

Prepared to save Wallum

Paul Bibby

Dozens of locals are preparing to take non-violent direct action (NVDA) to save the Wallum heathland in Brunswick Heads from development, after Byron Council signed off on subdivision works to begin at the fragile site last week.

As the dust settles following a dramatic Byron Council meeting, members the Save Wallum community say they are ready to stand in front of the bulldozers in order to protect the site and the threatened native species that live there.

'I have huge hope, because the community is getting very organised,' one of the leaders of the Save Wallum campaign, James Barrie said.

Clear game plan

'We have a really clear game plan. Part of that is calling on the community to get involved in any way they can, including through direct action, because that is what is going to get this thing called off.'

There are a series of NVDA trainings taking place that will help the community to act safely if they choose to take direct action.

This may well be needed, as the Clarence Property Group now has planning permission and final sign off to clear about 60 per cent of the 18-hectare Wallum site in order to create 124 residential lots and associated roads and infrastructure.

Approval for the development was provided by the Northern Region Planning Panel in May last year. This followed concept plan approval from the state government back in 2013 – a plan



As soon as the slim councillor majority voted to give the Wallum developer their construction certificate on Thursday, Alyssa joined other activists to protect Wallum from the bulldozers. Photo Eve Jeffery

that many refer to as a 'zombie DA' because it sat in the shadows while the environmental protection landscape evolved around it.

It was only after last year's approval that people such as Mr Barrie became aware of the development and its environmental and cultural consequences.

Major movement

From small beginnings, the campaign to save Wallum has grown into a major movement, as evidenced by the 250-plus locals who gathered at the Byron Council chambers last Thursday to implore Council to join them in the fight.

While Council could not stop the development because it was not the consent authority, it did have

some capacity to temporarily halt the bulldozers by denying Clarence Property a subdivision works certificate.

However, with Clarence Property already commencing legal action against Council for deemed refusal of the application, and legal advice indicating that Council had few grounds to further delay the process, there was a push within Council to sign off on the subdivision certificate as soon as possible.

While this was ultimately the outcome of last week's meeting, it was far from a foregone conclusion.

As scores of placard-carrying Save Wallum supporters watched on, frequently offering their opinions from the gallery, two distinct camps battled it out for more than

four hours with the final result only decided by the mayor's casting vote.

Evenly split councillors

On one side sat councillors Sarah Ndiaye (Greens), Duncan Dey (Greens), Peter Westheimer (Independent) and Cate Coorey (Independent). They argued that the environmental reports provided by Clarence Property to support their subdivision works certificate, and the development as a whole, were significantly flawed and should be challenged, even if Council was ultimately unsuccessful in Court.

Councillors Westheimer and Ndiaye moved that these reports should be investigated prior to Council approving the works certificate.

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'Mandatory' pesticide spraying deferred at Bruns pod village

Hans Lovejoy

Flood-affected residents have had a last-minute reprieve by the NSW Reconstruction Authority, who had planned to spray controversial pesticides at the Bruns pod village.

The pod village, located near Simpsons Creek on Tweed Street, is one of three in Byron Shire.

The Echo was contacted by concerned residents, claiming that many residents were probably unaware, and that the notice given was insufficient.

Neurotoxins

Their main concern was that the neurotoxins proposed for use are banned in Europe, and will impact not just the pods, but could reach the nearby waterway.

A Reconstruction Authority spokesperson told *The Echo* they have postponed the pesticide spraying to consult with residents and look at other options.

A time frame for when that would occur wasn't provided.

One resident, who wanted to remain anonymous, says she is recovering from cancer, and is still being treated. She said, 'I want to live a toxic-free life. I have a water filter, and eat organic food.'

She told *The Echo* she brought in worms from her flood-damaged property to start a garden and has cultivated flowers which attract bees.

'I eat herbs and veggies from my garden at the pods.'

'These toxins kill worms and bees,' she says, 'There is no way they can't guarantee it won't enter waterways.'

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As mayor seeks more negotiations, Wallum activists prepare

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They argued the matter was worth pursuing in court, even if the odds were against Council, because it might secure further amendments or concessions from the developer, and because it would help the overall community campaign to save Wallum.

On the other side were four councillors Mayor Michael Lyon (Independent), Asren Pugh (Labor), Alan Hunter (Independent), and Mark Swivel (Independent).

They argued that it was not appropriate to pursue a course of action that would force Council to spend a significant amount of rate-payers' money defending an unwinnable court case.

Not only would this likely result in Council having to pay the developer's legal costs, but it would also mean losing the opportunity to further negotiate with the developer from a place of good faith.

'I think concessions can be obtained from the developer if we do our jobs today and this goes through,' Cr Lyon said. 'If this goes to court, we lose, and it's done.'



Cr Peter Westheimer's photo of Wallum campaigner James Barrie, just after the mayor used his casting vote to give the developer their construction certificate - with conditions.

This is about trying to get the best outcome.'

With the councillor vote deadlocked at four in favour and four against at the end of the debate, Cr Lyon used his casting vote as mayor to support a motion signing off on the subdivision certificate.

Potential errors

This was subject to discussions to be held to 'clarify some potential errors' in the plans for the site.

These errors included updating and correcting the Vegetation Management Plan, and clarifying how many plants of different species would be included as

compensatory planting.

Under the motion, the developer will also be invited to meet Council within 28 days to explore further modifications to the proposed development to 'save as much of the habitat on site as feasible'.

This meeting is also intended to allow ecologist experts for the developer to explain their positions and to 'work in good faith to resolve the anomalies identified in the expert reports in submissions to Council'.

Council's decision drew a chorus of anger and dismay from those gathered in the Council chambers.

Adding to the controversy surrounding the vote was the fact that one of Byron's councillors, Sama Balson, had recused herself from the debate on the grounds of a 'significant non-pecuniary interest'.

Cr Balson recuses

The nature of this interest was Cr Balson's 'personal relationships and friendships with those opposed to the development', she said.

Had Cr Balson been present, it would have been her vote that decided the matter rather than the mayor's.

Cr Swivel was also absent for most of the debate because he had to attend a funeral. He did take part in the final decision, voting with Crs Lyon, Pugh and Hunter.

With Council signing off on the subdivision works certificate, the developer is now a step closer to begin developing the site.

This could potentially bring them face-to-face with members of the Save Wallum community who have vowed to fight on. The campaign will also be continuing away from the front lines.

Mr Barrie and his team are battling to secure state and federal government intervention to protect Wallum permanently.

This includes having an Interim Heritage Order made in relation to the site, and having it called-in by Federal Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek under the *Environment, Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

'We as a community managed to send 1,200 letters

to the councillors in 24 hours prior to the meeting,' Mr Barrie said. 'We're now hoping to do the same for [NSW Environment Minister] Penny Sharpe [NSW Planning Minister] Paul Scully, and Tanya Plibersek.'

'We also want to try and get Save Wallum signs outside everyone's home.'

'This is far from over. As hard as it might be, I believe that if everyone gets behind this fight we can save Wallum.'

Singhs Tyre & Mechanical Byron Bay closes Feb 15

After 25 years of serving the community, Singhs Tyre & Mechanical will close its doors on Thursday, February 15 at 4pm.

The shop is located next to Repco Auto and the former Mitre Ten shop at the end of Jonson Street, opposite Byron Music.

Owners Brad and Lorriane McCormack told *The Echo* it was a difficult decision to wind down their operations.

'It is with mixed emotions that we announce the upcoming closure of our

workshop', they said.

'We have been unsuccessful in securing a new lease that is fair, and with the lack of available employees for us to work with, we cannot do it anymore. Over the years, we have built strong relationships with our customers and your patronage has been instrumental to our success.'

'As we say goodbye, we would like you to know that your support over the years has made a significant impact and we are grateful beyond words.'

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Byron shows support for Palestine

The Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine led a 'ceasefire now' rally and musical fundraiser in Byron Bay on Sunday.

Speakers and performers included federal Greens candidate, Mandy Nolan, Sam Watson, Blakboi, Ella Bancroft, Sajah Mustapha, The Hilyte Freedom Band, JESA, and Willy McElroy.

Spokesperson, Subhi Awad, said in a statement that the rally was 'In response to the ongoing genocide and humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza'.

Israel launched a counterattack on Palestine, after Hamas attacked Israel on October 7, 2023.

He said, 'There can never be any justification for the crime of all crimes, genocide. We need an immediate ceasefire and crucial humanitarian aid to save innocent lives in Gaza'.

'The situation in Gaza has reached unprecedented levels of tragedy, with reports from organisations



Sunday's ceasefire march in Byron Bay. Photo Eve Jeffery

such as Save the Children US and Oxfam highlighting the urgent need for intervention.

Famine risk

'More than 10,000 children have lost their lives, thousands are missing, and the entire population faces

the risk of famine owing to restricted access to food aid'.

Subhi said, 'Sam Waiburra Watson, presented the group an Indigenous flag that was owned by his grandfather, the legendary Indigenous rights activist, Sammy Watson Jr'.

'The Indigenous flag and the Palestinian flag belong together', said Sam.

Mandy Nolan added, 'We need an immediate ban on military exports to Israel; This government is arming a genocide... right now, we are complicit.'

Hottentot Crescent name to change

Paul Bibby

Last Thursday's Byron Council's meeting may have been dominated by Council's decision regarding the Wallum heathland side, but a number of other important matters were also dealt with.

One of these was Council's decision to change the name of a street in Mullumbimby's Tallwood Ridge because of the name's racist history.

Councillors originally voted to change the name of Hottentot Crescent last year, after 370 people signed a petition in support of the move.

However, after hearing from those living on the street about the cost and

inconvenience of such a change, they were set to rescind the decision last Thursday.

But views were swayed during public access, when a local man of Khosian origin, John Gabriel Alexander Simons, spoke about the history of the derogatory expression Hottentot, and his own experience of racism in South Africa.

'The name has the same meaning as nigger, kaffir, bung, gollywog,' Mr Simons said.

'This racialised language perpetuates harmful stereotypes and contributes to the marginalisation of an entire Indigenous community.

'It is disheartening to note

that such derogatory terms have transcended borders and found their way into our own community spaces like Hottentot Crescent'.

Opinion swayed

Mayor Michael Lyon, who had brought the rescission motion along with councillors Duncan Dey and Peter Westheimer, said his opinion had been swayed by the impassioned speech and that the name should be changed.

'I'll have to go back and explain this to the residents, but I'll do it armed with the audio from today when we heard what I think were really convincing and compelling reasons to change the name,' Cr Lyon said.

Land trust adopted

Council's plan to create a Council-led land trust was adopted at last Thursday's meeting.

The trust, which would involve Council running a land-owning, not-for-profit entity that creates low-cost housing for the community, has dropped off Council's agenda over the past three years. This followed advice from the state government that such trusts were tightly restricted under law and required careful and detailed planning.

But the trust is now back on the agenda, with councillors confirming their commitment to the plan and requesting that staff prepare a new application to the state government.

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Flood survivors still demanding what was promised by NSW govt



Those impacted by the 2022 floods and who are still waiting for the promised government assistance gathered on Monday at the Ballina RSL. Photo Eve Jeffery

With thousands of flood-affected residents still without buybacks, retrofits and house raises, a community gathering on Monday at the Ballina RSL highlighted the need for governments to be held to account, nearly two years after the devastating floods of 2022.

In December of last year, 38 community groups signed an open

letter demanding \$700m in additional funding for the Resilient Homes Program from state and federal Labor governments, as well as a clear timeline for delivery and better communication from the NSW Reconstruction Authority.

Greens MP for Ballina, Tamara Smith, highlighted the slow rollout of the programs and said, 'In the two

years since the catastrophic flood events, there have been less than ten families in my electorate supported by the Resilient Homes program!'

'We will not stop standing up on this issue. Just last week, I questioned the premier on this funding shortfall and I will keep the pressure up alongside our incredible community.'

Tallowood Estate open space deal on hold

Hans Lovejoy

A decision on whether Council will accept an offer on a large parcel of forested land on the ridge around the Tallowood Ridge Estate near Mullum was deferred by councillors last week, which is a relief to residents campaigning for it to be formalised as a public reserve.

Edwina Hart has been an active Tallowood resident for five years, and told *The Echo* the Tallowood Village Community Group (TVCG) is 'keen for consultation with Council staff on the best way forward'.

'Tallowood residents value this piece of land very highly', she said.

'It's an important community asset'.

'It's our backyard, a place of solace, a place to walk and connect with nature.'

'The kids love it, and they need access to green space. It's important for local biodiversity, including rare species like glossy black cockatoos and koalas, and the area also holds trees on the significant tree register'.

As reported last week, developer of the estate, Eric Freeman, is seeking to have Local Open Space and

Recreation \$7.11 contributions removed on the land.

Freeman explained to *The Echo*, 'we created the toddlers' play park and the sports fields, instead of payment of contributions for lots in earlier stages, and we are now dedicating the ridgeline land as a Public Reserve, that will be part of the Public Open Space network in lieu of payment of the money for Public Open Space and Recreation in Stage 9'.

'The amount of Contributions for Open Space and Recreation in Stage 9 is approximately \$582,000, and the appraised value of the ridgeline land is \$600,000, so we have met our obligation by dedication of the ridgeline land'.

Ms Hart says, 'Following a long-running campaign from residents, councillors voted unanimously in December 2020 to enter into negotiations with the developer of the estate, to seek the gifting of the land to Council'.

'So the biggest question for Council is why these negotiations with the developer haven't yet occurred, and just over three years

later, we seem to be back to square one, with councillors voting on the same thing?'

She said it was a surprise to see it on the Council agenda and had to rally residents quickly to respond to councillors.

'Landcare has already had a highly successful restoration project, including installing nest boxes along the ridge.'

'There have been many weeding, planting and maintenance projects over the last four years.'

Landcare involved

'The Tallowood Landcare group was formed to help manage the land as a community group alongside the current contractors, Council and local Indigenous custodians, and will continue to do this if it is put in Council hands'.

Freeman added, 'It is the intention of Council that the ridgeline land be maintained by the community, as it does not have the resources to care for and improve it'.

'The land is an important community asset and will be held by the Council in perpetuity (cannot be sold) on behalf of all members of the community'.

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Silver screen lights up in Bangalow

Photo & story Aslan Shand

Bangalow will be the cultural hotspot of the Northern Rivers during March, with the Bangalow Film Festival running from March 7 to 16.

It will feature 20 films, and three masterclasses alongside some special Northern Rivers talent.

With 20 years experience in running film festivals in Europe co-director, founder, program and artistic director, Chris Pazzaglia, told *The Echo* that after moving to Bangalow five years ago with his wife and two children, they had 'wanted to do something for Bangalow'.

'This is the fourth Bangalow Film Festival. We had one open-air event which everyone loved. There has been a real embrace by Bangalow of the film festival. This is such a real and special community,' he explained at the recent film festival launch.

As one of the



Robert Mezza Mont, the protagonist in the opening night film, *A Portrait of Love*, with co-director, founder, program and artist director, Chris Pazzaglia, at the launch of the fourth Bangalow Film Festival.

fastest-growing regional festivals in NSW, it has received funding for four original audiovisual collaborations. The collaborators include Shire Choir, Nosferatu and DJ Jai Piccone, who is doing the electronic sound track.

