The Farm
www.balloonaloft.com | 1300 723 279 | @balloonaloftbyronbay

LET'S GO SURFING
SCHOOL HOLIDAY LESSONS

BYRON BAY & LENNOX HEAD
Gift Certificates Available

BOOK NOW!

LETSGOSURFING.COM.AU
CALL: 6680 9443



FESTIVE SEASON

SPECIAL OFFER



**Enrol in Term 1 by 16 Dec 2023
and receive a FREE t-shirt!**

www.spaghetticircus.com

SPAGHETTI CIRCUS

SPECIAL SPAGHETTI OFFER – ENROL AND GET A FREE T-SHIRT

Enrol and pay for Term 1 at Spaghetti Circus before 16 December and receive a brand new, super-stylish, fire-engine-red Spaghetti t-shirt. They have a bunch of exciting new classes on offer, such as German and cyr wheel, tissu and trapeze, beginner aerials and their 40+ 'elixir for life' class.

By enrolling before the end of Term 4 you can also access their \$30 early-bird offer.

Enrol Now www.spaghetticircus.com

SOULIFE

Soulife has moved, reincarnating in a fresh new space in the very heart of Jonson St.

Trading for over 33 years, owner Clint Hart has created magic in a store that has outlasted nearly all of its kind in Australia.

Core offerings are books exploring spirituality, alternate health and understanding – the largest range in the region, including an unmatched selection of oracle and tarot cards.

Widely appreciated by locals as a favourite source of crystals without the tourist-premium prices, they also stock gold and sterling silver jewellery, most from local designers.

This Christmas find that extra-special 'touch-of-Byron' gift at Soulife: candles, incense, suncatchers, singing bowls, crystal and salt lamps, journals and unique 2024 calendars and diaries.

Come by today and visit their new home.

**84 Jonson St (next to the Byron Visitor's Centre)
02 6680 8090**

Soulife

explore spirituality, health & alternate understanding
at Byron Bay's singular retailer of
the esoteric & sublime

Bookstore

Art, Aboriginal, AI, Aura, Alchemy, Angels
Animals, Aromatherapy, Ayurveda, Birth
Breath, Buddhism, Celtic, Crystals, Chakras
Conspiracy, Channelling, Depression,
Death, Dreams, Ecology, Education, Egypt
Enneagram, Essenes, Fiction, Feng Shui
Goddess, Gardening, Grief, Herbs, Healing
Hindu, Islam, I-Ching, Jung, Kabbalah, Kids
Longevity, Men, Magic, Massage, Music
Mushrooms, Meditation, Mind, Mystics
Mythology, NLP Nature, Oriental Medicine-
Occult, Oracles, Osho, Pagan, Paleo
Palmistry, Parenting, Poetry, Psychedelics
Psychic, Pendulum, Psychology, Prosperity
Prediction, Runes, Reflexology, Reiki
Religion, Relationships, Sex, Science
Self Help, Stoic, Steiner, Shaman
Symbols, TaiChi, Tantra, Travel, Tao, Tarot
Tibet, UFO, Vegetarian, Women, Wicca
Work, Yoga, Zen
*2024 Calendars & Diaries
*pre-loved books
-gifts of wisdom-

Crystals

Larimar, Moldavite, Shungite, Opal,
Amethyst, Rose Quartz, Citrine,
Tourmaline, Aquamarine +200more

-gifts of beauty-

Jewellery

Gold Vermeil, Sterling Silver, Chains,
Gemstone Pendants, Earrings & Rings

-gifts of adornment-

Scent & Flame

Candles, Incense, Sage, Palo Santo,
Resins, Woods & Essential Oils

-gifts of ceremony-

Altar

Singing Bowls, Prayer Flags, Bells,

-gifts of meditation-

Lamps

Himalayan Salt, Selenite, Crystal

-gifts of illumination-

Gifts

Greeting Cards, Pendulums, Decals &
Stickers, Amulets & Talismans
Sun Catchers

-gifts of appreciation-

Visit our **new** home at **84 Jonson St** (next to Byron Visitor's Centre)



GOURMET CHOCOLATE TO DELIGHT EVERYONE

**LOOKS SUPERB,
TASTES DIVINE!**

This festive season gift the ultimate
selection in artisan chocolate,
gourmet confectionery
and French cakes.

Gourmet chocolate hampers
overflowing with a connoisseur's
selection of artisan chocolate,
rocky road, confectionery, nougat,
marzipan, and praline gift boxes.

Suited for any dietary preference
including vegan and gluten-free.

6685 7974

info@love-byronbay.com

love-byronbay.com

3 Lawson St (next to Spar)

Open 7 days, 10am-10pm





MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB

150 Christmas hams to win!

The Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club Christmas Raffles are in full swing. Wednesday, December 13 and Friday, December 15 will be their hammiest ham raffle with 150 hams to win! On Wednesday there will be 100 hams and another 50 hams on the Friday to win. Tickets sold from 5pm and drawn at 7pm, don't forget their random members draw between 6 and 8pm.

The club is planning one hell of a party for the annual locals' Christmas get-together, Saturday 16th December kicking off at 8pm. They have secured local legends One 2 Many band, who will be belting out classic rock covers.

New Year's Eve free band, Glitterati Riot, a Byron-based five-piece band will play hits from the '70s & '80s to now. Disco, Pop, and Rock...if you can dance to it, they play it!

02 6684 2533

58 Dalley St, Mullumbimby

www.mullumexservices.com.au

PRE-ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS DESSERTS

For this special occasion, Eclair at the Bay has curated an exclusive Christmas menu, available only on pre-order and in limited quantities. From a modern chantilly cranberry chocolate bûche de Noël (yule log) to a box of 18 mini-eclairs, sparkling vanilla profiteroles, gluten-free santa hat mousse cakes and small entremets cake, there is something for the entire family. Make this holiday season extra special by pre-ordering from their delightful Christmas menu.

Pre-order by December 20 (the earlier, the better, as they have limited quantities).

Pickup on December 23 or 24 from the shop from 9am to 2pm.

Order online or at the shop. www.eclairatthebay.com

info@eclairatthebay.com | 0466 242 214

MULLUMBIMBY
EX SERVICES CLUB

CHRISTMAS
HAM
RAFFLE

DEC
13TH 100 HAMS

15TH 50 HAMS

TICKETS ON SALE 5PM
DRAWN 7PM

CHRISTMAS MENU

LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE.
GLUTEN FREE OPTIONS.

ECLAIR
AT THE BAY

Shop 3a/1 Byron Street, Byron Bay

Pre-order online or in-store and pick up your desserts on the 23rd or 24th of December. Don't miss out on this exclusive festive season menu!

www.eclairatthebay.com | 0466 242 214



FESTIVE SEASON

Anglican Parish of Byron CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2023

15 December Friday
6pm All Souls' Bangalow

Lessons and Carols
1 Ashton Street, Bangalow

24 December Sunday
Christmas Eve

7.30am St Thomas' Brunswick Heads
Family Worship and Holy Communion
21 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads

9am St Paul's Byron Bay
Family Worship and Holy Communion
14 Kingsley Street, Byron Bay

9am St Martin's Mullumbimby
Family Worship and Holy Communion
38 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby

11am St Columba Ewingsdale
Family Worship and Holy Communion
1 Ashton Street, Bangalow

6pm All Souls' Bangalow
Family Worship with Christmas Pageant
& Holy Communion
1 Ashton Street, Bangalow

25 December Monday
Christmas Day

7.30am St Thomas' Brunswick Heads – Holy Communion
21 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads

9am All Souls' Bangalow – Holy Communion
1 Ashton Street, Bangalow

9am St Martin's Mullumbimby – Holy Communion
38 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby

9am St Paul's Byron Bay – Holy Communion
14 Kingsley St, Byron Bay



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF BYRON

The Anglican Parish of Byron is excited to offer worship in each of their five churches at various times this Christmas (see advertisement at right). In this new normal, it is particularly important to make the most of opportunities to gather in communities of support for one another.

Again, this year three of the Byron Parish church buildings, All Souls Bangalow, St Martin's Mullumbimby and St Paul's Byron Bay, will be lit with the message of hope, peace and love. As our world continues to face challenges which may seem overwhelming, we seek light in our darkest moments.

'However we choose to form community, our prayer is that we are able to share a sense of hope which fosters peace and love for all. With every blessing, Byron Anglicans.'



BYRON BAY CHOCOLATE CO

The Byron Bay Chocolate Co. was founded in 1985 by husband and wife team David and Carole O'Connor and for more than 30 years their family has poured their hearts and souls into every single chocolate made, using only the highest quality, freshest ingredients. The quality of their product has ensured their long-term success. From humble beginnings, the Chocolate Co. has grown rapidly over the years, enjoying sweet success and a loyal customer base locally and globally. From the very beginning, all chocolates have been, and continue to be, handmade with love at their small family factory in Byron Bay.

'Chocoholics' throughout Australia and all around the world look forward to the next time they can indulge in these delicious sweet treats!

02 6685 8062 | byronbaychocolateco.com.au | @byronbaychocolateco

byronanglicans.org.au
6684 3552

Australia's Finest Chocolate Coated Fruit & Nuts



A GREAT COMBINATION –
CHRISTMAS AND BYRON BAY CHOCOLATE CO!
OVER 30 DIFFERENT FLAVOURS TO CHOOSE FROM
AVAILABLE AT ALL LEADING LOCAL STORES

www.byronbaychocolateco.com.au
02 6685 8062 @byronbaychocolateco



FESTIVE SEASON

DEVINE QUALITY MEATS

Devine Quality Meats in Mullumbimby are here to help with all your festive feasting needs. They have delicious hams that are smoked in-house, as well as a range of turkeys, ducks and chickens.

All meats are locally sourced, antibiotic-and hormone-free and their award-winning sausages are a must try. Also stocking quality deli and small goods, they have a great range.

