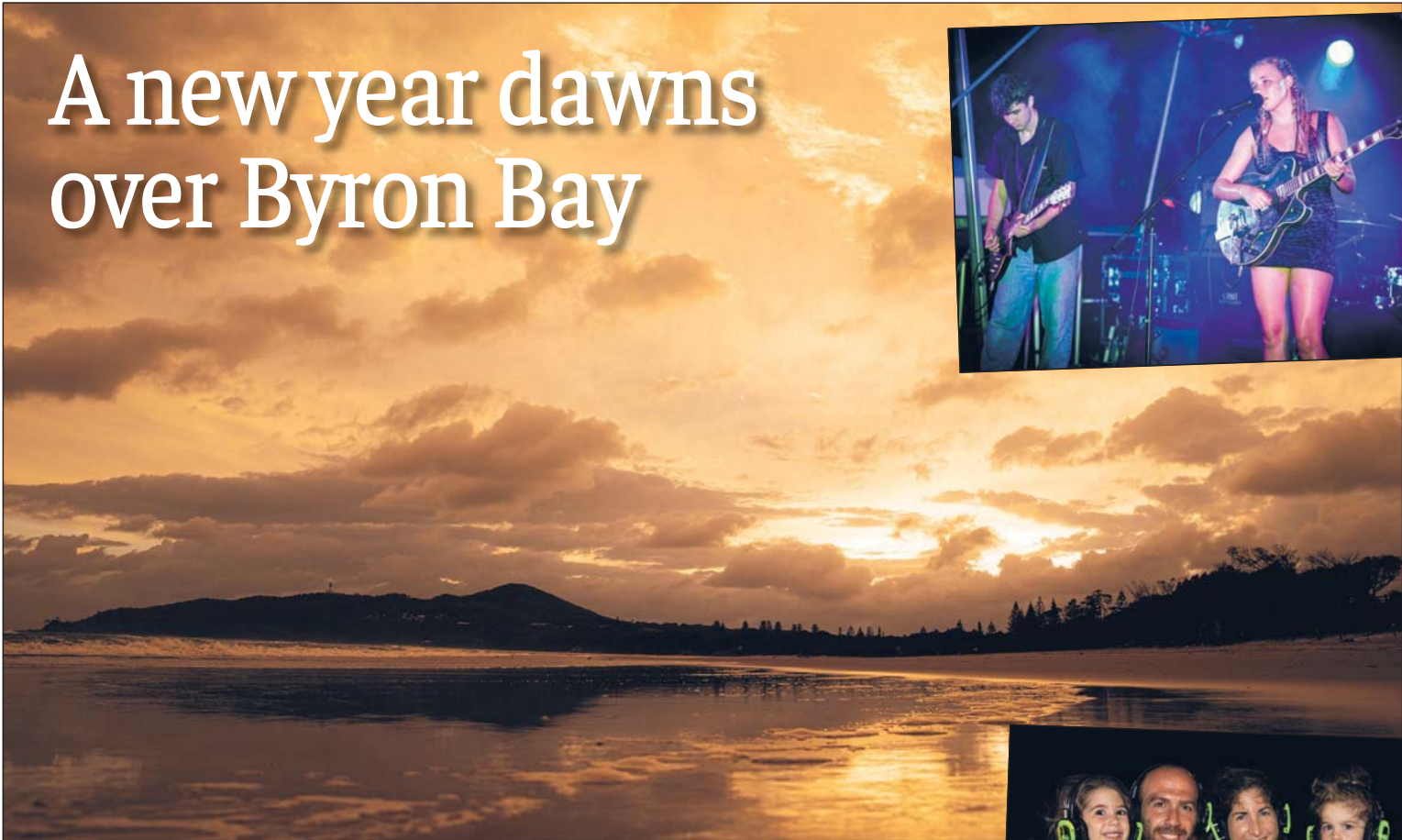


Echo

'NO MATTER HOW HARD THE PAST, YOU CAN ALWAYS BEGIN AGAIN' - BUDDHA
The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 38 #30 • January 3, 2024 • www.echo.net.au



A new year dawns over Byron Bay



The streets of Byron Bay were packed on New Year's Eve, as locals and visitors swamped the town to celebrate. Events were also held in the hinterland halls and surrounding villages and towns. Byron was a little bit more sedate by the morning, with only a few dozen hardcore, dawn seekers on Byron Beach, most of whom hadn't been to bed yet. Pictured top right is Band Called Stereo, who were on the bill for Denning Park's Soul Street entertainment. Pictured bottom right are Mullum crew, Arbel, Tomer, Shaked and Yiftach, who spent New Year's Eve in Byron, bopping along to the green beat and enjoying the family event. Photos Eve Jeffery

Confidential 2022 flood study to finally become public

Paul Bibby

Locals with a particular interest in future flood risks in the north of the Shire are keenly awaiting the release of a flood behaviour analysis report for the Brunswick River.

The *Post 2022 Event Flood Behaviour Analysis* for the Bruns is one of seven post-flood behaviour analysis reports commissioned by the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) following the 2022 floods.

The reports provide a technical review of the 2022 flood extent, and behaviour across Northern Rivers catchments, including Tweed River, Tweed coastal creeks, Brunswick River, Belongil Creek, Tallow Creek, Richmond River and Wilsons River.

They are intended to improve knowledge of rare to extreme flood events and identify opportunities to improve flood modelling and flood risk management decisions.

The analysis of the Brunswick River has remained confidential pending the endorsement of the Floodplain Management Advisory Committee. That endorsement was provided on December 8, paving the way for it to be released to the public.

The committee has recommended that this be done with proactive advertising in the New Year.

A recently adopted Council policy, the Housing Options Paper, did not include 2022 flood data, but proposes to build on floodplains.

The Housing Options Paper will 'inform' Council's Residential Strategy, which is a framework for future developments in the Shire over the next 20 years.

Proposal unveiled to upgrade Mullum's main road

Hans Lovejoy

Mullumbimby Road, the main access road from the highway to the town, could be upgraded at the dangerous and busy McAuleys Lane turnoff, if a large Community Title (CT) subdivision proposal, located close by, is approved by Council.

The *Road Safety Audit* underpinning the proposal found 23 serious

safety deficiencies for McAuleys Lane, the site of the proposed development.

Authors, Ardill Payne & Partners also included out-of-date information in their report, citing traffic data from 2016-2017 and crash data from 2014-2018.

Development application (DA) 10.2023.454.1 is now on public exhibition for 53 McAuleys Lane,

Myocum, and comprises 38 large lots, ranging from 3,000m² to 9,513m² - over 34.8ha. The DA comes in 19 parts, and is available on Council's website.

Out-of-date traffic data

No 'affordable housing' component is included.

The DA lodgement - in peak holiday time - follows approval by

Council in 2022 for a land rezoning proposal for the developers, from RU2 Rural Landscape to R5 Large Lot Residential.

The traffic data presented in that proposal was also out of date.

At the time, public submissions raised concerns around the busy and dangerous intersection.

Those concerns still remain, ► Continued on page 3

Cyber hacks on the increase ► p4

Bangalow Bowling Club update, post Norths ► p6

Summer in paradise rolls on ► p22

Seven days of entertainment ► p31

So so many hard working community groups ► p46

Sporting triumphs of 2023 ► p47

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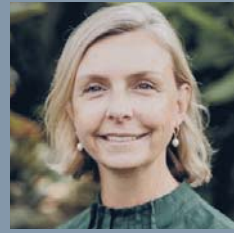
Nicola Uechtriz
Clinical Psychologist



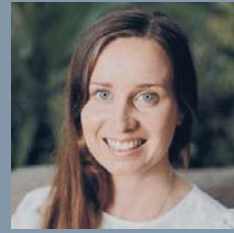
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Kristie Folkes
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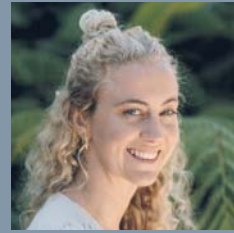
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Large rural lot proposal for Mullum on exhibition

► Continued from page 1 according to long-time local, Sharon McGrath.

Her and her husband's property neighbours the proposed development.

She told *The Echo*, that while they are not against the subdivision in principle, the *Road Safety Audit* [RSA] and *Traffic Impact Assessment* [TIA] are out-of-date, inaccurate, contradictory and assumptive, and she highlighted significant safety issues and planning deficiencies.

Secondary dwellings not considered in traffic report

She said, 'The traffic modelling is based on one dwelling per lot, while the developer has boasted that secondary dwellings are permitted in the zone', she said.

'In this case, conservative estimates would increase the daily vehicle movements on this already busy and dangerous road by 200 per cent.'

McGrath says that despite a commitment by the developer, there has been no community consultation around the DA, but she was rung by the developer's representative just prior to Christmas to be advised the DA had been lodged.

As for out-of-date traffic data, McGrath said, 'The traffic data that the TIA is based on was recorded in August 2016 – over seven years ago!'

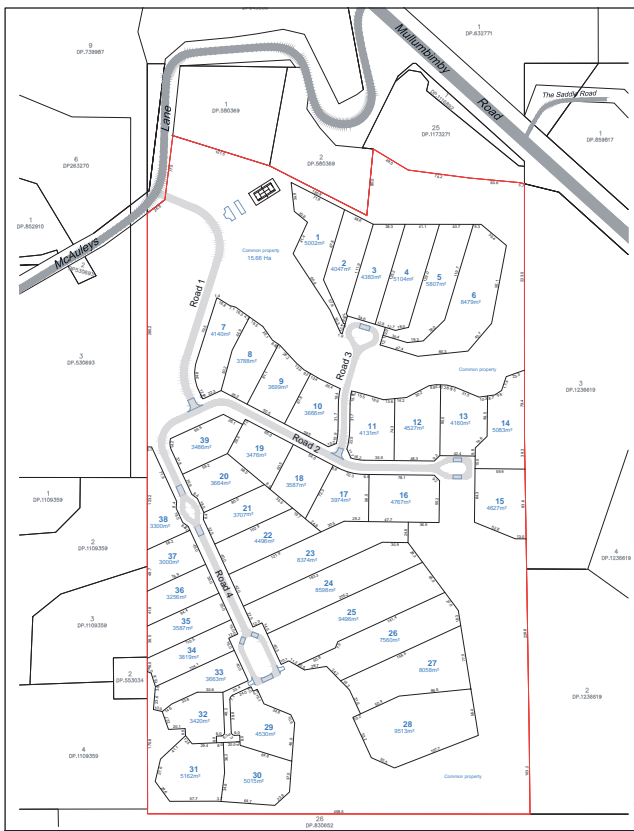
'By Council's own measure, data collected more than five years ago is no longer current.'

'Additionally, in a letter from Transport for NSW, addressed to Council in October 2022, it stated that: "TfNSW recommends that Council obtain an updated TIA, adopting more recent data to accurately address impacts on access, road safety and traffic to accurately inform the intersection treatment required..."'

McGrath stated that this has not been addressed.

The Echo asked Council staff, back on October 12, 2022, if they accepted out-of-date traffic data. No reply was received.

McGrath says, 'Critically, within the proposed intersection plan for Mullumbimby Road and McAuleys Lane, there is no provision for an eastbound bus zone or safe pedestrian access, despite multiple recommendations recorded in Council minutes and specified in the developers' Planning Agreement, their



DA 10.2023.454 proposes a traffic island down the middle of Mullumbimby Road near an upgraded intersection at McAuleys Lane. Image from DA

TIA and their Statement of Environmental Effects'.

'Without a safe crossing, the kids growing up at this new estate will risk darting across a busy road to access bus services to and from school.'

Neighbour's access restricted

She added that the developer's plans specify that the residents of 110 Mullumbimby Road, opposite the intersection, will be prevented from making right-hand turns in or out of their property.

'This will mandate that vehicles, both cars and trucks, entering the property from Mullumbimby Road must execute a u-turn in either direction on an already progressively congested thoroughfare between the highway and Mullum.'

According to McGrath, the developers have not sought

any consultation with those affected residents.

'The Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA), included in the DA, is not prescriptive enough', she says.

Legally non-binding

The VPA was a result of Cr Peter Westheimer's successful amendment at the October 27, 2022 Council meeting (resolution 22-587).

The VPA contains the legally non-binding word 'consider' with regards to providing a roundabout at the dangerous intersection; safety and infrastructure of McAuleys Lane west of the development entrance; adequate road verge space to allow safe bike and pedestrian crossings from the north side of Mullumbimby Road to the southern side; safe bus stops on each side of Mullumbimby Road, including for pedestrian crossing; safe pedestrian

crossing from the north side of Mullumbimby Road to the southern side in the vicinity of the bus stop zone'.

'It's also unclear if developer contributions from this proposal will be used on improving amenity for McAuleys Lane, or whether that money will be used elsewhere in the Shire,' she said.

According to the signed VPA contained in the DA, the developer will do the following works: 'upgrade the road intersection generally in accordance with the traffic assessment report' (Oct 6, 2022); 'safety improvements as required by the road safety audit; a pedestrian and cycle link from the land to Mullumbimby Road'.

McGrath said the DA does not include the developer's commitment in providing a pedestrian and cycle path between the entrance of the new development and the intersection.

She says, 'In fact, in Ardill Payne & Partners' own minutes from a Development Application Panel meeting in June 2023, it says, "Developers decided to pay VPA and avoid path for now. Adds too much complexity to and time to the process. Plus, we'll save on not having to survey McAuleys Lane road reserve".'

She said, 'This is an absolute slap in the face to local residents and to Council's efforts and concerns regarding safe access and the appropriate use of development contribution funds.'

Developers who signed the DA's Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA) are Tim Mundy of Boreas Group, as well as local developer and wealthy philanthropist, John Callanan, of Tareeda Developments.

Matthew Bleakley is part of McAuleys No1 Pty Ltd, a company that includes both Callanan and Mundy.

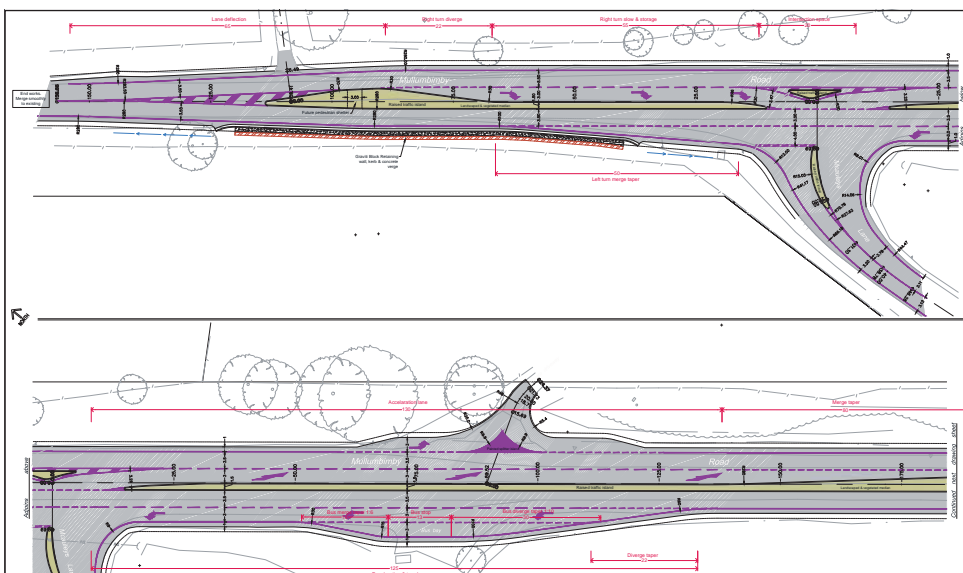


Illustration of Mullumbimby Road and McAuleys Lane intersection proposal, from DA document 10.2023.454.1 – Preliminary Engineering Drawings – external works.pdf.

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 Dr Rob Trigger
 Dr Bettie Honey
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Cyber hacks on the increase

Hans Lovejoy

Owners of Flash Computers, located in Mullumbimby, have told *The Echo* they have seen an increase in serious cyber hacks where locals have lost thousands of dollars and access to their devices and accounts.

Ben Buob's wife, Sheri, contacted *The Echo* to alert readers and offer advice for avoiding scams and hackers.

Sheri says, 'Every week, there are new problems coming in. Lately, there have been a lot of scams. Big scams, like the hijacking of people's complete digital identities. One customer had her computer hacked and her life savings of tens of thousands in her bank account stolen.'

'Her bank has done nothing. She's locked out of her account now. Her entire computer, phone and systems have been taken over by hackers, and she is unable to access any of her email, texts, or anything on her devices without the hackers seeing what she is typing and having complete access also.'

'It's very creepy, and



Image Wikimedia Commons

'Never give your details to mystery callers, texts or emails' – Sheri Buob

needless to say, extremely devastating.

'Apple, the police and banks have not been able to help. Even after she bought new devices, she was hacked again immediately.'

Mystery callers

'Never give your details to mystery callers, texts or emails, and if someone contacts you in any way offering to help you or saying you owe money, ignore it. It is most often a scam.'

Sheri suggests googling a number or email address to check if it is legit.

And for those who believe they have been hacked,

Sheri suggests taking photos with a separate camera (ideally not on your phone) of anything unusual happening on your computer. 'It is very hard to explain to banks and police without proof.'

She adds, 'The more evidence you have, the better your chances are of finding a good solution.'

'My own mother, who is usually very wary, was scammed when she received a text that said it was from "me", but it came from a random number, asking for money urgently, claiming I was stuck in a situation where I couldn't access my

own phone or bank account.

'Other scams look like a flashing message on your screen, saying you have a virus and to call the number provided. Don't call it.'

'There are also many cold callers saying you have a virus and they can help you. Don't give them your details.'

'There are fake "phishing" emails and text messages, for example, claiming to be from Optus or Telstra or other name brand companies, including road tolls, telling you that you have a bill to pay. If the message seems urgent and panicked, do not take the bait.'

'Remain calm, and do your own research.'

'If it is legitimate you can always follow it up later.'

'If in doubt, don't do anything. One good way to stay safe is to not answer any unknown numbers.'

'Nothing bad can happen if you do absolutely nothing. In my experience, lazy people get hacked less than vigilant people.'

Sheri also suggests using cash when you can, 'in this climate with power outages and digital theft, cash may be the more reliable currency.'

Beaches bounce back



Rick Duggan was up with the sparrows to help clean up Main Beach Byron.

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

The saying goes if you party, you have to pay the price, and the same goes for Byron Bay.

With thousands of extra people in town for New Year's Eve, there was naturally going to be more stuff to clean up after revellers.

A lot of that stuff ended up in the parks and the beaches and the footpaths of town.

As usual, Rick Duggan, who is employed three to four days a week (and he volunteers the other days) got things ship-shape in Byron first thing in the morning.

He joined Council's team of cleaning elves at

'sparrow's... all dressed in their hi-vis and boots with a range of cleaning implements and vehicles – lights flashing and reverse beepers beeping.'

Before sunrise

Rick told *The Echo* that he had picked up more than four bins full of bits and pieces from Main Beach alone before sunrise – many a good pair of shoes, swimmers or sunglasses were left behind.

Council also had vehicles on the sand taking away bigger items.

Thanks Rick, and all the dedicated Council clean-up crew, for making Byron's beaches and parks pristine again for the start of 2024.

Public transport workshop floats Council-run taxi service

Paul Bibby

A subsidised cab service for locals would be trialled in Byron under a strategy being considered by Byron Shire Council to help address the Shire's transport challenges.

The strategy, which would require significant state government funding, was discussed at a recent Council-run public transport workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was to commence

discussions among locals in relation to current and future public transport strategies, and to reach out to the state planning team.

Among the options discussed was a Council-run cab-style service that would be provided for residents over the age of 60, and/or for those with a disability.

The workshop heard that, for such a trial to succeed, it would need to be reasonably priced. Council staff noted that the Gold Coast Council

charges \$2 per trip, or \$4 for a return journey, and that local taxi company Byron Cabs had expressed an interest in being part of the trial.

It was noted that, as was the case with all the options considered in the workshop, the trial would be difficult to execute without significant support from the NSW government.

'As this type of service would require a considerable amount of funding to subsidise the fares, staff are

awaiting state advice to determine if there is an appropriate funding stream for this type of service,' staff said.

Park and ride at Cavanbah Centre

The workshop also explored a park and ride option for Byron Bay, in which residents/visitors from outside the town would drive to the Cavanbah Centre and then either get a shuttle bus or ride a hire bike into the

town. This was seen as a way of reducing traffic congestion and parking demand in the Bay. 'Byron Bay would be a great case study for a trial scenario, considering current congestion issues at Ewingsdale Road and the parking demand within the town and along the beachfront,' staff said.

Staff note that the Cavanbah Centre would be an ideal location for such a facility.


There was also talk of an electric scooter trial, but this

was not supported by staff because of the 'actual commuter value and associated safety risks'.

Trains off agenda

It appears that the long-running campaign to bring train services back to the tracks was not a key agenda item at the workshop.

However, it was noted that there was a need for additional workshops in the future to discuss other transport options.



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Potholes and roadworks – what’s the schedule?

Hans Lovejoy

Recent protests by residents outside Council chambers around the lack of road maintenance in Upper Main Arm have paid off, somewhat, with some small improvements made before the Christmas break.

Mayor Michael Lyon posted a brief update on social media.

He wrote, in part, ‘Council has recently reinstated the steel plate on the causeway before Kohinur Hall. Staff will be undertaking some resealing (sacrificial seal) at this location at the approach to Kohinur Hall. Works are planned to commence early next week.’

