



Culture celebrated

One of the Australia/Survival Day celebrations held in Byron Shire on Friday was in Brunswick Heads. A Celebration of Country, held at South Beach Lane, featured dancing, music from different cultures, artworks, and a barbecue. See other Byron Shire events, page 3. Photo of Bundjalung man Brian Kelly by Eve Jeffery

No social housing within Council's plans for Mullum hospital land

Hans Lovejoy

It appears that not only is there no social housing component included in Council's plans for its residential sell-off for the Mullum hospital land, Council has no plans to expand social housing within the Shire.

Plans to rezone/transfer the valuable public asset to a potentially private housing investment are now underway, with Council's Planning Proposal open for feedback until February 11.

The traffic assessment that Council paid for admits up to 130 dwellings will contribute adversely

to an already gridlocked road near Mullum High School, but Council staff say minimal road works are required for approval.

And while 20 per cent affordable housing was included in the plans, there are no assurances they will be genuinely 'affordable'.

Affordable vs social

'Affordable housing' is developer-led, while social housing is government-subsidised.

The Echo asked Council staff if 'government departments were contacted regarding the possibility of partnering for a social housing

project? If not, why?'

The Echo also asked if there were any other social housing projects underway in the Shire.

Sharyn French, Acting Director Sustainable Environment and Economy, replied, 'The plans for the future of the Mullumbimby Hospital site are still being developed and in coming months they will be presented to the councillors who will be asked to give direction on the types of housing to be provided'.

'Social housing is subsidised housing provided by the NSW government or community and social housing providers'.

From gifted land to high-rise plans

– the tale of 119 Jonson St, Byron Bay

Paul Bibby

Down the southern end of Jonson Street, Byron Bay, right next to St Paul's Anglican Church, is a block of land with a colourful story that says much about the changing face of Byron Shire.

Back in the early 20th century, the land at 119-121 Jonson Street was gifted by the family of landowner George Flick to the neighbouring church, so that parishioners had somewhere for their horses to rest while they attended Sunday services.

In the mid-'70s, with kombies the most popular form of transport in the Shire, and the population growing, the land became home to a busy pre-school that coaxed thousands of local kids through childhood.

In 2004, with a sea-change property boom in full swing, the pre-school became a toy library, where kids would sometimes spend hours choosing the perfect plaything.

By 2015, those kids had grown up, were earning a living, and had started thinking about settling down. The land followed them down the path, becoming a restaurant and function centre.

Secret Garden location

In the last few years the land has pivoted again, becoming a live music and events venue known as The Secret Garden.

It was sold by the Anglican Diocese in late 2021, with most of the proceeds being spent on

the local parish.

Now, as Byron Bay morphs into an uncomfortable fusion of tie-dye and Bondi, there are plans to turn the site into the type of mixed-use commercial and residential development that is becoming ubiquitous in the Bay.

Proposed by the JD Property Group of the Jonson Lane development, (located opposite Byron Music), the DA proposes ground floor commercial premises with a public courtyard, topped with 21 apartments, ranging from two to four bedrooms, each.

There will be a basement car-park for 84 vehicles and a private rooftop pool and deck area.

'The project strives to create a new diverse social hub to encourage locals and visitors to come together... it seeks to align with the aspirations of the Byron Bay Town Centre Masterplan to connect the centre of Byron Bay with the spirit of its community,' consultants hired to undertake much of the planning for the site say in the Statement of Environmental Effects.

Height exceedance 46%

The developer argues that the height and floor space ratio rules that apply to the site are 'unreasonable and unnecessary'.

The are proposing a height exceedance of 11 per cent across most of the built area, peaking with a 46 per cent exceedance at the highest point which would mean

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Dr Ray Moynihan puts Tassie salmon under the microscope ► p8

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Time to sign on and sign up for 2024 ► p14

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Pod village extension?

Hans Lovejoy

A request to extend temporary 'pod' housing in Byron Shire has been raised by the NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSWRA), Council's General Manager, Mark Arnold, has confirmed.

The Echo asked Council staff if Byron Shire Council, like Tweed Shire Council, had also been approached by Reconstruction Authority for an extension for an additional two years.

One Byron Shire 'pod' is located at the entrance to Mullumbimby, and there are two in Brunswick Heads.

On May 17, 2022, www.echo.net.au reported then-Minister for Flood Recovery, Steph Cooke, as saying, 'we expect it will be used for up to two years'.

GM Arnold told The Echo, 'Council receives regular correspondence from the Reconstruction Authority and an extension of temporary housing sites has been raised'.

'This matter will be presented to the elected Council for a decision following discussions with the Reconstruction Authority.'

As reported on www.echo.net.au last week, Tweed Shire Council received a letter from NSWRA advising it 'has extended Crown Lands-owned sites, including Pottsville, and is now planning to commence arrangements to extend all remaining sites'.

In-principle support was sought from Tweed Shire Council to extend the Kingscliff site by an additional two years to June 2027.

Ratepayers' call to defer decision

But Kingscliff Ratepayers and Progress Association (KRPA) have asked Tweed Council to defer the decision regarding the temporary housing site on Elrond Drive, Kingscliff, because they are 'seeking an update on the operation and future of the site, particularly in relation to the key matters pertaining to the temporary flood accommodation'.

The KRPA said they are seeking information on: 'the success of the program to date in not only providing temporary accommodation, but support in facilitating

permanent rehousing for flood-affected residents; the areas from which the flood-affected residents in the accommodation are from – commitments were made that local residents would be prioritised (i.e. postcode 2487 and Chinderah), then the wider Tweed Shire, then from outside the Shire,' and, 'confirmation that the site will be returned to community green space/public reserve at the conclusion of the agreed time frame – June 2024.'

The KRPA also highlighted that the area is flood-prone and was underwater during the 2022 floods.

The Echo asked the NSW Reconstruction Authority for the answers to the KRPA questions.

A reply will be published when/if provided.

Drill Hall slammed by poetry



A new program from Poets Out Loud has spiced up the school holidays for young writers, with 15 local teens taking part in Slam Camp, a free three-day writing and performance intensive, held at the Drill Hall Theatre in Mullum. Last week, they got the chance to perform their work in front of a live audience in an event MC'd by camp director, Sarah Temporal. Photo Eve Jeffery

Local Labor MP spruiks tax reforms

With the federal Labor government's tax reforms being announced last week, local Labor MP, Justine Elliot, claims 'Around 71,000 people, every taxpayer on the North Coast, will receive a tax break from July 1, 2024'.

Stage three tax cuts, a policy legacy of the Liberal-Nationals, were adopted by the incoming Albanese Labor government, despite heavy criticism from economists for favouring the very wealthy.

The adjustments by Albanese last week will instead see a more even spread of tax relief across all wage earners.

Mrs Elliot said, 'The

average tax cut will be \$1,384 for locals and around 61,000 people, or 87 per cent of taxpayers, will receive a bigger tax cut than they would have under the plan Scott Morrison legislated five years ago'.

Average wage \$73k

'The average Australian wage earner on \$73,000 per annum will receive a tax cut of \$1,504 which is more than \$800 extra in their pocket each year than they would have received under the Liberals and Nationals.'

'This is about more help with the cost-of-living

and more help for middle Australia'.

According to www.treasury.gov.au/tax-cuts/calculator, those on \$25,000 per year will get a tax cut of \$205 from 2024-25 onwards, compared to 2023-24 settings.

Those on \$50,000 per year will receive \$929, while those on \$70,000 will get \$1,429.

Those on \$190,000 and over (politicians and bureaucrats, for example) will be receiving \$4,529 in tax concessions.

According to www.profile.id.com.au (based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics for 2021), 'In Byron Shire, 9.9

per cent of the population earned an income of \$2,000 (\$104,000 pa) or more, per week, in 2021'.

3.3 per cent of Byron Shire population earned \$3,500 or more, which is a higher percentage than the regional NSW average of 1.9 per cent.

5.9 per cent of Byron Shire residents say they did receive a negative or nil income.

Over 11 per cent of those asked in Byron Shire in the 2021 ABS census did not provide their income.

To find out how much tax you are projected to save, visit www.treasury.gov.au/tax-cuts/calculator.

Australia's day of survival and celebration



Delta Kay and Nigel Stewart at the Cavanbah (Byron Bay) Survival Day event, held at Main Beach. Photo Eve Jeffery



Jala and Kailani at the Mullum Pool, as part of the Community Day on January 26. Photo Eve Jeffery

Australia/Survival Day celebrations, held on January 26 in Byron Shire, provided a range of entertainment and education around both Indigenous and non-Indigenous culture.

In Byron, Arakwal

Bundjalung people of Byron, the Sisters of Reconciliation and the Cavanbah Reconciliation Group held their 20th annual Cavanbah (Byron Bay) Survival Day event on Main Beach.

It featured Bundjalung

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

Mullum Pool

A community day, hosted by Rotary Mullumbimby, was held at the Mullumbimby

Pool from 11am.

The day included free entry for kids, inflatables, fun slides, face painting, a barbecue and more.

As mentioned on page 1, a Celebration of Country was held in Brunswick Heads.

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'We will never have true civilization until we have learned to recognize the rights of others.'

– US vaudeville performer and actor, Will Rogers (1879–1935).

Unauthorised holiday letting fine issued by Council

A Suffolk Park property owner has been issued two \$6,000 fines for unauthorised holiday letting, say Council staff.

In a media release last week, they say, 'After investigations into a property on Beachside Drive at Suffolk Park, Council staff issued the fines for exceeding the 180-day limit for holiday letting.'

Ralph James, Council's outgoing Legal Counsel, said

that evidence was collected over many months.

The \$12,000 fines were for alleged breaches over 2022 and 2023, Council staff said.

When asked what legislation was cited for the offence, staff replied, 'Environmental Planning & Assessment Act 1979 – development without consent.'

The Echo also asked, 'What evidence are Council

relying on for the fine, for example, records from Airbnb or another accom platform?'

They replied, 'Until the fines are paid, or rights to appeal are finalised, Council cannot comment.'

Mayor Michael Lyon said in the media release, 'Council will be pursuing the payment of these fines, and I hope it serves as a warning to other property

owners, that we are taking the regulation of rules surrounding short-term rental accommodation extremely seriously, particularly ahead of the introduction of the new 60-day cap that will apply from September.'

Online accommodation platform Stayz were asked for comment by The Echo but 'decided to not comment on the story at this moment.'

Plans unveiled for Secret Garden's location

► Continued from page 1 the building will hit 13.1m.

The planners further assert that 'no public benefit' will result from adhering to the floor-space ratio rules for the site.

While the maximum floor-space ratio for that part of town is 1.3:1, the proposed ratio for the site is 1.42:1, an exceedance of just

under 10 per cent.

The planner argues that their proposal provides a better planning outcome than a compliant development would provide.

They say the proposed bulk and scale do not create an adverse visual impact, and there is an appropriate visual relationship with nearby developments.

They further assert that there are no adverse shadow, view, visual, acoustic or privacy impacts created by the floor-space ratio breach.

The development, which retains the name of The Secret Garden, is currently on public exhibition and will be viewable on Council's website until February 5.

One wonders what the earliest custodians of this piece of the Shire would offer by way of comment if they had the chance to do so.

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Locals recognised for their community service



Dr Arne Rubenstein (OAM).
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Rhonda Ansiewicz (AM).
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Dr Muriel Watt (AM).
Photo supplied

Paul Bibby

A group of dedicated and inspiring locals have been recognised in this year's Australia Day honours list for their service to the community and the country.

From cutting edge research in the renewable energy sector, to working in soup kitchens, those recognised have made a profound and varied contribution.

Dr Arne Rubenstein

Among those honoured was Byron Shire local, Dr Arne Rubenstein, who has run rites of passage work with young people in the region for 30 years, and has now expanded the work to locations across Australia and beyond.

He was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the General Division for his services to youth, much of which is undertaken through the organisation he founded, the Rites of Passage Institute (ritesofpassageinstitute.org).

'My truth is that I'm very happy about it, and at the same time I wish my mother was around to see it,' Mr Rubenstein told *The Echo*.

'She would just have been so proud.'

The former Byron Hospital emergency doctor said

that rites of passage work was about recognising that all people have major transition points in their lives and that one of the most important is when a child becomes an adult.

'We need to be celebrating, recognising and supporting that transition point in young people's lives,' he said.

'If not, young people will create their own, like Schoolies Week. I've seen the legacy of that first hand.'

'The young people who I see coming through Rites of Passage are more open, have better communication skills and a greater sense of purpose and what they want to do in life.'

Rhonda Ansiewicz

Also recognised in the Australia Day honours list was Rhonda Ansiewicz, who was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for her significant service to the community.

This includes years of dedication at to the Winsome and Lismore Soup Kitchen, the Bangalow CWA and numerous board memberships, including being a committee member at Eureka Public Hall and the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre.

Prior to this, Ms Ansiewicz made an extraordinary

contribution over many years with Amnesty International, working as the NSW Branch Campaign Coordinator and co-founding a service for torture and trauma survivors.

She also spent 20 years as the Co-Coordinator of an Aboriginal Rural Education program at UWS.

'I was shocked at receiving this award,' Ms Ansiewicz told *The Echo*.

'I've never thought anything I have done was extraordinary.'

'I've accepted the award to honour the people I have worked with, in the main, people on the margins of society. I received more from them than I gave.'

Dr Muriel Watt

Another local to be recognised was Kinvara resident, Dr Muriel Watt, who has been at the forefront of work in the photovoltaic and renewable energy sector.

She was awarded as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). Ms Watt has been internationally recognised for her expertise in solar and energy policy.

She has worked with government agencies, universities and industry in the areas of renewable energy development, policy and application since 1980.

School's back, and so is a little help

Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce President, Paul Prior, and Kaz and Katie from the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre (MDNC) got together last week to make up bags of school supplies for families struggling with back-to-school expenses.

The bags include some basic books, stationery, and vouchers for Stewart's Menswear.

Tax-deductible donations to support their efforts can be made at www.mdnc.org.au or at the centre's reception.



Paul, Kaz and Katie. Photo Eve Jeffery

To access the supplies, families can visit the MDNC on their Community Support

days – Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Ask for Kaz or Katie.

Ingham's plan for Wategos pad

Paul Bibby

Plans for the construction of a \$6.46 million home at Wategos Beach have come before Byron Council, and are now on public exhibition.

The proposal is for a four-bedroom split-level house spread across three storeys at 28 Brownell Drive.

The owners, listed as John and Tamie Ingham, are also proposing to build

a basement carpark and an upper level garage off Brownell Drive that will be supported on a suspended slab.

Following the recent trend of new houses at the iconic and astronomically expensive location, the construction of the house would involve significant excavation into the Wategos hillside.

Concerns have previously been raised about the

drainage and erosion impacts of this building practice.

However, the Statement of Environmental Effects for the site states that a geotechnical report has been prepared which makes a series of recommendations to minimise these risks.

The statement also defends breaching height plane regulations, as they are 'not unusual on steep sites in this location'.

Tallow Creek trench deemed illegal

A recent attempt by someone to open the mouth of Tallow Creek at Suffolk Park has prompted Byron Shire Council and NSW government authorities 'to remind people that this is illegal'.

Last week staff from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) say they found someone had dug a trench from the mouth of Tallow Creek to the ocean.

Tallow Creek is known as an intermittently closed and open lake or lagoon (ICOLL).

A Council media release reads, 'Depending on the build-up of sand at the mouth of the creek and

rainfall, it opens periodically to the ocean'.

'Because it is a highly sensitive marine environment and cultural site, there are strict rules and regulations about the management of the entrance to Tallow Creek, with input required from Council, NPWS, the NSW Marine Parks Authority and the Arakwal Corporation'.



Chloe Dowsett, Council's Coast and Biodiversity Coordinator, said interference with the ICOLL, such as digging a trench, is a fineable offence of up to \$110,000.

'A sudden release of water out of an ICOLL into the

ocean can cause fish kills, and long-lasting impacts on the marine environment,' Ms Dowsett said.