**Order now for Christmas by dropping in to the store or calling 02 6684 2015
64 Stuart St, Mullumbimby**



WE WISH YOU A YUMMY CHRISTMAS

For over 30 years, Devine Quality Meats has helped Mullum locals and visitors alike savour the flavour of a delicious Christmas.

We are now taking Christmas orders for our award winning & locally famous, Traditional Wood-Smoked Hams, Turkey, Chicken & BBQ meats.

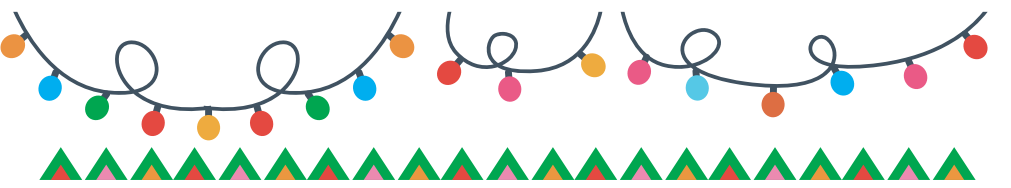
And from our family to yours, we wish you a mouth watering and Devine Christmas.



We are now taking **CHRISTMAS ORDERS**
Scan this QR Code to email your order to us today!
Or mention this ad when you call the Devine team on 02 6684 2015.



**64 STUART ST,
MULLUMBIMBY
6684 2015**
devinequalitymeats.com.au



LINGERIE NO.5

Lingerie No.5 is one of the only underwear shops located in Northern NSW.

Located in River Street, Ballina, Lingerie No.5 offers a one-on-one professional fitting service in store whilst catering for all shapes, sizes and categories.

Not only do they stock underwear but precious silks, cotton sleepwear, bamboo sleepwear and more!

Visit them to find all your favourite brands including CK underwear, Berlei, Triumph, Simone Perele, Primadonna, Elomi, Godess and Wacoal, Marie Jo, Chantelle, Papinelle and many more!

Lingerie No.5 specialises in fittings such as prosthesis, maternity, shapewear, everyday wear, etc.

Shop local at Lingerie No.5.

151 River Street, Ballina

02 6686 2353

Instagram: @lingerie_no_5



MCTAVISH SURFOARDS

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, books and apparel, or borrow a demo board for the weekend.

Looking for a last-minute gift? No matter the surfer on your list, McTavish will have something they'll be stoked on. Give the gift of experience with a voucher for a new custom board, a board sock for the daily surf commute or a Remote Projects utility blanket for in-between surf coverage.

Open 7 days a week

Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm

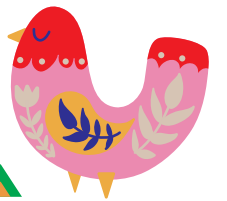
Saturday 8am to 2pm

Sunday 10am to 2pm

91 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay

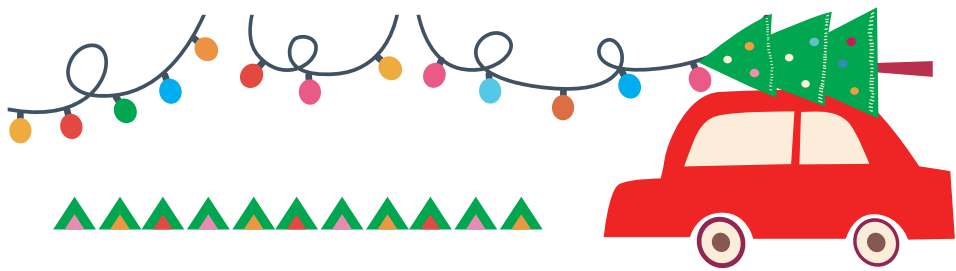
mctavish.com.au

02 6680 8807



**Surfboard Factory,
Surf Shop & Cafe.
91 Centennial Cct.
Byron Bay, NSW.**





THE ISLAND LUXE FAMILY

A family that shares a passion for travel... for the road less travelled, seeking beauty and inspiration in nature's artistry and architecture.

A love of finding old and antique objects characterised by their imperfections. Fabrics and textiles that stand the test of time. Art and curiosities that tell a story.

An aesthetic rooted in a timeless simplicity and a belief that we can experience a holistic sense of the world, and ourselves, through restraint and making considered choices for the way we curate our lives.

The Island Luxe ethos redefines luxury, reminding us that space with imperfections shows that nothing furnishes more beautifully and luxuriously than the spirit and the soul, and creating an immersive and transportive experience that mirrors our emotions when we travel.

Island Luxe
 62 Byron Street, Bangalow
 info@islandlux.com.au
Island Luxe Tribe
 1/11 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
 tribe@islandlux.com.au



SALTWATER SOCIAL CLUB

At the heart of Byron Bay, you'll find Saltwater Social Club, open at night for drinks, dancing and late night shenanigans.

Relaxed vintage vibes and classic coastal style set the stage for a great night out in Byron Bay. Pop in for a game of pool or shuffleboard in the laid-back games room, or hit the dancefloor to the sounds of Byron's best live DJs.

Upstairs, have a cocktail and get cosy in the Library Bar, or chill out with a cold beer on the outdoor balcony overlooking the action of Byron's main street.

Hot tip: the Library Bar is also perfect for private functions.

saltwatersocialclub.com.au
 @saltwatersocialclub



FESTIVE SEASON

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

15/12 - 17/12
 9 - 5 PM

EXTRA
 50% OFF
 SALE
 PRICE

*NO EXCHANGES, REFUNDS OR RETURNS

ISLAND LUXE
 PAST COLLECTIONS

7/11 MARVELL ST
 BYRON BAY

FASHION ACCESSORIES BEDDING & MORE

LINGERIE N° 5



Gift vouchers and wrapping available

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151 River Street, Ballina | 6686 2353
 www.lingerieno5.com.au | Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 9-3

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 SOCIAL CLUB
 32 JONSON ST

OPEN AT NIGHT
 LIVE DJs *Dancing*
 BILLIARDS · SHUFFLEBOARD
Ice Cold / GOOD
Cocktails / TIMES



FESTIVE SEASON



HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON FROM BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE!

It's bright futures all round for Byron College students who've recently completed their qualifications and now head out into the world with new skills.

Their 2024 brochure is ready for digitally 'flipping' on their website (check out the new logo, branding and website!). With enrolments for their nationally recognised and subsidised* courses in permaculture, horticulture, massage, community services and individual support courses now open.

Plus it's another big year for general courses with 100+ on offer.

They'll be taking a break from Friday 22 December, reopening on Monday January 8, 2024. You can still enrol online during the break though!
Create Your Future: www.byroncollege.org.au or 02 6684 3374 RTO: 90013

*This training is subsidised by the NSW Government. For eligible students.

CAPE BYRON DISTILLERY - 'WHISKY & CHEESE'

The local launch for the new Viognier Cask whisky will be an exclusive whisky and cheese pairing event, hosted at the distillery on Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 5pm.

Ellie and Sam Studd have been invited to pair their specially selected cheeses with the Cape Byron Whisky range, along with a celebration of their first book, 'The Best Things in Life are Cheese'. Over the last decade they have travelled the world, working with and learning from celebrated cheesemongers and makers.

Whisky & Cheese is a ticketed event with limited seats. For \$65 experience a decadent tasting of four Cape Byron whiskies paired with four Studd cheeses, and some fun stories and insights into whisky and cheese from the Cape Byron Distillery spiritual advisors and the Studd siblings.

capebyrondistillery.com/visit-our-byron-distillery

BETTER BY BIKE - E-BIKE HIRE

Rent an E-bike to tackle the trails around Byron Bay, go shopping, or to a distillery. The E-Bike along with trail map is dropped right to your door. Only \$85/day.

If adventure is your thing, ride through lush hinterland, native rainforests, quaint villages and a 520m Glow Worm tunnel on the Northern Rivers Rail Trail.

Better By Bike provides high quality E-Bikes for rent, with trailside rentals if you have your own vehicle or a full-service experience with door-to-door return shuttles.

The ride is suitable for all ages and riding abilities, including families, couples and large groups. Adults priced from \$125 per person.

Children catered for with extra small E-Bikes, tag along bikes, chariots, and baby seats available. Dogs can ride also.

info@betterbybike.com.au

0408 444 858

Instagram: [betterbybikeoz](https://www.instagram.com/betterbybikeoz)

Facebook: [better_by_bike_nothern_rivers_rail_trail](https://www.facebook.com/better_by_bike_nothern_rivers_rail_trail)

betterbybike.com.au



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Nationally Recognised training in:

- Permaculture
- Horticulture
- Massage Therapy
- Individual Support
- Community Services
- Skills For Work & Vocational Pathways
- Entrepreneurship & New Business



More Info



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www.byroncollege.org.au
customer care@byroncollege.org.au

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- CYCLE THROUGH LUSH WORLD HERITAGE RAINFOREST
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- NEW EVENING GLOW WORM TOUR GREAT FOR TWEENS AND TEENS PARTIES
- KIDS XS E-BIKES
TOW BEHIND CHARIOTS/BIKES
SHOTGUN AND BABY SEATS AVAILABLE
DOGS WELCOME!



0408 444 858 www.betterbybike.com.au

BOOK NOW





FESTIVE SEASON

WOODY'S SURF SHACK

Yewwww, Woody's is open for another summer!

Rocking a vintage surf vibe, Woody's is Byron Bay's late night bar and hangout... featuring live DJs, cocktails, dedicated dancefloor, Kombi-style booths, outdoor patio, foosball and billiards.

Pop by on a Wednesday for Woody's world famous Big Wednesday Surfboard Giveaway. One big winner every week.

Check our socials for daily DJ schedule and opening hours at @woodysbyronbay
90-96 Jonson St, Byron Bay

BYRON BALLET - HOLIDAY CLASSES

After a great season of the magical ballet Coppelia, Byron Ballet is now preparing for another world classic: Tchaikovsky's Sleeping Beauty. This production is a unique original creation, which also features the character Maleficent and the reasons behind the wicked fairy's anger.

