



Family garden day, March 17



Little Rubystar from Mullum Seed has trained up Liam, Chloe and James to pot up the best specimens for the Mullum Autumn Plant Fair, to be held from 9am on Sunday, March 17, at the Mullum Seed Eco Hub, located at the Mullum Community Gardens. The family event includes workshops and exhibitions, with a special focus on native plants and showcasing rare plants, medicinals, vege seedlings and fruit tree favourites. For more info visit mullumseed.org.au. Photo Eve Jeffery

Pre-2022 flood data underpins floodplain development

Staff reporters

A proposal by a landowner and Council staff to mitigate flooding and enable development on large floodplain lots on 75 New City Road has been roundly criticised by Council's Floodplain Committee members and residents as not only unworkable, but a danger to life should it be approved.

This week marks the second anniversary of the devastating floods – many residents in the region are still coping with the impacts

of the 2022 flood, and are without promised government funding.

Large floodplain lots at 75 New City Road and 1B Ann Street were included in Council's Housing Options Paper last year, without public consultation. Mayor Michael Lyon's successful motion just got over the line with support from Crs Mark Swivel, Asren Pugh, Peter Westheimer and Alan Hunter.

The Options Paper was roundly criticised by community groups for a myriad of reasons, and 'underpins' Council's Residential Strategy

2024, which could be adopted at the upcoming meeting on March 14.

Residential Strategy 2024 up for adoption

Council staff are asking councillors to adopt the entire strategy at that meeting – without any further public consultation – but with their recommended inclusions and exclusions of lands. The large rural Mullum land lots are included.

Remarkably, staff base their

▶ Continued on page 4

Overhaul proposed for Mullum's main street

Plans for a more pedestrian-friendly Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby, are now on exhibition on Council's website, and according to the 26-page document, will provide more shade, and restrict vehicle access.

The town's iconic palms are slated for removal, drawing the ire of locals on Council's Facebook post.

The justification for palm removal in *The Draft Concept Design – Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby*, is 'because they provide little shade; drop large fronds and seed heads that can be hazardous to pedestrians, and do not promote biodiversity'.

There was no mention of how the town's large lorikeet population, which nest in the palms nightly, would be rehoused.

Additionally, the plans do not address how the ever-increasing traffic would be managed.

Transport for NSW undertook a 'Healthy Streets' Assessment of Burringbar Street in August 2023 and found 'too many vehicles and too many heavy vehicles', according to the report.

Ten car parks would be lost, additional pedestrian crossings would be installed at Dalley Street and adjacent to laneways.

Burringbar Street plans:

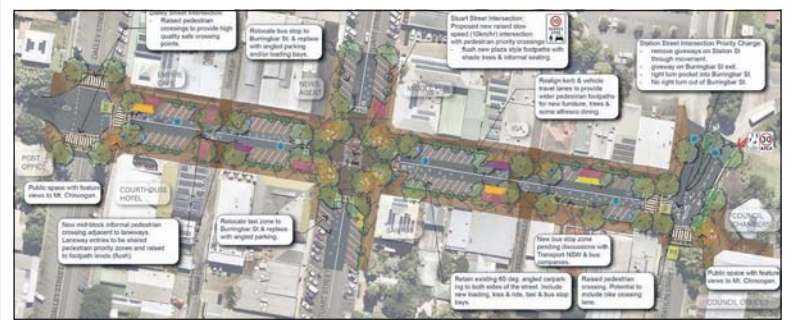
- Increased pedestrian areas
- Reduced vehicle access
- Palms replaced with natives
- No roundabouts
- 10 car parks removed
- No plans to address traffic

The Echo asked Council staff why no information was included around how to manage the loss of parking and movement of traffic.

Sharyn French, Manager, Environmental and Economic Planning, replied, 'The design is simply a draft. We are asking people to give us

their feedback about how they feel about the design, and that includes any potential loss of parking. The draft design includes a narrowing of the road, but traffic movement will remain the same, with the exception of some changes at the Burringbar and Station Street intersection. The draft is consistent with the objectives of the *Our Mullumbimby Masterplan* to prioritise people over cars in the main street and to also encourage through traffic to use alternative routes around the centre'.