‘Staff have undertaken a pothole assessment on various sections of the road and grading and resheeting works are required, but will not take place until early in the new year’.

He also encouraged residents to email local MP Tamara Smith ‘to try to get the state to pull their finger out on this’.

The Echo asked Council staff if a roads maintenance schedule is publicly available.



Palmwoods roadworks in Main Arm. Photo Byron Council

Works schedule

A staff member replied with Council website links in relation to road maintenance and projects.

They added, ‘We are waiting for an update on the road grading schedule’.

According to Council, \$3.7 million was spent improving Main Arm Road from outside Mullum to Palmwoods in 2022–23.

A list of locations earmarked for pothole repair is available at tinyurl.com/3bs6ydjh, however the page does not have a date relating to when it was created.

Council say the work will

be undertaken ‘over the coming months, weather permitting’

And while many roads and streets are listed, there are no specific locations listed on those roads and streets.

An interactive map shows ‘planned Council roadworks and closures’ at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Services/Roads-and-parking/Road-works-and-closures

Vegetation slashing

Byron Shire Council’s Vegetation slashing schedule is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/5xh8xfnc>.

A list of locations earmarked for pothole repair is listed, yet unlike other

webpages, it does not have a date relating to when it was created. Council say the work will be undertaken ‘in the coming weeks’.

On December 14, Council said in a press release that ‘Residents living on seven gravel roads badly damaged by the 2022 floods can celebrate with the NSW government approving funding for the re-sheeting of the [following] roads...

‘Kennedys Lane, Cedarvale Road, Durrumbul Road, Riverside Drive, The Saddle Road, Jones Road and Huonbrook Road.

‘The re-sheeting process involves grading the roads and applying a new layer of compressed gravel, which is compacted.

For more info, visit Council’s website page: <http://tinyurl.com/y2zaxyns>.

That webpage says, ‘The cost of repair and reconstruction works is estimated to be more than \$300 million’.

‘We’ve bundled the 600 pieces of infrastructure needing repair into 42 separate funding applications that have been submitted to the state and federal governments’.



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Bangalow Bowling Club update, post Norths

Hans Lovejoy

Since large venue management company Norths took over management of the Bangalow Bowling Club in June of 2023, *The Echo* asked Norths' CEO how promises made prior to amalgamation were progressing.

The Bangalow community was divided on whether Norths should take over the club, after then-club president, Rowan Keast, warned of the club's shaky financial position. 'We are not moving to the next level as we'd hoped and planned for in our strategic vision,' he told members in April 2022.

Objectors feared losing local ownership of the asset, and an increase in pokies for the venue, given Norths own five clubs across the east coast, including Seagulls Club in Tweed Heads West.

The Echo reported on September 22, 2022 that a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Norths and the club included a 'strict limits on pokies'.

While Norths described taking over the club's management as 'amalgamation',



Club manager, Chris Watson. Photo Eve Jeffery

Professor Linda Hancock, a researcher with over 20 years' international experience and specialist in gambling public policy, described it as a takeover at the time.

She wrote in *The Echo* on August 25, 2022 that, 'What is now a community, member-owned, asset on prime land will be transferred to Norths, who insist their merger model requires all assets to be transferred to Norths'.

Improvements

Norths CEO Luke Simmons told *The Echo* a DA is expected to be lodged in 2024 for 'masterplanning work to continue for further

renovations'.

He said, 'We will continue to make ongoing improvements inside, but also to continue to enhance the outside areas'.

'We put over \$60,000 of furniture in mid year, too'.

'Our early aim has not been to change the fabric of the rustic club away from what has made it such a loved place for such a long time.

'As we learn more of what our community likes, as we enter 2024, we will continue to plan out more renovations and enhancements to ensure we remain relevant for decades to come'.

'The amalgamation between Norths Collective and the Bangalow Bowling Club came into formal effect on June 15, 2023.

'Soon after, The Bowlo Board commenced the wind-up proceedings of the old company, which involves a lengthy legal process.

'Norths Collective has paid out close to \$500,000 worth of bowling club debt and covered several additional expenses before and at the time of the transfer'.

Mr Simmons supplied *The Echo* with a list of items that have either been completed, or were in the process of being completed to improve the club.

Completed items include upgrading the food and beverage point of sale system, 'commence reengagement with sporting team representatives', and 'meet with sporting team representatives on assistance needs.

Completed items

'Over \$35,000 [has been] spent already on community and sporting needs'.

A group loyalty program has been introduced, he

says, as well as a community points program.

A ClevaQ table ordering system has been installed, along with a new CCTV system (which is part of ongoing 'safety, security and insurance needs').

In July 2023, Mr Simmons says a phone app was launched, and the Seven Rooms table booking system, and Ivy event management system, was installed.

The website was upgraded in mid-August.

From August until October 2023, Mr Simmons says 'General maintenance [was done] works across multiple areas of the property.

'Owing to late approval process, minor improvement works scheduled have been held [over] to commence in January, owing to an extremely busy Christmas season.

'[These are] Toilet air extraction, outdoor club presentation, landscaping, plant and equipment changes. These are part of the general works that will see the club maintained without disrupting operations or limiting access'.

'In addition to over \$35,000 in grants already paid, we have also assisted sporting teams with \$15,000 worth of consultancy support in applying for state government grants, with ongoing co-contributions for each government grant on non-club property.

'This is something we will continue to commit resources toward, so the community is supported well into the future with infrastructure and facilities that grow participation and engagement'.

Busy trade

Mr Simmons added, 'The membership has entrusted Norths Collective with the club's future, and we are incredibly thankful that the Bangalow community has embraced the club, with trade busier than it has been for many years.

'We have increased trading days within the week, and we look forward to keeping the club relevant to the community, with continuous improvement under the strong stewardship of club manager, Chris Watson'.

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A quick glance back at 2023 – how much fun did you have?

Hans Lovejoy

Hello 2024, and farewell to 2023, a year slightly less shit, but at least better than covid, fires and floods. Herewith a quick roundup of how the year was, through *The Echo* lens.

Early in 2023, the one-year anniversary of the 2022 floods was marked, which saw many locals still experiencing the legacy of the disaster on a practical, emotional and mental level.

It's now 2024, and there are still flood-damaged empty homes across the Shire with unresolved insurance claims.

The Shire's road networks are slowly being repaired by Council, which appears entirely reliant on state and federal funding to do so.

The lack of housing and the number of rough sleepers was another feature for the year; the Fletcher Street Cottage faced a reduction in services. A last minute reprieve of funding by the state government helped somewhat, yet the grant is not recurrent.

An outbreak of deadly fire ants was discovered in Murwillumbah, 5.5km from the

Qld border; the NSW government subsequently ramped up containment efforts.

In June, *The Echo* reported 'Sky-high commercial rents, staff shortages produced by the housing crisis, and the broader economic downturn have placed an unsustainable burden on dozens of local businesses in Byron Bay'.

Also in June, Jarjumirr Park, a competition-level skate park located between the Byron courthouse, library and Youth Activities Centre, opened.

NSW election

The NSW election was held in March, with incumbent local MP, Tamara Smith (Greens) returning to office with an increased majority.

NSW Labor reformed the Affordable Housing State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP) to ensure it was 'fit for purpose', yet the reforms were not supported by the peak advocacy group representing NSW councils.

In July, the NSW Labor government released its *Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy*, a move to presumably pave the way for increased population growth.



One of the many community events held in 2023 was the family fun day, held in August at the Federal Community Children's Centre. Pictured are Millie, Reggie and Leela, who were transformed by Anna Freeman, of Creative Art. Photo Jeff 'Grrrrr' Dawson

The 'Yes' campaign

With the nation saying 'No' to an Indigenous voice to parliament, those in the Byron bubble were a standout, with all the voting booths giving 'Yes' the majority.

Feros shenanigans

In February, it emerged that residents at the Feros Village aged care facility in Byron Bay were subjected to substandard care across every aspect of the service. The damning report by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission (ACQSC) led to the Feros Board announcing

the facility needed to be redeveloped. Eight hardy residents refused to leave, and a long campaign ensued.

Finally, at the end of the year, the NSW government appointed a new provider, with promises that the facility would be improved without eviction.

Holiday letting

In August it was reported that a powerful NSW bureaucrat threatened Byron Council with losing its planning powers if it didn't 'demonstrate how it intends to improve its housing supply'. Were councillors courageous

in defending us residents from this attack? No. The mayor instead said he would develop even more than was required by our bureaucratic overlord.

Did the sucking up to power pay off? By September, Council was granted a 60-day cap on un-hosted short-term holiday letting across much of the Shire.

Council shenanigans

Transparency and honesty with the public continued to decline at a local governance level, with closed door deals over the carve up of public land, mostly around Mullum.

Highly valuable rail corridor land in Mullum is slated for development, as well as a well-used car park.

The trend of silence continued throughout the year, with the mayor also leading closed doors discussions with the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRRC) to fast-track future developments. It was later revealed he excluded other councillors from all negotiations.

Pod villages sprung up everywhere, which also came without proper assessment or transparency.

Later it was found that

Mullum residents on Prince Street face increased flooding risks from the pods.

The credibility of the NSW-run government corporation, NRRRC, eventually crumbled, with Resilience NSW being scrapped and replaced by a new body called the NSW Reconstruction Authority.

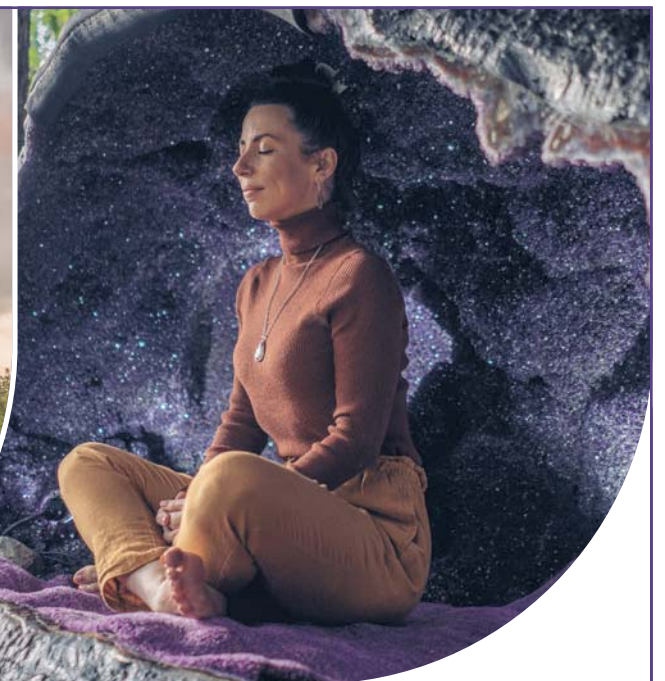
The whole exercise of resilience and reconstruction, post 2022 floods, is still a mess – all who have been flood-affected and promised assistance can attest to that.

The year culminated in a Housing Options Paper, which proposes to radically upscale the Shire's population. It does not include 2022 flood data, and was conducted appallingly.

For example, a large parcel of flood-prone land in Mullum was included at the last minute, which did not come with any public feedback.

The whole exercise was rushed, poorly executed, and the final details of what land is included are hard to figure out. Community groups told *The Echo* they were unhappy with the process. It appears that is exactly what this Council wants.

Happy 2024 everyone!



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Echo

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

Nimbin Road landslip stabilised

Two significant landslips isolated Nimbin during and following the 2022 floods and work on one has now been completed.

Wildlife sanctuary and hospital reopen after storms

Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary will be back up and running today after the recent devastating storms that tore through the Gold Coast.

Lismore Council's extra meeting

Lismore Councillors found themselves dragged back from their official break almost a week early, for an extraordinary meeting at the behest of Councillor Big Rob, in regard to the Vision and Blueprint strategy and the Citizens' Assembly.

Doggie blood bank needed for region

A push to establish a local emergency blood bank for dogs in the Northern Rivers is underway.

NSW minister defends new 'affordable housing' reforms

Further to the latest 'affordable housing' reforms by the NSW Labor government, a spokesperson for the NSW Minister for Homelessness and the North Coast, Rose Jackson, has replied to *Echo* questions.

Ballina Greens look back on 2023

It's been another turbulent year for local Greens councillors Kiri Dicker and Simon Chate, as Ballina Council struggles to balance the needs of a fast-growing population with a fragile coastal environment.

Matt Ottley's amazing and terrible tree

When I first met Matthew, we were both wildlife carers. I just knew him as the bloke who would come to snake training, and he rescued possums. He was great with flying foxes.

Fall Injury – Murwillumbah

A man suffered a fall injury at Murwillumbah on Christmas Day and was taken to Tweed Heads hospital.

www.echo.net.au

Community sports uplifting Wardell

David Lowe

Wardell's Community Courts have transformed a dying tennis club into a multi-sport dynamo of activity since taking a new direction late last year. The committee is seeking to enhance the physical wellbeing of local residents of all ages and strengthen the social fabric of the village, which has faced some serious challenges recently.

This transformation has happened with the assistance of multiple levels of government as well as generous donations from local businesses, and the contributions of many volunteers.

Bec Heywood said there was some resistance to the new ideas at first, making it very hard to get the ball rolling, 'but we were successful in upgrading the courts and being able to have basketball added to the tennis courts.

'What we've now got is this amazing facility that has brought at least 14 different sports to this area.'

As well as tennis and basketball, locals can now use the community courts to play sports including futsal,



Walking soccer trial at Wardell Community Courts. Photo Warell Community Courts

pickleball, disc golf, walking basketball and walking soccer, as well as a new game called youfo, which sounds a bit like a cross between hockey and frisbee sports.

'Yes, you can have one on one, three on three, or six on six,' explained Ms Heywood. 'And you pick up the frisbee-like item with the special stick and coordinate it to throw to your team member, to get it to the other side. It's really popular in Europe and just coming out to Australia.'

Bec Heywood is Vice-President of the Wardell and District Tennis Club, which is still looking after the community courts. She said there were two people in particular who didn't welcome the changes, 'and they were very loud about it,' while most of the original tennis members embraced the change.

'Now they're seeing the benefits, they've been really supportive,' she said. 'But at first it was difficult trying to

explain to them that having basketball lines on the tennis courts, it's not going to affect your tennis game. You know, it's going to be okay!'

After the floods

She said her community recognised that something had to change to bring hope and life back to Wardell after the devastating 2022 floods, particularly for people with young families.

'What happened was the old tennis club, and the old

committee, had basically all but shut down.'

She said everything remained dormant until Ben Franklin MLC got a grant to refurbish the courts, and then Ballina Shire Council was also lobbied by the community. 'We stepped up and said, "Hey, we've lost all these facilities, we've lost our rec club... and this is an opportunity to bring more to the town for a pretty minimal cost."

'It was a lot of talking to council and convincing them that this could happen. So yeah, we did that. And they put the extra money towards it. Tamara Smith has helped us financially as well,' said Ms Heywood.

With a new committee in place after the floods, she remembers 'we jumped in and said, "Hey, we're here, we're going to pick up the pieces, we'll clean up everything. But we want basketball lines added - we want more for Wardell. This is not a hard thing to do."

The Wardell Community Courts are open daily 7am-6pm throughout the school holidays.

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

SES performs 27 flood rescues across north-east NSW



Flooding in Murwillumbah. Photo SES NSW

The NSW State Emergency Service (SES) responded to more than 115 incidents in the 24 hours to Tuesday morning (2 January, 2024), in response to the impacts of storms and flooding in the north-east of NSW.

Flood rescue operators had completed 27 rescues in the Northern Rivers over that 24 hours, however no significant injuries have been reported.

Heavy rainfall included 307mm at Limpinwood (Bald Mountain), and in many other parts of the Northern Rivers rain exceeded 200mm, which led to flash flooding.

There has also been some minor to moderate riverine flooding on the Tweed,

Wilson's and Richmond Rivers, with the most significant impact at Tumbulgum overnight.

The flood threat hasn't completely abated as we continue to see rises across the various catchments as water moves along the Tweed River towards Tumbulgum and the Richmond River moves towards Coraki and surrounds, possibly exceeding minor flood levels on Tuesday night.

The Wilson's River at Lismore may reach the peak of minor level of 4.2 metres.

For emergency help in floods and storms, call the NSW SES on 132 500. In life threatening situations, call Triple Zero (000).

Search for missing swimmer at Lennox Head suspended

Police have suspended a multi-agency search in waters off Lennox Head.

A member of the public contacted police at about 3.20pm on Sunday afternoon (24 December 2023) after believing they saw a swimmer in difficulty.

An extensive search has been conducted by police

and other agencies; however, no person has been located.

The search involved local police as well as Surf Life-savers, Marine Rescue NSW, and a rescue helicopter.

Inquiries continue

Police have not received reports of a missing person.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Ballina Police on 6681 8699 or contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

What's happening with Nimbin Peace Park toilets?

Member for Lismore Janelle Saffin says in the New Year she wants to see work get underway on the new amenities block for Nimbin Peace Park.

'The Nimbin Community has been waiting more than 15 years for an amenities block, with disabled access, at the Peace Park to service the pool, children's playground, skate park and tourist drop off area,' said Ms Saffin.

'It was one of my election commitments to secure the \$400,000 for Lismore City Council to construct and

maintain the much-needed toilets; a project that has the overwhelming support of Nimbin residents and the peak community groups like the Nimbin Advisory Group and the Nimbin Community Centre.'

Funding available

The member for Lismore says the government funding is set aside and ready to go.

'The Department of Regional NSW, where the funding comes from, has told me Lismore Council needs to complete the detailed design

and then they can apply for the funding to be released.'

'People have been stopping me in the streets of Nimbin asking what's happening and if the funding is there. I can assure residents that the funding is allocated and ready.

'It was great to be at the reopening of Nimbin Road in the lead up to Christmas, and having the amenities block going ahead in 2024 is more good news for locals and visitors to this popular tourist destination,' said Janelle Saffin.

Wallum developer pushes onwards with urban sprawl

Paul Bibby

As the campaign to save the Wallum wildlife area from development built to a crescendo at the end of 2023, the developer behind the project sought to move ahead with its traffic management plans for the site.

The 30-hectare site at 15 Torakina Road in Bayside, Brunswick Heads, is home to multiple threatened species, including the Wallum froglet and the Wallum sedge frog.

But developer Clarence Property has development consent to build a large housing estate on the site, featuring 124 residential lots, three medium density lots, and a series of roads and supporting infrastructure.

Works deferred

In the last full Council meeting of the year on December 14, councillors gave the campaign to save the site an eleventh-hour reprieve, voting to defer Clarence Property's application for a subdivision works certificate until February.

However, Council's website shows that it held an

extra Local Traffic Committee meeting just six days later, on December 20, for the purposes of considering an application for intersection upgrading works associated with the development.

The works would be needed to facilitate the significant increase in traffic the development would produce.

They included new signage, line markings and traffic control devices associated with the intersection of Tweed Street and Bayside Way.

Also included in the application were traffic calming signage and devices at the site of the development itself.

Minutes unavailable

In contrast to Council's usual practice, the minutes for the Local Traffic Committee meeting have not been posted online.

With Council staff subsequently on their Christmas/New Year break, it is not known whether the committee passed the resolution or not. It is expected that the minutes of the meeting will be provided early in the new year.

Precious egg found in Byron's hinterland

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

A giant crystal amethyst from south Brazil called 'The Cocoon' has arrived at the Crystal Castle, after a year of planning, logistics, engineering and artistry.

Marketing manager, Toby King, said it's really lovely to have a new crystal to show people. 'It's our first in five years', he told *The Echo*.

'The Cocoon is very reminiscent of new beginnings, change and growth.'

The crystal has been in situ for about three weeks with plenty of visitors coming out to see the newest member of the crystal family.



Crystal Castle staff members, Toby and Constanza, receive the good vibes from the giant amethyst egg.

Richmond River study finds high levels of toxins

A mix of pesticides (herbicides, fungicides and insecticides) at dangerous levels has been found in the Richmond River.

The findings – collected in 2020–21 near the river mouth in Ballina – have been published in the *Journal of Environmental Pollution*.

The scientific paper is

called *Pesticide occurrence in a subtropical estuary, Australia: Complementary sampling methods*.

It can be downloaded at www.sciencedirect.com.

According to the 14-page paper, 'Most of the chemicals detected in the study are registered for use in the production of sugarcane.'

Co-author, Dr Kirsten Benkendorff, from Southern Cross University, told The ABC the concentration of several pesticides exceeded safe environmental guidelines.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) told The ABC they have commenced a compliance campaign targeting

horticultural farms close to the testing locations. In 2014, Richmond River was rated a D minus score in a study into river catchment health.

At the time, the creeks in the Wilsons River catchment were also found to be in poor health, including Byron Creek and Wilsons Creek.

■ See editorial page 10

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #30 • January 3, 2024

Northern rivers are sick

A recently released scientific paper on the health of the Richmond River has found a mix of pesticides (herbicides, fungicides and insecticides) at dangerous levels.

The finding begs the question as to what level of toxicity exists in other waterways in the Northern Rivers, given there are similar industries around the region.

The generally poor health of Richmond River, which runs into the sea at Ballina, is a well-known unresolved issue that came to prominence decades ago.

The latest scientific paper, called *Pesticide occurrence in a subtropical estuary, Australia: Complementary sampling methods*, was co-authored by Dr Kirsten Benkendorff from Southern Cross University.

It was published in the *Journal of Environmental Pollution*, and can be downloaded at www.sciencedirect.com.