He added, 'We are also doing an immersive piece about mushrooms, which is accompanied by a live

classical quartet, where the images and quartet work together. The final piece is a performance by the Dustyesky Choir, this will be the first time they have performed in three years.'

They will perform alongside a Ukrainian film.

Explore the full program at www.bangalowfilmfestival.com.au.

Former Greens mayor approved Wallum DA

Hans Lovejoy

Former Greens mayor, Simon Richardson, is yet to reply to *Echo* questions around why he voted in favour of the Wallum DA.

As one of the panellists on the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP), he supported the DA and signed its consent on May 16, 2023.

The NRPP overrides Council's planning authority with 'significant developments'.

Byron Shire councillors voted to put Richardson in the paid role in April, 2022.

He was mentor to Mayor

Michael Lyon (who entered politics as a Greens), along with Greens Cr Sarah Ndiaye, who were both on his ticket.

No site visit

According to the online planning panel documents, Richardson did not attend a site visit.

Other panel members, according to the determination and statement of reason document, were chair and career bureaucrat Dianne Neeson, Stephen Gow, Michael Wright, and former Council town planner, Ian Pickles.

The Echo asked Richardson, 'Do you now regret your decision, given what has come to light in terms of the DA's inadequate environmental protections? Given you were a mayor/councillor prior to this position, why did you not recuse yourself from this DA? You have previously recused yourself from other DAs before the panel, owing to your previous role as mayor and decision maker. Do you think the public are getting value for money, given you have recused yourself from other panel decisions?'

Celebration of people power



Around 80 people, including local politicians, gathered in Byron's Marvell Hall on Sunday to celebrate the neighbouring aged care village being saved for its original intended purpose of aged care. The former Feros facility is now known as George's Cottages, and is being run by St Andrew's Village, Ballina. Photo Eve Jeffery

Pesticide spraying deferred at Bruns pod village

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The woman was audibly upset when describing her fears of what this would do to her health.

'I'm terrified. They said they would consult with us, but they didn't'.

She says, 'It's complete overkill - of the 57 pods here, only a few pods appear to have cockroaches. They want to blanket the entire pod village'.

'The EPA told me they can't

do anything until something happens to the environment or our health.'

She was alarmed that there are three additional pesticides that will be used from the original three proposed last year.

Similar concerns

Another resident provided her letter to *The Echo*, which outlined similar concerns.

She wrote, 'I bring to your attention the fact that two

of the active ingredients in three of the proposed substances have been banned in Europe and some parts of the US: Imidacloprid, in Maxforce Gold Gel and Temprid, was banned in Europe in 2013; and Indoxacarb, in Advion Gel, was banned by the EU in 2002.

'Why, then, should we use/trust these insecticides when clearly other governments are more enlightened as to their toxicity?'

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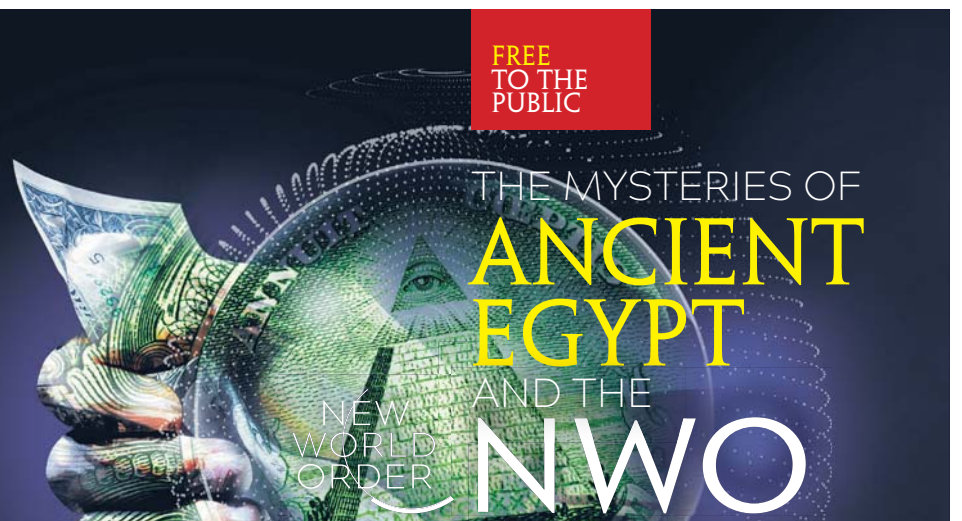
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Draft Ballina Shire Housing Strategy up for comment

A draft Ballina Shire Housing Strategy is on public exhibition until mid-March, with the council to receive community feedback later this year.

How will Tweed accommodate an increase of more than 30,000 people?

Tweed Shire is expected to see an increase in population of 30,000 by 2041. How that is to be accommodated, how the environment is to be protected, and if it's even realistic, is all part of why you need to respond to the Tweed Growth Management and Housing Strategy 2041 that has gone on exhibition.

Lismore 2023 finance audit shows reliance on grants to get in black

The Lismore City Council ended the 2023 financial year with what councillors generally agreed were encouraging results, given an ongoing disaster recovery, but with a reliance on grants.

Flood preparedness grant for Murwillumbah

Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin, has announced \$40,000 for Murwillumbah Core towards programs to help communities respond to future disasters.

How are your councillors performing?

Do you feel properly represented by your local councillors? Are they listening to you? Are they driving forward the concerns raised by you and your community? Could you do a better job?

Man charged with murder – Tweed Heads

A man has been charged with murder after the discovery of a body at Tweed Heads West on Wednesday afternoon.

www.echo.net.au

Premier announces 400 new homes for Lismore

The NSW government announced a partnership between Southern Cross University (SCU), Landcom and the NSW Reconstruction Authority which will unlock a parcel of university land for housing development, designed to tackle the housing crisis in the Northern Rivers and support flood-affected residents.

Southern Cross University, Landcom, and the NSW Reconstruction Authority have signed a 'Heads of Agreement' to deliver over 400 dwellings in East Lismore.

The government says at least 20 per cent will be set aside for affordable housing, while a number of the serviced lots will be made suitable for the relocation of existing homes from flood-affected areas.

The 72 hectare site of university land will include a diverse mix of low and medium density housing, including serviced lots, and low-rise multi-dwellings. The site is well above the probable maximum flood level.

NSW government agency Landcom will invest \$60 million to develop the site. This includes providing the



Aerial plan of major new housing development on SCU land at Lismore. Photo supplied

infrastructure for development, such as new roads, power, water, and sewerage connections.

An additional \$15 million contribution from the NSW Reconstruction Authority will enable participants from the federal- and state-funded Resilient Homes Program (RHP) to be given priority access to purchase the new land and housing before it is offered to the broader market.

A 'registration of interest' process for the Resilient Lands Program (RLP) is available for eligible RHP participants.

The government says the \$700 million RHP and the \$100 million RLP are the largest projects of their kind in Australia.

Landcom will commence early enabling works on the East Lismore development site later this year, subject to approvals. It's expected that land and housing will be available for sale from 2026.

Long wait

NSW Premier Chris Minns said, 'There has been a lot of work done but we acknowledge that it has been a long wait for Northern Rivers

communities to access safer land and housing options.

'This is the Lismore community working together at its best,' he said.

'I want to offer a big thank you to Southern Cross University for working with us to increase much needed land supply for housing in Lismore.'

SCU Vice Chancellor Professor Tyrone Carlin said, 'Southern Cross University is an important part of the Lismore community.'

'Since the floods hit in February 2022, we have been at the forefront of flood relief, and we are proud to continue

using our facilities and our expertise to ensure Lismore rebuilds and revitalises better and more resilient than ever.

'East Lismore is close to the university, close to the CBD, and close to shops, sporting facilities, schools and other community infrastructure – so it's the ideal location for a development such as this. I look forward to seeing this land opened up, and to welcoming hundreds of residents, including families, students, and university staff.'

Mayor of Lismore City Council Steve Krieg said, 'This is such an important social and economic boost for the city of Lismore. We can now provide tangible, viable housing opportunities for our residents to be able to relocate from the floodplain, and stay in the city that we all work and live in.'

'Two years on from the disaster that had such a profound impact on our lives, we can now genuinely feel that progress is being made in the recovery and rebuild of Lismore.'

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

New \$19 million Lennox hotel plans on show

Mia Armitage

The once sleepy seaside town of Lennox Head, like so many others, continues to undergo a rapid facelift, with plans for a new three-storey hotel the latest on show.

Newly exhibited plans for a 35-room hotel at 52 and 54 Ballina Street, Lennox Head, show what is envisioned to replace the modest buildings and sheds on two blocks a street back from the beach.

The \$19 million complex includes solar panels, EV

charging and a two-level basement car park for 86 spaces, with 38 on the upper level for the public.

Plans include several breaches of Ballina Shire Council limitations including height, floor space ratio, and boundary set-backs.

Accompanying documents tell the tale of developer Graham Dunn initially planning some simple 'shop-top' housing such as apartments but soon being persuaded to think outside the box.

Plans submitted by

consultants Newton Denny Chapelle also feature a swimming pool, bar and restaurant.

The variation sought on the floor space is 73 per cent but the developer says 61.25 per cent is 'through the public basement parking'.

Submissions on the DA close Friday, 16 February with a build time of 'potentially 18 months from commencement', the developer said.

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

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Nicholas Shand
 1948–1996
 Founding Editor

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

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

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Justine Elliot and Anthony Albanese



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Authorised J Elliot, ALP, Tweed Heads South



The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #36 • February 14, 2024

Once known as the rainbow region

The most poignant moment from Thursday's boisterous and unruly Council meeting was listening to elderly Mullum resident, Peter McGill.

He waited patiently all morning to speak after the noisy Wallum crowd finished.

As some of the Wallum supporters started leaving, he told councillors that his home on New City Road was devastated by floods in 2022, and that ever since, he has found it hard to recover.

He said his mental health had suffered as a result.

Peter said that Council told him their recent plans to develop more houses on his street will result in less flooding, yet he questioned that logic, given his home insurance has increased significantly.

At the end of his moving and humble speech, councillors sat in silence, staring blankly.

Peter asked respectfully, 'Are there any questions?' Silence.

Mayor Michael Lyon looked visibly bored and disinterested.

After it was evident that he had to do something, he mechanically responded: 'Any questions?'

No? Sorry Peter, you are on your own.

If you have just joined the conversation because you are concerned about the fate of Wallum, it's worth considering that all of this is connected.

The Council chambers, where decisions are made which affect everyone, is a very cold place.

It's an empathy-free zone, full of entitlement, arrogance and ambition without any meaning.

It feels hollow.

There is soooooo much secrecy, poor communication and no policy reform.

But there's lots of plans for housing! How much will be 'affordable'?

Those interested in direct non-violent actions may be interested to learn that the mayor's secret deals on mass land rezonings will become public in the coming months.

As for Wallum?

What we learned from Wallum is that grassroots community awareness is needed before councillors take notice. The ball was dropped by everyone in the midst of Covid.

Are Council staff given sufficient direction by councillors around community expectations?

Planning staff recommended approval of the DA - On page 34 of their *Evaluation Report*, they stated there would be no significant impact on the natural environment.

As we now know, there's a lot of expert opinion to the contrary.

Fun fact: Council once employed a biodiversity officer.

Perhaps reinstating the position might be worth considering to save everyone this pain in future?

It's well known that Australia has one of the highest rates of species decline in the developed world, as reported in the federal government's *State of the Environment Report*.

Thursday's Wallum vote was a chance to send a strong, unified message to the decision makers in Sydney and Canberra that would be hard to ignore.

Instead, the mayor will try (again) to negotiate with the developer for a compromise that will see some unknown amount of ecological loss.

In case there's anyone with a spare \$48m, the mayor told the Save Wallum FB page that's the amount the developer would accept for the problem to go away.

Some problems can go away - for example, there is a local government election this September.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Frogs, fertility, toads and drugs

My mother inculcated me with a love of science, which somehow survived a run of sadistic chemistry teachers who staggeringly discouraged creative experiments in the lab.

Like making LSD, and smallish explosive devices.

So, I have enjoyed researching the principal method of human pregnancy testing from the 1930s to the late 1950s.

Frogs and toads. Women would deliver their urine to a pharmacy, where a frog would be injected with same, and if the frog laid eggs within 18 hours then bingo - pregnancy was confirmed.

Eventually, it was discovered that male toads would excrete sperm within only a few hours. Quicker bingo.

Thousands of frogs were bred specifically for this purpose, employing multitudes on pond farms.

In Australia, cane toads were sent from North Queensland all around the country to enable testing for women from Perth to Parramatta. Hospital pharmacies had amphibionologists, whose sole task was to care for and inject the Kermits.

This makes me look at cane toads somewhat more affectionately now, knowing how excitedly they react to pregnancy of their human friends.

As an aside, the frogs/toads could be reused every couple of weeks, and the worldwide spread of the star performer (the African Claw Frog) led to catastrophic consequences for other species. There's one for the trivia night!

What has intrigued me, in this coalescence of science and law, is the moral outrage from the Christian prudes who utilised quarantine, constitutional and animal law to try to inhibit the movement of toads interstate.

Shock, horror, that women should actually have the means to obtain knowledge of their own health status, lest it lead to wild sex parties with questionable moral abandon. Underlying this was the



'As a coroner, I dealt with the families of those who had died at doofs and festivals, and the tragedy of life cut short was exacerbated by the knowledge that the death was preventable.'

David Heilpern

horrible concept that women, if they knew they were pregnant, had health options that were best served early, rather than late.

And late abortions were more dangerous, and thus the deterrence from sex even greater. This seriously was the argument that was put in editorials and court cases.

I guess these opponents were people where you could tell how many times they'd had sex by the number of children they spawned.

Oh, I scoff, what sort of backward thinking existed in those days - knowledge should be hidden, even if it causes death, because otherwise people might do more naughty business for purposes other than wanted reproduction. Deterrence by capital punishment.

Outdated thinking

And then it hit me. We have exactly the same sort of deranged and outdated thinking right now.

The only reason to oppose pill testing at festivals is that it sends the wrong message, and that it might make recreational drug use safer, which may mean that some who otherwise would not use drugs will, because they know what they are taking. But in the 1940s and 50s this absurd thought spasm on toads was limited to a litigious Jesus fringe, not governments and police services and doctors' groups.

As a coroner, I dealt with the families of those who had died at doofs and festivals, and the tragedy of life cut short was exacerbated by the knowledge that the death was preventable.

In NSW, the Ice Inquiry, and the deputy state coroner have recommended a testing regime. Pill testing occurs in over 30 countries, and is proven to reduce harmful use and

prevent deaths. Yet here we are, with Labor governments in every mainland state, and only one place to test - Canberra. Yes, Queensland has plans, but we will see if they ever come to pass.

Here is what Chris Minns said about pill testing recently: 'I don't want to be in a situation where people believe because there's the absence of compromised drugs, that they're safe to take when they're not.'

Here's a quote from an editorial in 1953:

'Toads lead to early diagnosis, and early diagnosis leads to comfort in risk-taking enterprise, and that encourages a belief that depravity is safe. It is not.'