'Sleeping Beauty will also feature four professional male dancers which means a special treat of male athleticism', says director Yvonne Hall. 'This January the students will learn some of the repertoire in our holiday workshop as well as kickstarting their technical skills in classical and contemporary dance. Principal dancer and teachers Micheal Braun, Maree White and others will be coaching the students'.

Any dancers wishing to audition for Sleeping Beauty or simply to participate in the summer workshop, email byronballet@gmail.com



WOODY'S WORLD FAMOUS SURFBOARD GIVEAWAY EVERY WEDNESDAY

13 YEARS. 600+ SURFBOARDS.
1 BIG WINNER. EVERY WEEK.

The legend continues... every Wednesday night at Woody's.
Make a purchase and be in the draw to win.



Find out more

BYRON'S BEST PARTY BAR



OPEN AT NIGHT · JONSON ST

byron ballet

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

January
Seniors 21st-23rd
Juniors 23rd-24th
Special guests - principal dancer teachers Micheal Braun and Maree White.

Classical ballet, contemporary, pas de deux, repertoire

Youth Company AUDITIONS
SLEEPING BEAUTY · Inquiries
byronballet@gmail.com

WHISKY & CHEESE

\$65 Tickets - Includes four Cape Byron Whiskies paired with four Studd Sibling cheeses

Cape Byron Distillery

Jan 4th from 5:00 PM

TICKETS HERE

80 St Helena Road, McLeods Shoot, Byron Bay

SEVEN

Volume 37 #27
13-19 December, 2023

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FINISH THE YEAR WITH A BANG!

'Tis the season to be cheeky! And what better way to celebrate this silliest of all seasons than with the last spectacular **Cheeky Cabaret for 2023**. It's the final week of Cheekys – **Thursday, December 14 to Sunday, December 17** - so gather friends, colleagues, family, neighbours and even grandma for a Cheeky like no other.

There will also be a special Cheeky Cabaret for the little ones – the final 'All Ages Lil' Cheeky' is on **Sunday, December 17 at 2pm!**

And that's not all... If you haven't got any plans for New Year's Eve, Brun's Picture House is hosting a **New Year's Eve Gala Extravaganza**. Say adieu to 2023 with a fabulous and sexy cast of delectable divas, cabaret queens and everything in between, to bring much-needed light relief, cheek and just the right amount of glamour in this extra special New Year's Eve celebration extravaganza!

Limited posh seating available - will sell out fast!
For all tickets go to brunswickpicturehouse.com



THE WHITLAMs - COASTAL TOUR JAN 2024

The Whitlams' first show outside Sydney was early 1993 at the **Railway Friendly Bar**. The band went on to become a Byron Bay regular through the mid '90s on its way to winning Best Group at the 1998 ARIAs with the third album *Eternal Nightcap*.

Fast forward 30 years, and you can join **Tim Freedman and the band** for sunset sets at the **Kingscliff Hotel on New Year's Day**, and **Shaws Bay Hotel, Ballina on Wednesday, January 3**, with children welcome.

The Whitlams four-piece will be joined by **Scott Owen** from The Living End to recreate the energy of its first three albums. Who better to rip through the double bass classics from '93 to '97 than the powerhouse behind The Living End's famous rhythm section. Opening on both afternoons is **William Crighton**, winner of the ARIA for Best Blues and Roots Album last year.

The Whitlams propelled onto the airwaves through the mid '90s, from their debut 'Gough' in 1993, to the crossover hit 'I Make Hamburgers' in 1995, and the

frenetic 'You Sound Like Louis Burdett' in 1997. Scott Owen will join the band for the first hour of the show in which they will perform the best of *Introducing The Whitlams*, *Undeniably The Whitlams* and *Eternal Nightcap*.

The Whitlams are Tim Freedman on piano and vocals, **Jak Housden** on guitar, Northern Rivers local **Terepai Richmond** on drums, and newest member, **Ian Peres**, on Hammond organ and electric bass.

Tim Freedman says, 'Scott and I have been talking about this idea for five years, and at last our schedules have clicked. Terepai and Scott will absolutely explode in these early songs, and it will be thrilling to hear the energy on stage once again that Andy Lewis brought to the first line-up so long ago.'

The Whitlams play live with special guest William Crighton. Monday, January 1 at Kingscliff Beach Hotel, Wednesday, January 3 at Shaws Bay Hotel, Ballina

Tickets at www.thewhitlams.com

ACID BLEED AT THE CHANNON TAVERN

Acid Bleed are a funky five-piece band playing gypsy swing jazz with a hot Latin groove! Lismore based, they play **The Channon Tavern on Sunday, December 17**. Head on down for some swinging hot gypsy jazz with an acid twist... because it doesn't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing!

The Channon Tavern on December 17, from 3pm to 6pm.



COASTAL TOUR JAN 2024

DOUBLE BASS CLASSICS

"Gough" to "Hamburgers" to "Louis Burdett"

SPECIAL GUEST **WILLIAM CRIGHTON**

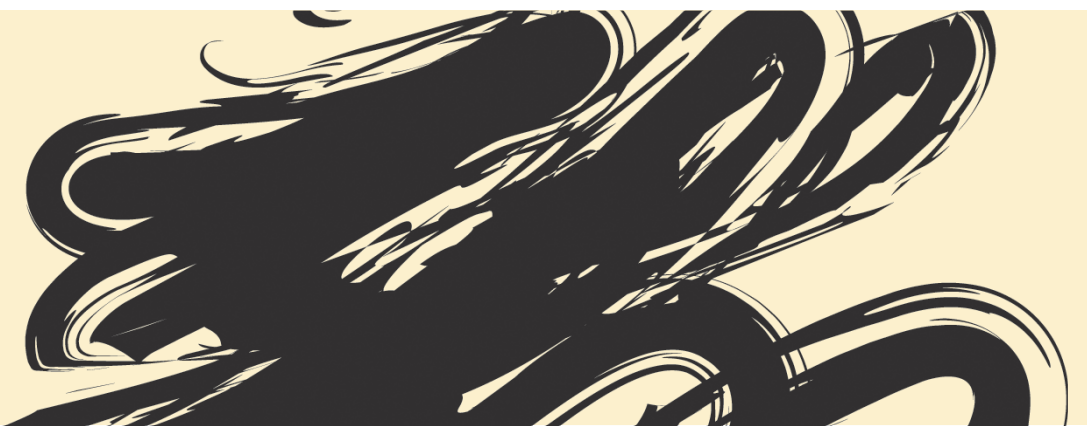
MON 1 JAN KINGSCLIFF BEACH HTL

WED 3 JAN SHAWS BAY HTL BALLINA

TICKETS WWW.THEWHITLAMs.COM

7

DAYS OF ENTERTAINMENT



WHERE AUSSIE SCREEN TAKES CENTRE STAGE ON THE GOLD COAST

The Australian Academy presents the inaugural **AACTA Festival** – with more than 70 film, television, music, gaming, pop culture and family events coming to the Gold Coast.

The Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts (AACTA) has announced the debut of the AACTA Festival, a four-day celebration of Australia's vibrant screen industry, that promises an immersive experience for all, from industry professionals to film enthusiasts, school-leavers, families, and aspiring creatives – the festival, including the AACTA Awards presented by the Foxtel Group, will be hosted at the Home of the Arts (HOTA) from February 8-11, 2024.

With more than 70 events on the program and more to be added, the AACTA Festival will present a dynamic array of panels, meet-and-greet, screenings and activities which are predominantly free to attend. The festival will provide an opportunity to go behind the scenes of your favourite films, immerse yourself in the industry's latest trends, meet your favourite stars, network with screen practitioners, and learn more about the exciting world of Australian film, TV, gaming, music and more.

The AACTA Industry Awards Ceremony will kick things off on **Thursday, February 8**, followed by a day of industry events, masterclasses, and **creator discussions on Friday. Saturday, February 10 the AACTA Awards Ceremony** will welcome all the stars on the red carpet. Finishing on **Sunday, February 11** with an array of screenings, live music, kids' events, acting workshops, meet-and-greets, and more. Sunday will also feature the **Screen Careers Expo** presented by Essential Screen Skills, running all day and offering



pathways for anyone wanting to break into the industry. It promises to be a great day out for the entire family.

Cinematic highlights include: a behind-the-scenes look at the making of *The Matrix*; an animation deconstruction of international blockbuster *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, a deep dive into the stunt work from *Mad Max: Fury Road* and a showcase of the upcoming Bingie original series *High Country*, with **Leah Purcell. Michael Gracey** (*The Greatest Showman*), and producer **Paul Currie** will give audiences an exclusive look of their upcoming Australian film *Better Man* starring singer **Robbie Williams**. Iconic Australian musician **Russell Morris** ('The Real Thing') will take part in an exclusive conversation with composer **David Hirschfelder**, and audiences can hear from *Mortal Kombat* director **Simon McQuoid** on the progress of the film franchise currently being shot in Queensland.

Many of Queensland's top writers will attend and be showcased throughout the festival, including **Trent Dalton**, author

of *Boy Swallows Universe*, and **Holly Ringland** author of *Lost Flowers of Alice Hart*. In addition to this, audiences can hear from writers **Nick Earls, Lystra Rose, Mathew Condon, Richard Jameson, Tristan Michael Savage, and Ben Hobson**, to name just a few.

The festival will also host a series of **Meet the Creators** events – panel discussions with internationally renowned talent including directors **Danny and Michael**

Philippou (*Talk to Me*), **Warwick Thornton** (*The New Boy*), and the team behind the hit TV show *The Newsreader*. The **Meet the Nominee** panels offer a chance hear from some of Australia's biggest stars, producers, and directors, nominated for a prestigious AACTA Award. The festival also features a wide range of topical industry panels covering various aspects of the screen industry, from the future of AI and streaming to First Nations truth-telling and storytelling panels. Also included are a range of online gaming 'Let's Play' events, and an immersive art experience led by acclaimed painter, actor, and musician **Stan Yarramunua**.

