

Echo

ALL THIS RAIN IS GOOD FOR PERSONAL GROWTH

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 38 #31 • January 10, 2024 • www.echo.net.au

Mayor backs staff over prohibitive costs on FOI

Hans Lovejoy

A freedom of information request by *The Echo* for the public submissions provided to Council around a recently adopted major rural land rezoning policy has been quoted by staff at \$2,808.

The quote to redact the names of 286 submissions from the *Housing Options Paper* was discounted from an original cost of \$5,616.

As previously reported, the *Housing Options Paper* was adopted in December 2023 and heavily criticised by community groups, not only for its secrecy, but because of the poor process that underpinned it.

Mullum flood-prone land was included without public feedback, and a large land parcel in Tyagarah was also put forward to the NSW government for consideration, again without public feedback.

It will 'inform' an upcoming residential strategy.

In correspondence to *The Echo*, staff claim it would take to 187.20 hours to redact 286 submissions, or at a 40 hour week, 4.68 weeks. Their hourly rate for the service is \$30ph.

A review of the decision has been requested by *The Echo*, given the workload does not appear commensurate with the hours quoted and does not adhere to Council's stated policies of informing the public around their decision making.

Additionally, there appears no legal requirement for Council to be redacting names and addresses of public submissions.

Neighbouring Ballina and Tweed Shire councils publish all public submissions, according to their websites.

According to ballina.nsw.gov.au/your-privacy: 'Submissions to advertised documents and development applications will be treated as public documents and may be published online in Council meeting reports and agendas or listed on our DAs online portal.'

Neighbouring shires provide transparency

Despite the transparency from those councils, both Mayor Michael Lyon and acting General Manager, Shannon Burt, claim there are privacy laws that prohibit them from providing it.

The Echo asked Mayor Michael Lyon if \$2,808 was acceptable, 'given it's the community who gave Council this information?'

He replied, 'I have looked into the quote you were given and yes, for the amount of time and effort required for the task following the requirements of the GIPA legislation, I am comfortable that this is a fair amount for the work required.'

'Submissions cannot just be made public in a simple way for a number of reasons. Firstly, privacy legislation requires the redaction of personal information. Secondly, submissions must be read to ensure that no defamatory content is contained and published, otherwise we can become liable for the content.'

The Echo also asked the mayor, 'Will you instruct that future submissions on policy to be made public (as has been done in the past), and also provide *The Echo* with the *Housing Options Paper* submissions for free in the spirit of transparency and trust?'

► Continued on page 3

Big festival in little hall



Broadcaster Angela Catterns and musician Gyan will be in conversation at The Drill Hall on Saturday as part of the *Too Young to Be Angels* season. Photo Eve Jeffery

Big things are happening in a little Mullum hall, with the *Too Young To Be Angels* production now in full swing.

If you just picked up your *Echo* on Wednesday, there are still plenty of events on at the Drill Hall, including well-known local filmmakers in conversation on Wednesday night from 7pm: Richard Mordaunt and Michael Balson, followed by James Ricketson and David Bradbury.

On Thursday, Michael Sharmon and Sandra Leung Waters present their cabaret show, *You By My Side*.

Co-curator, Gregory Aitken, told *The Echo*, 'A special Friday night screening remembering two Australian film greats, plus three

cabarets, will dominate the final nights of the season.'

'There will be the unveiling of Tony Barry's portrait before the documentary *Sydney at War: The Untold Story*, (Tony did the voice over), followed by the screening of Claude Gonzalez' *John Farrow: Hollywood's Man in the Shadows*.

'It's the first documentary ever made about the enigmatic Australian born Oscar winning director.'

Free events on Sunday

On Saturday (January 13), songstress and ARIA award winner, Gyan, will present a concert, weaving stories of her life and music with broadcaster Angela Catterns.

On Sunday (January 14), a morning of free events will kick off from 11am with *The Eldershaw Chronicles* launch of Stephen Edgar's verse play.

At noon, an archived comical video performance by the late Michael Borenstein will screen.

Also on Sunday from 7pm, *Divine Cabaret* will perform in a grand finale to the season.

Curated by Gregory Aitken and Sunita Bailey, the event aims to raise funds for the hall's newly installed Beale piano, as well as the upcoming premiere production of Stephen Edgar's *The Eldershaw Chronicles*.

For more info visit www.drillhalltheatre.org.au/too-young-to-be-angels.

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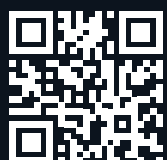


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Boardriders donate to adaptive pro surf comp

The upcoming Blackmores Australian Pro Adaptive Surfing Championship event, to be held in Byron Bay from March 17-22, has had a funding boost.

The Byron Bay Boardriders (BBB) presented co-organiser, Mark 'Mono' Stewart, with over \$11,000 last week, which was donated as part of money raised from the 12th annual Skullcandy BBB Charity Golf Day.

Golf day event organiser, Mark Krackowizer, told *The Echo* that normally funds raised from the event are used to fund BBB junior programs and to help local families in need.

Krackowizer said, 'The club has made an exception this year to use some of the over \$11,000 raised to assist with the adaptive pro event'.

'Our club is pleased to assist Mono with this event for multiple reasons. These events are very complex and costly to stage, owing to the support that these athletes need to compete and be safe during the event.'

'Additionally, they showcase the high levels of achievement and skill of competitors.'



Mark Krackowizer and reigning adaptive surf champ, Mark 'Mono' Stewart. Photo Eve Jeffery

'It is also an opportunity to help Mono bring this event to our town - he is a BBB life member, a five times world champion, and a big part of our local community.'

'We are very happy to have the opportunity to assist.'

Mark 'Mono' Stewart said, 'We are also very thankful to the local surf community for sharing the lineup with the competitors for the time they are here.'

The adaptive surfing event

will be the first professional adaptive world tour event to be held in Australia.

First in Australia

There are already over 100 competitors from 19 nations registered for the event.

The event is the first of five events to be held throughout the world during 2024, with the end result of crowning an Adaptive Pro World Champion at the end of the year.

Krackowizer adds, 'The event will be a festival, and includes a parade of nations, bands and other social events throughout the week. Volunteers and donations are welcome'. Some of the sponsors for the event are: Byron Bay Malibu Club, Byron Bay Services Club, Beach Suites Byron Bay, Women in Waves, SCU, Stone & Wood and Byron Shire Council.

For more info, visit www.adaptivesurfproaustralia.com.

Council lacks transparency compared to neighbouring shires

Continued from page 1

He said, 'Staff are considering a proactive release of the submissions, which removes some of the cost relating to the GIPA process with respect to audit trails of what has been redacted, however there is still a significant cost and time burden with respect to redaction of personal information and checking for defamatory content. I will advise on this once a decision is made.'

Cr Lyon said, 'We are also looking at how other councils have dealt with this issue in terms of consent by the submitter at the time of submission for it to be available to the public.'

Personal jibes

He also said, 'I take transparency and honesty with the community very seriously, despite your consistent negative portrayal.'

And despite community groups being very vocal around the secrecy and poor process, the mayor said, 'I believe you are using this as a cloak for the fact you just don't like the decisions we have come to.'

'With respect to the HOP, all submissions were

available in full to councillors to consider prior to the decision we made on this. 'The staff report accurately summarised the breadth and depth of content in the submissions, and I have not heard otherwise from any councillor. Whether or not the submissions were public at the time would have had no influence on the outcome.'

'There has been every opportunity for any and all community groups and individuals to make submissions and to be heard, and they have been.'

Staff in control

The Echo asked Council staff 'Who made the decision to redact all public submissions for the *Housing Options Paper*, and why? And, is there a policy that staff refer to with regards to a Formal Access Request? If there is a policy, was it presented to councillors for adoption, or is this an internal staff policy? If it exists, can I be provided with the policy please?'

Acting General Manager, Shannon Burt, told *The Echo*, 'Owing to the large number of submissions received during the exhibition of the *Housing Options Paper*, the

tight timeframe to report back to Council and the staff resources needed to go through each document and redact personal information, an internal decision was made to keep the submissions confidential. This is consistent with how submissions to other projects and development matters are currently managed.'

'The report that went to Council provided a summary of the submissions and feedback received and issues raised in an *Engagement Report*. The submissions were reviewed, compiled and summarised by an independent expert and this information is in the agenda report from the meeting on 14 December 2023.'

'Under privacy laws we are unable to just publish submissions without redaction occurring. We simply don't have the resources to individually redact personal and other private information for large numbers of submissions nor do we do have the technology to perform this function.'

'Council staff are however reviewing the approach to public submissions generally, mindful though of avoiding

any breaches of privacy laws and additional impacts on staff resourcing.'

'For the release of information, Council follows the state's GIPA legislation.'

'It defines what types of documents are to be made public (known as open access). Council can opt to release further information, which is known as proactive release. We don't have a specific Council policy for the release of information other than the privacy management plan, which covers how we manage the release of information containing personally identifiable content. It's available on the website; Privacy - Byron Shire Council (nsw.gov.au)'

'For the GIPA cost estimate to supply the requested information, we utilise a calculation tool from the Information Privacy Commission.'

Former mayor, Jan Barham, told *The Echo*, 'Council's *Privacy Plan* identifies that release can occur with submitters' permission (page 20). Surely, it would be easy to send a group email to all submitters seeking permission to release, and then deal with redactions if people object to release?'

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Plans afoot to redevelop three Byron Bay CBD shops

Paul Bibby

Three single-storey shops on Jonson Street, Byron Bay, would be turned into a \$3.5 million mixed-use development, under plans submitted to Byron Council.

As residents were stuffing their yuletide stockings last year, the owner of 46-50 Jonson St submitted a development application that proposes a major redevelopment of the site.

The application, notified on Council's DA Tracker website on December 22, proposes the demolition of the existing commercial building and the construction of a new three-storey mixed use development containing shops, offices and a restaurant.

The development has an estimated cost of \$3,528,293.

The building at 46-50 Jonson Street is currently home to three retail premises, including the former Byron Hot Bread Kitchen, a 24-hour bakery that closed its doors last year.

Two other shops, Dr Moose T-shirts and Surfboard Empire, are also located in



The former Byron Hot Bread Kitchen, Dr Moose T-shirts and Surfboard Empire are slated to be redeveloped. Photo supplied

the building and continue to attract scores of locals and tourists each day.

The *Echo* understands that both existing shops have leases at the premises that still have at least 12 months to run.

It is also understood that various preliminary investigation works have been undertaken at these premises over the past 12 months, including soil testing, and asbestos investigations.

The developer will be required to publish all documentation in relation to the DA in the coming months

and then formally place it on public exhibition.

The proposal continues a trend of significant new development in the Byron CBD in recent years, including projects that increase the height of buildings in that part of town.

Among the other ongoing and proposed developments for Jonson Street are a 41-unit development at 116-118, and a 22-unit mixed use development at 119-123.

To keep an eye on this proposal go to Council's DA tracker website and search for DA 10.2023.512.1.

The comedic stylings of Tom Ballard come to Mullum

Hans Lovejoy

Young Tom Ballard (he's only 34), sure has done quite a bit.

He's an author and a former Triple J host. He has guest hosted Q&A and even had his own edgy political satire late-night TV show, *Tonightly with Tom Ballard*, until the ABC axed it in 2018.

Now, he travels the world performing stand-up comedy.

Despite his TV show failing to 'meet a quality threshold', his TV show was a comedic incubator for aspiring writers and performers. It explored and exposed the hypocrisies of straight-edge society, in a very uncompromising way.

The skits and list of guests were impressive, and is a reminder of how little confidence and appetite the nation's broadcaster has in variety TV, especially when it pushes boundaries.

Tom is coming to Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club to perform on January 24, as part of the Mandy Nolan juggernaut, which aims to get her elected as a Greens MP for the federal seat of Richmond.

Tom's Q&A

How accurate is your Wiki page? Are you as smart and funny as it makes out?

I think it's generally pretty accurate on the facts and historical details, and it's very nice that it gave you the impression that I'm smart and funny, especially when the truth is I'm quite shy and dumb.

I will say, the line about *Tonightly* being cancelled because the ABC failed to meet a 'quality threshold' appears to have been completely made up, and is an outrage. I firmly believe



Tom is supporting Mandy Nolan's push into federal politics at the upcoming Mullum Services gig on January 24. Photo australianstage.com.au

we always managed to compensate for the low quality of *Tonightly* with our high rates of quantity. I shall be writing a letter of complaint forthwith.

I know the *Tonightly* show is old hat, but I was a fan. There was a raw, courageous 'fuck you' attitude to the prevailing conservative winds. There's not a lot online regarding the reasons why you were axed, but from the audience perspective, it looked like the boundary was being pushed beyond what a cardigan wearing ABC executive could handle. Was there a sense of knowing this just before it was axed? Did you guys even care at the time?

It certainly makes me feel cool to believe that the show was cancelled because it was simply too edgy and dangerous and the ABC suits wanted to silence our powerful, razor-sharp satire - but it probably had more to do with the fact that we were being beaten in the ratings by re-runs on 7mate of *Deuce Bigalow: European Gigolo*.

We were also a pretty expensive show to make, and it was certainly a, err, tumultuous time at the ABC in terms of executive turnover

and restructuring and such. But yes, I suppose our naughtiness and the fact that we were being a relatively consistent editorial headache for them might have made the decision to bring things to an end a bit easier.

I have no bitterness about it at all. Looking back, I'm very grateful that we got to do the show at all, and there's a bunch of stuff we did that makes me laugh and feel pride. My only concern is that I don't think our show has been replaced with anything that gives the same number of opportunities to young new talent, or that stirs as much trouble. The ABC has to keep making weird, risky shit for young people. It simply must!

How did Mandy convince you into this gig?

She asked me, and she's Mandy Nolan, so you know she's going to make it a fun gig and look after you. It was a pretty easy yes.

I'm also a dirty Greenie and I happen to think Mandy would make a brilliant MP for Richmond, so I was happy to help.

Also she has photos of me in various compromising outfits and is holding them over me like the ruthless political operative she is.

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Mullum Hospital plan proposes 130 dwellings

An increase in the height of buildings on the site from 9 metres to 11.5 metres to accommodate 130 dwellings is part of a Council proposal being put forward for the old Mullumbimby Hospital site.

The planning proposal is now on exhibition at Council's website until February 11.

According to the infrastructure report (page 9), the proposal appears dependent on a permanent water connection from Rous (Rocky Creek Dam) to Mullum. Currently, Mullum has its own water supply from Lavertys Gap in Wilsons Creek.

Documents on Council's website state the Council-owned site is 4.4 hectares in size, and the planning proposal follows an initial draft submission last August to the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) for gateway determination.

Up to 300 dwellings were proposed at the time.

Council staff say the planning proposal 'has been updated to address points raised within that determination prior to community consultation'.

The proposal, say Council, will amend the



Photo from the old Mullumbimby Hospital site planning proposal (located near the high school). Image from proposal

Byron Local Environment Plan (LEP) to change the zoning of the site to 'general residential' for the majority of the land, along with a small section earmarked as 'environmental conservation'. The aged care facility land will remain as is.