Yep. So it is better that young experimenting fun-loving people die retching in their own vomit on untested impurity-ridden junk drugs. Just like it was better that women in the 1950s were unable to know if they are pregnant.

There is no safe level of sex/drugs blah blah blah. Sigh.

Anyway, I have started collecting cane toads from capture programs, and I am injecting them with ecstasy which contain a range of additives to see if this provides a simple test for impurities.

So far, the pests just lie on their backs, spread their legs, and smile for hours. Lots of croaky copulation and swervy hopping too. Except when I put strychnine in, and then they really croak. But I will persevere in my efforts to create a simple, at-home frog test for illicit drugs.

The perfect mix of science and law. Mum is so proud.

■ David Heilpern is a former magistrate and is now Dean of Law at Southern Cross University.



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Wallum vote

Lyon, Swivel, Pugh and Hunter voted on Thursday to let the bulldozers in and destroy Wallum.

The Byron electorate trashed the real Green Council at the last election and voted for pro-developers Lyon, Swivel and Pugh. What did the voters expect, except a pro-development vote?

In the next election in September 2024, only vote for real people, the ones who care and have a track record of caring for the community and environment. Put the rest at the bottom of your ballot and sack the mayor.

Ron Priestly
Main Arm

Stolen flag

I was a strong supporter of the 'Yes' campaign in the referendum last year and each Australia Day I am heartened to see the tree on the roundabout at the entrance to Mullumbimby's town centre decorated with the Aboriginal flag and symbols and to read about the ceremonies held at Brunswick Heads acknowledging the traditional owners of this land.

But I was shocked and saddened to hear from a resident of Mullumbimby that the Australian flag she had hung outside her front door on Australia Day had been stolen. While some might not like our current flag, until we can come together and agree to change it, it remains the official flag of our country.

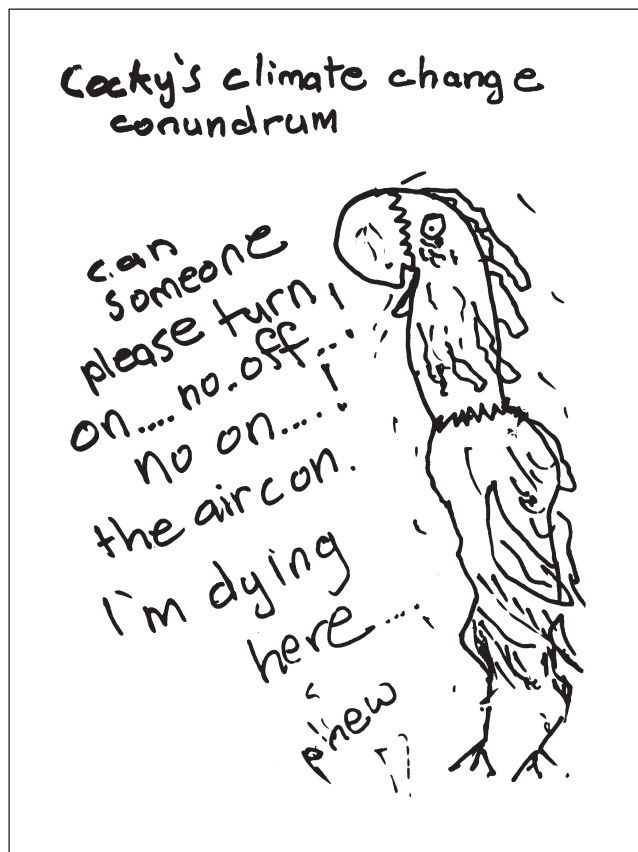
While she was shocked that someone would sneak across the front of her house and tear it down, what upsets her most is that that flag was one she and her husband carried with them on their travels for 40 years. Sadly her husband passed away late last year so the flag had great sentimental value. I am sure that if you have the flag and it was to be slipped back into her letterbox I am sure she would be very grateful.

Morag Wilson
Mullumbimby Creek

Enough enough?

A new year has turned over to 2024 and we are back with a letter about Julian Assange.

We appreciate the concern and alarm by the Australian government in



Cocky's climate change conundrum. Cartoon by PK Violet

response to the suspended death sentence handed down by Chinese courts on Dr Yang Hengjun.

Equal concern would be appreciated for Australian citizen Julian Assange.

For many months and years journalist, publisher and Australian citizen Julian Assange hasn't been anywhere. Least of all into a court to hear his case. Still he languishes in a cell in His Majesty's High Security Prison Belmarsh, London UK.

In April he will have completed five years imprisonment in solitary confinement without charge. It has been described as amounting 'to death by process'. It is certainly a long, grinding, not to say Byzantine process.

The wonder is Assange has survived this long.

Another cause for concern is the outcome of the pending hearing on 20-21 February in the UK High Court to consider Assange's application to appeal against his extradition from the UK to the US. We stress application for appeal - not an actual appeal hearing. If the application is granted there will probably be further waiting, presumably in prison for yet another date. If an appeal is denied we expect Julian to be sent to the US within a short period of time, if not immediately, where he will face further indefinite incarceration in a US prison awaiting trial.

All of this almost five years after being hauled out of the

Ecuadorian Embassy by the London Metropolitan Police ending Assange's seven years of political asylum in the embassy.

It could be Julian's last chance to avoid extradition.

So we continue to call on the Albanese government to follow through on its pre-election stand of 'enough is enough'.

Surely the Australian government has enough leverage with our ally and so-called friend, given the huge amounts of public money and other resources being made available to the US military - for the US to drop the charges and allow Julian Assange to come home.

Roy Drew
Mullumbimby

Justine and Feros

Well Tony that was quite a vitriolic spray, (Letters, 7 February) you certainly don't miss an opportunity to slag off at the Labor Party, or in fact have a good old whinge about everything, is there anything you don't whinge about?

You were taken to task because of your ill-conceived, derogatory comments regarding Richmond MP Justine Elliott's handling of the Feros Care facility issue. It seems you have very little background knowledge of what was required to bring about an acceptable resolution to the problem and you were either oblivious to the comments I wrote praising everyone who

worked hard to achieve that great outcome, or ignorantly just chose to ignore them.

Without Labor's Justine Elliott's, Steve Kamper's, and Rose Jackson's direct intervention another provider may have never have been found in time and people like you would have had even more to whinge about.

You are right about one thing, yes Labor was elected with a low primary vote, but with a massive flow of preferences, to deliver a devastating defeat to the Lib/Nat Coalition. Australia now has a government actively committed to climate change policy and to the orderly transition to renewables, fairness back in the workforce with wages once again rising, cost of living relief for struggling families, actively addressing the housing crisis, containing inflation, paying down inherited Coalition debt and investing heavily in Australia's defence force in an increasingly dangerous world.

Tony, about the only thing you've got going for you is not being a member of the Greens party.

Keith Duncan
Pimlico

With the bonds

How is it possible for the Australian government to be controlled by organisations that the Australian people did not vote for (NATO, WHO, WEF, etc)?

With the bonds that have been placed on every Australian. With the language structural formation, that defines the meaning of the words and syntax that are used in the law making.

▶ Continued on next page

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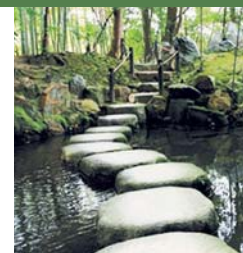
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Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

► Continued from page 9

With hidden determinations holding other meanings that are written in code.

Coding, only available to the people implementing the structure of the written laws of Australia. Coding example: (flags, maritime law, syntax, English language, legalese language, black law language).

With the using of other definitions, that acknowledge the bonds of our servitude.

With the true interpretations being unavailable for the people, using ordinary English language that we see written. With the understanding that it is the true meaning written and has no other meanings.

With the use of hidden meanings in our laws, people think the words used imply the truth of our situation. The true meanings are hidden using syntax coding that misleads our understanding. Without holding a constitutional referendum, that enshrines the languages, syntax and meanings used in our laws, before becoming legislated into law. Slavery continues. Read the original Australian Constitution.

Rob Podhajsky
Ocean Shores

Dear Justine

Would you kindly advise what your government is doing to signal its respect for the International Court of Justice's legally binding decision to do everything in your government's power to uphold the obligation to prevent genocide in Gaza?

Has Australia ceased selling weapons to Israel?

Has Australia defunded the humanitarian work of UNRWA during the current humanitarian crisis based solely on the allegations made by the Israeli government?

Martin Bail
Federal

Mary McMorrow

Thank you Mary for your letter in last week's *Echo* supporting Israel in its efforts to remove Hamas and other radical Islamist groups from power in Gaza. This will benefit Israeli and Palestinian civilians and will contribute to the safety and wellbeing of the wider world.

In reference to the opinion piece 'Managing free speech and truth', it was more balanced than much of the ranting against Israel that more often than not does not even mention Hamas or other radical Islamists, and only targets Israel in their

condemnation. Thank you to these contributors.

The conflict and ongoing war is definitely not a 'fight over real estate'. If it was, the Arabs would have agreed to peace with Israel when the UN partitioned the land giving the indigenous Jews a tiny fraction of the land of historical Palestine, after the new country of Jordan/Transjordan had already been given the bulk of the land of Palestine.

As for releasing Marwan Barghouti who is serving time in an Israeli prison for murdering many Jews, why would Israel do that? He is not Nelson Mandela, he is a criminal murderer.

It is the same twisted logic that people have in thinking Israel should have agreed to the deal put on the table by Hamas this week. Hamas wanted the release from prison of 500 terrorists who had carried out the largest mass murders of Jews over the past years, in exchange for the 134 Israeli babies, children, elderly and adults who were peacefully at a music festival or quietly at home posing no risk to Palestinians. A fair deal is needed here.

Many Israelis don't like Netanyahu and in their next elections, they are sure to get

rid of him but what about the Palestinian side? They do not have the right to evict Hamas or other Islamist groups and will be imprisoned at the very least, for saying anything against their bloodthirsty terrorist leaders, or more than likely murdered which has happened time and time again.

This is a terrible, terrible war and let's hope it ends in peace, not just another ceasefire that will only be broken by Hamas or other Islamist groups with yet another war against Israel as soon as they replenish their weapons of terror. I feel terrible for the suffering of innocent Palestinians and Israelis alike. Peace now.

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

River to the sea

Here we go again. Another example of the antisemitic slur 'from the river to the sea' from Mary McMorrow (Letters, 7 February). If the hopes of the opponents of the Israeli government's policies are antisemitic then so must be the policies of the Israeli government because the territory they control is exactly that: from the river to the sea.

The war in Gaza has clearly exposed that the

Gaza strip has been little more than a Palestinian refugee camp since 1948. Prior to 1948 it was not the overpopulated, unsustainable, Palestinian enclave, supported only by UN and other refugee organisations. Most of the Palestinian families who live and die in the Gaza strip today were forced out of Palestine by the Israeli government's massive expansion in 1948.

Although the Israeli expansion and occupation of nominally Palestinian territory was in contravention of international law, recently adopted by the newly formed United Nations, it was accepted, at least by the victors of WW2. I have a 1952 Oxford University Press atlas which clearly illustrates Israeli territory occupying all former Palestine (British Mandate).

I imagine this illegal expansion and occupation which produced the vast Palestinian refugee population was accepted by the UN in 1948 because it happened only a few years after the end of WW2 and the formal discovery of the murder of six million Jews by the Nazi regime.

The territory surrounding the Gaza strip into which Hamas attacked the Israeli towns and kibbutzim on

7 October was part of the territory acquired by Israel in 1948. No doubt Hamas considered that territory was as illegally occupied by Israel as the West Bank was in 1967. Today all reports of the 7 October attack describe the territory where it occurred as a legitimate part of Israel with no reference at all to the events of 1948.

I recently learnt that there are 750,000 Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank, which the Israeli government wants to incorporate into Israel in the same manner that the other occupied territory was in 1948. We often hear our own prime minister as well as leaders of many other countries calling for a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine. Where do they imagine a Palestinian state would be? Do they think the Israeli government would reverse its policy of the last 57 years and abandon its settlements in the West Bank and call its fanatic settlers back to Israel or do they think that a Palestinian state could be established containing 750,000 fanatic armed Zionist opponents?

Have you ever tried to put a genie back in the bottle Mr Albanese?

Michael Trevaskis
Alstonville



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Rabble against renewables in Canberra



The Member for New England, Barnaby Joyce. Photo Tree Faerie



Chalk outline of where Barnaby Joyce was lying in Braddon, Canberra. Photo via Angelo von Moller on Twitter/X

David Lowe

Parliament returned to Canberra last week to be greeted by the Reckless Renewables Rally on the front lawn; a protest against net zero policies, wind turbines, the United Nations, Covid vaccinations, China and chemtrails, amongst other things.

All the usual political suspects were in attendance, led by the Member for New England and erstwhile deputy prime minister Barnaby Joyce. He was joined on the podium by fellow fossil fans Pauline Hanson, Matt Canavan, David Gillespie, Keith Pitt, Craig Kelly, Malcolm Roberts and current Nationals leader David Littleproud.

The audience included a strongly conspiracy-tinged contingent from Queensland and the Illawarra, many holding professionally printed signs saying things like 'Not clean. Not green. Not zero' and 'Stop being reckless with our future. Moratorium now.'

Alice Springs Nationals Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price described farmers at the rally as the 'custodians of our land', before saying wind turbines 'only produce energy slightly... when the wind blows. But the wind's not blowing now and the sun's not out now, is it?' In fact, wind and solar generated ten per cent of global electricity in 2021, and this number is steadily growing.

Dodgy numbers

Barnaby Joyce, the man who presided over the worst fish kills in Australia's history through corrupt mismanagement of the Murray-Darling, claimed at the rally to be concerned about the risks to wildlife from new wind and solar farms, before suggesting that renewable energy was 'a massive multinational swindle underpinned by your taxpayer dollars.'

It's since been pointed out that former bush accountant

and bouncer Joyce has misrepresented data from both the Australian Energy Regulator and the Australian Energy Market Operator, with his claim of a \$121 billion threat from renewables to the Australian economy. Energy experts explained that this figure actually represents economic activity associated with the growth of renewables, including many rural jobs, money that would be spent otherwise on propping up a failing fossil-fuel-based energy system.

While renewable energy does require new transmission lines and batteries, the CSIRO's latest GenCost report found that even when those costs are included, solar and wind remain the cheapest form of electricity, being much more economical than the status quo or nuclear options, especially if offshore wind is part of the mix.

Of course renewable energy is not without its problems, from supply chain to distribution to disposal, but the made-up facts flew thick and fast at the rally, including the repetition of mining magnate Gina Rinehart's claim that a third of agricultural land in Australia was under threat from renewables.

Actually, if all the country's coal-fired plants were replaced by solar farms (not something which is being proposed), research from the Clean Energy Council shows that this would require 0.027% of agricultural land.

Likewise, claims that decommissioned windfarms will end up overwhelming landfill have been debunked by major windfarm operators such as Acciona, who say that around 90 per cent of a wind turbine's mass is recyclable at end of life.