'Council's preference, and that of the NPWS and other agencies, is to allow Mother Nature to do her job in relation to Tallow Creek, and in the rare instances that we do take action we consider many factors including predicted rainfall to minimise the chance of a fish kill,' she said.

There are two ICOLLs in the Byron Shire, Tallow Creek and Belongil Creek, and Council say they are currently reviewing its Entrance Opening Strategies (EOS).

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Tweed Council defer extension to Kingscliff pod site and ask for consultation

The NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSWRA) intends 'to extend temporary housing sites to a maximum of five years' across the Northern Rivers.

Ballina beaches for everyone?

Public submissions recently closed for Ballina Council's proposed changes to Sharpes Beach. Prominent among these was a call for better accessibility options for people with disabilities.

Level 2 water restrictions have been lifted for Nimbin but Rural Boil Water Alert remains

Nimbin has had the level 2 water restrictions lifted with a Lismore City Council, however, the Rural Boil Water Alert remains in place.

WardellCORE nominated for multiple Ballina award

Nominated for not one but three separate awards in 2024's Ballina Shire Australia Day event is WardellCORE (Community Organised Resilience Effort)—instrumental in Wardell's ongoing recovery since the 2022 floods.

Man charged over alleged home invasion – Casino

About 8.35pm on Tuesday, 23 January, police were called to a home on Hickey Street, Casino, following reports of a home invasion.

Kids and families can get healthy with free after-school program

Working out how to get, and stay, healthy will be made that much easier for primary school kids and their families with a free 10-week healthy lifestyle program in Ballina, Casino and Grafton for Term 1.

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What would Florence Price think?

David Lowe

Most people in Ballina have heard of Florence Wigmore, who later became Florence Price. When she died in 1964, aged 82, she left a large amount of property to Ballina Shire Council, which has since cushioned the council's finances, and explains why Florence's name appears all over Ballina. Now there's a question mark hanging over one of her former properties.

Alan Nicholls lives in St Andrews Village at Florence Price Place. He remembers her as a big benefactor whose father made a fortune running a floating cash store on the Richmond River. Mr Nicholls told *The Echo*



Not in the spirit of Florence, says Alan Nicholls (pictured). Photo David Lowe

that the land immediately adjoining where he lives was donated to Ballina Council by Florence Price for the sole purpose of building housing for low income people and pensioners.

'The council went ahead

and they built those 14 units and rented them out until about about five years ago,' he said. 'Then they put the site up for sale because they didn't want to be in the rental business anymore.' He says Crowley Care made

the highest bid, of around \$3 million.

'Crowley want to get bigger and better. So they're going to knock those down and build 26 two-storey units with a value of around \$15 million.'

'The whole thing that's really upsetting to me is that the council have completely abrogated their ownership of that land,' he said.

He said that the 26 luxury units are likely to be sold for about \$800,000 each. 'That's hardly low cost housing.'

Mr Nicholls says the development is completely against the spirit of what Florence would have wanted.

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

Call for feedback on housing in Tweed

Aslan Shand

While it is often considered a fait accompli that anything in a proposed Growth Management & Housing Strategy (GMHS) being put on exhibition will pretty much get the green light, Tweed Shire's Mayor Chris Cherry made it clear that the GMHS about to go on exhibition is

open to significant change as a result of community feedback.

Developed by consultants, without community representation on the project reference group, the GMHS includes areas that some councillors believe the community will say 'you're mad' for suggesting housing development at these sites.

Not endorsed by Council

'It needs to be made very clear that the options that have been put out there are not endorsed by Tweed Council, [what] they have are options that have been put forward by the consultant and they are for discussion,' said Cr Cherry.

Lindy Smith, President of the Tweed District Residents and Ratepayers Association (TDRRA) told *The Echo* that the GMHS as it currently stands provides 'an open door for big business and the land bankers/developers'.

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

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Byron Feros aged care facility renamed George's Cottages

As of January 29, a new era started at the former Feros Aged Care Village in Byron Bay, with St Andrew's Village Ballina Ltd assuming management of the Marvell Street facility.

New staff took on their first shifts at what the few remaining residents have renamed 'George's Cottages', in honour of Byron Bay resident, George Feros, who tirelessly advocated for the facility.

In October 2022, a site audit by the Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner found elderly residents were subjected to substandard care by Feros Care across every aspect of the service.

While the Feros board defended their management, they announced in February 2023 they planned to redevelop the site, partly on Crown Land, into an 'inter-generational facility', which required existing residents to leave.

After a long, hard-fought campaign, the NSW government intervened and held an expression of interest process to manage the facility. Feros Care did not apply.

The federal Department of Health and Aged Care and Aged Care Quality and Safety Commission have approved St Andrew's maintenance of the existing 40-aged care beds, with former Feros residents understood to have been invited back.

St Andrew's Chief Executive Officer, Todd Yourell, said in a media release that seven residents were already on site, and another three residents per week would be brought in from February 6.

He said plans were 'well underway to spend nearly \$3m upgrading the existing cottages, and key staff were being recruited'.

'We are already receiving referrals and intending to admit three residents each week, including some former residents wishing to return.'

'We will also assist people over 65 at risk of homelessness by making it affordable,' Mr Yourell said, 'and will be using some rooms where we can for respite care as there is a huge need for that'.

Applications for placements are open – contact the admissions manager on 02 6620 5800 or email contact@standrew.com.au.

Dear Minister for the Environment and Water, Tanya Plibersek..

I am Jahvis Loveday, a young Aboriginal filmmaker, storyteller, and dancer from Bundjalung country in far north NSW.

We sit within Byron Shire.

Our brother's late father's people are that of the people of Brunswick Heads River NSW and the people of the Tweed Heads River, and the honour of protecting our Country, our waters, and our community, has now fallen upon us, the next generation.

When I was only young, that man took us to dance upon the hill in Ocean Shores, one of the many men's initiation sites that lies within this country – Roundhouse – overlooking the Brunswick River. He fought and fought to preserve that place, yet, we lost it to housing development. Since Council sold it to repay its debt, million dollar houses sit upon that site.

The Cape Byron Lighthouse sits upon one of the most sacred initiation sites in our country, the final one, where boys will become men.

Our Bora grounds have been destroyed, rumoured to be some of the oldest in Australia, and they now lie beneath a cricket ground and Bowls Club in Brunswick



Jahvis Loveday has written to Minister for the Environment, Tanya Plibersek, asking for the Wallum development in Brunswick Heads to be stopped. Photo Eve Jeffery

Heads. Our Grandmother's Hill – which Mullumbimby is named after, fades away under a farmhouse, taken.

Our Bora grounds that connect the songlines from the east coast of Australia to the west coast, starting at Nuthungulli/Julian Rocks, and moving west, through Billinudgel Nature Reserve, are damaged. When we were little, we used to camp on either side of the south arm of Brunswick Heads River.

Development threat

Now, it is under threat from the Wallum housing development.

All up and down that creek, there were/are

middens, thousands of years old, where elders would sit, and where we would sit as kids, to learn to fish, learn to become who we are meant to be.

We learned that the land is very sacred, almost never talked about. Either side of that river, running down towards Tyagarah, holds many stories, and many sacred connections that run back up towards the high country of the Border Ranges.

I am 23 years old now, and as I grow up, our people before us will pass, and it will be up to me, my brothers, and my sisters, to pass down what we know.

When I have kids, I dread

taking them to all these sacred sites, only to show them million dollar houses, an empty field, or a fence that we cannot pass or connect to.

We have little left of our cultural sites in Byron Shire.

It's heartbreaking for me as a young man, trying to do my part in continuing Australia's culture, trying to step up and become a man, while witnessing the destruction of all that we hold sacred to us.

All I want is to be able to show my kids those trees, that are over 300 years old, I want to show them as we walk from the river, only across a 100m radius, we have over five different types of country, that hold so much life, so many threatened species, that we will lose if all these houses go in.

Here, you sit at a crossroads. You can make a decision that will benefit stories and culture that have come to us thousands of years before we both existed, and maybe, just maybe, if this place is protected, these stories can exist thousands of years into our future, long after we go.

■ Letter to MP Plibersek supplied by Jahvis Loveday.

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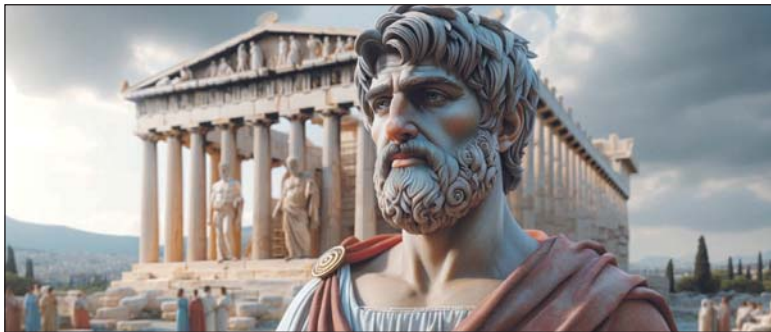
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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #34 • January 31, 2024

Young people listen up!



Pericles was an old Greek dude who did stuff around politics a long time ago. Image www.historyskills.com

Hello, impressionable young person. ICYMI, the world as we inhabit it isn't in great shape.

As a young person, it will eventually be yours, and all the crusty old buggers will eventually shuffle off this mortal coil.

They can't live forever, as much as they try. So it will be over to you.

You can either get engaged with your future now, or ignore it and pretend that it won't affect you.

An old crusty Greek man (Plato) once said, 'One of the penalties for refusing to participate in politics is that you end up being governed by your inferiors.'

Another old crusty Greek man (Pericles) also said, 'Just because you are not interested in politics doesn't mean it isn't interested in you.'

What is it that you want?

What would you like to see change for the better around you?

Years ago, Mullum High Students fronted up to a Council meeting and put forward an idea for a skate park.

Councillors at the time gushed over the students, commending them for having an idea.

Politicians are very interested in you. It's true! They all think you are wonderful. Every damn one of them. And you are.

It's your secret superpower. But that's not the point.

The point is there are skate parks also in Byron, Bruns, South Golden Beach, Bangalow, Suffolk, and they are largely the result of young people lobbying for what they wanted.

It's by lobbying those who make decisions and who hold power that things change.

And if you are really passionate about change, you can get involved in making the decisions and holding power.

Change can be good, like a skate park, or bad, like making policies up that make it near impossible for you to buy a home when you are older.

Fun fact: your grandparents, while living in the dark ages of no internet, could buy a home on an average wage. It was the Australian dream. That is near impossible now, because of bad government policy.

Anyway, there's a thing called Youth Parliament, which is a place where young people can learn leadership and political skills.

Years 10, 11 and 12 (or equivalent age) can apply for this year's Youth Parliament run by the Y NSW.

Applications are open until February 9, and to learn more visit www.ymcansw.org.au/community-services/youth/youth-parliament.

Remember – being young is your superpower. Use it!

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Tassie salmon under the microscope

If you, like me, eat salmon, perhaps it's time for us to finally face facts.

In the words of celebrated Tasmanian writer Richard Flanagan, we're eating horror, and we're dining on destruction.

Reading Flanagan's passionate booklet, *Toxic*, is time well spent.

So horrific is the mounting evidence of environmental damage, even federal Labor is taking notice.

National Environment Minister, Tanya Plibersek, is this week in the middle of a public consultation about salmon farms in Macquarie Harbour.

That's on Tasmania's remote west coast, where the salmon industry has helped push another fish species to the brink of extinction.

The endangered Maugean skate is a sleek stingray-like creature which faces a 'high risk of extinction', because the polluted water of Macquarie Harbour is its only remaining home.

In addition to potential extinction, the other impacts of salmon farming are finally becoming well known, thanks to courageous activists, scientists, and whistle-blowers.

The cruelty of caging thousands of animals in a foul soup of faeces and pharmaceuticals.

The obscenity of adding pink colour to grey-white flesh. The insanity of polluting pristine waters and harming sea life within.

In *Toxic*, Flanagan describes firsthand how he witnessed over decades the rise of the fish farms, the changes to the waters, and the slow loss of sea life off the coast of beautiful Bruny Island. When he kayaked, the sea started to feel more dead than alive.

He and his friends stopped seeing abalone, crayfish, and penguins, then dolphins, seahorses, and flathead disappeared.

Then they stopped talking about it, because it was too sad.

And facilitating the environmental destruction was a bipartisan political system corrupted by vested interests, mismanaged by cowardly regulators, and sustained by misleading corporate marketing.



'Rows of cages in the formerly pristine waters of paradise, conjuring images of putrid prisons, barbarous and brutal.'

Dr Ray Moynihan

When ABC's *4 Corners* was running its investigation of the industry in 2016, one of the salmon companies developed a secret public relations strategy to defend the industry's image and promote its expansion. It was all laid out in a secret 50-page '4 Corners Strategy Document'. Secret until it was leaked to *4 Corners*.

Trickery, collusion

What's really kept the industry alive though, is us continuing to buy this product, while trying hard to ignore the growing environmental catastrophe it causes.

'We were tricked into colluding in the slow death of everything we loved,' writes Flanagan. For me, those words resonate in the wider context of the climate and biodiversity crises, spurring us to act to protect and enhance what yet lives.

One group that is acting is NOFF – Neighbours of Fish Farms. They're running campaigns to stop the floating feedlots in Tasmanian waters, and to take industrial salmon off restaurant menus everywhere.

Salmon fed antibiotics, battery hens

'People shouldn't believe the marketing lie that this product is healthy for Tasmania,' says NOFF president Peter George. 'The salmon doesn't come from wild free waters, they come from filthy packed cages where they're fed antibiotics and ground-up remains of battery hens.'

George told *The Echo* NOFF would, in 2024, be taking its campaign to the mainland, including the Northern Rivers, and he hopes to launch a competition to see which will become Australia's first salmon-free town.

The other side of this story is of course the employment and economic benefits.

This billion-dollar agribusiness in now the biggest in Tasmania. It employs thousands of people and is so profitable it was taken over by global corporates in 2022.

In 2023, the Tasmanian government launched a new 'Salmon Industry Plan', promising tighter regulation, yet green-lighting expansion.

The new plan was roundly rejected as 'more of the same' by environment groups, including the Bob Brown Foundation who argued: 'The reckless and negligent destruction of Tasmania's rivers, bays and oceans is an unthinkable crime.'

I was lucky enough to see Bob Brown speak last month at the Cygnet Folk Festival, on Tasmania's south coast, in the heart of salmon country. He inspired the crowd with news of fresh campaigns to cease all logging in the state's native forests – and to fight floating feedlots.

As the Tasmanian Greens and others are pointing out, there are alternatives.

Land-based fish farms are considered far less polluting, are growing fast in other countries, and are an obvious source of greener jobs.

The day after the Cygnet Folk Festival, I got to see my first salmon farms. As the ferry arrived at Bruny Island, there they were, shimmering in the afternoon sun. Rows of giant round cages in the formerly pristine waters of this paradise, conjuring images of putrid prisons, barbarous and brutal.

Tasmania is a long way from the shire, but you can smell the stench from here.

■ Disclosure: Dr Ray Moynihan's recent trip to Tasmania wasn't funded by the salmon industry.

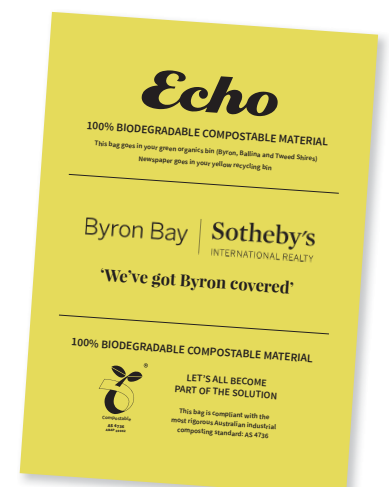
GREEN BIN STANDARDS HAVE CHANGED

Strict NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) requirements mean that only food and garden organics can go in green bin: most 'compostable' food containers, and lots of other items people commonly put in the green bin, should NOT be put in the green bin.

Emerging research shows that the impact of increasing compostable plastic content in compost (other than kitchen caddy liners that comply with Australian Standard AS 4736-2006) may impact its safe application to land. To be on the safe side, the EPA has changed green bin standards.