The plans are also without funding, yet if adopted, will support state and federal funding grants.



The Draft Concept Design – Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby

Vale Michael Hofer ▶ p3

First responders critical of govt/Council on second flood anniversary ▶ p6

Who spies on the spooks? ▶ p10

International Women's Day: Northern Rivers women mean business ▶ p20

Featuring magical Murwillumbah ▶ p22



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Ingrained Foundation celebrates five years

Hans Lovejoy

Philanthropy is in good health in Byron Bay, with Ingrained Foundation holding a social morning last Wednesday with beneficiaries and donors of their grants program.

A new office space at the former Stone & Wood brewery was also opened, which can be accessed for free by not-for-profit groups.

Human Nature Adventure Therapy directors and Ingrained Foundation also signed a multi-year partnering agreement, which will contribute to enable the organisation to scale up their nature-based mental health programs for young people.

According to humannature.org.au, their core emphasis is on 'fostering connections and building trust'.

'We extend our support to some of the most vulnerable youth across the Far North Coast of NSW, providing assistance to those at high risk of dire consequences if they don't receive the critical help they desperately need'.

Ingrained Foundation Executive Director, Jasmin Daly, told *The Echo*



From right to left: Human Nature Director, Jane Shehey, CEO Sharyn White and Chair, Stephen Grant. Ingrained Foundation Chair, Chris Pensabene, and Executive Director Jasmin Daly. Photo Pete Rogers

that one of their key intended outcomes is to increase agency and security of funding so that not-for-profits are supported to be more effective and impactful.

'We're excited for this to be the first

of hopefully more long-term partnerships to come,' Jasmin said.

Ingrained Foundation's annual grants program is opening on March 20.

For more information, visit www.ingrainedfoundation.com.au.

'If I don't practice for a day, I know it. If I don't practice for two days, the critics know it'
- Louis Armstrong (1901-1971)

Community Zoom on the Residential Strategy

6pm - 8pm, Monday 11 March 2024

A forum with the Mayor for residents to ask questions about the residential strategy ahead of the Council meeting on Thursday.



Please scan the QR code to register for the Zoom meeting.

Email michael.lyon@byron.nsw.gov.au for any questions.



Bangalow film fest from this Thurs

Just a few highlights from the upcoming Bangalow Film Festival (March 7-16) are the 30th anniversary of *The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, The Shire Choir's *Love Letter To Musicals*, and a live score accompaniment to the classic horror flick, *Nosferatu*.

The event, to be held at the town's A&I Hall, will feature 28 films, masterclasses and special events.

Co-director, Janelle Morse, told *The Echo* the *Priscilla* screening on March 9 includes exclusive insights into the film, with a talk from some of the filmmakers.

'The original sound engineer, Academy-Award nominee and Northern Rivers resident, Guntis Sics, is part

