

Warnings for unpatrolled beaches

Paul Bibby

Serious incidents at beaches in Byron Bay, Lennox and Ballina have brought renewed pleas to swim between the flags as the region heads toward the Australia Day long weekend.

The incidents were part of a frantic time for the volunteer-based organisation last weekend, as soaring temperatures drove millions to the water.

Just after 9am on Sunday at Ballina's Flat Rock Beach, a woman in her 20s was pulled from the water by a lifeguard and members of the public. The woman was unconscious but breathing, and was transported to hospital where she remained in a stable condition at the time of writing.

Tallow Beach drowning

The incident came just days after an incident at Tallow Beach in Byron, in which a young man drowned. The man in his early 20s was pulled from the water by fellow beachgoers early on the morning of January 18.

Lifesavers said the youth, who has not been identified, had been swimming at around 7am, outside of the beach's patrolled hours. CPR was reportedly administered for 40 minutes after being pulled unconscious from the water, but he was unable to be revived.

'It's a blackspot... there have been numerous incidents and also drownings there in previous years,' Surf Lifesaving duty officer Jimmy Keough told the ABC.

Giving youth a say in Earth's future



Simone Roseler and Monet Shortland. Photo Eve Jeffery

Paul Bibby

For much of her young life local teenager, Monet Shortland, has engaged in what she describes as 'a kind of silent activism'.

'I've always been taught never to litter, not to buy single-use plastic and to be mindful of the beautiful environment we live in,' says the 15-year-old from the north of the Shire.

'This being in the back of my mind, it's kind of formed into this activism inside my head that I try to live by.'

So when the opportunity to become one of the leaders of a new environmental empowerment project for youth called Ocean Voices came up, Monet took the

chance with both hands.

The brainchild of local social entrepreneur, Simone Roseler, Ocean Voices is a new project that aims to give youth a voice in the crucial public conversation about climate change and the future of the planet.

Top concern for youth

A recent survey of 19,000 young people conducted by Mission Australia found that the state of the environment was the top concern of youth in Australia, followed by mental health.

It was with this in mind that Ocean Voices came into being, grounded in the belief that young people have the power and the passion to create and deliver real

change given the right environment and resources.

'It gives kids like me the opportunity to have our thoughts, anxieties or whatever we feel about the environment to be heard,' Monet says.

'It also gives us a great opportunity to actually do something positive with this drowning feeling of eco-anxiety that has somehow ended up on the shoulders of our generation.'

Ocean Voices is funded through the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation's Backing the Future program, which provides grants to individuals with an early-stage idea to support rural and regional young people.

While Ocean Voices is concerned with protecting the planet as a whole, it has a particular focus on

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Fire ants found in Wardell

Potentially deadly fire ants found in Wardell on Friday were destroyed on Saturday, and are no longer a risk to the community living in the immediate area, according to the NSW Minister for Agriculture, Tara Moriarty.

They were reported to the NSW Biosecurity Hotline (1800 680 244) on Friday and confirmed as fire ants later that day.

The Ballina finding also comes just days after fire ants were spotted floating in floodwaters around the Gold Coast, and warnings that fire ants could spread further south after being detected in Murwillumbah late last year.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries team moved in with colleagues from the National Fire Ant Eradication Program and Ballina Shire Council to destroy the fire ants, control the site, start tracing the source and survey the surrounding area.

Moriarty said to manage the risks of spread, a biosecurity control order has been put in place with immediate effect, restricting movement within the surrounding 5km area of the site in Wardell.

The NSW Department of Primary Industries teams say they will support the local businesses and community who will need to lock down movement of landscaping, gardening, and building materials, plus machinery, until inspected and checked.

They added teams were on site on Saturday and chemically eradicated the infestation and treated a radius of 500 metres from the site.

■ For more information visit www.fireants.org.au.

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Making spaces great again ► p18

Mandy: committing to truth-telling ► p19

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Calls for return of Israeli hostages



A Mother's Cry supporters gathered at the Cape Byron Lighthouse. Photo Adi Refaeli

With January 14, 2024 marking 100 days of the current Middle East conflict and captivity for 133 hostages still held by Hamas in Gaza, a march was held in Byron Bay to raise awareness and call for their immediate release.

A Mother's Cry, a local group that has been holding regular gatherings to raise awareness of the hostages' plight, gathered in solidarity on Sunday with local residents at the Lighthouse.

A spokesperson for the group told *The Echo*, 'Many members of the Northern Rivers Jewish community

know someone that has been directly affected by the October 7 atrocities, and the aftermath, and some have family or friends that have been killed, kidnapped or severely injured.'

They added, 'Very little international pressure has been applied to elevate the cause of the Israeli hostages, who's liberation is one of the two key targets of Israel's military operations in Gaza.'

'Many of the peace building organisations in Israel have repeatedly called for a hostage release deal to be front and centre as a means to abate the ongoing war.'

'The #RunforTheirLives campaign has gained international traction, bringing together communities from across the globe to advocate for the hostages' safe return and the quelling of hostilities.'

'There have now been several public interviews by some of the released hostages.'

'All of them speak of extreme varying conditions while being held captive.'

'The campaign underscores the urgency of the hostages' plight and calls upon global leaders to take decisive action.'

Bangalow Road 'workers housing' development draws mixed support

Paul Bibby

Plans for a \$9 million 'workers housing development' at 58-60 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay, have received a mixed response from locals, with some supporting the addition of diverse housing options, while others argue there will be wide-ranging negative impacts for little overall benefit.

Plans for 24 one and two-bedroom units were lodged with Byron Council earlier this month by Propel Investment Management.

Five of the dwellings would be dedicated to affordable housing. Each of these would have two-bedrooms, spread across two storeys.

There would be parking for 30 cars overall, including two accessible spaces and six visitor spaces.

A number of local businesses and organisations expressed support for the project, stating that there was a critical need for diverse and affordable housing in the Bay.

Businesses included Beach Byron Bay, Bay Grocer, the



A concept plan for 58-60 Bangalow Road. Image from DA

Women's Village Collective and the Namatjira Haven drug and alcohol healing centre.

'As a small business owner in the Northern Rivers who employs staff in both the hospitality and retail sectors, we have experienced first-hand over recent years the hardships involved in our staff finding affordable housing that's of good quality, and enables them to safely and easily get to and from work in this age of increased cost of living,' one local business owner said.

Other businesses expressed qualified support for the proposal.

The CEO of a local food store chain said in a letter

that she supported the project 'only if the planned dwellings are perpetually affordable, not for the 15 year maximum, as proposed'.

Neighbour concern

A number of neighbours raised concerns about traffic, road safety and parking, the loss of trees involved in the development, the visual impact, and the general issue of over-development.

The development is not currently on public exhibition.

However, the full detail of the application is now available and can be viewed via Council's DA tracker website by searching the DA number 10.2023.465.1.

A note from *The Echo*

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been a consistent topic of letter writers and advertisers in the pages of *The Echo* – even before the latest tragic events. Advertisements and letters are not the words or opinions of *The Echo*.

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

This newspaper was started when the existing local media refused to publish complaints of locals about the abuse of police power. Our ongoing commitment is to continue publishing different, sometimes strong, opinions and advertisements – many that we don't agree with. This is why you will find conflicting and contradictory points of view in our pages. They aren't our own opinions.

In regards to last week's half page advertisement placed by the Australian Jewish Association: The AJA describe themselves as a principled voice for Jewish people in Australia, 'the largest voice for Jewish people in Australia on social media' and people should be aware of their position, even if their viewpoints, in particular that Israel has no responsibility whatsoever for Gazan deaths, are obviously very contentious, and in our opinion wrong, as we make clear in our editorial this week. We apologise to those people, including those who have contacted us to object to the ad, who were offended to see those views expressed so clearly, something we did foresee when we made the decision to publish their ad, even if we disagreed with it.

You can read more on this issue in this week's editorial on page 8, and in the letters and articles pages.



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Australia/Survival Day celebrations

There are a few Australia/Survival Day celebrations in Byron Shire to chose from on January 26.

Mullumbimby

A community day, hosted by Rotary Mullumbimby, will be held at the Mullum Pool from 11am. The day includes free entry for kids, inflatables, fun slides, facepainting, a barbecue and more.

Brunswick Heads

A Celebration of Country will be held at South Beach Lane in Brunswick Heads

from 8am, featuring dancing, music from different cultures, artworks, and a barbeque.

Byron Bay

Arakwal Bundjalung people of Byron, the Sisters of Reconciliation and the Cavanbah Reconciliation Group are inviting all ‘black fella and white fella brothers and sisters’ for the 20th annual Cavanbah (Byron Bay) Survival Day event, to be held on Main Beach, Byron Bay, on January 26 from 11am till 3pm. Organisers say it will include

Bundjalung and Djugun musos, speakers, stalls, storytelling and truth telling.

Lennox Head

There will be a ceremony held at Lennox Head Cultural Centre (Ballina Shire) from 9am till 11am. Those attending include Ballina Shire Mayor, Sharon Cadwallader, Tamara Smith MP, Justine Elliot MP, Ballina Shire councillors, Aunty Julia Paden, new Australian citizens, Australia Day Award nominees, with winners announced on the day.

More acts for Bluesfest

Bluesfest has announced that Ben Harper & The Innocent Criminals, Infectious Grooves, Katie Melua, and The Waifs will join the Easter weekend event from March 28. Director Peter Noble said Ben Harper has had an enormous influence on the Australian music industry. ‘We wouldn’t have John Butler Trio, Xavier Rudd, The Beautiful Girls, Angus and Julia Stone as they are today if it wasn’t for his influence.’ For more information and tickets, go to www.bluesfest.com.au.

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No time frame on Upper Main Arm roadworks

Upper Main Arm residents have no time frame for when their dangerous, pothole-ridden road will be repaired; however, recent correspondence by local MP Tamara Smith to a resident states that ‘Byron Shire will be receiving funding to repair the road in the New Year’. Residents contacted *The Echo*, exasperated at the condition of Main Arm Road past Koohinur Hall, claiming that the road is again only accessible by 4WDs, and the road shoulders have eroded to dangerous levels.

The road also connects to Uki and Tweed Shire, and services tourist attractions like Unicorn Falls. Walking tracks in the area are now under construction, which aims to attract further visitors. Given the lack of detail on funding, *The Echo* asked Transport for NSW, ‘What level of funding is expected, how much will be repaired/rebuilt and what is the time frame for the road?’ A Transport for NSW Spokesperson told *The Echo*, ‘Byron Shire Council has submitted its Essential

Public Asset Restoration (EPAR) submission, and Transport for NSW is working with Council to undergo the assessment process against the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement guidelines’. ‘To meet the funding requirements, Council will provide additional information this week to progress the claim. Continuing rain in the Northern Rivers region and the heavy volumes of holiday and normal traffic has continued to impact these roads. Transport and Byron

Shire Council meet regularly for discussions to ensure safety and access to the road network after a declared disaster event. ‘Owing to the complexities involved in natural disaster recovery, after the impacts of several natural disasters, Transport works hard to meet with, and collaborate with Council, to ensure the best possible outcome for the community (including temporary fixes to restore access) for the Byron Shire local government area communities’.

‘Never stay up on the barren heights of cleverness, but come down into the green valleys of silliness’
Austrian philosopher, Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889–1951)



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Splendour in the Grass receives \$100k fed grant

Splendour in the Grass (SITG) has been awarded \$100,000 under the latest round of the federal government’s Live Music Australia Program. Splendour in the Grass, which is held at the North Byron parklands in Yelgun, is majority owned by US multinational, Live Nation, with 51 per cent. Secret Sounds, the company created by managers/promoters Paul Pittico and Jessica Ducrou, own 49 per cent. According to www.arts.gov.au/funding-and-support/live-music-australia, the Australian government will provide a total of \$20 million over four years for the Live Music Australia Program. Recipients for Round 7 of the 2023 grant include GTM Festivals Pty Ltd, who also received \$100,000, while the Kiama Jazz & Blues Festival received \$96,000. Woodfordia Incorporated in Qld was also granted \$100,000. Local Labor MP Justine Elliot said in her

announcement that ‘We know the live music industry continues to face challenges, which is why we’re determined to support them’. The next round of Live Music funding opens February 12, and is open to small to medium live music venues. Dates announced Splendour in the Grass have announced this year’s festival will be held at North Byron Parklands from Friday, July 19 to Sunday, July 21.

The federal government’s attempts to give Australian live music industry a lifeline comes as www.themusic.com.au reports that, ‘Not one local artist with a song or album released last year made the end-of-year ARIA charts’.

Swift dominates Jeff Jenkins wrote on January 12, ‘Taylor Swift had 36 top-40 singles in Australia in 2023. The combined total for every Australian artist was 13’.

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Young peeps given voice on their future

► Continued from page 1 protecting and preserving our oceans, firstly because they are at the centre of global ecology, and secondly, because they are such a key part of life in the Northern Rivers. Part of this realisation was a desire to support work within the sustainable ocean economy, also known as the ‘blue economy’, and to encourage young people to be directly involved in shaping it. ‘I’ve witnessed the

incredible outcomes of giving youth a voice in my previous work with a youth-focused environmental charity, and I’m committed to bringing this to young people in the Northern Rivers. The core of the program is the Young Ocean Leaders – a foundation leadership group which helps to create positive solutions for the health of the planet, and empowers other youth to speak up. Applications to join the leadership group are now

open, with those interested, or who want further information, invited to email Simone at simone@oceanvoices.com.au. The leadership group will be front and centre for the project’s first official event, an Ocean Action Workshop. The workshop will bring together speakers from a variety of environmental organisations and businesses to engage directly with the Young Ocean Leaders. ‘The essential part of

this event is that it will give youth the floor to share their voice on what is important to them and the opportunities they want to explore,’ Ms Roseler says. ‘I can’t wait to see local young people like Monet given the opportunity to be heard, really heard, in a public forum.’ ‘They are the ones who are really driving Ocean Voices and, in my view, the solutions we need to save the planet.’

Doco sheds new light on home birth

Sally Cusack

After seeing the impacts of a traumatic hospital birth suffered by a dear friend, Binna Burra mother of two, Emma Maidment, knew she would have to find a better way when her time came.

After lots of research, and listening to many women's stories on podcasts, Emma decided that one-on-one care with a midwife in her home was going to be the most efficient and positive experience for her and her newborn.

She didn't know anyone who had chosen home birth before, but the evidence she found in support of this choice, and women's stories, especially those who had home births after traumatic hospital births, cemented the idea in her mind.

Emma's partner, Tyson, was also open to exploring options outside the standard hospital system given he witnessed the traumatic birth of his sister when he was just ten years-old.

Tyson quickly saw the benefits of home birth through all the information Emma was able to give him, and he turned out to be the most caring and capable support she could ever wish for.

Challenges to access

Yet home birth with a registered midwife is not easy to access. Less than 20 hospitals around Australia offer home birth, which comes with the benefit of Medicare cover. However, there are restrictions on how many women they can accept, and a women's distance from hospital and their 'risk' profile can make it more prohibitive.

Private midwifery is an alternative option, but the



Emma and Tyson with River and Osha. Photo supplied

cost can also be prohibitive (owing to the lack of Medicare support) and there are few regional/rural areas with private midwife practices.

Fortunately, Byron Shire is comparatively well served, with one home birth service offered at Byron Central Hospital, as well as a number of local private midwives to choose from. Emma decided on local midwife, Libby Lamb.

Emma says, 'It was so great having Libby's support to understand all the decisions we had to make along the way. I felt like each of my decisions were well informed and completely mine.'

Emma cherished the meetings she had with Libby in her home in the lead up to her birth of River three years ago, and for the six weeks afterwards.

'I told her, "I need to have another baby, so we can keep hanging out!"', she laughed. Emma realised that dream when she gave birth to baby Osha at home, again with Libby's care, last July.

'Libby stayed right in the background and gave us both such confidence to just work together and be guided by the process', said Emma.

Feb 15 screening

Born at Home is a new documentary that showcases the benefits of home birth, and will premiere at the Byron Palace Cinemas on February 15 from 6.30pm.

Brisbane filmmakers, Amanda Banks and Eleanor Currie, have both had home births, and they teamed up to raise awareness of this birth choice.

Remarkably, less than one per cent of babies are born at home in Australia.

'We believe how, and where women choose to birth, matters', says Amanda.

'We created the film to provide insight to an alternative to birthing in hospital.

'We would like women to be able to make true informed decisions about their maternity care and childbirth'.

The UK's National Institute for Health and Care Excellence guidelines state that there is minimal, or no increased risk of planned home birth for healthy women experiencing a normal pregnancy.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) also endorses continuity of midwifery

care, and through their research, has found that 85 per cent of women can birth normally without medical intervention. Countries with intervention rates above 15 per cent are deemed to be over-servicing women.

Amanda and Eleanor are well aware of where Australia's maternity care system sits in the international landscape.

High C-section rates

'With our caesarean section rate at an all-time high of 39 per cent, and one in three women having their labours artificially induced, it's abundantly clear to us that many more women should have this choice available to them.'

Local doula (a non-medical childbirth companion) and maternity services advocate, Fiona O'Shaughnessy, agrees.

'We would love to see much more support for home birth in this region from our Local Health District (LHD).'

'While we could think ourselves lucky to have it available at all, it really should be a standard offering from all of our hospitals,' she says.

No Medicare

'And Medicare should be covering the cost of private midwifery.'