Gross hypocrisy

There was more hypocrisy on show from MP Keith Pitt, who hates offshore wind turbines, saying they will hurt whales and birds. This is the same bloke who wanted a

major offshore gas drilling operation between Sydney and Newcastle when he was the Minister for Resources. This was only stopped as a result of the one positive decision Scott Morrison made when he appointed himself Minister for Everything. The legality of that decision is now under review.

The tight connections between many of the speakers at the anti-renewables rally and the fossil fuel barons pulling their strings were not articulated to the crowd, and the location of the rally in the middle of the ACT was also ironic. Thanks to the Greens and Labor in local government, the Capital Territory is a global leader in reducing emissions, it reached its target for 100 per cent renewable electricity back in 2020, and is now pushing to transition away from gas too.

Adding to the incongruity, the Rally Against Renewables happened days before three of Australia's biggest steel and iron ore producers (BlueScope, Rio Tinto and BHP) joined forces to announce practical steps to decarbonise the Australian steel industry as soon as possible. This step alone would have a major effect on national emissions.

Having failed to reverse the carbon policy direction of the Australian government, Barnaby Joyce's big week ended with him being filmed lying drunk on a Canberra footpath, legs in the air, swearing incoherently on the phone at someone who later turned out to be his current wife.

For most people this would have meant demotion at the very least, and more likely the end of a political career, but in this case it was largely dismissed as just Barnaby being Barnaby. On Sky News, Peter Dutton chastised onlookers for not coming to Joyce's aid.

And so the Trumpification of Australian politics continues.

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Have we already exceeded 1.5°C of warming?

Cosmos Magazine

A study published in *Nature Climate Change* has suggested we have seriously underestimated global warming, with the Earth already well over 1.5°C above preindustrial levels.

The research, which was based on the unusual ability of sea sponges to keep temperature records in their skeletons, finds that humans had already caused considerable amounts of warming before the 1850-1900 baseline that the Paris Agreement rests on.

This means, according to the research, that the earth has actually warmed 1.7°C above preindustrial levels.

Independent climate scientists have said that, while this study has valuable findings, it doesn't invalidate the 1.5°C and 2°C goals of the Paris Agreement.

What has the sea sponge research found?

The study uses a dataset from the Caribbean to establish the total amount of warming that's happened in the world's oceans over the past 300 years.

'You have to have a reference point from when global warming started,' explains lead author Emeritus Professor Malcolm McCulloch, a researcher in coral reefs at the University of Western Australia. McCulloch spoke to journalists at a briefing run by the Australian Science Media Centre last week.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) – the global authority on climate science, whose modelling and projections the Paris Agreement relies on – sets its baseline as the years 1850-1900.

This period, referred to in IPCC reports as 'preindustrial levels', is used for 'pragmatic' reasons according to McCulloch. This is when sea surface temperatures started being collected consistently by ships.

But the industrial era started a century before 1850, with a small but noticeable change in atmospheric CO₂ levels by the early 1800s.

McCulloch says the 19th century temperature records are complicated by a few other things.

First, they mostly come from the northern hemisphere, and particularly common shipping routes in the northern hemisphere. Second, sea surface temperatures can be quite variable, especially using crude 19th century techniques: 'they often threw buckets over the side, pulled them up, and then dipped a thermometer in,' says McCulloch. Third, volcanic eruptions in the early 19th century caused a small period of global cooling.

While human-collected records are more detailed, scientists have used other data like ocean core samples to deduce global temperatures. This is how we know about global temperatures thousands and millions of years in the past.

McCulloch and colleagues have used one such method: sea sponges in the eastern Caribbean. A species of long-lived sponge (*Ceratoporella nicholsoni*) keep temperature records in their carbonate skeletons: ocean temperatures influence chemical signatures in these skeletons as they grow.

Using this signature, the researchers have constructed a temperature record that goes back 300 years. Their record suggests that anthropogenic warming started in the 1860s, around 80 years before sea surface temperatures started showing an uptick.

'The differences are quite profound,' says McCulloch.

Their record shows that, relative to 1700, global temperatures have actually increased by 1.7°C. This is 0.5°C higher than the current established rise of 1.2°C. The researchers predict warming levels



Image MaxPixel.net.

of 2°C by the end of the decade.

'Half a degree is a large difference to find,' says McCulloch.

While these things are very difficult to predict, McCulloch believes that this means the effects of climate change will be occurring sooner than previously thought.

'In my mind, the way to think about it is that the clock of climate change has been brought forward by about a decade by our findings,' he says.

What does it mean for the Paris targets?

The global Paris Agreement on climate change aims to keep temperature increases to 'well below 2°C', pursuing 1.5°C. This study suggests we've already blown the 1.5°C limit and are hurtling towards 2°C.

Does this mean the agreement has failed?

Well, no. This research could move the baseline that the Paris Agreement was based on.

'This implied different baseline temperature does not mean that we have to recast the 1.5°C and 2°C temperature goals but it does emphasise the duration and

magnitude of human impact on global systems,' says Professor Mark Howden, director of the Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions at the Australian National University, who was not involved in the research.

Professor Malte Meinshausen, a climate scientist at the University of Melbourne, who also wasn't involved in the research, says that 'the IPCC's findings still stand strong'.

Meinshausen says that we are still 'close to 1.5°C warming'.

'We can keep our established global mean temperature records as the useful speedometer, which tells us that we have to step on the brakes in terms of emissions.'

Conversely, Dr Georgy Falster, a postdoctoral fellow at the Australian National University, also not involved in the study, says that 'the new research also shows with the correction for the early-onset global warming, we have already overshoot the 2015 Paris Agreement threshold of 1.5° above pre-industrial global temperature – and are on track to exceed 2° of warming by the late 2020s'.

McCulloch is of the opinion that the 1.5°C and 2°C targets are

'slightly irrelevant', and that they confuse the goals of climate policy. 'The simpler answer is we have to reduce emissions,' he says.

'We now have to really work hard as a global community to not just stabilise the very high rate of emissions, we've got to get emissions down to net zero.'

How reliable is the research?

Independent experts say that the research is thorough, but it's still one study compared to the reams of information pored over by the IPCC.

'At first look, this single new study seems to say that the IPCC radically underestimated warming,' says Meinshausen.

'However, it is studies exactly like this that highlight the merit of the IPCC, in which hundreds of scientists comb through thousands of scientific studies to distil robust findings.'

'A single new palaeo record off the coast of Puerto Rico is a valuable addition to the large evidence of warming. But it is just that, one study among hundreds.'

Howden says that while this research 'appears to be well-correlated with global surface temperature trends' and reflects some other Australian findings, 'it will be important to draw from other, similar, data sources beyond this one region to establish the global nature of these relationships'.

The study authors say there is now 'even more urgent need to halve emissions by 2030', and on this the independent researchers agree.

'There is no reason for complacency on the path towards net zero emissions,' says Meinshausen.

■ Read more *Cosmos Magazine* stories in *The Echo* online at: www.echo.net.au.

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).

Kambo and ayahuasca inquest to resume next week

David Lowe

The coronial inquest into the untimely death of Jarrad Antonovich, near Kyogle, will resume at Byron Bay Courthouse next Wednesday, after the inquest ran out of time to complete its work last year in the Northern Rivers and Sydney. A week of hearings is expected before the state coroner announces her findings.

One of the key people involved, ayahuasca practitioner Lore Solaris, is currently the subject of an Interim Prohibition Order from the Health Care Complaints Commission, which prohibits him from providing any health services to the public. This is the second Interim Prohibition Order imposed on Mr Solaris.



Jarrad Antonovich. Photo supplied



Lore Solaris in 2020. Photo Facebook

Since the previous coronial inquest hearings, Mr Solaris has been in Brazil (supported by a GoFundMe campaign) and then at a retreat in Maldon, Victoria, until authorities intervened.

Last year he claimed online that, 'Our spiritual

work is currently under threat by government agencies and individuals who would like to see our spiritual work stop for a range of agendas.'

Jarrad Antonovich's family will be at the inquest to hear Mr Solaris and other

key witnesses give evidence in the final days of the inquest, before the coroner announces her findings.

■ You can read more information about this case in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au.

Women's safety key part of flood recommendations

Aslan Shand

The vulnerability of women and children, as well as the vital role women played, during and after the Northern Rivers 2022 flood has been highlighted by the recent University of Newcastle study on the disaster.

Following its release Tamara Smith MP, Greens Disaster Relief Spokesperson and Member for Ballina has called on the NSW Labor government to implement each of the recommendations after the study found women were increasingly subject to sexual assault and domestic violence after a natural disaster, and in the wake of the 2022 Northern Rivers floods.

The report highlights the failure of government agencies 'to respond adequately to the crisis.'

'In this environment, community members spontaneously worked together to save lives and to manage the aftermath of the floods. These actions can be characterised literally as the community "saving itself"', stated the report.

Need for triage

The report noted that the establishment of evacuation centres was 'critical'; but due to a lack of triaging of people accessing them there were significant risks, particularly to women and children.

'An absence of triaging to create discrete sections resulted in women and children sharing spaces with domestic violence perpetrators, sex offenders and those withdrawing from addictions,' states the report.

'Participants reported gender-based violence and sexual assaults resulting in pregnancies. The lack of access to pharmacies or contraception and inaccessible abortion services were noted as a problem.'

Ms Smith said: 'when I read this study, I felt sick to my stomach. Reading the accounts of women in my community experiencing domestic violence, abuse, and sexual assault in

evacuation centres after the floods is shocking,' she said.

Recommendations

'The Greens are calling on the NSW government to implement each and every one of the University of Newcastle study's eight key recommendations,' said Ms Smith.

'That includes fully funding local recovery services and prioritising community-led solutions from women and First Nations people. The government must treat this issue seriously and ensure each and every point raised by this study is addressed.'

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

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Find out more at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/flying-foxes

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL **WIRES** **NATIONAL GRANTS PROGRAM**


This project received grant funding from WIRES through their annual National Grants Program. For more information go to www.wires.org.au/NGP

www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BYRON BAY



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

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Menu and more details @mainstreet_burgerbar
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Add chips and a drink, just \$5.



QUARTZ GALLERY
Thursday, Friday, Saturday 12pm–10pm
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Insta – @thequartzgallery
Web – quartzgallery.com.au

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BYRON BAY continued



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The Good Life

Valentine's Day Recipe

Begin with a pot of the award-winning, luscious Smoked Fish Rillettes from the Bay Smokehouse, alongside a baguette from Scratch Patisserie or Crabbes Creek Woodfired.

It's the main dish into which you can really pour your love, with a fabulous Belinda Jeffery recipe, 'Roast chicken with oodles of herbs'. Start with the best chicken around, a Misty Creek pasture-raised free-range organic beast, and make a herby butter. Into 140 grams of softened butter, mash several tablespoons of fresh herbs – thyme, rosemary, tarragon, from Iona Herbs – until well-combined. With your delicate fingers, gently separate skin from flesh, all over if possible, and work the butter underneath the loosened skin.

Any excess smear all over the chicken, place in a baking dish, squeeze over a lemon and place the lemon halves in the cavity. Pop into a very hot 230°C pre-heated oven for 20 minutes then lower the temperature to 205-C for an extra 50 minutes, basting occasionally. And that's it, a gloriously golden glazed, herby, lemony showpiece to serve with steamed baby potatoes from Morrow's Farm, chopped tomatoes courtesy of Coopers Shoot Tomatoes and a Salad Hut rocket salad.

After all that richness, serve thin wedges of cooling watermelon from Everest Farm – and finish, naturally, with Pure Melt chocolate hearts. Flowers from Glenyce Creighton, Jumping Red Ant or Summit Organics and Ahana candles complete the romance!

Valentine's Day feast

Victoria Cosford

If cooking for someone is an act of love, then what better time to do so than Valentine's Day? More so if you extend that love to the provenance of your ingredients, to the farmers and producers at the farmers' market, where, in addition, your choices will be unbeatably fresh, local, and seasonal.

You want to go to a bit of trouble, though nothing excessive – and the above suggested menu is a lovely compromise.

Bay Smokehouse, Scratch Patisserie, Crabbes Creek Woodfired, Iona Herbs, Coopers Shoot Tomatoes, Everest Farm, Glenyce Creighton, Jumping Red Ant and Summit Organics are at New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday



Light the candles, gather the flowers – and remember to use delicate fingers – for a Valentine's Day your lover won't forget

from 8 to 11am and at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am; Misty Creek Farm, Morrow's Farm, Salad Hut, Ahana Candles and Pure Melt are at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am.

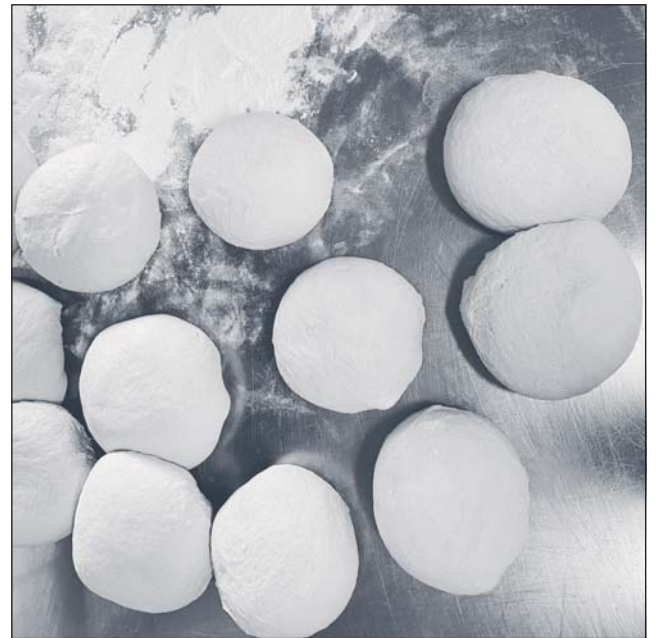


Byron's Legendary Pizza continues

Legend Pizza has been offering up delicious pizza, crafted using locally-sourced ingredients, for well over 30 years in Byron Bay. Now fully licensed, they have a fantastic dine-in experience to add to their takeaway and delivery options.

Sitting out in the front courtyard watching the world go by and enjoying a delicious pizza served up on wooden pizza paddles, with one of their locally brewed beverages, is a joy. Chillout to tunes and sample some of the Northern Rivers' finest beers from Wandana, Stone & Wood and Spangled Drongo. Enjoy your wine by the glass, or share a bottle with friends during their happy hour from 4pm to 6pm daily.

As the years have gone by, many memories were created in the old venue on Jonson Street. Turning up for 2am slices, for snacks in between nightclubs, are just one of the many memories that a lot of us have. But with a changing town and environment, Legend's has also made changes. They no longer have the late-night operating hours, but the food has stayed true to its roots with the same suppliers and ingredients. A huge selection of different sauces and condiments are free for



restaurant customers and a selection of hot sauces available that go all the way up to 1.3 million Scoville Heat Units – that is HOT!

Head in to make some new Legendary memories in their newish home on Marvell Street.

From Monday to Wednesday they also have large pizzas from their basics range for just \$15.