There will be fun for the whole family, with a series of kids' events, including a Play School live event, kid's acting workshops, face-painting, live music, and a very special appearance from Queensland's beloved **Bluey**.

For more information go to aactafestival.com

FELICITY LAWLESS DUO AT THE RAILS

Performing at **The Rails** in Byron on **Sunday, December 17**, **Felicity Lawless** stimulates the senses and elevates the soul with music fusing gypsy, world rock and folk elements. From deep in the forest she creates music to heal the world and reminds people of their connection to nature. Her sound is characterised by a flashy, Spanish guitar style, soaring vocal melodies and hypnotic rhythms. She performs with an energy that elevates and inspires while infusing her crowds with enthusiasm and joy.

The Rails, Byron Bay on Sunday, December 17



BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

'TIS THE SEASON TO BE **CHEEKY** 14-17 DEC FINAL WEEKEND!

brunswickpicturehouse.com

NYE GALA EXTRAVAGANZA

Bring on 2024 in the most fabulous way ever! Special performances throughout the night.

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BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

SUMMER 2024

"we are the daughters of the witches you couldn't burn"

WITCHES ON TOUR

COUNTRY WITCHES ASSOCIATION

MANDY NOLAN
AINE TYRRELL

THIRD THEY ARE CHANGING, AND THE WITCHES: WELL THEY'RE RISING!

Nov 24 | THE OLD MUSEUM, Brisbane/Meanjin
Nov 25 | MEMORIAL HALL, Bellingen/Gumbaynggirr Country
Dec 15 | CIVIC MEMORIAL HALL, Mullumbimby/Bundjalung Country
Dec 16 | IMPERIAL HOTEL, Eumundi/Gubbi Gubbi Country

TICKETS: www.ainetyrrell.com/tour

SING OUT SOCIAL BIG CROWD SING ALONG!

FRIDAY 29TH DECEMBER 2023
NEWRYBAR HALL

TICKETS \$35 ONLINE AT SINGOUTSOCIAL.COM

DOORS 6.30PM – SHOWTIME 7.30PM
FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE

CHARITY EVENT WITH PROFITS GOING TO THE HEALTHY MINDS CLUB



CHARLEY CROCKETT WITH EMMA DONOVAN

Rising superstar, Texas singin' cowboy, **Charley Crockett** and his band, **The Blue Drifters**, head to Australia this summer and are set to ignite Byron Bay!

After his mind-blowing sold out shows in Australia in early 2023, the award-winning country and western star returns ready to perform his smouldering ballads and razor-sharp songs at venues across the country.

The Man from Waco, Charley Crockett will deliver a scorching night of timeless country classics, oozing Americana and lassoing the listener into dreamlike nostalgic westerns of wandering, whiskey and tales of the wild, wild west at **The Green Room**, Byron Bay on **January 31**.

Charley's latest album, *Live From The Ryman*, radiates Crockett's energy at the historic Nashville venue capturing the excellent vibes and raw talent of one of the most exciting contemporary cowboys of today.

Joining Charley Crockett on the road will be highly celebrated country soul queen **Emma Donovan** performing new music from her first solo album, which captures the heart of the nostalgic Australian country gospel.

Fans and believers: get prepared for a sizzling summer of Charley Crockett and his band. Book your tickets today.

The Green Room, Byron Bay on January 31. Tickets available now at lovepolice.com.au

TIBETAN DANCE THEATRE

Byron Beautiful presents **'Sorcerers and Magicians'**, a show featuring rare performances of the Tibetan Black Hat Dance and other ritual dances. Designed to dispel and transform any demonic forces through ceremony and dance, it will be a celebration of dance, music, song and spirit – a place where you can move into 2024 with renewed intention.

Tenzin Kunsang, a Tibetan singer, dancer and multi-instrumentalist will be collaborating with his favourite dynamic musician/composer **Tenzin Choegyal**, **Cye Wood** and a guest monk of Tibet.

Tenzin Kunsang was born in Dharamsala and studied at the Tibetan Institute of Performing Arts one of the first institutions established by the Dalai Lama. He performs Tibetan folk and classical music as a solo artist, or with one of his three bands, travels to audiences in Japan and tours all around the world.

The evening will feature the traditional **Tibetan Cham**, a centuries old contemplative dance said to be a joyful meditation in action – it is also said to bring good fortune to those who dare to join in.

Saturday, January 6 at St John's Hall, Mullumbimby. Doors will open 6pm for dinner and drinks. Concert starts at 7pm.

Tickets from <https://events.humanitix.com/magicians-and-sorcerers-magical-tibetan-music-theatre-and-blessing>

Contact byronbeautiful@gmail.com for more info.

A station fundraiser with BayFM DJs:

DALE STEPHEN
from Solar Love Machine

SAMMY KC & PEDRO
from Funk Me Radio Show

RIA LISTIC, ANDREA JONES, BALASKO, LAINIE GODIVA
from Sistas of Spin

SAT 20 JAN 2024
Byron Theatre 6pm-Midnight
Tickets from byroncentre.com.au or use the QR code

BYRON THEATRE

DECEMBER

1 JOHN WATERS | 2 AG DANCE
3 YONI, A FULL POWER STANCE
6 THE LIFE OF PI
7 SUICIDE PREVENTION
8 ROBYN DAVIDSON
14 - 15 DARK SIDE OF THE MOON
16 JOE CAMILLERI & PAUL GRABOWSKY | 29 S.A.S.H.

BYRON THEATRE .COM

SORCERERS AND MAGICIANS

A TIBETAN CELEBRATION OF DANCE, MUSIC, SONG AND SPIRIT.

Rare performance of Tibetan Black Hat Dance to dispel and transform.

Featuring **Tenzin Kunsang, Tenzin Choegyal, Cye Wood** & guest Monk of Tibet, at the St Johns Hall in Mullumbimby on 6 January 2024

Doors open 6pm for dinner/drinks. Concert starts 7pm.

Tickets at: events.humanitix.com/magicians-and-sorcerers-magical-tibetan-music-theatre-and-blessing

CONTACT: BYRONBEAUTIFUL@GMAIL.COM

GIG GUIDE

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



CINEMA



TROLLS BAND TOGETHER

If you're after a film for the whole family these school holidays, try the third film in the Trolls trilogy. After two films of true friendship and relentless flirting, Poppy (**Anna Kendrick**) and Branch (**Justin Timberlake**) are now officially, finally, a couple (#broppy)! As they grow closer, Poppy discovers that Branch has a secret past. He was once part of her favourite boyband phenomenon, BroZone, with his four brothers: Floyd (Golden Globe nominated electropop sensation **Troye Sivan**); John Dory (**Eric André Sing 2**); Spruce (Grammy winner **Daveed Diggs Hamilton**); and Clay (Grammy winner **Kid Cudi Don't Look Up**). BroZone disbanded when Branch was still a baby, as did the family, and Branch hasn't seen his brothers since.

But when Branch's bro Floyd is kidnapped for his musical talents by a pair of nefarious pop-star villains – Velvet (Emmy winner **Amy Schumer Trainwreck**) and Veneer (Grammy winner and Tony nominee **Andrew Rannells The Book of Mormon**) – Branch and Poppy embark on a harrowing and emotional journey to reunite the other brothers and rescue Floyd from a fate even worse than pop-culture obscurity.

The all-star cast includes Anna Kendrick, Justin Timberlake, Daveed Diggs, Eric André, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Kunal Nayyar, Kenan Thompson, Troye Sivan and Kid Cudi.

Trolls Band Together, is screening at Ballina and Byron Bay Palace Cinemas.

WEDNESDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **KANE MUIR**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KAYEL**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **INDIGO SPARKE**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM **POETRY**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **COMEDY W/ SIAN SMYTH**

THURSDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KALAKARI**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **PINK FLOYD'S THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON 50TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **OOZ**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JESSE WHITNEY**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **COURTNEY MARIE ANDREWS + ROBERT ELLIS**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **ROYAL DUCK**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 5PM **MR. BRIGHTSIDE**

FRIDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE HILLBILLY SKANK**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **SATIN CALI, BEDDY RAYS, THE TERRYS + DJ ZAC EWING**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **PINK FLOYD'S THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON 50TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENT**
- BACKYARD, BYRON BAY, **SAM MAC & THE RAT RACE CHOIR**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **DJ WILL CONNELL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **BABE RAINBOW**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL **COUNTRY WITCHES ASSOCIATION**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ AFRODESIA**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ PEACH**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **OLE FALCOR**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 9PM **INO PIO**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 6PM **JOCK BARNES**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **TIM STOKES**
- TWO MATES BREWING, LISMORE, 5PM **WILL OUTRIDGE**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **DJ MURRAY**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **IS MAN KIND + DJ SLINKY**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **BEC LAVELLE**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **FUNK DUB SOUL SENSIBILITIES**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY 5.30PM **SUNSET SESSIONS - JOSH LEE HAMILTON**

SATURDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE WHISKEYS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **THE NEW LANGUAGE**
- BYRON THEATRE 8PM **JOE CAMILLERI AND PAUL GRABOWSKY**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **OOZ**, 5PM **IN THE FLOWERS DJS**, 7.30PM **THE VERSACE BOYS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **PACIFIC AVENUE - COUNTRY TOWN HOEDOWN TOUR**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **LEIGH JAMES**

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **IS MAN KIND + JON J BRADLEY**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4PM & 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ XUJA**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 7.30PM **GLITTERATI RIOT**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **GLENN MASSEY DUO**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **MID CITY**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **KELLY BROUHAHA**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **PINK ZINC**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **DJ NAT WHITE**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS + DJ FRXSTY, BIG RED, DBLM, LUMII & DIGITAL BIONICS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **CHRIS C**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **JASON DELPHIN + THE DIRTY CHANNEL DUO**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7PM **THE DANCE DEPT. - EMERALD CITY**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 7.15PM **THE BEARDED DRAGONS**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **MAMMA MIA! PARTY**

SUNDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FELICITY LAWLESS DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3.30PM **THE FERAMONES**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12.30PM **TIAGO FREITAS**, 4PM **DJ KAI NOON**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 4PM **THE STABLES**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **MARTA KALANI**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **ROB SARIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **ANDY MARTIN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM & 6PM **LIL' CHEEKY CABARET**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**

- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ ARUANDA SUNSET PARTY**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 2PM **YAZMINDI**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB WITH FBI + DENNIS WILSON**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SUNDAY SESSIONS FT. THE HEATH STREET HEROES**
- TWO MATES BREWING, LISMORE, 3PM **DREAMHOUND**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 3.30PM **BLACK TRAIN**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 3PM **ACID BLEED**
- UKI MARKET **TROMBONE KELLY GANG + HENRY WILKINSON & KUWANI LI**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- KINGSCLIFF SURF CLUB 3.30PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 12PM **DJ SHANAYA**

MONDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SARAH GRANT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **GUY KACHEL**

TUESDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAMIEN COOPER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **OPEN MIC WITH CHRIS FISHER**

WEDNESDAY 20

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **GABRIELLE LAMBE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4PM **STILL WALLUM**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **KARAOKE**

Session Times

Thurs 14 - Wed 20 December

PALACE CINEMAS
108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	5:15PM, 6:00PM.	Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:50AM, 3:10PM, 8:30PM	THE BOY AND THE HERON (PG)
LOVE ACTUALLY 20TH ANNIVERSARY (M)	WISH (PG) ADV SCREENING	Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:40AM, 3:40PM, 6:10PM, 8:30PM	Daily except Thurs, Wed: 12:45PM, 8:20PM.
Thurs, Wed: 6:00PM	Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:45AM, 3:10PM, 6:10PM	MASTER GARDENER (M)	Thurs: 10:30AM, 12:45PM, Wed: 12:45PM, 7:30PM
ONE LIFE (PG) ADV SCREENING	WONKA (PG) NFT	Fri, Sat, Sun: 12:50PM, 3:40PM	THE EIGHT MOUNTAINS (M)
Thurs: 1:00PM	Thurs: 10:30AM, 11:15AM, 1:00PM, 1:45PM, 3:30PM, 4:30PM, 6:00PM, 7:30PM, 8:30PM.	NAPOLEON (MA15+)	Thurs: 10:30AM, 4:10PM, Fri: 11:45AM, Sat, Sun: 11:45AM, 7:30PM, Mon, Tues: 11:45AM, 3:10PM, 7:30PM, Wed: 11:45AM, 3:10PM
Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:10AM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM	Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:30AM, 11:30AM, 1:00PM, 2:00PM, 3:30PM, 4:30PM, 6:00PM, 7:30PM, 8:30PM.	Daily except Thurs: 1:00PM, 4:10PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM, Thurs: 11:45AM, 1:00PM, 4:10PM, 7:15PM	Mon, Tues: 11:45AM, 3:10PM, 7:30PM, Wed: 11:45AM, 3:10PM
POOR THINGS (MA15+)	RENAISSANCE: A FILM BY BEYONCÉ (MA15+)	TÉNOR (MA15+)	THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES (M)
Thurs: 7:15PM	Thurs: 7:15PM	Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:30AM, 1:00PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:30AM	Daily except Thurs: 10:45AM, 12:00PM, 4:15PM, 7:30PM, Thurs: 10:45AM, 4:15PM, 7:30PM
FAMILY FILMS	TROLLS BAND TOGETHER (G)	THE BOY AND THE HERON (PG)	Daily except Thurs: 10:45AM, 12:00PM, 4:15PM, 7:30PM, Thurs: 10:45AM, 4:15PM, 7:30PM
Thurs, Wed: 10:45AM, 2:00PM, 3:15PM, 5:15PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:45AM, 2:00PM, 5:15PM.	Thurs, Wed: 10:45AM, 2:00PM, 3:15PM, 5:15PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:45AM, 2:00PM, 3:15PM, 5:15PM.	Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:40PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:40PM, 4:30PM, 7:20PM	
ALL FILMS	MAESTRO (M)		
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:10PM, 8:30PM.	Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:10PM, 8:30PM.		

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

Session Times

Thurs 14 - Wed 20 December

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

NAPOLEON (MA15+)	Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 12:30PM, 3:45PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 4:00PM	WISH (PG) ADVANCE SCREENING	Fri, Sat, Sun: 9:45AM, 11:50AM
THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES (M)	Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:30AM, 12:45PM, 4:15PM, 7:30PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 12:30PM, 6:15PM	WONKA (PG) NFT	Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:00AM, 12:45PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 12:45PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM
TROLLS BAND TOGETHER (G)	Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:30AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, Fri: 2:00PM, 4:00PM, Sat, Sun: 10:15AM, 2:00PM, 4:00PM, 5:00PM		

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

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Why We're Stealing Bread Again

The other day I watched someone put their groceries back. They were at the checkout anxiously watching the tally. I know that feeling. It's something I've done many times in the past. Especially when I was a single mother. It's humiliating. Having to declare your financial strain by returning items until the number on the screen matches the numbers in your account. In public. Under pressure. Usually with screaming kids hanging off your trolley. There are no sneaky chockies or delicious treats for many people in this country. For many there aren't even the basics. The cost of living crisis means some people are struggling to pay for the essentials. It's going to be a very lean Xmas for many Australians whose lives don't look like the shiny insta ads.

The big supermarkets make me angry. They are raking it in. In fact, while single mums have to decide between toilet paper and bread, and settling for bread that tastes like toilet paper - business is booming. The profits of the big two are through the roof.

This year Woolworths posted a whopping \$1.62 billion annual profit with Coles coming in at around \$1.1 billion.

How can they be doing so well when we're doing it so tough?

Apparently, according to the PR spin, this is directly related to global inflation. Supply issues. Post pandemic blah blah. Well if according to the ABS, annual food inflation is sitting at 7.5%, why have dairy products risen by 15.2% in the last 12 months? Bread is coming in a close second at 11.2%?

The increase in price is significantly more than inflation.

Could this be corporate opportunism? A little bit of grinchy gouging?

The issue for many is that we don't have much choice. Especially in regional areas where the duopolies have little to no competition.



This year Woolworths posted a whopping \$1.62 billion annual profit with Coles coming in at around \$1.1 billion. How can they be doing so well when we're doing it so tough?

A recent news story had a jar of Vegemite going for almost \$10. It was a big jar, but it's vegemite. Not caviar.

The average spend for groceries for a family of four is around \$336 per week. That's not even a full trolley. There is strong wage growth, but it's just not keeping up with prices. According to an article from The Guardian earlier this year, wages have risen only half the speed of prices. You don't have to be a maths genius to know that it doesn't add up.

Apparently, we've started stealing. Ironic, because that's how most non-Indigenous Australians arrived here. As convicts convicted of stealing bread. Talk about full circle. Here we go again. While supermarkets are bitching about stock loss of up to 2-3% - somehow they are still making massive profits.

Maybe forget about installing more surveillance to track desperate people, just dial back the cost of cheese and milk. It's cheaper and it's more humane.

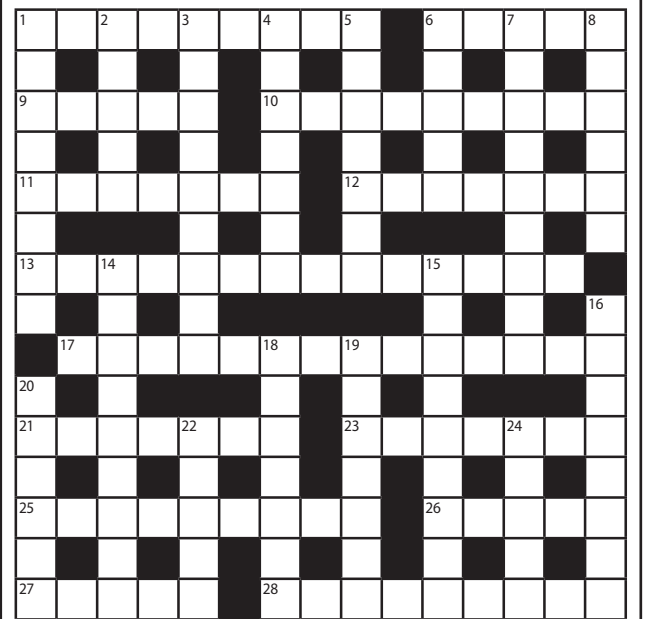
And frankly, if you get people to do an impromptu shift on the self-checkout - expect a loss. Big supermarkets are basically getting us to do their work for free. And cutting out the employment of attendants. Stop bitching about losing an onion or two.

My view is, if you self-checkout then you should be given a 10% discount.

Bring on the parliamentary inquiry into price gouging. And maybe instead of criminalising the poor we can point the cameras where we really need the surveillance - on corporations.