'The savings for women who birth at home are massive for our health system.'

After the film, a panel of speakers will be available for questions from the audience.

Find out more about home birth at the Byron premiere screening of *Born at Home* at the Palace Cinemas, Byron Bay at 6.30pm on Wednesday February 15. Tickets available from: www.bornathomefilm.com.au.

\$1m splashed at North Coast disaster recovery groups

Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre will receive \$99,000 as part of NSW government's \$1 million Community Resilience Grants Program.

A media release on Monday by the NSW Labor government says, 'The funding will provide certainty to 20 grassroots community groups across the Tweed, Byron, Lismore, Kyogle, Ballina, Richmond Valley and Clarence Valley, to continue their vital disaster recovery work in the areas most impacted by the 2022 floods.'

According to the Reconstruction Corporation website (tinyurl.com/msxhrzef),

Resilient Byron (Plan C) will receive \$100,000 for a 'Continued safe space for community to receive support, maintain social connections and build staff/volunteer capacity'.

Main Arm Disaster Recovery Incorporated have been awarded \$49,700, for 'community led events to nurture, nourish, build capacity and connection in the Main Arm community'.

Other North Coast organisations receiving tax-payer grants include Lismore and District Financial Counselling Service Inc, Wardell Community Organised Resilience Effort (CORE) and Resilient Uki.

Returning Indigenous Corporation awarded \$20k

The Returning Indigenous Corporation in Upper Main Arm will receive \$20,000 as part of a \$500,000 grant to celebrate Aboriginal culture.

According to a media release by Lismore MP Janelle Saffin (Labor), the

Aboriginal Affairs Cultural Grants Program funds will be used to run a culture camp, which will be, 'five days of deep cultural exchange and connection'. For more info, visit www.aboriginalaffairs.nsw.gov.au.

Mullumbimby Recreation Grounds to be upgraded

A major upgrade of the carpark and at the Mullumbimby Recreation Grounds will start in late January, say Council staff.

The grounds are located next to six tennis courts and the Community Gardens, and the grounds can be accessed via Byron Street or Stuart Street.

111 parking spaces

According to Council's media release, 'The project includes renewing the existing carpark and formalising 111 parking spaces including two accessible spaces; 100m

of new footpath to connect to the amenities block and bus stop area; improved drainage and minor landscaping'.

\$900k budget

'The project has a budget of \$903,594 and is funded by the Australian and NSW government's Community Assets Program. There will also be a major upgrade of the public toilets and the old "Little Athletics" building, to include change rooms thanks to an additional grant of \$372,000 from the NSW Government's Sports Priority Needs Program'.

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4 The Byron Shire Echo January 24, 2024

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Farewell piano busker, AJ Hickling

Eve Jeffery

Sad news crossed the Tasman recently, with the passing of AJ (Alistair John) Hickling, known to many simply as the piano busker. Born in Bairnesdale, Victoria, Hickling moved to Christchurch with his family when he was a toddler. AJ was mostly self taught – he discovered a piano in his parents basement when he was two, and fell in love with creating beautiful sounds. He had more formal piano training when he was in high school, and was offered a scholarship which he declined, choosing to forge his own musical path instead.

A true multi-instrumentalist, AJ and has been one of New Zealand's much loved musicians and producers, creating and playing original tribal dance music under the name Evolving Rhythms, playing festivals in New



AJ Hickling. Photo supplied

Zealand and Australia.

About 12 years ago, AJ found an old piano in the dump, which he restored and began busking with in Queenstown – it was life changing for him.

Suddenly he was able to make a decent income from his musical offerings, selling over 10,000 CDs and saving enough to buy the family's home in Westport, NZ.

AJ would busk the winter time in Queenstown, living in his van, which he would wheel his piano in and out of, the temperatures dropping as low as -17degrees.

During spring for the last 10 years AJ would head to the east coast of Australia and be based in the Byron area, living in houses in Suffolk Park, The Pocket and Brunswick Heads.

Locals would have seen him busking at markets in the area or at a series of pop-up concerts on the break wall of Brunswick Heads where purely by word of mouth crowds swelled to hundreds of people enjoying his music on the acoustic piano which he wheeled around.

Partner Freja said AJ was an absolute musical virtuoso. 'He invited people to step out of the rush and reminded us that beauty is a birthright.'

Freja says AJ died in the family home on December 29 after a short battle with pancreatic cancer.

'He was held by close family and friends.'

AJ's tangi was held from January 5 to 7. Left behind are his partner Freja, son Ra, and daughter's Dyani and Jali.

Anyone interested in supporting the family can purchase AJ's music at: evolvingrhythms.bandcamp.com.

Young Spencer to speak on wallum

Mandy Nolan saw 13-year-old Spencer Hitchen speaking at Woodford, and was so blown away, she has invited him to come and speak locally about his ideas for the environment.

Spencer started the Save Sunrise Glossies to protect his local wallum ecosystem, and the vulnerable to extinction glossy black cockatoos.

A campaign is underway to save fragile and rare ecological site in Brunswick Heads from a property developer, who has approval for 127 residential lots.

Spencer says, 'There's

a lot of species that are endemic to the wallum, and they can't live anywhere else because they've adapted to that ecosystem.'

'The glossy black cockatoos actually drink on the site where they're going to put houses. It's really important that we protect their drinking sites and their feeding habitat – the drinking sites especially are really important.'

The event, hosted by Greens Deputy Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye and Mandy Nolan, will be held at the Mullum Civic Hall on Sunday at 5pm.

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Rock hunting – let the games begin!

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

A fun hide-and-seek game for all ages and all abilities has sprung up in the biggest little town: Mullum Rocks.

The idea is simple – find a rock and paint it. On the back write 'Mullum Rocks' and the letter 'F', then take a photo, and post it on the Mullum Rocks Facebook page. Then hide your rock out in open view, and wait for someone to find it.

If you find a rock you can keep it, pass it along or hide it somewhere else – take a photo and post it on the page. You can add it to the NSW Rocks page as well – sometimes rocks end up a long way from home.

Organiser Jeanette Martin says she first saw the idea in Lismore after the floods. 'My son was so excited to find a rock – I thought it would



Charlotte found a couple of fun pebbles ready to be released into the wilds of Mullumbimby, as part of the Mullum Rocks project.

be great for Mullum.'

You can make your own Mullum Rocks with acrylic artist paint, paint pens or whatever you have. A spray with varnish is beneficial but not imperative.'

You can join in rock painting at the Mullum SEED Eco Hub, home of the Mullum Community Garden

from February. NSW Rocks has been running for over six years and has nearly 135,000 members on their Facebook page. The project is supported by Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce, who are supplying paint and pens for upcoming workshops, to be held at the Mullum Community Garden.

Local man finds fish on roof

A local primary school teacher has told *The Echo* he found a 'very fresh, recently deceased mullet on our roof'.

Symon Roberts says, 'Last Wednesday while out doing some gardening, I heard a noise on our roof. Thinking it was a snake, I had a little look and couldn't see anything. I went inside to cool off, while my wife continued gardening. She heard the noise again and climbed up on some stairs

to investigate further. She came in quite alarmed and exclaimed that she thought she saw a fish on the roof. My initial thoughts were she was pulling my leg and just wanted some help outside. Low and behold after getting a ladder to have a look...'

Not a prank

Asked if he thought if it was thrown up there by a prankster, he replied, 'No, I don't

thinks so, it must have been a good throw, or my 90-year old neighbour has it out for me'.

He says possible scenarios were that 'a bird may have dropped it, (although no visible marks from talons); we have had a bit of rain, so could have been swimming in the clouds and got lost; an Act of God, or the Mullum Mafia are trying to send me a message'.

Roberts supplied a photo for verification.

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Flying-fox Camp Management Plan

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We'd like your feedback on the Flying-fox Camp Management Plan 2024-2029.

Submit your feedback via the Your Say page on our website by **Thursday 22 February 2024.**

Information session

When: 5:30pm to 6:30pm, Wednesday 7 February 2024

Where: Council Chambers, 70 Station St Mullumbimby



www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Echo

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

New visitor guide for Ballina coast and hinterland

The Ballina Tourism Team says it's thrilled to unveil the new Ballina Coast and Hinterland Visitor Guide showcasing the region's unmissable experiences through imagery, editorials, and essential visitor information.

Gallery curator Kezia Geddes farewells Lismore

Lismore's loss will be Ipswich's gain as the long-term curator at Lismore Regional Gallery, Kezia Geddes, leaves the Northern Rivers to take up a new position at Ipswich Art Gallery.

Tyalgum Road landslip barriers closed due to heavy rain

Heavy rainfall led to the closure of Tyalgum Road at the site of the extreme landslip that happened during the 2022 floods.

Northern Rivers supporting ceasefire in Gaza

Last week saw two events supporting a ceasefire in Gaza take place at the Nimbin Bush Theatre and Coorabell Hall held by the Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine.

Appeal for information following suspicious fire – Tweed Heads

Police are appealing for information following a suspicious fire at Tweed Heads South last year.

MACAI will see Lismore Council in court

A local group is challenging the decision-making ability of Lismore Mayor Steve Kreig and his team in court, in what they say is yet another test of that team's legitimacy.

www.echo.net.au

WardellCORE nominated for multiple Ballina awards

David Lowe

Nominated for not one but three separate awards in 2024's Ballina Shire Australia Day event is WardellCORE (Community Organised Resilience Effort), which has been instrumental in Wardell's ongoing recovery since the 2022 floods. *The Echo* caught up with Joel Orchard to find out more.

He said WardellCORE was honoured and grateful to be nominated. 'It's a fantastic celebration of the extraordinary effort that the community here, and especially all the volunteers have made – making such a great impact on so many people's lives. We're thrilled to have that recognised.'

The three categories for which they've been nominated are Volunteer, Environmental and Community Event of 2023, which in WardellCORE's case is for their epic One Year On event, marking a year since the flood disaster struck.

'That was so positive, and the community's strong



The WardellCORE team. Photo supplied

feedback was that they wanted to see it as an annual event,' said Mr Orchard.

'So we have plans to repeat it this year, on 2 March. We're going to try and make that an annual festival for the community.'

Fire ants!

Wardell is currently in the news for the fire ant outbreak, with the dangerous insects found nesting in a garden at the temporary pod village in the second NSW outbreak in recent times.

The Echo asked: How's everyone coping? 'It's obviously distressing

for a lot of people, especially anyone in the agricultural industry around here. In fact, we've already had a member of the community come in today quite distressed, and because we're a mental health facility we're able to support them,' explained Mr Orchard.

'I imagine this will cause ongoing stress for a number of people. So we're here for everyone. It's not likely to be something that goes away any time soon. Everyone's bracing themselves for some form of quarantine.'

The NSW DPI staff are currently set up at Wardell



Red imported fire ant. Photo DPI

Community Hall, providing public information about the fire ant issue.

'Best case scenario, this is a one-off incident. It's quickly resolved and we go back to normal, but I think everyone here is on pretty high alert,' said Mr Orchard.

'My personal feeling is the quarantine at the border is reasonably good.

'How these have snuck through, who knows, but you've got mobile ants, on machinery in soils, floating in floods and also flying as queens move from one place to another. So it's definitely going to be a difficult issue to deal with.

'As we've seen with the varroa mites, once these things get out of quarantine,

they're very hard to control in the wild.'

Baseload funding

Apart from ants and floods, things have been looking a lot more positive for Wardell and WardellCORE recently.

The Echo asked: Can you tell us about that big grant you got late last year?

'Yes, we received an amazing contribution from the Northern Rivers Community Foundation, they've funded us for three years in a row. That will help us with our baseload funding,' said Mr Orchard.

'We've received a lot of criticism from some quarters for having all this money. But as you would understand, it doesn't go very far. We're certainly not out of the woods yet. We've been very fortunate to be quite successful with applications that we've applied for. That's based number one on our merit, and clearly our demonstration of capability here.

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

SCU study to investigate impact of 2022 floods on marginalised groups

Researchers at Southern Cross University are inviting people from marginalised groups to share their experiences of the 2022 Northern Rivers floods.

People who identify as a migrant or refugee, experiencing homelessness, or as sexuality and/or gender diverse, are invited to share their story on the immediate and long-term impacts of the 2022 floods. This may include their health and wellbeing, and the adequacy of the flood response and recovery efforts in addressing their needs.

Associate Professor Matthew Leach from the National Centre for Naturopathic Medicine is leading the research. He said the study would inform future flood response and recovery efforts for marginalised populations.

'We know from overseas studies that marginalised groups are disproportionately impacted by floods, but what we do not fully understand is whether this is also the case in Australia,' said Associate Professor Leach.

'The findings from this study will determine the extent to which the health and wellbeing needs of marginalised groups have or have not been met to date, and



Lismore underwater in 2022 floods. Photo David Lowe

how future flood response and recovery efforts might better serve those needs.'

Recovery concerns

In 2022, the Northern Rivers region experienced catastrophic floods. Community recovery remains an enduring concern, with wellbeing, mental health and housing major concerns.

'We know that a one-size-fits-all approach to flood recovery is not optimal, and in fact, is likely to heighten the vulnerability and adversely impact the health and wellbeing of marginalised groups,' said Associate Professor Leach.

'Ultimately, it is about recognising the diversity of regional communities, and ensuring appropriate and timely services, resources and infrastructure are put in

place to mitigate the impacts of flooding events on these communities.'

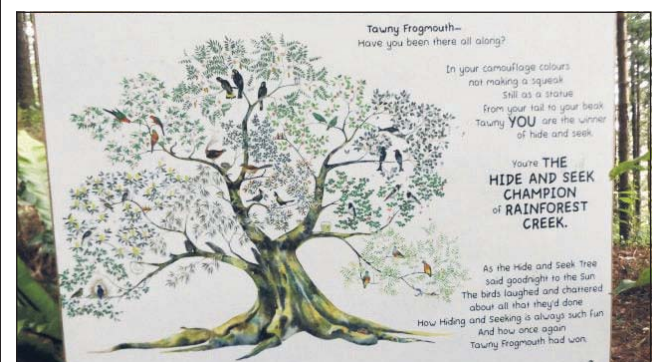
The study is open to adults who identify as (a) a migrant or refugee, (b) experiencing homelessness, or (c) sexuality and/or gender diverse. The study will require people to participate in a 30-40 minute interview, either online or at a suitable location in the Northern Rivers.

Get involved

Participants will receive a \$50 gift voucher for their contribution to the study.

People can request further information about the study by emailing ncnmtrials@scu.edu.au, or by calling 0407 111 561. This research has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committee at Southern Cross University.

Learn about your local birds on the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens story walk



Learn about the birds of the Richmond region these holidays. Photo supplied

Aslan Shand

Discover the perfect shady spot for a walk with the family, or on your own, while reading the story-walk book *The Hide and Seek Tree of Rainforest Creek*. Written by local author Lee Duncan and illustrated by local artist Laila Paige, and written exclusively for the Lismore library, this walk tells the story of many favourite local birds.

'The 12 illustrated panels are a great way for parents, guardians and carers to take a walk with the kids and learn about the birds of the Richmond region,' Tracey Whitby, President of the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens told *The Echo*.

'The Lismore library

installed the story walk as a series of pages (panels) of a book set up through the Hoop Pine Forest,' explained Tracy.

'It is a guessing kind of story with clues in each panel that you can discover the answer to in the following panel, and teaches everyone about local birds.'

The story walk begins at the BBQ near the Visitor's Centre gardens at 313 Wyalah Rd, Monaltrie. The walk is suitable for youngsters four years and older and adults too. A pair of walking shoes, insect repellent and a bottle of water are recommended.

'Which bird from Rainforest Creek is the best at hide and seek? You'll have to come for a walk to find out!' said Tracy.

What does the current federal government solar discount mean for you?

The federal government provides a solar discount to home owners and businesses in Australia that install a small scale renewable energy system (solar, wind or hydro) under the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES) to help with the purchase cost. Installing an eligible system allows the creation of Small-scale Technology Certificates (STCs). The number of STCs created is based on:

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

The above prices include supply, installation (standard installation on a tin roof) and GST. The federal government discount is subject to change at anytime.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #33 • January 24, 2024

We've had complaints

The Australian Jewish Association (AJA) sure did stir up a lot of complaints to *The Echo*, given their inflammatory and inaccurate statements in their page 5 advertisement last week.

There is no evidence that Hamas is responsible for all Gazan deaths, for example, and the rest of their claims around the Middle East peace process are contested – at best.

But that's free speech.

It's easy to say you support it, but harder as a publisher to actually follow through with it.

So who are the AJA (www.jewishassociation.org.au)?

Despite claiming they do not affiliate with any political party, their members are linked to far-right-wing think tank IPA, and the Liberal Party.

AJA tweet Jan 17

On January 17, the AJA tweeted their *Echo* ad with the statement: 'Byron Bay is known as a hot spot for left-leaning activist types. The local paper, *The Byron Shire Echo*, is widely read and often contains anti-Israel content. AJA decided to take out a half page ad and share some facts. The ad was generously facilitated by Michael Burd. What do you think of the AJA ad?'

Well here's what we think:

The AJA is an organisation that should not be taken seriously, because it only promotes one-sided warped and dangerous views.

It is simply untrue to imply that Israel is an innocent bystander/victim in the unfolding clusterfuck.

Their ad appeared designed to divide rather than inform.