Council held closed door negotiations with the development arm of the Catholic Church with regards to the land that is home to Coolamon Villa.

The report reads, 'There is an approved development consent over Lot 188 to create a separate lot for the aged care facility'.

'The aged care site is proposed to be 9,011m²

Other features of the proposal include an Affordable Housing Contributions Scheme (AHCS) map over the development area.

The traffic report says, 'It is envisioned that the residential component shall incorporate 20 per cent affordable housing'.

The infrastructure consultant's report claims the town's existing sewerage system can support the development.

Yet they warn that should more development for the town be built, 'then there may be insufficient capacity within the existing gravity network', and further infrastructure would need to be built.

As for the traffic report, the

authors claim 195 car parking spaces are required, and downplay the traffic increase as 'moderate', compared to a typical subdivision.

Traffic increase

A plan for a roundabout opposite the Rural Co-Op was assessed, yet was rejected without explanation for 'small improvements in traffic flow'.

Regarding the road near the site, they write 'Regular congestion seems to occur. It is hypothesised that the root cause of this congestion is the school zone...'

'To adequately support the affordable housing component of the proposal, a public transport strategy is required. It is suggested that a bus stop is incorporated into the future design of the site.'

As for flooding, while the site is considered flood-free, the flood report reads, 'The site will be isolated from the Mullumbimby township during rare and extreme flood events'.

'The duration of the isolation may extend from around 12 to 20 hours'.

For more info, visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Home/Tabs/Your-Say.

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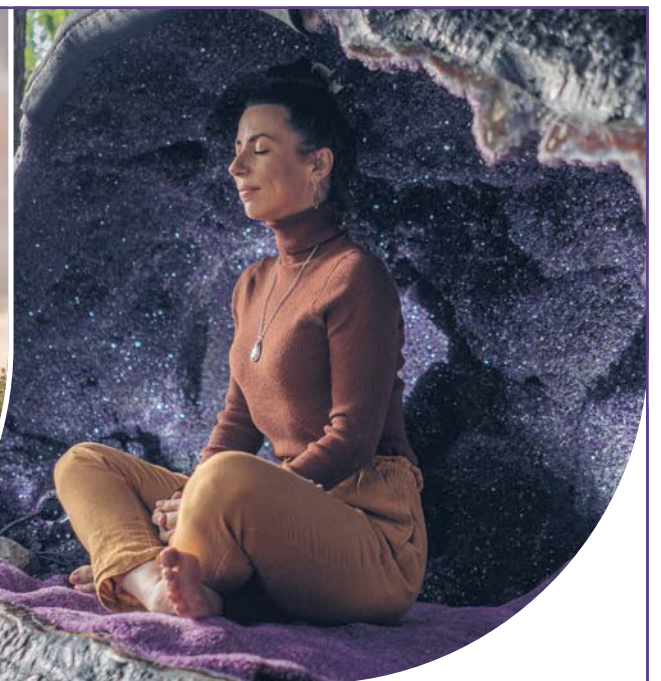
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Mullum sees spate of shoplifting



Sally makes a statement to Senior Constable Jake Trapani from the Tweed Byron Police.

Photo & story Aslan Shand

Numerous businesses throughout Mullumbimby say they have noticed an increase in thefts over the last year, with Mockingbird Vintage reporting around \$1,000 worth of clothes and jewellery stolen last Friday.

Owner, Sally, told *The Echo* that a couple entered the shop and the woman was filmed on their 12 CCTV cameras stealing both clothing and jewellery over a 15 minute period before leaving the premises.

Following the incident, Sally put some of the footage of the theft online and received a call from a member of the public who had spotted the couple on Broken Head Beach.

As a result, Sally was able to supply the police with the licence plate of the thieves.

'I've since received calls from several other shops who have experienced an increase of goods bring stolen from their shops as far away as Coolangatta.'

Senior Constable Jake Trapani emphasised the importance of shop owners reporting thefts to the police so that they can take action.

'If people don't report the thefts, we don't know about it. If they are reported and there are multiple thefts, then we are potentially able to link them together for the case. But we need to know that it is happening.'

Zoe Zahra from Mitre 10, and Jenelle Stanford, who owns the Mullum newsagency, both said they had experienced an increase in thefts over the last six to twelve months.

Some shop owners also noted that there had been an increase since the pods were installed in town.

'We had one woman come in who had bare feet, she tried on a pair of boots before walking out with them on, without paying' said Ms Zahra.

'For a family-owned business like Mitre 10, the thefts have a big impact, and it can be quite time consuming to report the incidents to the police as well.'

Ms Stanford, former president of the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce, told *The Echo* that a number of businesses had come to her regarding the increase of theft in Mullumbimby.

'One man who we recently

caught stealing on camera also bought \$100 worth of Lotto,' she pointed out.

Biz doing it tough

'It is really tough on small businesses who often don't run on a massive profit margin. Also, considering the last few years of covid and floods, businesses have been doing it even tougher.'

'For many, losing thousands of dollars to theft can impact the viability of their business in the long term. These are local businesses that employ locals, spend their money in the local community and care about the town.'

Thieves caught

Fortunately for Mockingbird Vintage, the police were able to track down the thieves and retrieve the stolen goods. They also found a range of other goods that had been stolen.

'Having CCTV footage is helpful', said Senior Constable Trapani, 'however, if people can take a number plate that is also really useful.'

To report a crime go to the NSW Police portal at www.police.nsw.gov.au.



Peace rings out from Starlight

Using harmonic sounds and traditional mantras, Toshiko Matsumoto uses the Singing Ring to make a Japanese Zen Sutra prayer for world peace and harmony at the Starlight Festival, held in Bangalow on the weekend. Photo Eve Jeffery

Cheeky Monkeys up for a revamp

Paul Bibby

It was once a mainstay of Byron's nightlife, providing a colourful and, at times, controversial space for locals and visitors to let their hair down.

Now, Cheeky Monkeys is being replaced by a swanky bar and restaurant owned by one of the country's largest hotel groups.

Late last year, as locals were preparing to stuff their tofu turkeys, the Merivale Group submitted its development application (DA) for the famous site at 115 Jonson Street, Byron Bay.

\$1.4m renovation

The proposed \$1.4 million renovation will see the venue that was once known for its cheap drinks and sticky carpet turned into a ritzy restaurant with an adjoining lounge bar.

Taking over an adjoining retail space that used to be home to a massage and spa business, the expanded establishment will have modern furnishings, tasteful planter boxes, and lots of glass.

It is not known whether the Merivale Group will retain



Cheeky Monkeys was forced to close at the start of the first covid outbreak, and has not reopened. Photo Eve Jeffery

the Cheeky Monkeys name, or offer an alternative that is more in keeping with the company's corporate brand.

Merivale's 'portfolio' already includes 80 pubs, clubs, restaurants and other brands across Australia, making it one of the most lucrative hospitality companies in the country with a reported value of more than a billion dollars.

It is owned by Sydney identity, Justin Hemmes.

Among the venues owned by Merivale are The Ivy bar and nightclub on George St in Sydney and The Newport Arms Hotel on Sydney's Northern Beaches.

While the plans are unlikely to surprise locals, given the rapid gentrification of Byron Bay in recent years, many expected they would be submitted earlier.

When Merivale proudly trumpeted that they had purchased the site back in 2021, the company expressed its intention to open the new venue later that year.

The development application is currently under assessment from Byron Council staff, and is likely to be placed on public exhibition in the coming months.

It will then come before councillors for final determination.

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Labor has secured the future for Feros residents on the current site.

In a massive community victory, together we've secured the long-term future for Feros Village, Byron Bay. **Thank you** to everyone for all your efforts!

After the devastating news that Feros Care would close this facility, State and Federal Labor Governments worked to find a new provider to keep the site open for residents.

After months of work, we've secured St. Andrew's, an established provider of aged care services, to run the current Feros Village site and continue to provide high-quality care. All residents will be able to remain on the site.

I'm proud to be your strong voice in the Albanese Government delivering a long-term home for the residents of Feros.



We've secured the long-term future for this important aged-care facility for our area.

A big thank you to our community, Byron Shire Council and the NSW Labor Government for your work in helping us make this happen!



Justine Elliot MP

Federal Member for Richmond

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Echo

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

Lismore brings in the New Year with style

The celebration bringing in 2024 in Lismore saw the Tropical Fruits Festival praised by local Acting Mayor Jeri Hall as Lismore has been named as one of the world's 'Coolest Places to visit in 2024'.

Still no board appointed for Evans Head's Dirawong Reserve

Crown Lands promised that a new board would be appointed for the Dirawong Reserve near Evans Head in November 2023, yet as we welcome 2024 there is still no board appointed, says former board member Dr Richard Gates.

Untrained rescuers drowning on our beaches – report

The 2023 NSW Coastal Safety Report has highlighted a stark increase in bystander rescue drownings along with the finding that more than half of coastal drownings are happening in regional and remote areas.

Woman dies after drowning – Coffs Harbour

A woman has died and a child has been rescued after both were caught in a rip at Coffs Harbour yesterday.

Foiled attempt to export over \$1.2m worth of reptiles

NSW Police say that Raptor Squad detectives have dismantled a criminal syndicate allegedly attempting to export over \$1m worth of Australian native lizards and reptiles to Hong Kong.

Man charged after aged-care resident allegedly sexually assaulted

Sex Crimes Squad detectives have charged a man following an investigation into an alleged sexual assault at an aged care home in the state's north.

www.echo.net.au

New murals beautify Ballina

David Lowe

Two large street art installations have recently been completed in Ballina, one on Cherry Street and another between Winton Lane and River Street, together with some smaller works around the Northern Rivers Community Gallery.

The new public art was the result of Ballina Shire Council's call for expressions of interest last year, and were made by the selected artists in

consultation with neighbouring businesses, in a bid to beautify some grey walls, reduce graffiti, and generally brighten Ballina.

Artists include Kate Stroud, Tom Gerrard, Beki Davies, Gala Jane and Allan Leisk, with diverse styles and techniques on show.

The *Echo* spoke to Lismore-based sign writer, graphic artist and muralist Kate Stroud about her large-scale work featuring 'stamps' of various styles and subjects



Artist Kate Stroud working on her Cherry Street mural late last year. Photo supplied

at 33-34 Cherry Street Ballina (behind the main business shopfront there).

Celebrating place and space

Ms Stroud explained she submitted three concepts and one was accepted in October.

Her idea was then developed after meeting with Ballina Council's Sustainability Planner, Skye McNamara, and the owner of the Bennett

building, to discuss what they would like to see on the wall, along with the general feel and vibe.

She said her intention was to honour and celebrate place and space. 'We spoke about the site's historical significance, which was once a car yard. The only other thing they really wanted was the vintage surfing prawn!'

The mural consists of eleven smaller works, integrated by a striking

prawn-inspired colour scheme and references to different Ballina eras and sub-cultures. 'Yes, I decided to keep it simple and use a warm palette which used colours out of context, such as red waves,' said Ms Stroud.

The mural is 85 square metres, and took an intense week to create, with the assistance on big days of fellow artist Kate Bradshaw.

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

Can you help the people and animals at Ballina's NRAS?



Northern Rivers Animal Services is a self-funded, not for profit charity which rehomes and rehabilitates unwanted, abused and neglected dogs and cats across the region. January is no holiday for the volunteers – in fact, this is their busiest period of the year. Read full story in *The Echo* online at: www.echo.net.au. Photo David Lowe

Nurses rally against pay 'backflip' in Lismore

St Vincent's Hospital nurses from the NSW Nurses and Midwives' Association (NSWNMA) held a rally on Monday morning, in their own off-duty time, after a pay deal they were intending to accept was withdrawn at the 11th hour, they say.

The original pay offer was a four per cent increase for 2023 and 2.53 per cent backdated to October 2022.

The NSWNMA says newly appointed CEO of St Vincent's Lismore, Alan Cooper, made a last-minute decision to take the pay deal off the table and offer only a 2.3 per cent increase, backdated to July 2023.

NSWNMA members are deeply disappointed by the hospital's backflip, and along with community members, will be calling on the board of St Vincent's Lismore to reinstate the original offer.

NSWNMA General Secretary, Shaye Candish, said the

past three years had been gruelling for nurses and midwives in the Northern Rivers following the covid pandemic and floods.

Not unreasonable

'What our members at St Vincent's Private Hospital are asking for is not unreasonable. In fact, our hardworking nurses are very deserving of this wage increase,' said Ms Candish.

'They show up every day and night to provide patients in Lismore and surrounds with high quality clinical care but their pay is not reflective of this.'

NSWNMA St Vincent's Private Hospital Lismore branch members will highlight their concerns and call on the hospital to reconsider its decision.

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

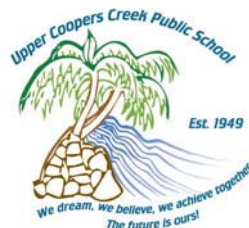
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Echo

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Nicholas Shand
1948-1996
Founding Editor

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

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

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

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Byron's Basq House seeks liquor licence



Basq House is located at 7 Marvell Street, Byron Bay. Image Google Maps

According to documents supplied to *The Echo*, an on-premises alcohol licence is sought from the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority (ILG) for a Byron Bay hotel proposal called Basq House.

A modified DA was approved by Council on May 11, 2013, according to the documents. It is located at 7 Marvell St, Byron Bay, next to the Dive Centre and the former Hertz car rental shop.

In December 12, 2019, *The Echo* reported that locals expressed concern about the \$3m three-storey building, which proposed 29 one-and two-bedroom hotel rooms, a swimming pool, health spa and shops.

The applicant, Jeremy And Jones Pty Ltd, proposes to operate the liquor licence

seven days a week, from 10am till 12am.

The maps supplied indicate approval for an alcohol licence is sought for all three storeys of the building, including the roof.

The ILG says, 'If this application is granted, the applicant will be authorised to serve liquor to customers at the listed premises during liquor trading hours, but this must not be the main or primary function of the business.'

No entertainment is to be provided, says the site notice.

Public submissions for DA 10.2019.576.3 can be made via the Liquor and Gaming Noticeboard: <https://lngnoticeboard.onegov.nsw.gov.au/search>.

SAE info night Jan 18

An upcoming info night and twilight market will be held at SAE Creative Media Institute campus on Thursday January 18 from 4pm.

Organisers say visitors can 'immerse themselves in the vibrant atmosphere, chat to local stallholders, enjoy live music, and explore the exciting creative media learning opportunities that SAE has to offer'.

'The night is an excellent chance for prospective students, parents, and anyone interested in creative

media to learn more about SAE's range of courses across animation, audio, creative industries, design, film, games, and music; and to discover how studying at SAE can be the key to unlocking their dream career'.

SAE General Manager, Dr Luke McMillan, said, 'We are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of creative leaders, and this event showcases everything SAE has to offer.'

Visit www.sae.edu.au for more information.