Legend Pizza: 2/3 Marvell St Byron Bay, open from 3pm till late, 7 days. legendpizza.com.au or 66 855 700




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Local charity ReForest Now begins new chapter

Byron's ReForest Now (RN) has allied with the Orangutan Information Centre in Sumatra, expanding planting beyond the familiar Big Scrub and Daintree rainforests. 'This partnership took off like a rocket with already two rounds of international funding totalling 140,000 trees to be planted. RN staff have been on the ground in Indonesia since December, and this first project is already 21% complete', says CEO Maximo Bottaro. The Gunung Leuser ecosystem is a global biodiversity hotspot, the last bastion where tigers, elephants, orangutans and rhinoceros coexist. 'A few steps into the rainforest and one can hear the call of siamangs, signs of sunbears, leopards, enormous butterflies and more. In a single day our team saw four species of primates. Our help is deeply deserved in Leuser'.

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Byron Community College

It's GO time at the College!

Term 1 at Byron Community College has just kicked off and yet again there are over 100 general courses in languages, visual arts, music, business, wellbeing and sustainable living to choose from.

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Kate Nutt Photography

For over a decade Kate Nutt Photography has warmly welcomed cars entering Bruns from the north. With 500 weddings and countless portraits under her belt, Kate has now transitioned to an online hub, supporting entrepreneurs in enhancing their online presence through professional photography and content creation. With her unique touch, she unveils the natural genius of her clients, celebrating their purpose through personalised branding and content creation.

Moving the business beyond the office has allowed Kate to spend more time surfing and she occasionally meets clients over zoom sitting beneath a pandanus tree. Kate is a dynamic force that is shaping the visual narratives of local businesses. Catch a glimpse of her latest projects and adventures on Instagram or tune in via her website.

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WITH SO MUCH ON OFFER, SUPPORT LOCAL!

A WORD FROM THE BYRON BAY CHAMBER

The Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce is off to a dynamic start in 2024, unveiling plans to support the local business community. The Business Barometer Survey garnered fantastic feedback to shape two value proposition workshops guided by industry expert Steve Doherty from Domoco. The Chamber board crafted a strategic roadmap with our mission, 'making Byron business better,' across three key pillars: advocacy, connection, and promotion.



March promises empowerment and collaboration, with events like 'Byron's Badass Women of Business' on International Women's Day and an open forum in Bangalow addressing connectivity issues with Telstra and NBN. These initiatives underscore the Chamber's commitment to Byron's businesses.

www.byronbaychamber.com

FEATURED CHAMBER BUSINESS

TWOMEY DISPUTE LAWYERS

There's something you'll notice straightaway about Twomey Dispute Lawyers. They might be litigation specialists in Byron Bay and on the Gold Coast, but you won't notice their water views. (They don't have them). And you won't feel lost in a boardroom suitable for a Security Council meeting, (their meeting room seats a regular number of people).

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Nick Revere, Senior Associate at Twomey Dispute Lawyers

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www.betterbybike.com.au | info@betterbybike.com.au

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4/55 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay



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seven entertainment



Last days of Summer

FLICKERFEST BACK IN MULLUM

The annual **Flickerfest** and **iQ Inc** three-day festival of short films is at the **Mullumbimby Civic Hall** from **Thursday, February 29 to Saturday, March 2**.

This year's smorgasbord of over 40 incredible short films is handpicked from a record 3,400 entries received for Flickerfest, the Academy® and BAFTA-qualifying short film festival which screened recently in Bondi, including much-loved favourites and award winners.

Thursday's **doors open at 7pm** – raise a glass to 27 years of Flickerfest in the Northern Rivers at the festival's opening night party with delicious drinks and sumptuous snacks included. Then at **8pm** take a trip around the world with the **Best Of International Shorts program**.

Amongst a host of international highlights enjoying Australian premieres is the delightful *Last Days Of Summer* from award-winning Himalayan filmmaker **Shenzin Tangkong**.

On **Friday, March 1 at 8pm**, the festival shines a spotlight on the incredible short film talent that exists in our emerging Australian industry with a host of Australian stories honouring our unique identity and culture with the Best Of Australian Shorts program. Highlights include: *Cold Water* starring industry legend **Bruce Spence, winner of Best Script at Flickerfest 2024**; and *Yeah The Boys* enhanced by a stunning original soundtrack from **The Avalanches, winner of Best Australian Short Film**.

Further highlights fresh from Flickerfest Bondi include local Northern Rivers shorts, *Djalbuyan Nahra*, written and directed by Flickerfest alumni and four-time award winner **Jahvis Loveday**, and *Living With It* by Lennox Head born and raised **Mobina Rowhani**.

On **Saturday, March 2 from 4pm** the festival will celebrate more local talent in the 19th year of **Byron All Shorts**, and at **8pm** see the clever comedy bringing joy to the big screen with the **Short Laughs Comedy program**.

For the full Flickerfest Mullumbimby, Byron All Shorts program and tickets go to www.iq.org.au.

Khentrul Lodrö T'hayé Rinpoche returns to Byron Shire!

PUBLIC TALK The Four Immeasurables

Learn more about how to develop for yourself immeasurable equanimity, loving kindness, compassion, and joy.

Wednesday February 28, 6-8pm.
 Mullumbimby Civic Memorial Hall,
 55 Dalley St, Mullumbimby.
 Free admission.



WEEKEND TEACHING Transforming Happiness and Suffering

Saturday & Sunday, March 2 and 3,
 10am-noon, 2-5pm both days. Free admission.
 Ocean Shores Community Centre,
 55 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores.

Khentrul Rinpoche will reveal how we can enjoy much greater wellbeing in our lives by sharing some remarkable and little known tools for transforming adversity.

For weekend teaching, please pre-register @ katog.org/events
 Info: Julia 0421 022 428; australia@katogcholing.com



BYRON THEATRE

FEBRUARY
 1-2 SOWETO GOSPEL CHOIR
 7 DEAR ENGLAND | 13
 PSYCHEDELIC ASSISTED THERAPY
 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



BYRON THEATRE .COM

Yantra de Vilder & The Ephemera Choir present

CREDO

A Multi Arts Manifesto

SATURDAY 17TH FEBRUARY

KOHINUR HALL

FREE CONCERT @ 7.30pm

"Absolutely sensational"

Booking essential
 Food available for
 purchase from 5.30pm
 Cash Only

1297 Main Arm Road
 Upper Main Arm,
 Mullumbimby



<https://bit.ly/4aP2Kwk>

"Extraordinary - tuning into where we are ecologically in time"

"The message carries on in your heart and your soul - go and see it!"



A Flood Recovery Event of Community Connectedness
 celebrating Pianos for the People



THE STORMIN' BARNES

Barnes Storm pays homage to Jimmy Barnes with uncanny accuracy and respect, delivering a high-energy performance that leaves audiences craving more. Led by frontman **Scott Bedford**, the band captures Barnes' essence, ensuring a memorable experience for fans.

With national and international aspirations, Barnes Storm solidifies th status as the ultimate Jimmy Barnes experience, taking audiences on a nostalgic journey through classic hits and newer tracks alike.

Friday, February 23, from 8pm at the Mullum Ex-Services Club. Tickets \$25.

www.mullumexservices.com.au/event/the-ultimate-jimmy-barnes-cold-chisel-experience

HE'S A SHARP ONE

Akmal, renowned for his sharp wit, returns to the stage with a daring twist: performing nude to the delight of thousands. Despite competition from a diverse comedy scene, his show promises hilarity and honesty, drawing on his Arabic roots and immigrant experiences.

Expect a show packed with words, some of which Akmal himself might be exploring for the first time, ensuring a memorable and punctual experience for all.

He's on at 8pm on Friday at the Mullum Ex-Services Club. Tickets \$49.50 from www.mullumexservices.com.au/event/akmal-not-dead-yet-tour



IT'S FAAAAAAAAAAAAAAT ALBERT

Fat Albert is essentially a cover band who have branched out into original music that feels right to play, coming straight from the balls and soul of Rock'n'Roll! In the past few years, notching up over 1,000 live shows, the boys have done supports, played alongside, and shared the stage with many local and international acts, such as: Coolio, Wolfmother, The Beautiful Girls, Amity Affliction, (The Tea Party's Jeff Martin), The Screaming Jets, Choirboys, The Radiators, The Feelers, Gasoline Inc, Marshall and the Fro, Dallas Frasca, and Oh Mercy. They played corporate events for the Quicksilver Pro, and were also invited to play for Joel Parkinson's ASP World Title Championship after-party – proving along the way, that their brand of in-your-face rock tunes can mix it in all facets of the industry.

Friday at The Rails

33rd International Short Film Festival

Catch some of the most innovative, provocative and wildly entertaining short films the world has to offer at Australia's leading short film festival!

Academy[®] qualifying and BAFTA recognised

Flickerfest

Everyone's Invited!

Mullumbimby Civic Hall | Thur 29 Feb - Sat 2 Mar

Tix & info: iq.org.au





SOMETHING SPECIAL

Hayley Grace is a multi-talented, Australian singer/songwriter with that something special. Her soulful, unmistakable sound and her energetic live shows with looping guitar, vocals, beat boxing and percussion are an explosion of funk, reggae, soul, RnB and trip-hop. Hayley had a very colourful and musical childhood growing up on the east coast of Australia, and started performing live by age 15. She refined her musical skills as the lead singer of Sydney's corporate entertainment band, Everyday People, before breaking out as a solo artist and spending the last years touring around Australia and internationally.

Now living in beautiful Byron Bay, she tours regularly solo and with her live funk band, The Bay Collective, up and down the east coast of Australia and overseas.

You can catch her on Sunday at the Rails, Byron Bay.



THE SECRET FANTASIES TOUR

The Sydney Hotshots will be performing at the **Ballina RSL on Friday, February 23** and they want to see you!

The lads are back to sizzle for one night only with a two-hour sizzle fest of dance, acrobatics and way too much fun.

These fellas are a hand-picked bunch of dreamy guys with a totally interactive production.

The *Secret Fantasies Tour* is the perfect night out with the girls – a high-energy production with a perfect mix of killer dancing, eye-catching everything, acrobatics, and fine specimens of athletic male physiques.

This smorgasbord of sexy guys are selected from hundreds of men nationwide and all are put through an intensive 'Hotshots Bootcamp', graduating with an A+ in making your toes curl.

These blokes have been tradies, cops, farmers and even a fireman. The show is hosted by seasoned professional Paul Reynolds (original cast member of Manpower Australia and Las Vegas headliner), his showmanship and cheekiness makes for an extra entertaining evening.

See them at the **Ballina RSL, Friday, February 23.**
www.sydneyhotshots.com.



FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY
Tickets \$39 - 18+
Doors 7pm Show 7:30pm

P. 02 6681 9500
ballinarsl.com.au



SOOTHING VOCALS

Animal Ventura is the brainchild of Brazilian-born, Byron Bay-based singer-songwriter Fernando Aragones. His last release 'All The Love We Knew' is a soulful blend of coastal-folk, with a pulsing drumbeat and simple yet elegant guitar riffs – all topped by Fernando's signature soothing vocals and meaningful lyrics. Recorded late summer 2019/20 in Lennox Head, the track was produced and recorded by Grant Gerathy (John Butler Trio, Ray Mann Three, Pete Murray) and mixed and mastered by George Georgiadis (Gang of Youths, Last Dinosaurs, Kim Churchill). It's the first official release since his 2017 'Forrest Street', a timeless 8-track record displaying an array of influences, digging from his cultural and funky origins in South America to the laidback alternative folk from the Australian coast.

See the Animal on Sunday at the North Byron Hotel from 12.30pm.



THE WARM SOUNDS OF INO

Originally from NZ, **Ino Pio** has been proud to call the Northern Rivers home for the last decade or so. When visiting Byron Bay you will be sure to see him playing at venues in the Shire.

Ino warms the sounds of acoustic excellence, with his one-man-band show, looping up all your favourites, from top-40 to new renditions or old, Ino will get you grooving for any occasion.

See Ino Pio on Saturday at the North Byron Hotel from 1.30pm.

THOUGHT PROVOKING STUFF

Every weekday BayFM has shows to fire your synapses, including Make a Change, Eco Futures, Wirritjin, Belly, In the Driver's Seat, Roadtrip, Bohemian Beat and Arts Canvass. Check our online Program Guide for details.

More at bayfm.org



TIM FINN ANSWERS OUR QUESTIONS

Regarded as one of the greatest songwriters of his generation, New Zealand native Tim Finn continues to embrace the true definition of a renaissance man while fuelling an all-inclusive, creative fire that constantly drives him onwards and upwards. Having established himself in the early 1970s as a founding member of art-pop-rock pioneers Split Enz and later as a member of the internationally successful band Crowded House (alongside brother Neil), Finn has penned some of the most treasured songs in contemporary music.

When I was asked to interview Tim I thought what could I possibly ask Mr Finn that hadn't already been asked – so I sought ideas from my Facebook family. Of course, there were at least six suggestions that involved leaky boats but there was also some cool stuff.

Hi Tim, I've asked my Facebook family to send me questions for you – here we go!

What historic musicians, artists and writers and composers did you study to create such unique chord progressions and phrasings in your songs?

Well, definitely the Beatles – it's almost hardly worth saying, because everybody who grew up when I did, a childhood in the '50s, I was listening to music intensely and obsessively – and I think it's the same for most people, when you're about 13,14,15, – it'll never again be as intense as that time and you'll continue to love music, hopefully.

There's something that happens at that age and for me that was the Beatles. I was fortunate to live in an age when the most popular music in the world was, I think, the best music. They influenced everyone.

If you want to talk about chord progressions, you know, you've only got to listen to 'Strawberry Fields Forever' or 'Here, There and Everywhere'. Any of the greatest Beatles songs, and even their average ones, which were very good, but their greatest songs are brilliant. They have a harmonic richness that is so far beyond early kind of blues and R&B, not in terms of quality, but just in terms of chords and harmony.

The Beatles exploded that side of music. Were they listening to classical music? I don't think so. I wasn't listening to Bach. The Beatles were my classical music.

Someone wanted me to ask about your opera, but I sort of wanted to extend that and ask how does it feel to be writing music that's commissioned, rather than music that's just stirring inside of you?

Well, it was a bit of both with the opera, for example, the original title was *Star Navigator*. It's about the Tahitian navigator who travelled with Cook on the first voyage of the Endeavour. We gave it a double-barreled name *Ihita'i 'Avei'a – Star Navigator*.

Interview continued overleaf



BARNES STORM
THE ULTIMATE
JIMMY BARNES
And **COLD CHISEL** Concert
Experience
FRIDAY 23 FEBRUARY



Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club
Doors Open: 7pm Showtime 8pm

Book now at www.offbeat.oztix.com.au



ALIST.COM.AU PRESENTS

AKMAL
NOT DEAD YET



SCAN TO BOOK



FRIDAY 16TH FEBRUARY
MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB

DOORS OPEN: 7:30PM SHOW TIME: 8:15PM

BOOK NOW AT OFFBEAT.OZTIX.COM.AU

Interview continued from page 21

It was seven years of gestation. I started writing music for that story, I found it so compelling, this idea of two navigators on one little ship, and only one could prevail, and it had to be Cook and he was threatened by the mere presence of [Tahitian priest] Tupaia. He could sense that he was extremely knowledgeable, but also he had a certain innate nobleness of character.