The Echo's new yellow 100% compostable bags, which you'll be seeing soon, comply with the new highest Australian standard for industrial (green bin) composting (AS 4736). Like the green compostable kitchen caddy liners they can be used to collect and transfer food waste into the green bin.

The newspaper itself, after you've read it, has many secondary uses such as for lining bins, cleaning windows, weed suppression, lighting fires and cleaning up dog vomit. It goes into the yellow bin, unless you're wrapping food scraps in it, in which case it goes into the green bin.



The Echo's new look yellow 100% compostable bags comply with the new highest Australian standard for industrial (green bin) composting (AS 4736).

A gift of kindness

While walking on Saturday with my husband, a young lady called Allegra stopped me, she was holding a bouquet of roses. Allegra then offered me the bouquet saying that she makes bouquets and would I like one?

What a wonderful gift from a complete stranger.

Allegra, you really touched my heart. I'll never forget your loving gesture of kindness.

What a joy to know there is still so much love in the world. Thank you.

Marion Trivett
Mullumbimby



Echo time at the Golden Temple, Amritsar, Punjab, India.

Floodplain housing

Regarding the letter 'Give me a house upon a floodplain', seeing as most towns in Australia are built on floodplains isn't it far better for regional towns to expand where the infrastructure already resides? Logically would you prefer to see more houses in the surrounding hills where the mountains were tumbling down and roads were damaged and cut off for months at a huge cost to repair? Or on our coastal ecologically-sensitive land which suffers the same fate or probably worse? Or farming land where we grow food? All options have issues.

We need to expand the town with sensible planning, drainage, roads and infrastructure and probably lift building heights and be more community-minded, for the flooding will come and go. There was damage but as quick as it came in it left again.

We have to be better prepared at these future events.

Christina Bandini
Mullumbimby

Cycling on footpaths

I'm wondering when Byron Council is going to do something positive about getting cyclists off our pedestrian footpaths?

For the amount of foot traffic on paths around town, as well as those streets leading into town such as Marvell Street, which just accommodates two walkers comfortably, there is no room for a bike as well. Let alone those fast, big e-bikes! The cyclists ringing their bells as they approach just doesn't cut it.

Phoebe Havyatt
Byron Bay

Invasive species

Our local Byron Shire is facing an invasive species, the likes of which we have never seen before. This pest has increased in numbers over the past three years and is now so prolific that eradication seems impossible.

Imported from urban areas, but seemingly adopted with fervour by locals, they are characterised by aggressive behaviour, enough headlights to illuminate a sporting field, and a propensity to try to mate with other vehicles. Surely that's the reason these beasts are always sitting on your arse!

What a fine selection of species we have: Rams, Raptors, Rangers, Tritons, Defenders, Patrols, Cherokees, Discoveries, Hiluxes... with more being released each year.

Collectively they are known as 'Sports Utility Vehicles', though I'm not sure what sport they play - perhaps murder ball? As utes for tradies they are hopeless, with a tray smaller than the boot of a P76.

They all have one thing in common; they are an extension of the owners' egos.

So what if they are greenhouse polluters that have led to vehicle emissions increasing in Australia... not my problem.

Wrecking roads due to the weight of these dinosaurs... not my problem.

If you are involved in an accident with one of these behemoths you are more likely to be killed or seriously injured... not my problem.

It's not just tradies who have these killing machines, it's the Steiner mums and the cool-as man buns. Yes, we are so concerned about the environment - just as long as someone else curbs emissions.

So congratulations all you SUV 4WD owners. You are part of a very special club. If the 330 million of you worldwide were a country, you would be the seventh-biggest emitter on the planet.

Now that's something to tell the kids.

Scott Hyams
Mullumbimby

Fake democracy

It was pleasing to read in *The Echo* (3 January) that Bernie Sanders has not quietly gone away after being sidelined in the last US election.

His alarm that: 'Democracy will not survive with the concentration of economic and political power', controlled by just three Wall Street firms holding trillions in 95 per cent of S&P 500 companies, will no doubt fall on deaf ears.

And while governments worldwide spend trillions on weaponry, the 'space race' and token gestures on the development of existing

and emerging alternate technology while the earth cooks, the future of humanity doesn't look too rosy either.

Meanwhile our government with its fake environmental policies continues to approve new gas and coal for overseas markets and their lackey governments.

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

'It's time' for Labor

Isn't it time for Labor to make a stand and have their own policies instead of following the ones of the Coalition?

We have been having a housing crisis for decades. Through the great social policies of the Coalition the poverty in our society is so big now, that nearly five million people are trying to get free or cheap food through some welfare/foodbank outlets. There are even people queueing up who have one or more jobs. Should that not be a cue for Labor to step away from the stage three tax cuts which give people earning over \$200k a year a nice big tax break, while the ones around \$50k get hardly anything?

We all remember that women over fifty are the fastest-growing group of homeless people in a rich country like this, that is so shameful. Let's look at the funding for our schools. How can it be that private schools get such a huge handout while the public school system is more than struggling and teachers are leaving in droves - being overloaded, overworked and stressed, feeling not appreciated and supported. What madness!

► Continued on next page

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► Continued from page 9

And what about the AUKUS coalition? Did the Morrison government ever bring this to the people, that we will now have nuclear weapons from our allies being positioned in this country? That he committed us to pay \$368 billion plus for some submarines, after paying \$5 billion to France for lying while some military experts doubt their usefulness. Aren't we opening ourselves up to being the nuclear waste dump for the UK and US?

Haven't we learned anything from the war when we followed our big warring brother in the search for weapons of mass destruction? What a shameful end to our operation in Afghanistan, leaving so many helpers behind and now charging the whistleblower, David McBride, for speaking up. Shameful!

Hearing Penny Wong stuttering when being asked about their actions for Julian Assange while they were in the US a few months ago, makes my blood boil. And while the Secretary-General of the UN said at the end of last year: 'No more bottomless greed of the fossil fuel industry and its enablers', Labor is still handing out fossil fuel licences.

It's time for Labor to protect our native flora and fauna. Not just talking about the Great Koala National Park and letting the NSW Forestry Corporation log as much as possible beforehand. These people are looking for nocturnal creatures in the daytime!

Chibo Mertineit
Lillian Rock

Destiny of Australia

Less than five per cent of Americans own more than 90 per cent of the wealth and control over 60 per cent of the world's resources. In 1962 Australian businesses were 80 per cent foreign owned. We have allowed international lobbyists access to our parliament to influence decision making. Australia has become beholden to China as a major trading nation due to our sale of iron ore and our purchase of industrial products from them.

So why aren't the multinationals defending Australian shores from the so-called aggressors?

For us to determine our own destiny would involve us extricating ourselves from the grips of the multinational corporations. This process could be assisted by us generating our own Australian Bill of Rights. We would need to look at

the resources of Australia and figure out what might best serve our interests as a nation into the future.

In social terms we might be interested in the best outcomes for gender, culture and age. In physical terms we might look at giving the trees, the rocks and water their own rights. In economic terms we would look at deriving an economy that is uniquely Australian, allowing for a socially, physically and economically sustainable future.

Boyd Warren
Main Arm

Justine Elliott working for you

The letters from Tony Christy and Kate Smorty savagely castigating Justine Elliott for 'doing nothing' and 'failing to organise or attend protests' in the Feros Care issue were at best ludicrous and at worst, disingenuous, highly insulting, and indicative of Greens involvement.

All of the great people who assisted the remaining residents to finally win a great outcome deserve all the praise they can get, but all the supporting visits, photo ops for wannabee Green MPs and protests in the world mean nothing, unless someone actually in government makes it happen.

It was always a state government issue because the Feros Care facility is on Crown land, and in response to feedback from residents and the community, NSW Labor Minister for Lands and Property Steve Kamper instructed Crown Lands to conduct an Expression Of Interest process to invite potential operators of the Feros Village facility to be considered for a long-term lease at the Marvell Street site.

Justine Elliott, Labor member for Richmond and Minister for Women's Protection; and Rose Jackson, NSW Labor Minister for the North Coast, along with great support from the Byron Council, were instrumental in securing St Andrews in Ballina as the new care provider; to deploy experienced staff to commence operations at the Byron site quickly, maintain the existing 40 residential aged care beds at the site, invest an initial amount of \$3 million to refurbish facilities and to provide comfortable and functional accommodation and ensure compliance with aged accommodation standards.

Keith Duncan
Ballina Branch NSW Labor

► More letters on page 12

Without a legacy to stand on?

David Lowe

In what's been a busy week in Australian federal politics, ScoMo finally announced he would be leaving the parliamentary building, just as Albo undid one of his predecessor's signature policies (or land mines) by reworking the Stage 3 tax cuts, creating hysteria among Liberals and the mainstream media, and some relief for those Australians earning less than \$200,000 a year.

Scott Morrison used to tell interviewers he wasn't interested in leaving a legacy, but Shadow Treasurer Angus Taylor named AUKUS as his old boss's major contribution (never mind that the Australian public were not asked what they thought about it), along with getting the country through Covid and tax reform.

Less heralded legacies include delivering major blows to Australia's relationships with France, China, and the Pacific, along with trust in politicians and the truth in general. But with ScoMo's tax reforms now being undone, and his activities during Covid a very mixed blessing, according to both public and premiers, AUKUS and

its associated \$368 billion American military submarine contracts are pretty much all that's still standing from this prime minister's time in office, which is why Mr Morrison's new job is so fitting.

Revolving door

It seems Scotty from Marketing won't be spending more time with his family, as previously advertised, or becoming a curry expert on MasterChef, or a ukelele instructor, or a cap salesman.

Instead he'll be taking up a role as Non-Executive Vice Chairman of American Global Strategies, a 'boutique strategic advisory firm' with international expertise in 'crisis management' and strong links to the American defence (arms) industry.

The chairman of this outfit is a former Donald Trump lackey and naval enthusiast named Robert O'Brien. With Morrison's old mate Trump eyeing a return to the White House, the whole thing looks a lot like payment for his part in engineering the massive military deal with the United States. As Michael West put it, 'he's off to flog a few missiles and go to lunch.'

■ Full story on *The Echo* online at: www.echo.net.au.

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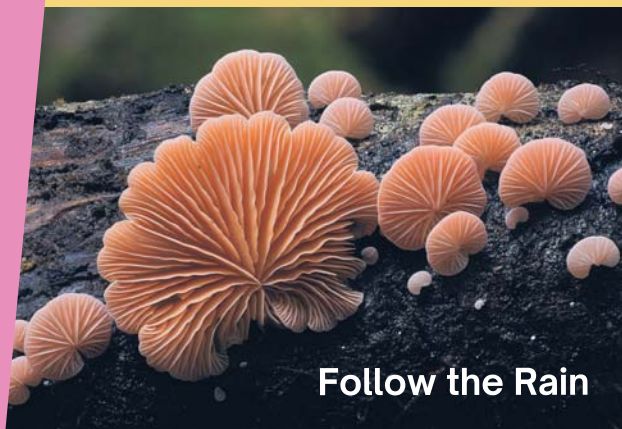
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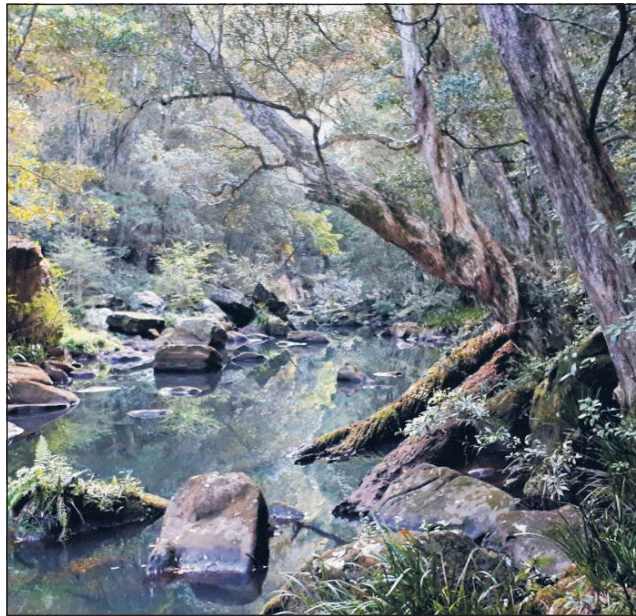
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Is our drinking water supply threatened by Dunoon Dam?

Dr Lyn Walker

Most people don't know that the proposal for Dunoon Dam (the Dam) has never been part of Rous County Council's (RCC) 40-year, adopted, strategic plan to increase water supply, resilience and security, known as Future Water Plan 2060 (the Plan). Reasons to include the Dam were not convincing. The Dam was 'on the table' in 2014 along with demand management, increasing groundwater sources, recycling, and desalination.

There was an attempt to put it on the table again during the 2021 revision of the Plan, but it was again rejected.



The Channon Gorge, the proposed site of the Dunoon Dam. Photo supplied

Why was the Dam rejected twice?

It's all about climate change. Strategic future planning for water security in a time of rapid climate change is mandated by the NSW government through the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE). Planning is to be evidence based and the DPE does its own intensive investigations. In its latest Far North Coast Regional Strategy from July it did not find sufficient evidence to justify the Dam. The DPE did find evidence to be wary of dams because they flood, causing damage, and they dry up, especially with increased evaporation, more heat, and longer droughts. Therefore, rainfall dependency must be significantly reduced for future water security and come from a range of sources for resilience. Dams are susceptible to periodic microbial infestation rendering them unsuitable for drinking water as is currently the case for Ballina Shire's Emigrant Dam.

The Dunoon Dam was not selected after careful deliberation and exemplary consultation in 2014. The Dunoon Dam was set aside because preliminary studies (Cultural/Heritage 2011 and Terrestrial Ecology 2013) reported serious destruction to both. The DPE, in its own 2023 strategy recently classified the damage as 'extreme'.

The Dam was not selected as it could not contribute enough new water for the estimated population growth and climate changes as well as being too expensive.

The 2021 revised pPlan came to the same conclusions and strongly emphasised decreasing rainfall dependency as climate change risks became better understood.

In 2021 there was a stronger emphasis on recycled water as it is substantially always there - it needs a very little rain. Desalination is an unlimited supply and totally independent of rainfall, and is becoming cheaper as new technologies emerge.

Since February 2022 there have been two poor planning moves that put water security at risk.

No comprehensive brief

At the first meeting of a newly-elected RCC in February 2022 they resolved 6-3 to put the Dunoon Dam back into consideration.

There was no brief, and still isn't. There was no explanation of why a future plan was required; no serious consideration of climate change; no mention of the critical role of rainfall - dams are totally rainfall-dependent. It was a serious omission that has allowed inadequately informed councillors to include investigating the option of the Dunoon Dam based upon their political and personal preferences, to misinterpret evidence, and to ignore the studies that RCC had already done. The thought was that new studies would have preferred outcomes.

Focus on the Dam

This unprofessional process continues and RCC recently announced that it had a new Future Water Plan to secure our bulk future water supply until 2060. RCC General Manager, Phillip Rudd (Letter, 27 December, 2023) named new long-term sources of water as recycled, desalination, surface water (Dunoon Dam) and ground water. He claims that every option should be on the table, and long-term supply options are 'at the preliminary stage' because they are new.

These claims are dangerous because none of the options are new; everything was on the table for possible selection at the beginning of consideration of a Future Water Plan 2060. All selected options already have substantial, comprehensive, science based, preliminary studies that have informed, and can inform, existing choices. The existing studies do not differentiate between short and long term - that is a RCC invention for political purposes.

The declaration of 'preliminary' for everything

allows RCC to ignore existing evidence, ignore inconvenient expert opinion, take its time to decide what to do about other parts of the plan that it has never been interested in, whilst it gets on with its only real preferred option, the Dam. Ground water was already progressing because of earlier fears of drinking water shortages in 2024.

The advertised tender for the new (third) preliminary investigation into Heritage/Cultural and Ecology of the Dam site has just closed. Rudd claims in his letter it is 'only to inform decision making about whether to retain or remove this option'. So, if RCC doesn't like it, they can follow usual practice - ignore it and/or do a fourth one.