Unlike most mainstream media, *The Echo* is independent and contains a range of views from its readers and contributors.

Saying *The Echo* 'often contains anti-Israel content' is like saying that

those who criticise Israel are anti-Semitic, or are 'self-loathing Jews'.

As a society, aren't we past such stupid school-yard bullying?

The AJA appears more aligned with war-mongering types, like Israeli PM, Bibi Netanyahu, than with those seeking genuine peace.

Netanyahu has forged a hard-right coalition to remain in power, yet faces much criticism from within Israel over his attempts to curb the powers of the judiciary, for example. Netanyahu also faces court on charges of corruption, and it appears he needs this war to stay in power. There is no two-state solution with Netanyahu.

As for Australian mainstream media (especially NewsCorp), they appear 'state captured' – that is, they take paid junkets to Israel and subsequently write favourably about Israel's policies.

By contrast, Israel's own media is often critical of its government, and there appears more freedom to report without fear or favour in Israel than here in Australia.

ABC journalist, Antoinette Lattouf, was recently sacked after posting a Human Rights Watch video describing Israel's starvation of Gaza civilians. It's alleged that the national broadcaster took action after complaints from 'Jewish lobbyists'.

The Echo is not aligned with either side of the Israel and Palestine conflict.

It's all too easy to shoot the messenger.

Instead, genuine attempts at peace are required by 'leaders' if this intractable ongoing disaster has any hope of resolution.

The Australian Jewish Association (AJA), like any extreme organisation on both sides of this conflict, are not helping that cause.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Expensive card habits versus cash

How many of us use our cards routinely to buy just about everything, while barely giving it a thought? Once we were seduced by being offered frequent flyer points and receiving rewards for our customer loyalty.

Many of us were shocked to see what happens when a major outage occurs, when people in distress couldn't even dial 000 let alone use their cards.

The Optus outage affected ten million customers for over twelve hours. Many businesses couldn't operate.

We'd had a prior taste of that during our local flood crisis, and the vandalism of the Mullumbimby Telstra tower.

People are now talking about how much money is whittled away with each card transaction. Average credit card processing fees are 1.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent. The cost of a coffee using a card is not the advertised \$5, but at least \$5.15 and sometimes more.

A \$50 note, on the other hand, stays at \$50 every time it changes hands.

A local supplier of pottery materials estimated she was losing \$150 a week simply by customers using cards.

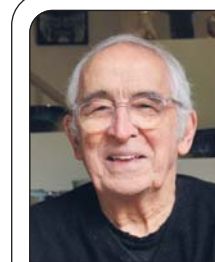
She held up a \$50 note and declared: 'If you were to pass this through 17 transactions on a card, it would be reduced to nothing.'

Another supplier told us it would cost \$48 extra to pay by card over the telephone. We paid cash and saved the charge.

The Covid pandemic accelerated the use of cards, as people were wary of cash carrying the virus. Market stallholders suddenly all had card facilities.

A stallholder at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market said people using cards spend more. She's happy enough for her customers to use cards. Several shopkeepers said more people are using cash again. One said cash use had doubled recently.

Apart from the real risk of systems going down, from sudden wild weather, and not being able to



'Average credit card processing fees are 1.5 per cent to 3.5 per cent. A \$50 note stays at \$50 every time it changes hands.'

Richard Jones

buy essentials, there is also reason for concern that every purchase is being monitored and recorded.

That surveillance will no doubt accelerate with the use of AI.

We are losing privacy.

Who knows how all this data will be used/abused in future?

If we switch to cash we will save businesses hard-earned dollars, and we too will be saving money.

It all adds up.

We used to have purses with loose change and they'll likely see a comeback. How many of us have jars with coins ranging from five cents to two dollars sitting in them?

Those coins can now go back into circulation.

Not everyone is happy about this return to cash, especially credit providers. All those tiny charges add up to billions of profit.

Before Christmas, the Governor of the Reserve Bank, Michelle Bullcock, mused on the idea of people being charged extra when they use cash! How on earth she thinks that could be acceptable and implemented is beyond comprehension.

Could anyone seriously imagine Treasurer Jim Chalmers floating the idea of legislating to charge people who use cash?

The Labor Albanese government won't even consider making changes to the Stage Three tax cuts, costing Treasury an estimated \$20bn. That would have the support of most Australians and enable the government to assist battlers through this cost-of-living crisis.

Mind you, not every Australian is suffering financially.

In the last three years, the combined wealth of the three richest Australians, Gina Rinehart, Andrew Forrest and Harry Triguboff, has more than doubled. Gina's wealth

has increased from \$23.5bn to \$40.6bn, Andrew's from \$12bn to \$33.2bn and Harry's from \$11.3bn to \$23.3bn. Australia now has 141 billionaires.

According to the 2023 Oxfam Inequality report, the world's billionaires have increased their wealth from a combined \$6tn in 2012 to about \$14tn in 2022. Half of the world's billionaires live in countries where no taxes are paid on inherited wealth. Trillions will be passed on tax free.

Billionaires gathered at the current World Economic Forum at Davos in Switzerland are asking to have a wealth tax introduced, but not one that will impoverish them, just a modest couple of per cent.

Global wealth tax

They say a tipping point has been reached and there's an urgent need to address growing inequality.

'The cost to our economic, societal and ecological stability risk is severe.'

A global wealth tax would liberate hundreds of billions of dollars to feed the starving, house the homeless and help mitigate the disaster of the climate crisis.

While most Australians are counting their pennies and cutting back unnecessary expenditure, the super wealthy are laughing all the way to the bank.

Anthony Albanese is calling MPs back to Canberra two weeks early to discuss the cost-of-living crisis. It's clearly panic stations. It's time now for serious tax reform Albo, including a wealth tax.

Time to prove you really do lead an authentic Labor government.

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



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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

byron healing

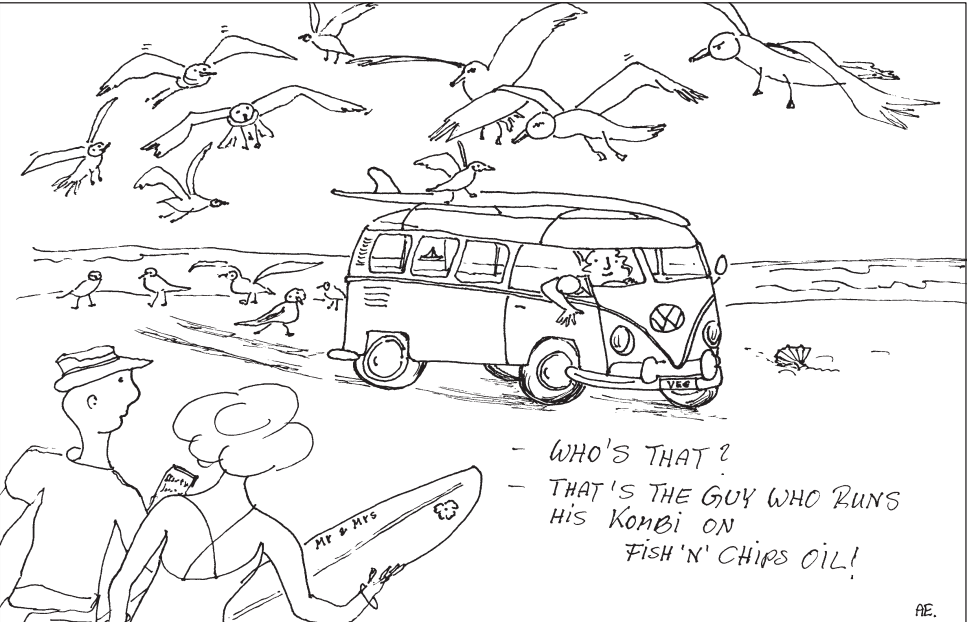
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Cartoon by Antoinette Ensbey

Fed Sheds

The recent approval of the Federal Sheds is a concern. Overwhelmingly this development application was opposed by the Federal community. Why do we vote for councillors? My understanding is that they represent the communities that put their faith in them. It appears not. This development will impact on several private dwellings, the Federal Hall, and extra traffic as well as noise pollution. The vote to support this project has no respect for the community it is supposed to represent. Democratic processes... well, no!

Rhonda Ansiewicz
Federal

Future water

I read with interest Philip Rudd's 27 December 2023 letter about Rous County Council's Future Water Strategy and was quite frankly bemused at what I see as potentially misleading the community. As well as being a Councillor on Lismore Council for 17.5 years, I was a Councillor on Rous County Council (RCC) from 1991 to 1999, I am well-acquainted with these issues and am a keen observer of RCC's activities since then. I find it hard to believe that any further studies need to be carried out in regard to consulting with the Widjabul Wia-bal people, as cultural heritage studies were commissioned in 2011 and 2013, which demonstrated that they are strongly opposed to a dam at Dunoon. So unless RCC is looking for consultants who might be more 'open' to the dam, which I suspect may be the case, this seems like a total waste of time and money as these studies

always cost a lot. As pointed out in the Far North Coast Water Plan, dams always have significant impacts, both financial and environmental and, in the case of the dam at Dunoon, cultural impacts on Indigenous artefacts that predate settlement. In 2013 RCC put on hold any further work on the Dunoon dam for a variety of reasons, including those mentioned above and following advice from international water management experts that the most effective strategies to augment our water supply are to pursue water efficiency, groundwater and reuse. As 15 to 20 per cent of water is being lost through leaks, clearly water efficiency needs to be a high priority. What has happened since then is the two significant floods in 2017 and 2022 and, rather than focusing on augmenting the water supply, some in the community seem to see the dam as important for flood mitigation. I understand that the majority of RCC councillors, who were elected to local government on the basis of building the dam, also are focused on flood mitigation. I note that as well as adding desalination to the list of options, Philip Rudd says that one of the options RCC is currently investigating is purified recycled water. Given that the campaign to build the dam was driven by a deliberate and uninformed scare campaign against water reuse (toilet to tap) and that RCC rejected the planned water purification proposal at Perradenya, I'll be interested to see how the current RCC councillors react to that. As the 2024 local government election is in September this year, there may well be a

change in the composition of RCC. I guess it's a case of wait and see, but please, no more wasteful studies. Roslyn Irwin
Caniaba

DA for music venue
I strongly disagree with the concept of a music venue in Banksia Drive. The suggestion by the owner putting forward the development application (DA) that the decibel level would not affect the surrounding residential estate is ludicrous – this is such a quiet peaceful area of a night, the loudest noise being the wonderful bird life. We occasionally hear music from the hotel or pop-ups in the Arts & Industry Estate but they are infrequent and respectfully stop at 10pm. Amplified 'electric' music from 7am to midnight, seven days a week would be a nightmare that would affect hundreds of residents, who treasure the serenity of this suburb, let alone the wildlife. There are plenty of venues for revellers already, this is just another greedy developer who has no care of how his plans influence people. Garry Eastburn
Sunrise

Mullum hospital site
I was interested in your article 'Former Mullum hospital site Q&A (Echo, 17 January). I thank you for this article, and for drawing attention to several issues that will affect the local residents. In particular, I refer to your inclusion quoted below: 'Council also proposes to increase the height of buildings allowed on the site from nine metres to 11.5 metres. Negotiations are underway with neighbouring property owners to also increase the

height limit allowable on their sites.' I find this of particular interest because any changes to height limits of neighbouring properties seems to pre-empt any decisions yet to be reached regarding Council's response to the NSW Department of Planning strategy for housing densification in Mullumbimby, as recently outlined in their Housing Options Paper – Draft for Public Exhibition. I attended a community forum at Council chambers in Mullum prior to the end of the period for formal public feedback regarding the Housing Options Paper for the Byron Shire. As a landowner potentially affected by the policy changes outlined, I was particularly interested in the proposal that a tract of housing blocks along Left Bank Road, beginning adjacent to and also opposite the former hospital site be subject to 'Potential Urban Conversion', ie. having their zoning changed from R5 (large lot residential) to R2 (low density residential). This change aroused my interest because it seemed from my investigations, it was the one and only area within the entire Shire that had been earmarked for Potential Urban Conversion. I asked a question at the meeting regarding this apparently singular application of proposed re-zoning and was told by the lady Council employee that (as memory serves me), yes it was an only occurrence, and its inclusion in the Draft Strategy has been kicked off by a suggestion from a landowner adjacent to (or nearby) the hospital site. ▶ Continued on next page

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Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

Invasion day – time to create unity through recognition and justice

Belle Budden

As 26 January approaches our communities are once more gripped by polarised views of the date. Recent decisions from supermarket giants to not stock the Australia Day merchandise has been met with calls from the opposition leader to boycott the moguls and has incited violent attacks on stores. This has reawakened divisive debate centred around patriotic ideals of Australia

Day vs the Change the Date of Invasion Day campaign. Somewhere in the centre many Australians are calling for a day that celebrates unity and finds common ground. For there to be true unity in Australia there must be recognition of the true history of this nation, and their needs to be justice. For First Nations Australians the date represents the celebration of the beginning of occupation and enduring genocide against our peoples, our culture and our

Country. It is a day loaded with mixed emotions for the continued violations against our lore, life and ways. Many Australians believe the atrocities to be in the past and that is time to move forward, however, the human rights violations against First Nations Australians continue to be well documented. On 14 October 2023, the Referendum to recognise First Nations Australians delivered a resounding ‘No’ result. No matter which side of the debate, this was a slap in the face for First Nations people, reinforcing the status quo which is failing First Nations Australians. The continued over incarceration of Aboriginal people and deaths in custody, and the high rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in care are clear indicators of the ongoing institutionalised racism.



In NSW in February 2023 Aboriginal people made up 29.7 per cent of the adult prison population.

Children were in the out of home care system.

Incarceration nation

It is a horrific indictment on all Australians that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people remain the most incarcerated people on the planet (by percentage of their population). There have been 527 people who have died in custody since the Royal Commission into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody brought down its findings in 1991 (Australian Institute of Criminology’s National Deaths in Custody Program). The same week the crushing delivery of the ‘No’ decision in the referendum, a 16-year-old First Nations boy died after self-harming in pretrial detention in Western Australia. Even though he was under 18 he was being held in a maximum security prison for adult men. Alarming the Australian government has not become a signatory to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of the Child which precludes minors from being detained in adult detention centres.

In 2022–23, there were 31 First Nations deaths in custody (Australian Institute of Criminology Dec 2023) although this rose to 33 by the end of December. This included the death of a 46-year-old Aboriginal man who died in WA prison on Christmas Day. Aboriginal people made up 29.7 per cent of the adult prison population in NSW in February 2023, which is the highest proportion on record. In March 2023 it stood at 29.5 per cent. Meanwhile, 56.7 per cent of imprisoned children in NSW are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. (NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research May 2023). Despite the continued escalation of these horrific statistics governments of all jurisdictions continue to fail to invest in programs that focus on healing and prevention for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These statistics are due to the ongoing unresolved impacts of intergenerational trauma from the impacts of genocide. Australia is the only colonised nation that does not recognise its First Nations People in the constitution and is one of the

only Commonwealth Nations without a treaty. Lets call for an end in the celebrating of genocide. We, as a nation, need to elevate the voices and choices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples towards self determination on matters that affect our communities. Australia is the only nation which places the beginning of its own colonisation as the central day of national celebration. 26 January marks the beginning of the penal colony in Australia, a colony which was built on the criminalisation of poverty and the forced removal of the poor to these lands and waters. It’s a dark day for all Australians aware of its true history, a date not to celebrate, but to mourn for the wrong doings of the past. Lets talk about changing the date when we are talking about celebrating a National Treaty Day that recognises and addresses the injustices of the past. On 26 January you can show your solidarity with First Nations people: Day of Mourning or Invasion Day 11am–3pm. An invitation to sit in solidarity to celebrate our survival of the genocide that was committed to our ancestors and continues to impact our people. Main Beach Byron Bay (across from the Beach Hotel). Parking is always an issue so please be prepared. At Brunswick Heads River there will be an inclusive event that encourages unity and respect and aims to create a platform where the community can come together as one mob, 10am until sunset. See page 2 for more events.

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COMPANION ANIMALS
WELFARE INC


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Brunswick Heads
Next to IGA Supermarket

Mon to Fri 10am–4pm
Sat 10am–1pm

ALL CLOTHES \$2
Volunteers required

byrondogrescue.org - Ph 0447 927 600

SUICIDE PREVENTION
Filling the ***BIGGEST GAP***
Currently inhibiting ***Suicide *Reduction.**



THE GAP

*Pic + Edited Text

Courtesy Wikipedia*

*The Gap is a cliff at **South Head** in **Eastern Suburbs** of **Sydney**. A popular tourist destination, it has an **infamy** for suicides. Looking north to cliffs that create The GAP near Watson’s Bay.*

My 6-pt *NOT ROCKET SCIENCE*** Plan**

* In 2011, Australia recorded the lowest number of road deaths since 1946, down to about a third of the deaths recorded at the peak in 1970. Over the past 10 years annual fatalities on Australian roads have fallen by almost 26%. These figures **reflect the proactive road safety initiatives** pursued by Federal and State Governments over recent years: **the efforts of police and greater care taken by motorists behind the wheel**. Last year the **Australian Government in partnership with the States and Territories** launched the **National Road Safety Strategy 2011-2020** that aims to cut road deaths and serious injuries by at least 30 per cent by 2020.*

Hon Catherine King, Secretary for Infrastructure and Transport. 2012.