Emma steps in to defend local environment

A new convenor of the Byron Environment Centre (BEC) has been announced.

A press release from the BEC reads, 'After nine years of his dogged persistence in speaking out on behalf of local ecosystems, former councillor, John Lazarus, has stepped down as convenor of the Byron Environment Centre (BEC).'

'Local climate activist, Emma Briggs, has now taken on the role, and she says she looks forward to the challenge of expanding the group's membership and continuing their valuable work defending our region against unsustainable development and corporate exploitation.



Emma Briggs and John Lazarus. Photo Eve Jeffery

Bona fides

'Ms Briggs spent fifteen years sailing around the world on Greenpeace ships, before returning to Australia and volunteering

and organising with groups, including Frontline Action on Coal, Extinction Rebellion, Blockade Australia, and most recently, Rising Tide when they blockaded the Newcastle coal port last November.'

She's lived in Byron Bay for 23 years.

She says, 'My first focus is to bring new blood into the group. I know there are many young people in the region with serious concerns about the future, and I would love to hear their ideas and incorporate their visions into the new Byron Environment Centre.'

'I plan to update our social media pages, and also reopen our rotunda to speak to the public as often as possible. I'll be there this Friday from 10am, so come over and have a chat,' Ms Briggs said.

For more information contact Emma Briggs on 0403 719203 or em333ma@gmail.com.

Music venue for Byron Arts & Industry Estate?

Paul Bibby

The property developer behind plans for a boutique cafe in the heart of the Byron A&I Estate is seeking to turn the space into a late-night amplified music venue for up to 120 patrons.

As locals were decorating their spray-free solstice trees late last year, Norfolk Byron Bay applied to modify their previously approved plans for 18 Banksia Drive.

The previous consent was for a mixed-use development, featuring a series of light industrial workshops and a small cafe that would sell artisan food and drinks made on the premises.

But the modification application, now on public exhibition via Byron Council's website, proposes turning the boutique cafe into a venue that would be open from 7am till midnight, seven days a week, and have a capacity for up to 120 patrons.

The developer is also seeking planning permission

to install a DJ booth and to play live, amplified music during its hours of operation.

This music would be pumped into both the indoor and outdoor areas.

Despite the seemingly significant changes to their plans, Norfolk and their consultants say they do not anticipate 'any adverse impacts on the natural or built environments' from their modified proposal.

The application is supported by a Noise Impact Assessment (NIA) prepared by Tim Fitzroy & Associates.

The NIA concludes that 'cumulative noise levels from all expected sources are predicted to meet the project's noise trigger levels at all nearby commercial and residential receptors during all time periods'.

The developer is also arguing that no additional parking is required, because there's no net increase in floor area and that the cafe will be at its busiest on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights when

other surrounding operations will be closed.

'It is submitted that the parking spaces that are nominated for the site are satisfactory for the proposed operation,' the planning company hired to undertake the modification application said. They also assert that the local road network 'includes sufficient road widths to accommodate vehicular movements to and from the property'.

'The proposal does not alter the approved vehicle entry, loading and parking

arrangements and is not likely to create adverse traffic impacts in the locality,' they state.

They conclude that 'the modification results in a development that is substantially the same as that already approved within the property'.

The development modification application will remain on public exhibition until January 16, and can be viewed on Byron Council's DA Tracker website by searching the following DA number: 10.2021.716.3.

Chamber seeks survey input

The Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce are seeking local businesses input with a new online survey.

Newly appointed Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce President, Matt Williamson, says, 'All respondents may remain anonymous if preferred, and the information will be collected confidentially by the Chamber.'

'Your input is crucial as we strategise for the upcoming year and beyond. We highly value your feedback, which will provide essential insights into local business, member satisfaction, preferences, and suggestions for enhancing the Chamber'.

To take part in the survey, visit <http://tinyurl.com/43kypchd>.

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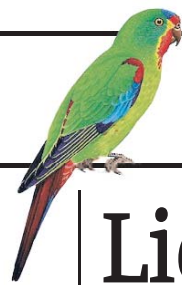


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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #31 • January 10, 2024



Liquidating the national estate

If you haven't got anything to hide, you would have been transparent in the first place

It's an odd Byron Shire Council that Mayor Michael Lyon, and acting General Manager (GM), Shannon Burt, lead.

It's odd because there is an air of desperation to fast-track development as much as possible, no matter how poorly it is done.

Of course, they don't see it that way. They would maintain everybody had the chance to make comment on a major land rezoning policy, the *Housing Options Paper*.

They fulfilled requirements to exhibit the plans and to 'take into account' your submissions.

Trust us, we're the government!

And yet, the mayor seems confused. Community groups are on record as being unhappy with the lack of transparency and poor process of the recently adopted *Housing Options Paper*.

According to the mayor, it's the fault of *The Echo's* editor for using it as a 'cloak for the fact [the editor] just don't like the decisions we have come to'.

It's a theme he's been running with for a while.

Is he hoping to distract from his critics, instead of reforming poor process that has occurred under his governance, for years?

Instead, he seems to want his personal grievances to be taken seriously.

However, it appears that Council aren't taking the community seriously.

Council's press release on

the recently adopted *Housing Options Paper* was very light on details.

It didn't say what lands they asked the state government to rezone.

Council also listed the lands as just Lot numbers in the mayor's December 14 motion.

As the Mullum Residents Association rightly point out, you have to figure out the addresses, just to add to the confusion. Sweet.

One of the reasons given for why staff chose to make public submissions confidential, according to acting General Manager Shannon Burt, was 'the tight timeframe to report back to Council'.

Given that there was no pause to ask for an extension from the state government on this important issue, the optics are that Council consider the state government's wishes more important than properly informing us.

Neighbouring councils provide unredacted public submissions, without a fuss, and without claiming there are legal obstacles.

Putting state government interests above the community is not what local governments are elected to do.

Given the mayor told *The Echo*, 'I take transparency and honesty with the community very seriously', we look forward very much to seeing when that transparency and honesty begins.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

The chainsaws were finally ordered to stop in what remains of the native forests in Western Australia and eastern Victoria on New Year's Day, throwing into sharp relief the absence of any similar policy in NSW or federally, despite unambiguous economic and scientific arguments.

Both state decisions took place much earlier than expected.

In Victoria, the native logging ban was the result of untold person hours of activism at every level, culminating in crucial court cases over the illegal destruction of endangered species, exacerbated by catastrophic bushfires.

In WA, the impacts of climate change and increasingly lucrative softwood plantations have forced the change, which hardwood workers say blindsided them. In both cases, the Labor premiers involved are no longer on the political scene.

Conservationists are worried that the decisions are not future or Coalition-proof, with some murkiness around the implementation of the Victorian laws allowing continued logging in the west of the state until new national parks are formalised.

Labor's union influence

Federally, Labor has always been divided on the issue of native forests, partly because of the influence of the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU), and partly because of its history. The first leader to show much interest in the natural environment was Gough Whitlam, who said in 1970, 'the Commonwealth should see itself as the curator, and not the liquidator of the national estate.'

By forcing the World Heritage issue in the High Court, then-Labor Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, helped save the Franklin River, protecting important forests and creating a whole new tourist industry in Tasmania. But later, he and his government seemed to lose their nerve, after Environment Minister, Graham Richardson, was assaulted by forestry workers in Ravenshoe in 1987, while announcing the protection of the Daintree wet tropics (now a globally significant biodiversity hotspot and a major Qld job creator).

Hawke's later promise to plant a billion trees fell into the same basket



'Despite National Party bleating to the contrary, logged forests create a much greater risk of catastrophic bushfire than healthy mature forests.'

David Lowe

as the one about no Australian children living in poverty by 1990.

Anxious to separate himself from the Greens, Anthony Albanese lauded Australia's imaginary 'sustainable native forestry practices' at a loggers' dinner in Canberra in 2022.

The sainted Bob Brown has said Albo is effectively backing in John Howard's 1997 regional forest agreements, which have led to the destruction of thousands of hectares of native forests and their wildlife, and left the Commonwealth liable to compensate the states if it interferes.

Labor had a chance to end native forest logging at their national conference last year, with hundreds of branches (not the woody kind) endorsing the motion from the Labor Environment Action Network, but this was squashed by the executive.

Will the state premiers step in?

Probably not, if the premiers of Tasmania and NSW have anything to do with it.

Swift parrot habitat is still being logged in Tasmania, the Tarkine remains threatened, and Chris Minns' promised Great Koala National Park is nowhere in sight, while he seeks to protect possible future carbon credits.

Queensland state forests are largely unprotected, apart from a corner in the south east, where thousands of trees were downed in recent storms.

The NSW hardwood timber industry ran at a \$9m loss in 2021-2022, ballooning to almost ten times that if fire and flood recovery expenses are included.

Despite National Party bleating to the contrary, logged forests create a much greater risk of catastrophic bushfire than healthy mature forests. Forests also filter water, regulate rain, create soil, reduce floods and help create the air that we all breathe.

Apart from the impacts on the species that live in them, the economic madness of subsidising

forest destruction, and the loss of natural beauty, there are clear climate implications.

In NSW alone, native logging currently releases about 3.6 million tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere each year. Professor David Lindenmayer from the ANU has said ending native forest logging nationally would be the most achievable way for Labor to meet its stated target of 43 per cent reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Closing giant loopholes

Late last year, Victorian Greens Senator, Janet Rice, introduced a bill to repeal the existing *Regional Forest Agreements Act 2002* and to amend the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

This was immediately dismissed by Liberal Senator, Jonathon Duniam, as 'nothing more than a stunt by the Greens in an attempt to draw attention to their flawed and anti-Australian position on native forestry'.

Senator Rice says her Bill is an attempt to end native forest logging in Australia. Labor is expected to block these changes, even though PM Albanese has publicly supported Scott Morrison's earlier signed endorsement of the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, which is supposed to halt and reverse forest loss and land degradation by 2030.

There is no way this can be achieved with political 'solutions' such as offsets.

Lismore-based Sue Higginson is a lifelong forest activist, and now a Greens MLC in the NSW parliament.

She says, 'Logging our forests is not sustainable, when all the costs of logging these essential public assets are considered.'

■ David Lowe is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and photographer. He's known for his campaigning work with Cloudcatcher Media.



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Marie Curie, reading *The Echo* since 1886. Image Cloudcatcher Media

Positive start

I wanted to start the new year on a positive note and thank the Byron Shire Council for opening the new dog parks.

I'd asked Council some time ago to make this happen, noting the importance of having two dog parks – one for small dogs and another for the large-to-medium variety, as well as for the social life of both dogs and humans. Not to mention the importance of striving to keep the canines out of areas where our wild-life struggle to survive. Well done all involved – I'm not a dog owner but really appreciate this wise and helpful initiative.

Bronwyn Sindel
Mullumbimby

Best NYE!

Well, that was the best NYE in years. Thanks to the organisers of the Falls Festival for cancelling, which has yielded numerous benefits and blessings, including:

- an absence of new garbage mountains in the northern part of the Shire,
- less pollution in the creeks,
- much less noise pollution,
- local wildlife weren't driven from their homes,
- less illegal camping in sensitive dunes,
- less traffic congestion and random restrictions,
- a reduction in drug and alcohol-related injuries,
- more police available for normal police work,
- local pubs and clubs had their best night in years,
- local musicians had gigs.

• the profits from the revelry remain in the area, instead of being sent overseas by a corporate entity.

I'd like to see Splendour (SITG) match this and confer a similar range of benefits on the locals. Surely they can see it'd be a win-win for everyone.

Michael Hunt
Wooyung

The white dress

A thumbs-up to Mandy Nolan's commentary titled *The white dress* (Soapbox, 27 December 2023).

A clear insight into the many layers of this, and its deeper meaning. I hope it reaches the wider sphere of media.

Margrette Young
Rosebank

Trashing democracy

It is reassuring to see a former liberal, Catherine Cusack, showing contrition for her former party's behaviour (Comment, 3 January). But she makes the mistake of suggesting that there is some equivalence with the behaviour of other political parties and her own, which has led to the lack of trust in politicians generally.

Although the Labor Party is not entirely blameless, their mistakes pale into insignificance when compared with the corrupt, deceitful, incompetent, and dangerous conduct of the Coalition.

This false equivalence allows the political right to further undermine democracy, aided and encouraged by an overwhelmingly conservative media. All politicians are painted as

untrustworthy, reducing the credibility gap between the parties to the point where the public disengage with the democratic process, allowing the right to continue their corrupting influence while hiding in plain sight.

Patrick Lenfesty
Ballina

'Yes' or 'No'

John Lazarus needs to heed the warning from many years ago that runs along the lines of 'better to keep your mouth shut and let people think you a fool than open your mouth and show that you are'.

It was largely due to the hubris of 'Yes' proponents such as John Lazarus and his 'ilk', that the referendum was lost. A disaster of a campaign such as that of the 'Yes' supporters has set their own ideals back many years.

Brian Warrick
Bangalow

Cartoon

After being frequently bamboozled by Antoinette Ensby's cartoons, can anyone tell me what last week's offering was about?

Was the funny part supposed to be the newspaper in the fridge or the nonsensical reply? Please let me know or am I missing something?

John Donnellan
Ocean Shores

Pigsty

As if the demolished old Carsburg site on the entry to Mullum isn't ugly enough, we now have an untidy mess of camping setups outside of Pod flats and in full view of townspeople and visitors,

adding to this 'beautiful' sight. What an eyesore! What are Council and the rangers doing to clean up this ugliness?

An alternative might be to plant shrubs and/or erect a screening fence to hide the mess.

It'd [be] up to us, as Mullumbimby can look tidy if we want.

Terry Newling
Mullumbimby

Mullum: great already

In response to *The Echo* editorial (13 December, 2023) *Make Mullum Great Again* – I have to disagree because Mullum is great already.

The Mullum Farmers Market is great, the Community Market is great, the museum is great, the Chamber of Commerce is great, the Chinny Charge is great, Brunswick Valley Landcare is great, Maslen Arboreum is great, Heritage Park is great, the skate park is great, our coffee shops are great, walking down the street and talking to people is great, the buskers are great (maybe not all the time but at least they are giving it a go) the Drill Hall Theatre is great, the Uniting Church op shop is great, their food bank is great, the rugby club is great, the soccer clubs are great, the two tennis clubs are great, the netball club is great, all our halls you can rent cheaply are great, the Bowlo and Ex-Services club are great, the Petria Thomas Memorial Baths is great, our schools are great, our Neighbourhood Centre is great, the Paddock is great, the Community Garden is great, public access at Council is great (not all councils do this

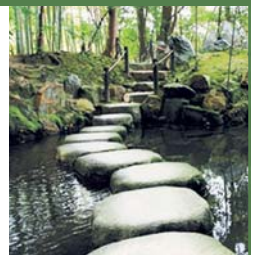
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Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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.

Questions over adequacy of developer contributions and traffic impacts raised over 38-lot DA at McAuleys Lane, Myocum

I am writing in response to the front-page article in last week's *Echo* concerning the proposed Community Title subdivision at 53 McAuleys Lane, Myocum, by Tareeda Developments (DA 10.2023.454.1).