The RCC website as late as September 2023 acknowledges that there are previous studies on purified recycled water and desalination.

At its December 2022 meeting RCC cancelled the pilot recycled project in Caniaba's Perradenya Estate (a new housing development). This was due to the scaremongering 'toilet to tap' political campaign against recycled purified water in 2021 from Ballina Councillors Sharon Cadwallader and Rod Bruem.

The 2020 CWT and the Ganden reports, embedded in Hydrosphere Consulting; Rous Future Water Project 2060 are recent, comprehensive, science based, detailed - with all pros and cons of each water option, possible sites, and construction suggestions. Development of future options can be made from these papers.

The RCC needs to improve its credibility ASAP with: An independent comprehensive brief, mandated to be continually updated; a realistic timeline for actual recycling and desalination plans based on choices and in existing scientific studies; extensive, intensive, and continuous community education and involvement; along with the public exhibition of the brief, the timeline, and whatever is the Plan now.

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Gaza, Israel, Hamas – what is the future of the Middle East?

■ In response to Yuval Rafaeli (Letters, 24 January).

As a Jewish Australian (child of Holocaust survivors) and ex-resident for over 20 years of Wilsons Creek, I wish to respond to Yuval Rafaeli and to tell him how lucky he is, as were my parents. He was able to depart his homeland (Israel) to make a home in peaceful Byron Shire. Is this possible for Gazan Palestinians?

He may wish to complain about how awful it was to live in southern Israel; sirens, rocket attacks a part of life. He claims everything was supposed to be peaceful after Israel disengaged in 2005. He does not mention that Gaza has been under an Israeli blockade since 2005. No one is allowed in or out without Israel's permission. It's a tiny enclave half the size of Byron Shire with a population of over two million. Fishermen are shot by Israeli troops if they venture more than a few kilometres from shore. Activists' boats attempting to challenge the blockade are intercepted and nine activists slaughtered by Israeli troops on the *MV Mavi Marmara*.

Has he visited the occupied West Bank as I have? There I was able to see the terrible discrimination suffered by Palestinians in what should be their own land. Their aged olive trees cut down, their paltry water allocation, their homes demolished. I walked the main street of Hebron where Jewish settlers throw stinking rubbish on the heads of Palestinian passersby. The lives of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank is not only disrupted by sirens and rocket attacks, it is frequently cut short by the guns of so-called Jewish settlers protected by the IDF, who are occupying the land reserved as a Palestinian state by the UN on the formation of Israel back in 1948.

Really Yuval, if you had to live under these conditions you might be tempted to rebel, challenge your oppression, bring your plight to the attention of the world. Unlike you, the Palestinians of Gaza and the West Bank have no escape, they just want a place to call home and no-one is listening.

Jenny Bush
Murwillumbah

■ While *The Echo* article 'Fighting for survival in Israel – Gaza conflict' manages to capture some of the key points in this ongoing tragedy, it falls abysmally short in its portrayal of Hamas, and contradicts the political nature and values of many people who live in this area, who subscribe to progressive leaning politics.

Hamas are political fundamentalist Islamists, who are undemocratic and whose objectives do not align with achieving a genuine democratic independent free Palestinian state, but a theocratic state governed by Sharia law.

'Hamas just has one 'no' – no to the existence of Israel': Osama Hamdan, Hamas Political Bureau member, 11 October 2023.

After Hamas took power in Gaza their police began to harass women who were walking on the streets and beaches with unrelated men. Women were stopped from using male hairdressers and were prevented from smoking in public.

In 2018 Hamas stopped a ballet school opening and banned the launch of a

women's television station. In 2021 a Hamas court decreed that women would need the permission of a male guardian to travel. In 2022 street music was banned.

Under Hamas, education is segregated and women are expected to wear the hijab in educational and legal settings. Male teachers are prevented from teaching girls.

World Bank data (2023) suggested that only 18 per cent of women in the Palestinian Territories are in work (and the big majority of those were in the West Bank). There is no law against violence against women within marriage. Divorce and inheritance law discriminate against women.

This issue is a stark reminder that it does mean that 'your enemy's enemy is not your friend'. Hamas in this case, represents a dreadful departure towards authoritarian Palestinian government.

This unprecedented war needs to be won by both Israeli and Palestinian people – like the Arab/Israeli movement 'Standing Together' – demanding a just and equitable peace for both Israeli and Palestinians.

This, like anywhere, where the need to defeat regressive and reactionary ideas and politics taking hold, can only be achieved by mass mobilisation, building critical mass, and progressive collective action with political struggle.

Boyd Kellner
Newrybar

■ I have been a reader of *The Echo* for over 30 years and I've always admired the contribution your publication has provided to the local community. The tone of the paper has always been supportive and inclusive of various community groups, kept the locals abreast of important developments and news in the area and generally opted for apolitical goodwill stance on most issues.

I was horrified to see an advertisement by the Australian Jewish Association (AJA). Whilst I believe in free speech I could not help but view this anything more than blatant propaganda, coming from a known Zionist organisation desperate to try and turn the tide on the growing disgust from the rest of the world relating to the Israeli government and the IDF's actions in occupied Gaza specifically the murder of over 6,000 innocent children.

The entire advertisement is full of inaccuracies and outright lies. The layout of the piece is drafted as if to lay out fact after fact.

1. For over 75 years Israel has refused to recognise the Palestinian state and has occupied and controlled the territory for the entirety. Netanyahu himself said there will be no Palestinian state after Israel ceases hostilities. Israeli settlers continue to take land designated to the Palestinians under the 1993 Oslo Accord. This is an absolute lie.

2. Which peace offers and under what terms? It's important to understand the terms Israel demanded as part of a 'peace' offering including refusal to allow Palestinian refugees to return to Gaza, Israel maintains all sovereignty over the land, air and sea that borders Gaza, refusal to police the illegal settlements, control over individual movement – there's a long list.

4. Israel did not hand the keys back. It removed its settlers and military from inside Gaza but has systematically cut Gaza off by controlling all land, air and sea space on the borders of Gaza. Palestinians have no freedom of movement, the Israelis control electricity and water supplies into Gaza as well as prohibiting many basic supplies. Basically it's run like an open air prison.

5. What Hamas did on 7 October was reprehensible but as yet there is little if any proof of mass rapes and beheadings. Every innocent life on this planet matters, yet there now been an inequitable number of civilian deaths on the Palestinian side with no end in sight.

6. The fact that the AJA advertisement continually refers to the Palestinians as Gazans shows they don't acknowledge them as Palestinian people. The Israeli government was quite open about their intent to destroy as much of Gaza as possible with many of the highest-ranking politicians (including Netanyahu) openly saying they would happily destroy or relocate the entire population of Gaza, for which they are subject to a case in the ICJ.

The final line is what really got me the most – the AJA's conclusion that 'Hamas is responsible of all Gazan deaths'. I don't think Hamas was dropping the dumb bombs on hospitals and refugee camps or killing innocent

civilians in sniper fire, etc. This denial by the AJA of Israel's culpability, and shifting of blame, is abhorrent.

I expected more from such a usually lovely community-driven publication than this ad. I hope you reconsider your advertising policies in the future.

Jamie Webb
Ocean Shores

■ I'm shocked by the level of anti-Israel hatred expressed in letters and articles in *The Echo* since the printing of the advertisement from the AJA. I am particularly shocked by the radical words of editor Hans Lovejoy in last week's *Echo*, as well as the 'opinion piece'. How are these completely one-sided and anti-Israel words helpful?

There was a similar advertisement printed from the pro-Palestinian side (this time a full page) 15 June, 2022. Why was there no such backlash from people stating that that advertisement was full of lies and hate speech when that went to print?

I don't personally think the ad was necessary, and I don't think *The Echo* should print ads from either side, but the statements made in the AJA advertisement are very basic facts and this shows how far from reality many people are removed.

This is a terrible war and would not have happened if Hamas had not carried out the unspeakable atrocities on 7 October. This invasion of Israel, planned by Hamas for years was unprecedented in its savagery.

Israel left Gaza in 2005 completely removing huge Jewish communities, at times by force, and leaving all infrastructure in the hope that it would be a solid move towards a permanent peace. It is a complete and utter tragedy that the opposite has occurred.

Palestinian civilians are suffering terribly and many blame Hamas (not Israel) for their dire situation. Everyone wants the war to end but no country on earth would tolerate the ongoing attacks from these extreme Jihadist groups, so I don't know why people would think Israel should?

Palestinians and Israelis deserve this living hell to end. We should be coming together as a community working towards peace, not this!

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

A unique learning environment

At Upper Coopers Creek Public School learning is underpinned by a culture of respect, where students are treated as individuals, each with their own unique talents and personalities. Our educators know that our students view the world in unique ways and we tailor their educational opportunities to make their learning individual, engaging and memorable.



At Upper Coopers Creek PS, we share the responsibility to nurture, guide, inspire and challenge students. Learning comes to life through exploration, discovery and deep engagement, as teachers work alongside students to inspire creativity, joy and excitement. Our students learn with and through nature and are given the time and space for awe and wonder.

www.cooperscrk-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
02 6688 2128
Upper Coopers Creek Road,
Upper Coopers Creek



'We pay our respects to the people of the Bundjalung nation upon whose country we learn and teach, and we acknowledge that this place is, was and always will be traditional Aboriginal land.'

Change It

This morning I woke up at around 5am. In my head I calculated my income over the next few months. Then I calculated my outgoings. My semi-conscious spreadsheet spread out between the sheets. Hmm, more out than in. That's never good. I went back and did it again. Same result. I started to feel that dreaded dull thump of panic rising. That immobilising sense of dread. I work out what I will pay first. What I will extend. What I can do to ensure future me can pay the costs of past me.

The sun's not even up and I'm in fiscal meltdown. I love the smell of overwhelm in the morning. And compared to most, I'm fine.

Then a text from one of the kids. They live relatively independently on minimum income. They need a little cash to tide them over until pay day. Or to get to work. Or to buy food. Young people are doing it tough. The generation most likely to never own their own home, be coerced into university, and then kick off their adult lives already in debt. There's no greater way to keep people oppressed than with the invisible yoke of debt. The cruelty of poverty. It's hard to rise up when you can barely stand.

We are in a cost-of-living crisis. Basically, we are all paying more for food and household items, healthcare, insurance and transport. Stats show that household disposable income fell by 4.3% last year. It was the biggest decline since the 1980s. And it's people on low incomes who suffer most. Of course they do. We've been abandoning and punishing the poor for years. And then when they fail to thrive, we blame them. Very often they

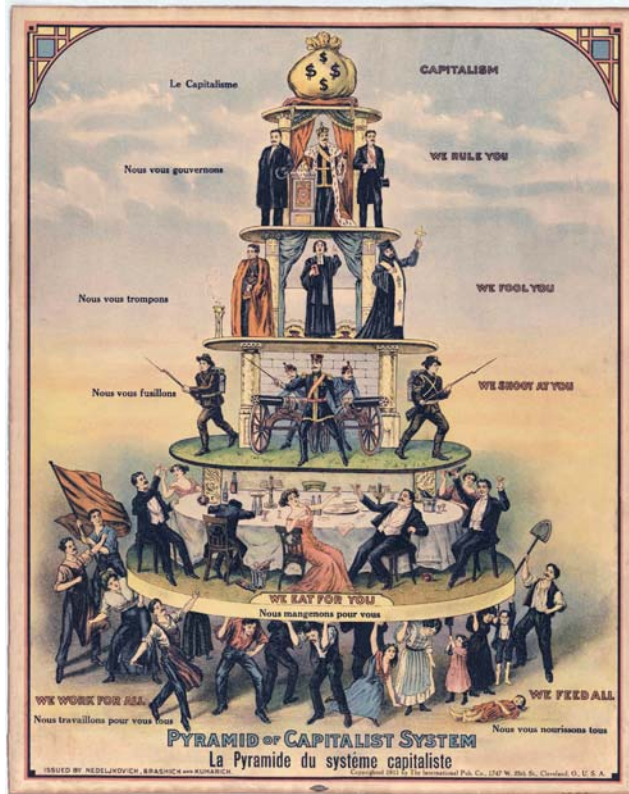
66 millionaires earning almost a billion dollars put together paid no tax last year ... We celebrate people like this. But their profits come at a cost. It's called poverty.

are carrying the burden of going backwards financially and accumulating punitive fines for late payments, no payments and late lodgements. We fall into holes we cannot dig ourselves out of. We work harder. We work longer. We dig deeper.

If you want to live life outside the debt hole you have to be rich.

According to the ATO, 66 millionaires earning almost a billion dollars put together paid no tax last year. That's because they had highly-skilled accountants. These accountants got their clients out of \$400 million worth of tax (just over half of what we need here for flood money). They paid their accountants an average of \$219,000. And this was tax deductible. Data from the ATO also showed that these wealthy tax dodgers made an average of \$14.5 million each last year. We celebrate people like this. But their profits come at a cost. It's called poverty.

In Australia, 3.3 million people live below the poverty line. That's around \$500 per week for a single adult and \$1,130 for a family with two adults and two children. Jobseeker places people at around \$269 per week below the poverty line. It sucks being poor.



Pyramid of Capitalist System, 1911.

When my eldest two kids were small I felt the sting. I've lined up at Vinnies for food and groceries. Begged for rent relief. I needed vouchers to pay my power bills. There were ten years when I didn't buy a single new thing.

Poverty comes with stigma. People who struggle to get by feel like failures. They feel like their failure is personal. But it's not. It's systemic. The system isn't broken. It's working as it was designed. A pyramid scheme that funnels wealth from the bottom to the top. Trickle down? No, that was the sales pitch. When it comes to wealth distribution the model is, reach to the bottom and suck it up. It's a giant extractive mouth sucking on a capitalist straw. Sucking up natural resources, labour, equity. That's the

feeling you get in the night. Your wellbeing and your children's future being drained as you sleep.

Depression, anxiety and suicide are on the increase. Maybe the solution isn't more psychologists. Maybe people are tired of being given the tools to accept being powerless. Maybe they need power.

Give people somewhere secure to live. A sense of belonging. Something to eat. Something to look forward to. Here's a radical idea. I think you'll find it in the Christian bible: share.

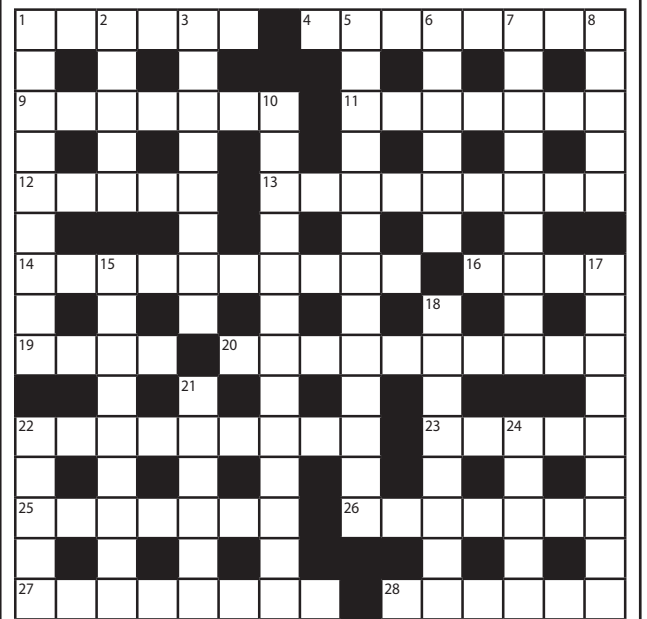
Perhaps in the eyes of economists the cost-of-living crisis isn't a crisis at all. Perhaps in the endgame it's just the cost of capitalism.