??SPOT THE FAILURE 2 ACT – HEAR??

My graph **Road Fatal v Suicides 1980-2022** shows reduction in Road Toll 2B a **HUGE NATIONAL SUCCESS**. But no Individual Health Professional/Organisation, funded by OUR taxpayer \$Billions\$ has realised that

- A **HUGE GAP** needs filling between the **HEALTH PROFESSION** and ALL 26M END-USERS; which **CAN B** simply/cost effectively achieved using the GOV. template quote above; by **MP’s ACTing** on voter’s behalf.
- The Health Profession sits in some **HIGHER SPACE**, with **UNIQUE Knowledge and Powers**; with us **unwashed** End-Users, far down below!

It’s also **PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE** to get **ANY MEDIA ATTENTION** to Promote this Plan because I’m **NOT a Professional OR Community Group Member**.

I always thought MP’s/Media/Health Professions were there 2 **Serve and Report**, on OUR behalf...

☺ ***WAKEUPAUSTRALIA!*** ☺

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

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

Stolen generations continues

SNAICC (Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care) the National Peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and family released the Family Matters report in November 2023. The report presented the shocking outcome regarding the treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children across all jurisdictions and showed that the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is at a higher rate now than when the Bringing Them Home Report was released in 1997. In 2023, 22,328 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander

► **Continued from page 9**
This leads me to question who this particular land-owner is, and how it is that Council is already in negotiations with them for changes to their building height restrictions, prior to changes to the Local Environment Plan (LEP) that might ensue from the Housing Options Draft Paper submission to NSW Department of Planning. It also makes me wonder how a landowner might hold such sway in suggesting proposed zoning changes. I would appreciate any feedback you might be able to bring on this apparent anomaly to supposed procedure.

Christine Newman
Mullumbimby

► **‘Yes’ or ‘No’**
In reply to Tim Harrington’s claim (Letters, 27 November, 2023), ‘as we discovered during the course of the referendum, it was not necessarily representative of all First Nations people, particularly those living in regional, rural or remote areas’, he needs to refer to a carefully constructed map by spatial analyst, Jesse Reilly which shows the reverse. And to Brian Warrick (10 January), as part of the ‘Yes’ campaign, my ‘ilk’ achieved a resounding result within our shire in the face of a highly orchestrated negative campaign by Peter Dutton, Fox News, social media outlets and susceptible conspiracists under the influence of similar

far-right-wing politics. And, despite another circulated myth, we were not being paid for it.

Sue McLeod
Myocum

Self promotion
I, like correspondents Kate Smorty and Tony Christy (Letters, 17 January), took serious issue with the use of taxpayers money by Justine Elliot to advertise her ‘success’ in securing the future of Feros residents. I wrote to Justine Elliot seeking an explanation and received in return, a copy of a joint media statement issued in conjunction with Steve Kamper of the NSW government. I replied to that

correspondence as follows: ‘The media release provided does little to allay my concerns. This was a simple tender process that was finalised with the good fortune of an independent applicant, skilled in the industry, being successful. This was common knowledge in the area. I fail to see how either MP has done anything more than their job and then use taxpayer funds to boastfully remind us of that event. ‘I dislike “spin” because all it demonstrates is a lack of confidence within the identity regarding their own performance. ‘We need “rubber to the road” not rhetoric in this country at the moment. ► **Continued opposite**

► From previous page
I hope Ms Elliot can find an initiative she can rightly claim as her own in the near future.'

To date I have not had a reply nor do I expect one to be truthful – what can she say?

Currently we have too many examples in government across the country, federal, state and local, where a plethora have been elected on false promises and a subsequent lack of action. This, by majority, is our fault.

My hope is that when we get to choose our representatives in the future, it will not be based on ideology, the party they represent, or the promises provided that will see them elected.

Rather, I hope the successful candidates will have a demonstrable track record in achievement, results consistent with a 'rubber to the road' philosophy and a zero score on the BS meter. The party they belong to is of little relevance to me.

Stephen McIlhatton
Skennars Head

Weed warfare now

Cestrum nocturnum, commonly known as night-flowering jasmine, is in full flower in our region. In many areas it is a notifiable weed because it out performs



Time to take action on *Cestrum nocturnum*, commonly known as night-flowering jasmine. Photo supplied

natural ecosystems.

It is incredibly fast growing, up to four metres in height in a year, and the tubular flowers quickly transform into green and white berries and it can be seen on many verges and roadsides.

At the very least, please break off branches now to prevent seed formation but ideally it needs to be removed or cut and painted with half-strength glyphosate.

It invades bushland and paddocks and over the past few years has thrived and spread.

Unfortunately it is sold at some big store nurseries but please don't buy it!

The flowers have an awful sickly perfume and the leaves when crushed smell

unpleasant and the foliage is known to be toxic to cattle.

Right now, when it's flowering and growing rapidly is the time to deal with it to restrict its spread so please, help restrict it now.

Carole Gamble
Mullumbimby

'Extreme Greens'

Dear Paul, Clearly you are not seeing the writing on the wall, both in regard to intensifying climate change, and the inevitability of the end of native forest logging in NSW (Letters, 17 January).

Native forests are currently the only positive mechanism by which carbon is being drawn from the atmosphere. They are also huge water stores, and of course, essential habitat for

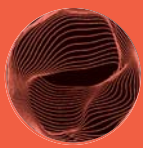
wildlife. You must be aware we are in an extinction crisis.

Paul, we need every stick of native forest we can lay our hands on. Have you noticed the heat this summer? And it's going to get hotter and hotter. How do you think it's going to be for your children, and their children in even 20 years' time?

Native forests need to be left alone to get on with what they do best while there's still enough of them to make a difference. Logging them is the opposite of that. Citing the consumers desire for 'quality Australian hardwood' just doesn't cut it, Paul. That's worth all the lives that are lost to climate change, is it? All the island nations that are going to completely lose everything? All the lives that have been lost, and the millions that will be. All the damage and loss and heartache of bushfires? All so that Australians can have hardwood floors in their houses?

You would be doing better by your members to be encouraging them to take the help that is available, and retrain for another industry, rather than encouraging them in an unwinnable fight.

Virginia White
Goonellabah

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Echo**Propoganda, opinion, truth? Responding to the AJA**

■ I live in Byron Bay and always look forward to reading *The Echo*. I was beyond shocked and horrified at seeing the Zionist propaganda advertisement on page 5 by the Australian Jewish Association (AJA). I certainly didn't expect this in a Northern Rivers local newspaper.

As a non-practising Jewish woman who is completely appalled at what is happening in Gaza, due to the actions of Israeli leaders and IDF, I'm so disappointed with your choice to accept this advertisement.

Gaza has been under control by Israel for a very long time. They control all access into and out of Gaza with multiple checkpoints for children, women and men. The IDF shoots children throwing stones at them.

I don't condone the actions of Hamas on 7 October, 2023. Killing civilians is not okay. However, the claims of beheading, rape and burning babies are not verified. Israel's response was, and is, reprehensible and repugnant. Indiscriminate bombing of civilians and infrastructure is against humanitarian laws. Israel are committing war crimes and genocide against a race of people displaced in 1948 and harassed since then.

Entire families have been wiped out. Journalists, UN aid workers and medical staff are being killed by the IDF. No one is safe in Gaza.

The occupied (by Israel) West Bank is also an unsafe place for Palestinians to live, work and play. Settlers use violence to displace Palestinians from their homes and agricultural land.

To condone Israel is to condone genocide.

Linda Teese
 Byron Bay

■ After seeing so much incorrect information in the media about Israelis and Palestinians, and the rise in Jew hatred, I was pleased to see *The Echo* give space to the advertisement placed by The Australian Jewish Association (AJA).

The many Israelis and Australian Jews who contribute in so many positive ways to the Byron region are entitled to have the truth told, and live without fear.

On 7 October gleeful Palestinian terrorists broke a ceasefire by raping, mutilating and murdering innocent, peaceful Israeli citizens. Many of the terrorists had been given well paid work by

the people they raped and murdered.

The Hamas charter calls for the death of all Jews. And this objective is more important to Hamas than the wellbeing of Palestinians.

Hundreds of millions of dollars of aid have lined the pockets of terrorist leaders. The cries to Free Palestine empower the terrorist Hamas regime.

Sure, the Israeli government is not perfect. But Israelis and Jews around the world (including Byron) are entitled to live without fear.

To improve the lives of Palestinians, the world must work with Israel to free Gaza from Hamas. Free the hostages. Free Gaza from Hamas and all terrorist groups. Give peace a chance.

Henry Kalus
 Surfers Paradise

■ I'm disappointed to see the half-page ad in your recent print edition (17 January), which makes a range of inaccurate claims about Palestine and Palestinian people, from the incomplete view of history from the Nakba to present, to the denial of the occupation of Gaza, to the outright genocidal claim that 'Hamas is 100% responsible for all Gazan deaths'.

A complete fact-check and counterargument to the false claims made in the ad would take up too much space for a letter to the editor, and I am hoping this letter will be published, so I'll focus solely on the claim that Hamas is responsible for all of the deaths in Gaza. 7 October 2023 happened in the context of a violent and rigid blockade of Gaza, and 75+ years of dispossession and apartheid. The Israeli government and military, and those who fund them (including the Australian government) are responsible for the deaths in Gaza.

The 65,000+ tonnes of bombs dropped by the Israeli military, more than three times the weight and power of Hiroshima, are responsible for the deaths in Gaza. The systemic dehumanisation of Palestinians through decades of propaganda is responsible for the deaths in Gaza.

Rowan Rose
 Lismore

■ The baffling ad placed on page 5 titled 'Hamas War Crimes' is actually very childish and reeks of desperation.

I am neither Jewish nor Muslim and have no affiliations with the Middle East region. I certainly

have opinions about this conflict; but being a peace-loving humanitarian, I am vehemently opposed to all violence and war-mongering – let alone an indisputable genocide.

I cannot for the life of me understand why *The Echo* would agree to publish this childish garbage, hence dragging down the tone of your publication. What is this article, posing as an 'ad', trying to achieve? We're all able to see what's going on from all the highly qualified international journalists and reporters, the live streaming on social media, the submission by South Africa to the ICJ, the endless media interviews with just about everybody, the self-incriminating posts by the IDF, as well as the handful of surviving Gazan press members who have thus far miraculously avoided execution, unlike 114 of their beloved colleagues. People will make up their own minds without half-baked nonsense like this.

'Totally unprovoked' doesn't cut it anymore. We're all up to speed on the last 75 years plus, particularly the last 16 years. I'm just curious to know how much one pays to have such rubbish included under the guise of an ad. And what does it expect in response? #cease-fire now. #freepalestine

Fiona Sullivan
 Mullumbimby Creek

■ As an Australian-Israeli who grew up in Israel, my life has been indelibly marked by the ongoing conflict with Gaza. It's a reality that's hard to convey to those who haven't experienced it – the sudden wail of sirens, the rush to find shelter, and the lingering fear that follows each rocket attack. These are not just news stories; they are fragments of our everyday life.

The rocket attacks from Gaza have become a dreaded part of the existence of Israel's southern citizens. Each siren heralds a potential disaster, rockets landing on cities and villages, threatening the lives of ordinary people. The psychological impact is profound. We live with the constant awareness that a normal day can turn into a nightmare within seconds. It's a strain that affects everyone – from the elderly, who remember the birth of our nation, to the children, who should never have to know such fear. For us, Hamas is not just a political entity; it's a direct threat

to our lives and peace.

It's important to contextualise the situation. Gaza has been independently governed since Israel's disengagement in 2005. This move was supposed to be a step towards peace, but for many of us in Israel, it didn't bring the respite we hoped for. Instead, we've seen Hamas, a group labelled as a terrorist organisation by many nations, take control and perpetuate a cycle of violence.

Hamas is widely recognized as a radical Islamist organisation. Its ideological foundation is deeply rooted in a specific interpretation of Islam. The organisation's charter, explicitly blends religious motifs with its political agenda, making it clear that its goals and methods are significantly influenced by its extreme religious beliefs. The assertion that Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza would lead to peace is incorrect. Such a withdrawal will result in Hamas gaining strength. Hamas, which has declared its commitment to the destruction of Israel, will use the opportunity to consolidate power and prepare for further confrontations.

While the international community calls for a ceasefire, we, the people living under constant threat, often feel that these calls don't fully grasp the complexity of our reality. The conditions set for peace, such as the release of hostages and the dismantling of Hamas, seem distant when faced with the immediate threat of the next rocket attack.

Today, the European Parliament published a decision to call for a permanent ceasefire provided all hostages are immediately and unconditionally released and the terrorist organisation Hamas is dismantled. This decision amplifies the necessity to recognise that without dismantling Hamas there will be no peace. Ever.

As an Australian-Israeli, my perspective is inevitably shaped by my experiences. The desire for peace is universal among my people, but it's tempered by the harsh realities of a conflict that has raged for too long. We yearn for a day when the sirens fall silent, and the threat of rockets and terror attacks becomes a distant memory. Only then can the true work of building lasting peace in our troubled region begin.

Yuval Refaeli
 Ocean Shores

Fighting for survival in the Israel–Gaza conflict

Lynne Richardson, Tony Christy, Leonie De Dreux-Crawford, Roy Drew and Professor Richard Hil

Respected by many, the Australian Jewish Association (AJA) is an organisation ostensibly committed to authentic Torah values. These include peace, justice, and compassion. However, the advertisement in *The Echo* dated 17 January is not in keeping with any of these moral principles. It is in fact highly emotive, and misleading.

Hamas is thunderously proclaimed through its ‘war crimes’ to be ‘100% responsible for all Gazan deaths’.

Binary paradigm

It is surprising to read the AJA’s account of the ongoing tragedy in Gaza and the West Bank in such facile, erroneous terms. Difficult, too, to imagine a more inflammatory counterfactual contemporary history and coda if a peaceful, lasting ceasefire for all is ever to be achieved. The Association’s reductionist view of responsibility, along with its simplistic binary paradigm of Arabs opposed to Jews, is repudiated in this Shire, all over Australia, and around the world by people who profoundly disagree with it. This includes Jews,

of course, as well as gentiles.

Currently, more than 30 Palestinians have been killed for each Israeli death on 7 October, 2023. If Hamas committed war crimes killing 764 civilians, up to 400 Israeli soldiers, with evidence of rape and mutilation by some extreme militants, why is it also not an ‘unquestionable’ war crime when Israel has systematically terrorised and killed more than 25,000 civilians so far since its invasion of Gaza? Approximately 400 others have also died in the West Bank. More than 70 per cent of those killed are women and children. Killed by what Israeli journalist, Yuval Abraham, has described as a ‘mass assassination factory’, using Power Targets and AI in ‘Operation Iron Swords’. This violence, on both sides, has to be condemned in no uncertain terms.

According to the World Health Organisation which has repeatedly called for a ceasefire on humanitarian grounds, 93 per cent of Gazans survivors are facing further deaths from starvation, disease, and exposure. Around 300,000 of these people exist in an area less than two thirds the size of Byron Shire, and a very small corner in that. Where is the proportionate



response, the justice, still less compassion, in all of this? How much more retributive killing is demanded by the Netanyahu government in what is amounting to Israel’s prosecution of ‘total war’? A reputable organisation like the AJA should be assisting crisis resolution, not compromising it.

Blockades and invasions

Context is everything. It predates 7 October. The Jewish Association has claimed in the text that Israel handed over the keys to the Palestinians in Gaza in 2005.

A scorched earth policy is not mentioned, neither the construction of the Iron Wall, nor that Israel has invaded Gaza many times since. It has blockaded Gaza from 2006 after Hamas’ victory in the elections which were recognised

internationally. The AJA is silent too on Israel’s own initial support for the organisation. Former British PM David Cameron, now the current foreign minister, has correctly described Gaza as a prison camp. Inadequate access to food, medicine and other resources has caused systematic malnutrition and suffering for decades.

Israel has broken international law since 1967. Despite all attempts of the various Israeli and largely Western governments to discredit Hamas, as well as the AJA’s denial of its counter-offers, Hamas has made numerous conciliatory overtures for peace. These most recently were in 2006, 2008, 2012 and 2017, based on the internationally recognised borders. In contrast, former US president Jimmy Carter has commented that various Netanyahu governments have consistently undermined all attempts to realise a sustainable peace. Yitzhak Rabin, the only Israeli PM to seriously work towards a peaceful settlement, was assassinated by an Israeli fundamentalist in 1995. Pictures of this assassin now adorn the wall in the office of one of the ministers. Netanyahu’s current government is the most extreme in Israel’s history.

Who is the victim?

Given the Israeli military is recognised as the fourth most powerful in the world, its nuclear arsenal, the unconditional support enjoyed from the US and its allies including, shamefully, Australia, there is an absolute imbalance of power. Yet Israel always proclaims itself to be the victim. This when more than 750,000 Palestinians were dispossessed and made refugees in the events and massacres of the Nakba in 1948.

The conflict stems from territorial imperatives. Israel has illegally occupied both Gaza and the West Bank most of the time since 1967. It claims to be ‘acting in self-defence’ but, as noted in the recent hearing before the International Court of Justice, its actions are not legitimate given the illegal occupation.

Palestinian Arabs are fighting for their survival. To hold Hamas 100 per cent responsible for all Gazan deaths is absurd given the long historical roots of this conflict and the use of 2,000 pound bunker busting bombs to obliterate Gaza and its people back to the Stone Age. A sustainable peace, giving both the Israelis and Palestinians a future, can only be secured with a ceasefire and the establishment of a sovereign homeland for the Palestinians.