It is imperative that our community remains informed about the issues surrounding this development, especially given the potential impact on McAuleys Lane residents and the broader Shire.

One of the main concerns shared by many in our community is the substantial surge in traffic volumes, particularly here at an already perilous intersection and

on a narrow rural road with inherent safety deficiencies. The proposed solution by the developer is inadequate, relying on outdated traffic data and underestimations, ultimately jeopardising access and amenity for existing residents.

During the Council meeting in October 2022, where twenty submissions against the rezoning were presented, promises were made to address the issues raised in the Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) and Road Safety Audit (RSA) during the subsequent design stage of the DA.

However, it is disheartening to note that Tareeda

has resubmitted the same flawed TIA and RSA, ignoring the need for an effective upgrade of the already dangerous intersection of Mullumbimby Road [from Mullum to Uncle Tom's] and McAuleys Lane.

Despite assurances from the developer's representative regarding community consultation, our attempts to engage in the process have been ignored. A promised consultation never materialised, and instead, we received a 'courtesy call' on 12 December 2023 [telling us] that the DA had been lodged. This lack of consultation reflects a concerning disregard for community input and raises questions about the transparency of the decision-making process.

As a resident with a property adjoining the proposed subdivision, I find it disconcerting that we have not yet received a formal notification from the Council, a legal obligation, which raises concerns about transparency in the approval process.

While recognising the need for increased housing

opportunities, the absence of an affordable housing component in the proposal is disappointing.

Moreover, the timing of the DA lodgement, coinciding with the holiday season, raises suspicions about attempts to minimise public scrutiny.

With the submission period open from 11–24 January, it is crucial for concerned citizens to voice their opinions by making a submission once the DA is on exhibition.

Considering the unresolved issues, broken promises, and the importance of this decision, I urge the Council to extend the exhibition period to allow the community adequate time for thorough consideration.

Richard Kowalski
Myocum

Regarding the proposed subdivision DA in McAuleys Lane Myocum as reported in last week's *Echo*, I write to shed light on a concerning aspect that warrants further attention. After reviewing the DA, and in addition to the community's apprehensions about the project,

if approved, the financial implications could negatively affect both the Council and our local community.

Tareeda Developments' application raises questions about the adequacy of their financial contribution to the community, particularly in terms of their developer contribution funds.

In any development application (DA), these contributions are typically calculated as a percentage of the estimated project work cost. However, Tareeda has estimated their cost of works at \$2.8 million without providing a Cost of Works Assessment Analysis, a standard requirement by Council.

The absence of this essential analysis, prepared by a quantity surveyor as per Council norms, is a notable concern.

The \$2.8 million estimate encompasses a range of elements, including 38 lots, associated roadworks, comprehensive traffic intersection upgrades, power supply, stormwater treatment, and various community facilities such as a wet bar, tennis court, multi-purpose yoga

room, and community pavilion. The lack of transparency in how Tareeda arrived at this figure is a matter that demands scrutiny.

How did Tareeda Developments arrive at this specific cost, given the extensive scope of the project?

The absence of a Cost of Works Assessment Analysis raises questions about the accuracy and thoroughness of their financial estimates. This is an issue that warrants the Council's diligent investigation to ensure that the financial contributions align with the scale and impact of the proposed development.

I trust that the Council will thoroughly examine this matter, ensuring transparency and accountability in evaluating Tareeda Developments' financial commitments.

The community deserves assurance that the proposed subdivision not only meets regulatory standards but also contributes adequately to the development's impact on the local infrastructure and amenities.

Shae Constantine
Myocum

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Research 4 this ad is from Prof. *Carole Hooven's book *Testosterone, The Story of the Hormone that Dominates and Divides Us*; Cassell 2021.

But U can listen to the relevant points in a 1-hour YouTube video, scan 2 my home page, scroll down. Starting about the 17-minute mark *she says...

*Everywhere around the globe males commit more sexual assault by far and murder for instance than females. But the size of that sex difference can be dramatically narrowed and that's because the male rates of those behaviours are reduced in cultures which do not tolerate those behaviours, like Singapore that I mentioned in the book.

You may not approve of their tactics, but it is evidence that culture can have a massive effect on these behaviours we know are problematic, so there's really nothing about the facts of biology that justify any of the behaviours we think are problematic.*

Increasing Penalties for these Crimes.

These need to be SIGNIFICANTLY increased and widely advertised.

- When there is Credible evidence of Domestic Violence e.g. Women / Children wanting to, or already left home
- Males are immediately placed on Probation
- The next step out of line, the new increased Penalties are applied.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE 2 the Rescue.

- Probation is effectively a severe restraint order, with Mandatory GPS tracker connected direct to a sophisticated AI device to alarm *Police
- If the Male comes within a certain range, including if either parties are on or near Roadways but also
- Instantly alarm *Women and *Children at risk of Murder
- Straight to their Mobiles giving precious time to take IMMEDIATE ACTION to *GET themselves *SAFE well before Police arrive.

These Cost effective and *Life *Saving measures
R URGENTLY needed

☺ *2PROTECTOURWOMEN/CHILDREN!* ☺

*Emergency 000, *Any Doctor, *Lifeline 13 11 14. 

Written by sheep farmer Tim Barritt. Barossa Valley, S.A.

Continued from page 11 by the way), Carols by Candlelight at the Showgrounds is great – I could go on and on, Byron Community College is great, Byron School of Arts is great, Creative Mullum is great and there is so much more!

What makes a place great is the people getting out and getting involved. Be active, join something, support each other, have fun and you realise just how great Mullum already is. It is changing – it always has – it has been changing from the day it was

first 'settled'. It changed the day I moved here and any day anyone else moved here, be that 30 years ago, ten years ago or yesterday. And that's okay because that is life – nothing ever stays the same. Let's just appreciate what we have, fix what we can, create what we need and give some gratitude for being able to live in a pretty special place.

Jeannette Martin
Mullumbimby

Ed note: Yes, Mullum is great, but the point of the

editorial was not to highlight the town's extremely good-looking and talented population, but to point out recent poor Council decision-making.

Dunoon Dam

I write in response to Phillip Rudd's letter (31 December, 2023).

While concerns regarding the Dunoon Dam's impact on cultural heritage and biodiversity are valid, the proposed 2024 study offers valuable opportunities:

1. Comprehensive data:

The 2011 and 2013 studies are outdated, lacking essential information on current environmental and cultural landscapes. A fresh assessment can provide a more accurate picture, guiding modern, informed decision-making.

2. Improved consultation: The new study emphasises collaboration with Widjabul Wia-Bal people. This deeper engagement could lead to mutually agreeable solutions that address their concerns while ensuring water security.

WHAT SHOULD I FOCUS ON IN 2024?

As your local Member, it's my job to advocate for you in parliament. And I refuse donations from big corporations, which means my work is informed by the community, not by dirty donations.

I want to know what issues you care about before I head back down to parliament for the 2024 year. Is it health? Cost-of-living? Climate change? Take the 2-minute survey and tell me what you think!

Authorised by Tamara Smith MP, Member for Ballina. Funded using parliamentary entitlements

TAMARA SMITH MP

MEMBER FOR BALLINA

Scan the QR to have your say, or visit tamarasmith.org.au/2024



6686 7522

ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au

tamarasmith.org.au



► 3. Informed alternatives: While supporting the Dunoon Dam study, Rous is also exploring other options like water efficiency, desalination, and groundwater. This comprehensive approach allows for a data-driven comparison, potentially revealing unforeseen benefits of alternative solutions.

4. Responsible development: The study's focus on long-term feasibility and cost analysis ensures responsible development. This safeguards against hasty decisions and provides transparency for water users regarding potential cost implications.

5. Balanced approach: The Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy acknowledges the complexities of water security. While not explicitly ruling out dams, it emphasises cost-effectiveness and community considerations. The study aligns with this balanced approach, seeking solutions that benefit both the environment and the community.

Ultimately, the new Dunoon Dam study represents a step towards a more informed and inclusive decision-making process. By prioritising data, collaboration, and responsible

development, it can pave the way for a sustainable water future for the Northern Rivers – with or without a new dam.

Joshua Booyens
Skennars Head
National Party candidate

Out with the old...

Well good riddance to 2023. My overarching gripe was the way that the state government had given us their word that Tweed Shire Council's rail trail was totally dependent upon there being strong local community support. Which there never was... so they just ignored us.

Look at all of your local papers, and see how some political parties run very expensive ads each and every week. Such papers get their hands on this easy income, and in my experience are prepared to support such people by exercising censorship... so that the government only hears what it wants to hear!

There are too many brain-dead aged voters who will say 'our family always votes Liberal/National/Labor'. Thank God we are dropping off in numbers as the aged depart this life.

But you, the younger generation, you are steadily increasing in numbers. You have the opportunity

to bring in change. At the next election think for yourself. Please vote Green or Independent to kick the old guard out; the 'this is the way it has always been'!

So Tweed Shire Council stole our rail lines. What is next? Your golf courses? Your parks and community gardens? Your sports grounds? Your access to your local beach? It is your call!

Mike Yarrow
Byangum

Mahimsa

The word *mahimsa* comes from Hindu and means 'to live a life of non-violence through your thoughts, actions, and deeds'.

How utterly tragic that our beautiful planet is controlled by primitives who wouldn't know *mahimsa* if they fell over it.

Hannah Grace
Ocean Shores

Truth to power

After reading Hans Lovejoy's editorial *Northern rivers are sick* my ageing body weakened with despair and then arose a rush of greater determination. I appeal to all activists and civil society to reassess sociological/structural notions about our NSW 'claimed democracy'.

Concrete evidence reveals

that pro \$\$\$\$ development cronyism rules our political system, whether it is left or right wing.

Corporate authoritarianism is destroying the values of mutual aid; communities that care and respect for ecological principles/development that uphold ongoing sentient life. Hence we see the rise of development on floodplains being pushed by crony state investors, local councils including Byron Council and the consequent conga line of eager capitalists intent on dismissing rising social trauma that structural homelessness creates.

In order to achieve ongoing crony capital profit, it must be noted that legal/moral imperatives must be totally dismissed. Ignore the current climate crisis! Thus we witness local councils continuing to allow development on floodplains. Let the rivers flow clear of cronyism, let democratic ecological societies speak and live in a respectful vision of harmony. Let no trauma be carried by future generations who witnessed the cruelty of crony politics. Restore music to the soul of all. Question authority always. Restore the rights of Mother Nature.

Jo Faith
Newtown

Join the team at Harmony Early Learning Journey

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PH 6684 2467
raytowercarpets.com.au**

Logging blocked as community waits for Federal Court decision

Aslan Shand

Logging access was blocked to Clouds Creek State Forest on Monday by local community members who were supported by Greens MP Sue Higginson as they sought to prevent logging road operations and protect endangered species in the forest.

The Federal Court is expected to deliver a judgement this Wednesday on the lawfulness of native forest logging under Federal environment laws. Koalas and the southern greater glider are among some of the endangered species in the Clouds Creek State Forest.

Justice Perry's Federal Court judgement on *North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) vs The Commonwealth of Australia* is being handed down at 10.15am on Wednesday. NEFA President, Dailan Pugh, told *The Echo*.

'Clouds Creek State Forest has already been targeted by the government for more logging despite being within the boundaries of the Great Koala National Park that the Minns government has promised. This forest is one of many that has been



Community members, joined by Greens MP Sue Higginson, blocked logging road operations on Monday as they wait for a Federal Court decision on lawfulness of native forest logging. Photo supplied

subjected to industrial logging despite known presence of endangered species including koalas and southern greater gliders,' said Ms Higginson.

'The Federal Court of Australia is on the verge of deciding whether public native forest logging that is ongoing in NSW is compliant with federal laws that are supposed to protect the environment and biodiversity. The logging operations that have been blocked by the community today could well be permanently halted if the court agrees that the government has failed to obey the law.'

'The community and the Forestry Corporation both know that logging is being undertaken in areas with

reported sightings of endangered greater gliders without the lawfully required protections for their habitat trees being in place. This situation has been repeated in other forests with the Environment Protection Authority issuing multiple stop work orders for the same issue in Tallaganda and Flat Rock State Forests last year.'

RFA invalidated?

'We objected to the Commonwealth and NSW governments extending the North East NSW Regional Forest Agreement in 2018 based on 1997 data, without requiring a new assessment, particularly of threatened species, old growth and climate change,' Mr Pugh explained.

'The case was heard in March 2022 and we have since been waiting for a decision. The process has taken over five years.'

'Should NEFA win, the 2018 North East NSW Regional Forest Agreement (RFA) will be invalidated, which will mean the exemption it gives from the federal *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) will no longer apply.'

'If the Forestry Corporation then proposes logging that will cause "significant impacts" on the habitat of nationally threatened species it will need to be referred to federal Environment Minister, Tanya Plibersek, for assessment.'

'Within north east NSW's state forests that are currently being logged, or proposed for imminent logging, there are nationally significant populations of over 11 nationally threatened animal species and 13 plant species. Of particular concern are the endangered koala, southern greater glider, spotted-tailed quoll, Hastings River mouse, rufous scrub bird, and giant barred frog.'

'For their sake I hope we win,' Mr Pugh said.

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FRESH EYES ON BYRON BAY

A WORD FROM THE BYRON BAY CHAMBER

2024 BUSINESS BAROMETER SURVEY

We value your opinion!

In a bid to shape the future of Byron Bay's business landscape, the Chamber of Commerce is excited to announce the commencement of its 2024 Business Barometer Survey. Business owners and professionals are encouraged to participate and share valuable insights on member satisfaction, preferences, and suggestions for chamber improvement. The survey, designed to be both comprehensive and confidential, allows respondents to contribute anonymously. The collected data will guide strategic planning for the upcoming year and long-term policy formulation.

Your opinions and ideas are the driving force behind the Chamber's growth and success. **Take the survey today at www.byronbaychamber.com and be a catalyst for positive change in Byron Bay's business community! www.byronbaychamber.com**



FEATURED CHAMBER BUSINESS

OLIVE WOOD VEGAN

Plant-based gourmet cooking classes with chef and author, Katie White

Want to learn how to make delicious ravioli by hand? Or satisfy the whole family and impress guests with an incredible plant based feast? Look no further than Olive Wood Vegan Cooking School.

London-based chef and author, Katie White, has returned home to Australia and brought back some plant-based culinary gems found while working for the UK's leading plant-based restaurant line and private cheffing in Italy. Katie was also one of the first people in history to obtain a plant-based culinary arts diploma from the renowned Le Cordon Bleu in London. Now, she is offering plant-based cooking classes from her Alstonvale home, set on three beautiful acres, where she also has a BnB, just 30 minutes south of Byron.

Katie's classes will allow you to take your home cooking to the next level. Learn how to make the most satisfying seasonal plant-based spread with recipes from her book *The Seasonal Vegan*, or to roll ravioli by hand in the most traditional Italian way. Leave feeling rested, grounded and inspired after your time at Australia's new plant-based BnB and cooking school.