Change it.
- Mandy Nolan



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #528



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Latex masseuse (6)
- Afterword for a theologian: eliminate hesitation! (8)
- Australian with two horses - could be Leon and Noel! (7)
- For rebels, super is misleading (7)
- Dig out little enclosure (5)
- Two axes - cut back and sharpen percussion instrument (9)
- Dud grid - act angrily. He's hooked! (4,6)
- Live article - could be broad (4)
- Team can be on or off (4)
- Massacres, but Abbot holds parties (10)
- A daffodil for the self-obsessed boy (9)
- Quick drink with Capone, that's the sum of it (5)
- Travel to source of oil for city in Libya (7)
- Charge after cult, then part (7)
- Guide paper to the cheapest berths (8)
- Puts off - puts off animal skins by the sound of it! (6)

DOWN

- Kerbs RD (9)
- Hooray for British restraining order! (5)
- As an example, French culture - a pure one (8)
- Does the dirty XX (13)
- Rupee smashed, about zero where 3 can be found (6)
- Meal working over Eastern Standard Time, but not right (9)
- Sum up, ease, they say, into French museum (5)
- Glibness, both good and bad (5,8)
- Stress beneath the queue (9)
- Refuge with fish - or little birds (9)
- Reformed East Bloc - it's a hindrance (8)
- Building worker reported severity (6)
- Class working up records (5)
- Tour east - rubbish (5)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Eraser (6)
- Appendix (8)
- Word formed from the letters of another (7)
- Surges (7)
- Be first to publish (5)
- Musical instrument consisting of a series of wooden bars (9)
- Junkie (4,6)
- Edible seed often in pods (4)
- Edge (4)
- Mass killings (10)
- He fell in love with his reflection (9)
- Entire (5)
- Capital of Libya (7)
- Portion (7)
- The bottom deck (8)
- Postpones (6)

DOWN

- The verges of highways (9)
- Well done! (5)
- Inhabitant of 6 down (8)
- Deceives (13)
- The Old World (6)
- Fraudulent (9)
- French museum (5)
- A double-edged sword! (5,8)
- Emphasise (9)
- They have just hatched (9)
- Stumbling block (8)
- Thoroughness (6)
- Jots down (5)
- Balderdash (5)

Last week's solution #527



STARS BY LILITH

With outer planets Pluto embarking on a 20-year voyage of historical import and Uranus turning forward, the coming months continue to roll out significant changes in our world...



AQUARIUS THE WATER POURER

ARIES: Motivational Mars, your primo planet, in Aries' astro-zone of ambition and public recognition till mid-February makes this a good time to reach out to mentors and supporters, and/or launch some vigorous self-promo, perhaps set up a stylish rebrand. This week says: Don't wait - investigate.

TAURUS: In addition to Uranus, planet of change, in Taurus, Pluto's long term move to the sign of the unexpected can be taxing for fixed signs like yourself. But with this celestial scenario in place for the foreseeable future, best start finding a way of making obligatory changes work in your favour.

GEMINI: Predominantly air-sign vibes are this month's gift for your busy, buzzing twinning. Which is great for brainstorming and inspirational ideas, but carries the danger of overload, making it difficult to focus and move forward with grace and glide, so factor in downtime, quiet time, device-free time.

CANCER: While February's astrology has its wild surprises and friendly pleasures, it's not the most sensitive of transits. But no being hard on yourself or others please; the variations of the human dance won't always favour our preferences, so this week just do your best and forget about the rest.

LEO: This month is mentally- and technically-oriented. According to physical astrology, your fiery sign rules over the heart, making February's celestial question for Leos, how can you bring more heart energy into this digital, tech-obsessed world? Even just one thing each day could make a significant difference.

VIRGO: This month's astral energy fires up your work zone with a stimulus package from the cosmos. During the first week of February, Virgo's mentor planet Mercury in its most organised and efficient mode offers an excellent assist for decluttering, downsizing and ticking off the to-do list.

LIBRA: With astral energetics in your sector of self-expression and creativity, which some astrologers call the 'house of fun', what could be more enjoyable for a Libran? Use this cycle to explore and experiment, and if you feel you're outgrowing who you've been up till now, then you're on the right track.

SCORPIO: Six planets in a fixed sign like your own offer Scorpios the opportunity to catch yourself digging in your heels. So be willing to pivot, especially in negotiations concerning home, family or base of operations. Proposed changes may be challenging, but patience and curiosity can uncover their exciting side.

SAGITTARIUS: As this busy month escalates activities in your local community and social groups, don't be surprised if its digital insistence starts giving you a brain ache. Should this happen, go for a walk or drive in nature (preferably off your beaten path) to reboot your organic, natural intelligence.

CAPRICORN: Though its random and sometimes radical energy might seem counter-intuitive to your structured, process-driven sign, this month's planetary emphasis in Capricorn's zodiac zone of finances and holdings offers plenty of scope for making progress on what's most valuable to you, so stay open to new opportunities.

AQUARIUS: Happy birthday Aquirians! With the sun in your sign, plus the indelible imprint of Pluto's entry into Aquarius for the next 20 years transforming the world at large, its scientific discoveries, technological advances, social changes and progressive ideas are the background to your own personal evolution.

PISCES: February's six-planet emphasis on the final cycles that are naturally occurring in your life asks what do you need closure on before your astrological new year kicks in? Executive Mercury in efficient mode is assisting this audit with sensible judgments, unsentimental decision-making and no-nonsense communication.



Brunswick Byron Netball Association

Whether you are a new or returning player, Brunswick Byron Netball Association invites you to join up for the 2024 netball season.

Visit their website for more information:
<https://www.brunswickbyronnetball.com.au/>

COME AND TRY NETBALL DAY

Free session for 5–10 years. No previous netball experience or knowledge is necessary.

When: Saturday, 17 February 8.30am–10am
 (Mullumbimby netball courts)

How to register: <https://www.playhq.com/netball-australia/register/031114>

Suffolk Park Football Club

Suffolk Park Football Club invite you to join their friendly community club.

With their new change rooms and canteen completed, they are excited to have some football fun, meet new friends and cheer on The Phoenix back on the home field!

Miniroos (5-11 years) training starts 6 February on Tuesdays from 4-5pm at Linda Vidler Park, Beech Dr.

Seniors - training starts 7 February on Wednesday nights from 6.30–8pm at Cavanbah Centre.

Are you interested in coaching our men's team? Please get in touch!

e: info@suffolparkfc.com

m: 0405 554 933

FB: SuffolkParkFC



Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley FC

MBVFC offers teams from **Miniroos** to **Seniors** for all levels including their **Men's Premiership team**, and they have a dedicated female football program across all ages.

They welcome all levels to come join the fun!

Registration opens 1 February, and they encourage players to register early to help with team allocation.

For more info go to <https://www.mbvfc.com.au/registration/>

Red Hot Tennis

RED HOT TENNIS launches their new 2024 tennis program.

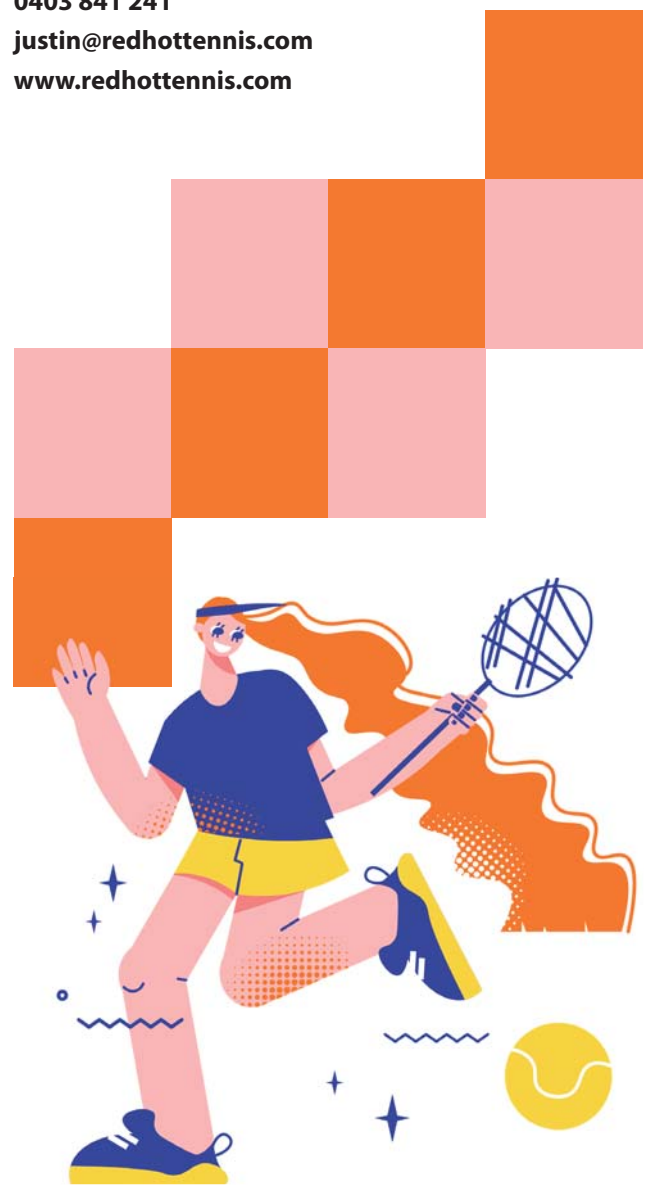
- Hot Shots junior program recognises the importance of play, appropriate challenge and learning new skills.
- Weekly adult clinics focus on stroke development and strategies. Improve your tennis in a fun-focused environment.
- Private lessons for players seeking tailored guidance to refine technique, develop tactics and maximise hitting.

TA Club Professional Coach Justin de Candia

0403 841 241

justin@redhottennis.com

www.redhottennis.com




NETBALL 2024 SEASON
 SIGN ONS NOW OPEN for:

- NetSetGo Skills/Activities (5-7 years)
- NetSetGo Competition (8-10 years)
- Juniors (10-12 years)
- Intermediates (13-17 years)
- Seniors

Register online: <https://www.brunswickbyronnetball.com>



SUFFOLK PARK FC

Miniroo teams 5–11 years – Training
 Tuesdays 4–5pm at Linda Vidler Park



Register online NOW

Redeem Active Kids Voucher with us!

info@suffolparkfc.com
suffolparkfc.com | [f SuffolkParkFC](https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkParkFC)

The biggest little football club in the Shire



Registration opens 1 February, 2024
<https://www.mbvfc.com.au/registration/>
 Or contact info@mbvfc.com.au

MULLUMBIMBY BRUNSWICK VALLEY FC
 The Valleys

RED HOT TENNIS

MULLUMBIMBY

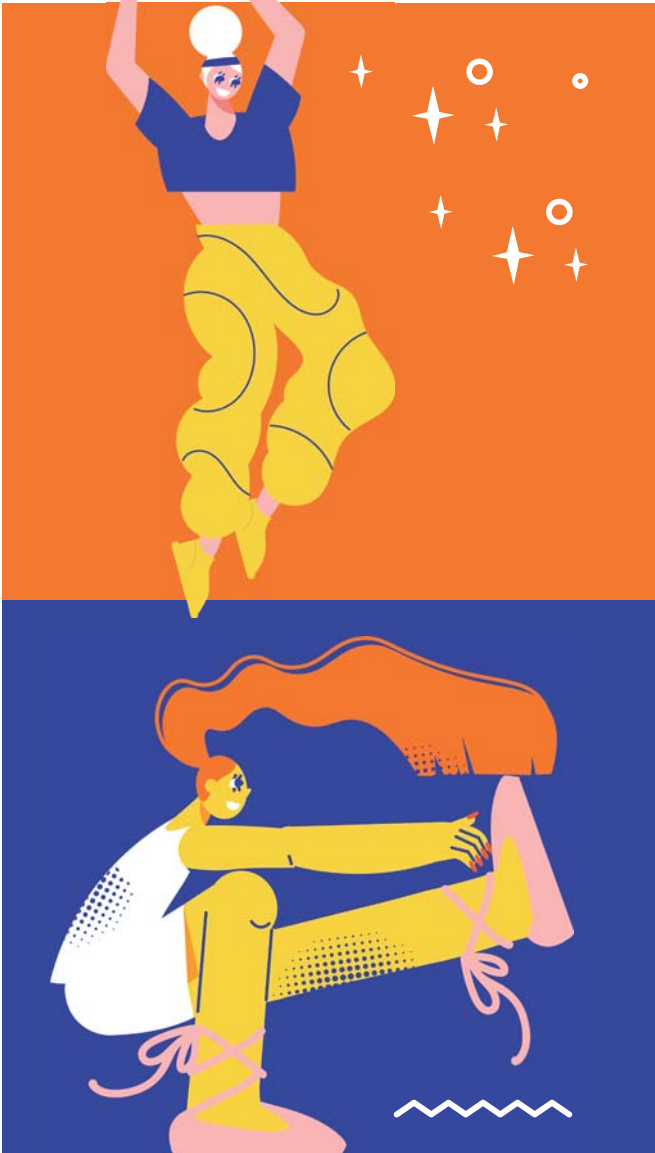
NEW TENNIS PROGRAM FOR 2024



Enrolments Now Open

- Hot Shots Junior Program
- Weekly Adult Clinics
- Private Lessons

TA CLUB PROFESSIONAL COACH - JUSTIN DE CANDIA
 PH: 0403 841 241 WWW.REDHOTTENNIS.COM



Byron Ballet

Byron Ballet courses are designed for the passionate dance student, and parents seeking age appropriate instruction within a holistic environment. They offer solid foundations in dance technique, training students in a disciplined and nurturing way, cultivating the artistic and joyful essence of dance in everybody.

Keen students also have the opportunity to perform with the Byron Ballet Youth company, which will be performing Sleeping Beauty in 2024, and the Victorian State Ballet company, who collaborate with Byron Ballet during their tour.

Dance courses recommence on 5 February, and include classical, contemporary, jazz and musical theatre. Classes are available for all ages, from preschoolers to adults.

www.byronballet.com
byronballet@gmail.com



SIGN UP ON

Shores United

Shores United are back with a vengeance for the 2024 season!

Last year their Mens 4th League Team and their Under 12's both won their Premiership titles.

This year is the first year they are offering a SAP Program for the 9 to 11 years olds that want more from their soccer.

Girls teams are flourishing on the back of the Matilda's performance at last year's World Cup.

And overall the club is an exciting grassroots place to be.

Welcome to Season 2024! GO SHORES!
shoresunited.com.au



Northern Rivers Tennis Academy

The Northern Rivers Tennis Academy has three experienced coaches. Director and coach Steve Gort was a past junior player and AMT and ITF competitor. He trained in Australia and at the John Newcombe Academy in Texas.

Coach Robert Dorman was a previous ITF player, competing in AMTs and ITFs in Australia and overseas.

Coach Emerald Cooke was a previous AMT player and played college tennis in the US until recently.

The Academy runs junior competitions during the school terms and holiday camps at Ballina and Mullumbimby in the school holidays. They have high profile male and female junior players of all ages, encouraging juniors to participate in tournaments and providing transport through the team bus – instilling team bonding and friendship.

Contact Steve on 0412 731 814
www.northernriverstennisacademy.com

byron ballet

NEW CLASSES
 BANGALOW!
 MULLUMBIMBY
 BYRON BAY

Enrolling Now!

(Active/creative kids)
Ballet, contemporary, jazz, musical theatre.

www.byronballet.com
 Inquiries - byronballet@gmail.com

northernrivers TENNIS ACADEMY

**Ballina - Mullumbimby
 - Ocean Shores**

- Daily squads
- Private lessons
- Adult clinics
- Competitions
- Events for juniors
- Holiday camps
- Weekly adult & social comps
- Competition travel
- Onsite tennis equipment shops & restringing service

Active Kids vouchers

For enquires: **Contact Steve on 0412 731 814**
www.northernriverstennisacademy.com

SHORES UNITED SOCCER CLUB

SOCCER SIGN ON

shoresunited.com.au

BYRON BAY



Loft Byron Bay

4 Jonson Street,
Byron Bay
6680 9183

Book online:
www.loftbyronbay.com.au

Signature cocktails, and casual dining with ocean views.

Happy Hour | Every day from 4–6pm.
\$8 loft wine or lager, \$10 spritzer,
\$14 margaritas & \$30 house wine bottle
Half price deli board & \$2.50 fresh oysters

Espresso Martini Nights | Every day 9pm–close,
2 for \$25 Classic Espresso Martini.