The paper explains, 'Chronic exposure to the toxic compounds in pesticides can interfere with the normal function of the endocrine system in non-target organisms, even at residual concentrations'.

The ABC's Bronwyn Herbert and Kim Honan did a good job of reporting the findings on December 14, and sought comment from sugarcane and macadamia industry reps and relevant regulatory authorities (see more at tinyurl.com/2dmvatcf).

According to the 14-page scientific paper, 'Most of the chemicals detected in the study are registered for use in the production of sugarcane'. Herbicides were the dominant type found.

Lax regulation

The paper also highlighted how lax Australian governments are with approving pesticides that are banned in other countries.

The herbicide Atrazine was found in the samples, say the authors, and while it is still approved for use in Australia, 'It is banned in many countries in the

European Union: France, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Austria and Italy, and it is under review for potential bans in other countries'.

Questions

There are some unanswered questions from the study's findings, like why did it take so long for the study to be released? The data was collected in 2020-21.

And, given there are similar industries in Byron Shire and surrounds, will there be studies here to ascertain the health, or otherwise, of our local rivers and estuaries? The authors recommend this.

It's unclear how seriously the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) take these findings - when asked by the ABC, they said they 'welcomed the work done by Southern Cross University and took the misuse of pesticides and their potential impacts seriously'.

So, is the NSW government funding ongoing and/or expanding waterway testing? Is it only SCU doing this? If so, why?

The EPA told The ABC they have commenced a compliance campaign targeting horticulture in the area, which looks reactive rather than proactive.

For decades, state government after state government have promised all sorts of fixes for the Richmond, while pouring endless amounts of taxpayer money into bureaucratic solutions.

In 2021, a *Coast Management Program* (CMP) was announced, and a scoping study was completed in 2023.

It comes with budgeted costs associated with each action. 'Farm management' is considered a high priority (strategy 5), given the 'major influence' it has on 'water quality and riparian vegetation condition within the estuary'.

To read the study, visit www.lismore.nsw.gov.au/Community/Environmental-strategies/Strategies-plans/Coastal-Zone-Management-Plan.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Trashing Westminster traditions

As an eager Young Liberal in the 1980s, I was schooled by a generation of older Australians whose values were forged during World War II.

In a nutshell, I learned my first political duty was to respect and protect the consensus core values in Australian politics.

The idea was that Australia has a strong and robust 'political centre', where standards of behaviour and trust were embedded in Westminster traditions.

We learned that everything depended on the survival and health of those traditions.

Genuine 'ministerial accountability' in those days saw two Fraser government ministers resign from their portfolios, after a health minister failed to declare to customs he was bringing in a colour TV.

The affair - which would be laughable today - plunged the federal government into crisis.

Forty years ago, allegations of breaking Westminster traditions were rare and serious - the accuser's credibility was as much on the line as the alleged offender.

Seven hundred years of parliamentary experiences invested in those Westminster traditions are now being trashed.

Why should we care about Westminster democracy at all?

One example is the capacity it creates for bipartisan debates, like the 1967 referendum on Aboriginal citizenship.

That sailed through with consensus support.

Compare that with the Voice referendum last year - the brutal difference is modern Australia has lost its capacity for honesty and a consensus on anything.

For over a century, the integrity and consensus around the virtues of Westminster parliamentary democracy served us well. It was tough on some politicians, but that was a small price the public was happy to pay.



'Extremist ideas took root when nobody felt able to believe political leaders'

Catherine Cusack

In 2023, however, the extent to which these central values have disappeared was stark.

Some examples include the Robodebt inquiry, where a former minister openly admitted lying to parliament; the Morrison's multi-ministries inquiry; and the continuing shambolic Lehrmann-Higgins saga.

If telling lies is no longer a risk to your political longevity, it becomes the new norm.

The worst lies of all in politics, as in life, are of course the 'white' ones - those with a grain of truth twisted to the point of flipping the facts completely.

The Iraq lie

Our political centre has frayed and weakened over time - but the trend was turbocharged in 2011 when the 'three amigos': Bush/Blair/Howard, declared war on Iraq. They made claims that weapons of mass destruction were being stockpiled. It was a lie.

Aside from the terrible human and political costs of that war, the trust in our democratically elected leaders was trashed, which also broke the political centre.

Politics then began to fragment, and drift apart - extremist ideas took root when nobody felt able to believe political leaders.

In 2023, I see a direct line from such events 12 years ago - the damage inflicted upon our democracy with the inquiries into Robodebt, multi-ministries and abuses in the NDIS. This is also why the Voice referendum was such a mess - everybody was telling little lies. Claims that the Voice would transform First Nations school attendance

were almost as disingenuous as claims we would have to pay to go to the beach.

The situation has many wondering just how long has political leadership been lying about profoundly important issues?

The question is well answered in Paul Keating's 1993 speech interring the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, openly reflecting on hideous leadership that led to millions of deaths.

He notes the 'war to end all wars' failed. Instead, it 'sowed the seeds of a second'. Keating recalls the 'inexcusable folly' of that war - the 'military and political incompetence' and 'the waste of human life... so terrible that some said victory was scarcely discernible from defeat'.

It seems valid to ask - did these young ANZACS die in vain? In reply, Keating eulogises, 'a lesson about ordinary people - and the lesson was that they were not ordinary. On all sides, they are the heroes of the Great War; not the generals and the politicians, but the soldiers and sailors and nurses - those who taught us to endure hardship, to show courage, to be bold as well as resilient, to believe in ourselves, to stick together'.

2023 smacked of evidence that those Australian values eulogised by Keating are under attack, with our political leadership credibility in steep decline.

Thoughtful people need to come together to restore it.

It is no exaggeration to say the entire fate of our democracy depends upon it.

■ Catherine Cusack is a former NSW Liberal MLC



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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

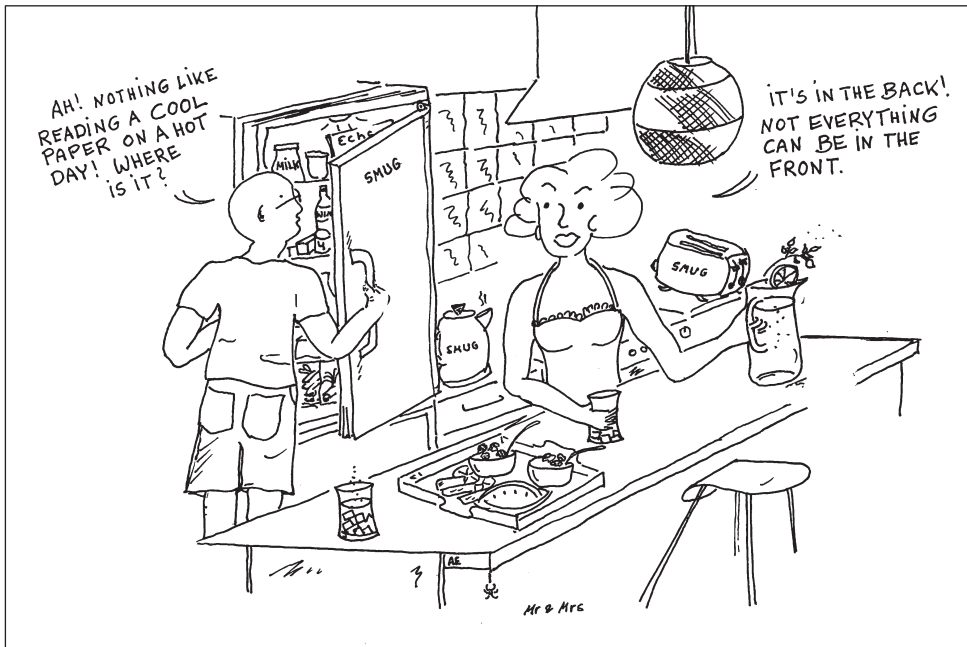
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Cartoon by Antoinette Ensbey

Newrybar Telstra tower

I am a resident of Broken Head Rd, Newrybar and I am against the proposed Telstra monopole.

As yet, we have had no community consultation regarding the proposed 40-metre monopole Telstra tower and yet, four days before Christmas my neighbours have received a letter from Eleserve concerning upgrade works to the Essential Energy low/high voltage network and new pole top substation to supply the new Ampitel site on Lot 1 DP600819.

They have been notified as their home is in close proximity to these works. To my knowledge there are only two other residents/addresses that have been notified.

My objections to the tower are as follows

There has been no community consultation or awareness with companies regarding this tower

It has caused great disharmony and distress in our community

It will devalue properties in our area. There are residents that will have full view of the tower. Top to bottom.

I have grievances with one party financially benefiting from something that affects many more and causes harm and distress to others.

We already have a 35-metre NBN tower, why do we need two? Can all services be amalgamated?

The close proximity to homes, families, school and a koala corridor is a major concern.

I personally found out

the tower was proposed at our street Christmas party on November 26, when talking to my incredibly distressed neighbour. She had questioned people on her property, who informed her they were surveying the site. This news of course spread quickly in our tight community. Since then, it feels like we have been scrambling against time and misinformation.

When contacting Telstra, they referred me to Amplitel, I was told to register interest on the RFNSA site, (I've had no updated information from them since), a representative of Amplitel assured me they will be looking into the situation. The owners of the property with the NBN tower have told us they don't want the new tower.

We have been assured that the tower is only a proposition by a representative of base station and yet it has been surveyed, pegged out, and today we receive the news that Eleserve will need to upgrade power for the new tower through yet another incredibly distressed neighbour.

How can all this happen without any community consultation?

This current information is being revealed four days before Christmas, when we now receive out of office replies, and during school holidays when most are distracted and busy with our families?

Benita Mooney
Newrybar

Poor man's chicken

Lobsters were once called 'poor man's chicken' and 'cockroaches of the sea'.

Indeed, the crustacean was so overpopulated that it once was even used as a fertiliser!

No longer and no wonder as it now fetches between \$100-\$140 a kilo meaning that only the well-to-do, relatively speaking, can now afford to buy it at Christmas.

Lobsters did not form part of my Xmas fare.

I ate 'real' chicken.

Michael J Gamble
Belmont Vic

Lethal precedent

During the term of the previous NSW coalition state government a high-profile architect firm was asked to consider designs for a new hospital for Sydney. This firm spent over six months researching and finally presenting a prestige hospital design to the then NSW government. The one stipulation that governed had for this design was that under no circumstances was the hospital to be developed on a floodplain. This stipulation triggered the death of the submitted design of the proposed, much-needed hospital. One needs to ask 'who gains'.

During this political period development of West Byron, a wetland floodplain of high conservation value was resisted by the Byron community. This area was also noted to contain lethal acid sulphate deposits, the very substance that defeated the proposed Club Med development in the 1990s. Indeed the Land and Environment Court (L&EC), in those days placed enormous value on the rights of nature to exist.

Miffed by the public

protest which also supported the moral ethics of the rights of nature, a West Byron developer, aided by Byron Council took the West Byron development issue to the L&EC. By this time this legal structure had accepted a very muscular legal point of view, the concerned masses began to chant. 'The Land and Environment Court' always favours business! And so it did in the case of the proposed West Byron floodplain development! Despite public outcry.

Thus began a lethal virus as public democratic imperatives heaved in a terminal choke. The whole 'pro-development' process was described by a developer/investor as 'woeful'.

Highly traumatised, mother nature informed that rape crisis centre that she was constantly mutilated by a terrifying stalker and she also deeply feared for drowning humanity.

Who could be gaining from all of the imposed destruction and fear? Indeed, huge parts of her body were being gouged and sold as the solution against floods. A well-known trader named Mr Fill... the conservative 'fixer' to any development process was seen at every state political development meeting. No 'high-end hat' could disguise his 'Luciferian' ears and horns!

Along came a new NSW government, aided by Mr Fill, the 'fixer' and the Premier, Mr Minns, who promised to make big democratic changes. But nothing changed, following a Minns dictate, at a recent meeting of Byron Councilors, the chaps were seen

► Continued on next page

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Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

► **Continued from page 11** genuflecting as they sanctioned development of high conservation land for future housing on floodplains. A lethal precedent for future generations, and a future guarantee for highly traumatised homeless sentient beings. Whether it's the left wing or the right wing, it's the same development bird that dictates to all governments. A guarantee of head in the sand to democracy and future generations. There is a better way, consult First Nations engineers, value life, community, mother earth and the democratic process.

Jo Faith
Newtown

'No' voters

With respect to John Lazarus' response to 'No' voters (Letters December 27, 2023), I feel that he has made several misjudgements in relation to many if not most, 'No' voters.

Firstly, his comment in the process and result, Australian voters have a strong history of careful assessment of referendum proposals and in the absence of bipartisan support, have a nose for critical review of the proposal.

Hence the process and the result are no real surprise to

the 60 per cent of 'No' voters. As regards the Uluru Statement from the Heart, whilst it may well have been a genuine attempt by some First Nations people, as we discovered during the course of the referendum, it was not necessarily representative of all First Nations people, particularly those living in regional, rural or remote areas.

Currently in an Australian democracy, all people have the right to press for change to referendum proposals, then have the right to accept or reject that proposal.

The majority response to the referendum was effectively that most parts of the Uluru Statement from the Heart should have been referred to parliament for discussion and later legislation, if accepted.

The format of the referendum effectively prevented, probably much more than your 75 per cent estimate, from bringing an amendment to our Constitution.

What was actually proposed was a blank cheque to be given to the prime minister and the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Quite frankly, I would not trust any PM or organisation to be given this power over my Constitution and it would

appear that the majority of voters had similar ideas.

And never forget, the prime minister's first foray into Indigenous matters after his election was to open the floodgates of taxpayer grog to rural, regional and remote areas, creating devastating results in areas such as Alice Springs.

Having been dragged to view the results of his ill-advised pronouncements, his feet barely touched the ground before an Air Albo plane whisked him to the AO tennis tournament.

A blank cheque, no way.

Tim Harrington
Lennox Head

Future water supply and the Dunoon Dam

■ In his comments (Letters, December 27, 2023) about Rous' Future Water Strategy 2060, the Rous General Manager, Mr Phil Rudd, stresses the need for 'comprehensive and contemporary' information to enable decision making.

When considering the cultural heritage of the local Widiabal people, whose heritage here can be traced back 30 thousand years or more, in what way will 'contemporary' studies change the findings from the Cultural

Heritage Studies which Rous commissioned in 2011 and 2013?

These studies found that evidence of long-term occupation including more than 20 grave sites (of enormous significance to the Widiabal people) would be drowned beneath the waters of the proposed Dunoon Dam.

Once this information was released to a previous Rous Council, the councillors immediately realised its significance and voted against proceeding with the Dunoon Dam.

The Rous Chair at the time, Mayor Phil Silver from Ballina, said the Dunoon Dam proposal should be abandoned in

favour of 'serious demand management and alternative sources'. In December 2013 Rous Councillors voted for the preferred Future Water Strategy which listed three facets: 1. water efficiency; 2. groundwater; and 3. water re-use.

To these, Mr Rudd has added desalination. He would do well to include stormwater harvesting and encouraging householders to invest in tanks. But first, Rous should work with its client local councils (Byron, Ballina, Lismore and Richmond) to fix the leaks which see 15 to 20 per cent of the supplied water being lost from the system.

It is surprising and disappointing to see Rous wasting

money on more cultural heritage studies which can only find more evidence, not less.

Mr Rudd, it is time to move on from expensive, unrealistic surface water and move us all toward a future of secure, reliable water from diverse, efficient, alternative systems.

Daniel Peterson JP
Goonellabah

■ WATER Northern Rivers thanks Mr Phil Rudd for his clarifications (27 December, 2023) regarding the Dunoon Dam and looks forward to further clarifications as requested below.

1. 'A comprehensive cultural heritage and biodiversity study is scheduled.'

The two Cultural Heritage Impact Assessments in 2011 and 2013 established that the site of the proposed dam was highly significant to the Widiabal people. The revealed gravesites are still there and so is the oft-repeated and unified opposition of the Widiabal people. 'Consultation' with the Traditional Owners is clearly not intended to actually accede to their stated wishes – otherwise

► **Continued on page 16**



The proposed Dunoon Dam. Image Rous County Council



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I cannot not dance – a short tale of gratitude



Story and photo David Lisle

The tibia is the second largest bone in the human body. When I broke mine in a climbing accident early 2023 my world seemed to collapse around me. My life revolves around dancing, cycling, running and climbing – things from which the invalid is wholly excluded.

After the fall I took shelter in a thicket of literature, mostly avoided the post-surgery narcotic stupor and eventually managed to escape the prison of regret that generally follows accidents. With the addition of time and a mixture of patience and perseverance, my physical faculties mostly returned. It would be trite to call the process a journey, yet in this case, it *almost* feels appropriate.

This article is not intended to be a year in review, a story of redemption or some heroic comeback tale. Its aim is rather more prosaic. The process of recovery was deeply affecting and I thought it worth chronicling the gratitude I experienced throughout. As a cripple I felt this strange awe for the splendour of my former life. And as my mobility gradually returned I was filled with this deep appreciation for that which we able bodied take for granted.

It was glorious to walk again when my cast came off, and taking those first, tentative steps, I was as proud and happy as a toddler, and probably as graceful. When

I was sufficiently mobile to once more experience the joy of dance it was pretty wobbly and painful, but it felt that much richer.

Solace in taking a few turns

In November I attended an all-day dance workshop in one of the area's beautiful old halls and returned home in the evening with the news that it had been the best day of my life. This might seem like hyperbole, yet it is a felicitous account of my experience. I just felt so profoundly alive.

In recent years I have become increasingly preoccupied with dance. I cannot *not* dance. I count the sleeps (rarely more than four) until the next dance group. And when life threatens to overwhelm me, I find solace by turning inward, selecting some choice tracks and taking a few turns in the kitchen.

I often wonder about dance and why a seemingly frivolous activity is so powerful and pervasive in our modern world?

There are two main approaches to this question. The first starts with the individual and supposes that one chooses to dance for pleasure, exercise, aesthetics or some other personal reason. This perspective sees dance as one activity among many that an individual might choose for the benefits that accrue from it. An alternative explanation, more anthropological and

sociological in orientation, sees dance as a social phenomenon, a means by which humans bond and societies cohere.

A third viewpoint, currently gaining traction across disciplines, posits that the human capacity to dance (shared by some birds and mammals) is an evolutionary strategy critical to the development of our distinctively large interconnected brains. An infant, for example, is born hopelessly dependant on caregivers whose support they must secure by recognising, remembering and recreating the patterns of movement that successfully connect the newborn with nourishment. Reading bodily movement, what we call body language, is also vital to social and psychological development. Viewed in this light, dance is less an activity than an evolutionary key.

I don't really know why dance is such an effective vehicle for processing difficulties and celebrating triumphs. But I often find myself on the dance floor among a mass of swarming bodies, lost to the centrifugal force of a spin. And as I surrender to the vortex, whirling on and on, the world becomes an abstraction, something out there but disconnected and utterly irrelevant. And this feeling, this sensation, somewhere beyond nothingness, makes the question of why we dance rather irrelevant. We just do. And for that, among other things, I am grateful.

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Big parties freezing out the independents?

David Lowe

Electoral reform sounds boring, which is probably why the government hoped to squeeze a substantial change to the way Australian politics works in amongst some positive-sounding modifications late last year, without too many people noticing. After independents raised the alarm, this legislation was delayed, and is now likely to be presented in the new year.

The main impetus for these changes is the collapsing primary vote (and membership) for the two major parties. Labor is being affected by negative campaigns from the likes of Clive Palmer, and the Liberals are hemorrhaging votes in wealthy areas to the teals. Donation caps have been proposed to deal with these upstarts, with both big parties likely to support any changes that entrench their own dwindling power.

This idea is among a raft of electoral reforms proposed by The Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters, which was asked by Special Minister of State Don Farrell to report on all aspects of the conduct of the 2022 federal election.

After three public hearings, the result was 15 recommendations, including much-needed things

like increasing Indigenous enrolment, introducing real time disclosure requirements for political donations, and establishing truth in political advertising rules, such as currently exist in South Australia.

Donation caps

The controversial recommendations of the JSCEM relate to reforming election campaign financing, as the Labor government in Victoria has done, with strict caps on political donations received in advance of elections, and increased funding from the public purse received after elections.

For an independent running in a single seat, or a loose affiliation like the teals, running in a small group of seats, this creates a playing field which massively advantages the major parties, who can use money garnered from across the country to campaign in the marginal seats which actually decide elections, confident of a return to justify their expenditure afterwards.

The result in Victoria has been the complete loss of independents in that state's lower house.



Tweedledum and Tweedledee. Image Cloudcatcher Media

The proposed federal recommendations do nothing to stop the loopholes which allow the major parties to raise millions outside the formal donations process, including via unions and businesses.

Labor figures, including SA Senator Karen Grogan, have said the changes are about protecting Australia's democracy. Others have made references to babies and bathwater.

WA teal Kate Chaney said in

parliament, 'No one wants to see a billionaire swaying the outcome of an election. That has broad community support [but] the 99.6 per cent of Australians who are not a member of a major political party don't want to see a reform that locks in the two-party system.'

Tasmanians weigh in

Senator Tammy Tyrrell, the Jacqui Lambie Network Whip (whose boss got into parliament originally because of Clive Palmer's money), described the JSCEM recommendations as 'just another stitch-up' from the big parties. As she points out, 'a lot of the

money funnelled to major parties isn't through direct donations; it's through fundraisers and membership fees...