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The Girl Who Cried Wolfe

Cry ‘Wolfe’ for boutique styling and grazing tables for your events: from intimate weddings to luxe picnics.

After some time out to welcome her third daughter into the world, Joanna Wolfe from ‘The Girl Who Cried Wolfe’ is ready to get creative again by doing what she does best.

The Girl Who Cried Wolfe is a boutique styling and grazing business that originated in Sydney in 2017. After close to five years of operation in Sydney, Joanna and her family relocated to Currumbin in mid 2022.

‘It was a huge risk to relocate an established business, but the pull for a better lifestyle and being closer to family was strong. The last few years haven’t exactly been smooth sailing... Covid, a relocation and a pregnancy have definitely been a rollercoaster, but we are so excited to start creating magic in this beautiful part of Australia,’ says Joanna.

The Girl Who Cried Wolfe focuses on immaculately styled tables, grazing food and florals; perfect for micro-weddings, ladies’ lunches and celebratory gatherings with family and friends. In addition, they also offer luxe picnics and platters for delivery.

A proven perfectionist with a keen eye for detail, Joanna will go above and beyond to create something truly magical for your special event.

‘Our partnerships with food providers mean that we can offer the most amazing high-end cheeses and gourmet treats. We go out of our way to ensure all the beautiful finishing touches are included on your grazing tables! It’s all



that elusive point of difference for your event. We’re always adding exciting new finds to our range so that we can continue to offer you the highest quality and the most unique original styling,’ says Joanna.

‘We’d love to chat and hear about your vision for your special event. For us, no two events are ever the same – from rustic and organic, to whimsical garden parties, or Moroccan-inspired styling. We love exploring different looks and working with our customers to determine what best suits your personal taste.’

■ Reach out through their ‘Contact us’ page or via jo@thegirlwhocriedwolfe.com and they will provide you with a tailored quote. Instagram: [@thegirlwhocriedwolfe](https://www.instagram.com/thegirlwhocriedwolfe) www.thegirlwhocriedwolfe.com

in the detail! We source rugs, accessories and other homewares from around the globe and from our favourite local brands in order to provide you with

Quench your thirst at Mullum and New Brighton farmers’ markets

Victoria Cosford

It’s going to be a long hot summer. The big hats and the cool caps can be seen bobbing amongst the crowds at the markets, and it’s no surprise where the longest queues are as customers seek to stay hydrated. Monty’s, of course, with his big punnets of fat, red, juicy strawberries but also, especially for the young, his ice-blocks in mango and strawberry, blends of both, or with honey and banana and passionfruit. Children love as well the fruit flats in rainbows of bright colours, like works of art, but in addition there are ice creams (strawberry, mango, passionfruit), chocolate-coated strawberries and chocolate-coated mango...

If you can tear your brood away there’s plenty of refreshment found elsewhere. Call in at the Rancho stall for freshly poured lime or mandarin drinks, chilled and refreshing, from their organic orchard – or you can

purchase a bottle of their handmade freshly squeezed cordials, like the award-winning lime, or the vibrant mandarin, or the elderflower.

More cordials can be found at Bec Barnes’ Playing With Fire stall where her large range of bottled beverages, made from seasonal native fruits, includes the super-popular finger lime, Illawarra plum, ooray plum and wild rosella drinks. She also sells herbal teas and herbal bush teas in packs to take away: rosella and lemon myrtle, strawberry gum and cinnamon myrtle.

Other World dispenses glorious fresh juices like the easy greens, made from certified organic ingredients, as well as heavenly, wholesome smoothies – try the blueberry blast! – and from Byron Cane Juice (only at Mullum) you can



pick up a raw juice flavoured with ginger or mint or passionfruit. Not only are these low in sugar and high in sweetness, but they also cleanse the liver and aid digestion – and at this time of year who couldn’t benefit from that?

■ Monty’s, Rancho Playing With Fire and Other World Wholefoods are at New Brighton every Tuesday, 8–11am, and Mullumbimby every Friday, 7–11am.



Mullum Chocolate Shop also has gelato

Have you heard the news? Mullum has gelato! Ramp up your summer holiday fun and head over to The Mullumbimby Chocolate Shop (aka The Lolly Shop) and cool off with some refreshing award-winning gelato and sorbet. With 18 everchanging flavours on offer, you won’t be disappointed. Perfect for a hot summer day.

The Mullumbimby Chocolate Shop offers a wide range of chocolates to suit every taste from old-fashioned freckles to chocolate bars, chocolate-covered fruits and nuts, marzipan, Belgian cherry liqueurs and the finest artisan gourmet chocolate pralines and truffles.

While you’re there be sure to check out their old-fashioned chocolate and lolly bar where you can choose from over 100 lollies! They also offer slushies and liquorice, as well as that great selection of lollies.

There are plenty of organic, gluten-free, dairy-free and sugar-free options too at the Mullumbimby Chocolate Shop. As they say: ‘See you at the sweetest shop in town!’

■ The Mullumbimby Chocolate Shop is at 1/104 Dalley St, Mullumbimby. More info: mullumbimbychocolateshop.com.au



HAPPY HOUR

5-6PM

NO BONES

\$14 COCKTAILS
\$8 SCHOONERS
\$9 NATURAL WINES

7 NIGHTS A WEEK
NOBONES.CO

BRUSSELS BEERS

Byron Arts & Industry Estate



1. BYRON ELECTRIC LASER TATTOO REMOVAL

Discover Byron's premier tattoo removal studio located in a warehouse within the Arts & Industry Estate, offering private, by-appointment sessions. With more than 13 years of tattoo industry expertise, they use top-tier medical-grade Quanta System lasers and specialise in full-colour removal and fading. Safe, affordable, and friendly. Expect exceptional results.

Your journey to a clean slate begins here.
Mention this ad for a 20 percent discount!

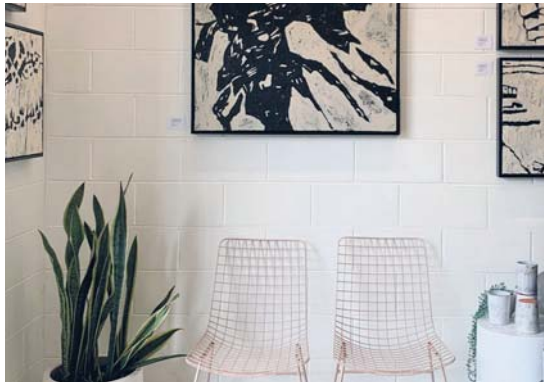
Warehouse 5/59 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
0406 188 060
info@byrontattooremoval.com.au
www.byrontattooremoval.com.au
@ byrontattooremoval



2. BODY LANGUAGE BYRON BAY

Body Language opens January 29 for a week of workshops, before launching weekly classes: Latin (Rumba, Forró, Kizomba), pole and heels, youth and adult hiphop, barre, dance cross-training, Bosu balance + core control, strength + conditioning, mobility, fascia release, and yoga. Founder and local Brianna Pearl has created a space to bring the community together through movement, play, connection and expression.

3/12 Tasman Way, Byron Bay
0432 780 655
www.bodylanguagebyronbay.as.me
@ bodylanguagebyronbay
FB: @bodylanguagebyronbay



3. ART KIND BYRON BAY

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

Open Tues–Fri 10am–2pm, Sat 9am–1pm.

3/18 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
0404 946 553
www.artkind.com.au
@ artkindbyronbay



4. REBAR

Rebar's newest açaí and protein smoothie specialty store has opened in Byron's Arts & Industry Estate. Joining the first shop on Jonson Street, owned by long-time locals, Rebar @ The Industrial gives you the choice of crafting your own açaí cup or fuelling up with a carefully selected protein and power smoothies menu where every blend is a burst of health and nutrition.

Bayshore Drive. Opposite BBBM, between Tigmi Trading and Jack the Snipper.
@ @RebarByronBay
FB: @ RebarByronBay



5. BYRON BAY CAMPING & DISPOSALS

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

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

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

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

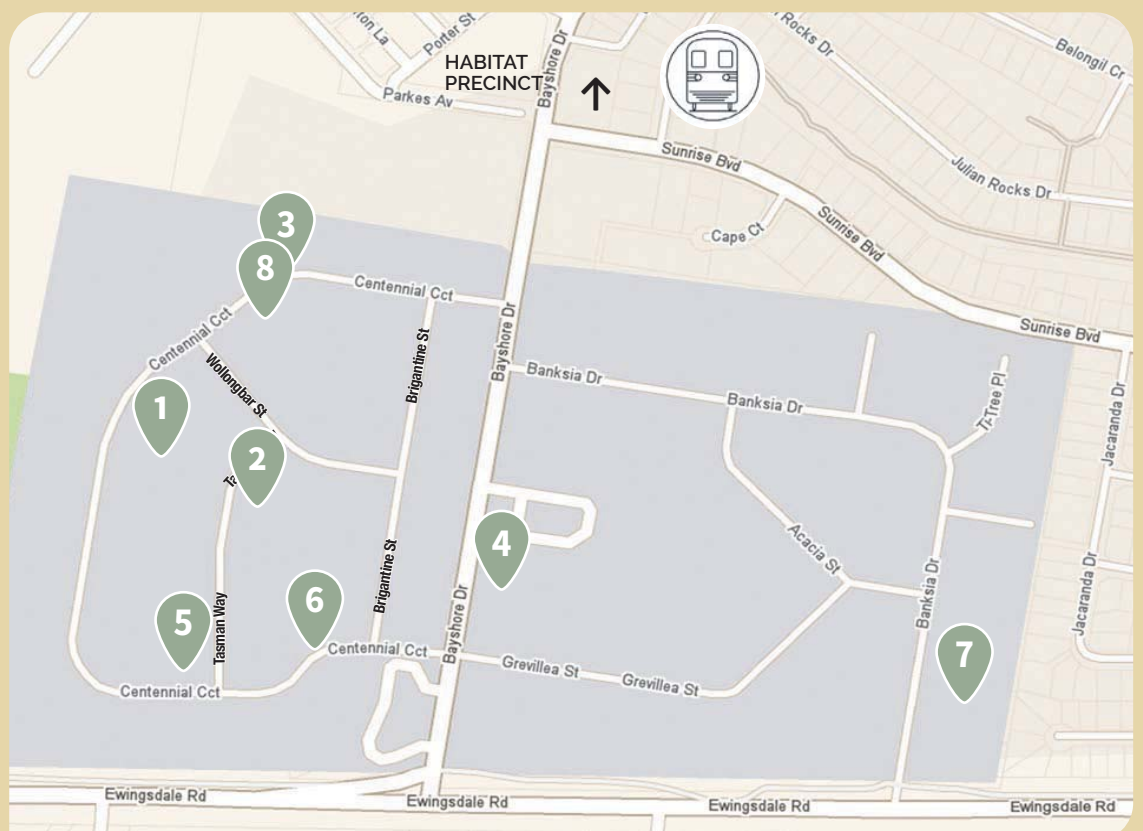


6. McTAVISH SURFBOARDS

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

Surfboard Factory, Surf Shop & Cafe
91 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
www.mctavish.com.au
@ mctavishsurf

Byron Arts & Industry Estate



Habitat Precinct

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

Over 20 years in the making, Habitat combines the best of old-school Byron (community, creativity, respect for the environment)

with the latest in design and thinking (renewable energy, car sharing, hybrid live + work spaces) along with plenty of good times (bars, cafes, fitness, shopping) to create a little oasis within one of the most beautiful places on Earth.

Habitat Precinct



11. BYRON FAMILY LAW

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

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



12. EASY STREET

Have you visited the newest part of Habitat yet?

Easy Street is an award-winning precinct that's home to a beautiful collection of independent stores including Byron Bay Hanging Chairs, MCM House and Vègètalment Salon.

There's also yummy snacks at B Smoothie Bar, renowned for their epic smoothies. It's got all the style you love without the hassle of going into town.

Easy Street, Byron Bay



13. ASTRID DISPENSARY AND CLINIC

Astrid Dispensary and Clinic is a boutique pharmacy and clinic pioneering in cannabinoid medicines, plant therapies and nutraceuticals at Habitat Byron Bay. Contact the friendly Astrid team to discuss natural medicines and book your free consultation

Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm
Suites 57-58/1 Porter St, Byron Bay
02 7908 4459
@astrid.health
www.astrid.health



9. BYRON BABY

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

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

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



10. DEPARTMENT OF SIMPLE THINGS

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

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

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



7. SHACK PALACE

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

Currently open weekdays, 10am-4pm.

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



8. CIRCUS ARTS

Circus Arts boasts a massive indoor training space offering drop-in classes, full terms, courses and workshops suitable for beginner-advanced, as well as self-training with a variety of fun apparatus to play on.

Kick off 2024 with them!

Open Day - 50% off full term classes: 29 January.

02 6685 6566

info@circusarts.com.au
www.circusarts.com.au
www.echo.net.au

making SPACES

Powering spaces: off-grid solar systems at scale

Rainbow Power Company has just completed its latest off-grid solar collaboration with Goroka Baptist Bible College (GBBC) in Papua New Guinea.

Faced with persistent grid outages and rising diesel costs, GBBC wanted a renewable energy solution that reduced their power costs and environmental impact whilst increasing reliability.

Rainbow Power installed an off-grid containerised SolVA system, designed and made locally at their Nimbin HQ. Engineered within a climate-controlled shipping container, this system offers three days of autonomy.

Large enough to power the equivalent of up to ten energy efficient households (using 10 kWh per day), it allows for future expansion.

Get in touch with Rainbow Power Company to see how they can help you power on in your space.

02 6689 1430 | www.rpc.com.au



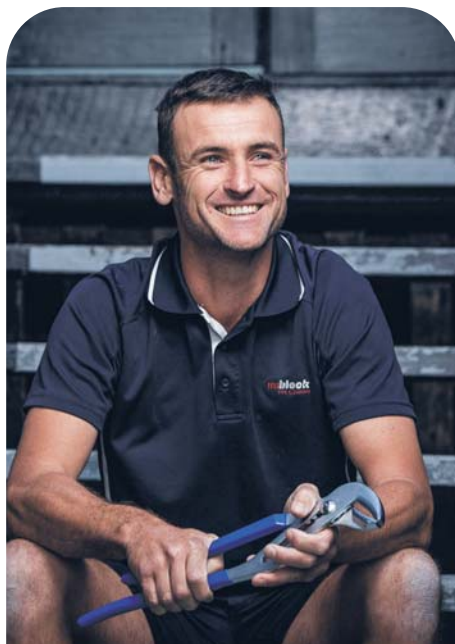
Why choose Unblock Pipe Clearing?

Unlike Unblock Pipe Clearing, many plumbers don't have the latest technology, equipment or experience that comes with specialising in clearing blocked pipes and drains, but for Unblock Pipe Clearing. 'It is what they do, all day every day.'

The equipment allows them to accurately locate, identify and fix the issue correctly the first time. They don't just fix the issue, they will give you a warranty on most jobs!

Being a local, family-run business, you can be assured that they will take care of your best interests.

**Phone James on:
0429 888 683**



Osteo support mattress at Beds R Us Byron Bay

In a recent study conducted by the Better Sleep Council, a remarkable 80% of participants identified comfort and back support as the crucial features in selecting a mattress.

Beds R Us Byron Bay, renowned for their commitment to optimal sleep solutions, take particular pride in their osteo support mattress collection. The Sleepyhead Pure Balance Recapture distinguishes itself by offering unparalleled comfort and support. This Australian-made mattress, endorsed by Osteopathy Australia, integrates advanced technology for pressure relief and improved sleep quality. Available in firm, medium or plush, you can effortlessly find the ideal balance of support and comfort. The Pure Balance Recapture caters to individual preferences, blending the best of both worlds for a revitalising night's sleep.

**Cnr of Wollongbar & Brigantine Sts, Byron Industrial Estate
02 6685 5212**



Eden at Byron

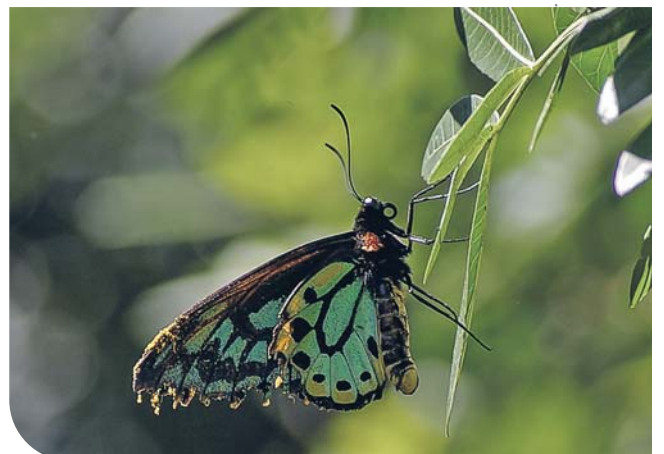
Australia has over 24,000 species of native plants, and about 85% of them are endemic.

Australian native plants are a diverse group, thanks to the extraordinary range of climatic conditions and soil types in this country. Plants have adapted to survive in environments ranging from coastal heath, through rainforest to the arid outback.