- Mandy Nolan

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #521



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Forces entry as trophy announced with major golf tournament (5,4)
- Legal actions for containers (5)
- Summary: racehorse has been returned (5)
- A doctor: that's directions covering 100 moods (9)
- Pine from mixed ferrite (3,4)
- Red vehicle owned by me (7)
- Monet and Manet insist promises broken (14)
- Action novel: nun involved, outside the rules (14)
- Cock to rest uneasily following small macropod (7)
- Cold thinner for char (7)
- Court case operates, but only for rehearsals (5,4)
- Decorate a party with the British navy (5)
- Unknown antelopes retreat among the rushes (5)
- Silliest, at any rate (9)

DOWN

- Kerosene - good score, a strong fluke! (8)
- Run into popular dog (5)
- Delivered pure horse to Spiderman! (9)
- Flora found around earth, and other worlds (7)
- Castro, for one, raised company for Verdi opera (7)
- Cool king, and bright! (5)
- Saint's car required for church official (9)
- Vigorously resist a nun! (6)
- Gasp, play dumb over nothing - child's play! (9)
- Traveller - one can rave about England! (9)
- Nightingale found in Italian city (8)
- Five raise wild ceremony - but it's not real (7)
- New, one lettuce, first class - raised in city Cyprus! (7)
- Wild roar to speaker (6)
- Record for lofty youth (5)
- I complain, bringing up Wolfe (5)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Breaks into using a lever (5,4)
- Instances (5)
- Synopsis (5)
- Atmospheres; milieus (9)
- Evergreen conifer (3,4)
- Crimson pigment (7)
- They mimic mannerisms and voices of well-known people (14)
- Bohemian (14)
- Chanticleer (7)
- Janitor (7)
- Tests of new products/methods (5,4)
- Embellish (5)
- Description of a high, thin voice (5)
- In any case (9)

DOWN

- Oily liquid used as fuel (8)
- Bring on oneself (5)
- Character with special powers (9)
- They orbit a star (7)
- Famous Verdi opera (7)
- Translucent (5)
- Person in charge of the church's holy objects (9)
- Female sibling (6)
- A show for children, usually at Christmas (9)
- Peripatetic (9)
- Capital of Tuscany (8)
- Digitally replicated (7)
- Capital of Cyprus (7)
- Speechifier (6)
- Correspond; coincide (5)
- Biblical name meaning 'pleasantness' (5)

Last week's solution #520

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

STARS BY LILITH

Spoiler alert! With trickster planet Mercury reversing for the rest of the year, try to find something - anything - to smile at, because a sense of humour is your best friend right now...



SAGITTARIUS THE ARCHER

ARIES: Arrangements changing like whiplash? This week, as always, complaining is draining, so address that awesome Aries willpower to not be dwelling on negatives. While patience may not come automatically to your passionate personality, Mercury retrogrades always benefit from talking less, listening more, and staying available to negotiation.

TAURUS: With the planets of expansion and change, Jupiter and Uranus, lying low in your sign, caution is your smartest path through the irritations of mischievous Mercury's tricky business, and less is definitely more. Spending less money and more time with loved ones could mean less stress and more pleasure.

GEMINI: When your mentor planet Mercury backspins this week for the rest of December, rushing or cutting corners could create epic meltdowns, so slow down. Take some deep breaths. Tread carefully. Hard as it might be right now to stop your brain racing and fingers pressing 'send', stop, check and consider before you do.

CANCER: For Cancerians, familiarity breeds contentment, but when the enthusiastic boost of this month's new moon on 13 December tempts you out of the comfort zone into the frenzied frivolity of parties, presents and new possibilities, why not answer the call. Only caution? Mercury's retrograde, so check arrangements carefully.

LEO: As quicksilver planet Mercury backflips for the remainder of 2023, the season of unreason ramps up, with hitches and glitches to festive plans raising frustration levels. For any chance of a cool yule, forget rigid thinking and get flexible: exercise your signature superpowers of being creative and spontaneous.

VIRGO: Due to the signal-jamming static of your planet mentor Mercury backing up until New Year's Day, miscommunications are likely to ripple through the rest of December. Leave nothing up to chance with holiday plans and arrangements: send follow-up texts, don't assume anything, confirm and reconfirm everything.

LIBRA: This week's escalating tensions call for your best Libran mediating skills and peace-making talents, which continue in demand throughout this season of merry mayhem. If a hotspot of arguments and contention arcs up around fiery midweek new moon, apply soothing Venusian calm and conflict resolution.

SCORPIO: Mercury's swerve into reverse unleashes a welter of questionable rumours and confusing data. What to do? Relax. This isn't a time to force issues, so go with the flow. Take extra time to keep checking and clarifying arrangements. Choose your travel companions and fellow partygoers carefully.

SAGITTARIUS: Annual new moon in Sagittarius on 13 December opens a gift box of multicultural mingling and promising possibilities for you birthday enthusiasts. Not so welcome news is an itchy and scratchy Mercury retrograde, so use the current sun/Mars energy in your sign to unravel mixed messages and misunderstandings.

CAPRICORN: What's good about Mercury retrograde in your sign? Mercury affects your mental processes. Everything in your life passes through Mercury's filter, and the coming weeks need a calm, creative mindset, open if necessary, to taking plans back to the drawing board when the unexpected makes its entrance.

AQUARIUS: This is the kind of week when you say Okay, and they hear No Way, so it's worth making the extra effort to clarify misunderstandings. Aquarians need space: to think, to operate, to be yourselves, so if this congested week starts closing in, step back for a bigger vista. And be satisfied with small successes.

PISCES: The most meaningful presents often don't cost anything except a generous spirit. With Neptune and Saturn gracing your sign, Pisceans' gift to this possibly messy, stressful week could be sprinkling everyday conversation with genuine compliments and encouragement. So go ahead: make someone's day.



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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 | Thurs 14th December 10-10:30am



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594



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PRICE | Starting from \$1.2M
OPEN | By Appointment



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698

65 LILLI PILLI DRIVE, BYRON BAY



Huge Corner Block with 3 Dwellings and Green Outlook

4 3 4 3

1145M²

- Well-designed property with three self-contained dwellings and approval for a fourth
- Main house features two large bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, fully renovated kitchen, and open-plan living leading to an undercover veranda
- Two additional cottages, recently renovated and powered with solar energy, offering versatility
- Over 250m² of level grassed land, providing options for a pool (STCA)

PRICE | \$2.375M - \$2.575M
OPEN | Sat 16th December 10-10:30am



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

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





37 NANA STREET, BRUNSWICK HEADS



Newly Built Architectural Marvel in Brunswick Heads: A Seamless Fusion of Old-World Charm and Modern Luxury

4 beds 1 living 3 bathrooms 4 cars

765M²

- An architectural masterpiece, meticulously designed using recycled materials
- Attention to detail throughout the property, with features such as two cozy fireplaces, reading nook, sunken formal lounge, heated concrete flooring, and a wine cellar
- Upper level offers a bird's eye view of the lower level
- Outdoors features a natural pond, a 12m x 4m magnesium pool, and a large outdoor fireplace

PRICE | \$5.5M - \$6M

OPEN | By Appointment



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



154 WALTONS ROAD, FEDERAL



4.94 Acre Luxury Estate: Expansive Oasis with Stunning Home, Pool, Studio & Uninterrupted Views

5 beds 2 living 2 bathrooms 4 cars

2HA

- Meticulously renovated, family home with resort style pool and expansive deck
- The living and dining seamlessly extend out onto the outdoor entertaining area
- The fully fenced area makes it an ideal for equestrian enthusiasts
- Conveniently just a 5-minute drive from the charming Federal village

PRICE | \$2.375M - \$2.6M

OPEN | Thurs 14th December 1-1:30pm

Wed 20th December 10-10:30am



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



1109 COOLAMON SCENIC DRIVE, MONTECOLLUM



Hinterland Oasis with Dreamy Ocean Views to Julian Rocks

4 beds 1 living 3 bathrooms 3 cars

4047M²

- Stunning ocean views, extending to the lighthouse, Julian Rocks and the hinterland
- Light-filled, open plan living, dining and kitchen featuring hardwood floors and large windows
- The outdoor entertaining area includes an expansive deck and inground pool surrounded by a meticulously landscaped garden
- 8 minutes to Mullumbimby and 20 minutes to Byron

PRICE | Contact Agent

OPEN | Sat 16th December 9.30-10am



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649



Maggie Kelly
0416 013 788

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amir prestige

📍 1 CACTUS COURT, **KINGSCLIFF**

4 🛏️ 4 🚿 12 🚗 976m²* 🏠 Disclaimer *≈ approx.

Nestled amidst the picturesque landscape of Kingscliff, New South Wales, this is a splendid residence that epitomises elegance and comfort. This meticulously designed house spread across three living levels and a roof top viewing deck boasts four bedrooms and four bathrooms (five toilets), offering a harmonious blend of space, style, and functionality.

Set upon a sprawling block of land spanning 976* square meters, this property provides ample room for outdoor activities, lush landscaping, and the creation of your own private oasis. The generous land size allows for endless possibilities, featuring a truly stunning 30m* lap infinity pool.

Inspection by Appointment

Contact the Listing Agents

Brenton & Ashleigh Hawes 0422 579 965
brenton.ashleigh@amirprestige.com.au

Amir Mian 0401 470 499
amir@amirprestige.com.au



amirprestige.com.au

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Ocean Shores 02 6680 2888

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We would like to thank everyone for their support throughout 2023. Our offices will close from 1 pm on Thursday 21 December 2023 so we can regroup, refresh and recuperate to be back on deck at 9 am on Monday 8 January 2024.