'That means the Liberal and Labor parties could still hold a fish and chip dinner fundraiser that cost 10 grand a ticket and it would be totally within the rules. Funny how that works!'

'The major parties are trying to pull the wool over the public's eyes. This isn't genuine reform to make

things better; it's just a way to make sure that the two big parties are there to stay, while independents and minor parties get squeezed out,' said Senator Tyrrell.

'People are seeing the value of independent voices and they're moving away from voting for major parties. But put this in place and we won't stand a chance. We need more transparency around political donations, no question, but, as long as the major parties are the ones in charge of doing it, it will never, ever be a fair fight.'

With the Coalition reportedly happy to put in place donation caps, but uneasy about the more progressive aspects of the JSCEM recommendations, and the next election approaching, the Albanese Government will very soon have to decide whether it wants to work with the Greens and crossbench or Peter Dutton in implementing its electoral reforms. This will reveal what kind of government they really are.

As Kate Chaney put it, 'Communities will be watching very closely to see whether the purpose of any reform package is to embed the two-party system, or reflect community concerns about transparency and truth and restoring trust in our electoral system by allowing political choice.'

Let's see what 2024 holds!

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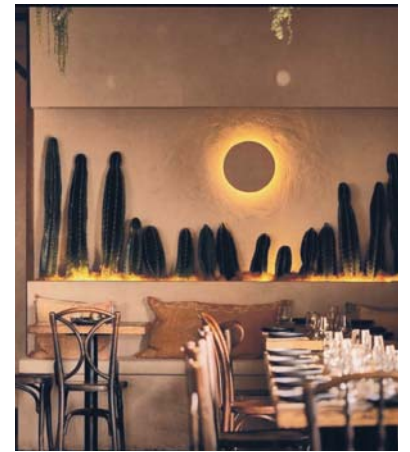
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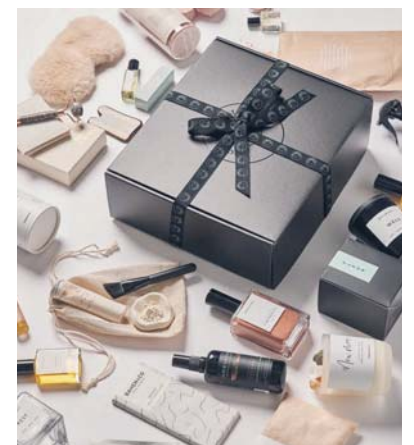


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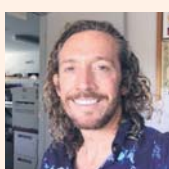


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Don't click on that link – scams abound

Anyone with an online footprint will have received various texts or email messages claiming that you have parcels you never ordered that need to be collected, fines and tolls you haven't paid or apparently the tax department demanding immediate payment.

According to a recent Online Scams Report from the Better Business Bureau (BBB), the frequency of online scams rose 87 per cent between 2015 and 2022. Of those, online purchase scams are now reported to be the most common type of scam, with monetary loss often being the resulting consequence for consumers.

'Here is your tracking link' 'Waiting for a parcel to arrive, you receive an email with a tracking link. Given that this is what we are used to, you click on the link, and it gets you nowhere but in trouble – for instance,

malware installed on your device to steal your data without you knowing,' says Tomas Smalakys, the CTO of NordPass.

Online identity hacked

According to Smalakys, a person can quickly lose their online identity to hackers through malware attacks. This type of cyberattack can steal information stored on the victim's computer and in their browser. This data usually includes passwords and other credentials, source website cookies, or autofill data.

In early December 2023 the NSW Police recently charged a man over an SMS phishing scam, allegedly responsible for sending over 17 million fraudulent text messages.

Strike Force Kanbi was established by State Crime Command's Cybercrime

Squad to investigate the use of Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) boxes, which are an electronic device used to send bulk text messages across the Australian telecommunications network containing fraudulent links.

Texts look legit

The text messages typically pertain to be a legitimate institution containing a fraudulent link, directing the victim to an illegitimate website for the purpose of financial gain.

Commander of the Cybercrime Squad, Detective Acting Superintendent Jason Smith said consumers should be weary of SMS phishing scams.

Legitimate businesses will never call or SMS customers seeking confidential information. Always be suspicious when you receive such requests.

'Scammers will often pretend to be from a

reputable company or financial institution so even if it's a company you regularly deal with, the safer option is to independently log into that company's website to check your account,' Det A/ Supt Smith said.

'SMS phishing is one of the most common tactics deployed by scammers to obtain banking and other personal information from a victim, and SIM boxes can hold over 250 active SIM cards and will typically send out up to 150,000 messages per day containing phishing lures to various scams.

Don't click

'While the Cybercrime Squad remain committing to stamping out this type of crime, we need the community to be Cyber smart by not clicking links you receive in texts or email – the scammers are powerless if you don't play into their hands.'

Continued from page 12

Rous would have already done so. Rous' attitude can be summed up by this Utopia clip on How to Do Community Consultation: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vu4LJys_bs

Q.1 What evidence is there that the Widjabul Wia-bal should trust Rous to act on their stated interests, not just 'consult' about them?

A new biodiversity study cannot make the threatened plant and animal species, or the Endangered Ecological Communities, go away. In fact, all of them, particularly the koala, are even more threatened than they were 11 years ago when the Terrestrial Ecology Impact Assessment was done. Re-doing this study can mean only that Rous intends to 'offset' the problem away.

Q.2 What new information is Rous seeking by repeating the biodiversity study?

2. 'It is important to investigate all source options'. When the Dunoon Dam was set aside as an option in 2014, Rous announced that three main strategies would be pursued: (a) water efficiency, (b) groundwater, and (c) water re-use.

Q.3 Why has water efficiency been discarded as the principal strategy?

In 2021, six of the incoming Rous councillors re-instated the Dunoon Dam in the first few minutes of the first meeting, based solely on 10,000 petition signatures in



Skye Roberts before speaking at the Public Access session at the Rous County Council meeting in February 2022. Photo Tree Faerie

favour of the dam. The same six councillors, in distributing that petition, also explicitly rejected the options of purified recycled water, desalination and groundwater that Mr Rudd claims are being investigated by Rous.

Q.4 How can the community trust that Rous will investigate seriously any options other than a new dam on Rocky Creek when (a) six of the councillors are opposed to all non-dam options, and (b) Rous ignored due process in re-instating the Dunoon Dam with such extraordinary haste?

3. 'Feasibility studies comparing the various long-term supply options are at a preliminary stage'. In 2013 Rous put the Dunoon Dam on hold and stated: 'When considered against other options in the Future Water Strategy,

Dunoon Dam was considered to have significant cultural heritage, ecological and cost constraints' (Northern Star 18/12/2013). Rous has had ten years to investigate alternatives that are less destructive than a new dam but according to Mr Rudd it is still only at the beginning of the process.

Q.5 Why are feasibility studies only at a preliminary stage? Is Rous able to carry out its responsibilities as a local water utility when it is apparently so handicapped?

4. 'Funding sources are a mix of current and future water users, developer contributions, state and federal grants'. Given that the Department of Planning and Environment estimates that a new dam would cost \$841 million, Rous must presumably be able to calculate all the variables involved in how

that money would be raised. Water users are entitled to know how the construction of the dam would affect them.

Q.6 Could Mr Rudd please provide an approximate estimate of the rise in water charges in the four LGAs if government funding for the dam were not forthcoming.

5. Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy does not explicitly rule out new surface water storages for the Northern Rivers.' However, the Strategy does state that the dam has no benefits over costs. This is presumably why the state government has not rushed to support this project.

Q. 7 Why would Rous spend further money on an option that is already considered uneconomic?

Q. 8 Has Rous explored what could be done with \$840 million, or even \$500 million, if it were spent on alternatives such as serious water efficiencies, waste minimisation, contingency plans, household refits and the many other options?

It is clear that the six pro-dam councillors run the Rous show and have decided to fast-track the Dunoon Dam regardless of public sentiment, economics, water security, cultural sensitivities or ecological damage. Rous' acquiescence casts doubt on its ability, or willingness, to act in the best interests of the region.

Nan Nicholson
The Channon

Why were the Second Australians so ungrateful?

David Lowe

Mayor Kobayashi stood among the dignitaries in the park, between the flagpole and a eucalyptus tree, but not getting any shade from either. It was Appreciation Day, and nothing could go wrong.

The Emperor's picture dominated the scene, as was appropriate, and the school children in their patriotic kimonos were quiet and attentive. The other VIPs were in their plastic chairs, pretending to listen to the speeches. Only one was asleep so far, a fat local industrialist who had helped pay for all this, but he had his sunglasses on, so that was an improvement on last year.

Insects sang in the trees, which was annoying, but then Mr Kobayashi became aware of something else, a murmuring from the back of the crowd. He moved his head slightly to see, and frowned as he saw the cause of the disturbance.

It was the Second Australians, causing trouble as usual. They hadn't taken any care to dress appropriately for Appreciation Day, but were wearing their usual grubby T-shirts, thongs and towelling hats, with untidy hair sticking out in all directions. One

Mr Kobayashi wondered what it would take to make the Second Australians happy. Free beer? Then he remembered the year the council had tried that, and shuddered.

had a made a crude flag containing the cross of their former colonisers. He saw one of their women snigger and jeer, pointing at something on the stage, but was unable to catch the eye of the security detail, who were distracted by their phones, watching the Appreciation Day battle re-enactments beamed in from across the Empire.

We brought them civilisation!

Mr Kobayashi wondered what it would take to make the Second Australians happy. Free beer? Then he remembered the year the council had tried that, and shuddered at the memory.

He thought about the many reforms that had been brought in since the war. They were allowed to speak their own language now, as



The Emperor's loyal representative, Mayor Kobayashi. Image Cloudcatcher Media

long as the children learned Japanese as well. They were allowed to inter-marry without a certificate from the central authority. They could earn their own money, even rent land. And then the greatest concession, the country's name, returned to Australia. Perhaps all these gestures of kindness and conciliation had simply made the Second Australians harder to control?

The younger ones had no respect for anyone, or anything, it seemed. He watched as one picked his nose, examined it, then flicked it into the hair of his sister. What was wrong with these people?

After the main ceremony, there would be a side event with special catering for the Second Australians, where they could eat the burned meat they liked with sugary red sauce, and listen to their tuneless music. Council was paying for it, and Mr Kobayashi had been among the votes of approval for the decision, but now he regretted it. Maybe it would be better if nothing was done to lure them in to participate?

They should be grateful

Then his attention was captured by a tiny tot, a very young Second Australian with blue eyes who was coming up to the stage to collect some kind of award. He had to admit they could be charming when they were very young. Well, some of them at least.

Mr Kobayashi caught the eye of a very elderly veteran of the war, who had only one arm and was in a wheelchair. He remembered his own grandfather, who had died in the assault on Darwin after crossing New Guinea from the north. He remembered his uncle, who had been in the submarine corps that had liberated

Sydney with barely a shot.

He remembered the miraculous bombs that had ended the war, destroying London, New York and Washington. Ah well, you can't make okonomiyaki without breaking eggs, and nothing like that had happened here anyway. The cities had been left mostly intact, and most of the civilian population had been unharmed, in a smooth transfer of power.

Now they had decent food, flower arranging, vending machines for everything, and bullet trains. What had the Second Australians ever achieved by comparison?

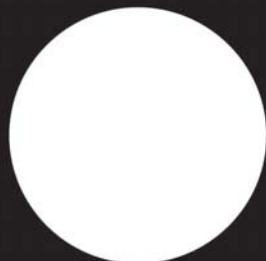
Mr Kobayashi knew his history. When the Second Australians first arrived in this country, they killed most of the people, along with the trees and native animals. They covered the continent with rabbits and sheep, turning even more of it into desert, then wasted their time watching horses run in circles. Such idiotic people didn't deserve a country of their own. It had all been a mistake, and the Empire had corrected it.

As sweat dribbled down his collar, Mayor Kobayashi thought of the many sacrifices that had been necessary to improve the lot of the Second Australians.

Why were they so unappreciative?



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Signature cocktails, and casual dining with ocean views.
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\$8 loft wine or lager, \$10 spritzer,
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North Byron Hotel
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Kitchen hours: 11.30am-late daily
Breakfast: 8am-11am Sat & Sun
www.northbyronhotel.com.au

Step away from the centre of town and into a shimmering oasis away from crowds.
A tucked away treasure, the North Byron Hotel is a thriving mecca of good food, great music, laughter and the 'chilled Byron Bay vibes'.
Eat, Drink, Discover.



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
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'Make a meal of it'
Add chips and a drink, just \$5.



QUARTZ GALLERY
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12pm-10pm
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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.

BYRON BAY continued



Success Thai
Open Lunch Wed-Fri
12-2.30pm.
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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.
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www.bangalowbread.co
info@bangalowbread.co

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MULLUMBIMBY



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Open for brunch and lunch,
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FB/Insta: EmpireMullum
empiremullum.com.au

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.

MURWILLUMBAH



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Fully Licensed Café
Brunch + Lunch
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Wednesday-Sunday from 9am
Bookings recommended.
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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.

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@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
GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR.



The Good Life

Positano to Byron Flavours: catering inspired by the Amalfi Coast

Longing for authentic Italian cuisine? Look no further, Positano to Byron Flavours is a local catering business that offers a customised menu of delicious homemade dishes prepared only with the freshest and locally-grown ingredients.

The owner, Carlo, along with his family, has called Byron Bay home for more than 20 years. Positano to Byron Flavours was born from Carlo's vision to bring a little of Positano to Byron Bay. His food is inspired by the culinary traditions of his home, the idyllic tourist town of Positano on the Amalfi Coast in the south of Italy.

Carlo has more than 35 years of experience in hospitality, working in some of the best hotels, restaurants and resorts in Italy, England and Australia. He comes from a long line of foodies and he believes the three key ingredients in the kitchen are: fresh produce, passion and 'fantasia', aka imagination!

Everything Carlo offers on the menu is made from scratch, including sourdough, gnocchi and homemade pasta. He also grows fresh garden herbs and most of the vegetables used in his cooking. Positano to Byron Flavours caters to small intimate lunches/dinners and to larger events, cocktail parties, buffets, as well as food deliveries and sharing platters. Carlo's menu celebrates the beautiful seafood that the Byron area has to offer – from seafood carpaccio, linguine with Ballina prawns, seafood risotto, octopus salad, to a delicious 'zuppa di cozze' (mussels soup) or 'insalata di frutti di mare' (seafood salad). Barbecues are Australian, no doubt, but if you want to impress your guests this menu option has a little twist – mozzarella on a lemon leaf, marinated meats or fish, and mixed vegetables with a Mediterranean dressing,



Owner Carlo is inspired by the culinary traditions of his home town of Positano, on the Amalfi Coast of Italy.

all cooked on wood charcoal for that special taste and served on platters to share with your family and friends.

It doesn't have to be all about food – drinks

are important too! With a wide variety of Italian-inspired finger food available, you can enjoy a nice aperitivo, cocktail or glass of wine without worrying about having to drive home. Carlo has extensive experience as a bartender and sommelier so he can mix some of your favourite cocktails and pair the best wines to your meal. Positano to Byron Flavours can take the hassle and stress out of your next event or celebration!

■ More info: positanotobyronflavours.com

Ballina Manor: small luxury hotel with a restaurant



Situated on the historic Norton Street, the Ballina Manor is a stylish small luxury hotel that, once you stay, will become your new home away from home. Located a short distance from the Ballina Byron Gateway Airport and centrally located on Ballina Island, from Ballina Manor you can enjoy a scenic stroll to the town centre or wander down the road to some of the most pristine beaches and waterways.

Whatever the reason for your stay, the Ballina Manor is the perfect base from which you can explore the Ballina/Byron Hinterland and beyond.

Set in a former girl's school built in the 1920s, this Ballina/Byron icon effortlessly blends heritage design with a fresh homely warmth felt as soon as you walk through the doors. Wonder at the decorated, high coffered ceilings and alluring handcrafted wooden staircase whilst you enjoy the modern touches carefully placed throughout this beautiful building.

Unwind by spending the day poolside, take a stroll to one of the surrounding beaches, explore Ballina with ease on our electric bikes, or just sit back on your balcony and watch the world go by.

You can select from their 12 beautifully-designed rooms and suites, each with its own style and touch of elegance. The Ballina



Manor provides a keyless and contactless check-in with the Manor hosts available to assist you at any time during your stay. For a truly unique experience on the Far North Coast of NSW, the Ballina Manor awaits you.

The Manor Restaurant is located within the stylish hotel itself. At the heart, The Manor Restaurant is

understated, comfortable and a welcoming neighbourhood feature of Ballina and its surrounding local areas. The Manor Restaurant is a place where people come together to experience the culmination of the best and freshest ingredients in the area. The chef's dishes draw from locally-sourced seafood, meats and seasonal produce to bring to you traditional and familiar flavours constructed for the modern palate.

■ More info: ballinamanor.com

Cheeses Loves You

Victoria Cosford

Her personal favourites are Claude, the Brie and the Romano. Deb Allard, talented cheese-maker for nearly twenty years, is the owner of Cheeses Loves You and has been a familiar face at farmers' markets for most of that time.



Made from the milk of her very own Jersey cows at Upper Burringbar, the range covers around 22 different products, including milk, butter and kefir. Deb paints a beautiful image of her 'office'; the cheese factory on the property where, from the window as she works, she 'can see exactly what is going on with the cows.'

For all that variety of cheeses she produces, she continues to be asked if it includes a buffalo milk burrata.

'So sick of that question!' she tells me. 'I don't think people realise to get buffalo cheese you need to milk a buffalo!' – an animal they have yet to add to their team. That whole obsession with burrata – the Pugliese cheese whose exterior is solid mozzarella encasing an oozy centre of stracciatella and clotted cream – has long mystified me; I find it cloyingly rich. Deb tells me that the only time she attempted to make it 'it looked like a big white dog pool'. Give me plain old mozzarella anytime, although Deb tells me it's the most technically challenging to make. Furthermore, 'now that Heather is back with the magnificent Coopers Shoot tomatoes I have to make a double batch of mozzarella three times a week!'

Her most successful creation, apparently, is the milk kefir, a fermented beverage similar to yoghurt. 'The health benefits', she says, 'are amazing, and I do have the knack of making kefir thick, creamy and delicious.'

■ Cheeses Loves You are at New Brighton Farmers Markets every Tuesday, 8–11am and at Mullumbimby Farmers Markets every Friday 7–11am.

NORTH BYRON HOTEL

SUMMER KIDS ACTIVITIES

AT THE NORTH BYRON HOTEL








BOOK 3 TICKETS PAY FOR 2

Murmurs from Nowhere Grace Fayrer

2022 recipient of the Tweed Regional Art Gallery –
Byron School of Art 3rd Year Graduate Award.



Continues until 3 March 2024

Grace Fayrer *Not Here, Not There (rose tinted)* 2022
casting plaster, steel, digital video projection on acrylic, 209 x 13 x 12 cm
Photograph Michelle Eabry / Image courtesy the artist © The artist

**TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY
& MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE**



The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is a Tweed Shire Council Community Facility and is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.
Open Wed – Sun, 10am – 5pm (DST) | 2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah | gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au



MURMURS FROM NOWHERE: GRACE FAYRER

Murmurs from Nowhere is the first solo exhibition by emerging artist, Grace Fayrer. The works explore the interaction between digital projection and sculptural structures. They consider the nuanced relationship between form and framework, and in doing so, contemplate the subtlety of boundaries.

By using the body as both a personal and universal point of reference, *Murmurs from Nowhere* highlights the beauty and significance of fleeting moments that often go unnoticed.

This exhibition is the outcome of the Tweed Regional Gallery, Byron School of Art (BSA) 3rd Year Graduate Award, 2022.

**2 Mistral Rd (corner Tweed Valley Way),
Murwillumbah South
02 6670 2790
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au
@tweedregionalgallery**

ART IN THE HEART OF MULLUMBIMBY

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

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

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

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

Enquire at info@solveig.com.au.

BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL

Byron Writers Festival is pleased to announce a range of exciting workshops and long courses to kick off your year of writing.

Delve into the 12 design principles that underscore the theory of permaculture in Permie Principles; build a strong, solid manuscript by creating pace and tension or choose to focus on your memoir or novel in one of the popular intensive long courses.

The monthly Write and Sip! provides an excellent opportunity to participate in casual, themed writing sessions with prompts, silent writing time and a chance to catch up and mingle with other local writers.

Plus, later in the year Laurel Cohn will run The Next Draft, tackling the challenging terrain of structural editing and redrafting!