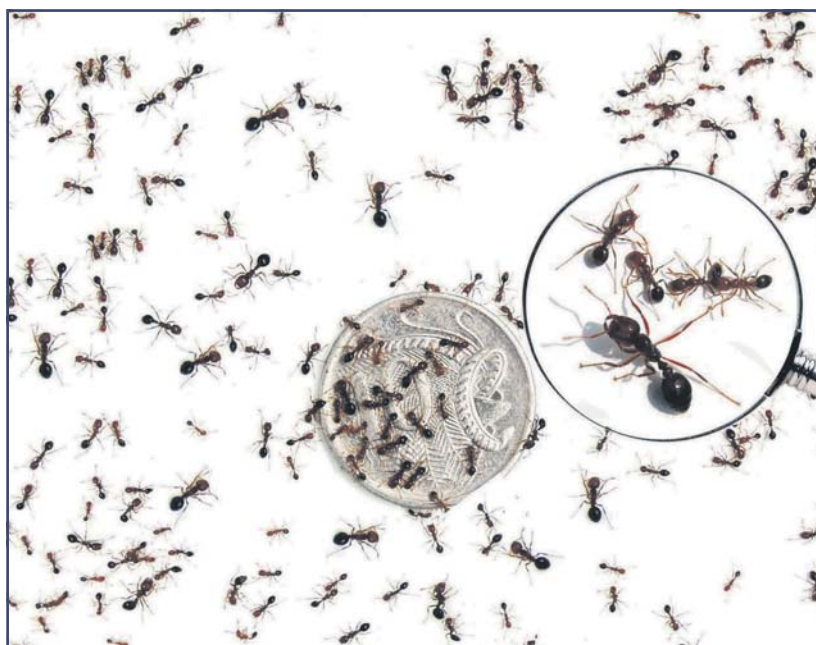


Filmmakers Catherine Marciniak, Stephen Axford and filmscore composer, Jai Piccone, are just some of the talented screen professionals who will take part in the Bangalow Film Festival, which begins this Thursday. Photo Eve Jeffery

of the panel'. On March 15, local musician, Jai Piccone (Tora), will present an original score to F.W. Murnau's iconic

1922 silent film *Nosferatu: A Symphony of Horror*.

For more info, visit bangalowfilmfestival.com.au.



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A picture of nectar this weekend

The beautiful colours and smells of flowers will fill Coorabell Hall for the return of the hall's Flower Show on March 9 and 10.

Co-organiser Lyn McCarthy says the show has been 'an iconic event in the Byron hinterland for 53 years'.

Lyn says, 'A homage to flowers in general, but in particular the dahlia. The hall will be open to everyone from midday to 5pm on Saturday, March 9, and 10am to 4pm on Sunday, March 10'.

'Local champion growers, Bruce and Stephen Wedd, are once again contributing their magnificent prize-winning dahlias and a number of other local growers are involved.

'As well as the flower displays, attendees can learn how to create a stunning flower crown. There will be flower-based perfume



Adele Smout, Steven Wedd, Lissa Coute and Nadine Abensur are looking forward to showing off blooms at Coorabell Hall on Saturday and Sunday. Photo Eve Jeffery

making demonstrations and a Hawaiian hula singing and dancing display.

'On Saturday, March 9, a fundraising gourmet feast

will be held with dinner prepared by award-winning chef Nadine Abensur with entertainment by singing sensation Jack Watson. This

is a ticketed event'. For more info, visit www.coorabellhall.net. Tickets for Saturday's dinner via <https://tinyurl.com/2yn5fa6zr>.

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Vale Michael Hofer 1975–2024

The Hofer family

Michael Andreas Hofer died at his home in Byron Bay on February 18, 2024.

Michael was born in Calgary, Alberta, Canada on June 4, 1975 to parents Helmut Matthew Hofer and Margaret Mary Burnett.

He graduated from Sir Winston Churchill High School in 1993, and then went on to receive a Bachelor of Physics from the University of Calgary 2002, and a Bachelor of Health Science from the Australian College of Natural Medicine in 2007.

Michael had a brilliant mind, always on the quest for truth. As a physicist and acupuncturist, he came from a lineage of world-changing men – his father invented the 3D imaging technology that was later adapted for



medical use (MRI) on behalf of Texas Instruments.

Michael's interests and talents were vast and varied.

As a truth-seeker, philosopher, system designer and engineer, Michael sought to make complex problems accessible. He was always learning new things. One week, he was researching mitochondria, and the next he was building his own house.

He was incredibly generous with his time and was

frequently called upon by the local community for his expertise, including (but definitely not limited to) testing and advice specifically around EMF radiation, pathogen control and healthy home biology.

Lyme disease

Michael was a fierce advocate for open and honest conversations about the reality of Lyme disease, which he contracted from a tick bite in August 2023.

Australian chronic Lyme patients are kept in a state of perpetual torture – the existence of it denied by our government, while patients battle complex chronic neurological and blood/respiratory diseases, often alone. Lyme drops your immune system like AIDS, and can perpetuate into

your mind like syphilis (with comparable stigma).