So, wherever you are, there will be many native plants that will happily grow in your garden. Native plants are not only beautiful and productive, but they are essential for the survival of our native animals. While many native animals will happily feed on introduced species, some, like the larvae of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, will not.

Visit Eden at Byron to explore the great range of native plants suitable for our climate.

140 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay | 02 6685 6874



No to STRUTH, Yes to TRUTH

On 26 January 1788 the first fleet came ashore in Sydney Cove, Port Jackson. Captain Arthur Phillip raised the Union Jack and declared sovereignty over half of Australia.

That day marked the beginning of the interruption, capture and subsequent colonisation of a continuous culture that had existed for 65,000 years. A culture that predates the modern human settlement of Europe and the Americas.

On 26 January we celebrate 236 years. It's like celebrating a single grain of sand instead of the entire beach. If we are going to celebrate colonisation we need to face up to the ugly stories of what our ancestors did. Not just about what was stolen, but how. Because some of us are the beneficiaries of what was stolen while others inherit generational trauma.

We need to know the story of what white colonials did. Not just the places they 'discovered', stole, and settled. But the murders. The poisonings. The massacres. The hard, brutal truth. There is blood on our flag, and generations on, there is still blood on our hands. It does not wash away with beer.

It is hard to give an exact figure for the number of Indigenous people who were massacred by settlers. A massacre, by definition is the deliberate and unlawful killing of six or more undefended people in one operation. As of 2022, the number of documented massacres of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People is over 412. There are at least 26 recorded instances of mass poisonings. The problem is that for the most part the colonisers recorded the history. There are many gaps that need filling.

It's estimated that well over 60,000 Aboriginal people were killed over the course of settlement. Pre-colonisation there were over 750 different language groups, only around 150 survive today. Indigenous people were removed from their native lands, massacred, assimilation policies were introduced, and children were stolen from their families. We have been living through or adjacent to genocide. Our history,

Australia's history is not the one I learnt at school. We have been lied to. And until we tell the truth, this nation's story is a lie.

the one we celebrate on 26 January includes genocide. It makes the dinky-di Aussie in a flag cape obscene.

Genocide is defined as 'the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim to destroying that group.' As defined by international law, Australia has engaged in genocide. There are countless stories and photographs of white Australia's history. There are so many massacres. Australia's history is not the one I learnt at school. We have been lied to. And until we tell the truth, this nation's story is a lie.

26 January is painful. Indigenous people talk about 26 January as 'our Anzac Day'. And it wasn't just that flag at Sydney Cove. This date is also a day of mourning for Gamilaroi people for another massacre.

On 26 January 1838 over 200 Aboriginal people camping at Waterloo Creek

were murdered. Just before June that same year, over 30 of the Wirraayaraay people were murdered at Myall Creek by a group of convicts and a former settler. The final death toll was never confirmed. While these perpetrators were captured and hanged, most were rarely punished.

The death toll continues. There have been 558 Indigenous deaths in custody since the Royal Commission.

Until we engage in truth-telling, nothing changes.

I didn't know these stories growing up. I wish I did. We don't tell these stories because they are shocking and shameful. But they are the truth. I love this country. I don't want to celebrate the brutality and the violence. But I do want to acknowledge it. I want to listen. I want to learn. And most of all, I want us to find another date to celebrate our nationhood. To own up to our foundation story.

And to be better. That's the Australia I want to live in. That's the Australia I want to celebrate.

Even Woolies gets it. Aldi gets it. Kmart gets it. Most of this country gets it. There's a reason the merch isn't selling.

Because we can't sell the lies anymore. We want truth.

Show up in solidarity with First Nations communities committed to truth-telling. Main Beach, Byron Bay. 11am-3pm, 26 January.

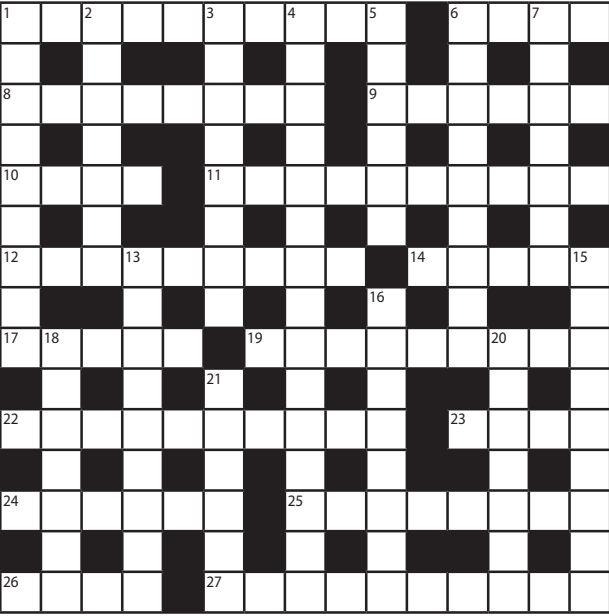


MANDY NOLAN'S
SOAPBOX

www.echo.net.au/soap-box



Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #527



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Rob Dreyfus performs – he rides the waves! (10)
- Tears into dangerous currents (4)
- Stud horse's last fling: Jungle King ... (8)
- ...services a thousand donkeys! (6)
- Look back lecherously at the dance (4)
- Bogey – never a poor result (3,4,3)
- A thousand succeeded, backing new following – we'll be famous! (4-5)
- Celebrity queen snake (5)
- Medico with popular potassium – imbibe! (5)
- Disagreement about job notice (9)
- Mad appeals for thyroid gland (5,5)
- Eucalypts returned, self-satisfied (4)
- Exercise – return fish and fruit (6)
- Left role, indeed (8)
- Does badly with poems (4)
- Bosses earn derision – Margaret Thatcher for one! (10)

DOWN

- Scattered, the finest repented, it's said (9)
- Loaded a scam – Trump's mantra (2,1,4)
- Abbreviated credit unions devised – but they're a myth! (8)
- Penis blunder? Few worries for deadly Australian! (6-3-6)
- About the change – take it away! (6)
- Holding back, relax over drill (9)
- Get ready for wild rapper, English (7)
- List men in order for rubbing oils (9)
- Rebels, revokes about notice (9)
- Pa, repent effusively – he never grew up! (5,3)
- Bluey, progressive boss (7)
- Popular pals in jail (7)
- Account at the pub: ban the tote! (3,3)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- He throws himself onto the crowd (10)
- Rends (4)
- Rocky Balboa's nickname, The Italian ... (8)
- The common people of a society (6)
- Spool (4)
- Bogey (3,4,3)
- Prominent; familiar (4-5)
- Cobra (5)
- Quaff (5)
- Protestation (9)
- Laryngeal prominence (5,5)
- Complacent (4)
- Edible kernel enclosed in a shell (6)
- Deviated (8)
- Verses expressing praise (4)
- Female members of the House of Lords (10)

DOWN

- Sprinkled; broadcast (9)
- Settle the transaction (2,1,4)
- Businesses with value greater than \$1 Billion (8)
- Deadly Sydney arachnid (6-3-6)
- Detach (6)
- Self-control (9)
- Plan; arrangement (7)
- Balms (9)
- Traitors (9)
- Fictional free-spirited boy (5,3)
- Ranga (7)
- Detainees (7)
- Credit arrangement for pub drinks (3,3)

Last week's solution #526



STARS BY LILITH

Change is the name of this week's game as Venus, Mars and Mercury in the sign of worldly activities meet the sun and Pluto moving earth world into the future...



AQUARIUS THE
WATER POURER

ARIES: If life's been a little too serious lately, let playful, creative full moon on 26 January reacquaint you with your flamboyant, fun-loving self. The current transit of Aquarius appreciates originality, one of your major astrological talents, so go on – take a little walk on the wild side this week.

TAURUS: Embracing change has become more of a requirement than ever these days, so as Uranus moves forward in Taurus this week with the message that nothing changes if nothing changes, be willing to take a leap – because there's plenty of magic out there just beyond the comfort zone.

GEMINI: As this week's planetary progression starts extending perspectives from 'me' to 'we', don't be alarmed if people act erratically. Everyone needs time and understanding as the hive mind gradually reassembles and aligns towards creative collaboration, mutual respect, and inspired problem-solving.

CANCER: When this week's full moon brightens our skies on 26 January, its symbolic illumination in your own life highlights the need to get certain things out of your system. Though with egos on parade and outspoken Jupiter opposing secretive Pluto, you'll need to choose your words carefully.

LEO: When annual full moon beams its loud, proud spotlight on 26 January, your majesty's script is likely to require crafting a working balance between giving and receiving, between solo operating and the collective. Consider your way of shining – how does it reflect on others?

VIRGO: This week's empowering planetary sync-up of motivator Mars and innovator Uranus in fellow earth signs supports out-of-the-box thinking and decisive action. It also suggests that savvy financial strategies set up between now and mid-year are likely to bloom from June onwards.

LIBRA: When your cosmic compass Venus moves this week into the sign of ambition, prestige and success, it's time to let go of any past disappointments holding you back. Venus is advising that partnering up could achieve something profitable, so it's worthwhile considering a strategic alliance.

SCORPIO: In this time of deep divides when the goalposts keep shifting, Mercury is currently emphasising that real communication is an exchange of ideas, energy and resources, while full moon on 26 January asks if it is time to share with others what you've been keeping to yourself?

SAGITTARIUS: Networking is your smartest economic strategy this year, during which the hard sell is likely to be less successful than the softer variety. If current circumstances are propelling you out of your usual groove, then relish the surge of creativity that arises when you're painted into a corner.

CAPRICORN: Uranus shifting direction in the sign of material security has quite disruptive potential this week, and the celestial trio of Venus, Mars and Mercury in Capricorn suggest the best methods of staying in balance would be reducing screen time, connecting with nature and exercising your creative talents.

AQUARIUS: What will Pluto's move into Aquarius do for you personally? Eliminate what's no longer working in your life, and rebuild a more sustainable understanding of the world around you. You might start by getting choosier with commitments and declining invitations that aren't the best use of your time.

PISCES: This week's astral energetics in your zone of closure are ideal for clearing the decks in readiness for Pisces' upcoming month in the sun. So where to begin? Perhaps with an internal detox of old concepts, passe behaviours and autopilot responses crowding your mind space and energy field.

seven



TWILIGHT JAPANESE POP-UP PICNIC AND DANCE

Byron Taiko is hosting **Tribal Dance**, a twilight Japanese pop-up picnic dinner and live music event in Lennox Head. This will be a wholly interactive experience at **Lake Ainsworth Sports & Rec Centre** on Saturday.

Everyone is welcome to join in this collaborative, family fun event which includes a circle ceremony, drums and didgeridoo, and cultural music/dance workshops. Enjoy the sound of the waves and dance barefoot on the grass with the tribal drum beats and a dance DJ.

Tribal didgeridoo artist Glenn will share a First Nation language song, join in with clapsticks/handclaps as Taiko Drums build the beat into sonic landscapes with body movement, hands and voice all coming together.

Dance fusion drummer Elliott Afro will lead the Taiko drummers. **Yuta Kato** from California will be part of the Taiko performance – Yuta was principal of the Los

Angeles Taiko Institute (LATI) for ten years. He now travels around the world as a freelance Taiko instructor, performing as UnitOne/US, enriching the global Taiko community.

Rites of Dance DJ Mark will flow on with tribal drum beats, then Zen Sound Healing wrap up the evening.

Rhythm and dance can boost your energy levels – this is an amazing experience to open your mind and shake off stress.

Let go and find your flow in this creation of new-world collaborative music.

Adult admission is \$40 and includes workshops and a Ebiya Kitchen bento-box.

Family ticket is \$100 for four bentos – youth and kids workshop admission is free.

Doors open 4pm on Saturday.

Get your tickets at trybooking.com.



COUNTRY AND WESTERN'S CROCKETT

The country and western superstar returns to Australia after his mind-blowing sold-out shows here in early 2023. The Man from Waco, **Charley Crockett**, will deliver a scorching night of country classics – oozing Americana and drenched in timeless classic tales. Charley's neo-traditional country swagger lassos the listener into dreamlike nostalgic westerns of wandering, whiskey, and the wild, wild west. Look out Byron Bay – he's on his way!

On the back of releasing 'That's What Makes The World Go Around', Charley's barnstorming duet with beloved redheaded stranger, Willie Nelson, the Texan legend will set the country ablaze with his smouldering ballads and razor-sharp songs this summer.

His latest album is the best live album to be released in 2023, recorded *Live At The Ryman*, the LP radiates Charley and his band's energy at the historic Nashville venue, capturing the dreamlike vibes and raw talent of one of the most exciting contemporary cowboys of today.

Crockett and his band, The Blue Drifters, head to Australia this summer and are set to ignite Byron Bay at The Green Room on January 31.

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

Fans and believers – get prepared for Charley Crockett.

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

Connect your business to 10,000 loyal locals

BayFM sponsorship is the trusted way to reach buyers in Byron and beyond. Whether you sell solar or fix molars, we'll work with you to write, produce and broadcast messages that cut through to your particular market. Talk to Jeff on 0437 884 405 about our competitive rates and fast turnaround or head to bayfm.org



BYRON THEATRE

JANUARY

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



BYRON
THEATRE
.COM

seven

ENTERTAINMENT

THE HOT, STEAMY, WET ANTIDOTE

Hot steamy days and wet nights... yep, it's been a Bruns summer all right – and the **Brunswick Picture House** crew have got the antidote for you – they have started a jam-packed January with a superstar comedy program and the biggest names in showbiz, plus the mother of them all is back!

The Cheeky Cabaret's new summer season has just opened and this one is as riotous, and sexier than ever.

Since opening the Picture House nearly eight years ago, the Cheeky has redefined a night out at the theatre, mixing together circus, comedy, vaudeville, burlesque and everything inbetween. With a new line-up each season, the shows feature an ever-revolving cast of troubadours, miscreants, delectable divas and cabaret queens – leaving the screaming audience spellbound, titillated and gob-smacked.

With 12 more sensational performances over the next three weekends, you'd be mad to miss them. If you think you've seen it all, let them prove you wrong. Good nights out don't get much better than this.

And don't forget the upfront front row 'posh seating' – these seats sell out every time so be sure to get in quick!

And beyond the Cheeky, they have some truly amazing shows coming up over the next few months, many of them produced by local Byron Shire artists and of course, an awesome program of killer shows from international touring artists.

So what are you waiting for? Get off the couch and check out some fantastic live entertainment.

Arrive early and sample some of the delicious cuisine available before the show. **The Kombi Collective** are back with their Cheeky Cocktail Bar in the garden, shaking up cocktails aplenty and serving wine, beer and bubbles for your enjoyment – open one hour before all shows.

Tickets at brunswickpicturehouse.com.

LUKU NGÄRRA: THE LAW OF THE LAND

A free event will be held at Byron Theatre on the evening of Survival Day to celebrate the launch of **Yolŋu Elder Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra's** Truth-Telling Together education movement.

The campaign will inspire all Australians to commit to the journey of educating themselves and others about Indigenous history and culture and to become well-informed about the issues Indigenous Australians face from colonisation.

With over 60 years as a cross-cultural educator and mediator and staunch advocate for Treaty, Dr Gondarra believes through education comes mutual respect, and from there the pathway opens to solutions that are not tokenistic but meaningful and empowering for First Nations people.

There will be a line-up of special guests from across Australia sharing their truth through music, storytelling and poetry as well as the screening of Dr Gondarra's award winning film *Luku Ngärra: The Law of the Land*.

This free event has been sponsored by Our Generation Media and Planet Corrobboree.

Don't miss out, book your seats at the Byron Theatre at www.byroncentre.com.au.