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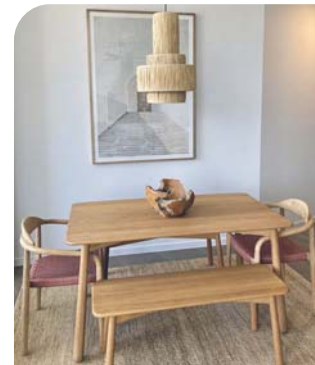
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- 14 Rifle Range Road, Bangalow. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 28 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 10-10.30am
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 154 Waltons Road, Federal. Thurs 1-1.30pm
- 14 Rifle Range Road, Bangalow. Fri 1-1.30pm
- 25 Moon Street, Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 5 Hakea Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1109 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Montecollum. Sat 9.30-10am
- 41 Bottlebrush Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30-10am
- 14 Larelar Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.30-10am
- 19/11-19 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 65 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3/64 Kingsley Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 18 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2 Seastar Court, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 69 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry. Sat 11-11.30am
- 27 Redgum Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 10 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2/1 Pacific Vista Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2/31 Clover Hill Circuit, Bangalow. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 31 Tristania Street, Bangalow. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 128 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 14 Rifle Range Road, Bangalow. Sat 2-2.30pm

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- 2/1 Gara Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 105 Breaside Drive, Uki. Sat 11-11.30am
- 18 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 11-11.30am
- 14 Warrambool Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm

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- 5 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar. Sat 9-9.30am
- 43 Rankin Drive, Bangalow. Sat 9.30-10am
- 37 Coogera Circuit, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 6/46 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 51 Cowper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 8 Bryce Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 20 Burns Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 50 Tristran Parade, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30-10.15pm
- 421 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am
- 20 Fawcett Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/80 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.45am
- 2/35 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- Unit 220/ 2-6 Pandanus Parade, Cabarita Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 52 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.45am

Ray White Byron Bay

- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 2/4 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Wed 2-2.30pm
- 245 Blakeney Road, Stokers Siding. Fri 10.30-11am
- 4/10 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 109-111 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Fri 1-1.30pm
- 2/4 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am

- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 13 Clover Hill Circuit, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3 Lofts Road, Coorabell. Sat 11-11.30am
- 62 Corkwood Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 19 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 11 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12.30-1pm

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- 41 Prince St Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 54 Main Arm Road Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 51 Tristania Street, Bangalow. Sat 9-9.30am
- 62 Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 9.45-10.15am
- 648 Bangalow Road, Talofa. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 10 Ewandale Close, Clunes. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 25 Main Street, Clunes. Sat 12.45-1.15pm

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- 154 Waltons Road, Federal. Thurs 1-1.30pm

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- 2/1 Gara Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.15-10.45am

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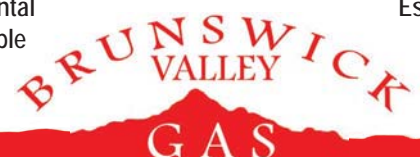
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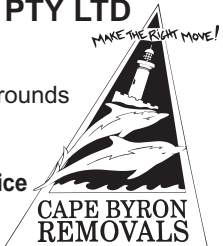
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CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

Ads may be taken by phone on **6684 1777**

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

Ads can be lodged in person at the Mullum Echo office:

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Ad bookings only taken during business hours: Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm. Ads can't be taken on the weekend.
 Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

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ECHO XMAS DEADLINES

The Echo is coming out as usual every Wednesday over December and January. However, the deadline for classified ads in the paper of Wednesday 27 December is noon, Thursday 21 December, because 25 and 26 December are public holidays and *The Echo* office will be closed.

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Seeking experienced kitchen hand, Tuesday to Thursday, 9am-3pm. Locals only. Email resume to mullum@otherjoint.com

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BIRTHDAYS



HAPPY BIRTHDAY ANDY
A THOROUGHLY BLOODY NICE BLOKE

FUNERAL NOTICES

VALE PAM SONIA
Funeral service and celebration. Thursday 14 December at 11am, Kohinur Hall. Wear blue, white or purple and bring a plate.

ROSS PORRITT. 'Jack'

Of Byron Bay. Adored husband of Colleen. Loved father of Lindy, Tiffany and Elisa.

Ross will be sadly missed by his grandchildren and all who knew him.

Family and friends are invited to attend a Graveside Service to be held at Byron Bay Lawn Cemetery on MONDAY (December 18, 2023) commencing at 11.00 am

Michael Currie at **Brunswick Valley Funerals** Mullumbimby **6684 6232**

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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



Damon is our Dog of the week: Damon is a 1 year old Kelpie X. He loves having lots of space to explore and activities to keep him entertained. Damon would love to join in with the family on all your outings and adventures. He would also make an ideal lounge cuddle buddy.
M/C # 95301006013121

If you'd like to know more about Damon, please contact Yvette on 0421 831 128. <https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>
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MC: 941000023205533

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- 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)
13	W	5:41 19:37	5:22 20:08	0932 1.79 2131 1.15	0225 0.17 1601 0.32
14	TH	5:41 19:38	6:20 21:10	1017 1.83 2219 1.13	0306 0.16 1650 0.29
15	F	5:42 19:39	7:25 22:07	1103 1.84 2309 1.11	0350 0.18 1740 0.28
16	SA	5:42 19:39	8:34 22:55	1152 1.82 0003 1.10	0439 0.22 1831 0.27
17	SU	5:42 19:40	9:44 23:37	1241 1.77 0102 1.10	0531 0.27 1924 0.30
18	M	5:43 19:41	10:52 0:47	1332 1.70 1426 1.60	0630 0.35 2017 0.31
19	TU	5:43 19:41	11:57 0:14	0209 1.13 1426 1.60	0736 0.43 2111 0.31
20	W	5:44 19:42	13:00 0:47	0319 1.20 1522 1.49	0851 0.51 2202 0.30
21	TH	5:44 19:42	14:03 1:19	0430 1.30 1621 1.38	1011 0.55 2252 0.28
22	F	5:45 19:43	15:05 1:51	0534 1.42 1723 1.28	1130 0.56 2339 0.26
23	SA	5:45 19:43	16:08 2:25	0631 1.54 1824 1.20	1244 0.52 0024 0.24
24	SU	5:46 19:44	17:13 3:02	0723 1.65 1919 1.15	1348 0.47 0111 0.23
25	M	5:47 19:44	18:17 3:44	0811 1.72 2010 1.12	1442 0.41 0149 0.22
26	TU	5:47 19:44	19:18 4:31	0855 1.76 2056 1.10	1530 0.38 0230 0.23
27	W	5:47 19:45	20:14 5:24	0936 1.77 2138 1.09	1612 0.36

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

SUN, MOON & TIDES
FOR 2024 ON PAGE 28 & 29

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



On The Horizon
DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Prostate Cancer Support

The final gathering of the Northern Rivers Day Prostate Cancer Support Group for 2023 is to be held on Wednesday December 13 at 11.30am for 12 noon at The Alstonville Plateau Sports Club, Deegan Drive, Alstonville. Partners and carers welcome to attend. Enquiries phone Bob Corney 0493 075 612 or 0400 747 630.

Free Christmas lunch

Free community Christmas lunch is on again. The Ballina free Christmas lunch is to be held at the Ballina St Mary's Anglican Church on the corner of Norton and Burnet St on Christmas Day, December 25 from 12pm to 2pm. Don't be alone come join us for chicken, ham, salads and dessert. For all info, contact Chris on 0411 510 430.

Breakfast: Monday-Friday, 7am-9am. **Showers and laundry:** Monday-Friday, 7am-12pm. **Office support:** Monday-Friday, 9am-12pm. **Support appointments:** Individual support appointments with community workers or specialist services. For bookings please call 6685 6807. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au. **Byron Community Cabin:** Seniors Computer Club (school term only), 9-11am, Friday, Carlyle Steet. More info: www.byroncentre.com.au Phone: 6685 6807.

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30-11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **Free Food Relief Bags** for anyone doing it tough, every Wednesday 10-12noon at The Hub Ocean Shores, cnr Rajah Rd and Bindaree Way. No ID or Concession Card required. NILS referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details. **Liberation Larder** Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre.

Respite Service

Byron Shire Respite Service delivers high-quality respite care to a broad range of clients throughout the Byron, Ballina and Lismore shires. Donations welcome: Ph 6685 1921, email fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au, website: www.byronrespite.com.au.

GCAT

The Green and Clean Awareness Team's monthly Dunecare Day is on Sunday, December 17 from 9am to 12 noon. Meet in front of the Beach Cafe at Clarkes Beach. We plant in the sand dunes from Clarkes Beach to Main Beach. From 12 noon to 1pm, enjoy a delicious free BBQ and be in the draw to win one of four excellent prizes. It's good fun. Inquiries to Veda 6685 7991 or Miles 0403 206 190.

Mullumbimby CWA

A Christmas lunch to break up the year is at Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club at 12 noon on December 13. Thanks to all who supported the Christmas raffle. Winners have been notified. Info: Sue 6684 1675 or Jenny 66847 282.

Alateen meeting

Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5-6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8-16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert's Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au.

ACA

Adult Children of Alcoholic Parents and/or Dysfunctional Families (ACA) help & recovery group meets in Lismore every Friday 10-11.30am, Red Dove Centre, 80 Keen Street. Byron meetings are on Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom - meeting ID 554 974 582 password byronbay.

Drug support groups

Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 - 30 meetings a week in the Shire - www.aa.org.au. Are you experiencing difficulties and challenges because of the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Learn coping skills and gain support from others. **Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings call 1300 652 820 or text your postcode to 0488 811 247. www.na.org.au. Are you concerned about somebody else's drinking?

BV VIEW

The Brunswick Valley VIEW club will hold a luncheon meeting on December 14 at Brunswick Heads Bowling Club at 10.30am for 11am. This will be our Christmas party meeting. Our guest speaker will be Ron Preston. Any apologies ring Wenda on 0449 563 580 or email wjhunt@yahoo.com.au no later than Monday before meeting. Just remember our joining fee is \$20 and is due by January 1, 2024.

Northern Rivers Guardians AGM

The Northern Rivers Guardians are having their general meeting followed by the AGM on Saturday, December 16 at the CWA Hall on Queen Street in Murwillumbah from 11am till 2pm. If you can come, bring some finger food to share.

Al-Anon Family Groups meetings held Fridays at 2pm by Zoom. 1300 252666 www.al-anon.org.au.

Support after suicide

StandBy provides support to people who have lost someone to suicide. They provide free face-to-face and telephone support and are accessible 24/7. Follow-up contact is available for up to one year. Find out more at: www.standbysupport.com.au or call 13 11 14. If you, or someone you are with, are in need of immediate support please call an ambulance or police on 000.

Volunteer call out

Support for New Mums Inc. a Northern NSW community program are recruiting volunteers in the Byron Shire. We offer a free of charge, home visiting program for mothers with babies. For more information email Deb: newmums8@gmail.com.

Carers' support

Mullumbimby Mental Health Carers' Support Group for family members and friends who have a loved one with a mental health issue. Meeting on 4th Thursday of each month 9.30am at the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre. Info: Susanne 0428 716 431.

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, mazzertati2010@gmail.com.