Open 7 days from 4pm. Sat lunches from Noon.



North Byron Hotel

61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay

6685 6500

Open:
11am Mon–Fri & 8am Sat–Sun
Kitchen hours: 11:30am–late daily
Breakfast: 8am–11am Sat & Sun
www.northbyronhotel.com.au

Step away from the centre of town and into a shimmering oasis away from crowds.

A tucked away treasure,
the North Byron Hotel is a thriving mecca
of good food, great music, laughter and the
'chilled Byron Bay vibes'.

Eat Drink Discover



Main Street

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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details
@mainstreet_burgerbar

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



QUARTZ GALLERY

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

Crystals and cocktails, tapas and wine

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



Success Thai

Open Lunch Wed–Fri
12–2:30pm.
Dinner Mon–Sat 5–8pm.
Closed Sunday
3/31 Lawson St, Byron Bay
www.facebook.com/pages/Success-Thai-Food/237359826303469

All your favourites, every lunch and dinner.
Experienced Thai chefs cooking fresh, delicious
Thai food for you.

BYO only.

Welcome for lunch, dinner and takeaway.

Menus available on Facebook.



The Rocks

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

therocksbyronbay.com.au
@therocksbyronbay

Happy Hour 6pm–8pm
\$6 tap beer or wine
\$12 selected cocktails

\$25 Pasta & Wine/Beer + Garlic Bread
Live Music Thursdays and DJ Saturdays
Open for dinner Wed–Sun



KARKALLA Byron Bay

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

KARKALLA BYRON BAY

Ancient food and modern flavours.
PROUDLY BUNDJALUNG

DINNER Mon, Thur, Fri, Sat | 5pm–late
Sunset Sessions from 4pm
BREAKFAST Sat & Sun | 8am–1:30pm
Sunrise Sessions from 10am
SUNDAY live & local music



Barrio Eatery & Bar

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

Barrio brings together the local community in a relaxed environment for all-day dining.

The wood-fired oven and open-flame grill is the heart of the restaurant.

Keep an eye on socials for daily specials.

BYRON BAY continued



NO BONES

Vegan Kitchen + Bar.
11 Fletcher Street,
BYRON BAY
0481 148 007

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

#brusselsnotbeef

www.nobones.co

BANGALOW



Bangalow Bread Co.

12 Byron St,
Bangalow
6am–3pm weekdays.
7am–2pm weekends.
6687 1209
www.bangalowbread.co
info@bangalowbread.co

Stone baked sourdough, hand rolled pastries, small batch pies, house made cakes.

Your local artisan bakery, specialising in all things sourdough. Serving Old Quarter coffee along with freshly made sandwiches using our own sourdough bread, hand rolled pastries, award winning pies and a variety of house made cakes.

LENNOX HEAD



Lennox Head Pizza & Pasta

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Dinner | Thurs–Sat | 5:30–8:30pm

DELI
7 days | 6:30am–3:30pm

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
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Find more tasty morsels at
Echo.net.au

Summer barbecues with that farmers' market style

Victoria Cosford

One of Conscious Ground's new sausages has 30% of their bacon in it – offcuts from the bacon production – and I can just imagine what a fabulous flavour they have. The smoked, nitrate-free bacon, stallholder Felix tells me in his irresistible South American accent, is 'becoming pretty famous in the area'.

It's barbecue season, so I've been checking out farmers' market offerings and seeing how many there are. Other new sausages in Conscious Ground's range include a beef one with caramelised onions, a pork-fennel-pepper one, and a chorizo which, Felix tells me, is his 'home recipe.' But there are also pork and short ribs – 'we call them assado', he says, 'and they're the best cuts for our barbecues.'

Of course there's the Hayter's Hill Farm stall as well, full of sustainably farmed beef and pork, and 10 varieties of gluten- and preservative-free sausages,



plus chops and steaks. Or, if you are lamb-inclined, grab one of Warren Wiggins' butterflied Dorper legs: bone out, split open and rolled out. Marinate for a minimum of three hours (ideally 24!) in dried oregano, lots of garlic, zest and juice of a lemon, olive oil and seasoning, then barbecue for about 20

minutes. Heavenly! Warren also suggests lamb cutlets, cooked 3-4 minutes each side, or 'shoulder chops are good too!' he says.

As for non-meat eaters, a great platter of barbecued vegetables is a thing of joy. From Summit Organics, Jumping Red Ant, or Organic Forrest you can pick up

glossy eggplant, huge zucchini, capsicum, all of them glorious right now and only requiring a slice-up and a grill, slicked with garlicky olive oil. Or from the Morrow Family Farm there's sweet potato, pumpkin and sweet corn. Throw in some hal-loumi from Nimbin Valley or Deb Allard, leafy greens from Gourmet Salad Hut and a loaf of Crabbes Creek sourdough and you're set!

■ Conscious Ground, Hayter's Hill Farm, Gourmet Salad Hut, Nimbin Valley Cheese, Deb Allard Cheese and Morrow Family Farm are at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am.

■ Local Dorper Lamb, Cheeses Loves You, Summit Organics, Forrest Organics, Jumping Red Ant and Crabbes Creek Woodfired are at New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday from 8 to 11am and at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am.

Brookfarm premium roasted nut mixes

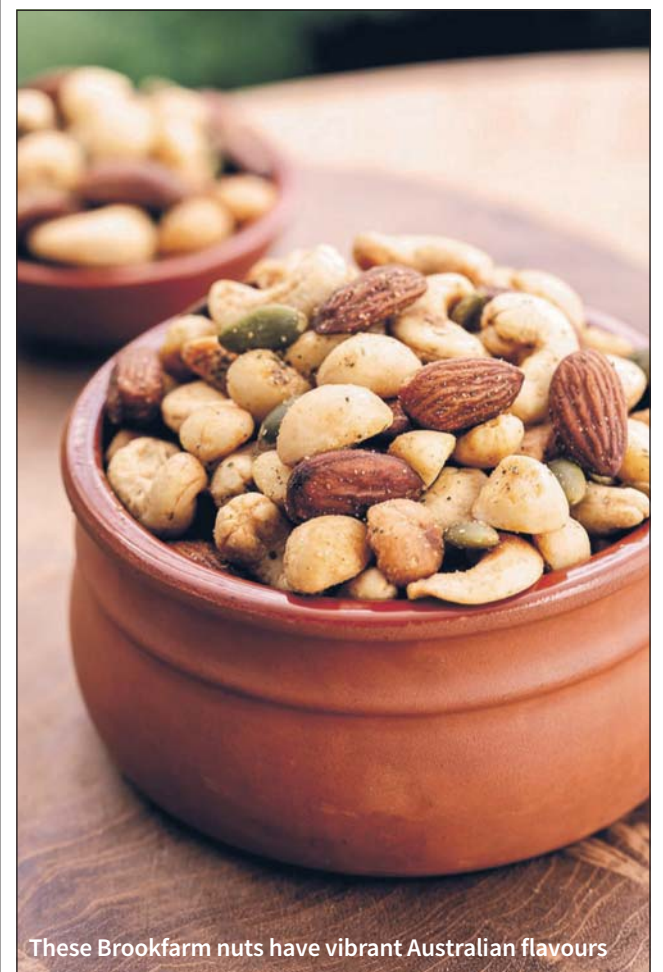
S Haslam

If you haven't seen the Brookfarm macadamia farm in the Byron hinterland, you probably haven't been to Brookie's distillery just outside of Byron, or heard about the rainforest regeneration of what was once degraded, cleared farming land.

Brookfarm recently released two new premium nut mixes: Australian Lime & Sea Salt and Smokey Australian Saltbush, which they describe as a

'delicious, savoury, salty blend of oven-roasted Australian macadamias, whole almonds, cashews and pumpkin seeds'.

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to confirm their deliciousness firsthand, as my family immediately ate the two packets I took on holidays, leaving me to feast on airport food, which I think speaks for itself. If you want to test them out yourself, they are at independent grocers, health food stores and online at brookfarm.com.au.



These Brookfarm nuts have vibrant Australian flavours

Mexican Cantina at the Australian Hotel Ballina



The Australian Hotel is a classic Aussie pub with cold beer, live music and good food, right in the heart of Ballina, just 150 metres from the banks of the Richmond River and five minutes from Lighthouse Beach, Shelly Beach and the airport.

The pub has undergone some renovations lately, and the latest addition to 'The Pub' is the Mexican Cantina, the converted bistro with a revitalised laid-back interior and casual outdoor dining space – the perfect setting for sampling their range of thirst-quenching beers. Or, if you're after a cocktail to beat the heat, the house Coconut Margarita is not to be missed!

Keeping in with the coastal vibe, the



Ballina Prawn Tostada (Ballina prawn, avocado crème, salsa verde, pickled red onion, jalapeno and radish) and Crispy Fish Taco (using the daily catch) are the perfect combination of fresh. Wednesday's offering is two-for-one tacos, and Sunday is all about tucking into a Carne Asada (Black Angus flatiron, charred onion, poblano peppers, pickled veg and salsa verde) while the kids eat free.

If you're up for a night out, stay for the live music on Thursdays from 8pm or boogie the night away to funk soul with a vinyl DJ every Saturday from 9pm.

■ The Australian Hotel
103 River St Ballina
australianhotelballina.com.au

FB: theaussiehotelballina



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THE ULTIMATE VINYL AFFAIR

Celebrating the achievement of crossing the milestone of donating over \$400,000 and helping 38 local charities since December 2015, **Cunning Stunts** will bring back their all-vinyl affair when scintillating guest DJs join the Cunning Stunts residents to heat up the Shed at February's **Nudge Nudge Wink Wink: The Ultimate Party with a Conscience!**

February's sublime lineup includes Sydney-based guest **DJ Kate Monroe** and locally-based guest **DJ Snow Monkey** joining the sensational resident **DJs Lord Sut** and **Dale Stephen**, all ready to spin the platters so you can dance as if it just don't matter this **Saturday from 4pm**.

For the January and February 2024 events, Cunning Stunts are donating much needed funds to the **Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre (PBNC)** so they can continue to provide services and support, with a focus on the needs of those in our Northern Rivers communities who are socially and economically disadvantaged.

You have helped raise \$400,574 so far, helping 38 local charities – community supporting their own.

This ticketed 18+ event at The Billinudgel Hotel is sold out – there will be no tickets available at the door – any legitimate tickets being resold are only available via Tixel.com.

FIFTH BLUESFEST ARTIST ANNOUNCEMENT

Bluesfest's fifth artist announcement sees **Ben Harper & The Innocent Criminals**, supergroup **Infectious Grooves**, **Katie Melua** and **The Waifs** add weight to the already hefty lineup.

Ben Harper & The Innocent Criminals will be playing exclusively for Bluesfest, and Infectious Grooves is a supergroup that includes **Robert Trujillo (Metallica)** on bass, **Mike Muir (Suicidal Tendencies)** on vocals, **Jay Weinberg (Slipknot)** on drums, **Dave Kushner (Velvet Revolver)** on guitar, and **Dean Pleasants (Suicidal Tendencies)** on guitar.

Also at Bluesfest, the best-selling British and European female artist of the 2000s, **Katie Melua**, returns to Australia for the first time in almost 20 years, and Aussie favourite **Brad Cox**, who won a Golden

Guitar for 'Top Selling Country Album of the Year' last year.

Other artists included in the fifth artist announcement are: **Yirrmal**, **Dirty Honey**, **Jerome Williams**, **Ben Swissa**, **eMDee**, **Perry Street Park**, and **Da Manager**.

Festival Director, **Peter Noble OAM**, says, 'It's the events 35th birthday and it's going to be hot. Not only is Bluesfest the most highly-awarded festival in Australia, but it is also the only Australian festival to be nominated nine times in the "Best International Music Festival" category, by Pollstar Awards (USA). Bluesfest has also been recognised as one of the top-10 festivals of the decade, worldwide by industry bible Pollstar in 2021.'

'There is simply no other festival quite like Bluesfest.'

'For our fifth and (probably not) final artist announcement, we are proud to present the artist who has done more to bring Bluesfest to the masses, Ben Harper & The Innocent Criminals, for their first performance in Australia in five years. Ben first played Bluesfest in 1996.'

'Another genre-bending artist announcement is Infectious Grooves. They are a true funk punk supergroup.'

There's so much more to see and do at Bluesfest.

www.bluesfest.com.au

LEFT: BEN HARPER
 BELOW: KATIE MELUA



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 15 BUENA VISTA CONCERT
 16-17 HONEY SLIDERS PLAY
 THE BEATLES | 18 DAVID HELFGOTT | 20 LENNOX: LEGEND IN MY LIVING ROOM
 29 ROAD TO PATAGONIA



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SPOTLIGHT ON ROSHANI PRIDDIS



What is striking about Bluesfest is the amount of incredible talent in one small space of time – although we all love to see them, it's not just about wheeling out the 'old favourites', it's about curating a lineup of incredibly talented and creative people.

High up on that list is Roshani Priddis – this ball of fire has everything any musician could ask for packed into one awesome chick.

Here's an example: Roshani, whose 'day job' is busking in and around Sydney, put the finishing touches to a song she produced herself last Wednesday. We did our interview on Thursday, following which she stepped into her loungeroom and her husband Tim Everett filmed the clip to go with the song. Roshani cut it on Friday and sent me the link on Saturday – and it's bloody awesome!

You may have seen a lot of Roshani on the telly – she was on *Australian Idol* (Season 6) in 2008 and on *The X Factor* (Australian Season 7) in 2015, a show she appeared on with the proviso that she could sing original songs.

Roshani's origin story of her adoption at just six weeks of age was also the subject of a *60 Minutes* episode.

Roshani, you are a freakin' phenomenon! But, as an independent artist, sometimes that doesn't always matter, does it?

I guess it depends on your intentions and what you want to get out of your career. For me, it's just like, I'm so okay with learning and growing as long as I'm evolving, and I'm better than I was last year or even yesterday, then I'm going in the right direction.

The industry is what it is, especially when corporates get involved – there's stakeholders to please and there's looks, certain things that get pushed rather than others – and that's totally okay.

That's a whole other world. But then there's platforms, like Bluesfest. They've embraced me so much more than anybody else in the industry.

I've sat down with major labels in this country – four or five, six times. And always, it's 'you don't have the [download] numbers. It's all algorithmic. If you're trending on Tik Tok, 'you got a deal, baby'.

The joy of it for me is being DIY and just learning all this stuff, literally, in the last four or five years. Like, I picked up the guitar, really, for the first time playing publicly in

2019. I took up busking at Circular Quay in Sydney and I've just been working my ass off ever since.

And that to me is like, 'I can actually do this!' whereas before I had this belief in my head that was like, 'Ah, no, I couldn't do that', or 'I better not do that', just really crappy, self-limiting beliefs. Now, it just amazes me how you can change so much in a lifetime. It blows my mind.

You're so loved up – it's in the songs

I'm a lucky woman honestly. Tim's been the kind of foundation on which I've been able to just grow. It's been insane. He's a lucky bastard. [Laughs] I tell him every day.

You were transplanted from Sri Lanka as a baby – has any of that culture stuck in your performance?

I love this way of explaining adoption, especially transracial adoption. I'm running Sri Lankan hardware, but I'm running Australian software.

I think like I'm literally like a white girl from regional Tamworth, but I've got this super great tan.

I think my sense of rhythm comes from my heritage. When I went back over there, everyone sings and dances. I was sitting there in the loungeroom of my mum's kind of little shanty shack house and my uncle just pulls out a comb and wraps a newspaper around it, and starts playing the maddest tune. And everyone's dancing, and everyone's singing – everyone's musical.

Listening to you singing it feels like you are actually connected to the 'source'. Do you have a direct line to heaven?

Yes! Without sounding religious or weird, it really is like touching God. It's so beautiful and it's so sacred and divine – I love it. It's something that I'm so grateful for that I have in my life and that it's taken me through all these different journeys and all these different evolutions.

Are you having enough fun?

Oh, I'm having too much fun sometimes.

You can see Roshani's new song 'Lover' on her socials.