Stay tuned for additional workshops and book your space via the website.

byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on

ART GALLERIES

ARTIST STUDIO GALLERY

Belongil Beach
Open by appointment.
0409 604 405
janrae.com.au

ARTIST'S HOME GALLERY

Byron Bay
Landscape inspired works imparting a 'spirit of place'.
Open by appointment.
02 6685 5317
jaypearse.com

GALLERY COSMOSIS

Visionary Art
22 Brigantine St, Byron Bay
Open Thurs to Sat, 10.30am–3pm,
or by appointment.
0431 331 205
gallerycosmosis.com
linktr.ee/gallerycosmosisbyronbay

H'ART GALLERY

Local art in the heart of Mullumbimby at
Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre.
60 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
0401 647 325

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by appointment.
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Open Tues–Sun, 10am–3pm.
lennoxartscollective@gmail.com
FB & Insta: @lennoxartscollective

LONE GOAT GALLERY

28 Lawson St, Byron Bay
(Located in the Byron Library building)
Open Wed–Sat, 10am–4pm.
lonegoatgallery.com.au

MACKAY HARRISON GALLERIES

79 Bayview Drive, East Ballina.
Welcome by appointment.
Artist/sculptor David Harrison
0412 664 284

MIST GALLERY

Shop 1B-51 Tweed Coast Rd, Cabarita Beach
0419 870 305
mist.gallery.cabarita@gmail.com
FB & Insta: @mistgallery

MULLUMBIMBY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY

Drill Hall Complex,
2 Jubilee Ave, Mullumbimby
Open Thurs–Sat, 10am–2pm.
mullumclayworkers.com

NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY

47 Cullen Street, Nimbin
Opening hours 10am–4pm daily.
02 6689 1444
nimbinartistsgallery.org

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

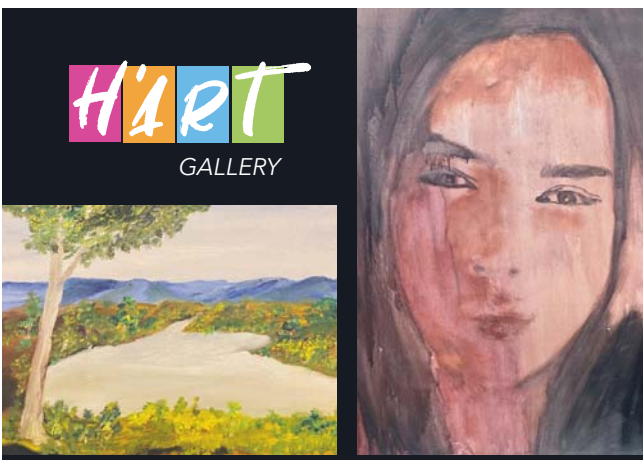
Cnr Cherry & Crane Sts, Ballina
Open Wed–Fri 10am–4pm; Sat–Sun, 9.30am–1pm.
02 6681 0530
nrcgballina.com.au

STUDIO SUVIRA

Ceramics & Sculpture Gallery,
Home gallery and sculpture garden.
28 Left Bank Rd, Mullumbimby
0402 125 922 (call/sms first)
suviramcdonald.com

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

Gallery hours: Wed–Sun, 10am–5pm.
Cafe open 9.30am–4pm.
2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah
02 6670 2790
artgallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au



**2024
Workshops &
Long Courses**

**BYRON
WRITERS
FESTIVAL**



Kick off the year and refine your skills with a writing workshop - topics include editing your manuscript, permie principles, creating pace & tension, plus the popular novel and memoir intensive courses.

**Places limited.
Book Now!**

For details and to book visit
[byronwritersfestival.com/
whats-on](http://byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on)



Knitting the Big Cardigan of resistance

Whenever anyone says, 'There is nothing we can do,' I think of the Knitting Nannas. I think of this powerful and politically potent group of older women who hold the frontline of so many impossible protests with a ball of yarn and a cheeky conversation, and not just an ironing board – an iron will! They stand in unity. They know there is work to be done. And they do it.

These are the women you'll find with their hands in the sink at a social gathering. They are unlikely freedom fighters. If Che Guevara had a nanna she'd be here. They were the backbone of Bentley. They are the posse who pearl one and piss off many, just by gathering outside the local MP's office.

They aren't a malevolent force. They aren't 'organised'. In fact, their charter states they are a 'disorganisation' of nannas. They call themselves a 'loop'. They should never be underestimated. The nannas are crafty. They knit the community together in a yellow and black cardigan of resistance. Something they slip over the head of corporate greed to suffocate them into submission. They are effective. They are an inspiration. And now, as we live in the pointy end of the extractivist patriarchy, we have never needed the sensible wisdom of nannas more.

This week, two nannas – Nanna Helen and Nanna Dominique – had a win in court against the state government; arguing that parts of NSW protest laws are unconstitutional because they infringe on the implied freedom of political communication. The laws were introduced in 2022 by the Perrotet government after Port Botany climate protests. The laws were passed with the support of the Labor opposition. These laws carry maximum penalties of two years in the clink and \$22k in fines. If you've ever needed proof that the major parties are in cahoots with coal and gas companies then these laws are it.

Instead of criminalising polluters, they criminalise us; the people who want climate justice for their kids, for the environment, the people who want



The Nannas are crafty. They knit the community together in a yellow and black cardigan of resistance.

their government to make better decisions for the environment and climate – like the Nannas.

Let's face it, if you are locking up nannas then it's obvious who the real criminals are. Any government who locks up a nanna is the loser. Knowing that fact is what makes the Nannas powerful. The use of force against vulnerable groups shows up the bullying tactics of those in power. The Nannas have a strength that is unshakeable.

Okay, quick Nanna history:

Knitting Nannas Against Gas (KNAG) started in 2012 with just two women sitting, knitting, and surveilling a coal seam gas wastewater holding pond near Casino. Their numbers grew and they began staking out local politicians with weekly knit-ins – their express intention being to annoy them. I can guarantee that any MP who has had a

Knitting Nanna on their doorstep has been inside kicking the bin.

The Nannas were part of the magic of the Bentley Blockade in 2014, when our community did the unthinkable – what we were told couldn't be done – and stopped a gas company getting a toehold in the Northern Rivers. The Nannas were a core part of achieving that. They're potent, they're visible, and they're loved.

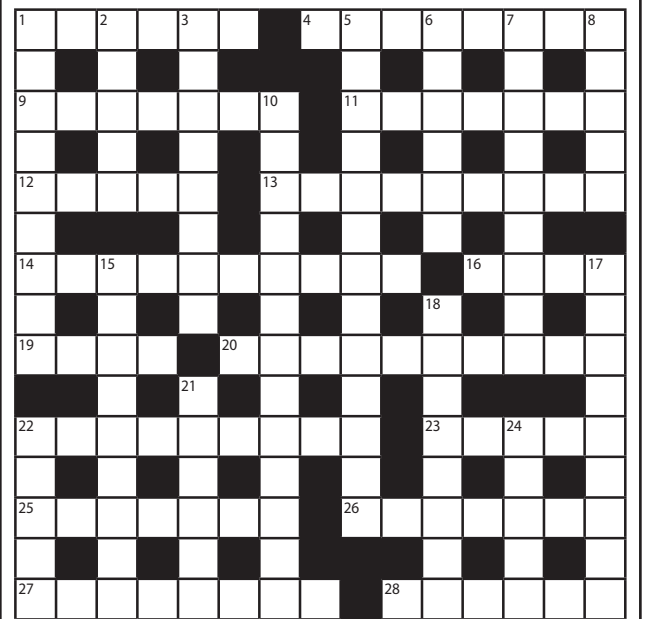
The Knitting Nannas have become our protest superheroes. They bring hope, wisdom *and* wool. They bring political pressure. No one can make you do something you don't want to better than a nanna. It's genius. The Knitting Nannas are now a countrywide phenomenon – with international loops in the UK and the US.

So, as we head into 2024, with another year of battles looming, battles which those in power tell us are impossible, like keeping Wallum wild, may we reflect on the wisdom of the Knitting Nannas; when a community comes together, when we stand in solidarity in passive resistance *nothing* is impossible. Knitting is something we can all do, not just with needles, but with our bodies, with our minds, and with our intentions to work together.

The Knitting Nannas; saving the land, air and water for the kiddies. They are my Australians of the Year.

– Mandy Nolan

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #524



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- One thousand travelling in automobiles – Coronas, perhaps (6)
- Those of immense self-worth – so it gets muddled! (8)
- Locks in rest break with rescue workers (7)
- Alternative age returns – no, Herb! (7)
- Outcast – drive back, back! (5)
- Very strong evidence follows – balls! (9)
- Princess Motionless with the queen. Why, you ask? It produces spirits (10)
- Very small, soft cry (4)
- Bloody – like Al? (4)
- English princess with court cases about ring leaders (10)
- It stays in rhythm with wild monotreme (9)
- Take legal action about, for instance, transition (5)
- Sound the horn for president and alien (7)
- Bets over wild ride—could be the Redbacks (7)
- People in Lhasa live among giants (8)
- Estimate boss, suggested Spooner, expressing loathing (6)

DOWN

- Outlet among two animals (traditional enemies) and a kelpie (6,3)
- Report ease in raising of a small dog and encouragement for a horse (3,2)
- Hold back about the tune (8)
- Celebrity basketballers, jet setters (5,8)
- Worthless human beings – the weakest ever really produced, silly starts (6)
- Like a long time including each daytime TV series (4,5)
- Mock science dismissed (5)
- Seriously overprotected and cosseted to rent (7,6)
- Awful others bum – people say it really sticks out! (4,5)
- Got ensorcelled (9)
- Top military in charge of Australian Greens (8)
- Cleaner, favourite, appealing child (6)
- French word, English time for a musical work (5)
- Feminist backs meagre ergonomic input (5)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Cheroots (6)
- Braggarts (8)
- Ringlets (7)
- Aromatic perennial herb (7)
- Pariah (5)
- Higher than standard alcohol content (9)
- Where alcoholic liquors are made (10)
- Shed tears (4)
- Grisly (4)
- Articles expressing the publisher's opinions (10)
- Used by musicians to mark time (9)
- Continuation (5)
- Brass instrument (7)
- Arachnids (7)
- Buddhists devoted to the Dalai Lama (8)
- Enmity (6)

DOWN

- Bred for droving (6,3)
- Motivate (3,2)
- Prevent (8)
- Habitual international travellers (5,8)
- Stupid individuals (6)
- Long-running serialised TV drama (4,5)
- Sneer at (5)
- Excessively pampered and overindulged (7,6)
- It is very noticeable, usually in a bad way (4,5)
- Owned (9)
- The cabbage family (8)
- Affectionate form of address (6)
- Anthem; hymn (5)
- Author of *The Female Eunuch* (5)

Last week's solution #523



STARS BY LILITH

Jupiter and Pluto, the largest and smallest planets in our solar system, influence this year's terrestrial rhythms, with slow-moving Pluto making its first sign shift since 2008 into Aquarius, the zodiac zone of electricity, technology and the collective...



CAPRICORN THE GOAT

ARIES: The North Node in Aries for the first time since 2006 rolls out this year's red carpet, Rams. Your ruler Mars in the sign of material foundations offers a stable springboard into 2024, particularly in career matters, where your management skills are currently at their keenest and most capable.

TAURUS: What could be more auspicious than Jupiter surging forward in your sign for new year, and extending its blessings there till late May? With Jupiter's confidence boost you can't help but attract what you want, and whatever you set up in the first half of 2024 will pay off in the last.

GEMINI: Your celestial mentor Mercury, galloping into 2024 in Gemini's opposite and complementary sign on the astro-wheel, is your personal cue to start dreaming big about what you want to give and to receive this year, while exuberant Jupiter glamorises your partnership magnetism to attract new who knows who.

CANCER: This year's North Node favours courageous Cancerians with sparkly opportunities for being willing to flow with sudden change. In the liminal space between one door closing and another opening, your Cancerian superpower of making home wherever you are will be your greatest asset in 2024.

LEO: Think of January's planets as a cast of actors in the big sky movie, wearing different costumes to play their roles on each sign's stage. This month, the Sun, your galactic guide, takes on the persona of executive director or team leader, an enjoyable and not unfamiliar scenario for your majesties.

VIRGO: Your mentor, Mercury, beginning 2024 in the sign of wild nature suggests treating yourself less like a machine, more like a garden that has fallow and fruitful seasons requiring different care at different times. So, attend to your garden's needs this week, whether that's weeding, pruning, nourishing or just appreciation.

LIBRA: This year's North Node placement counsels leaning into interactions that challenge you, finding the value in even your prickliest connections. South Node in Libra looks at where you care too much about what others think, and advises being brave and speaking up. One person doing that with grace encourages others.

SCORPIO: Scorpio's astrological affinity with the Plutonic process of transformation sees your soul archetype of the phoenix ascendant in 2024, while the South Node makes this year about giving back by bringing your natural capacity for deep understanding to others as a reliable advisor, professional counsellor or valued friend.

SAGITTARIUS: Thank your lucky Sagittarian stars this year starts with communicator Mercury surging out of reverse in your sign – though telling what's true for you, whether or not anyone wants to hear it, isn't likely to serve you well. What will? Charming Venus raining grace on your sign for most of this month.

CAPRICORN: With Jupiter and Mercury swerving out of reverse for your entrance into 2024, planets be praised! This year's South Node indicates that while the process isn't always easy, shedding roles you've outgrown – a necessary step to recalibrating your life's direction this year – can also be a welcome relief.

AQUARIUS: There's no easy fix to 2024's shifting financial sands, and wise Water Pourers will wait rather than wade in. The North Node in your realm of local exchange suggests your neighbourhood could provide new adventures – both delightful and profitable – by uncovering some hidden gems in your own backyard.

PISCES: The dual presence of artistic Neptune and practical Saturn in your sign, which continues throughout 2024, makes January an excellent starting point for learning to surf the waves of these opposite, but highly complementary, energies; to navigate the flux and flow of fast and slow, contraction and expansion.



Hello Summer



Drill Hall Theatre

Meet the filmmaker Claude Gonzalez at the screening of *John Farrow: Hollywood's Man in the Shadows*, the first documentary ever made about the enigmatic, Australian born, Oscar-winning filmmaker John Farrow, who went to the very top in Hollywood, but obscured his past from all who knew him.

Part mystery, part biography, part film noir, this compelling documentary made by filmmakers Frans Vandenburg and Claude Gonzalez, uncovers his stranger-than-fiction tale. Married to glamorous star Maureen O'Sullivan, with seven children, including Mia Farrow, John Farrow directed over 50 films.

The film screens as a double bill with Gonzalez's *Sydney at War*, 7pm Friday 12 January – Drill Hall theatre.

<https://if.com.au/john-farrow-hollywoods-man-in-the-shadows-trailer/>

Byron Twilight Market

Byron Twilight Market lights up every Saturday night throughout the summer season creating a warm and inviting haven beneath the starry Byron sky. This enchanting market serves as a platform for local artists, designers, healers, producers and musicians to exhibit their handcrafted high-quality creations proudly.

Nestled in Railway Park it's an intimate gathering that immerses visitors in Byron's rich arts, crafts and culture. Delight in the offerings of boutique stalls manned by talented artisans, offering exquisite jewellery, leather goods, clothing and accessories. Live music serenades the crowd, and delectable food delights the palate.

This family-friendly event thrives on the vibrant energy of artists, designers and healers creating an unforgettable atmosphere. The Twilight Markets beckons you if you're seeking a unique way to spend your Saturday evening in Byron.

02 6685 6807

marketsadmin@byroncentre.com.au

www.byronmarkets.com.au

[f @byronmarkets](#)

[@byron_markets](#)

Byron Photo Magic

Visit Byron Photo Magic for all your photography needs, including instore or online printing, large-format, canvas printing, photo books and calendars.

They have full 35mm/120mm film Colour - BW processing and printing services, batteries, memory cards, camera bags, Fujifilm Instax & Polaroid Cameras, along with the full range of GoPro and accessories.

They handle old video tapes, Super 8mm film to USB. They stock frames, photo albums and an extensive range of Promaster photographic accessories, tripods, filters, binoculars and the largest range of 35mm film on the north coast, as well as pre-owned 35mm film cameras. Passport photos are covered professionally instore; Call in and see Stephen, Karen, Alanna, Kristen and Isabella.

Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat (school holidays) 10am-2pm
Closed Sunday/Public Holidays.

02 6685 5877

Shop 20, Mercato on Byron, 108-114 Jonson St, Byron Bay

www.photomagic.com.au



TOO YOUNG TO BE ANGELS
a new year special

10 DAYS & NIGHTS OF
MUSIC, POETRY, DANCE, CABARET, PHOTOGRAPHY
FILM, INTERACTIVE THEATRE & CONVERSATIONS
18 SHOWS, 5 FREE EVENTS, OVER 50 ARTISTS

5-14 JANUARY 2024
drillhalltheatre.org.au

DRILL HALL THEATRE
4 JUBILEE AVE. MULLUMBIMBY
CELEBRATING & HONOURING
OUR ARTISTS




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Byron Photo Magic

Summer Holidays





Simple Use Reloadable Instax Mini 12
Color Negative
ISO 120

All your imaging needs

Shop 20 Mercato on Byron, 108 - 114 Jonson St,
Byron Bay NSW 2481 - Ph 0266855877

Hello Summer

Art Kind

Art Kind isn't just an art gallery, it's a lively community hub dedicated to showcasing diverse talents, local and beyond. Their commitment extends to fostering creativity through engaging classes and workshops, led by gallery owner and artist Bec Duff. Explore the website for details on the School Holiday Mini Makers Program (ages 6-12), aiming to ignite young imaginations.

Amid their creative endeavours, don't miss the current Summer Group Show, *Mood Booster* featuring works from 15 talented artists – a beautiful curation of paintings, prints, ceramics, jewellery and photography. Experience the uplifting power of art at Art Kind!

Gallery Hours: Tuesday-Friday, 10am-2pm; Saturday, 9am-1pm.
Holiday Program: Mondays and Wednesdays, bookings essential.
3/18 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
artkind.com.au
 @artkindbyronbay

Ballina RSL

Ballina RSL offers a thrilling school holiday program and regular kids events to excite and amaze all ages, with entertaining shows and events for your little ones.

From toe-tapping musical performances to enchanting magic shows, there's something for every young heart to enjoy. Dive into the world of imagination and relaxation with kids' yoga sessions, or try your luck at our thrilling bingo and disco events.

These holidays Ballina RSL also have a special \$5 Epic Value Kids Meal offer, which includes a delicious ice cream. Kid-approved delights for children 12 years and under, available all NSW School Holidays with lunch & dinner Friday, 15 December to Wednesday, 31 January. For all dates and times visit the Ballina RSL website.

02 6681 9500
1 Grant Street, Ballina
www.ballinarsl.com.au

mood booster

SUMMER GROUP SHOW
 ART KIND BYRON BAY
 15 ARTISTS EXHIBITING

OPEN UNTIL 27 JAN



mini makers

holiday program
 SUMMER 2024

HOLIDAY ART PROGRAM FOR
 THE MINI MAKERS OF
 BYRON BAY! MAKE, PLAY
 AND EXPLORE AT ART KIND!

FROM 8 - 24 JAN

Art Kind is about showcasing and celebrating the diverse talent of both local and non-local contemporary artists and fostering creativity within the community by providing engaging exhibitions, art classes and workshops.

www.artkind.com.au 0404946553 @artkindbyronbay

art
 kind

REGISTER TO STAY UP TO DATE!

BYRON TWILIGHT MARKET

EVERY SATURDAY
 4 - 9pm
 Railway Park

**ARTISAN STALLS
 FOOD & LIVE MUSIC**

byronmarkets.com.au

BYRON COMMUNITY CENTRE

BYRON MARKETS

Join Our **KIDS PREMIER SCHOOL HOLIDAYS PROGRAM**

WITH FREE ICE CREAM

EPIC \$5

JUNIOR MEAL SPECIAL

LUNCH & DINNER 7 DAYS

AVAILABLE ALL NSW SCHOOL HOLIDAYS FROM FRI 15 DEC TO WED 31 JAN

BALLINA RSL

JANUARY FREE & TICKETED KIDS SHOWS

WED 3RD	SHORTY BROWN DISCO (10:30AM - 11:45AM) FREE	THU 18TH	KIDS YOGA SESSION (1:30PM-2:30PM) FREE BOOKINGS REQUIRED
THU 4TH	WILDLIFE TWINS (11AM - 12PM) FREE	TUE 23RD	MAGIC & CIRCUS DANCE PARTY (DOORS 10.00AM - SHOW 10.30AM)
SUN 7TH	IWA WRESTLING (DOORS 2.30PM - SHOW 3PM) VIP: \$28 / ADULT: \$22 / CHILD: \$18	THU 25TH	KIDS YOGA SESSION (1:30PM-2:30PM) FREE
TUE 9TH	POP SQUAD (DOORS 10.30AM - SHOW 11AM) CHILDREN \$19 ADULTS \$23	THU 26TH	ANNUAL KIDS FISHING COMPETITION REGO FROM 7.45AM - LAST WEIGH IN 1.00PM
FRI 12TH	SHORTY BROWN BINGO (10AM - 11:45 AM) FREE		

KIDS COVE SUPERVISED PLAY AREA

THU & FRI - DINNER
 SAT - LUNCH & DINNER
 SUN - LUNCH

Hello Summer

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@islandluxe.com.au
Island Luxe Tribe
1/11 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
tribe@islandluxe.com.au

Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club

Come to any *Dragon 50* show and sing your way through a long and sinuous road of golden songs. This is not only a celebration of 50 years of the band's existence, it is a celebration of you and your relationship with the *Dragon* songs.

Witness songs from their young years, like 'Rock 'n' Roll', 'Ponsonby' and 'Education'.

Songs from their glory years like 'Sunshine', 'This Time', 'Get that Jive', 'Still in Love', 'April Sun' and 'Are You Old Enough?'.

Songs from the mid-period '80s come back, like 'Rain', 'Speak No Evil', and 'Dreams of Ordinary Men'.

Songs from the phoenix years, like 'Don't I look like Jim', 'Roses', 'Babylon', and many more...

Dragon 50, live and loud. Coming to Mullum Ex-Services.