It was just a really interesting story for me. So I began writing music.

What do you love about Bluesfest?

Well, I mean, what's not to love about Bluesfest – people are there for a good time. It's not like playing in some pub, where there's 20 people at the back of the room, and they just want to talk.

I'm going to play a very kind of crowd-friendly show – take people on a journey through all these songs – Split Enz, Crowded House, solo, whatever. Byron is one of the greatest festivals, for sure.

One of the ladies asked me what you're doing tonight?

I don't know what I'm doing tonight here. But on Friday night I'm going out to see my daughter play. She's got a two-piece band. And they're really great. So I'm gonna go and watch. She plays drums and sings.

Does it make you nervous having children who are moving into a similar field that you've been in?

It doesn't. I just kind of accepted it. I mean, would I have rather they became physicists or plumbers or something? Probably initially, but you know, I think it's in their blood and in their genes and I've seen it with Neil's kids. When a child is around music from the time they are conscious of what it is, they get drawn into that world. It looks like a lot of fun. They don't understand that you're going to be in the back of a van, travelling for 15 hours to the next city. They don't care. To them that all sounds amazing.

Fingers crossed they get a bit of luck, as you need a lot!

Are you having enough fun?

Well, I mean, depends how you define fun, of course. Fun is used in so many different ways. You know, some people have fun with sport or with their friends or getting drunk after work or going to the beach and having a swim in the ocean.

I mean, there's plenty of ways to have fun as well. And I do have enough fun. Sometimes I probably do get a bit serious. And that would, yeah, be something that I would be wanting to work on and cut against. I mean, having kids does take care of a lot of that for a few years. And then they get older. And they become your best friend if you're lucky, but it's not the same kind of fun.

Tim Finn is playing at Bluesfest. www.bluesfest.com.au



GIG GUIDE

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

WEDNESDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JAMEL BOUKABOU**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **JOSH LEE HAMILTON**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE VAGINA CONVERSATIONS #9**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- DUNOON SPORTS CLUB 4PM **OPEN MIC 'PLUCKERS AND POETS'**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM **LIVE POETS**

THURSDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SARAH GRANT DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB 25TH ANNIVERSARY FEATURING CARIBÉ**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DD MOWHIKA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM **JACK BOTTS + JORDY MAXWELL, DUSTY BOOTS & BEN CAMDEN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **CALLUM CREELMAN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE VAGINA CONVERSATIONS #9**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **BLACK TRAIN**

FRIDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FAT ALBERT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM + BULLETPROOF**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **THE BEATLES' ROOFTOP CONCERT BY THE HONEY SLIDERS**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **DJ YAZMIN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **JORDAN MAC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE VAGINA CONVERSATIONS #9**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 8PM **AKMAL - NOT DEAD YET**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **BEN & VIC**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **MP3 BAND + ROOFTOP DJ GOODIE**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **DJ MAGNUS**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **ANDREA KIRWIN SUPPORT ELENA B WILLIAMS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 8PM **JERSEY GUYS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 6PM **CLUB LIAISON**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **JON J BRADLEY**

SATURDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHILDREN OF BOB**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **JAMES ALEXANDER + DJ ZAC EWING**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **THE BEATLES' ROOFTOP CONCERT BY THE HONEY SLIDERS**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **INO PIO, 5PM DJ WILL CONNELL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KINO GRANDE W/ EVAN BAGGS**
- BYRON BAY SERVICES CLUB 7PM **THE FERAMONES**
- BANGALOW HOTEL ROO 4.30PM **ROGUE ELEMENTS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4.20PM **LIMBOLAND**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HAYLEY GRACE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK + DJ REIFLEX**
- BYRON THEATRE 3PM **DAVID HELFGOTT**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 10AM **JOE CONROY**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12.30PM **ANIMAL VENTURA, 4PM DJ KAI NOON**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **GUY J**
- BANGALOW HOTEL LILLY GRACE
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **FELICITY LAWLESS + DAN HANNAFORD**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4PM **THE VAGINA CONVERSATIONS #9**

SUNDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **LUKE BENNET**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KARUAH**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **LENNOX: LEGEND IN MY LIVING ROOM**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 11AM **MADAM PARKER**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BEN WALSH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATT ARMATAGE**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN-MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 8PM **RAW COMEDY 2024 MULLUM HEAT**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS JAMIE ASHFORTH BAND**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SUNDAY SESSIONS FT. LIVING IN THE 70S**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **BILL JACOBI, 2.30PM WAY OUT WEST**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **ROO MACKERRAS**
- UKI MARKETS, FROM 8AM **MURRAY KYLE AND ANNELIESE ROSE, ZAYNAB WILSON**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **LEIGH JAMES**

MONDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **LUKE BENNET**

TUESDAY 20

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KARUAH**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **LENNOX: LEGEND IN MY LIVING ROOM**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 11AM **MADAM PARKER**

WEDNESDAY 21

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BEN WALSH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATT ARMATAGE**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

Session Times


Thurs 15 February – Wed 21 February 108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	ALL FILMS	MEAN GIRLS (PG)	POOR THINGS (MA15+)
A DIFFICULT YEAR (CTC) ALLIANCE FRANCAISE SCREENING Tues: 6:30PM	ALL OF US STRANGERS (MA15+) Daily: 3:40PM, 5:50PM	4:20PM, 6:00PM, 7:30PM. Sun: 11:30AM, 1:50PM, 4:20PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM	Thurs: 1:20PM, 8:00PM. Fri, Sat, Mon: 1:10PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM. Sun: 4:10PM, 6:30PM.
OPÉRA DE PARIS: TURANDOT (CTC) Sun: 1:00PM, Wed: 11:00AM	ANATOMY OF A FALL (MA15+) Daily except Thurs: 11:10AM, 4:30PM, 8:00PM. Thurs: 11:10AM, 4:30PM, 8:10PM	FALLEN LEAVES (M) (NFT) Daily except Sun: 11:00AM, 12:50PM, 4:40PM, 6:30PM. Sun: 11:00AM, 12:50PM, 4:40PM, 7:30PM	Tues: 1:10PM, 4:10PM. Wed: 4:10PM, 7:00PM
THE GREAT ESCAPER (CTC) Thurs: 1:00PM	ANYONE BUT YOU (MA15+) Thurs, Mon, Tues: 2:00PM. Daily: 1:20PM, 5:50PM	FORCE OF NATURE: THE DRY 2 (M) (NFT) Daily except Tues: 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 3:45PM, 6:45PM, 8:15PM. Tues: 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 3:40PM, 7:00PM, 8:15PM	PRISCILLA (M) Thurs: 3:10PM, 5:30PM. Fri, Sat, Mon, Wed: 3:45PM, 6:00PM. Sun: 4:00PM. Tues: 11:00AM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM
FAMILY FILMS	ARGYLLE (M) (NFT) Thurs: 4:15PM, 8:00PM. Fri, Sat, Mon, Tues: 1:00PM, 4:15PM, 8:15PM. Sun: 4:15PM, 8:15PM	MADAME WEB (M) (NFT) Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:10AM, 2:10PM, 7:00PM, 8:20PM. Sun: 11:10AM, 2:10PM, 7:00PM, 8:30PM. Wed: 11:00AM, 2:10PM, 7:00PM, 8:20PM	THE HOLDOVERS (M) Daily except Wed: 1:30PM, Wed: 1:40PM
INSPECTOR SUN (PG) (NFT) Daily: 11:15AM	THE JUNGLE BUNCH WORLD TOUR (PG) Daily except Tues: 11:20AM	THE IRON CLAW (MA15+) Daily except Thurs: 8:00PM	INSPECTOR SUN (PG) (NFT) Daily: 10:20AM
MIGRATION (G) Daily except Wed: 11:00AM, 2:40PM. Wed: 1:50PM, 2:40PM	WONKA (PG) Daily: 11:00AM, 3:30PM		MADAME WEB (M) (NFT) Daily: 12:30PM, 3:00PM, 5:30PM

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

Session Times Ballina Fair Cinema

Thurs 15 February – Wed 21 February 47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

ANYONE BUT YOU (MA15+) Daily: 5:30PM	MIGRATION (G) Daily: 10:30AM	To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!
ARGYLLE (M) Daily: 4:40PM, 7:20PM	THE BEEKEEPER (MA15+) Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:10PM	
BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE (CTC) (NFT) Daily: 12:50PM, 2:30PM, 7:40PM	WONKA (PG) Sat, Sun: 12:10PM	SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE
FORCE OF NATURE: THE DRY 2 (M) (NFT) Daily: 10:30AM, 3:10PM, 7:50PM		
INSPECTOR SUN (PG) (NFT) Daily: 10:20AM		
MADAME WEB (M) (NFT) Daily: 12:30PM, 3:00PM, 5:30PM		

Ballina Fair Shopping Centre FREE parking Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au
*NFT = No Free Tickets

PALACE CINEMAS

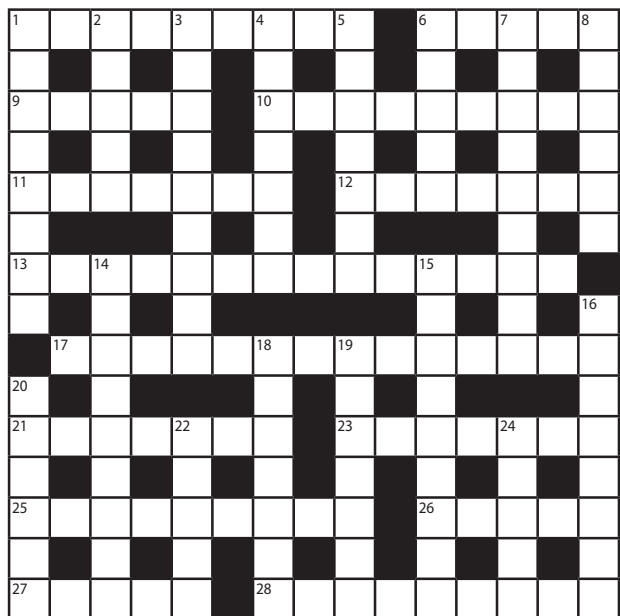
HAVE YOU SENT US YOUR GIG?

gigs@echo.net.au



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

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #530



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Spooner tells Robin: Loaf, relax! (9)
- Ate around hesitation, and smoked (5)
- Plucky daughter placed a bet (5)
- Tardy guest scrambled to meet Carol (9)
- Push back about the throbbing (7)
- Unexceptional to find in turn at Uralla (7)
- Public shows for fiends' time shares (14)
- Individual in a roadway met to overtake – and so it happened (2,2,4,2,4)
- Making a mistake about a piece of jewellery (7)
- Raise construction at levee (7)
- Vehicle returns with bird, and Paterson explains the pictures (9)
- Circle setter around bloke – one from Muscat (5)
- Fantasy about a small drink around the east (5)
- Canny cost repays regularity (9)

DOWN

- Trad gear required by the clothing industry (3,5)
- Block Mother Superior? (3,2)
- Alien behind communist plot for Mars (3,6)
- The said beer was their intention, but it made them sick (7)
- A popular Australian bird turns up for Oberon's queen (7)
- An aspect of Facetime (5)
- Reminders, or man-made artefacts (9)
- Officeworker, first day, Spooner warned of sinister intent (6)
- Wretched bile, smear, abuse (9)
- Totally drunk, flattened and dismissed (6,3)
- Hardship mars pirates' year (8)
- A new hair treatment, 99 – heavenly (7)
- English-French sea covers boy, Ralph Waldo (7)
- Tormented, but time made less stressful (6)
- Amin chant, in manner of speaking (5)
- Once more, a win (5)

Quick Clues

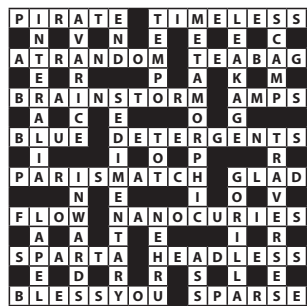
ACROSS

- European robin (9)
- Seethed (5)
- Manipulated (5)
- Straggler (9)
- Disgust (7)
- Spontaneous; unaffected (7)
- Exhibitions; displays (14)
- An event that occurred as predicted or foretold (2,2,4,2,4)
- Ornament such as hoop or stud (7)
- Promote (7)
- Captions at the bottom of the screen (9)
- Person from one of the Gulf states (5)
- Imagine (5)
- Faithfulness (9)

DOWN

- The business of garment production (3,5)
- Obstruct the flow (3,2)
- Mars (3,6)
- Illness (7)
- Queen of the fairies in Shakespeare play (7)
- Distinct feature (5)
- Written communication (9)
- Gloomily (6)
- Sorrowful (9)
- Cleared up; resolved (6,3)
- Bitterness (8)
- Blissful (7)
- With Lake and Palmer he formed a 70s supergroup (7)
- Made fun of (6)
- Dialect (5)
- Afresh (5)

Last week's solution #529



My Motherhood Statement



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX



Every now and then something really pisses me off. I am the queen of letting criticism or negative comments go. I have had people call me fat. Stupid. Feminazi. You name it, I've been called it. Over the years I've had numerous death threats. More recently when approached by authorities the person said 'I felt bad so I thought I'd take it out on Mandy'.

Weirdly that made me feel OK. I guess that makes me useful.

For over two decades I have written this column with a singular purpose. To say things that aren't being said. To make people think. And if I'm pissing people off I'm successful. The day the haters leave is the day I have stopped hitting the mark. They're my indicator species.

I don't mind having my ideas shredded. But criticism rarely stays there. It becomes personal. I usually don't engage. I just let people fight it out with themselves. But I came across this one comment, on a thoughtful post I'd written, that enraged me. The writer accused me of making 'motherhood statements'. That statement was like acid. I couldn't let it go.

That expression seems to have slipped past the feminist radar. One writer defended the use of the word, chastising me for not knowing what it meant. Oh, I know what it means. But do you? Sometimes the implied meaning is bigger than the literal meaning.

So why does that term piss me off so much? Let's start with a google definition of a 'motherhood statement': 'A vague "feel good" platitude, especially one made by a politician, that few people would disagree with.'

I studied semiotics and linguistics at university. Implied meaning and the way language is weaponised against oppressed people is my bag. Language is the vehicle with which we transport our prejudice and social bias to future generations. It's how we signpost values. 'Motherhood statement' is a classic patriarchal hit-and-run.

'Motherhood statement' is not a compliment. It's used to diminish and reduce. It's pretty well like holding someone down and calling them a girl. Because

Mothers are forces of nature. She understands justice. She understands vulnerability and nurtures it. She's tireless. Selfless. She builds strength. She protects. She loves.

our gender is so offensive, it's an insult. It means you are a generalist. You are shallow and ineffective. And weak. Just like mothers?

This tells us how poorly valued the insights, learning and experience of mothers are. It's probably why being a mother is so fricking hard. When women have kids, it impacts their careers big time. They earn less. Mothers enjoy a 60% drop in earnings compared to fathers in the decade following the birth of the first child. In the gender pay gap we call it 'the motherhood penalty'. We do more than 20 hours a week of unpaid work more than men.