Find a slice of heaven with Roshani at Bluesfest – she has sets on Saturday and Monday. See more at www.bluefest.com.au.

Yantra de Vilder & The Ephemera Choir present

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 w: echo.net.au/gig-guide.
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BANGALOW FILM FESTIVAL'S FOURTH SEASON

World-class films with small-town charm? You got it – the **Bangalow Film Festival** is taking over from **March 7 to 16**.

Bangalow Film Festival is thrilled to announce that it will be returning for its fourth year this March. Set to return to the historic A&I Hall and surrounds the full program will be revealed next Wednesday, February 7.

World-class films, small-town charm sums up the festival perfectly, with a stunning program of films, special music events and masterclasses.

Today we reveal three of the highlights from the opening weekend.

The opening film of the festival is the premiere of *A Portrait of Love* – a tender and moving portrait of the relationship between Northern Rivers local **Roberto Meza Mont** and the late Archibald Prize-winning artist **Craig Ruddy**. A beautiful film featuring many familiar faces. The director **Molly Reynolds** will be in attendance conducting a **Q&A** after the film.

Come along for the world premiere of *Follow The Rain*, a fascinating and visually stunning Australian documentary that follows fungi hunter and acclaimed photographer **Stephen Axford** who spies an intriguing frosty blue mushroom and becomes the first to document it for science.

Experience the first-ever performance of *The Mushroom Whisperers* – an audio-visual concert featuring **Romano Crivici** and **Carla Thackrah**, the composers behind the magnificent score of *Follow The Rain*. They are joined by one of Australia's finest didgeridoo players **Mark Atkins**, and multi-instrumentalist **Jess Ciampa** with the quartet bringing you an intimate, immersive live music event, set to the backdrop of stunning timelapse footage from *Follow The Rain*.

Tickets to these events are on sale now, and selling fast!

There are many exciting festival additions to come, including masterclasses with industry experts, live music, very special guests and more. Plus, the festival hub will return with delicious drinks, culinary bites and entertainment available before each screening.

The full program will be announced on Wednesday, February 7 – stay tuned. For tickets and more info, head to www.bangalowfilmfestival.com.au.

WEDNESDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **GUY KACHEL**
- 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**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ SALVE JORGE**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ PEACH**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **FAT ALBERT**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 7.30PM **OPEN MIC AT THE SHAW'S**

THURSDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MARSHALL OKELL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **DAMIEN COOPER**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR – HOPE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **VELMA CELLI — GOD SAVE THE QUEENS**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LITTLE KING**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 8PM **THE FERAMONES**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM **NATHAN KAY + DJ ROCKY HORROR**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **PHIL GUEST**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **EMMAGEN RAIN + ANGEL AND RUBY**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **SUNNY COAST RUDE BOYS W/ BAGGY TROUSERS + SETTING SONS,**

FRIDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BULLETPROOF**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **PHOEBE FAYE + BILLY OTTO**
- BYRON THEATRE 3PM & 7.30PM **SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR – HOPE**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 1PM **ZAC & JOE VINYL DJS + ALEX TILLEY**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6.30PM **DOMI & JD BECK**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **EPIC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MICKA SCENE DUO + DJ NO ID**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 1PM **ZAC & JOE VINYL DJS + FERNANDO, 1.30PM UPBEAT FUNK + JASON DELPHIN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 5PM **ADAM NEWLING — DOROTHY PAINTED PORTRAITS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **420 SOUND REGGAE/DUB PARTY**

SATURDAY 3

- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 4PM **NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK – DJS KATE MONROE AND SNOW MONKEY + LORD SUT AND DALE STEPHEN**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **NATHAN KAYE TRIO**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **OLIVE MAE**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **CATH SIMES BAND**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **GLITTERATI RIOT + DJ OVALS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MARK AITKEN**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 7PM **TIO**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 7.30PM **COMEDY NIGHT**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7PM **MEL BUTTLE & BRETT BLAKE**

SUNDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **GOODRICH**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 10AM **LOKI HOUGH**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4PM & 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 3PM **LANI & STEVE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN-MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ DANIE**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **SAM BUCKLEY**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **ADAM GARDINER**

- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10.45AM **BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB – ANN, BILL & 2JS HEART OF DANCE,, BOARDWALK 2.30PM SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS NATHAN BERETTA BAND ALBUM LAUNCH**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SUNDAY SESSIONS FT. TRISH WILSON COLLECTIVE**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **THE BUTTON COLLECTIVE**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 2PM **LISMORE JAZZ CLUB – AZO BELL AND THE NEIGHBOURS FROM HELL**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **GRACE STEEL**

MONDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OLE FALCOR**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **YAZMINDI**

TUESDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAMIEN COOPER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **INO PIO**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **OPEN MIC NIGHT**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 11AM **THE AUSTRALIAN BEACH BOYS**

WEDNESDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM & 7PM **NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: DEAR ENGLAND**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**

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

Session Times Ballina Fair Cinema

Thurs 1 February – Wed 7 February 47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| ANYONE BUT YOU (M) 103 MIN
Thurs, Fri: 3:40PM, 8:45PM.
Sat, Sun: 2:00PM, 8:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 3:45PM, 8:45PM | MEAN GIRLS (PG) 112 MIN
Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:20PM
MIGRATION (M) 91 MIN
Thurs, Fri: 10:50AM.
Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 12:00PM | Fri: 1:00PM, 8:30PM.
Sat, Sun: 10:15AM, 8:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:45AM, 8:30PM |
| ARGYLLE (M) 129 MIN
Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:30AM, 1:00PM, 6:00PM.
Sat, Sun: 12:30PM, 3:10PM, 6:00PM | POOR THINGS (MA15+) 141 MIN
Daily: 3:20PM, 8:30PM | TWO TICKETS TO GREECE (M) 111 MIN
Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:40AM, 6:15PM.
Fri: 10:40AM, 3:50PM, 6:10PM.
Sat, Sun: 4:15PM, 6:30PM |
| FORCE OF NATURE: THE DRY 2 (M) 112 MIN
Fri: 1:20PM, 6:10PM.
Sat, Sun: 12:50PM, 6:10PM | PRISCILLA (M) 103 MIN
Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 3:50PM, 6:10PM | WONKA (PG) 116 MIN
Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:00PM.
Sat, Sun: 10:20AM |

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- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| SPECIAL SCREENINGS | THE JUNGLE BUNCH WORLD TOUR (PG)
Daily: 11:10AM, 1:50PM
Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:40PM, 6:00PM | 8:30PM.
Sat, Sun: 3:45PM, 8:30PM.
Wed: 2:00PM, 3:45PM, 8:30PM | Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 6:00PM, Wed: 11:30AM, 4:20PM |
| FORCE OF NATURE: THE DRY 2 (M) SNEAKS
Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:40PM, 6:00PM | WISH (PG)
Sat, Sun: 1:30PM | ARGYLLE (M) NFT
Daily: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 3:50PM, 6:45PM, 7:45PM | RICEBOY SLEEPS (M) NFT
Daily: 1:20PM, 4:45PM, 6:10PM |
| PET SHOP BOYS DREAMWORLD: THE HITS LIVE (M)
Sun: 3:00PM | ALL FILMS | MAY DECEMBER (MA15+) NFT
Daily: 11:00AM, 1:10PM, 3:40PM, 6:10PM | THE BEEKEEPER (MA15+)
Daily: 8:30PM |
| CLIFF RICHARD: THE BLUE SAPHIRE TOUR 2023 (M)
Wed: 7:00PM | ALL OF US STRANGERS (MA15+) NFT
Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:30PM, 6:00PM.
Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:30PM | MEAN GIRLS (PG)
Daily: 11:30AM, 2:00PM | THE COLOR PURPLE (M) NFT
Daily except Sun: 11:10AM, 7:15PM.
Sun: 7:30PM |
| FAMILY FILMS | ANATOMY OF A FALL (MA15+)
Daily except Sun: 2:00PM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM.
Sun: 11:45AM, 4:40PM, 7:20PM | POOR THINGS (MA15+)
Daily: 1:50PM, 4:20PM, 7:15PM | THE HOLDOVERS (M)
Daily except Wed: 11:10AM, 8:20PM.
Wed: 11:10AM |
| MIGRATION (M)
Sat, Sun: 11:30AM | ANYONE BUT YOU (M) NFT
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PRICE | Contact Agent

OPEN | Thurs 1st February 4 - 4:30pm

Sat 3rd February 9 - 9:30am



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Beach House in Blue-Chip
Byron Bay Locale**

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261M²

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- 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 | \$2.75M - \$2.975M

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4 BANGALAY COURT, BANGALOW



Price Guide: \$1,600,000 4 2 2 744m2
Auction: Sat 24 Feb 11:00am on site
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648 BANGALOW ROAD, TALOFA



Price Guide: \$2,550,000 - \$2,750,000 5 4 2 6114m2
Auction: Sat 17 Feb 11:00am on site
Open: Wed 31 Jan 12:00-12:30pm, Sat 3 Feb 9:30-10:00 am

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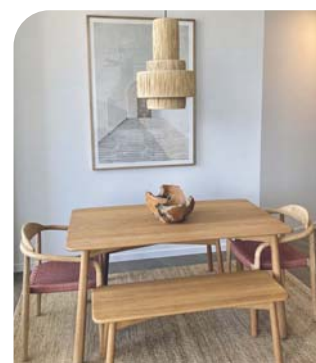
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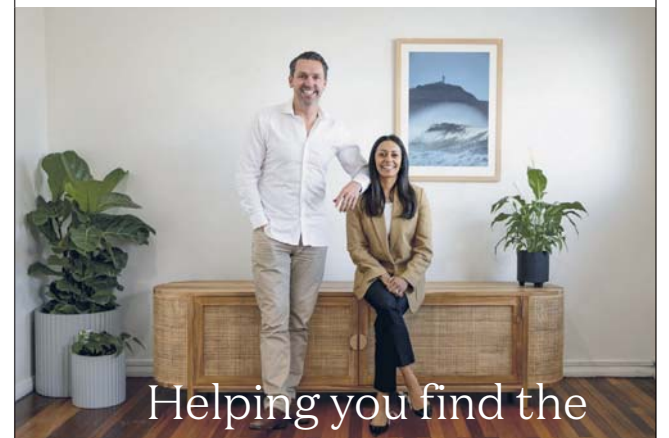
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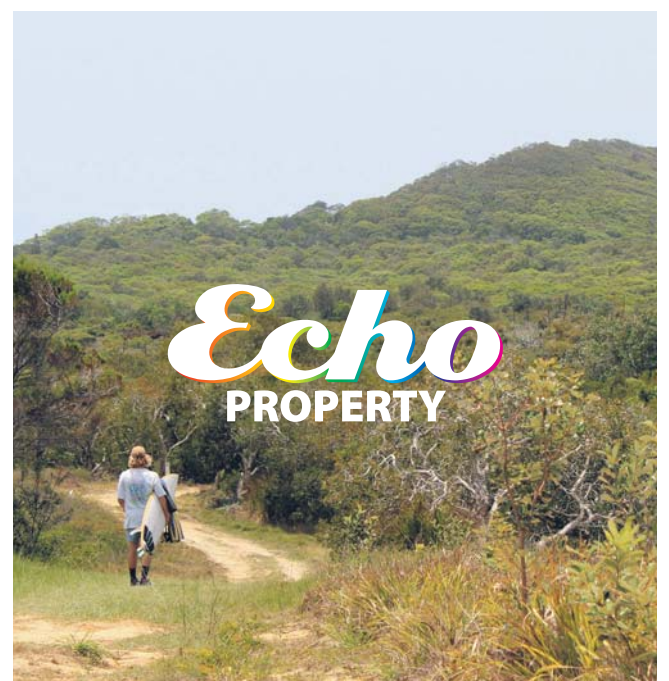
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Publication day is Wednesday, booking deadlines are the day before publication.

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICES



ROAD CLOSURES:

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSING UNDER SECTION 38B ROADS ACT 1993

In pursuance of the provisions of the *Roads Act 1993*, notice is hereby given that Byron Shire Council proposes to close the following council public roads listed in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1:

- Part road reserve adjoining 305 Main Arm Road, Main Arm Lot 1 DP 841372.

Upon closure of the road, council intends to sell the land to the adjoining landowner.

All interested persons are hereby invited to make submissions concerning the proposal to the General Manager Mark Arnold, Byron Shire Council, PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482, within twenty-eight days of the date of this advertisement. Please note that under the provisions of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009*, such submissions may be referred to third parties for consideration.

Once the submission period is completed, Byron Shire Council will consider all duly made submissions before deciding whether to continue with the road closure proposal.

Council Ref: #E2024/1956
Enquiries: Tracy Armstrong
Telephone: 02 6626 7201

This document will be available on Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice.

Submissions Close: Friday 1 March 2024

Please note: The canvassing of Councillors or Council staff in relation to this tender will automatically result in disqualification of offending tenderers.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au

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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Tasks include:

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Skills & attributes required:

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- Accurate typing, writing skills, Word & Excel
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The pay:

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Sax, Clarinet, Flute, Piano tuition with Kate Gittins. 0421574858
Sax tuition and Jazz Improvisation (all instruments) with Ken Stubbs 0432197388. All levels/ages welcome. Limited places available for 2024.

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

TUITION

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

FUNERAL NOTICES

RUTH SPICER
Passed away suddenly, with family at her side.

Much loved wife of Geoff.
Forever loved mother of Marla (dec).
Aged 65 years

Family and friends are invited to attend a funeral service to be held in the Tweed Heads Crematorium Chapel, 176 Kirkwood Road, Tweed Heads South NSW on **FRIDAY** February 2, 2024, commencing at 1pm NSW time.

Michael Currie at
Brunswick Valley Funerals
Mullumbimby
6684 6232

PETS



Cheyenne is needing to find a loving home as the shelter is making her sad. She would love someone to give her back her spark so that she can go back to being the happy kitty she once was. To meet Cheyenne and our other cats and kittens, please visit the **Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.**
OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm, Thurs 3-5pm Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 0436 845 542

Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R25100222

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



YANDI
Yandi is rather a special girl. She's a 3-year-old Border Collie x Labrador with a pinch of Staffy. She is smart, loving and affectionate. She connects with humans on a deep soul level. She knows basic commands and is like a sponge with learning and wanting to please. She is also great with children. If you are a confident dog-person looking for a loyal, devoted companion or a gorgeous family dog, please contact Shell on 0458 461 935. MC: 953010100675219



Damon is a 1.5 year old Kelpie X. He likes to explore and have activities to keep him entertained, so an acreage home with older kids would be ideal. Damon is also gentle and sweet, making him an ideal lounge cuddle buddy. M/C # 95301006013121. For more information please contact Yvette on 0421 831 128. Complete an Expression of Interest at: https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/

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

ONLY ADULTS

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

FULL BODY RESTORATION
Healing Through Pleasure
massagebyronbay.com or 0425347477

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

LICENSED TO THRILL
Premium Massage & Play
touchofjustine.com/byron-bay-outcalls

BEAUTIFUL TRANSGENDER ESCORT
in Lismore area.
Message 0421672487 for details.

TOUCH of JUSTINE

Devoted to Pleasure
• Couples, Men & Women •
touchofjustine.com
0407 013 347

SOCIAL ESCORTS

LOTS OF GORGEOUS LADIES available for your pleasure nearby. Spoil yourself. In-house & outcalls. 7 days. 0266816038.