Often undertreated or misdiagnosed, it must be treated early. One of the hardest parts of Michael's last few months was being treated as a medical 'hot potato' in Australia.

Eventually, Michael was forced to travel to Mexico to receive treatment, where there was no controversy or medical gaslighting.

It was his desire that the realities of Lyme disease be widely known and recognised so crucial early treatment can be sought in this country. For more visit www.lymedisease.org.

He is survived by his sweetheart and wife of 18 years, Ruth, daughters Imogen, Kirra and Jasmine, son Andreas, and beloved older brother Rick.

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Pre-2022 data underpins floodplain development

► Continued from page 1 argument in part on pre-2022 flood data, while also admitting it needs updating.

On page 21 of the March 14 Council agenda, Shannon Burt, Director Sustainable Environment and Economy, writes, 'Detailed flood and stormwater management investigations must be undertaken concurrently as part of a single "combined" planning proposal'.

Mobilised residents

A well-organised community campaign against the proposal is underway, and the mayor will face residents in a Zoom meeting over the strategy on March 11 from 6pm-8pm (see page 2 ad).

The landowner of 75 New City Road, Frea Bandini, told *The Echo* that she and Council have been working on plans to mitigate flooding and propose to build large mitigation ponds and erect stormwater gates at Kings Creek.

She told *The Echo* she had to sign a non-disclosure agreement with Council for the flooding report she helped pay for.

'All of Council's drains

lead onto my property via big open culverts', she said, 'And because the water can't escape, it's got nowhere to go. Over the years it became worse', she says, 'because of secondary dwellings, etc which I'm completely fine about - we need housing'.

Ms Bandini says, 'Flood studies prove that stormwater, not floodwater, affects my property. Flood water that comes to my farm is not from Kings Creek, but comes across town during a major flood.'

Yet in the 2022 floods, residents saw floodwaters surge from the east, where Kings Creek and Ms Bandini's land is located, not from town.

She says, 'I've lived here and grown up here my entire life. I don't like to see all my neighbours getting flooded... and unless Council has the budget to be able to fund it, then we're just gonna keep getting into more and more trouble.'

'It makes me feel really anxious that people are so against this proposal, without understanding the actual flood modelling. It's not flood water, it's stormwater



Photo of 2022 floods from the Mullumbimby Residents Association submission against Council's Housing Options Paper.

that can't escape.

'If my land is not included in the residential strategy, then there will be no way to fund drainage mitigation. It would be an absolute catastrophe for me and everyone else around me.'

Neighbouring landowner, Henry Stenning, told *The Echo* his family owns 300 acres of the floodplain from McAuleys Lane to the farm near the town.

Blocked drains

'Basically, we own the land that borders Saltwater Creek and Kings Creek - Saltwater Creek joins into Kings Creek. The main drain that drains the water from the Council chambers, and runs down

that doesn't flood, I just can't see how people can object to it, especially when it doesn't affect them at all'.

Vehemently opposed

Long time local, Matthew Lambourne, has been on the Floodplain Committee for 26 years, and is vehemently opposed to building on floodplains.

'In the Public Submissions Report for Council's *Housings Option Paper* (HOP), staff claimed that stormwater discharge was the issue for the area, not flooding'.

'While there is no reference to that claim, it looks like it was sourced from Council's *Drainage and Assessment Report 2018*.

through the land adjacent to Ann Street, used to be cleaned out every year. I've been there for over 20 years, and in the last ten years, it hasn't been cleaned out at all'.

Mr Stenning says he is in support of the proposal he has seen.

'All the houses at the back of Ann Street, where the drain runs through... there wouldn't be any development there, because that's low, and they've gotta have that drain clear. So, there would be a buffer zone between them and where the development would go.'

'The town continually grows and people need somewhere to live. And if there's land close to the town

At a glance:

Council's Residential Strategy 2024, which includes floodplain development, is up for adoption at the March 14 Council meeting.

Council staff support floodplain development proposals in Mullumbimby, if stormwater management investigations are undertaken 'concurrently'.