For more information about the campaign please visit www.truthtellingtogether.com

TRIBAL DANCE

POP-UP Japanese Food & Entertainment

@Lake Ainsworth Sport & Rec Centre

27th January 2024

Saturday 4:00 - 8:00 pm

ELLIOTT AFRO

TAIKO DRUMS

DJ MARK

GLENN DIDGE

EBIYA FOOD

TICKET Booking is required

Adult \$40 workshops + 1 Ebiya Bento-box

Family Ticket \$100 4 Bentos, Youth Entry FREE

SPECIAL ARTIST FROM CALIFORNIA YUTA KATO

Tutor of Holiday Music Camp Program for Youth

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THAN THIS**

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MUST END SUN 11 FEB

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FREE EVENT
SURVIVAL DAY / 26th JAN
BYRON THEATRE
6.30PM

free screening & the official launch of

TRUTH TELLING TOGETHER

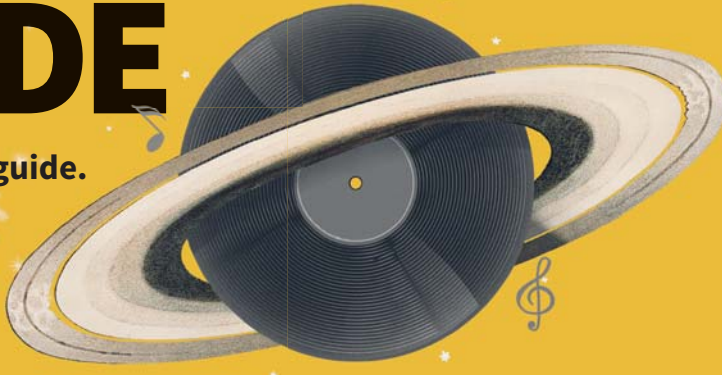
inspired by the life of prolific truth seeker
Rev Dr Djiniyini Gondarra OAM

FILM SCREENING // STORYTELLING
MUSIC // SPOKEN WORD // & MORE

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL
THROUGH BYRON THEATRE

GIG GUIDE

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



WEDNESDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TIM STOKES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **BEN WHITING + GABRIELLE LAMBE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **JEROME WILLIAMS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **JOSH THOMAS**, 8PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7PM **TOM BALLARD & MANDY NOLAN**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **KARAOKE**

THURSDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DONNY SHADES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JORDAN MAC + JEROME WILLIAMS BAND + DJ LONGTIME**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 7PM **JESSE WHITNEY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **TAHLIA MATHERSON + JASON DELPHIN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **JOSH THOMAS**, 8PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **JAM NIGHT**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **BLACK TRAIN**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **LISMORE SUPPER CLUB WITH GREG LYON, LAURA NOBEL AND GUESTS**

FRIDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE HILLBILLY SKANK**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JAMES ALEXANDER + PINK ZINC PRESENTS + DJ JOEY TUCKSHOP**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM **TRUTH TELLING TOGETHER – FREE SCREENING: LUKU NGARRA: THE LAW OF THE LAND**

- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **DJ YAZMIN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **BRIAN WATT + MICKA SCENE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **JOSH THOMAS**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **DION & EVAN**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ MATTY P**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUMBIMBY WITH DJ ISHWARA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **ADAM BROWN**
- SHAWS BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **PINK ZINC**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **MILO GREEN DUO**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 8PM **EPIC**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **FUNNY GOATS BAND + DJ BOZ**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 2PM **RUFF SCALES, BAND CALLED STEREO, THE MAYBELLINES & PETER LARSEN**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **DJ CHRIS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 3PM **MARK CROTTI**
- KINGSCLIFF SURF CLUB 3.30PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2.30PM **FAT ALBERT**

SATURDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PINK ZINC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 12PM **TRIPLE J HOTTEST 100 COUNTDOWN + GROOVE ARMADA**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12PM **TRIPLE J HOTTEST 100 COUNTDOWN**

- THE GREEN ROOM, BYRON, 2PM **MAHICO FT PAUL A GEORGE, AMARU TRIBE AND MOONTIDE ENSEMBLE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **TRIPLE J HOTTEST 100 COUNTDOWN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **JOSH THOMAS**, 8PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **LEIGH JAMES**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **JOCK BARNES**
- LAKE AINSWORTH SPORT AND RECREATION CENTRE, LENNOX HEAD, 4PM **TWILIGHT TRIBAL DANCE AND JAPANESE POP-UP PICNIC DINNER**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8.30PM **GLITTERATI RIOT**
- SHAWS BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 4PM **THE MUMBLERS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **THE MANIFESTED + DJS FRXSTY. DBLM. BIG RED**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MERLIN**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 5PM **CROOKED COLOURS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **ROO + THE MERSEY CONNECTION**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 7PM **OBISUN**

SUNDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **GOODRICH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **RAGGA JUMP + DJ LONGTIME**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12.30PM **DAN HANNAFORD**, 4PM **DJ JR.DYNAMITE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK + JOCK BARNES**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **CHEEKY CABARET**

- BANGALOW HOTEL **MARK CROTTI**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ ARUANDA SUNSET PARTY**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 2PM **SUNDAY SESSIONS – RICHIE WILLIAMS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS SOREN CARLBERGG QUARTET + GUY KACHEL**
- SHAWS BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **LISA HUNT**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **THE LONESOME BOATMAN**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **BLACKBOI**
- ALSTONVILLE PLATEAU BOWLO & SPORTS CLUB 3PM **STUKULELE'S 'STRUM 'N' SING'**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **LEIGH JAMES**

MONDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BEN WALSH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **TRILLIAH**

TUESDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FELICITY LAWLESS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **JJ & THE SWING KINGS**

WEDNESDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES**
- THE GREEN ROOM, BYRON, 6PM **CHARLEY CROCKETT + EMMA DONOVAN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY – FEATURING: LINDSAY WEBB**

ENTERTAINMENT
seven

CINEMA



If you are old enough you'll remember Roald Dahl's 1964 novel *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and Gene Wilder in *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* from 1971.

In 2005 Johnny Depp played Willy in the telling of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and this year another aspect of this sweet story offers Timothée Chalamet playing the titular character in the origin story – *Wonka*.

Based on the extraordinary character at the centre of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, perhaps Dahl's most iconic children's book, *Wonka* tells the wondrous story of how the world's greatest inventor, magician and chocolate maker became the beloved Willy Wonka we know today.

In this version, we find Willy Wonka, an aspiring magician, inventor, and chocolatier, arriving in Europe to establish his chocolate shop at the *Galleries Gourmet*. After using up his meagre savings, he is coerced to stay at Mrs Scrubitt's boarding house by her henchman, Bleacher. Despite orphan Noodle's warning about the fine print, Willy signs a contract because he is illiterate. To pay them off, Wonka has an idea and sells 'hoverchocs', chocolates that make people fly, facing mockery from three rival chocolatiers who call the chief of police to confiscate his earnings for selling without a chocolate store.

Unable to pay the expensive fees imposed on him by the contract, Willy is captured and is forced to work in a launderette for Mrs Scrubitt alongside five other captives, including Noodle. Learning of a 'Chocolate Cartel' consisting of the three rival chocolatiers, who exploit the chief's temptation for chocolate to force Willy to leave town...

From Paul King, writer/director of the *Paddington* films, comes an intoxicating mix of magic and music, mayhem and emotion, all told with fabulous heart and humour. Chalamet in the title role of this irresistibly vivid and inventive big-screen spectacle will introduce audiences to a young Willy Wonka, chock-full of ideas and determined to change the world one delectable bite at a time—proving that the best things in life begin with a dream, and if you're lucky enough to meet Willy Wonka, anything is possible.

Wonka is screening at Palace Cinemas in Ballina and Byron Bay.

HAVE YOU SENT US YOUR GIG?

gigs@echo.net.au



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

Session Times

Thurs 25 January – Wed 31 January 108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS FORCE OF NATURE: THE DRY 2 (M) PREVIEW Fri, Sat: 3:50PM, 6:30PM. Sun: 4:20PM, 6:30PM LA SCALA: DON CARLO (CTC) Sun: 1:00PM. Wed: 11:00AM MAY DECEMBER (MA15+) PREVIEW Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:45PM, 6:00PM OPPENHEIMER (MA15+) OSCAR RUN Daily except Wed: 7:10PM. Wed: 8:10PM PET SHOP BOYS DREAMWORLD: THE HITS LIVE (G) Wed: 7:00PM FAMILY FILMS MIGRATION (G) Daily: 10:00AM, 12:30PM	NEXT GOAL WINS (PG) Daily: 10:15AM, 5:20PM THE JUNGLE BUNCH WORLD TOUR (PG) Daily: 10:10AM TROLLS BAND TOGETHER (G) Daily: 12:10PM WISH (PG) Daily: 10:15AM WONKA (PG) Daily: 10:10AM, 12:00PM ALL FILMS ALL OF US STRANGERS (MA15+) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:10PM, 4:20PM, 6:30PM, 8:50PM. Fri, Sat, Sun: 2:10PM, 4:20PM, 6:30PM, 8:50PM ANATOMY OF A FALL (MA15+) Thurs, Mon, Tues: 2:20PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:10PM. Fri,	Sat, Sun: 2:20PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:20PM. Wed: 2:20PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM ANYONE BUT YOU (MA15+) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 2:40PM, 4:50PM, 6:00PM, 8:45PM. Fri, Sat: 2:40PM, 4:50PM, 6:00PM, 8:45PM. Sun: 2:40PM, 4:50PM FERRARI (MA15+) Daily: 12:30PM MEAN GIRLS (PG) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 12:20PM, 3:50PM, 6:10PM. Fri, Sat: 12:20PM, 1:20PM, 6:10PM. Sun: 12:20PM, 6:10PM ONE LIFE (PG) Daily: 2:30PM POOR THINGS (MA15+) Daily except Wed: 10:45AM, 3:10PM, 7:00PM. Wed: 10:45AM, 3:30PM, 6:10PM	3:10PM, 7:10PM PRISCILLA (M) NFT Daily: 10:00AM, 1:40PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM THE BEEKEEPER (MA15+) Daily: 8:45PM THE COLOR PURPLE (M) NFT Daily: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 3:10PM, 6:00PM THE HOLDOVERS (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues: 10:30AM, 1:10PM, 8:30PM. Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:30AM, 8:30PM. Wed: 1:10PM, 8:30PM THE IRON CLAW (MA15+) Thurs, Mon, Tues: 12:50pm, 3:30pm, 6:10pm. Fri, Sat: 12:50PM, 6:10PM. Sun: 1:10PM, 6:40PM. Wed: 3:30PM, 6:10PM
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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 25 January – Wed 31 January

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

FORCE OF NATURE: THE DRY 2 (M) NFT PREVIEW Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:50PM MEAN GIRLS (PG) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 3:50PM, 6:30PM. Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 6:30PM MIGRATION (G) Daily: 9:00AM, 11:30AM, 1:30PM POOR THINGS (MA15+) Daily: 1:20PM, 6:10PM	PRISCILLA (M) NFT Daily: 4:10PM, 8:50PM THE BEEKEEPER (MA15+) Daily: 11:10AM, 8:30PM THE IRON CLAW (MA15+) Daily: 1:20PM WONKA (PG) Daily: 9:00AM, 6:10PM	To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club! SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE
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*NFT = No Free Tickets

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

Ballina Fair Shopping Centre FREE parking

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FOR SALE: 2/23 Castle Drive, Lennox Head

FOR SALE: 93 Cowlong Road, McLeans Ridges

FOR SALE: Broken Head

FOR SALE: 70 Pine Mountain Road, Possum Creek

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January 24, 2024 The Byron Shire Echo 23



IMPRESSIVE APARTMENT LIVING – BYRON STYLE



Unit 14, 64-70, Broken Head Road

3 2 1 148m² approx Price: \$1.9M

This light-filled apartment exudes an expansive ambiance, characterised by its open-plan design that seamlessly integrates the lounge, dining area, and kitchen.

The space effortlessly flows onto a spacious, sun-drenched balcony, perfectly positioned with a north-facing orientation, offering breathtaking views of the Byron Bay 18-hole championship golf course. The balcony becomes an idyllic spot to bask in the sunlight while enjoying the serene vistas of the surrounding landscape.



Janis Perkins

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- Huge infrastructure in place including shed, storage water and solar ready to commence the build
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17 KAMALA COURT, COOPERS SHOOT



Exclusive Coopers Shoot Address
5mins to Byron Bay!
Secluded Paradise with Dual
Residences, Resort-Style Pool
and Breathtaking Views

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4.19HA

- Uninterrupted hinterland and ocean views
- 17.5m resort style saltwater pool, established, landscaped gardens and 363m² of external decking and outdoor entertaining areas
- Newly renovated in 2023 the interiors boast high vaulted ceilings, a well-appointed kitchen with ample storage, and a loft serving as a versatile space
- Dual residences providing multiple possibilities

PRICE | Contact Agent

OPEN | Thurs 25th January 11 - 11:30am



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668



35 GORDON STREET, BYRON BAY



Exquisite Coastal Luxury:
Award-Winning Designer
Masterpiece in Byron Bay

5 2 4 2

- Double height ceilings, spacious, open plan living, dining and kitchen filled with natural light
- Seamless indoor/outdoor living is created through large sliding doors opening onto the entertaining area with built in BBQ and outdoor kitchen
- Plunge pool with water feature and a separate Kylin sauna
- 5 generous bedrooms each with air conditioning. The main bedroom is complete with a deluxe ensuite with bathtub, walk in wardrobe and private terrace

PRICE | Contact Agent

OPEN | Thurs 25th January 1 - 1:30pm
Sat 27th January 9.30 - 10:00am



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049



KOKO'S | 1/51 SHIRLEY STREET, BYRON BAY



Koko's: Architecturally Designed
Beach House in Blue-Chip
Byron Bay Locale

4 2 3 2

261M²

- An innovative and contemporary architectural masterpiece, just footsteps to Belongil Beach
- The open plan living areas seamlessly connect through full-height, corner-stacking doors to the outdoor terrace, overlooking a heated pool
- Four spacious bedrooms, two of which have private ensuites, and one with access to a private deck
- The upstairs layout includes a secondary living area, and a study nook

PRICE | \$2.95M - \$3.245M

OPEN | Thurs 25th January 2 - 2:30pm
Sat 27th January 9 - 9:30am



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



134 TAYLORS ROAD, EUREKA



Dreamy Hinterland Estate
Promising Absolute Peace
and Privacy

4 2 2 1

23HA

- Federation style home with high ceilings, ornate details, polished timber floorboards and original stained glass
- Set on 57 acres of pristine land with creek frontage and multiple paddocks
- Open plan living areas seamlessly connect to the large undercover outdoor space overlooking a large saltwater pool
- Brand-new, reverse cycle ducted air conditioning

PRICE | Contact Agent

OPEN | By Appointment



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049



Jane Johnston
0466 327 375



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Open For Inspection

Century 21 Plateau Lifestyle Real Estate Alstonville

- 44B Ocean Drive, Evans Head. Sat 10.30-11am

First National Byron Bay

- 13/11-19 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 17 Kamala Court, Coopers Shoot. Thu 11-11.30am
- 35 Gordon Street, Byron Bay. Thu 1-1.30pm
- 1/51 Shirley Street, Byron Bay. Thu 2-2.30pm
- 1/51 Shirley Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 5 Hakea Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 29 Pinegroves Road, Myocum. Sat 9-9.30am
- 35 Gordon Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 77 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 509 Rosebank Road, Rosebank. Sat 10-10.30am
- 108 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 128 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3/3-7 Glasgow Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1109 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Montecollum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 69 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 28 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 27 Redgum Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 34 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 6/21-25 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 65 Lilli Pilli Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2B/107 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 2/31 Clover Hill Circuit, Bangalow. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 2/1 Pacific Vista Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 2-2.30pm
- 31 Tristania Street, Bangalow. Sat 2-2.30pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 2/3 Monica Place, West Ballina. Sat 9.30-10am
- 7 Angus Kennedy Close, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 4 Vera Street, Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 23 Surf Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 11-11.30am
- 6 Rodgers Place, Wardell. Sat 11-11.30am
- 20 Lindsay Crescent, Wardell. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 37 Catherine Crescent, Ballina. Sat 12.15-12.45pm
- 34 Norwood Avenue, Goonellabah. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 339 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 8 Mulloway Place, Ballina. Sat 1.15-1.45pm
- 7/115 Laurel Avenue, Lismore. Sat 1.30-2pm

MANA Real Estate

- 2A Oba Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 9 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3 Kallaroo Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 24 Redgate Road, South Golden Beach. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 241 Middle Pocket Road, Middle Pocket. Sat 12-12.30pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 50A Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 5 Wickham Place, Clunes. Sat 9-9.30am
- 4 Ceron Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 21 Binya Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30-11am

- 675 Friday Hut Road, Possum Creek. Sat 10.30-11am
- 3 Palm Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 12 Cudgerie Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.15-12.45pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Mullumbimby

- 50 Tristran Parade, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30-10.15am
- 421 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am
- 199 Palm Woods Road, Palmwoods. Sat 1-1.45pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick Heads

- 2/35 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 20 Fawcett Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 6149 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar. Sat 10-10.30am
- 111 Geles Road, Upper Burringbar. Sat 11-11.30am
- 104 Geles Road, Upper Burringbar. Sat 11.30am-12pm

Ray White Byron Bay

- 62 Corkwood Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30-10am
- 245 Blakeney Road, Stokers Siding. Sat 10-10.30am
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- 1/2-6 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 2/4 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 19 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 11 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 43 Jacaranda Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm

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- 19 Leslie Street, Bangalow. Sat 10.30-11am

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

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- 648 Bangalow Road, Talofa. Sat 9.30-10am
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- 62 Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 25 Main Street, Clunes. Sat 12.15-12.45pm

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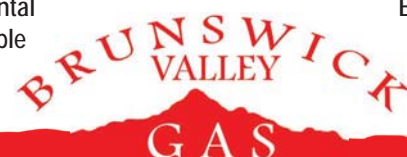
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PUBLIC NOTICES

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

Ads may be taken by phone on 6684 1777

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa Prepayment is required for all ads.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

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

Echo

Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure

RE: Lot 7003 DP 1065854 – Crown Reserve, Seven Mile Beach, Lennox Head



ATTENTION: UNAUTHORISED OCCUPANTS OF CROWN LANDS

DATED 24 JANUARY 2024

Who we are: The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure – Crown Lands (the Department) has responsibility for managing Crown land in New South Wales. The land shown in the map below – being Lot 7003 DP 1065854, known as Seven Mile Beach, Lennox Heads, (referred to as “the Land” herein) – is Crown land as defined by section 1.7 of the Crown Land Management Act 2016.



Unauthorised Occupants: You are not permitted to occupy Crown land without authorisation. If you are occupying the Land, you are trespassing on Crown Land.

What this Notice Requires you to do: You are required to cease this trespass by removing yourself and all your possessions (including any vehicles) from the Land.

When are you required to act: YOU MUST CEASE THIS TRESPASS WITHIN 14 DAYS OF THIS NOTICE. That is, you must remove yourself and all your possessions (including any vehicles) from the Land by 7 February 2024.