I googled 'fatherhood statement'. Oh, guess what. Nothing. Because fatherhood in the patriarchy IS PATRIARCHY! It is taken seriously and not used as an umbrella term to describe inadequate and shallow intellectual practice. Fatherhood is big men in suits who study law and make big hard decisions with their big man brains that we vagina

bearers can't. And motherhood is... stupid and silly, and careful you'll hurt yourself with that big hard idea. Put it down and let one of the fathers lift it.

And we wonder why politics isn't safe for women? Why women MPs are photoshopped into midrifts, and aspiring young staffers are left naked and raped on ministers' couches?

Here is a clue. Nothing has changed. The beast still lives in the corridors of power.

So let me redefine a motherhood statement by starting with how we define mother. Because it seems the current definition of motherhood statement has been made by men. Mothers are forces of nature. She understands justice. She understands vulnerability and nurtures it. She's tireless. Selfless. She builds strength. She protects. She loves.

Imagine if under that definition, politics was full of people who made those sort of motherhood statements, and empathy and compassion was valued instead of derided.

This country would be a different place.

That is my motherhood statement.

■ If you want to hear more motherhood statements, from women who dare to wish for a better world, come to the Vagina Conversations at Brunswick Picture House this week. It has sold out, but on writing there were tickets to the extra show on Sunday. Oh, BTW we are raising \$ for DV services in the region. We've raised over \$100k over the years performing this show.

STARS BY LILITH

Love is as necessary to living beings as air, water, food and sleep, so celebrate Big Red Heart Day. Some love-language messages from your fellow sign-mates...



AQUARIUS THE WATERPOURER

ARIES: The world is violent and mercurial – it will have its way with you. We are saved only by love: love for each other and the love that we pour into the art we feel compelled to share: being a parent; being a writer; being a painter; being a friend. – Tennessee Williams

TAURUS: Love, in fact, is the agent of universal synthesis. Someday, after mastering the winds, the waves, the tides and gravity, we shall harness the energies of love, and then, for a second time in the history of the world, man will have discovered fire. – Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

GEMINI: Lead us where we may feel the earth's love beneath our feet, the careful, ongoing construction of love. Hard fought and won are the shifting sands of this sacred ecology. Easy to desecrate and difficult to defend, this vulnerable joy, this exposed faith, this precious order. – Michael Leunig

CANCER: Breathe properly. Stay curious. Don't be outraged, be outrageous. Minds were made for blowing. We are in this life to enlarge the soul, liberate the spirit and light up the brain. And in the end it's love, and love alone that really matters. – Tom Robbins

LEO: I am happier when I love than when I am loved. There is room in the human heart for all the divinities. When love exists, nothing else matters, not life's predicaments, not the fury of the years, not a physical winding down or scarcity of opportunity. – Isabel Allende

VIRGO: I've seen the nations rise and fall. I've heard their stories, heard them all, but love's the only engine of survival. So come my friends, be not afraid, we are so lightly here. It is in love that we are made, in love we disappear. – Leonard Cohen

LIBRA: I sometimes forget that I was created for joy. My mind is too busy, my heart too heavy to remember that I have been called to dance the sacred dance of life. That I was created to smile, to love, to be lifted up and to lift others up. – Jalaluddin Rumi

SCORPIO: That man is a success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much. A friend is somebody who loves us with understanding as well as emotion. To love is the great amulet that makes this world a garden. The essence of love is kindness. – Robert Louis Stevenson

SAGITTARIUS: For one human being to love another: that is perhaps the most difficult of all our tasks, the ultimate, the last test and proof, the work for which all other work is but preparation. Work, there is no other word for it. – Rainer Maria Rilke

CAPRICORN: Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore, may laughter rinse through your soul. As the wind loves to call things to dance, may your gravity be lightened by grace. As water takes whatever shape it is in, so free may you be about who you become. – John O'Donohue

AQUARIUS: Oh the mountains, oh the valleys, oh the oceans love would climb, seeking a place in your heart. Because there's nowhere too remote for true love to find, no matter what people say: If love wants to travel to your heart, love will find a way. – Sam Cooke

PISCES: If each one of us took very seriously the fact that every act, every word, every injury we do another human being is really what is projected into larger issues... then each of us, like a small cell, could create a human self who wouldn't go to war. – Anais Nin

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4 BANGALAY COURT, BANGALOW



Price Guide: \$1,600,000
Auction: Sat 24 Feb 11:00am on site
Open: Wed 14 Feb 12:30-1:00pm, Sat 17 Feb 12:45-1:15pm

4 2 2 744m2

648 BANGALOW ROAD, TALOFA



Auction: Sat 17 Feb 11:00am on site
Open: Wed 14 Feb 12:30-1:00pm, Sat 17 Feb 10:30-11:00 am

5 4 2 6114m2

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FOR SALE: Lot 13 Lincoln Avenue, McLeans Ridges

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Su Reynolds
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Exclusive Coopers Shoot Address - Secluded Paradise on 10 Acres with Resort-Style Pool and Breathtaking Views

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- 17.5m resort style saltwater pool, established, landscaped gardens and 363m² of external decking and outdoor entertaining areas
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Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668

35 GORDON STREET, BYRON BAY



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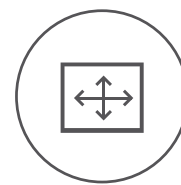
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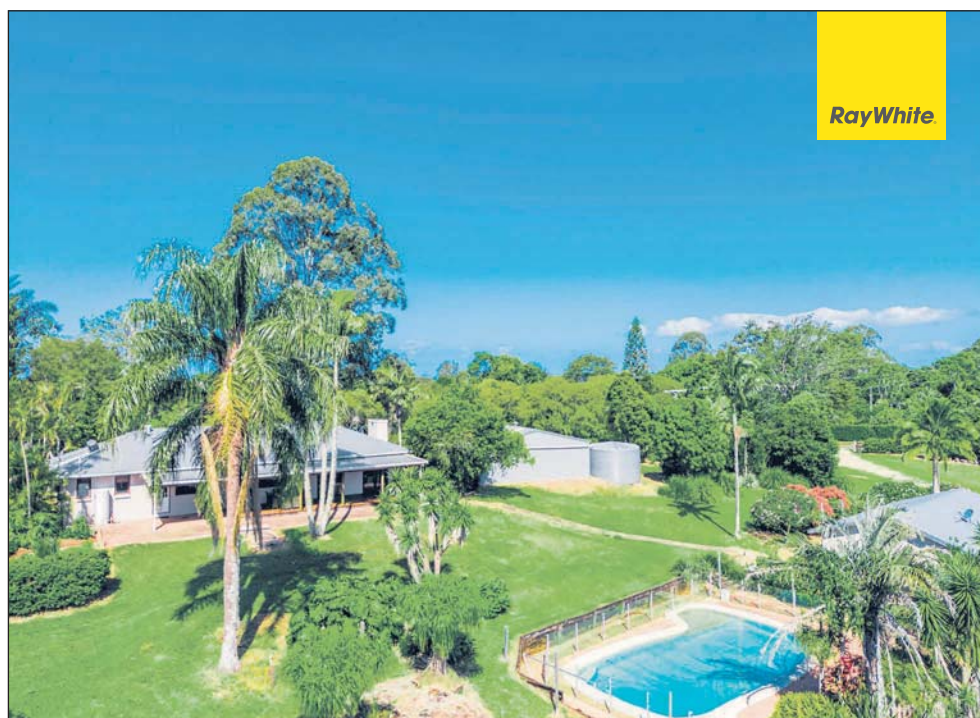
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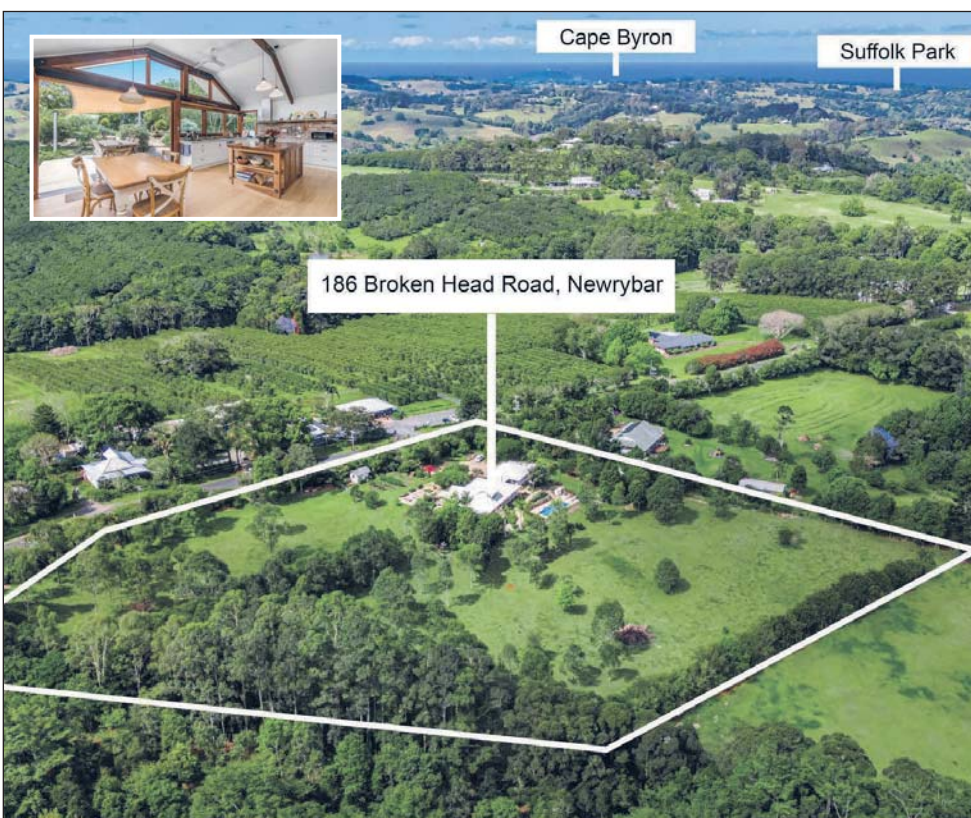
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*Price correct at 22.01.24 and subject to availability and change

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Inspect: by private appointment
Contact: Tania Sheppard 0438 446 578 (JET)

Style Pool and Breathtaking Views

17 Kamala Court, Coopers Shoot

3 2 2



Exclusive Coopers Shoot address - secluded paradise with resort-style pool and breathtaking views.

On 10 acres on the lush hills of Coopers Shoot this impressive property has recently undergone an extensive renovation and comes complete with 17.5m resort style saltwater pool and uninterrupted hinterland and ocean views. This 3 bedroom timber house has high vaulted ceilings, open plan living and dining, a kitchen with ample storage and separate breakfast nook opening out onto a timber deck with stunning views. Upstairs is a gorgeous loft where you can enjoy the views and the sounds of the ocean. The master bedroom features a private ensuite while the other two have access onto the deck. An expansive boardwalk leads to the pool with entertaining deck and manicured lawn. Further entertaining areas make this property feel like your very own retreat. The grounds are beautifully landscaped, and there is an abundance of natural wildlife. 10 acres in Coopers Shoot is rare with guaranteed privacy. Only 5 minutes to world class beaches and 10 minutes to Bangalow village.



Inspect: Sat 17 Feb, 9-9:30am
Contact: Tara Torkkola on 0423 519 698
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First National Byron Bay

- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11–11.45am
- 8 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park. Thurs 12–12.30pm
- 41 Bottlebrush Crescent, Suffolk Park. Thurs 3–3.30pm
- 27 Crystal Creek Circuit, Coorabell. Thurs 5–5.30pm
- 13/11-19 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Fri 12–12.30pm
- 2/39 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Fri 1–1.30pm
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry. Sat 9–9.30am
- 29 Pinegroves Road, Myocum. Sat 9–9.30am
- 17 Kamala Court, Coopers Shoot. Sat 9–9.30am
- 75 Butler Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30–10am
- 77 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30–10am
- 1109 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Montecollum. Sat 10–10.30am
- 34 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10–10.30am
- 8/2 Langi Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 154 Waltons Road, Federal. Sat 10.30–11am
- 2 Seastar Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30–11am
- 35 Gordon Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30–11am
- 2B/107 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30–11am
- 27 Redgum Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
- 98 Wallace Road, The Channon. Sat 11.15–11.45am
- 31 Tristania Street, Bangalow. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 128 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 59 Taylors Road, Eureka. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 2 Electra Close, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 3/140 Jonson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1–1.30pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 2/3 Monica Place, West Ballina. Sat 9–9.30am
- 7 Angus Kennedy Close, Lennox Head. Sat 10–10.30am
- 12/111 Kalinga Street, West Ballina. Sat 10–10.30am
- 4/84-86 Mellis Circuit, Alstonville. Sat 11–11.30am
- 4 Vera Street, Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am
- 37 Catherine Crescent, Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am
- 28 Richmond Street, Wardell. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 264 River Drive, East Wardell. Sat 12.45–1.15pm
- 8 Mulloway Pace, Ballina. Sat 2–2.30pm

MANA Re

- 3 Kallaroo Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 20 Coodgie Street, Tyalgum. Sat 9.30–10am
- 24 Redgate Road, South Golden Beach. Sat 9.30–10am
- 2/5 Canowindra Court, South Golden Beach. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2/1 Durroon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30–11am
- 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 11–11.30am
- 24 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 241 Middle Pocket Road, Middle Pocket. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 11 Dignan Street, Burringbar. Sat 12.15–12.45pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 2 Hakea Crescent, Suffolk Park. Thurs 3.15–3.45pm
- 50A Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 4/45 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 3/6 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 5 Wickham Place, Clunes. Sat 9.30–10am
- 12 Cudgerie Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am
- 42B Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10.30–11am

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 50 Tristran Parade, Mullumbimby. Saturday 9.30–10.15am
- 5937 Tweed Valley Way, Mooball. Saturday 10–10.30am
- 6149 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar. Saturday 10–10.30am
- 2-6 Pandanus Parade, Cabarita Beach. Saturday 11–11.30am
- 2/35 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Saturday 11–11.30am
- 20 Fawcett Street, Brunswick Heads. Saturday 12–12.30am

Ray White Byron Bay

- 11 Barby Crescent, Bangalow. Wed 2–2.30 pm
- 23 & 23A Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Thurs 2–2.30pm
- 11 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Fri 11.30–12pm
- 109-111 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 9–9.30am
- 23 & 23A Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 9–9.30am
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30 am
- 3/8 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 11 Barby Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 10–10.30 am

- 2/19 Marattia Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 10.30–11am
- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 3 Lofts Road, Coorabell. Sat 11–11.30am
- 48 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 1/2-6 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 19 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 62 Corkwood Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 12.30–1pm

Ray White Rural Bangalow

- 461 Repentance Creek Road, Goonengerry. Sat 11–11.30am

Real Estate of Distinction

- 6153 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar. Sat 9.30–10am
- 19 Leslie Street, Bangalow. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 14/64-70 Broken Head Road, Byron Bay. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 35-37 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 4.30–5pm

Ruth Russell Realty

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

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ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

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CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

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

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Dynamic Drawing classes resume

9.30am–12.30pm. Thursday 15 February
RSL Hall, Fawcett St, Bruns Heads
0428132297 or dynamicdrawing.com.au



Mullumbimby & District
Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

Contact Sylvia - Volunteer Coordinator
Mon-Fri
6684 1286

MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY MARKET & MUSEUM OPEN THIS SATURDAY 8am - 2pm

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www.mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au
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No dogs please

AGMs

PERIWINKLE COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL AGM

Monday 19 February, 6.30–7.30pm.
5 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay, 2481.