A landowner and Council jointly paid for flood reports to support their proposal - those reports are flawed, say Floodplain Committee members.

A strong and unified group of flood-affected residents emphatically say no floodplain development should occur.

City Road. I walked the area this week, and there is one. Council should rely on its own staff to ground-truth the area'.

Fern Street resident and fellow Floodplain Committee member, Karl Allen, is also seriously concerned by the plans proposed.

► Continued opposite

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Sylvia: volunteers@mdnc.org.au



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► from previous page

He says he and his neighbourhood in Orchid Place were affected by increased flooding since the filling of the floodplain at Orchid Place.

He told *The Echo*, 'Council have been given approval by the NSW government to apply the outdated 2020 North Byron Flood Study as a basis for floodplain development'.

'Why is this okay?'

Previous Residential Strategy rejected

'The large lots of 1B Ann Street and 75 New City Road were previously included in Council's rejected Residential Lands Strategy.'

'At the time, government agencies found that those lands were rejected owing to flooding and important farmland constraints. 75 New City Road was advertised as flooded, owing to urban stormwater runoff. This is correct in a much smaller one-in-five-year ARI flood event.'

'The 2020 North Byron Flood Study identifies the area is inundated in a one-in-100-year flood event and functions as flood storage. Residents can verify this. Development of these areas will create low flood islands that the SES cannot access.'

'The NSW Principal Floodplain Officer has previously said that emergency management planning needs to be applied to the residential strategy refresh, to date this has not happened'.

Karl says Council are relying on a 'cut and fill' process on acid sulphate soil to develop the whole south Mullumbimby precinct, but since Council-owned Lot 22 was 'rightly removed owing to flooding constraints', the 'cut' is reduced for the whole project.

'75 New City Rd requires 40,450m³ of fill for houses built on stumps. The soil quality has not been tested, and the 2020 North Byron Flood Study identified Mullumbimby as the most sensitive area to cumulative development.'

'If these properties have been rejected previously by the NSW Planning Department, why is Council putting these areas forward?'

'They should certainly be rejected now, after the NSW Independent Flood Inquiry and Council's *After The Floods Discussion Paper Findings*'.

'Infrastructure capacity reviews for Mullumbimby completed by Council in July 2023 have not been released to the public. Past Council

reports support what the community experiences and that is, our infrastructure is in a poor condition. The Floodplain Committee have previously requested Council's Planning Department attend a Floodplain Committee meeting, but this has not eventuated.'

Confidential 2022 flood data

A yet-to-be-released report, *Post 2022 Event Flood Behaviour Analysis Brunswick River*, is yet to be a public document, despite the Floodplain Committee having access to it.

Council staff told *The Echo* they are 'working on getting this document on to our website in the coming months'.

'We are waiting aon additional supporting information from NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW), to assist people with understanding this very complex document'.

Karl Allen adds, 'Cr Duncan Dey is a hydrologist by trade, his expertise in this field should be recognised. Is Council listening?'

Mayor Michael Lyon was asked to respond to the claims but no reply was received.

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First responders critical of government/ Council on second flood anniversary

A public event to recognise the second flood anniversary was held at the Soundshell in Bruns last Wednesday, with the mayor, deputy mayor, police representatives and a handful of locals present, according to the photos posted on Council's Facebook page.

Mitra Ardron, who says he was involved with the immediate flood response, posted, 'It was noticeable who was and wasn't there [at the anniversary event]'. 'In particular, none of the co-ordination crew that I think of as largely responsible for the flood response - out of Mullum Civic Hall - were there: Luke Jaaniste, Jean Renouf, Ella Rose Goninan, Rae Stanton, Chai West, Adam Ess, Nerrida Haydon, Bianca Wildwood, Emma-Lee Luther, Nick... I've probably missed a few. Though it was good to see Zali Spinner, who organised the tinny rescues on the first night, and Melanie Bloor, the key organiser from Uki, Sasha Mainsbridge from the Library of Stuff, and of course, Sophie Wilksch who co-organised the Repair Cafe with me and others'.