89 Willowbank Drive, Alstonvale (Lennox Head Hinterland)
0427 037 111 | www.olivewoodvegan.com | @by_katie_white



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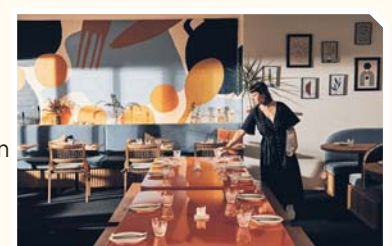
Byron Bay's eco-friendly dry cleaner will professionally clean your clothing and household items using their gentle biodegradable and non-toxic process. It's safer for the environment and for the health of their customers and staff. Suits, coats, jackets, dresses, wedding dresses, silk, leather and suede, lounge covers, doonas, blankets and more! Gerard and Shelley look forward to welcoming you into Orbit!



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www.orbitcodrycleaning.com.au

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Discover the passion behind No Bones Vegan Kitchen & Bar, where their commitment to plant-based cuisine and environmental sustainability creates an unforgettable dining experiences.



Committed to using as much local, organic, and spray-free produce as possible. This principle shapes the menu, which is a celebration of local flavours. Local DJ sets on weekends, daily happy hour 5-6pm.

11 Fletcher St, Byron Bay
@nobonesrestaurants
www.nobones.co

Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BYRON BAY




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

KARKALLA BYRON BAY
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SUNDAY live & local music



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

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



NO BONES
Vegan Kitchen + Bar.
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0481 148 007

We are a part of a plant-based movement and invite you to join us on our expedition to save the Earth one Brussels sprout at a time.
#brusselsnotbeef
www.nobones.co



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Book online:
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Happy Hour | Every day from 4–6pm.
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18 Jonson Street
6680 8832

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Menu and more details @mainstreet_burgerbar
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Upstairs at Mercato, above Woolworths, 108–114 Jonson St. Byron Bay
Insta – @thequartzgallery
Web – quartzgallery.com.au

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



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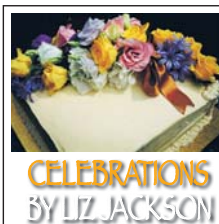


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The Channon Tavern



The Channon Tavern is a quaint country pub in the heart of The Channon – a historic town at the foothills of some of the best rainforest walks and waterfalls in the Northern Rivers. The Channon village, including the pub, was hit very hard by the floods in February–March 2022, but since its reopening in January 2023, the tavern has come back to life with new energy and management, including a high-quality Japanese restaurant.

The new team has created an inclusive and welcoming atmosphere whilst maintaining the old country pub feel. Whether it be a Japanese curry next to the fireplace on a cold night, or sashimi by the creek on a sunny day, The Channon Tavern has you covered.

They also have a large array of classic and craft beverages to quench your thirst. There is plenty to do for the whole family, including a kids playground, free pool tables, pool comps, table tennis, darts, trivia, raffles, live music and more.

■ 51 Terania Street, The Channon
02 6688 6522
www.thechannontavern.com.au
@thechannontav



All you need is LOVE chocolate

'It began with a dream and a love for the sweet things in life', says Alison Campbell, founder of Love Byron Bay Crêperie & Chocolate Boutique.

Alison, looking back on the challenges, achievements and the many contributors over the decade that made Love Byron what it is today, says, 'The journey began in December 2014 when our doors to a dream opened for the very first time with equal measure of trepidation and excitement and began with a cacao ceremony to acknowledge and invite the cocoa gods into our little boutique. Over a decade I've been privileged to witness thousands of loyal locals and visitors return to Love, hundreds of team members trained in the art of crepe making and retailing, and each and everyone of us who participated and contributed to something unique in this town we love.'

Like any small-business owner, Alison has weathered floods, staff shortages, cost increases and survived the covid lockdowns; she recalls just prior the biggest chocolate event of the year, Easter 2020, covid arrived. With the boutique stocked high with Easter eggs and rabbits, Alison pivoted online and turned into the Easter Bunny herself – delivering Easter to the Shire with the help of aligned businesses, local media and her GPS.

'Love Byron Bay has been both a challenge and a joy. Our boutique has brought pleasure to chocoholics and dessert champions. Delighting in the all-over body pleasure cacao delivers, investing in their own self-confessed addiction, our customers expanded their taste vocabulary by frequenting our boutique, our tasting events and our online shop, while lovers of French crepes have been drawn to enjoy fresh crepes being flipped and hot chocolates poured. Our little boutique is where excited, smiling eyes have



Alison Campbell, founder of Love Byron Bay Crêperie & Chocolate Boutique.



met for the first time and new love affairs ignited.'

2024 marks the tenth and final year of trading for Love Byron Bay at its Lawson St address, owing to its tenancy being forcibly terminated and a new tenant offered the space. Love Byron Bay will close its doors in its current location at the end of January. Says Alison, 'We all must face life's endings but one thing I do know is every ending brings with it a new beginning. As we get ready to close our doors I'd like to invite everyone to sample our unique taste of Love one last time. And I would like to thank all those who have supported the journey of my little chocolate boutique and crêperie that was Byron's number one dessert destination.'

■ More info: love-byronbay.com

Grumpy Grandma's Olives

Victoria Cosford

Over the coming months, it's all about entertaining, summer days and outdoor living – and those big olive pots you see at the Grumpy Grandma's stall are ideal. Fat manzanillas, mixed, wood-smoked, green, these hinterland-harvested olives need only to be tumbled out on to a platter. Want something a little different? If you haven't done so already, try the semi-dried olives, which are offered in an assortment of spicy herby flavourings: Thai, Moroccan, Tuscan – and soon to come – Tim Stone tells me – Aussie bush flavours.

That's the first bit of news he has for me as we stand chatting. The second bit is even more exciting. 'We've been listening to our customers', Tim says, 'and for the last couple of months have been getting ready to move into glass.' Gone, then, will be most of their plastic, although they will retain some takeaway containers for their bulk olives. As it is, Tim says, most of his customers reuse these containers anyway. Both these developments – the new dried olives; the glass

– will happen soon.

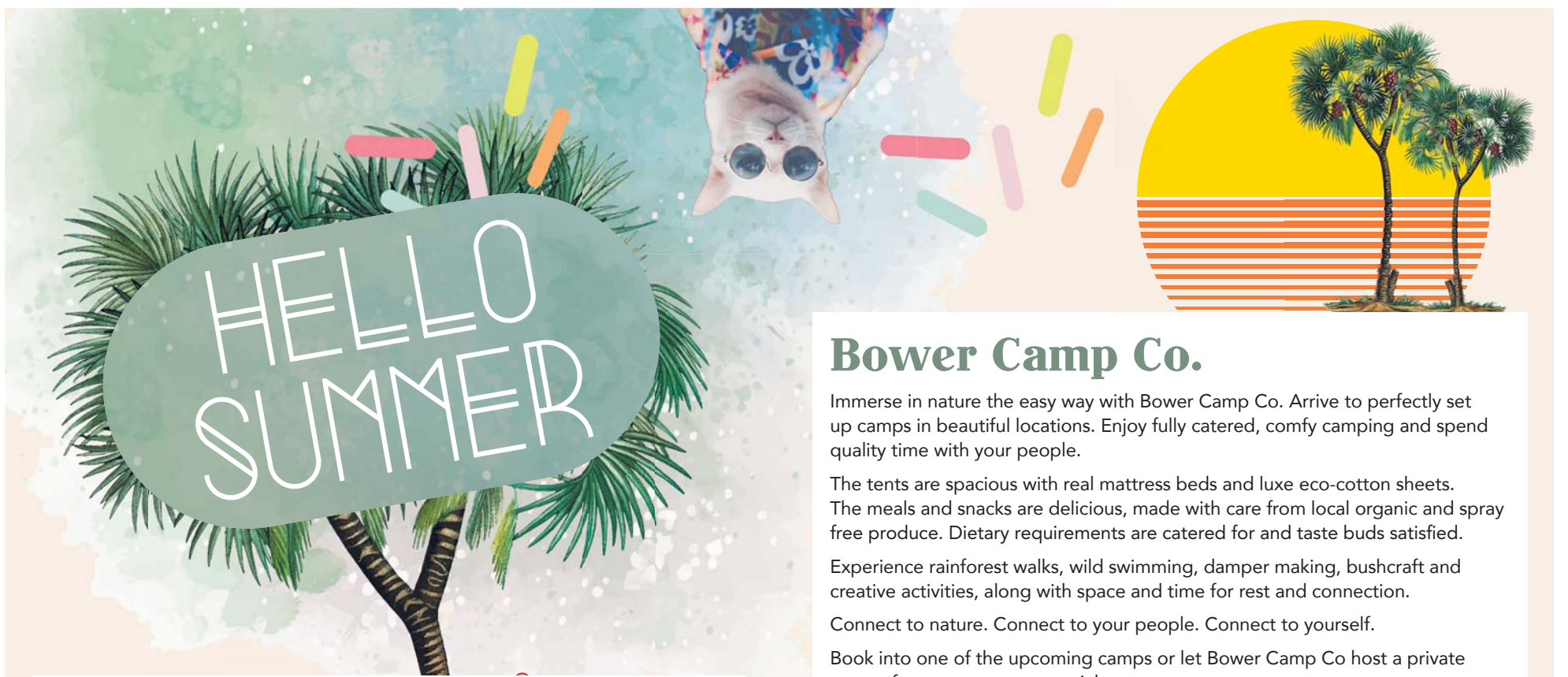
Of course, the next stage of the olives is the actual oil, and it's wonderful to see customers arrive with containers for the glorious cold-pressed extra virgin olive oil Tim sells in bulk. Given the monstrous cost of olive oil in supermarkets, it makes perfect sense to shop instead at his stall, where it's \$18 a litre, and local.

Aside from the regular extra virgin olive oil, there's a chilli-infused one, a wood-smoked one and a lemon myrtle. The latter, we agree, is wonderful in a salad dressing, and already I'm planning to drizzle it over briskly blanched asparagus – or blend it with lemon juice, chopped garlic, ground cumin and a pinch of paprika to pour over a salad of Coopers Shoot tomatoes and cucumbers.

■ Grumpy Grandma's Olives are at New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday from 8–11am, and at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7–11am.

Tim Stone of Grumpy Grandma's





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

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betterbybike.com.au
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Bower Camp Co.

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Experience rainforest walks, wild swimming, damper making, bushcraft and creative activities, along with space and time for rest and connection.

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

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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

Lone Goat Gallery

Lone Goat Gallery is a contemporary art space in the heart of Byron Bay, located in the library building and just a short walk from Main Beach. The Gallery presents a fantastic program of exhibitions, artist talks, events and workshops from the diverse array of emerging and established visual artists in the Northern Rivers and beyond.

Join them for their first opening of 2024, an exhibition of intricately knitted wire works by Nettie Sumner at 5.30pm Friday 12 January. Bring your kids during the school holidays to create a unique wire bloom.

They look forward to your visit !

Subscribe to their mailing list or check their website to stay in the loop.

Open Wednesday to Saturday, 10am-4pm.
www.lonegoatgallery.com

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.

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Monday to Friday, 8am-5pm.
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91 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
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28 LAWSON ST, BYRON BAY

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 LONEGOATGALLERY.COM

Lone Goat Gallery is a creative initiative of Byron Shire Council

Magic & circus dance party

Mullumbimby Ex-services Club, Tuesday 23 January 2024.

Tickets \$15 children, and adults \$5.

Embark on an enchanting adventure at the Kids Disco Party! Their one-hour Spectacular Kids Magic and Circus Show combines mesmerising illusions, jaw-dropping circus acts, and an electrifying dance party. Watch as talented magicians perform mind-boggling tricks, circus performers showcase dazzling stunts, and the dance floor comes alive with groovy beats and vibrant lights. Ideal for kids and their adults, this event promises giggles, excitement and joy. Join them for a celebration filled with memories that will last a lifetime – a magical journey of illusions, audience participation, and dancing fun!

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02 6684 2533

58 Dalley St, Mullumbimby

www.mullumexservices.com.au/event/magic-circus-dance-party

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.

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.

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The careless and the cashless...

When I was a kid, every birthday I'd wait by the letterbox for a card from my nan. It wasn't just the careful writing on the floral card wishing me the best, it was the \$10 stashed inside. There's probably not a person over 30 who hasn't received birthday cash.

Getting loot in the mail was a thrill. I'd add it to my savings. A glass jar full of spare change and hard-earned notes. I used it to buy books, a new Barbie, and when I was 13, my first boob tube for my first boob. My small cash stash gave me agency. It taught me to budget. I also learned delayed gratification. And how to count. And when I was robbed.

To rob me you had to break into my home and put your hand in my jar. Now you just have to scam me after tracing my activity on a bogus website. The flesh and blood hand in my jar is now a cyber finger inside my bank account. And it can reach in from anywhere in the world. While I am sleeping. While I am awake. While I am watching!

I loved my money jar. Unlike the world of credit and 'get your future self to pay your current self's debt' I learnt that expenditure was limited and confined to the contents of said jar. It was my childhood economy. My very own Reserve Bank. When I found out about Layby it blew my mind. You mean I can have something I can't afford by coming to the shop every week for six weeks with my savings? Holy shit! The shop withheld said object until you were paid up. Now, when you get shit you can't afford, or don't even need, they can just reach in and take the money straight out of your account. It's creepy. But you get heaps of stuff delivered to your door.

As a comedian, when I started, I didn't even need a bank account. I was paid a wad of cash at the bar after the show. It was brilliant. Sometimes I'd get a cheque; a piece of paper promising me the amount of money written on it. My cheque book now sits untouched in my bottom drawer. It's a relic of the past. Money isn't tactile anymore. Our hard labour is rewarded with a 'bing' or a



green tick. Our poverty is now called 'declined'.

The Commonwealth Bank predict we will be cashless by 2026. In fact, we are well on the way. In 2007 cash payments accounted for 70 per cent of spending, and at the end of 2022 cash was only 13 per cent of transactions. Younger generations, who haven't had a 'lobster' (\$20) in the wallet are perhaps the most well trained for this cashless world. But those with money under the mattress, stashed for emergencies, are not so sure this promised world of 'convenience' is so much better, or even convenient.

A power outage leads to instant commercial paralysis. I was standing in the IGA the other day when the power shut down and we all had to abandon our baskets. You can't shop without power because the systems are all digital. You can't have your purchases written neatly on the pages of a lined notebook anymore, like they did in the '40s. That doesn't feel very convenient. During the floods those of us with the mattress stash could buy fuel when others couldn't.

My question is – what happens in a crisis? What is the back-up plan that maintains order and stops us looting essentials?

My kids don't carry wallets. I find it weird. While hard cash seems to have disappeared from my own small leather purse that contains a collection of

bank cards, loyalty cards, my driver's licence and spare change for buskers, I still can't surrender it and use my phone. Because what happens when your phone runs out of charge – you can't access your money. I know this, because every time I go to the cafe with my kids, when it comes time to pay, their phones don't seem to have enough charge to pay. The cashless economy is obviously working for some!