Get your tickets at the Club or online <https://www.mullumexservices.com.au/event/dragon-50th-year-anniversary-tour/>

See you there!
02 6684 2533
58 Dalley St, Mullumbimby
www.mullumexservices.com.au

Happy Herb Shop

It's time for some summer fun and the Ocean Shores Happy Herb Shop is overflowing with abundance of goodies.

Besides offering a wide range of natural herbal products to support optimal health, vitality and wellbeing physically, mentally and spiritually, they also have a wonderful and eclectic collection of gifting ideas – natural incenses, intriguing books, tarot/oracle cards, clothes, jewellery, natural perfumes and body oils, children's toys and delights from their felted fantasyland, ceremonial tools, singing bowls, musical, fire and circus gear. Come explore!

0468 853 774
Ocean Village Centre
Rajah Rd, Ocean Shores



ISLAND LUXE

We wish you
a wonderful festive season,

TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVALUABLE SUPPORT.
 WE TRULY APPRECIATE IT.

AS WE LOOK AHEAD TO 2024, WE ARE THRILLED
 TO OFFER YOU NEW AND EXCITING COLLECTIONS
 THAT WE CAN'T WAIT TO SHARE WITH YOU.

WARMEST REGARDS,
 ISLAND LUXE TEAM X



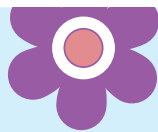
THE HAPPY HERB SHOP

SUMMERTIME FUN!

Mon–Fri 9am–6pm | Sat–Sun 9am–4pm
 Ocean Village Centre 0468 853 774.

HAPPY HERB CO

Leading a botanical revolution for
 Healthier Happier Humans.



Hello Summer

Balloon Aloft

As another year laps the sun, make sure to treat yourself, friends and family to a special treat this summer! 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 year ahead.

Hot air ballooning is the ultimate holiday experience to share with loved ones, 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](#)

Crystal Expo Byron Bay

Start the new year with sparkle and spirit at the Byron Bay Crystal Expo!

Join them upstairs at the Byron Community Centre from 5-8 January for an extraordinary event featuring thousands of dazzling crystals. Open 9am to 4pm daily. Free entry.

Explore an extensive collection of crystals, along with serene singing bowls, beautiful crystal journals, exquisite jewellery and more!

This event offers the perfect opportunity to kickstart your year with positivity and inspiration. Whether you're a crystal enthusiast or just curious, Crystal Expo welcomes all to discover gems that resonate with your energy.

Embrace the summer holiday spirit and treat yourself to an experience that promises to add sparkle to your life.

69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
Crystal Expo Gold Coast



Come
Fly
with us

DAILY SUNRISE BALLOON FLIGHTS

Includes breakfast at Three Blue Ducks restaurant - The Farm
[www.balloonaloft.com](#) | 1300 723 279 | [@balloonaloftbyronbay](#)



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HITS, TALES & MAGIC IN CONCERT

APRIL SUN IN CUBA . RAIN . ARE YOU OLD ENOUGH . STILL IN LOVE . YOUNG YEARS . SPEAK NO EVIL . DREAMS OF ORDINARY MEN . CRY . BODY AND THE BEAT . THIS TIME . MAGIC . CELEBRATE . RAMONA . GET THAT JIVE . SUNSHINE . SUMMER . WESTERN GIRLS & MORE

Mullum Ex Services Club Friday 5th Jan.

Tickets- [www.mullumexservices.com.au/event/dragon-50th-year-anniversary-tour/](#)

DRAGON: 1973 - 2023



BYRON BAY CRYSTAL EXPO

THOUSANDS OF CRYSTALS

STUNNING JEWELLERY

SINGING BOWLS

CRYSTAL JOURNALS & MORE

FRI 5TH - MON 8TH JAN

9AM - 4PM DAILY

BYRON COMMUNITY CENTRE
-UPSTAIRS-

[CRYSTALEXPO.COM.AU](#)

CRYSTAL
EXPO

Hello Summer



McTavish Boards

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. If you're looking for any surf accessories they have you covered with everything from Nocs Provisions binoculars, to Remote Projects tarps, to travel board bags, and everything in between.

If you'd like to try one of their boards, stop by to test-ride a board from their demo range for the weekend.

Open seven days a week
Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm
Saturday, 8am-2pm
Sunday, 10am-2pm
91 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
02 6680 8807
mctavish.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-to-one professional fitting service instore 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, Goddess 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
@ lingerie_no_5

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.

0408 444 858
betterbybike.com.au
info@betterbybike.com.au
@ betterbybikeoz
fb better_by_bike_nothern_rivers_rail_trail



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



EXPERIENCE BYRON BAY'S NEW ADVENTURE ACTIVITY BEST DAY EVER!



- CYCLE THROUGH LUSH WORLD HERITAGE RAINFOREST
- GLOW WORM TUNNELS AND RAIL HISTORY
- COFFEE, FOOD & DRINK OPTIONS ALONG THE TRAIL
- GREAT WAY TO TRY OUT AN E-BIKE BEFORE YOU BUY
- IDEAL FOR FAMILIES, COUPLES, SENIORS, AND GROUPS LARGE AND SMALL
- 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





Byron Community College

Calling all budding business moguls.

Conquer the world of entrepreneurship with new funded* workshops and short courses.

Set yourself up for success with essential skills to start, manage and grow your business idea, regardless of what level you are at.

At Byron Community College they have classes in everything from planning, strategy, finances and technology to management, growth and systems. Dive into the exciting worlds of marketing, web design, computer basics, design programs (Photoshop & Canva), social media and blogging. Gaining overall confidence in navigating the digital realm, and empowering you to take on any endeavor!

Go ahead, make 2024 the year you turn that dream into a reality!

*for eligible students.

*This training is subsidised by the NSW Government. RTO 90013

To learn more head to www.byroncollege.org.au/course-category/business or call 02 6684 3374

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](https://www.instagram.com/woodysbyronbay)
90-96 Jonson St, Byron Bay

Hello Summer

Create your future.



Study business fee-free* in 2024!

Funded* workshops in:

- Start Me Up
- Computer Basics
- Marketing Mashup
- The Start Up series
- Show Me The Money
- Supercharge Your Brand
- Crafting Unforgettable Experiences



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

More Info



**Byron
Community
College**

RTO: 90013
02 6684 3374
www.byroncollege.org.au
customer-care@byroncollege.org.au

LINGERIE N° 5



PROFESSIONAL FITTING SERVICE

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



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



Eco Active Swimwear

Inspired by the diversity, inclusivity and energy of their coastal home, Byron Bay. The team at Bask would like to wish you a Happy New Year and a relaxed and enjoyable break in this wonderful part of the world.

For your holiday swimwear be sure to visit their local stockist Girl Overboard, located at 7 Lawson St Byron Bay. The friendly staff will be sure to assist you find your perfect Bask fit!

Tips from the local team at Bask...

Best beach – Broken Head

Best restaurant – Rock & Roll cafe, Mullumbimby

Best watering hole – Brunswick Pub

Best swimming spot – high tide at Bruns River

Best entertainment – Brunswick Picture House

www.baskaustalia.com

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, 4 January, 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

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, alternative 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.

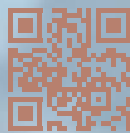
This New Year find that extra-special 'touch-of-Byron' gift at Soulife: candles, incense, suncatchers, singing bowls, crystal and salt lamps, journals and unique 2024 calendars and diaries.

Come by today and visit their new home.

**84 Jonson St (next to the Byron Visitors Centre)
02 6680 8090**



Follow our journey



@baskaus

bask.
AUSTRALIA

baskaus baskaus www.baskaustalia.com

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)

Hello Summer

Let's Go Surfing

Join the Let's Go Surfing team for an awesome time surfing or stand-up paddle-boarding (SUP) these 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 flat water in the Brunswick River and Lake Ainsworth.

Open seven days 8.30am-4.30pm
Shop 5, 11 Fletcher St, Byron Bay
letsgosurfingaustralia.com.au
(02) 6680 9443
letsgosurfing.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



SURF LESSONS

**KIDS
 ADULTS
 FAMILIES
 PRIVATES
 SUP TOURS
 BOARDHIRE**



BOOK TODAY

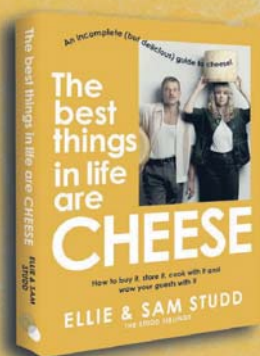
LETSGOSURFING.COM.AU
02 6680 9443

BYRON BAY - LENNOX - BALLINA - BRUNSWICK HEADS



WHISKY & CHEESE

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



Cape Byron Distillery

Jan 4th from 5:00 PM

80 St Helena Road, McLeods Shoot, Byron Bay

TICKETS HERE



SALTWATER
 24 81
SOCIAL CLUB
 32 JONSON ST

OPEN AT NIGHT

LIVE DJs *Dancing*

BILLIARDS · SHUFFLEBOARD

Ice Cold Cocktails / **GOOD TIMES**



Find out more



ANGRY MESSIAH PRESENTS
**40th ANNIVERSARY OF
"AUSTRALIANA"**
NATIONAL TOUR 2023/2024

**AUSTEN
TAYSHUS
LIVE**

"AUSTEN TAYSHUS SKIN IN THE GAME"

Now streaming on FOXDOCOS & BINGE

BYRON BAY SERVICES CLUB

132 Jonson St, Byron Bay T: (02)6685 6878

Monday 8th January 2024 @8.00pm

Tickets: \$60

Available from the venue

SEVEN

days of entertainment

SHINE BRIGHT AT STARLIGHT

The **Starlight Festival** is a four-day festival of community and wellness that is held in Bangalow. The event has five spaces offering over 100 workshops, talks, classes, concerts and presentations, all included with the cost of entry.

Visitors are free to relax and build their own itinerary and discover a different mix of yoga, sound healing, ceremony and wellbeing each day. Participants can browse the main hall to gain insight into their future with a reading, find the perfect crystal or just bliss out with a massage.

Between events, **Chef Todd 'Stream' Cameron** will be offering a different, nourishing, vegan, gluten-free menu each day to explore.

Monique Carmela is an international guest presenter from New Zealand. Monique says that for many years she struggled with accepting herself for who she really is. 'I felt completely lost and disconnected. I was deeply afraid of what others thought of me, of not fitting in, and held the belief that I was never going to be enough for anyone or anything.'

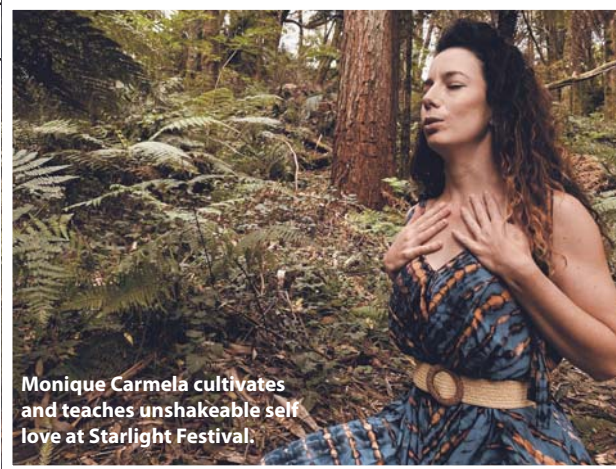
'I pushed everyone away before they could get too close and when they did get too close I would sabotage the relationship. I was overwhelmed by emotional triggers and felt hopeless.'

'Twelve years ago I embarked on an incredible journey of self-discovery where I have received the teachings and practices that have allowed me to cultivate *unshakeable* self-love, acceptance and discover that I was always more than enough and worthy beyond measure.'

Erin Zen Warrior, also an international guest presenter from NZ, is a qualified personal trainer, sports therapist, holistic foodie and contractile field practitioner. The daughter of a martial arts sensei and yoga instructor/bodybuilder, Erin was born to be fascinated with movement. At age 20, she was focused on yoga and dance, and dabbled in martial arts and circus. A three-month trip to India brought her closer to understanding the mind-body conjunct. By 29, her body started to show signs of severe adrenal fatigue owing to over-training. The message from the yogis became clear – balance is key. She continued to 'align herself' with osteopaths, movement, and up-to-date research on food and supplements, but with a new focus: how to build a well-tuned body holistically – and what does that really mean?

Eli Usma, international presenter, is a native from the Colombian Curandera, a Mayan astrologer, a keeper of herb and plant lore, Womb Wisdom Keeper, and a Western somatic human movement and health coach who specialises in physical healing, emotional bio-decoding, mental health and spiritual immersions.

Nicky De Gruchy and **Peter Baird** (of Victoria) have been partners in music, life and art for over 30 years and have been performing, teaching and



Monique Carmela cultivates and teaches unshakeable self love at Starlight Festival.

creating together as well as pursuing their own projects. In the past 20 years they've performed extensively as the duo, Little Oberon. Their creative journey has always been strongly connected to nature and on a trip to the Snowy River in 2006 they found themselves spontaneously composing a piece of music while camped on its banks. This was the birth of *Essence of Place*, a project that sees them traveling to places across Australia and composing music arising spontaneously from their relationship with the landscape.

A complete list of presenters and more information is available from starlightfestival.com.au. The festival runs 4-7 January at the **Bangalow A&I Hall** and surrounding pavilions.

A one day pass is \$35; a weekend pass is \$60. Locals are invited to purchase a two-for-one day ticket to attend on 4 and 5 January.

Tickets at the door or online from starlightfestival.com.au.



'JENNY IS SO FUNNY I HOPE SHE QUILTS' – AKMAL

International award-winning 'songbird and improvisational queen' **Jenny Wynter** brings her newest spontaneity-infused musical comedy show *BYO Love Stories* to the Northern Rivers region 10-13 January.

'I'm a shameless pop music tart,' says Jenny, 'and it was upon re-reading my teenage diary entries that I realised how so many of my early experiences with love read just like pop song lyrics. Obsessions with bad boys, inappropriate crushes, naive love ideals... it's all pop music – and comedy – gold.'

Described as 'a pop musical comedy experience,' *BYO Love Stories* sees Jenny sharing glimpses into her own romantic history, while inviting the audience to share snippets from their own to fuel spontaneous musical comedy creations.

Whether you want to write down a suggestion for a title of the perfect epic rock ballad, or share inspiring details of one of your own love stories, or even take up the invite to leap onstage for a one-night-only pop duet... this is guaranteed to be a show that will never be repeated. Literally. What happens in the *BYO Love Stories* show, stays in the *BYO Love Stories* show!

Wednesday 10 January, Bangalow Bowls Club, 8pm. Thursday 11 Jan, Piggabeen Hall, 8pm. Friday 12 Jan, Pottsville Community Hall, 8pm. Saturday 13 Jan, Last Rites Bar, Yamba, 8pm.

Tix \$30 full, \$25 concession

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nudge nudge Wink wink

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A UNIQUELY BYRON EXPERIENCE

After the resounding success of the 17th edition of the **Byron Bay International Film Festival (BBFF)** in October, the festival team is thrilled to announce a special **'Summer Session'** on Friday. Set against the picturesque backdrop of **Denning Park** overlooking the ocean, this unique film experience is set to captivate audiences with a carefully curated showcase of films from local, Australian, and international filmmakers.

The evening unfolds in two distinct parts, catering to a diverse audience: the family-friendly first half features heartwarming stories exploring connections with family, friends, community, and nature. As the night progresses, the focus shifts to the profound relationship between humans and water, presenting tales of surfing and life's aquatic adventures.

Festival Director, **J'aimee Skippon-Volke**, says she is grateful for the support from Festivals Australia, enabling the development of this extraordinary outdoor activation. 'We hope this event will stand as a testament to the power of communal experiences and the unifying nature of film.'

Beyond offering a memorable night under the stars, the event also supports a crucial local cause. Attendees have the opportunity to contribute donations to the Far North Coast Rural Fire Service Volunteers in Byron, Ballina, and Tweed. The funds raised will directly benefit these local heroes in acquiring essential equipment and supplies, supporting their unwavering efforts to keep communities safe.

The festivities kick off at 5.30pm with a set from local musician **MT Warning**, setting the stage for an evening of superb entertainment.



Head Over Wheels

The lineup of films includes:

#ChildBoss, showcasing successful Northern Rivers' businesses started by young local entrepreneurs; **Elders**, a transformative journey through ancestral lands, nominated for BBFF's Best Short Film award in 2019, as was **The Silence of the River** (2020), where a Peruvian boy lives with his silent father in a floating house on the breathtaking Amazon River; **I Love To Dance**, tells a story of overcoming anxiety through dance; **The Secret Life of Bees** is an intimate exploration of a honeybee colony; **Bama**, created by Jahvis Loveday, winner of BBFF's prestigious Young Australian Filmmaker of the Year award, follows the experiences of his younger brother, Elijah, as he moves from the safety of a regional Aboriginal community to attend a private school in Melbourne; and romantic comedy **Head Over Wheels**, starring Dylan Alcott and Caitlin K Green, directed by acclaimed filmmaker Genevieve Clay Smith (another winner of BBFF's Young Australian Filmmaker of the Year award) known for her award-winning work and advocacy in inclusive filmmaking.

The second half of the program brings laughter with local filmmaker Hadley Perkin's **Murphed**, followed by a selection of surf and aquatic-themed shorts. **Lotus** takes viewers on an underwater odyssey in sacred Mayan



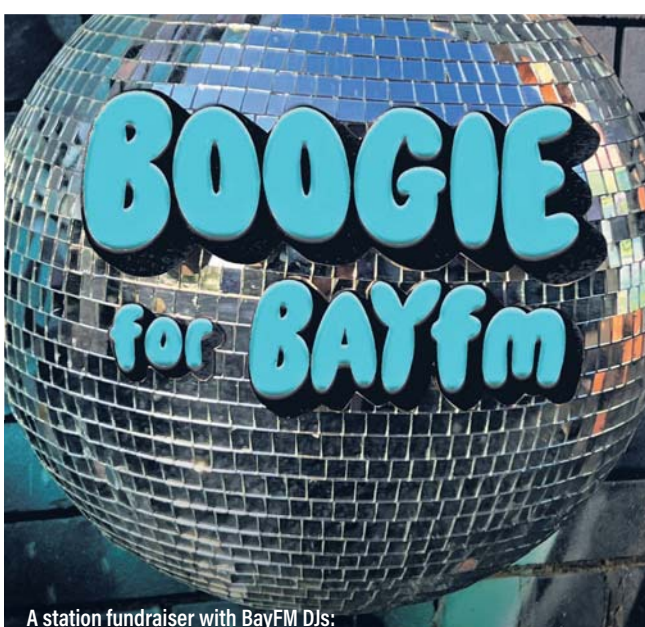
#ChildBoss

Cenotes, while **Silence** explores the depths with free diver Adryen. **Blue and Gold** follows Luke Morgan as he dives for gold in the Clarence River, and **Two Kinds of Water** showcases the life-and-death struggles of a Senegalese fishing family against the backdrop of climate change.

Momento follows five female wave riders, encapsulating the strength and vulnerability of womanhood and mother nature, as well as the inexorable passage of time. **Heaven is on My Side** is simultaneously a documentary and a meditation on environmental consciousness through João 'Massas' de Macedo's experience riding the world's biggest wave in Nazaré, Portugal. The healing journey of Warrick and Felicity Palmateer's bond through their shared love of the ocean is beautifully captured in **Dancing on Water**.

The Byron Bay International Film Festival's Summer Session promises an unforgettable cinematic experience, celebrating the magic of film, community, and the beauty of Byron Bay – an evening of connection, entertainment, and support for a local cause that truly makes a difference.

For more information including details of all the films screening, visit bbff.com.au.



A station fundraiser with BayFM DJs:

DALE STEPHEN
from Solar Love Machine

SAMMY KC & PEDRO
from Funk Me Radio Show

**RIA LISTIC, ANDREA JONES,
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Byron Theatre 6pm-Midnight
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JANUARY

- 4 DAVE O'NEIL
- 10 SHORTY'S KIDS' DISCO
- 12 ARJ BARKER - POWER HOUR
- 13 PULP FICTION LIVE
- 18 BRIGHT LIGHTS
- 20 BOOGIE FOR BAY FM



BYRON THEATRE .COM

NUDDING 2024

Two legendary Sydney based DJs join the Cunning Stunts residents to light up the Shed at January's **Nudge Nudge Wink Wink; The Ultimate Party with a Conscience!**

2024 launches with January's spectacular lineup: including Sydney-based guest DJs **Nick Field** and **Annabelle Gaspar** joining the sublime resident DJs, **Lord Sut** and **Dale Stephen**, all ready to bring the heat to your feet and the shine to your soul.

International DJ, Nick Field, is back in the Shed! Nick will be raising the vibes for his seventh time in the shed. Scintillating dance floor action will be had from this incredibly talented legend on the decks who has his own sound influenced by his loves of soul, dub, disco, electro and house. Nick Field is a DJ not to be missed.

Sydney-based icon, DJ Annabelle Gaspar who has been moving bodies and minds for the best part of 30 years is joining the Cunning Stunts lineup for the first time. Annabelle is one of the finest and most respected DJs Australia has ever known. One of the founders and residents of the legendary Bad Dog parties. Annabelle has played Mardi Gras in Sydney to Mardi Gras in Rio de Janeiro. The excitement is palpable, and anticipation of an electrifying experience with Annabelle runs high. We are all very excited. Two legendary Sydney DJs each playing two-hour sets. We are all *very excited!*

Resident DJs, Lord Sut and Dale Stephen, will kick off this first event for 2024! From mellow balearic, through indie, disco and house, with some of their own edits interspersed, getting the shed moving as cunningly as only our residents can.