Ardron described it as an 'amazing volunteer response', with 'hundreds of people', who 'organised helicopter rescues, built bamboo bridges, hiked in Starlink dishes, and checked on every house'. 'It's these people that needed celebrating, but the actual recovery effort seems to have been consistently sidelined, because it really showed up the lack of capability by government at all levels, and the emergency service groups tasked with responding. [They were] mired by bureaucrap such as insurance, lawyers, and



Mayor Michael Lyon at the second flood anniversary. Photo Council's Facebook page

broken chains of command'.

Ardron said that after two years, flood-affected people are 'mired in bureaucracy, trying to get rehoused or have their houses raised for example. Promised buybacks still haven't materialised'.

'[Mayor] Michael Lyon said a lot of good words on the stage, but I've not seen evidence that meaningful resilience preparation will happen'.

He added delaying assistance is also a trauma, and that building on floodplains shows little has been learned.

Ardron added it's likely the same outcome will happen with the next major flood.

Debt of gratitude

Mayor Michael Lyon told *The Echo* in part, 'We owe a huge debt of gratitude to all the first responders for their bravery and dedication in our community's time of need'.

'Council acknowledges our community's 'frustrations with the ongoing challenges of accessing support for recovery from the catastrophic disaster events of 2022.

'The community's recovery and resilience priorities have seen Council advocate strongly for better outcomes, and this advocacy joins the voices of many who continue to push for positive change. 'Meaningful resilience

preparation is happening. Since the disasters, we have worked alongside local organisations and community groups who have been involved in the hard, on-the-ground work of recovery across the Shire.

'Through our Community Recovery Team (funded by the NSW Reconstruction Authority), Council continues to partner with and support around ten emergent community resilience groups'.

He says community preparedness and resilience has improved, with information and training workshops for community members, 'and improving emergency communications in vulnerable locations across the Shire'.

'State-based agencies are the lead for disaster response and recovery in NSW and Council's formal role in this stage post-disaster is limited, however we are committed to continuing our work alongside our community on the long-term recovery journey that still lies ahead'.

Brutally treated

Ella Rose Goninan added she is still healing from the 'brutal way Byron Shire Council members acted towards me and my small not-for-profit after we gave everything for a solid year'.



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BWF director welcomed



On Friday, the word-loving community welcomed the new Byron Writers Festival artistic director, Jessica Alice, to her new position at a soiree at The Book Room. Jessica found herself in her happy place – among the books. Their annual membership drive is now on – visit byronwritersfestival.com for more info. Photo Eve Jeffery

Beaches cleaned, thanks vologies!



Dozens of conscientious beach cleaners donned hats and gloves during a, thankfully, overcast Sunday morning in Bruns for the annual Clean Up Australia Day. The Bruns clean-up was organised by Byron Shire Council and Positive Change for Marine Life. A Byron beach clean up, led by Byron Yoga Centre, was held at the same time. Photo Eve Jeffery

Don't want to show us your muff? Make a merkin instead

Aslan Shand

The call to 'Show us your muff!' might be a bit much for some people, as a way of raising money for homeless women as part of the Darling Muffs Of May campaign – but that doesn't mean you can't get involved.

'This year during May, we are raising money for women's homelessness organisations in the Northern Rivers, culminating in the Great

Wall of Muffs exhibition. But we understand that getting your "anonymuff" out is not everyone's cup of tea, so we are running a merkin-making workshop so people can make a merkin (a pubic wig) and help raise money that way instead,' said Melanie Saunders, who is one of the founding members of the Darling Muffs of May.

The Darling Muffs of May campaign aims to raise money for women's

homelessness by getting people on board to go in the Great Wall of Muff exhibition (your muff is anonymous), make muffins, make muff-inspired artwork or make a merkin and get your friends to sponsor them – think Movember.

Funds go to help homeless women

'Our merkin making is all about having some fun,

getting creative and being inspired,' said Mel.