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415	4th SUN Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)	
1st SUN Byron Bay	02 6685 6807	5th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764
1st SUN Lismore Car Boot	02 6628 7333	5th SUN Lennox Head	02 6685 6807
2nd SAT Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159	FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS	
2nd SUN The Channon	02 6688 6433	Each TUE New Brighton	0424 168 672
2nd SUN Lennox Head	02 6685 6807	Each TUE Organic Lismore	02 6636 4307
2nd SUN Chillingham	0428 793 141	Each WED Murwillumbah 7-11	0415 328 672
2nd SUN Coolangatta		Each WED Nimbin 3-6pm	0418 940 653
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370	Each WED Newrybar Hall 4-7pm	
3rd SAT Murwillumbah	0415 328 672	Each THU Byron 8-11am	0414 595 169
3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina		Each THU Lismore 2.30-6.30pm	0459 309 223
3rd SUN Federal	0433 002 757	Each FRI Mullum 7-11am	0424 168 672
3rd SUN Uki	0487 329 150	Each SAT Bangalow 8-11am	0414 595 169
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338	Each SAT Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)	
4th SAT Evans Head	0432 275 765	Each SAT Uki 8am-1pm	02 6679 5438
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar kyoglebazaar.com.au		Each SAT Lismore 8.30-11am	
4th SUN Bangalow	02 6687 1911	Each SAT Blue Knob 8.30am-12pm	
4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764	Each SUN Ballina 7-11am	
4th SUN Murwillumbah	0415 328 672		

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.

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week. Email copy marked 'Regular As Clockwork' to editor@echo.net.au.

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday-Friday 9.30am-4pm (closed 12.30-1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286. Some of our services include: **Flood recovery support service:** personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods. **Community support:** food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders. **Listening Space:** free counselling. **Free yoga:** every Tuesday 3-4pm. **More Than A Meal:** free community lunch Tuesday-Friday from 1.30pm. **Financial counselling, Staying Home, Leaving Violence program:** Information, referral, and advocacy.

Gulganii affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane. **Orange Sky:** free laundry service Mon morning & Tue afternoon. To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdnc.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community

The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to get practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. Fletcher Street Cottage services are open Tuesday-Friday.

Local surf life saving club hosts Far North Coast Branch Championship

Lyndell Crawford

The Byron Bay Surf Life Saving Club welcomed over 700 competitors to Main Beach, Byron Bay over the weekend for the SLS Far North Coast Branch Championships.

The two-day event produced some fantastic racing.

Cudgen Headland came first, followed by Byron Bay and Yamba; out of ten other far north coast surf clubs in the championships point score.

Competitors from U/8s to over 60 were able to test themselves in a variety of races over the weekend including surf swim, board and ski races, iron person, sprints and flags; and a number of team events.

'It's great to see surf clubs come together at this event, with so many athletes testing their surf skills over the weekend in the individual



Byron Bay Surf Lifesaving Club competitors: Jared Monti, Paul Jones, Christian Round, Jamie Costello-Manning, Paul Pattison and Jaime Cascajares. Photo supplied

and team events,' says Byron Bay Surf Lifesaving Club president, Paul Pattison.

'Surf lifesaving is one of Australia's biggest volunteer organisations, with many

opportunities for community members to get involved – in the water, on the sand or at the surf club – whatever your skills and interests there's a place for you.'

Byron Beez play finals basketball

The Byron Beez basketballers travelled to Lismore for the finals of the Northern Rivers Sunshine Conference after a strong showing all season, but couldn't get the wins they needed earlier this month.

The Women Beez played a hard-fought semi-final game against the Lismore Storm with a depleted squad. They came out strong and took the lead in the first quarter, but the Storm regained control and went on to win, ending the Beez season.

The Beez women's team still ended the season with a big presence in the competition's 2023 statistics, as four players (out of six regulars) were in the top ranks in four different areas.

Centre player Courtney Peat finished Champion of the Free Throws with 24 points and point guard Isy Crawford finished Champion of Three-Point Shots with 12.

The Ballina Breakers went on to win the championship



Women Beez Sunshine Conference semi-final team ready to play in Lismore. Photo Sunshine Conference

by two points in a nail biting game against Coffs Harbour.

Beez Men

The Beez Men won their semi final game against Valley Braves White 50-47 to put them into the grand final.

The Valley Braves White then fought through another final to also make the grand final, setting up a rematch with the Beez for top season honours.

The Valley Braves ended up defeating Byron Beez by

two points in an exciting bucket-for-bucket game that kept all the supporters on the edge of their seats.

Beez player Jeremiah Imasuen finished top of the conference for Average Points per Game with 20.67. He also featured in the top five of another three categories.

Along with all the other encouraging stats, Beez players Lilly Short and Dario Streble were chosen as a part of the Allstar Five teams.

Rainbow Region Dragon boaters take the flag

The Rainbow Dragon paddlers managed to collect their flags in five out of five novelty sprints at the recent dragon boat event on the Sunshine Coast.

In the 200-metre flag sprint the boat's drummer has to reach out and collect the flag from a buoy about 50m from the finish, and hold it high for the rest of the way. This demands control, dexterity and steely nerve.

Some teams failed to collect their flag whereas the Rainbows collected every time.



The Rainbow Dragon's Lu Cooney holds the flag aloft at the Coast to Coast event last month. Photo supplied

Mullumbimby High's futsal crew ready for nationals



Mullum High's futsal five. Photo supplied

Five Mullumbimby High School students will travel to Sydney to take part in the Australian Futsal Association Club Nationals Futsal Tournament in January.

Ella Brittain will be playing in her third Nationals representing Northern NSW. Honey Mowbray will

also be heading to her third Nationals playing for Queensland (South Coast) alongside Polly Jefed, Rhianna Browning and Luna Delaney.

School coach Brian Hedge will be part of his second national tournament as team coach.

Triples champions crowned at Brunswick Heads



Winners: Helen Baker, Marcia Crichton and Kerry Dexter. Photo supplied

Helen Baker, Marcia Crichton and Kerry Dexter came out on top when the finals of the Brunswick Heads Ladies Triples Championship were played in late November.

The winners triumphed over a their competitive adversaries – Judy Smith, Sharon Allen and Emma Scattergood, beating them 20-16 after 18 ends.

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It's nearly the end of 2023! And with it, there is a mad rush for Council to get as much done before the break. Pay attention peeps, this is when dumb stuff gets waved through - see editorial on page 10.

A complete skull of a Pliosaur, a ferocious marine reptile that terrorised the oceans about 150 million years ago, has been discovered at Dorset Beach, on southern England's famous World Heritage Jurassic Coast. The BBC reports the apex ocean predator was up to 10-12m long. It rivals the Megalodon shark, which became extinct just 3.6 million years ago. Megalodons apparently grew to between 15 and 18 metres in length, making it the size of today's biggest whale sharks.

The final Business Conditions Survey of the year, released last week, revealed a forecast 11 per cent drop in Christmas trade across the state. Business NSW says 'Businesses have been battling the same suite of economic challenges all year. Persistent business concerns include the rising cost of doing business, worker and skills shortages, the unfolding impact of higher interest rates and weakening customer demand.'

The Cavanbah United Nice Tradesman's Society (you figure out the acronym) are hosting their annual Christmas cricket match from midday on Friday, December 15 at Lofts Oval, Brunswick Heads. This year, the lads have organised a raffle, with all money raised to support Charlie Emery, who is suffering from Parkinson's Disease. A

fundraiser has been set up to help with medical bills: www.gofundme.com/f/charlie-emery-needs-our-help.

Congrats to Nakeita Bradbury and Kate Foster, who shared best actress award at the Gold Palm Theatre Awards, held last week on the Gold Coast. Nakeita was recognised for her role in *The Almighty Sometimes* and Kate for her role in *Proof*. Nakeita's dad, David, told *The Echo*, 'It is quite an honour for them to be given this award, because it was judged against all community amateur plays performed from Brisbane to Ballina, from Lismore to Toowoomba in the last year.'

Dennis Stevenson has secured a space to give away thousands of new Christmas presents to help make sure no one goes without. The giveaway will be held at the Baptist Church Hall, Ocean Shores, from Monday December 18 until Saturday December 23, 9am to 6pm.

Psst: New Zealand police have arrested and raided the home of a whistleblower who allegedly leaked Covid-19 vaccine mortality data.

FYI while Chinese hackers are allegedly cyber-attacking US infrastructure, *The Echo's* minimalist IT team is trying to get our website back in shape after its cascading style sheets went awry. So apologies for the look, but they are working on it :)

'COP28 is now on the verge of complete failure', tweets Al Gore of the global gab fest on climate change. Perhaps it's not a CO2 problem and more of a psychopath, genocidal, oligarch problem?



Mystery still surrounds the identity of those who placed a Belling upright piano, believed to be about 100 years old, in the Bruns Sound Shell recently. After Reflections, who manage Terrace Park, backed down on removing it after a public backlash, semi-retired piano tuner, Norm Appel, was approached by residents asking him to give it some love. He told *The Echo*, 'I was cynical of it when I first heard of it being there. But I gave it a touch-up tune and fixed a few keys last Thursday'. He added that, 'against my will', he performed an impromptu performance to an appreciative audience. 'As long it gives people pleasure, it's a good thing', he said. Norm has also given it a much needed cover to protect it from the elements. Photo supplied

PLANT A TREE - GROW A FISH

"Mary's a black fella in her heart. You'll discover her sheer childlike wonder at our nature."

- Bundjalung woman, Delta Kay

AVAILABLE AT THESE SHOPS:

- * The Book Room (Byron and Lennox)
- * Mullumbimby's The Bookshop
- * Brunswick Head's Post Office
- * Bangalow's Book Worms and Papermites
- * Nimbin's Hemp Embassy and Nimbin Environment Centre
- * Book Warehouse (Ballina & Lismore)
- * Or by post from the ICOLL Centre website (Intermittently Opening and Closing Lake or Lagoon): www.byronicollcentre.org

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