Arrive early and stay late for January's hotbed of tasty sounds! Saturday from 4pm at **The Billinudgel Hotel**. This is a ticketed 18+ event.

This event may be SOLD OUT at time of publication. To ensure you get advance notification of ticket sales for all their events, sign up to their e-newsletter here www.cunningstunts.com.au/subscribe.

CINEMA



ANYONE BUT YOU

Anyone But You tells the story of the love, or not, between Bea and Ben. While trying to secure a bathroom key at a coffee shop, Bea, a law student at Boston University, meets Ben, who works in finance at Goldman Sachs. The two have an instant connection, and spend the day together, ultimately falling asleep together on Ben's couch... and so it begins.

In the morning, Bea leaves without waking him. She reconsiders and returns to the apartment, only to overhear Ben insulting her while talking to his friend Pete. They do not see each other again for six months, only to cross paths when Bea's sister, Halle, begins dating Pete's sister, Claudia. Halle and Claudia later become engaged and plan a wedding in Sydney.

There will be bikinis and sand, coincidental same flights, and same accommodation, acrimony, the appearance of Ben's ex-girlfriend and Bea's ex-fiancé, a plan to get Bea and Ben together, and Bea and Ben pretending that they are together, and a chase to the steps of the Opera House *sigh*.

What more could you want from a movie?

Anyone But You is screening this week at Ballina and Byron Palace Cinemas.

palacecinemas.com.au

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

WEDNESDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, MARSHALL OKELL
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM TIM STOKES
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM JOCK BARNES
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM BRUNS DOES BURLESQUE
- BYRON BEACHSIDE MAKET 8AM GUY KACHEL + FELICITY LAWLESS FT. MSELENEIOUS
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM ALLEN STONE
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 5.30PM THE WHITLAM'S
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM NOT QUITE FOLK JAM

THURSDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, JAMIE ASHFORTH
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM JOCK BARNES + THE APPOINTMENTS
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM DAVE O'NEIL - OVERWEIGHT LIGHTWEIGHT
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM OLLIE TWHOHILL + CHLOE JETT
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 7PM KENZO CRUZ
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, STARLIGHT FESTIVAL
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM SEX AND CHOCOLATE

FRIDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, THE WHISKEYS
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM THE FERAMONES + SAX BEATZ
- DENING PARK, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM BEACHSIDE CINEMA
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM TIAGO FREITAS + THE SWAMPS
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM AKMAL - NOT DEAD YET, 8PM DAVE HUGHS
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, STARLIGHT FESTIVAL
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ SALVE JORGE
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM TOO YOUNG TO BE ANGELS - MAROON
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 8PM DRAGON 50TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY TOUR
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM ADAM GARDINER, LEVEL ONE 8PM DREAMS: STEVIE NICKS & FLEETWOOD MAC TRIBUTE
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM KAFFENE
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM ACID BLEED BAND + DJ DIGITAL BIONICS
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM PHIL GUEST
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM BILL JACOBI
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM JIMMI NOLAN
- TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY 5.30PM SUNSET SESSIONS - STEVEN LOVELIGHT

- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 4PM NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK - DJS NICK FIELD, ANNABELLE GASPAS, DALE STEPHEN & LORD SUT
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM KAFFENE
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM SARAH GRANT DUO
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM JABIRU
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM ANDREW MORRIS
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM POLY & CO + DJ OVALS
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM MARK AITKEN
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 5PM JAMES REYNE CRAWL FILE
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM JASON DELPHIN & NATHAN KAYE DUO
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM ADAM HARPAZ
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 8PM DANCING IN THE SHADOWS OF MOTOWN

SUNDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, THE LONESOME BOATMEN
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, SNEAKY SOUND SYSTEM, 7.30PM MURRAY COOK'S SOUL MOVERS
- BYRON COMMUNITY MARKET 8AM OBI SUN, DIDGERA, AND RACHEL BY THE STREAM
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM JOSH LEE HAMILTON
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM LIVING IN THE 70S + DJ WHO'S WHO
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM BRUNS DOES BURLESQUE
- BANGALOW HOTEL, ROO
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, STARLIGHT FESTIVAL
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 3PM ADAM BROWN
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM THE FERAMONES

- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM MANDY HAWKES KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 12PM FAT PANIC
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM STEPHEN LOVELIGHT
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM THE ANGELS

MONDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, OLE FALCOR
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM ALLY PALMER
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM DAN HANNAFORD
- BYRON BAY SERVICES CLUB AUSTEN TAYSHUS

TUESDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, JON J BRADLEY
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM DEVU
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM COSMIC PSYCHOS & ZEKE

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM BEAU YOUNG
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM TOMMY LITTLE: WORK IN PROGRESS

WEDNESDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, WILL CLIFT
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4PM AKOVA + HARRY NICHOLS
- BYRON THEATRE 10.30AM KIDS' DISCO BLING WITH SHORTY BROWN
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM GUY KACHEL
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM TOMMY LITTLE: WORK IN PROGRESS, 8PM VANESSA LARRY MITCHELL - TEARDROPS ON MY DILDO
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC, 8PM JENNY WYNTER
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM KARAOKE
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM THE POP SQUAD



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For January 4-10 session times visit palacecinemas.com.au

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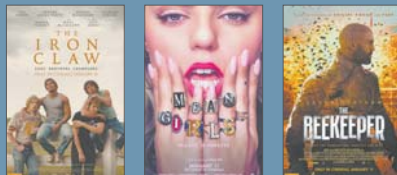
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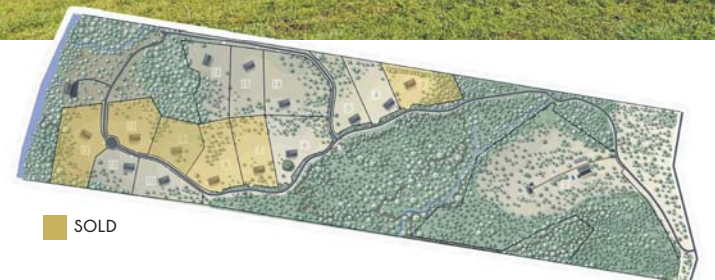
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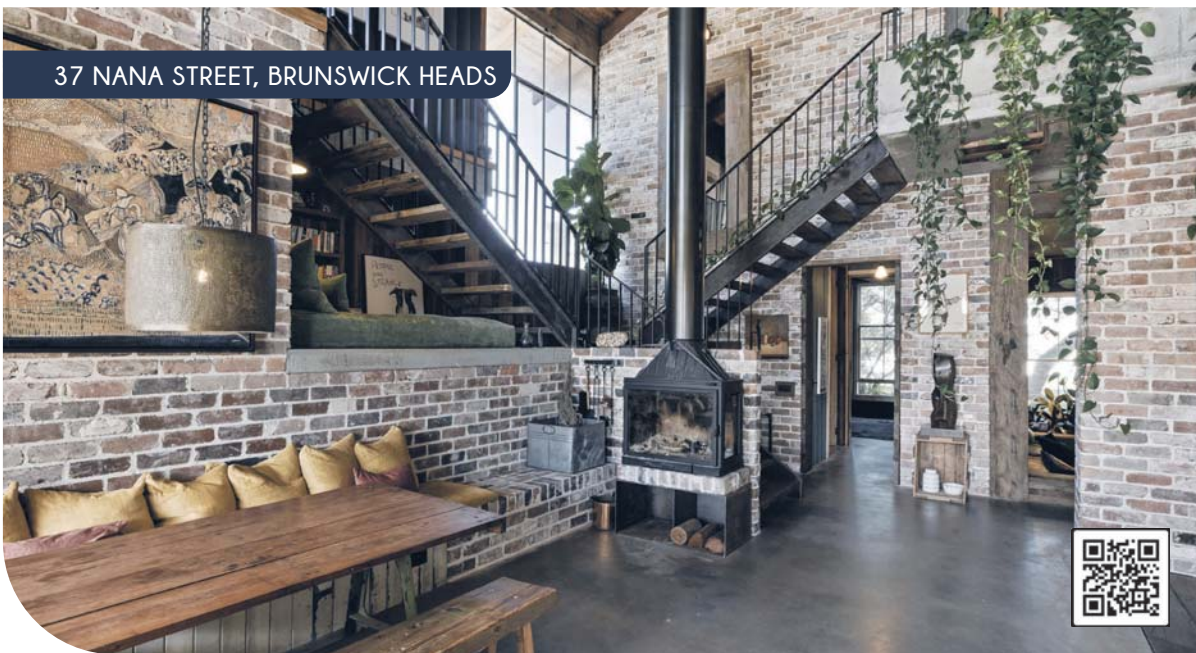
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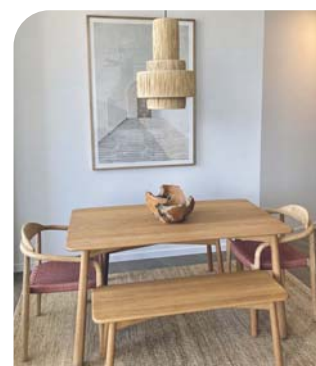
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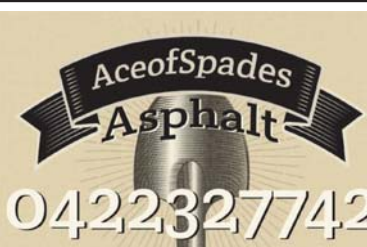
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Mark Linder Qualified Arborist
0408 202 184
choppychoptrees@bigpond.com

SENTINEL TREE CARE EST 2011
QUALITY, PROFESSIONAL ADVICE & EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST

Expert Pruning • Habitat Creation & Monitoring
Cleaning & Removal of Palms • Tree Removal

Phone or Text **0421 435 620**
www.sentineltreecare.com.au

HART TREE SERVICES

PRUNING ~ REMOVALS ~ STUMP GRINDING

- 20 years local knowledge and experience • Fully insured / free quotes
- 19 inch chipper • Bobcat • Cherry picker • Crane truck

www.harttreeservices.com.au
0427 347 380

Tallow TREE SERVICES

- Professional Tree Removal, Surgery & Maintenance
- Stump Grinding
- Weed Control
- Arborist Reporting & Consultancy
- EWP Cherry Picker Hire
- Mulching of Green Waste
- 24 Hour Emergency Call-Out
- Professional, Reliable Service

ALL AREAS OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS & SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND
0401 208 797

Martino TREE SERVICES
Byron Bay & Beyond

qualified ARBORIST

0435 019 524

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES Call Tim 66813140 or 0417 698227

BYRON TREE SERVICES Qualified, insured. Call Alex0402 364852

MARTINO TREE SERVICES Martino 0435 019524

LEAF IT TO US 4x4 truck/chipper + crane truck. Local, qualified, insured. Free quotes0402 487213

UPHOLSTERY

BANGALOW UPHOLSTERY Now at Billinudgel. Re-covering specialists 66805255

VALUERS

BYRON BAY VALUERS NSW & QLD registerd. Chartered Valuers 0431 245460 or 66857010

VETERINARY SURGEONS

MULLUM VET CLINIC: Richard Gregory, Bec Willis, Mark Sebastian – After hours avail ... 66843818

NORTH COAST VETERINARY SERVICES Dr Lauren Archer 66840735

WATER FILTERS

The Water Filter Experts

for home, commercial and rural properties

The Water Shop

6680 8200 or **0418 108 181**

WATER SERVICES

FARM CARE WATER SERVICES

- Same day & onsite pump repairs • 24 hour emergency call out
- Water filtration design, supply & installation
- Pool pump supplies & services • Pool contract servicing
- Pool water testing • Household water testing

6684 2022 A/H: 0419 963 750

WELDING

WELDING & FABRICATION Structural, General, Repairs: Steel, Aluminium & Stainless ..0408 410545

WINDOW CLEANING AND REPAIRS

CLEAN VIEW Prompt, professional, insured. Phone David0421 906460

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SUNRISE W. T. 3/19-21 Centennial Cct, Byron. Cars, homes, offices, etc. High quality ..0412 158478

SURFWAGON - Car/Home/Office tint. Lifetime Warranty. W/sale price.....0434 875009

WRITING SERVICES

COPYWRITING, EDITING + GHOSTWRITING SERVICES

www.heartcraftcreative.com
Cassie Douglas | 0407 199 183

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

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:

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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.

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

DISPLAY ADS (with a border): \$14 per column centimetre

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa

Prepayment is required for all ads.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

Echo Classies also appear online:
www.echo.net.au/classified-ads

Echo

GARAGE SALES

POP UP FAIR

Vintage Retro Designer Clothing, Rugs, Records & Collectibles.

Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall, Fingal Street.

Friday 5 to Sunday 7 January
9.30am–4.30pm
& Monday 8 January, 9.30am–3.00pm

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

WANTED

EXPERIENCED CHESS PLAYER WANTED
Near Byron Bay. 0401020293

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

CARAVANS

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

TO LET

BALLINA SELF-STORAGE UNITS
Secure from \$22p/w, 10 cubic mtr shed.
Across 3 locations. 66867011

LOCAL REMOVAL

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

BUSINESS FOR SALE

For Sale/Investment/Partnership.

Successful and profitable horticultural business with unique Bushfood lines and IP as well as other massive growth opportunities in retail/bushfood and food service sectors; also supplying unique niche salad and micro herb lines with sales to a famous national retailer.

Business and new 4 bedroom designer home is ready for the next stage in its development. Can be bought outright or happy to discuss potential equity investment to expand into new sectors and sites with the right 'hands on' partner. Current owners looking to slow down or retire. If you are seeking a lifestyle change or are keen to become involved in the expanding industry of greenhouse based intensive horticulture please email with details of business experience/level of investment available.

Huge opportunity with training available.
Email to: sales@hydrogarden.com.au

Live and work by the surf in a vibrant mixed business community in Byron Bay.

Residential, commercial and auto window tinting. Fully equipped workshop with long lease plus living space, kitchen, lounge, bathroom, 2 beds.

Easy and very clean manual work, you will need to have reasonable dexterity and enjoy paying attention to detail. Full training provided (approx 6-8 weeks).

Sole trader operator has been running this business successfully for 23 years in Byron Bay. Selling at a reduced price due to a serious health issue and doctors order to stop work asap.

Has always provided a comfortable lifestyle with handy cash flow. Lots of untapped potential for growth with minimal input.

Large client list, all stock, tools and Falcon Ute work vehicle included. Buy yourself a job and be your own boss.

Phone Geoff Russell on 0426 960 900
or Richard Russell on 0412 158 478

PUBLIC NOTICES

LOCALS SPECIAL!

BRUNSWICK HEADS CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL BANNER PARK

Any Sunday until 21st Jan 2024 from 6.30pm

BUY 1 RIDE GET 1 FREE
BUY 1 RIDE GET 1 FREE

DISCLAIMER

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PROF. SERVICES

DENTURES LOOK GOOD FEEL GOOD

Free consultation. SANDRO 66805002

HEALTH

HAWAIIAN MASSAGE

Ocean Shores, Michaela, 0416332886

REMEDIAL MASSAGE

Beachside, Suffolk Park
Kylie 0448774589
Health Rebates available

KINESIOLOGY

Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs. Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress. 0403125506
SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.

HYPNOSIS & EFT

Simple and effective solutions. Anxiety, Cravings, Fears & Trauma. Maureen Bracken 0402205352

HYPNOSIS & NLP

www.wendypurdey.com

33 years experience.

Call Wendy
0497 090 233

Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby
0401 926 090

Body Based Psychotherapy Somatic Practice

Julie Wells
Anne Goslett (nee Mannix)

Dip.Som.Psych, Clinical PACFA Reg. Individual and Couple Therapy Supervision and Coaching

(02) 6685 5185
9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay



Holly Rose Makeup Artist

Photo shoots
Events | Weddings

0478 209 766
hollyrosemaua96@gmail.com
@hollyrosedoesmakeup

KINESIOLOGY STUDENT CLINIC SESSIONS

Mullumbimby

Available throughout January.

Contact Kate Messenger to enquire or book.

Kate@crystalsanddreaming.com.au

0413 003 301

crystalsanddreaming.com.au

TRADEWORK

Septic Waste Removal Summerland Environmental The Liquid Waste Specialists!

- Septic tank cleaning
 - Grease trap servicing
 - Oily Liquids
 - Portable toilet hire
 - 24 hour service
- 6687 2880

TREE SERVICES

Leaf it to us 4x4 truck/chipper, crane truck, stump grinding. Local, qualified, insured, free quotes. 0402487213

HART TREE SERVICES

20 years local experience

- 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding
- Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat

Fully insured • Free quotes

0427 347 380

BYRON BAY TREE SERVICES

- FULLY INSURED
- PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
- FREE QUOTES

0402 364 852

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

- Arborist • 15" Wood Chipper • Stump Grinder
- Fully Insured

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas

6681 3140
Mobile 0417 698 227

FOR SALE

MIELE WASHERS

Dryers and dishwashers available at Bridglands Mullumbimby. 66842511

ARCHIBALD'S CHEAP QUARRY PRODUCTS

Road base, gravel, blue metal and metal dust. ALL SIZE DELIVERIES.
Phone 66845517, 0418481617



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Kitchen Hands -
- Retail Assistants -
- Drivers and Co-driver -
- Community Support Assistants -

MDNC is in needs of dedicated volunteers to be part of a big loving family. All skill sets welcome.

Contact Sylvia - Volunteer Coordinator
Mon-Fri
6684 1286

COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH FREE

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- Sausage sizzle • Hot dogs • Sandwiches
- Coffee & tea • Fruit Salad

EVERYONE WELCOME

Come one come all and join us in a meal or just a chat. Takeaway most welcome: COVID safe rules apply. Frozen takeaway meals now available.

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall

Corner of Cherry & Crane. Just behind the Presbyterian Church.



POSITIONS VACANT

FULL TIME OP SHOP MANAGER

Companion Animals Welfare Inc. (CAWI) is looking for a full time Op Shop Manager to run it's two Op Shops in Brunswick Heads (next to the IGA Supermarket).

Hours: Approximately 38 hours per week.

Remuneration: General Retail Award, Level 5, full-time.

Reports to: CAWI Committee.

You will need to:

- have retail experience
- be conversant with, or be willing to learn Centrelink "Work for the Dole" requirements
- have good people skills
- be conversant with EFTPOS, banking, etc
- be physically fit
- have a current Working With Children Check number.

A job description and more information can be sought from cawidogs2483@gmail.com.

Please send your resume to susancallaghan123@gmail.com.

LADIES WANTED, MUST BE 18+ Work available in busy adult parlour. Travellers welcome. 66816038 for details.

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

Flexible work hours - perfect 2nd income
Email operations@byronbaytaxi.com

THE OTHER JOINT

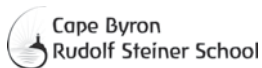
Seeking experienced kitchen hand, 9am-3pm.

Email resume to mullum@otherjoint.com

Female nude models

18-25 for private project by experienced photographer, fun work, great pay, possible travel.

Andrew
0431 393 320



K6 Special Needs Assistant

Advertised on Page 4 In this Issue

Position Description and Application Process
capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

WORK WANTED

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

TUITION

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

BRIDGE LESSONS

Bangalow, from 2 February 2024
Contact Kath 0427868617

Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Trainer
• Photoshop • Indesign
• Illustrator

contact@thinkblinkdesign.com
www.thinkblinkdesign.com

MUSICAL NOTES

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

IN MEMORIAM

KEITH BROWN

Dad, your passion for life and enthusiasm in friendships will always remain our most cherished memories.

Forever close to our hearts.
Love Shane & Liz

PETS



CHEYENNE
Cheyenne wishes you all a happy new year! She's such a sweet, gentle girl that is finding shelter life miserable. She needs a loving family to allow her to blossom and feel love again. To meet Cheyenne and our other cats and kittens, please visit the **Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.**

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

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



LUCKY
Lucky is a 6-month-old male Kelpie Cattle Staffy; Lucky is a healthy, happy, very sweet-natured and loving boy who is gaining tons of confidence residing at our open-air shelter. Lucky will need ongoing training, an active lifestyle and we recommend crate-training as a way to combat separation anxiety and the current destructive period that pups undergo. Lucky is gorgeous with young children and great with other dogs.