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)
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	0:29 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
8	TH	6:21 19:38	3:48 18:31	0815 1.80 2023 1.20	0106 0.30 1449 0.35
9	F	6:22 19:37	5:00 19:21	0904 1.91 2113 1.29	0159 0.20 1532 0.25
10	SA	6:23 19:36	6:13 20:04	0949 1.97 2200 1.37	0249 0.12 1614 0.19
11	SU	6:24 19:35	7:25 20:42	1033 1.98 2246 1.43	0338 0.09 1654 0.16
12	M	6:25 19:35	8:35 21:17	1115 1.92 2333 1.48	0427 0.12 1733 0.17
13	TU	6:25 19:34	9:42 21:51	1157 1.79	0517 0.20 1813 0.20
14	W	6:26 19:33	10:48 22:25	0022 1.49 1237 1.61	0610 0.33 1852 0.27

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

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415
1st SUN	Byron Bay	02 6685 6807
1st SUN	Lismore Car Boot	02 6628 7333
2nd SAT	Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159
2nd SUN	The Channon	02 6688 6433
2nd SUN	Lennox Head	02 6685 6807
2nd SUN	Chillingham	0428 793 141
2nd SUN	Coolangatta	
3rd SAT	Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370
3rd SAT	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
3rd SAT	Salt Village Market, Casuarina	
3rd SUN	Federal	0433 002 757
3rd SUN	Uki	0487 329 150
3rd SUN	Ballina	0422 094 338
4th SAT	Evans Head	0432 275 765
4th SAT	Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglegbazaar.com.au
4th SUN	Bangalow	02 6687 1911
4th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764
4th SUN	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
4th SUN	Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)	
5th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764
5th SUN	Lennox Head	02 6685 6807

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

Each TUE	New Brighton	0424 168 672
Each TUE	Organic Lismore	02 6636 4307
Each WED	Murwillumbah 7-11	0415 328 672
Each WED	Nimbin 3-6pm	0418 940 653
Each WED	Newrybar Hall 4-7pm	
Each THU	Byron 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each THU	Lismore 2.30-6.30pm	0459 309 223
Each FRI	Mullum 7-11am	0424 168 672
Each SAT	Bangalow 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each SAT	Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)	
Each SAT	Uki 8am-1pm	02 6679 5438
Each SAT	Lismore 8.30-11am	
Each SAT	Blue Knob 8.30am-12pm	
Each SUN	Ballina 7-11am	

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Autistic Adults Meetup

Autistic Adults Meetup, Unmasked In Lismore, meets the last Wednesday of the month. The next Meetup is 31 January, 6-7pm at Step Boldly Speech Pathology, 5 Club Lane, Lismore. RSVP: text 'RSVP & NAME' to 0413 358 457 as limited spaces. It is gently facilitated and neurodiversity led. This is a space for autistic adults to learn and grow together from sharing in each other's experiences. This meeting is not therapy, a workshop, or for carers. It is a little time to take off our masks and be our truly autistic selves. Different but not less!

Junior Book Club

Byron Bay Library Junior Book Club. Are you 8-12? We invite you to read, laugh and explore with children's librarian Jacky Wilkosz. Books chosen by genre, perfect for all reading levels. Meeting monthly from Thursday,

8 February. To join contact the Byron Bay Library 6685 8540.

Independent Retirees

The next meeting of the Independent Retirees Far North Coast Branch is on Friday, 2 February at the Ballina RSL Club, River St, Ballina. Come along at 9.30 for 10am meeting, visitors and members are welcome. The guest speaker will be Matthew Wienert from Marquis Macademia, the Premier supplier of Macademia products. Attendance fee is \$5 which will go towards the running costs of the club. Morning tea will be supplied. Enquiries: Bob Taylor 0421 972 19.

Author in conversation

Join local author PA Thomas in conversation about his debut novel, *The Beacon*, a page turning murder mystery that is set in Byron Bay. Thursday, 22 February at 4pm. Light

refreshments provided. Bookings essential 6685 8540.

Mullumbimby CWA

The first meeting for 2024 is on 14 February at 10am at the CWA Rooms, 55 Dalley Street Mullumbimby. Bring a plate for a light lunch following the meeting. Mullumbimby CWA always welcomes new members into its ranks. For more information: Jenny 6684 7282 or Sue 6684 1675.

BV Probuc Club

The Brunswick Valley Probuc Club meeting Tuesday, 6 February at the Ocean Shores Country Club at 10am. Annual membership fees are due and nominations for office bearers are open. Guest speaker and visitors welcome. Inquires: Margaret 6689 3316.

BV VIEW AGM

Brunswick Valley VIEW Club AGM 8 February at Brunswick Bowling Club at Brunswick Head at 10.30am for 11am start. Pay \$20 membership before the AGM to vote. Apologies to Wenda: 0449 563 580 or email: wjhunt@yahoo.com.au.

Support after suicide

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

Volunteer call out

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

Carers' support

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

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, mazzerrati2010@gmail.com.

Older adult exercise

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

\$5 pilates classes

Pilates for the price of a coffee! Come and join us for \$5 Pilates classes every Thursday at 8.45am in the Memorial Hall, 22 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads and Monday at 8.45am in Mullumbimby. It doesn't matter what level you are, as beginner to advanced options are shown. Just bring a mat and water. My goal is to keep the Shire active and feeling great one person at a time. No need to book just show up. For more information contact Di on 0427 026 935.

Pottsville Community Association

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

Young onset dementia

Dementia Inclusive Ballina has started hosting a young onset dementia support group for family 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 first Friday of the Month 10am-12pm at Summerland Farm, 253 Wardell Rd, Alstonville. Info: Sabrina Pit 0429 455 720 or dementiainclusiveballina@gmail.com.

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.

Story walk at Lismore Botanic Gardens

Read 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, at the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens. 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. The story-walk will remain up throughout the holidays.

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 45 57 20, and Susan Burgess, Dib. digitaltraining@gmail.com.

Kyogle Garden Club

Kyogle Garden Club 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. Entry \$3. 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.

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 Tuesday, 6 February and run for six weeks at 9.30 till 11.30am. In comfortable air conditioned rooms at 13 North Creek Rd. (Opposite Aldi). 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. **Support appointments:** Individual support appointments with community workers or specialist services. For bookings please call 6685 6807. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au. **Byron Community Cabin:** Seniors Computer Club (school term only), 9-11am, Friday, Carlyle Steet. More info: www.byroncentre.com.au Phone: 6685 6807.

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30-11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You

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

Respite Service

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

Alateen meeting

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

ACA

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

Drug support groups

Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 - 30 meetings a week in the Shire - www.aa.org.au. Are you experiencing difficulties and challenges because of the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Learn coping skills and gain support from others. **Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings call 1300 652 820 or text your postcode to 0488 811 247. www.na.org.au. Are you concerned about somebody else's drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** meetings held Fridays at 2pm by Zoom. 1300 252666 www.al-anon.org.au.

Language exchange

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

Brunswick Valley Historical Society

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

Library fun

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

Byron Bay Cancer Support Group

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

Social sporting groups

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

Toastmasters

Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters meetings coaching in communication and self-development run on 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6.15 for 6.30pm at Byron Bay Services Club, Byron Bay. Online attendance allowed. **Mullum Magic Toastmasters:** Mullum Magic provides a safe and fun environment for members and guests to develop their public-speaking and leadership skills. Meeting 6.30-8.30pm every second

and fourth Thursday of the month at the Presbyterian Church, 104 Stuart St, Mullumbimby. New members and guests welcome. Contact Bruce 0418 515 991 or Ninian 0411 629 982.

Meditation

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

Brunswick Heads CWA

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

Byron Gem Club

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

Lions Club

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

Craft group

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

Op shops

Uniting Church Op Shop, Dalley St, Mullumbimby - open each Saturday 9am-12 noon. **Byron Bay Anglican Op Shop** opens Tuesday to Saturday 9am-1pm. Volunteers needed. Enq Cathy 0432 606 849. **Mullumbimby Anglican Op Shop** opens Monday to Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-12noon. Volunteers needed, enq to shop 6684 4718. **Mullumbimby Seventh-Day Adventist Op Shop**

opens Tuesday to Friday 11am-3pm. **Companion Animals Welfare Inc (CAWI) op shop** Brunswick Heads (next to supermarket) open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm, Sun closed.

Mullumbimby potters & sculptors

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

CWA Bangalow

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

Toy Library

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

Up your skills

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

Muslim prayer

Friday Muslim prayer. Jumu'ah service held weekly at the Cavanbah Centre at 1.30 pm. Come to the remembrance of Allah.

Landcare

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

Soap Aid saving lives

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

Herb Elliott track meet attracts top runners

The Athletics NSW-endorsed Herb Elliott Twilight Track Meet with \$2,000 in prizes was held last Saturday at the Cavanbah Centre.

'The event went really well and we attracted 116 competitors including Australian champions,' Byron Bay Runners president Caroline Bailey said.

The community-based club has been going since 2011 and Saturday's event was the third running of the 'Herb Elliott'.

Herb Elliott donated the trophy for the signature race of the event, the 1500m Herb Elliott Perpetual Trophy.

This event was won by Daniel Williams who won both the U/18 800m and 1500m national championships last year.

Finn Crethar and Joseph Hein filled out the podium.

'We are hoping Daniel will be a future Olympian,' Caroline said.

Top three finishers in the 1500m female were Matilda Duhig, Ruby Hughes and



Young and old tested themselves at the Byron Bay Runners Cavanbah track meet last weekend. Photo Jason Crethar

Wyana Pietramale Sewell.

As a member of Athletics NSW, Wyana qualified for the Herb Elliott women's trophy.

Other distances on offer at the meet included 100m, 400m and 3000m runs.

Other notable runners included former Australian representative Kyle McIntosh and Queensland's Ruby Hughes.

'We also had plenty of local, home-grown talent,' Caroline said.

Other results

100m: (male) Aziz Marone, Campbell Harvey, Jaime Cascajares; (female) Skye Dogan, Amy Bailey, Milani Tighe.

400m: (male) Daniel Williams, Joseph Hein, Campbell Harvey; (female) Skye Dogan, Sienna Rooney, Alex Dogan.

3000m: (mixed) Liam McKenzie, Matt Stevenson, Ruby Hughes.

Volunteers wanted for Byron Bay's Adaptive Surfing Championships

The Australian Pro Adaptive Surfing Championships are set down for Byron Bay on 17-22 March this year, and organisers are calling for volunteers across various roles.

Volunteers will be able to choose areas that align with their skills and interests but priority areas include: in-water support (helping competitors in the water and helping to get them back on the boards, for example); on the beach (transfers across the beach to the water, and in and out of wheelchairs) and the event site (set-up,



Some adaptive surfing from the ISA Para event at Huntington Beach, California last year. Photo Pablo Franco

pack-down and managing food stalls and athlete needs).

Saturday, 16 March will be the date for the event site to be setup before the opening ceremony at 3pm

on Sunday 17 March.

The competition runs from Monday 18 March until the closing presentation at 6pm on Friday 22 March.

All the details are at adaptivesurfproaustralia.com.

Plenty of medals for local surf life-savers at Country Championships

For the second year running the Cudgen Headland SLSC had to settle for second place in the NSW Country Surf Championships behind the hosts Warilla-Barrack Point, while Byron Bay came home with fifth place.

The host club on the south coast had strong numbers and their win (1,396 competition points) came on the back of almost 200 individual and team medals.

Cudgen headland finished on 1,244 points from a total field of 31 clubs.

Yamba came third on 378 points ahead of Broulee Surfers (317) and Byron Bay (316).

Joanne Kay was a multi-medal winner for Byron Bay, winning the 50-59 female beach flags and board race.

The Byron Bay B Team of Karen Irwin and Matthew Yopp won the 30+ mixed double ski.

Other Byron successes included: Daniela Berti Carrabs winning the U/17 female ski, Delilah Warton winning the U/13 female sprints and flags and coming second in the board race, Tommy Pockley taking second in the U/13 board



U/9s hit the water looking for a paddle board win at the SLS Country Championships. Photo SLSNSW

race with Otto Maiden coming third, Will Schmid winning the U/14 2km run, and Charlie Isaacson winning the U/9 flags and coming second in sprints.

The U/9 swim relay team of Orlando Blandford, Remy Round, Hazel Tutt and Izaria Yopp collected bronze.

Lennox Head

Lennox Head came 13th on the back of some strong individual efforts.

Billy Stewart cleaned up the U/12 category - winning the male surf (swim) race, board race, iron, 1km beach run and was part of the

club's junior cameron relay winning team (U11/U12).

Amy Roberts of Lennox was also part of the U11/U12 junior cameron relay winning team, and she had two other wins; the U/12 female board race and the U11/U12 junior female board rescue.

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.

Veteran golfer had a special 2023

Ben Sheck, a member of the Byron Bay Golf Club (BBGC) had a big year in 2023.

Ben regularly competes in Northern Rivers Veterans Golf Association (NRVGA) open days, the veterans competitions each Monday as well as other competition days held by the BBGC.

Ben excelled himself last year by not only winning both the Gross and the Nett BBGC Veterans Club Championships, held over two rounds in November,



Ben on his way to a great 2023. Photo supplied

but he then went on to be crowned the NRVGA Nett Championship winner with a

score of 70.

This event was hosted by the Ballina Golf Club.

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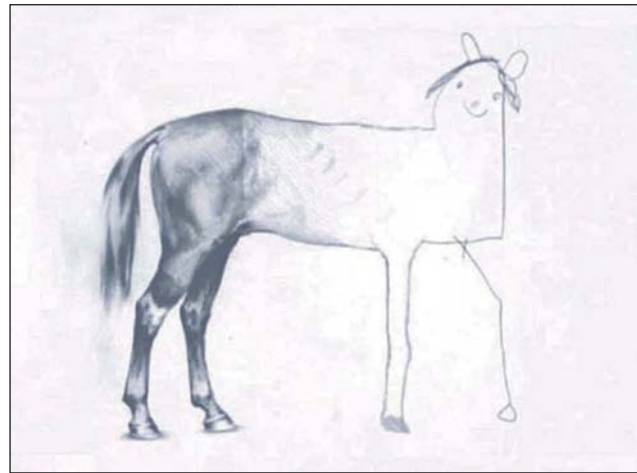
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Where else but Nimbin (and maybe Mullum) could a Spiritual and Psychic Fair be held? To find out what the Year of the Dragon has in store for you, visit Nimbin School of Arts on February 9, 10 and 11. It will surely satisfy all your psychic, psychometry, and geomancy divination needs.

ICYMI, former News Corp and Fox executive, Kim Williams, will replace Ita Buttrose as head of the ABC. Unlike most vapid corporate CEO types, Williams is an accomplished musician, didn't get along with Murdoch, and is married to Gough Whitlam's daughter Catherine. Perhaps the days of the national broadcaster looking like *Woman's Day* are numbered? Let's hope Williams makes ABC TV journalism great again.

From Independent journalist Michael West: 'The feds can find billions for AUKUS, but not for aerial firefighting, despite recommendations of the Bushfire Royal Commission'.

Well done PM Albo for adjusting the Lib/Nat's awful stage three tax cut policy. It will provide financial relief to many more people, instead of the already wealthy. That prompted much humbug and yabber from the Libs-Nats and their cheerleaders, the Murdoch rags. It's a wedge for opposition demon, Peter Dutton, who will presumably now campaign on reversing the tax cuts for everyone earning under \$104,000 pa. According to 2021 ABS data, 12.5 per cent of the Aussie population earned that 'high' income of \$2,000 or more, per week.



'When your client asks if you can do it cheaper?'
 Image www.reddit.com

Nominations for the NSW Landcare Awards close on March 1. The awards honour the outstanding individuals and groups for their contributions across the nation tirelessly preserving, collaborating, and innovating to restore and protect the natural environment. Visit landcareaustralia.org.au/landcare-awards-2023 for more info.

Nigel Raynard, who runs airport transfer business, Byron Bay Luxury Tesla, has told electric vehicle newsite, thedriven.io, he has just clocked 700,000 kms in his 2018 Model S. He says he replaced the vehicle's battery pack at 666,666 kms, and is now on his second set of brake pads. Since purchasing the car in 2018, he claims to have saved \$120,000 in fuel and maintenance.

Good riddance, Scott Morrison, as he retires comfortably and smugly from politics. Hopefully as a US asset, he'll be less of a blundering wrecking ball than as our PM.

A pop up Death Cafe, which is a safe space for open conversations about death and dying, is happening Saturday at the Paddock Project in Mullum from 10am. To RSVP and enquiries, email: mullumbimbydeathcafe@gmail.com.

What's going in ya green bin? Council are asking that only organics go in, so that the resulting compost is natural and good quality. Council say the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has brought in new rules because of the large range of disposable products that claim to be compostable, but contain chemicals and substances that could cause harm to the environment, and to people's health.



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