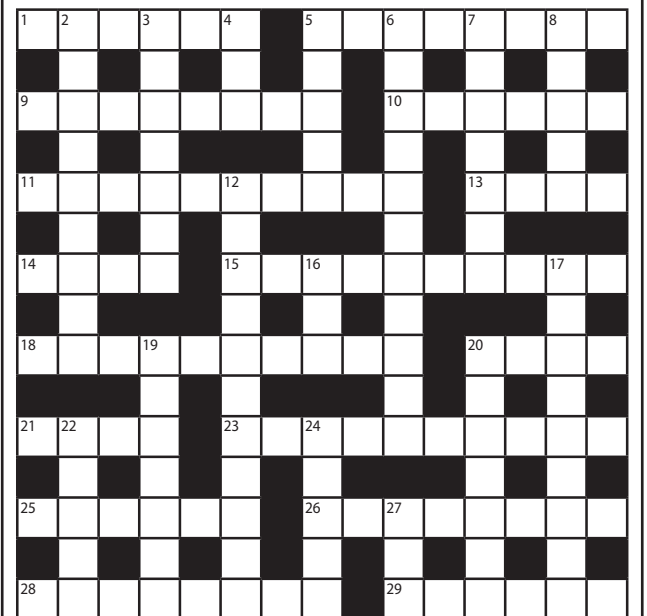
Leaving the house without my wallet, for me, is akin to not wearing pants. I need something tactile that I can rely on. It only takes a power outage and my card collection is just a bunch of useless plastic.

While I adore the convenience of paying a bill on my phone, I understand the social cost. Cash is our last chance to have private transactions.

When we live in an economy with a digital trail of what we earn, what we spend, and where we spend it, we've become super vulnerable. We get angry about cameras in our streets, but the reality is that we are under constant digital surveillance anyway. An audit on our spending reveals our secret selves. I don't want my spending tracked. I don't want what I purchase to define the algorithms of advertising on my social media feed. No wonder people are anxious. Privacy is dead. Capitalism has finally captured us.

– Mandy Nolan

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #525



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Girls left bums in New York (6)
- Man from Belgrade in dirty raincoat (8)
- Boats wrecked, a long time – deliberate damage (8)
- Aim, pitch, achieve (6)
- Postmaster takes charge of cricket and netball (4,6)
- Worker with English stake (4)
- Horse farm turned to dust (4)
- One's to become a snoop (4,6)
- Making flounces on skirts or harvesting shellfish? (10)
- Listen, take a break from feet (4)
- Queen in charge of Clapton (4)
- Sweet condiment – serve a cup, please (5,5)
- Mark sailor with beetle (6)
- Practise with funeral vehicle (8)
- Knocks over north or south coordinates (8)
- Hate to abort the trial (6)

DOWN

- Late panic developed, a stimulant to the nervous system (9)
- Broke in and stashed around 1,000 (7)
- Little eastern Australian ocean (3)
- Cold king, but lucid (5)
- Unstable ego, leading to blunt corner (6,5)
- Rent a party – bring in a storm! (7)
- Rep offers time over territory (5)
- Pustulent disease around, also wild boars – it contains all the troubles of the world! (8,3)
- Italian? Yes, over \$1,000 for winter footwear (3)
- Every different direction for acting groups for electronic bulletins! (9)
- Green fodder for unstable eagle, we're told (7)
- Rural serf, a worker, follows vegetables (7)
- Discussion of broken digit on right hand page (5)
- Bits of backstrap (5)
- Concealed hot instinct (3)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Young women (6)
- A nationality of the Balkans (8)
- Undermine; wreck (8)
- Goal (6)
- Athletic activities involving multiple individuals (4,6)
- Wager (4)
- Building frame component (4)
- Search for; pry (4,6)
- Creating an edge consisting of a row of curves (10)
- Mitts (4)
- Actor ... Bana (4)
- Often accompanies roast pork (5,5)
- Insect often found in dung (6)
- Run through (8)
- Renders insensible; fells (8)
- Execrate (6)

DOWN

- Restorative or stimulative (9)
- Assailed (7)
- Expanse of salt water (3)
- Understandable (5)
- Between 90 and 180 degrees (6,5)
- Whirlwind (7)
- Go-between (5)
- A prolific source of problems (8,3)
- Move over snow (3)
- Radio/TV reports of current events (9)
- Alfalfa (7)
- Agricultural labourer (7)
- The front of a sheet of paper (5)
- Separates (5)
- Secreted (3)

Last week's solution #524



STARS BY LILITH

This week's Sun, Mars, Pluto and new moon in Capricorn, sign of material world concerns, supports long-term goal setting, professional profile upgrading, mentoring or being mentored...



CAPRICORN THE GOAT

ARIES: With North Node in Aries placing you centre stage, this is your time to reach for your best and finest capabilities to surprise and inspire everyone, including yourself. Meanwhile, Chiron the healing planet continues its deep internal strengthening and consolidating of the personal work you came here to do.

TAURUS: North Node in your zodiac zone of shared resources suggests strategic teaming up for business wins, while Jupiter in your nature-based sign supports value-driven decisions, like energy efficient systems, recycling and buying less. Better still, it steers you towards those treasured beings who start a party in your heart.

GEMINI: Best use of this week's energy in the zodiac's most forward thinking and goal-setting sign? While this supportive force is with you, mind-map a masterplan of the most sensible and sustainable way to get you where you need to be this year, one patient and discerning step at a time.

CANCER: For you lunar creatures, the year's first new moon feels important, and it is. New moons represent the beginning of a fresh cycle in some aspect of your life, with this week's highlighting the many benefits possible from embracing the concept of pronoia; the belief that the cosmos is actually conspiring in your favour.

LEO: Your Earth journey as a Leo is about individual creative expression, while this year's energetics in Aquarius, the opposite sign to yours on the astro-wheel, and your zone of partnerships, offers the challenge of how best to express your particular skills and talents in relationships, groups and community settings.

VIRGO: The North Node schedules this year for Virgos to navigate the intricacies of merging finances with others – during which, remember that what is really meant for you won't feel like a hard sell. This week's earthy, grounded vibes are heaven-sent for setting up nourishing new daily rituals.

LIBRA: Libra's sense of identity, professional projects and personal style are all in change mode this year, so if last year's pastimes, relationships or wardrobe choices no longer excite you, this week your galactic guide Venus recommends trying on a few new personas, experimenting with an adventurous remix.

SCORPIO: The current Saturn/Neptune alignment recommends attending to the business of inner wealth, which accrues from cultivating the spiritual connections that give life meaning and enable you to make a positive contribution to others and to the planet. Whatever practices you choose are entirely up to you.

SAGITTARIUS: Your mentor planet, Jupiter, is in purposeful, determined mode, while the current North Node's evolutionary push towards your destiny suggests that your best path forward is in passion projects that channel your creative fire. Don't hesitate to embrace trial and error, because mistakes are part of the fun.

CAPRICORN: You won't be seeing this week's potent combination of sun, Mars and Pluto in your sign again. Capricorns are the zodiac's number one planners, so take advantage of this rare cosmic assist to craft an updated masterplan for where you're headed this year, and how you'll get there.

AQUARIUS: This year's first new moon is an auspicious time for Aquarians to re-evaluate their social circle; so who do you feel your best with? If some of your long-range plans need to be rejigged to fit a tighter timeline or budget, limitations can be used to reshape projects into a more efficient and economical form.

PISCES: South Node in 2024 brings lessons for Pisceans – some delightful, others not so much – in learning who to trust. While Neptune evokes your idealistic, intuitive side, the counterbalance of stabilising Saturn provides necessary reminders that you're not required to solve the world's problems single-handedly.



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THE ANGELS

The Angels announced a string of national tour dates kicking off last September in celebration of their five decades as one of Australia's most revered rock bands.

The *50 Years in the Making* tour will see the band traverse the country with dates scheduled across South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania with former drummer **Nick Norton** taking centre stage as their new frontman, replacing Dave Gleeson after his 12 years in the role.

Performing in The Angels, the band responsible for some of the most unforgettable songs in Australian music, takes a musician with remarkable talent, and having been a member of the band since 2011, Norton is a familiar face to fans. He will not only be fronting the band on vocals but will be playing alongside **Rick and**

John Brewster on guitar, and – as ticket holders to the *Brewster Brothers Electric* shows from earlier this year can attest – he is more than ready to become king of The Angels for one of the greatest gigs in Australian rock.

As founding member John Brewster says, Nick is an incredible musician and a great singer and songwriter. 'He obviously knows the songs like the back of his hand and the fans already know and love him, so he's the perfect fit. We can't wait to hit the road.'

'The 50th anniversary is a very special time for The Angels,' says John. 'It means a lot that the fans already know Nick. Our relationship with the audience means everything to us and we'll never take that for granted.'

Rick Brewster says the time the band gets to spend on stage makes everything else worthwhile. 'It's always been about the songs and the power of the guitars.'

'We've already got a very busy six months ahead of us, which is brilliant for the new lineup,' says Nick Norton. 'There's such a heritage of great music there; classic songs, killer riffs. The legwork is already done, I just have to get up and sing them.'

'Twelve years in the band behind the kit has provided the pedigree, not to mention learning at the School of Rock from the honourable Dave Gleeson. I look forward to

sweating it out at venues across the nation with the fans, heading into The Angels 50th year!'

With a set-list of catalogue classics that are ingrained in the hearts of every Australian rock fan, including 'Am I Ever Gonna See Your Face Again?', 'Take a Long Line', 'No Secrets', 'Shadow Boxer', 'Marseilles', 'I Ain't The One', 'Comin' Down', 'Mr Damage', 'After the Rain', 'Night Attack', 'Dogs are Talking' and 'We Gotta Get Out of this Place', it is no wonder that the famous American critic, David Fricke, called The Angels 'a guaranteed great time anywhere'.

Replacing Nick on drums is **John's son, Tom**, meaning The Angels will now have two sets of **Brewster Brothers** – **John and Rick** on guitar, and **Sam** (who joined the band in 2013) on bass, and Tom on drums.

As Ian McFarlane, the author of *The Encyclopedia of Australian Rock and Pop*, said, 'The Angels helped re-define the Australian pub rock tradition'. Now John Brewster, Rick Brewster, Sam Brewster, Tom Brewster and Nick Norton are giving it another twist.

This is it, folks – an exciting new chapter in the storied career of The Angels. Let the night roll on!

You can answer the question: 'Am I Ever Gonna See Your Face Again?' on Thursday, from 8pm, at the Ballina RSL – ballinarsl.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, BALASKO, LAINIE GODIVA
from Sistas of Spin

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

TOO YOUNG TO BE ANGELS

There are still five days to go in the *Too Young To Be Angels* season. Tonight, Wednesday, at 7pm there is a double bill of film with conversation. **Richard Mordaunt** and **Michael Balson**, followed by **James Ricketson** and **David Bradbury**.

On Thursday at 7.30pm, **Michael Sharmon** and **Sandra Leung Waters** present their cabaret *You By My Side* with supporting acts **Bianca Wildwood** and **Dr Fred Cole**.

Friday will see a special free screening at 11am of filmmaker **Claude Gonzalez's**, *The Ballad of Edgar and Mary*, a stage production written for the centenary celebrations of **the Drill Hall**.

At 7pm there is another double bill with Claude Gonzalez's documentary *Sydney at War: The Untold Story* Narrated by the Drill Hall's late patron **Tony Barry**. This will be followed by Gonzalez's latest film, *John Farrow, Hollywood's Man in the Shadows*.

On Saturday **Gyan** and **Angela Catterns** presents *Kiss & Tell, song conversations*. A concert weaving stories of Gyan's life and music.



The late Michael Borenstein

On Sunday there will be a morning of free events – at 11am *The Eldershaw Chronicles* is the launch of **Stephen Edgar's** verse play, where you can meet the creatives and the cast, at noon *Already an Angel* – an archived comical video performance by the late **Michael Borenstein**, past President of the DHTC, and in the evening from 7pm there will be the *Divine Cabaret* – a mesmerizing production featuring a stellar cast of six.

For more information, visit: drillhalltheatre.org.au.

Seven

ENTERTAINMENT



Southwall



JB's Bluesbreakers

ROBBIE AND KYLIE

Get ready for the ultimate entertainment experience as **Corey and Milina** take the stage as the faces of *Robbie and Kylie; The Ultimate Experience*, backed by an amazing band. With their mesmerising vocals and electrifying presence, these two leave no stone unturned to give you a show that you will never forget! This is not your average concert. This is a theatrical performance that will have you on the edge of your seat from start to finish. With stunning visuals, energetic dancers, and a band that will blow you away, this is a show that must not be missed.

The production is flawless, with state-of-the-art video production that adds to the already impressive stage performance. The concert is filled with massive hits from Robbie Williams such as 'Let Me Entertain You', 'Monsoon', 'Let Love be Your Energy', 'Better Man', 'Rock DJ', 'Feel', 'Angels', and Kylie's amazing hits like 'Spinning Around', 'Better the Devil You Know', 'In Your Eyes' and many more. The two stars have also collaborated on several songs over the years, including the smash hit 'Kids'. With each song, the audience becomes more and more engaged in the experience. Audiences are left trembling and yelling for more after watching *The Ultimate Experience*. You cannot afford to miss this show! Grab your tickets now and be ready for a night of non-stop entertainment, energy, and excitement!

Ballina RSL, Friday at 7.30pm.

Milina and Corey are Kylie and Robbie



WAY TOO MUCH FUN AT THE SOUTHWALL

From country roots, **Mark Heazlett** brings a world-class vocal performance to his own and his favourite contemporary tunes. Steeped in blues improvisation, **Toby Andrews'** electric guitars are understated, sometimes dazzling.

This awesome four-piece dream team includes legendary bass-meister **Matt Bone**, and **Mat Akehurst** tying it all together with ever-steady, intricate percussive feels.

Southwall has refined their sound over a decade and bring a unique musical experience to every show.

It's always a fun night out with Southwall.

See them on Saturday at The Rails.



HE'S OOZING WITH MUSIC

Ooz is an acoustic roots reggae artist with a large, eclectic repertoire of crowd favourites. His unique, laid back but lively style creates a relaxed atmosphere and his song choices have you remembering many a forgotten classic.

Ooz creates layers with a loop pedal, leaving his hands free to play bass and lay percussive beats to accompany his grooves and get you on your feet.

From beginning to end, Ooz will have heads nodding and toes tapping!

Saturday 6pm at the Ballina RSL Boardwalk.

JB'S CLASSIC COUNTRY, BLUES AND ROCK 'N' ROLL

Born out of a love for '50s and '60s classics, country, blues and rock 'n' roll, **JB's Bluesbreakers** features a group of local musos.