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Great Condition
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WANTED TO RENT

STUDIO WANTED FOR mature aged single woman. Lennox Head or East Ballina. Working full-time, quiet & clean person. Max \$400p/w. 0491726317.

S/CONT STUDIO in Byron or surrounds. Single, F/T professional, quiet, respectful, clean. Long-term tenant & refs available. \$400–\$450p/w. Contact Nick 0404745220

COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH FREE

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- Sausage sizzle • Hot dogs • Sandwiches
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EVERYONE WELCOME

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

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall

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



TO LEASE

STORAGE SPACE Single size garage, Alcorn Street. Available end March. \$150 p/w. Call Maree 0411515353

POSITIONS VACANT

CASUAL CONSOLE OPERATOR with car rental agent duties required for busy Liberty Byron Bay service station. Flexible work hours with weekend work required. Please email Darren with resume to servo@simmonsbyronbay.com.au

CASUAL GARDENER / LABOURER required 3 days p/w (Tue, Wed, Thu). Excellent environment for a motivated, hard-working person interested in horticulture, gardening and machinery maintenance. 0417682276 to arrange interview. Applications close end of Feb.

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

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

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Property is in Skinners Shoot, 10 minutes drive from downtown Byron.

PLEASE CALL TREVOR ON 0411 623 623

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DEATH NOTICES



JONATHAN HUNTER WOOLDRIDGE
29/11/1952-29/1/2024
One of the Feros Audacious Eight. Jo, a lovely and gentle man, was well-loved by his fellow residents and their families. Jo chose to stay at the village and only left to go to palliative care after he was assured that St Andrews was taking over and his compatriots could stay in their home.
We will miss you! The Audacious Eight

FUNERAL NOTICES

WOODHOUSE, PATRICK VINCENT

11-04-1930 ~ 07-02-2024

Passed away peacefully. Loved husband of Nell (dec). Much loved father to Mark, Kathleen, Bernie, Marty and their families. Loved by everyone. Friend to all.
"Happy Days, K.C.R."
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 16, 2024) commencing at 9.45am NSW time.
Michael Currie at Brunswick Valley Funerals 6684 6232

ONLY ADULTS

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

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SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 3 WEEKS

DATE (Feb/Mar)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
14	W	6:26 19:33	10:48 22:25	0022 1.49 1237 1.61	0610 0.33 1852 0.27
15	TH	6:27 19:32	11:53 23:01	0115 1.49 1319 1.41	0710 0.48 1932 0.34
16	F	6:28 19:31	12:58 23:41	0214 1.47 1407 1.22	0823 0.61 2017 0.42
17	SA	6:28 19:31	14:03 23:41	0325 1.46 1510 1.06	0956 0.69 2115 0.49
18	SU	6:29 19:30	15:05 0:25	0445 1.47 1643 0.98	1137 0.68 2228 0.53
19	M	6:30 19:29	16:04 1:14	0557 1.52 1813 0.99	1254 0.61 2343 0.52
20	TU	6:31 19:28	16:56 2:08	0654 1.57 1913 1.05	1344 0.54 2407 0.47
21	W	6:31 19:27	17:43 3:05	0742 1.62 2036 1.13	0045 0.47 1422 0.47
22	TH	6:32 19:26	18:22 4:03	0822 1.66 2036 1.20	0132 0.41 1454 0.43
23	F	6:33 19:25	18:57 5:01	0859 1.69 2110 1.26	0213 0.36 1524 0.40
24	SA	6:33 19:24	19:28 6:51	0931 1.70 2213 1.35	0248 0.33 1551 0.37
25	SU	6:34 19:23	19:56 7:51	1002 1.69 2213 1.35	0322 0.32 1617 0.36
26	M	6:35 19:22	20:22 8:44	1031 1.66 2245 1.38	0355 0.33 1643 0.35
27	TU	6:35 19:21	20:48 9:28	1100 1.60 2317 1.41	0430 0.37 1708 0.35
28	W	6:36 19:20	21:15 10:28	1128 1.52 2353 1.42	0505 0.42 1734 0.37
29	TH	6:37 19:19	21:43 11:56	1156 1.42 2401 1.42	0544 0.50 1801 0.40
1	F	6:37 19:18	22:15 11:17	0030 1.42 1227 1.31	0627 0.58 1830 0.44
2	SA	6:38 19:17	22:52 12:14	0114 1.40 1303 1.19	0719 0.66 1904 0.49
3	SU	6:39 19:16	23:35 13:15	0208 1.39 1355 1.08	0830 0.72 1952 0.54
4	M	6:39 19:15	0:27 14:17	0321 1.39 1515 1.01	0008 0.73 2104 0.57
5	TU	6:40 19:14	0:27 15:18	0446 1.45 1654 1.01	0144 0.66 2232 0.55
6	W	6:41 19:13	1:27 16:16	0600 1.56 1815 1.08	0250 0.55 2351 0.46

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

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

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
Please stick this by your phone

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

Community at Work On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

GCAT

The Green and Clean Awareness Team's monthly Dunecare Day is on Sunday, 18 February 9am till 12 noon, meeting in front of the Beach Cafe at Clarkes Beach. From 12 noon to 1pm, enjoy a delicious free BBQ and be in the draw to win one of four excellent prizes. It's good fun. Enquiries to Veda 6685 7991 or Miles 0403 206 190.

Dementia carers

We'd love to see you at our monthly Northern Rivers Carers Coffee Club on the third Wednesday of every month. Our February meeting will take place at 11am on Wednesday, 21 February in Brunswick Heads. Please call Emma White on 66851 629 or email on; emmawhite@byronrespite.com.au. Bring your questions, suggestions, and concerns, speak with other carers and meet new friends.

Prostate cancer support

The first meeting of the Northern Rivers Day Prostate Cancer Support Group for 2024 is to be held on Wednesday, 14 February, 10am till 12 noon at the Alstonville Plateau Sports Club, Deegan Drive, Alstonville. Men previously or newly diagnosed with prostate cancer are urged to join with the group to experience the personal cancer stories told which give a great opportunity for all present to share, learn and benefit from each other. Partners and carers are also most welcome to attend as family are very much involved with the process and treatment of those with this diagnosis. Guest Speaker will be Kate Goswell from Ballina First Light Healthcare. Enquiries phone Bob Corney on 0493 075 612.

Bedtime stories

Bedtime Stories for Elders discussion group starting March for eight weeks, using fairy tales to help us make sense of our ageing, and discover their wisdom. \$5 contribution weekly. Women over 50 encouraged to enquire: 0430 175 923 or wildandwonderful@myyahoo.com.

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 9am-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.
More Than A Meal: free community lunch Tuesday-Thursday 12.30-1.30pm.
Financial counselling
Staying Home, Leaving Violence program: Information, referral, and advocacy.
Gulgani affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.
Orange Sky: free laundry service Mon morning & Wed 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

Tough Guys Book Club

The book club for the thinking man. You don't need to be tough. Meets at Ballina Sports Club, 7pm on the first Wednesday of every month. Completely free. <https://www.toughguysbookclub.com>.

Tech training for dementia carers

Dementia Inclusive Ballina offers a free AI workshop at Crowley Education Centre, Ballina, on 23 February, 9.30 till 11.30am. Explore ChatGPT, Bard, and more! No experience needed. Enjoy hands-on training, demystify AI myths, and meet fellow carers over a morning tea. To register, text/call or email Sabrina: 0429 455 720, dib. digitaltraining@gmail.com

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.

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. Astonville Library Wednesday, 14 February 11am; Kingscliff Library Wednesday, 28 February at 10.30am; Byron Bay Library 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.

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.byroncenter.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. **The Hub** Baptist Church in Ocean Shores has food relief available for anyone doing it tough, please contact us on 0434 677747 if you find yourself doing it tough. 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.



Local boys dominate U/15 BMX Freestyle National Championships

Joe Stocks

In a thrilling display of athleticism and camaraderie Malakai Kopman of Mullumbimby and Felix Stokes from Brunswick Heads, made it to the podium at the 2024 BMX Freestyle National Championships held in Melbourne last weekend.

Malakai showed significant improvement from last year's performance to clinch the top spot – he was crowned U/15 Boys National Champion.

On his debut at the national level Felix secured third place.

Both boys have honed their skills under the guidance of coach Josh Khoury at Level Up Skatepark; as well as at their local parks, where they enjoy pushing their own boundaries.

The competition itself was a spectacle of



Felix (L) and Malakai at the Rampfest Skate Park in Melbourne during the 2024 Nationals. Photo supplied

adrenaline-fuelled stunts and breathtaking manoeuvres, as riders unleashed a barrage of tailwhips, barspins, and backflips with precision and style. Each competitor was allotted two gruelling one-minute runs through the skatepark, showcasing their

prowess and captivating the crowd with their fearless displays of athleticism.

The event drew competitors from across the nation including Olympians Natalya Diehm and Brandon Loupos, along with a mix of seasoned and up-and-coming talents.

'Boneless Brigade' ready for another big year

The Northern Rivers Skateboard Club (NRSC), aka the Boneless Brigade, is rolling into 2024 with its first club round to be held at Byron Bay Skate Park on 24 February at 9am.

The club has a big schedule for the year including monthly events where members can compete in a friendly environment at local skateparks and schools.

Highlights from last year included club members competing in Yamba against sister-club, Mid North Coast Skateboarders.

After a street and bowl event, the NRSC walked away with the win.

Awards of excellence are also given for standout performances throughout the year.

2023 winners were: Male



'Boneless' groms on the half-pipe. Photo supplied

Skater of the Year – Archie Simpson (Lennox Head); Female Skater of the Year – Tanisha Gardner (Pottsville); Skater Grom of the Year – Maasi Solano, (Ballina); Keenest Grom – Noa Cavanish, (Pottsville).

Club members who prove to have a great passion

and talent will have the opportunity to be chosen for the North Coast Academy of Sports skateboarding development program, which is the next step to becoming a skateboarding athlete, and then possibly an Olympian.

Contact: bonelessskate-club@gmail.com.

Tri Club tastes success at South West Rocks

The Byron Tri Club has just competed in round three of the North Coast Interclub series and look likely to hold on to their top spot on the ladder.

'We're heading back from South West Rocks now. It looks like we've taken it out again and maxed out [on points] but we won't know until Tri NSW does the properly,' team member Deborah Fuller said.

The club is currently on top of the ladder after winning the first rounds at Yamba and Kingscliff. The



The Byron Triclub had another very successful day at Trial Bay, South West Rocks last weekend. Photo supplied

next event is the Tweed Enduro on 24 February.

'Just about everyone

was in the top ten yesterday for the 750m swim/30km cycle/5km run,' Deb said.

Rainbow Dragons claim medals at the 'Battle of the Paddles' on the Gold Coast

A team of 38 Rainbow Dragons (Lennox Head-Ballina) dragon boaters headed north for the formidable Broadwater's 'Battle of the Paddle' on the Gold Coast, and brought home trophies.

This regatta attracts a very competitive field that often use it as preparation for the imminent State Championships.

The home club is full of prime young paddlers who dominated the finals.

However the Rainbows Mens 10 team paddled with gusto and came in third. In doing so, they achieved their long-standing goal of winning their first medal at a regatta.

Last year they were pipped by 100th of a second for third place at the Australian Masters Games.

Also two Rainbow Pink paddlers teamed up with Wollumbin Pinks to finish second in the Breast Cancer Survivors category.

Other team results were very competitive too, as the Mixed 20s completed the 200m in less than 54 seconds in both heats.



Rainbow Dragons Mens 10s paddled their way to the podium for the first time at Broadwater. Photo supplied

Later, in the 2km 'Island Dash' boats had a 20-second delay start and by the home straight the Rainbows had overtaken two boats, although one fought back.

The Rainbows emerged from this almost physical encounter 20 seconds ahead, but just outside the top 10 times.

Club president, Lu Cooney, summed up the day: 'It was wonderful to have a broad cross-section

of members representing the Rainbows at this regatta.'

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.

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A Sunrise resident has told *The Echo* to be aware there are break-ins occurring in the neighbourhood. They say there have been nine burglaries, including a stolen car, in the last few days alone.

A new interactive all-ages space has opened at the old Byron Woolies building. It's headed by former Greens Mayor, Simon Richardson, and philanthropist, Christopher Dean, and is described as leading edge art and technology that transports you deep into an 'other-worldly' experience. Visit otherworld.live for more info.

NSW Labor's Minister for Housing, Rose Jackson, launched a weird attack on a Sydney mayor via Twitter last week, saying they are playing politics by refusing housing because it would destroy heritage values. Boooo. Retaining heritage is surely important?

Flickerfest's three-day festival of short films is set to kick off at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall, on Thursday, February 29 and will run till Saturday, March 2. Local films and comps are included - visit www.iQ.org.au for more info.

Inflation is the result of price-gouging in sectors dominated by large corporations, according to a newly released report by economist and former ACCC chair Allan Fels. As *Crikey's* Bernard Keane writes, this extensive research flies in the face of the Reserve Bank and other denialists who insist profiteering has no impact on inflation.

Is your book in draft form and needing a tweak for publication? The Byron Writers

Festival's Novel Intensive and Memoir Intensive courses will be held from March till July. The workshops will be run local authors, Sarah Armstrong (novel), and Alan Close (memoir). Visit www.byronwritersfestival.com for more info.

Given former PM Scott Morrison will soon be working for private US weapons industry corporations, are there rules in place to stop him telling them our national security and intel secrets? Asking on behalf of 25.69 million people.

Jane Hanckel's latest feature film doco will be screened at Marvell Hall, Byron Bay on Friday, February 23 from 7pm. *The Infinite Game* is about preparing young people for a future of technology and global change. Bookings are essential - visit [humanitix.com/the-infinite-game-preview-film-screening](http://www.humanitix.com/the-infinite-game-preview-film-screening) for more info.

'Everything that needs to be said has already been said. But since no one was listening, everything must be said again' - French author, André Gide (1869-1951).

Psst: *SMH* (Nine) reports a senior bureaucrat in the NSW Department of Planning is under ICAC investigation for insider trading. Just as a reminder, *Echo* questions to the NSW Reconstruction Authority were never answered regarding its former CEO, Mick Cassel, who was allegedly involved in fast-track rezoning for a developer he later worked for.

Whoever put the 's' in 'fast food' is a marketing genius.



The member for Liquorland, Barnaby Joyce (Nationals), was found mixing his drugs and lying on the streets of Canberra last week. Help is always available for those needing to break their toxic love affair with CH₃CH₂OH (alcohol). Image *National Times Meme Factory*

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