What happens if you don't comply: If you do not provide vacant possession of the Land by 7 February 2024, the Department will, without further notice to you, commence legal proceedings against you and you may be the subject of a costs order.

Should you wish to contact the Department regarding this notice please contact us at:

Email: legalservices@planning.nsw.gov.au
Post: Level 4, 231 Elizabeth Street, Sydney NSW 2000
Phone: (02) 6763 3046

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MUSICAL NOTES

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Sax tuition and Jazz Improvisation (all instruments) with Ken Stubbs 0432197388. All levels/ages welcome. Limited places available for 2024.

GUITAR STRINGS, REPAIRS
Brunswick Heads 66851005

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN The assets of the ROSE, Z.F. deceased Estate have been gifted into a private trust, are now held as part of the collateral in the Security Agreement Ref: ZFR-300794-SA -170623-03. The lien is perfected.

PROF. SERVICES

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DEATH NOTICES

ARTHUR GRAHAM POYNTING

Late of McDowall. Passed away peacefully on Monday 15 January 2024 aged 97 years. Devoted and loving husband of Jess (dec'd). Much loved father of Jennifer, Geoffrey (dec'd), Stephen, Marcus, Wendy & Shawn (dec'd). Treasured Poppy to their families.

Forever in our hearts.

Alex Gow Funerals, Geebung
07 3851 7800
100% Australian owned.

PETS

POOKY

Pooky is just one of the two adorable dark tortie cats that we have at the moment. Both girls have such sweet natures and are very affectionate. If you have a love of dark torties, then you really are spoiled for choice! To meet Pooky & 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: R25100222

ANIMAL

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

LUCKY

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

**Contact Shell on 0458 461935.
MC: 991003002332297**

GIZMO

Gizmo is a 1 year old Staffordshire Terrier x Jack Russell. Gizmo is a needy boy who would fit in to a family with older children. He is dog friendly but NOT cat friendly. He is still puppy like and learning. M/C #953010006388712. If you are interested in meeting or adopting Gizmo, please fill out an expression of interest for him at: www.friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/

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

www.echo.net.au/classified-ads/

Ari

Ari has just turned 7. She's a gorgeous big eyed dark brindle tortoiseshell that was found in Federal and was in the Byron Pound. Her owner hasn't been able to be found even though she's microchipped. She's very affectionate with people but not keen on other cats. She was a Pets for Life kitten originally. She would be a very loving companion for someone on their own or a couple.

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No: 953010001355656

Please make an appointment
0403 533 589 • Billinudgel@petsforlifeanimalshelter.net

PETS FOR LIFE

MONTHLY MARKETS

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

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

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SUN, MOON & TIDES – TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Jan/Feb)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
24	W	6:09 19:46	18:59 4:13	0843 1.71 2048 1.11	0139 0.33 1518 0.41
25	TH	6:10 19:45	19:44 5:12	0921 1.73 2127 1.15	0221 0.30 1553 0.38
26	F	6:11 19:45	20:22 6:10	0958 1.73 2201 1.18	0300 0.28 1626 0.37
27	SA	6:11 19:44	20:56 7:08	1030 1.72 2234 1.20	0336 0.28 1656 0.37
28	SU	6:12 19:44	21:25 8:03	1102 1.69 2308 1.22	0411 0.30 1724 0.37
29	M	6:13 19:44	21:53 8:57	1132 1.64 2344 1.23	0446 0.35 1753 0.38
30	TU	6:14 19:43	22:19 9:49	1202 1.57 2414 1.15	0523 0.41 1823 0.39
31	W	6:15 19:43	22:45 10:41	0022 1.23 1233 1.48	0603 0.49 1854 0.41
1	TH	6:16 19:42	23:12 11:33	0105 1.24 1306 1.37	0648 0.59 1928 0.44
2	F	6:16 19:41	23:42 12:28	0156 1.25 1344 1.26	0745 0.67 2007 0.47
3	SA	6:17 19:41	13:24 13:24	0259 1.27 1434 1.15	0857 0.74 2056 0.49
4	SU	6:18 19:40	0:16 14:25	0414 1.32 1545 1.06	1028 0.75 2157 0.49
5	M	6:19 19:40	0:57 15:28	0526 1.41 1708 1.03	1202 0.69 2303 0.46
6	TU	6:20 19:39	1:45 16:32	0629 1.53 1825 1.05	1312 0.58
7	W	6:21 19:38	2:42 17:34	0725 1.67 1929 1.12	0008 0.39 1404 0.46

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



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POLICE Brunswick Heads.....6629 7510
Mullumbimby6629 7570
Byron Bay.....6685 9499
Bangalow6629 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
LIFELINE131 114
MENSLINE.....1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics.....1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily6680 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 HOTLINE6622 1233
WIRES – NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service...6628 1898

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Young Onset Dementia

Dementia Inclusive Ballina has recently started hosting a local Young Onset Dementia Support Group for family members and friends of people who live with young onset dementia. Young Onset Dementia includes all people who were diagnosed before they turned 65. All people from across Northern NSW are invited. We meet every 1st Friday of the Month 10am-12pm at Summerland Farm, 253 Wardell Rd, Alstonville. Info: Sabrina Pit 0429 455 720 or dementiainclusiveballina@gmail.com

Native bees as pollinators walk

Sunday 28th January 9.30 am Native bees as Pollinators Walk Meet Graeme at the Visitor's Centre at 9.15 am for a one-hour walk. \$5 per adult, children free. No card facilities sorry, please bring cash. Wear hat and sturdy shoes. Enjoy morning tea in the Visitor's Centre after the walk. Booking essential as numbers are limited. Email publicity@friendslrbg.com.au.

Tech training for dementia carers

Technology training for carers of people living with dementia is available through Dementia Inclusive Ballina who are offering free technology training sessions for carers of people living with dementia in Northern NSW, including those who have lost their spouse/partner. Info and eligibility: Sabrina Pit 0429 4557 20, and Susan Burgess, Dib. digitaltraining@gmail.com.

Kyogle Garden Club

Kyogle Garden Club Inc will be holding their Annual Flower & Foliage

Spectacular on Friday 19 April, 9am till 5pm and Saturday 20 April, 8am till 2pm at St Brigids, School Hall and Grounds. Entry Fee will be \$3 and light refreshments will be available. There will be plants on display and for sale along with lots of other garden related art and products. Phil Dudman from *ABC Gardening* will make a guest appearance on the Friday this year.

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.

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).

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 and 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.

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday–Friday 9.30am–4pm (closed 12.30–1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286. Some of our services include: **Flood recovery support service:** personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods. **Community support:** food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders. **Listening Space:** free counselling. **Free yoga:** every Tuesday 3–4pm. **More Than A Meal:** free community lunch Tuesday–Friday from 1.30pm. **Financial counselling** **Staying Home, Leaving Violence program:** Information, referral, and advocacy. **Gulganii affordable pantry shop:** located at 3 Bridgeland Lane. **Orange Sky:** free laundry service Mon morning & Tue afternoon. To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdnc.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community

The Byron Community Centre provides community services

and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to get practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. Fletcher Street Cottage services are open Tuesday–Friday. **Breakfast:** Tuesday–Friday, 7–9am. **Showers and laundry:** Tuesday–Friday, 7am–12pm. **Office support:** Tuesday–Friday, 9am–12pm. **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.

Local wins Australian junior water polo gold medal

Alstonville Junior Water Polo Club member Sarah Vanem was part of the University of Queensland (UQ) team that won the U/14 gold medal at the Australian Youth Water Polo Championships earlier this month.

The Alstonville club had a total of 11 members take part in the championships across various age groups, both male and female.

Alstonville's top players augment their training and development by joining bigger teams in Queensland's metropolitan areas.

Sarah has been playing with the UQ for two years and has represented Queensland at the national championships last year.

The Youth Championships ran over five days and included some very 'rough and tough' games according to Sarah's mum, Liz Vanem.



The U/14 UQ water polo team including Sarah (back row, middle) are Australian Youth Champions. Photo supplied

In the final the UQ team had to take on Australia's most successful junior water polo team, the Brisbane-based Mermaids.

'It was the first time the UQ has won the title in that age group,' Liz said.

'Sarah has been playing with UQ for two seasons, and they have been working really hard on both

swimming and water polo,' she said.

The club currently has 150 junior members and regularly has 12 teams in the water.

This year they are planning trips to both the NSW Country and Qld State tilts.

At last year's Queensland Country titles the club had four teams competing. Three finished in the top four.

Local wins Ballina Open tennis tournament

Mullumbimby Tennis Club member Marielou Baudouin won the Ballina New Year Open tournament winning the open women's division in straight sets.

'The Ballina tournament was a great success. We had a total of 188 players enter. And over 40 players entered from Northern Rivers Tennis Academy,' tennis coach Steve Gort said.

'It was great to see so many local players supporting the tournament.'

Marielou Baudouin beat top seed Andrea Duva 7-5 6-4 in the open women's final.



Steve and Marielou with their awards after their mixed doubles win at the Ballina Open. Photo supplied

Marielou also took home the trophy in the mixed open doubles partnering with Steve.

Results for locals

Zara Rose and Neave Edwards: U/10 girls doubles winners.

Teo Amit and Sonny Reid: U/10 boys doubles winners.

Yali Amit and Maxim Ceccato: U/14 boys doubles, second place.

Marielou Baudouin and

Sylvie Peart: open ladies doubles, second place.

Callum Sawras and Alice Palmer: B-grade mixed doubles, second place.

Alice Palmer and Mahala Hitchings: U/14 girls doubles winners.

Mahala Hitchings: U/14 girls singles, winner.

Alice Palmer: B-grade women's singles winner.

Callum Sawras: men's tier two singles, runner up.

Send us your sport stories!

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

Top four takes shape in Northern Rivers first-grade cricket with Goonellabah workers in top spot

Goonellabah Workers Cricket Club (GWCC) has retained top place in the Far North Coast first grade LJ Hooker League after beating local rivals Alstonville, while Cudgen solidified a top three placing after beating the Casino Cavaliers.

In the two-day game finalised last Saturday at Hill Park Oval, GWCC were able to claim a first innings win when they chased down Alstonville's total of 101, after starting the day at 7/100. They went on to post a total of 9/133.

In reply to Alstonville's modest total they did stumble to 6/61, but Damien Santin (23 runs) and William Brown (17) got them home, before Josh Healy added 19. The best of the top order for



Casino were on the attack as they tried to reign in Cudgen's run chase in the LJ Hooker League. Photo supplied

GWCC was Dan Ter Braak who put on 30.

Alstonville's attack was dominated by Terry Murphy who returned figures of 6/29 off just six overs.

The week before Alstonville was sent in to bat and slumped to 5/54 on the back of quality bowling from Josh

Healy who claimed the top order with 4/8 off seven overs (five maidens).

Dan Ter Braak supported with 3/28 off 11.3 overs.

The win keeps GWCC in top spot in the LJ Hooker League followed by Marist Brothers. Tintenbar East Ballina hold onto fourth place.

Cudgen's win over Casino last weekend gave them third spot on the ladder and kept Casino in fifth place.

After being sent in to bat Casino fell to 3/17 at Queen Elizabeth Park before recovering to be all out for 223. Thomas Relph top scored with 47, while the best

of Cudgen's bowlers was James Julius with 3/66.

In reply Cudgen ran down the total in 67 overs. At 7/201 Casino felt they were in with a strong chance to win the game, but Cudgen's Callum Gall steered the innings after coming in at 1/4 and finished the day

with the job done on 100no.

Casino's Alan Nowlan took 4/51.

Second grade

Byron Bay pulled off a win against Lennox Head with just four balls to spare at the Cavanbah Oval last Saturday.

In a rain-shortened 27 over game Byron Bay chased down Lennox Head's 126.

Byron Bay's Tom McGeorge top-scored on the day with 52.

The win for Byron brings them to 94 competition points, just two below leaders Lennox Head (96).

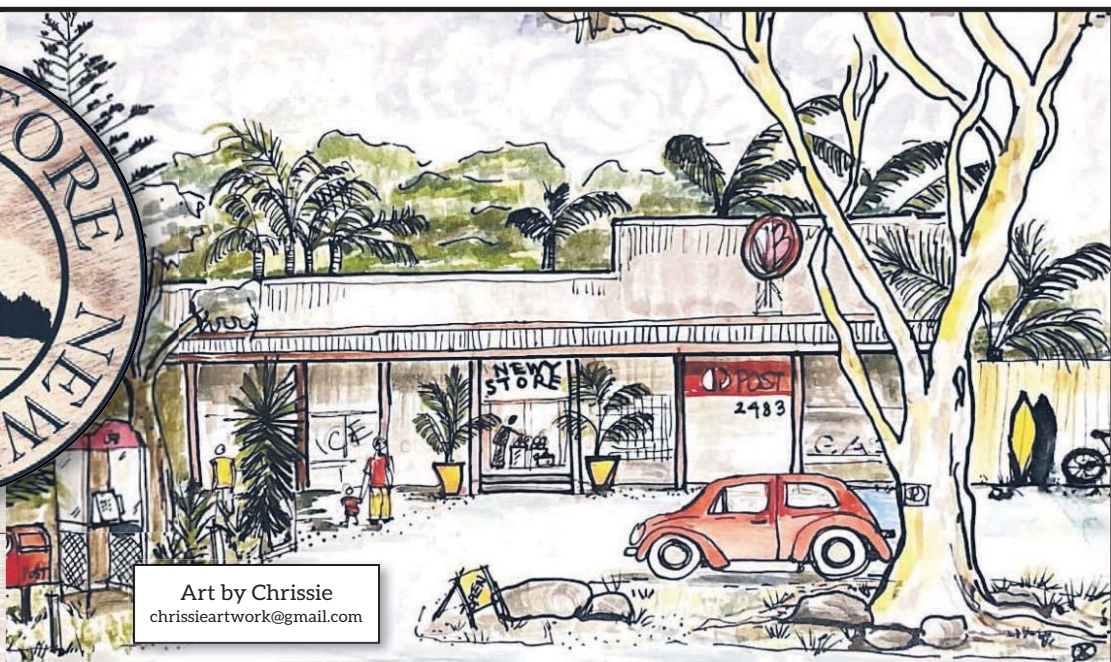
Colts Seniors are also in the race for top spot and currently sit in third place (92) with Terranora Lakes (72) rounding out the top four.

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Free speech or thinly veiled hate speech? Last week's ad by the Australian Jewish Association (who appear somewhere to the right of Genghis Khan) spurned a flurry of angry letter writing, including many who live outside the Shire. See page 2, letters pages and editorial (page 8), for more.

The Law Society of NSW are warning that proposed changes to the Jury Amendment Bill 2023 'risks reducing an important safeguard for majority verdicts'. President Brett McGrath said, 'There can be few, if any, more important duties a citizen has than sitting on a jury. Yet a proposal to halve the amount of time before a jury can be excused from delivering a unanimous verdict represents an erosion of the importance of the jury's role in our justice system'. The bill was introduced by Labor MP, Mark Buttigieg.

Online betting operator SportChamps has copped a \$17,500 fine for inducing people to gamble and open a betting account, following five previous convictions for similar offences. Liquor & Gaming NSW say SportChamps pleaded guilty in Downing Centre Local Court to two offences under the Betting and Racing Act.

The Lismore Supper Club weekly gig is launching this Thursday, January 25 from 7pm at the the Lismore City Bowling Club. It's headed by local musicians Laura Nobel and Greg Lyon. Laura says, 'The idea behind it is to provide an opportunity for the community of Lismore to meet up with friends, listen to some lovely music while

supporting the club and some local musicians'.

The EU have banned 'misleading' environmental claims that rely on carbon offsetting, reports *The Guardian*. That means that if adopted in Australia, it would rule out federal Labor's emissions reduction policy, which is currently called 'safeguard mechanism credits'.

Last week, Japan became the fifth country to reach the moon! In other Japanese news, *www.reuters.com* reports, 'Tepco plans to start a fourth release of treated radioactive water from the wrecked Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant in late February, an official said on Tuesday, continuing a move criticised by China'.

How would one describe a libertarian? The internet hall of fame say they are house cats. 'They are convinced of their fierce independence while utterly dependent on a system they don't appreciate or understand'.

Headline of the week goes to the UK's *Observer*: 'Arctic zombie virus in Siberia could spark terrifying new pandemic, scientists warn'.

A benefit concert and GoFundMe campaign is being organised for musician, Jesse Balfour, who has been diagnosed with cancer. A special fundraiser will be held at the Bangalow Bowlo on Tuesday, January 30 from 6pm. The line up includes Pete Murray, Brian Cadd, GoodRich, and The Feramones. For tickets, visit trybooking.com/COQHE.



Mullum resident Marc Westley provided an explanation and pic of his new aquatic submersible vehicle on Myocum Road after recent heavy rains. He described clambering out as the waters rose in the cabin as 'very dramatic stuff' – thankfully Marc and his wife, 'along with our two dogs and a bagful of grocery shopping', were all safe. Marc says an off-duty SES volunteer stopped and offered to give his wife and the dogs a lift back to Mullum, 'which was fantastic'. 'While waiting for the police to arrive, a young fella in a 4x4 whose name, in all the drama, I fail to recall, stopped and offered to pull the car out. We were the beneficiaries of some amazing goodwill that is out there in our community. This is a shout out to all the good people who lent us a hand, particularly the young man who towed us to dry land. You my friend, are a legend'.



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