Contact Shell on 0458 461935.
MC: 991003002332297

ONLY ADULTS

MALE 2 MALE MASSAGE
Sensual, relaxation, stimulation.
Very discreet. In & outcalls
thehealingtouchbyronbay.com
0476069889

BALLINA EXCLUSIVE
34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late.
In & Out Calls. 66816038. Ladies wanted
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

FULL BODY RESTORATION
Healing Through Pleasure
massagebyronbay.com or 0425347477

KRYSTAL ADULT SHOP

Large variety of toys and lingerie
6/6 Tasman Way, A&I Est, Byron Bay
66856330



Echo

VIGILANT SINCE 1986

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR JANUARY

DATE (Sun)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
3	W	5:52 / 19:47	11:56	0152.1.08 1354.1.39	0725.0.60 2035.0.45
4	TH	5:53 / 19:47	0:17 / 12:49	0258.1.12 1441.1.30	0830.0.68 2122.0.45
5	F	5:53 / 19:47	0:44 / 13:42	0408.1.19 1535.1.21	0945.0.72 2210.0.43
6	SA	5:54 / 19:48	1:13 / 14:38	0512.1.29 1639.1.14	1106.0.71 2259.0.40
7	SU	5:55 / 19:48	1:45 / 15:38	0606.1.41 1743.1.11	1222.0.65 2346.0.36
8	M	5:56 / 19:48	2:23 / 16:42	0657.1.53 1844.1.10	1325.0.56
9	TU	5:56 / 19:48	3:08 / 17:47	0745.1.65 1940.1.12	0033.0.30 1417.0.46
10	W	5:57 / 19:48	4:02 / 18:52	0832.1.76 2032.1.15	0121.0.24 1506.0.37
11	TH	5:58 / 19:48	5:05 / 19:53	0919.1.85 2123.1.18	0208.0.19 1552.0.29
12	F	5:59 / 19:48	6:14 / 20:46	1006.1.92 2212.1.21	0257.0.14 1637.0.24
13	SA	6:00 / 19:48	7:26 / 21:32	1053.1.94 2301.1.24	0345.0.13 1722.0.21
14	SU	6:00 / 19:48	8:38 / 22:12	1138.1.92 2351.1.27	0435.0.15 1807.0.21
15	M	6:01 / 19:48	9:46 / 22:47	1222.1.84 2443.1.37	0527.0.21 1852.0.23
16	TU	6:02 / 19:48	10:52 / 23:20	0045.1.28 1307.1.71	0621.0.31 1937.0.27
17	W	6:03 / 19:47	11:56 / 23:53	0142.1.30 1353.1.55	0721.0.44 2023.0.31
18	TH	6:04 / 19:47	12:59 / 0:26	0246.1.33 1443.1.37	0832.0.56 2111.0.35
19	F	6:05 / 19:47	14:02 / 0:26	0359.1.39 1541.1.21	0958.0.64 2204.0.38
20	SA	6:05 / 19:47	15:06 / 1:02	0511.1.46 1653.1.10	1130.0.65 2300.0.39
21	SU	6:06 / 19:47	16:09 / 1:42	0615.1.54 1810.1.04	1253.0.60 2358.0.38
22	M	6:07 / 19:46	17:10 / 2:27	0711.1.62 1915.1.05	1354.0.52
23	TU	6:08 / 19:46	18:08 / 3:18	0800.1.68 2006.1.08	0051.0.36 1440.0.46
24	W	6:09 / 19:46	18:59 / 4:13	0843.1.71 2048.1.11	0139.0.33 1518.0.41
25	TH	6:10 / 19:45	19:44 / 5:12	0921.1.73 2127.1.15	0221.0.30 1553.0.38
26	F	6:11 / 19:45	20:22 / 6:10	0958.1.73 2201.1.18	0300.0.28 1626.0.37
27	SA	6:11 / 19:44	20:56 / 7:08	1030.1.72 2234.1.20	0336.0.28 1656.0.37
28	SU	6:12 / 19:44	21:25 / 8:03	1102.1.69 2308.1.22	0411.0.30 1724.0.37
29	M	6:13 / 19:44	21:53 / 8:57	1132.1.64 2344.1.23	0446.0.35 1753.0.38
30	TU	6:14 / 19:43	22:19 / 9:49	1202.1.57	0523.0.41 1823.0.39
31	W	6:15 / 19:43	22:45 / 10:41	0022.1.23 1233.1.48	0603.0.49 1854.0.41

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

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.

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

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: **Food 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. **Gulgani 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.mdc.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. **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.

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? **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, mazzerati2010@gmail.com.

Older adult exercise

Chair-based older adults exercise classes run by a qualified instructor, that feel more like fun than exercise, are held every Thursday at 10.15am in the Brunswick Memorial Hall. Cost \$10. All welcome. Just show up or if you have any questions please contact Di on 0427 026 935.

Pottsville Community Association

Pottsville Community Association meetings are on the last Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm at the Anglican Church in Coronation Drive, Pottsville. Have your say on what is going on in your local area. For details contact secretary@pottsvillecommunityassociation.com or via Facebook.

\$5 pilates classes

Pilates for the price of a coffee! Come and join us for \$5 Pilates classes every

Thursday at 8.45am in the Memorial Hall, 22 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads and Monday at 8.45am in Mullumbimby. It doesn't matter what level you are, as beginner to advanced options are shown. Just bring a mat and water. My goal is to keep the Shire active and feeling great one person at a time. No need to book just show up. For more information contact Di on 0427 026 935.

Language exchange

Byron language exchange club runs every 2nd last Friday of the month from 6pm (alternating Ballina/Byron). Practise other languages or help someone with your English! Find us on Facebook. Contact byronbaylanguages@gmail.com.

Brunswick Valley Historical Society

The Museum is on the corner of Myocum and Stuart Sts Mullumbimby, open Tuesdays and Fridays 10am-12pm and market Saturdays 9am-1pm. Discover your local history, join our team - 6684 4367.

Library fun

Baby Bounce and Storytime for toddlers and pre-school children are at: **Brunswick Heads Library**, Monday - Story Time 10.30 till 11.30am; Friday - Baby Time 10.30 till 11am. **Mullumbimby Library**, Monday - Story Time 10-11am; Tuesday - Baby Time 10-10.30 am.

Byron Bay Cancer Support Group

The Byron Bay General Cancer Support Group has been running for six years and welcomes new participants. The aim of the group is to provide a safe, supportive and friendly environment for people with cancer to discuss how they are feeling and connect with other people with cancer. Meetings are held every four weeks on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am. For more information contact the Cancer Council on 13 11 20.

Social sporting groups

Mullumbimby: Tuesday Ladies Group of Riversiders Tennis Club welcomes new players 9.30am every Tuesday next to Heritage Park, for social tennis, fun and friendship. Info: Barbara 6684 8058. **South Golden Shores Community Centre** Women's table tennis every Monday at 10am. Phone 0435 780 017. **Byron Bay Croquet** at Croquet Club next to the Scout Hall at the Byron Rec Grounds every Monday at 3.30pm. Ring 0477 972 535. **Pottsville Fun Croquet Club** at Black Rocks Sportfield. Beginners and visitors welcome. Game starts 8.30am Tuesday and Thursday. \$5 per game. Enquiries 0413 335 941.

Toastmasters

Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters meetings coaching in communication and self-development run on 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6.15 for 6.30pm at Byron Bay Services Club, Byron Bay. Online attendance allowed. **Mullum Magic Toastmasters:** Mullum Magic provides a safe and fun environment for members and guests to develop their public-speaking and leadership skills. Meeting 6.30-8.30pm every second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Presbyterian Church, 104 Stuart St, Mullumbimby. New members and guests welcome. Contact Bruce 0418 515 991 or Ninian 0411 629 982.

Meditation

Dzogchen meditation and study group 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month at Mullumbimby CWA Hall. Didi 0408 008 769. **Buddhist meditation** and conversation with John Allan, Mondays 6.30-8.30pm, The Yurt, Temple Byron. No fees. John 0428 991 189. **Byron yoga philosophy club** free meditation classes Monday, 7pm, 1 Korau Place Suffolk Park. Go to www.wisdom.yoga or phone Kris 0435 300 743. **Byron Bay Meditation Centre** Tuesday 6.30pm at Temple Byron. For more info: byronbaymeditationcentre.com.au or contact Greg 0431 747 764.

Brunswick Heads CWA

Brunswick Heads CWA Crafty Women meet Fridays 10am-2pm, cnr Park and Booyun Streets, Brunswick Heads. Join us for a chat and cuppa, bring along your craft projects including sewing, knitting, crocheting, or quilting. Beginners welcome. Gold coin donation for morning tea.

Byron Gem Club

The Byron Gem and Lapidary Club is open weekly to members new and old. Visitors welcome to view club facilities. Activities: semi-precious and gemstone cutting, shaping and polishing, gem faceting, silver work, gem setting and jewellery making, etc. Facebook @ Byron Gem Club. Club workshop located past Sky Dive Byron at Tyagarah Airfield. Contact 6687 1251 or 0427 529 967 for more info.

Lions Club

Interested in making new friends and helping our community? Lions Club of Brunswick Mullumbimby meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 7pm Ocean Shores Country Club. Info: Joan Towers 0400 484 419.

Craft group

The Uniting Craft & Social Group meets every Monday 9.30am-2.30pm at the Uniting Church in Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Bring lunch and whatever else you need. Small cost. All welcome. Do you prefer patchwork and quilting? Come along on Monday evening same place at 6pm. Enquiries Tilly 6685 5985.

Op shops

Uniting Church Op Shop, Dalley St, Mullumbimby - open each Saturday 9am-12 noon. **Byron Bay Anglican Op Shop** opens Tuesday to Saturday 9am-1pm. Volunteers needed. Enq Cathy 0432 606 849. **Mullumbimby Anglican Op Shop** opens Monday to Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-12noon. Volunteers needed, enq to shop 6684 4718. **Mullumbimby Seventh-Day Adventist Op Shop** opens Tuesday to Friday 11am-3pm. **Companion Animals Welfare Inc (CAWI) op shop** Brunswick Heads (next to supermarket) open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm, Sun closed.

Mullumbimby potters & sculptors

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

CWA Bangalow

If you are interested in making new friends by supporting the Byron Shire community through fundraising and lobbying, pursuing craft interests and learning new skills, think about joining Bangalow CWA. Come along to our rooms, 31 Byron St, Bangalow between 10am & 2pm Monday to Friday to find out more. We are open Monday to Friday 10 to 2 and Saturdays 9 to 12. Our popular cake stalls are on the last Saturday of the month 8 to 12. Find us on Facebook or contact cwasecbangalow@gmail.com

Toy Library

The Byron Shire Toy Library is open Mondays and Thursdays 9am-12 noon, at the Children's Centre, Coogera Cct, Suffolk Park. Come and see the large range of preschoolers toys available for loan.

Up your skills

Come to Upskill in Mullumbimby, a free introductory building and carpentry workshop. Workshops are held every Saturday, 9am to 1pm at Shedding Community Workshop. Bookings essential via shedding.com.au. Contact Sophie Wilksch via email at shedding.communityworkshop@gmail.com.

Muslim prayer

Friday Muslim prayer. Jumu'ah service held weekly at the Cavanbah Centre

at 1.30 pm. Come to the remembrance of Allah.

Free ESL

Free English as a Second Language classes suitable for beginners to advanced learners. Kingscliff 6674 7267.

Landcare

Bangalow Land and Rivercare working bee every Saturday 8.30-10.30am. Email: bangalowlandcare@gmail.com. Noelene 0431200638.

Soap Aid saving lives

Soap Aid is a not-for-profit organisation recycling and sending critical soap to communities facing major hygiene challenges. Please drop in your partly used household or holiday rental soap for recycling to Kim at Raine & Horne Byron Bay 39 Fletcher Street 0499 839 566. Small and large quantities welcome. <https://soapaid.org>.

Sex & Love Addicts Anon

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is peer-support group of men and women for whom sex and/or romance have become a problem. For details of weekly meetings, phone 0452 074 974 or visit www.slaa.org.au.

Volunteers sought

Volunteers sought for Northern Rivers Volunteering, representing more than 100 community organisations. Info: 6621 7397.

Bridge Club

Brunswick Valley Bridge Club meets every Monday, seated at 12.15 to commence play at 12.30. Visitors welcome. See bridgewebs.com/brunswickvalley/home.html or for partner ring Lesley 0468 807 306. Facebook Brunswick Valley Bridge Club.

BV scrabble club

Brunswick Valley Scrabble Club will meet each Tuesday afternoon from 1 till 4pm at the Brunswick Bowling Club. New members welcome. Contact Steve on 0407 844 718.

Bosom Buddies

Ballina Bosom Buddies Support Group meets the third Thursday each month 10am-12pm at the Ballina Kentwell Community Centre. Contact Sonia 0439 438 576 for further information.

Emerge Australia

Emerge Australia Inc is a not-for-profit charity supporting those with myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. For more information see the Emerge Australia Website at <http://emerge.org.au/>.

Bruns tennis

Mondays, Wednesdays and Sundays 5-7pm. \$7, all welcome. Enquiries Linda 0449 825 108. Coaching available.

Play and sing playgroup

Meet at The Hub Baptist Church Ocean Shores (next to Target)

9.30am-11.30am Fridays during school term. For families with children 0-5 years. More info facebook or ph.Katie 0438 531 011.

Hearing Voices Group

Hearing Voices Peer Support Group in Mullumbimby. Anyone with present or past experience of voice hearing (or visions) is welcome. Offer your experience, gain support, knowledge and explore meaning in a safe accepting space. First Friday of the month. Info call 6687 1111.

Overeaters Anonymous

Is food a problem for you? Do you eat when you are not hungry? Do you binge, purge or restrict? Is your weight affecting your life? Brunswick Heads Uniting Church Fridays 5-6pm cnr Fingal/Byron St. www.oaql.org

Australian Shareholders Association

ASA meets every third Tuesday at 10am at Ballina Surf Life Saving Club. To learn about shares and investing. For networking. Guest presenters discussing news and current trends in the market. Any questions 6686 4144 or www.australianshareholders.com.au.

Bruns Progress

Residents, come along and have your say at the Brunswick Heads Progress Association. Meeting first Monday each month at the CWA cottage, Park St, at 6.30pm. Contact: brunswickheadsprogressassoc@gmail.com.

OS Seniors Tennis

Mixed tennis at Waterlilly Park every Monday and Wednesday from 8.30-11.30am.

Bruns CWA

Brunswick Heads CWA Crafty Women meet Fridays 10-2pm, corner of Park and Booyun Streets, Brunswick Heads. Join us for a chat, a cuppa and bring along your craft projects including sewing, knitting, crocheting, memory books or quilting. Beginners welcome. Gold coin donation. For more information please email brunscwa@gmail.com.

Amitayus Home Hospice

Our trained volunteer carers at Amitayus Home Hospice Service provide practical, compassionate, and quality palliative care to those who wish to die at home. To find out more about this free service, or to train as a volunteer carer, please contact us: 0468 483 857, info@amitayus.org.au, www.amitayus.org.au.

Play chess

Tireless chess promoter Peter Hanna, who has already started a successful group of players at the Byron Bay Services Club (Saturdays 2.30pm and Mondays 5pm), is now trying his hand in Ballina. The first meeting is due at 5pm on Wednesday 7 December at the Ballina RSL Club. All chess players, beginners or experts, are welcome.

On The Horizon



DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Ballina Bridge Club - upcoming lessons

Be challenged to learn this fun, wonderful game. Lessons begin on Tuesday, 6 February, 2024 and run for six weeks at 9.30 till 11.30am. In comfortable air conditioned rooms at 13 North Creek Rd. (Opposite Aldi). Free tea/coffee with onsite parking. Cost for tuition and workbook is \$80. Also enquire about evening lessons. For additional information and to register, please contact Judy on 0407 664 337.

For the kids

Free entomology and environmental science workshop on Wednesday, 10 January at the Mullumbimby Library

with Nat. Join us for an introduction to entomology (insects) as we use microscopes and magnifying glasses to zoom in on their detail. Phone 6684 2992 to book as places are strictly limited. Seven years and up.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina, South Tweed and Ballina. Attendees must be Exit Members. Philip Nitschke will be holding a workshop on the Gold Coast early February 2024. For further information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina & South Tweed) or Peter 0429 950 352 (Ballina).

Local sports highlights for 2023...

Magpies snare AFL flag



The Magpies were on top of the North Coast league ladder all through the season. Photo supplied

The Byron Magpies senior men's AFL team won the 2023 premiership in fine style by beating Port Macquarie 14.12(96)-5.9(39) in the grand final of the NSW north coast league, played at Coffs Harbour Stadium in September. The Magpies got off to a great start after racing to a 4.6(30)-0.2(2) lead in the first quarter. The competition's minor premiers didn't let the pressure off and continued to build through the next two quarters. Port Macquarie reeled in a few points in the final quarter, but the game was as good as won by then.

WAR wins another rugby union competition



Defence set up WAR's grand final win. Photo Vicki Kerry

Wollongbar-Alstonville Rugby continued their dominance of Far North Coast rugby with a 23-13 win over the Byron Shire Rebels in the grand final. WAR's win was on the back of strong defence that limited scoring opportunities even when the side was depleted by yellow cards. WAR have won eight premierships in ten years. The Byron Shire Rebels did taste success by winning the second grade premeirship beating Cabarita Beach 30-22, earlier in the day at Lyle Park, Wollongbar. In the Women's 12s Casuarina Beach beat Lismore 12-5.

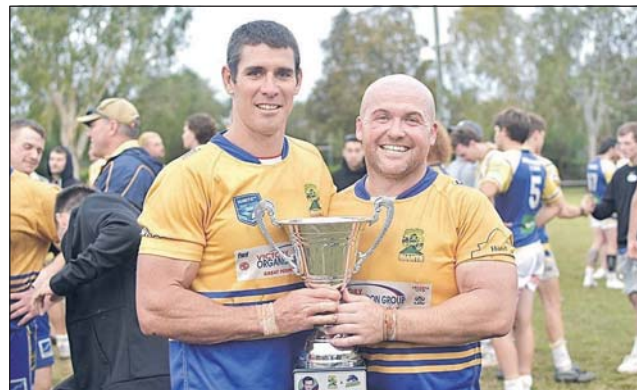
Byron Bay Boardriders win national grand final



Dakota Walters scored well with great aerials. Photo Christopher Smith (Surfing Australia)

Byron Bay Boardriders pulled off a massive upset, beating powerhouse clubs to take out the Australian Boardriders Grand Final at Newcastle in February. Byron Bay came out firing on the final day, with Dakota Walters and Soli Bailey surfing well, to win by a nail-biting margin of just 0.62. 'The team is so stoked. We've been here so many times and just really haven't performed anywhere near where we should be as a team and as a community from Byron,' Bailey said. Byron won with 31.83 points ahead of Snapper Rocks (31.21) and Merewether Surfboard Club (30.13).

Mullumbimby Giants beat Mustangs to claim Cook Cup



In first grade the Giants had just four wins in 2023, but they did bring home some silverware. Photo Elna Nelson

The Mullumbimby Giants played their way back into the top four of first grade rugby league with a solid 30-14 win over the Murwillumbah Mustangs in June. The win also meant Mullumbimby came home with the Grant Cook Memorial Cup. 'We were dominant in the first half but they gave us a bit of a scare in the second. But we were definitely the best on the day,' coach Cody Nelson said.

TEB plays for two premierships, wins one



Nathan Clements scored 103 when TEB won the third grade cricket grand final in March. Photo supplied

Tintenbar-East Ballina (TEB) cricket club won the third-grade 2022-23 grand final, but lost in second grade after rain stopped play. TEB thirds scored 5/245 against Byron Bay, who could only muster 133 in reply. In second grade Cudgen Hornets chose to bat and put on a steady 7/191 on the back of Callum Prichard's 61 and Harrison Hall's 49. In reply TEB were at 5/114 with 13 overs to play. Umpires decided, via the Duckworth Lewis System, that TEB were behind by 11 and had lost the game.

Bangalow wins football



Bangalow celebrate their premiership win. Photo supplied

The Bangalow Blue Dogs won the 2023 premiership league grand final played against Byron Bay 3-2. Byron Bay jumped out of the blocks taking advantage of all opportunities in the first half and went to the sheds with a 2-0 lead. 'We didn't take our chances in the first half, but they did. To be honest we were in shock,' coach Joel Rudgley said. 'But we used the break to reset and fix a few things, make sure we were doing the simple things right'. Bangalow scored three goals in the second half.

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Happy new year, peeps. May 2024 be full of elevated consciousness, laughter, generosity and much less conflict and fear.

Psst: BayFM will be holding its funky fundraiser on January 20 at the Byron Theatre. Visit bayfm.org for more info.

With the new year upon us, Uniting NSW/ACT are calling on the NSW government to fulfil their election promise of a drug summit. They said in a press release, 'The hope is that the promised summit will replicate the format and success of former premier Bob Carr's five-day parliamentary drug summit of 1999, which led to Australia's first injecting room in Sydney's King's Cross, among other reforms.'

Tweet by Bernie Sanders: 'This is what oligarchy is about. Today just three Wall Street firms, BlackRock, Vanguard and State Street, manage \$20.7 trillion in assets. These three firms are major shareholders in 95 per cent of S&P 500 companies. Democracy will not survive with this concentration of economic and political power.'

Samples taken in 2020-21 from Richmond River 'revealed the presence of a 'cocktail of pesticides' - including traces of a chemical that was banned almost 20 years ago, reports *The ABC*. Southern Cross University marine science professor, Kirsten Benkendorff, said 21 different pesticides were detected in the river near Ballina. Read more on page 10.

Here's more stuff the 0.001 per cent don't like being made



On Friday at around 10am the 'Brunswick Buccaneers' pirate ship moored across from the Brunswick Hotel got into a spot of trouble. Onlookers say around 15 to 20 people were queuing at the boat hire business, when the weight made the ship collapse in shallow water. There were no reports of injuries. Apparently the owner was helping people on the water, and didn't realise that so many people had come aboard. Photo Terri Miler-Sharp

public: Investigative reporter, Anthony Klan, tweeted, 'Former Australian Finance Minister, Mathias Cormann - now boss of the OECD - went to "work" for former PwC CEO Luke Sayers almost immediately after leaving office.'

While NSW government still allows the state's native forests to be trashed and pulped for woodchips, the WA government have now stopped commercial logging of their native forests.

Vale filmmaker and author, John Pilger. He once said, 'Always look for the truth from the ground up, rarely from the top down. Journalists are never real journalists if they are the agents of power, no matter how they disguise that role. Real journalists are agents of people.'

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