'We ran our first merkin-making workshop last year and we had some great merkin outcomes, from one that was inspired by the Mitchells rainforest snail to another that took inspiration from Father Christmas. The limit is only your imagination.'

Sign up for the merkin-making workshop on Sunday, 17 March, 1 till 3pm at www.darlingmuffs.com.au/events.

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

Lismore skate ramp on the move

Tomorrow the vertical skate ramp from Victoria Street in Lismore will be transported by road to Nimbin, to a private property.

Cycling Without Age joins Northern Rivers Rail Trail

Tweed Shire Council has announced a collaboration with volunteer organisation Cycling Without Age as part of celebrations to mark the first anniversary of the opening of the popular Northern Rivers Rail Trail.

Appeal following attempted abduction – Tweed Heads

Investigators are appealing for public assistance as investigations continue into an attempted abduction in Tweed Heads at the weekend.

When Lucy got to say ‘thank you for saving my life’

Almost two years to the day that Lucy Vader was saved from rising flood water in Lismore by an unknown man in an orange kayak, she got the chance to meet him and tell him how grateful she was that he carried her and her dog Dotty to safety.

Stolen ute, ransacked service station and vandalised police cars

Three teens will face court today charged over alleged break and enter, pursuit and malicious damage incidents on the state’s North Coast.

More than 80 new Tweed Hospital jobs

The Northern NSW Local Health District is advertising more than 80 full time equivalent roles at the new Tweed Valley Hospital, due to open in mid-May.

www.echo.net.au

Rous to charge residents ‘unfair’ water fee

Eve Jeffery

Dorrroughby resident Alex Heathwood and around another 2,100 homeowners up and down the Rous County Council (RCC) water pipeline are going to be paying around \$200 extra on their water bills annually for infrastructure that benefits everyone who uses RCC water.

The properties already have the pipeline running through them, and they get no compensation for any impact the infrastructure has on their properties. Local property owner Mr Heathwood believes the \$200 extra fee is an ‘unfair’ burden on these properties.

While the original pipeline was put in place with landholder consultation, ‘in 1983, they put in a new pipeline to carry chlorinated water and they just dictated an easement. There was no consultation,’ said Mr Heathwood.

Land restrictions

Because the water is used by the public, there are strict rules in force as to how the land around the pipeline can be used and there is no compensation to the landowners.



Dorrroughby resident Alex Heathwood believes the cost of maintenance for the backflow prevention device should be born by all customers.
Photo Tree Faerie

Water integrity

Rous County Council is the regional water supply authority providing water in bulk to the council areas of Byron, Ballina, Lismore and Richmond Valley, serving around 100,000 people.

Approximately 2,100 customers receive water direct from the main water network because, like Mr Heathwood, they have the infrastructure run across their land. RCC has determined that the majority of these connections require a backflow prevention device to comply with requirements

of the applicable Plumbing Code of Australia, Australian Standards and other legislation.

Backflow prevention devices work to stop water from customers’ properties from potentially entering the main RCC water network. The devices act to protect the integrity of the water supply and ensure the health and safety of all water customers.

Historically installation, commissioning, maintenance and annual testing of backflow prevention devices have been the responsibility of the property owner. RCC now intends to install the devices at the identified properties and then assume responsibility for managing the annual testing process for all customers’ backflow devices. These maintenance costs will be passed onto the property owner.

Mr Heathwood ‘inherited’ the pipe when he purchased the property around 43 years ago. RCC does not pay a rental fee to use the land the pipeline runs across.

Benefits everyone

‘They expect the 2,130-odd people affected to pay \$200 a year,’ says Mr

Heathwood. ‘My argument has always been that I think the idea of backflow devices is good, but I think the cost should be shared because the benefit applies to all water users.’

‘I wrote to RCC suggesting that the cost be born by all RCC customers. Andrew Logan, Group Manager of Planning and Delivery wrote back in late 2023 stating “yes, that’s an option but not one Rous adopted”’

A RCC spokesperson said the decision to pass the cost of the backflow devices to RCC customers is based on the benefit that the customers receive from having a reliable drinking water supply in an area that otherwise would not have reticulated drinking water.