This rockin' band will have you listening and bopping along to a variety of grooves guaranteed to fit all the moods. Bringing back Chicago blues legends BB King, Elmore James and Buddy Guy, Sun Records hits and country rock 'n' roll's JJ Cale, and Elvis and Carl Perkins – delivered with a flavour all of their own.

You'll hear songs you love, are sure to enjoy, and the show will be twisting the night away.

Check them out at The Rails on Friday.



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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



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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 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **WILL CLIFT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4PM **JOSH LEIGH HAMILTON + JOE CONROY**
- BYRON THEATRE 10.30AM **KIDS' DISCO BLING WITH SHORTY BROWN**
- KULCHA JAM, BYRON BAY, 7PM **SHAYA WITH SHAI SHRIKI**
- 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**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7PM **TOO YOUNG TO BE ANGELS - A DOUBLE BILL OF FILM AND CONVERSATION WITH RICHARD MORDAUNT & MICHAEL AND DAVID BRADBURY & JAMES RICKETSON**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **KARAOKE**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **THE POP SQUAD**

THURSDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SAM BUCKLEY & NATHAN BARRETTA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **LUKE YEAMAN + HEATH LANCASTER + SALT TREE**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 7PM **INO PIO**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **BLADE HOOPER + BEN WHITING**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **TOMMY LITTLE: WORK IN PROGRESS**, 8PM **BRUNS DOES BURLESQUE**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **TOO YOUNG TO BE ANGELS - YOU BY MY SIDE ~ MICHAEL SHARMON & SANDRA LEUNG WATERS**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 8PM **THE ANGELS**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **JAM NIGHT**

FRIDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JB'S BLUESBREAKERS**

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **VERSACE BOYS + DJ NO ID & KIRA SUNDAY**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM & 9.15PM **ARJ BARKER - POWER HOUR**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **PASIFLOREZ WITH LUJA MURFI + CASEY MAY & THE LOVERS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **YAZMINDI + THE LYRICAL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 8PM **BRUNS DOES BURLESQUE**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 11AM & 7PM **TOO YOUNG TO BE ANGELS - FILMMAKER CLAUDE GONZALEZ'S, THE BALLAD OF EDGAR AND MARY**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ PAPA BITCHO**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **BEN WHITING**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 9PM **JORDAN MAC**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 8PM **AARON GOCS + DJ GOODIE**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **GLENN SHIELDS**
- POTTSVILLE COMMUNITY HALL 8PM **JENNY WYNTER**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **GREER SULLIVAN**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **GRACE STEEL**
- TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY 5.30PM **SUNSET SESSIONS - MATHEW ARMITAGE**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7PM **19-TWENTY + TESS FAPINI**

SATURDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SOUTHWALL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **JASON DELPHIN + DJ QUENDO**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **PULP FICTION + PULP BURGER + PULP MUSIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **KINO GRANDE W/ HUMAN MOVEMENT, LUEN, FELIX, MINOR CIRCUIT & SHANE MOV**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **CATH SIMES BAND + ZAC HUBBARD**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE

- HOUSE 11AM **LIL' CHEEKY**, 6PM **TOMMY LITTLE: WORK IN PROGRESS**, 8PM **BRUNS DOES BURLESQUE**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **ROB SARIC**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJS NICK FIELD & TAZ**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7PM **TOO YOUNG TO BE ANGELS - KISS & TELL WITH GYAN AND ANGELA CATTERNS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 8PM **THEM CULPRITS**
- LENNOX COMMUNITY MARKET 4PM **LUKE BENNETT**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **3 PLAY**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **THE SWAMP CATS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **OOZ**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **WEAR THE FOX HAT**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **BLUE SKILLET ROVERS + TRIPLE NIP AND FRIENDS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **LINDA STREET**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 5PM **THE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **MR TROY + BLAKE EVANS DUO**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **LITTLE CHIEFS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE FABULOUS CAPRETTOS**

SUNDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TRILLIAH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **EPIC**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **JOE CONROY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **RAW ORDIO**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 11AM **LIL' CHEEKY**, 6PM **TOMMY LITTLE: WORK IN PROGRESS**, 8PM **BRUNS DOES BURLESQUE**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 11AM **TOO YOUNG TO BE ANGELS - CELEBRATING THE DRILL HALL'S ANGELS**, 7PM **TOO YOUNG TO BE ANGELS - DIVINE CABARET**

- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **GOODRICH**, 3PM **SHAW'S BAY SUNDAY SESSIONS FT GOODRICH**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **HUBCAP STAN & THE SIDEWALK STOMPERS**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 3.30PM **CUBAN JAM SESSIONS WITH KWASI BRUNI**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **LACHIE THOMAS**
- LENNOX COMMUNITY MARKET 8AM **STEAM**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 1.30PM **UPBEAT**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 2PM **SUNDAY SESSIONS - FELICITY LAWLESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **JB'S BLUESBREAKERS FEAT. NATHAN BERETTA**

MONDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATT ARMITAGE DUO**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **OOZ**

TUESDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OOZ**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **OLE FALCOR**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **HAYLEY GRACE**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **SHANE FOGARTY**

WEDNESDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4PM **SARAH GRANT + CHLOE JETT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **GABRIELLE LAMBE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

CINEMA



DEEP DIVE FOR AQUAMAN II

Director James Wan and Aquaman himself, Jason Momoa – along with Patrick Wilson, Amber Heard, Yahya Abdul-Mateen II and Nicole Kidman – return in the sequel to the highest-grossing DC film of all time: *Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom*.

Having failed to defeat Aquaman the first time, Black Manta, still driven by the need to avenge his father's death, will stop at nothing to take Aquaman down, once and for all. This time Black Manta is more formidable than ever before, wielding the power of the mythic Black Trident, which unleashes an ancient and malevolent force. To defeat him, Aquaman will turn to his imprisoned brother Orm, the former King of Atlantis, to forge an unlikely alliance. Together, they must set aside their differences in order to protect their kingdom and save Aquaman's family, and the world, from irreversible destruction.

All returning to their original roles, Jason Momoa plays Arthur Curry/Aquaman, now balancing his duties as both the King of Atlantis and a new father; Patrick Wilson is Orm, Aquaman's half-brother and his nemesis, who must now step into a new role as his brother's reluctant ally; Amber Heard is Mera, Atlantis' Queen and mother of the heir to the throne; Yahya Abdul-Mateen II is Black Manta, committed more than ever to avenge his father's death by destroying Aquaman, his family and Atlantis; and Nicole Kidman as Atlanna, a fierce leader and mother with the heart of a warrior. Also reprising their roles are Dolph Lundgren as King Nereus and Randall Park as Dr Stephen Shin.

Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom is screening at both Ballina and Byron Palace Cinemas this week.

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

Session Times

Thurs 11 January – Wed 17 January

PALACE CINEMAS

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

FAMILY FILMS	ALL FILMS	POOR THINGS (M15+)
MIGRATION (G) Daily: 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 2:20PM	ANYONE BUT YOU (M15+) Daily: 2:20PM, 4:30PM, 6:40PM, 9:00PM	Daily: 10:40AM, 1:20PM, 6:00PM
NEXT GOAL WINS (PG) Daily: 10:50AM, 2:00PM	AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM (M) Daily: 10:30AM, 6:20PM	THE BEEKEEPER (ICTC) (NFT) Daily: 11:00AM, 4:15PM, 6:30PM, 9:00PM
THE CANTERVILLE GHOST (PG) (NFT) Daily: 10:30AM, 1:30PM	DREAM SCENARIO (M15+) Daily: 4:10PM, 9:00PM	THE BOY AND THE HERON (DUBBED) (PG) Daily: 8:50PM
TROLLS BAND TOGETHER (G) Daily: 10:15AM	FERRARI (M15+) (NFT) Daily: 1:00PM, 3:40PM, 6:15PM	THE BOYS IN THE BOAT (PG) (NFT) Daily: 3:30PM, 8:45PM
WISH (PG) Daily: 10:00AM, 12:15PM	MEAN GIRLS (ICTC) (NFT) Daily: 12:00PM, 4:20PM, 6:40PM, 8:50PM	THE HOLLOWERS (M15+) (NFT) Daily: 12:30PM, 3:15PM, 6:00PM, 8:40PM
WONKA (PG) Daily: 10:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM	NIGHT SWIM (M) Daily: 8:45PM	THE HUNGER GAMES: THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES (M) Daily except Wed: 1:00PM No screening Wednesday
	ONE LIFE (PG) Daily: 4:10PM, 6:30PM	TWO TICKETS TO GREECE (M) Daily: 8:30PM

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

Session Times

Thurs 11 January – Wed 17 January

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

ANYONE BUT YOU (M15+)	NIGHT SWIM (M)	To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!
Daily: 4:20PM, 8:40PM	Daily: 3:50PM	
AQUAMAN AND THE LOST KINGDOM (M) Daily: 6:00PM	THE BEEKEEPER (ICTC) (NFT) Daily: 1:30PM, 8:50PM	
FERRARI (M15+) (NFT) Daily: 8:30PM	THE CANTERVILLE GHOST (PG) (NFT) Daily: 9:20AM	
MEAN GIRLS (ICTC) (NFT) Daily: 11:15AM, 3:45PM, 6:30PM	WISH (PG) Daily: 9:20AM	
MIGRATION (G) Daily: 9:15AM, 11:30AM	WONKA (PG) Daily: 11:20AM, 1:50PM, 6:15PM	
NEXT GOAL WINS (PG) Daily: 1:40PM		

*NFT = No Free Tickets

Palace Cinemas is proud to be preserving Ballina's cherished community cinema, where we'll continue bringing exceptional movie experiences to the vibrant Ballina audience!

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Bought 'Off-Market'

18 Tongarra Drive, Ocean Shores

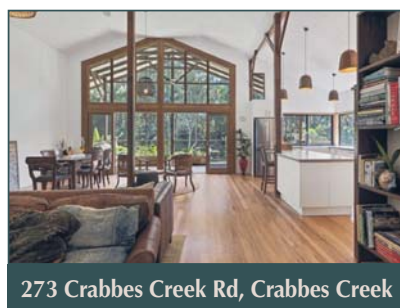
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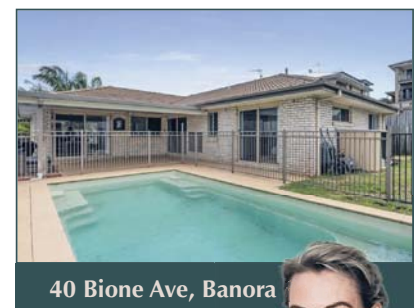


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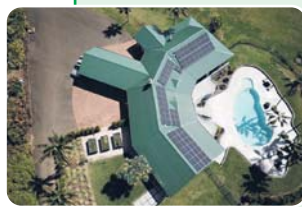
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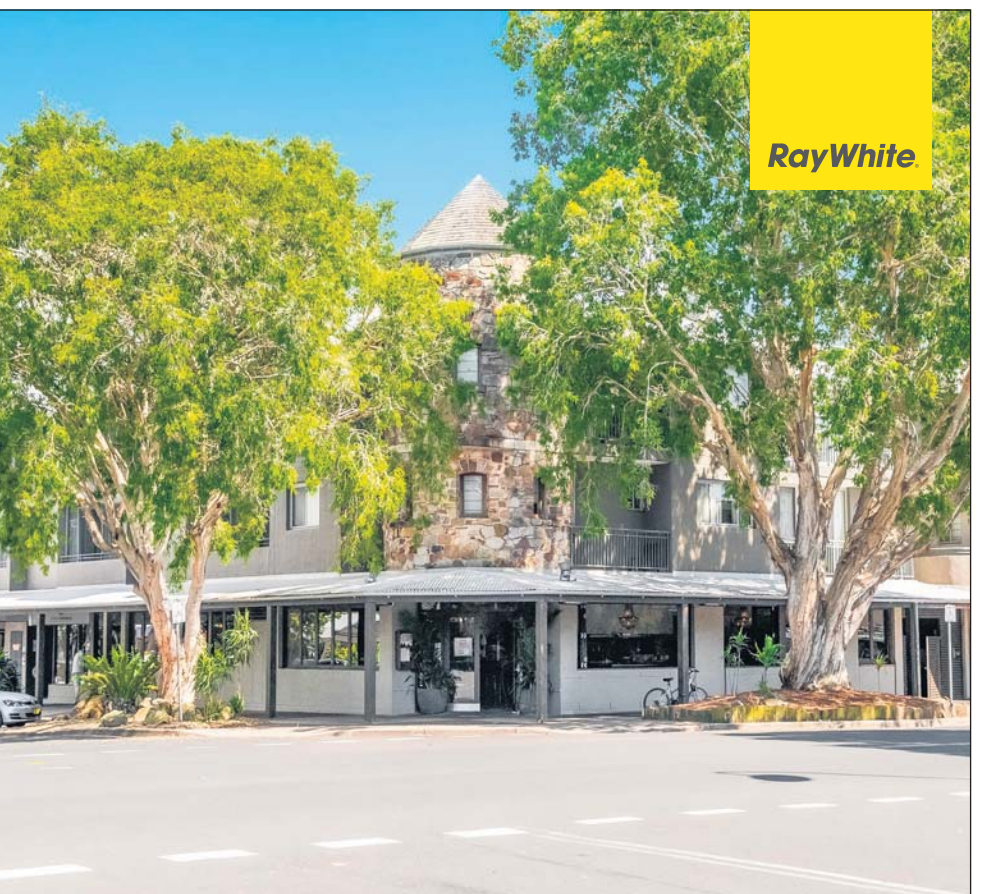
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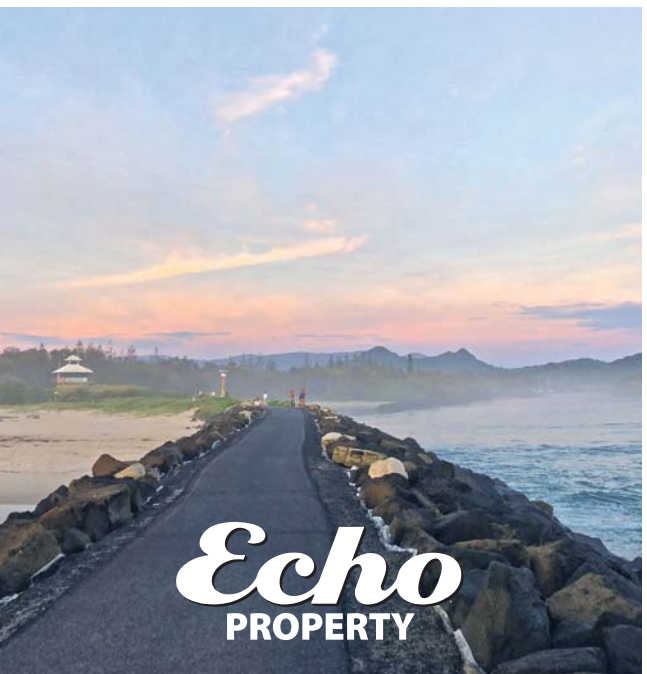



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 kascha@leafittous.com.au

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MARTINO TREE SERVICES Martino 0435 019524

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ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

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CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

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

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

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:
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The Byron Shire Echo does not accept any liability for the representations or promises made in paid advertisements or for any loss or damage arising from reliance on such content, representations or promises.

PUBLIC NOTICES

REMINDER NOTICE OF TWEED BYRON LALC ORDINARY MEMBERS MEETINGS 2024

Meeting Dates & Venue Change

Ordinary Meeting: 13 January 2024, 10.30am

Ordinary Meeting: 16 May 2024, 10.00am

Ordinary Meeting: 21 September 2024, 10.00am

Ordinary Meeting: 14 December 2024, 10.00am

All meetings will be held at Minjungbal Cultural Centre: Cnr of Kirkwood Road & Duffy Streets, Tweed Heads South

Agenda Items Include:

TBLALC Projects, CLBP, General Business, Membership

Contact No: 07 5536 1763

Authorised: Chairperson – Tweed Byron LALC

LOCALS SPECIAL!

BRUNSWICK HEADS CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL BANNER PARK

Any Sunday until
 21st Jan 2024 from 6.30pm

BUY 1 RIDE
 GET 1 FREE

PROF. SERVICES

DENTURES

LOOK GOOD
 FEEL GOOD

Free consultation. **SANDRO 66805002**

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Ocean Shores, Michaela, 0416332886

REMEDIAL MASSAGE

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 Kylie 0448774589

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Mullumbimby

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crystalsanddreaming.com.au

0413 003 301

crystalsanddreaming.com.au

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physical health. De-stress.

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- Oily Liquids
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- FREE QUOTES

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HART TREE SERVICES

20 years local experience

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

Fully insured • Free quotes

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SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

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HYPATIA'S LEGACY



David Lovejoy

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WANTED

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

GARAGE SALES

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 Enquiries: Jerry 0427822349

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 \$18K - Simon 0431 447 471

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FOR SALE



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IN A CREATIVE SPACE, STUDIO / OFFICE / SHOWROOM Centre of Mullumbimby. \$265p/w. Private toilet and sink. Text 0403663284. NOT FOR RESIDENTIAL TENANCY.

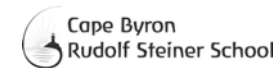
WANTED TO LEASE

SEEKING property to lease with EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES. Mullum or surrounding areas. Will travel. Excellent references. Alana 0407570950.

POSITIONS VACANT

TAX PREPARER

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



K6 Special Needs Assistant

Advertised on Page 4
 In this Issue

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

Female nude models

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

Andrew 0431 393 320

THE OTHER JOINT

Seeking experienced kitchen hand, 9am–3pm.

Email resume to **mullum@otherjoint.com**

CLEANER HOUSEKEEPER

Experienced. References essential. 3 days per week. 4 hours per day. \$40 p/h. Byron Bay home. Must be organised.
Please text only: 0407 678 911

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

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- Illustrator

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 www.thinkblinkdesign.com

MUSICAL NOTES
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 Brunswick Heads 66851005

DEATH NOTICES

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **ANNE HASELGROVE (nee Poltrock) 24/7/1951-3/1/2024** Much-loved Mum to Claire, Lynne (dec) and Athelie, adored Grandma to Torah, Cameron, Freya and Poppy. Sister to Bruce and Jenny.

GRAY, GLADY ELAINE Nee; BUCHAN
 22.01.1927 – 04.01.2024

Passed away peacefully at Coolamon Villa, Mullumbimby. Loved wife of Jim Gray (dec). Much loved mother and mother-in-law of Colin, Wayne & Gwendah and Robert & Barbara (both dec). Loved grandmother of Ellerina & Jean Paul and James. Great grandmother to Arabella.

A private family cremation has taken place for Gladly, as per her wishes.

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

FUNERAL NOTICES

MICK RONAN



24.02.1931 ~ 05.01.2024

Passed away peacefully at Ballina and formerly of Byron Bay and Tenterfield. Dearly loved husband of Marie. Much loved father and father-in-law of Kerry & Neil, Leanne & Shane, John & Raeleen, Mark, and Gerard (dec). Adored poppy of his grandchildren and great grandchildren. Cherished brother & brother-in-law of the Ronan and McCosker families.

Rest Easy Poppy

Relatives and friends are invited to attend Mick's funeral service to be held at St Francis Xavier's Catholic Church, Cherry Street Ballina on TUESDAY (January 16, 2024) commencing at 9.30am. After Prayers the cortège will leave for the East Ballina cemetery.

This funeral will be livestreamed and may be viewed at: www.fwhlive.com/giro

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LOST & FOUND

LOST: Fob Toyota car key in Mullum. Tues arvo 2/1/24. Burringbar/Dalley St area. Has keyring attached. Ring Echo office on 66841777. Reward is offered.

LOST: AUDI fob car key in Mullum Tues arvo 2/1/2024, most likely on road/verge Stuart St/Tincogan St area. Black/silver. Reward offered. Echo office 66841777.

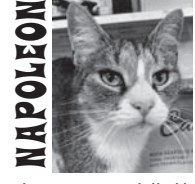
LOST: TABBY CAT Big white chest stripe. Female, walks like a bulldog. Much missed. Myocum area. 0447969888

LOST: 2 x SURF BOATS (BYRON BAY) Of absolutely no use to anyone but do have some sentimental attachment. If found please contact Byron Bay Surf Club at adminbbslsc@byronbaysurfclub.org

PERSONAL
 KATHY J Please check your ICQ

PETS

NAPOLEON



Napoleon is a super chilled boy who is very affectionate and a lover of other cats. He'd make a wonderful companion to someone who is looking for unconditional love & friendship. Napoleon is the first to welcome people to the shelter so why not drop by & let him introduce himself? To meet Napoleon & our other cats, 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

DUDLEY



Dudley is a 2.5 year old Mastiff X. He is a people-friendly boy. He would suit a family with older kids and no other pets. Dudley has had some basic training and has passed the puppy stage.
 M/C # 900113001715274
 Location: Murwillumbah
 For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128.
 Interested? Please complete our online adoption expression of interest. <https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>

Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338

Pluto



2 year old Pluto is one of our favourites at the shelter. A perfect lovebug with beautiful markings. He's easy going and affectionate. He likes other cats and people but not keen on dogs. If you'd like to meet Pluto please ring 0403 533 589.

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SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Jan)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
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	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 24:13	0246.1.33 1443.1.37	0832.0.56 2111.0.35
19	F	6:05 19:47	14:02 24:26	0359.1.39 1541.1.21	0958.0.64 2204.0.38
20	SA	6:05 19:47	15:06 24:32	0511.1.46 1653.1.10	1130.0.65 2300.0.39
21	SU	6:06 19:47	16:09 24:37	0615.1.54 1810.1.04	1253.0.60 2358.0.38
22	M	6:07 19:46	17:10 24:41	0711.1.62 1915.1.05	1354.0.52
23	TU	6:08 19:46	18:08 24:44	0800.1.68 2006.1.08	0051.0.36 1440.0.46
24	W	6:09 19:46	18:59 24:46	0843.1.71 2048.1.11	0139.0.33 1518.0.41

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	<i>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.</i>		

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday-Friday 9.30am-4pm (closed 12.30-1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286. Some of our services include:

Flood recovery support service: personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods.

Community support: food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.

Listening Space: free counselling.

Free yoga: every Tuesday 3-4pm.

More Than A Meal: free community lunch Tuesday-Friday from 1.30pm.

Financial counselling

Staying Home, Leaving Violence program: Information, referral, and advocacy.

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.mdnc.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community Centre

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 St. 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 Alcoholics 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.

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Green screen kids workshop

Ever wondered how films create unbelievably epic scenes? This workshop is an introduction to this amazing digital technology. Be introduced to: acting, filming and editing with Green Screen, including video uploading and viewing. This free activity is held on Wednesday 17 Jan 2.30pm at the Mullumbimby Library for ages seven and up. Limited spaces, bookings are essential. Ph 6684 2992 or pop in to book or enquire further.

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).

Hearing Voices?

Hearing Voices Peer Support Group in Brunswick Heads. 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 Thursday of the month. Info call 0406 466 642.

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.

Mullumbimby juniors bring home tennis trophies

Mullumbimby Tennis Club juniors competed in the KDV – Carrara tournament on the Gold Coast late last year, achieving top spots in both individual and teams events.

Junior players Poppy Sexton (U/12), Aria Smith (U/14), and Bodhi Smith (U/16) played in a team event with the 'A' Team North East Division, coming first, fourth and third overall.

'This was a fantastic result as the other teams came from all over Queensland and Northern NSW,' the club's Jonathan Hartland said.

Individual trophies were also won by Marielou Baudouin, who came first in the U/18s girls division, along with Onyx Cheong who won the U/18 boys division.



Locals Marielou Baudouin and Onyx Cheong, with their first place winners trophies. Photo supplied

Wet weather spoils local cricket

In a round heavily affected by wet weather, the Colts did manage to post a win over Alstonville at Hill Park oval in Wollongbar in the Coastal League.

After winning the toss, Alstonville elected to bat and scored 9/76 in 20 overs.

Top scorer for Alstonville was captain Glen Hunter who hit 20 off 25 balls. Timothy Irwin's 19 and Ben Gwilliam's 11, were the only other double figure scores.

Ben Barber-Hays picked up 4/21.

The Colts chased down the total in 11.5 overs with eight wickets to spare. Sam Powell top scored for the Colts with 41no.

Alstonville's Brendan Saunders was the best of the bowlers with 1/11.

At least two games were officially abandoned owing



A Casino Cavalier lets one go in their T20 game against Ballina Bears last Saturday. Photo supplied

to the weather.

Following the win the Colts are in second place with nine wins, sitting behind Lennox Head, with Byron Bay and Terranora following.

In the LJ Hooker league some T20 was played.

Casino posted a good win over Ballina Bears in a game reduced to 16 overs.

Casino chased down the

Bears' 91-run total in their 11th over with the loss of two wickets.

In perhaps the shortest game of the season Tintenbar East Ballina scored 1/54 in their allotted six overs, playing against Marist Brothers.

Marist Brothers chased down the total with two balls to spare.

Local cyclist takes on Australia's best

Byron Bay Cycle Club (BBCC) member Liam Bertuzzi competed in the elite men's division of the cycling Road National Championships held near Ballarat last weekend.

'Liam is in great form and has earned his position to race against Australia's best for the honour of wearing the green and gold jersey for 2024,' Mat Johnson BBCC secretary said.

The race is the first Nationals on the World Tour calendar and had some big competition from Australia's professionals.

'The first half was at a furious pace with a large volume of attacks. Liam managed to stay in the main peloton and when that bunch was in danger of being eliminated from the race by the Commissaires, he attacked and made it into the breakaway lead bunch with two laps (11.6km) of the 16 to go,' Mat said.



Liam (in red) makes a charge at the Road Nationals last weekend in Ballarat. Photo Kane Richards

'Unfortunately for Liam, this coincided with an attack by the largest and clearly strongest team in the pack – Jayco AlUla, also the only Australian team with a licence in the World Tour.

'Riders from this team ended up filling the podium,' Mat said.

Liam rode a very strong race and finished in the top quarter of the field.

'As a club we are

extremely proud of his effort. Just to be on the start line is an achievement that almost all of us could never achieve,' Mat said.

'It was a remarkable effort – not having any team support – and as an unsponsored rider.

'This wasn't lost on the local cycling fraternity with many groups watching and cheering Liam at venues in Yamba, Lismore and Byron.'

Free cricket programs for juniors

Cricket NSW is running three free cricket development programs for juniors over the coming weeks.

The first, a holiday clinic, will be held on Thursday and Friday (18 and 19 of January) at Alstonville Public School and is part of the Share our Space program.

The clinic is aimed at five to ten year-old children. It is predominately focused on developing Cricket Blast Skills – designed to teach children the fundamental skills needed to play Cricket Blast competitions and Junior Cricket.

'New-to-cricket kids are as welcome as those that already play the sport,' cricket manager, Far North Coast, Jacob Graham said.

Next month Cricket NSW



Girls-only cricket training programs are being offered for free by Cricket NSW. Photo supplied

is offering four-week skills development programs open to girls only.

The first, held at Shultz Oval, Bangalow, starts on February 2 and runs for an hour from 4.30pm.

The second will be held at Williams Reserve at Lennox Head from 4.30pm for four weeks starting on

Tuesday February 6.

For more details email kyle.holland-sewell@cricketnsw.com.au.

Local clubs offering Cricket Blast for children include: Mullumbimby/ Brunswick, Byron Bay, Bangalow, Lennox Head, Ballina, Alstonville, Lismore, Casino and Kyogle.

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■■■■■
Australia's financial dispute resolution scheme has for the first time recorded 100,000 complaints in a calendar year. The Australian Financial Complaints Authority says it is a jump of 23 per cent from 2022. 102,790 consumers and small businesses were unable to resolve disputes directly with their financial firms, they say. For more information visit www.afca.org.au.

■■■■■
A takeaway from the release of Jeffrey Epstein's client list is not that it includes Bill Clinton, Bill Gates, Prince Andrew, former Israeli PM Ehud Barak and Stephen Hawking; it is just that so far, only one person, Ghislaine Maxwell, is in jail. And she's female. What is the US Dept of Justice doing about this? And who killed Epstein?

■■■■■
Recently, 124kg of cocaine washed up on beaches around Wyong and the police helpfully told the public where to look should more appear: Magenta Beach, Pelican Beach, Blacksmith Beach, Avoca Beach, Pentaloon Bay and North Steyne Beach.

■■■■■
ICYMI, Byron celebrity wedding celebrant, Adam Magnus, pleaded guilty earlier this month to using a carriage service to procure a child under 16 for sexual



Is black-and-white better? Photographer John McCormick thinks so. John's son, Hamish McCormick, screened a film of John's work while his dad chatted to *Echo* drudge and happy snapper, Jeff 'JD' Dawson, at the Drill Hall on Monday night. It was part of the *Too Young to be Angels* season. The trio spent a wonderful hour pondering the history of the area and John's prolific photographic career. Photo Eve Jeffery

activity and using a carriage service to groom a child under 16. According to *SMH* (Nine), 'Judge Priestly sentenced Magnus to 27 months in prison, with 14 months non-parole, meaning he will be eligible for release in May 2024 under strict conditions'.

■■■■■
The World Economic Forum (WEF) annual shindig is about to kick off at Davos, Switzerland, from January 15-19. The 0.0001 per cent will no doubt fly over in their private jets and feast on Kobe beef steaks while telling us to stop using fossil fuels. No irony here - that's what they always do.

■■■■■
Heads up, February 14 will see the V-Day morning protest dance to end violence on Byron's Main Beach from 7am, which is followed by The Vagina Conversations; held at the Brunswick Picture House February 14,15 and 16.

Psst: Plans for the first of many Mullum developments are out - see page 5 for how

infrastructure will cope for 130 proposed dwellings at the town's old hospital site.

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