However, if the cost was shared between all RCC customers, it would amount to around \$4.26 each, annually.

Mr Heathwood says that Rous’s website has a list of things they believe they can achieve.

‘One is to treat people fairly and another is to resolve issues in a good time. I think neither of those applies to this situation.’

Australian

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Sleepbus service opens in Ballina



Simon Rowe is hoping people in the Ballina area would like to volunteer with Sleepbus. Photo Tree Faerie

Sleepbus, the innovative solution for rough sleepers, has opened in Ballina after relocating from Byron Bay.

Following a successful open day last weekend at St Mary's Anglican Church in Ballina, Sleepbus founder Simon Rowe was excited to announce there have been seven new volunteer signups, but says more helpers are needed in a variety of roles, including housekeepers, caretakers and drivers.

There are also sponsorship opportunities for local businesses and organisations.

Beginning as a GoFundMe campaign in Melbourne, Sleepbus has since spread around Australia. The idea is to provide an emergency

solution for people who have nowhere safe to sleep, with guests having their own individual spaces to sleep, USB charging, ducted heating and air conditioning, and a toilet.

The Sleepbus mantra is 'sleep changes everything'.

While not a permanent solution to the local housing crisis, it provides a life-changing service to those in need, and depends entirely on the support of those who want to do something practical about the issue, instead of sitting on the sidelines.

Mr Rowe describes it as 'a rewarding volunteer opportunity with flexibility and a great family vibe!'

You can find out more about how to volunteer at www.sleepbus.org.

More recycled material for Lennox road improvements

David Lowe

Lennox Head's latest road resurfacing projects are benefiting from leading-edge recycling technology, giving waste a useful new life.

Lincoln Hill is the Surfacing Manager for the Lismore/Northern Rivers region with Downer Group, currently contracted to Ballina Shire Council (BSC). His expertise includes road resurfacing, potholes, driveways, car parks and highways; 'pretty much anything with asphalt, we'll do it!' he says.

His next big job will be resurfacing Pacific Parade, one of the busiest streets in Lennox, with the section from the Lennox Hotel to the surf club due to be upgraded next month.

'What we're doing is we're removing the old surface, putting a waterproof membrane down, and then we're going to resurface it with an asphalt product that we're manufacturing out of our plants in Lismore that uses crushed glass from Lismore tip,' explained Mr Hill.

'The glass is from the buy-back programs, where you go and put your glass and get ten cents. That's processed



Lincoln Hill showing a new section of road beside Lennox Hotel. Photo David Lowe

by a local contractor. We purchase it and run it in the asphalt instead of using straight sand.'

The crushed glass is cleaned, heated and coated in bitumen. In terms of silicon content, Lincoln Hill says the product matches sand 'pretty much exactly, but probably a little bit less moisture content and moisture absorption - so it's a really good product.'

Saving sand

As well as removing glass from the waste stream, the process reduces reliance on building quality sand, which is in short supply globally.

While the Lennox project

is the first time BSC have used the recycled glass product, Downer have also been using it in pothole resurfacing works in recent months, and Richmond Valley Council are also trialling it.

About 400 tonnes of asphalt would be going into Pacific Parade, with a further 800 tonnes going into works at Bentinck Street in Ballina.

The Lennox work is expected to be all done in two days, currently scheduled to happen starting Wednesday, 6 March.

Lincoln Hill loves the local area, having moved here from Queensland, and says his crew is based in Lismore.

'All the guys are local and the product is manufactured locally, too.'

More recycling opportunities

'The crushed glass is the first of a big suite of products we want to bring in. If it's received well, we're going to start putting recycled plastic through the bitumen as well.'

'Also we can use recycled printer cartridges, and soft plastics, and they're pelletised. When we run that through it reduces the pure bitumen, because you're supplementing it with the recycled products. From there, the third piece of the puzzle is rubber, from tyres. We package all three of them together,' he explained.

'Plus, whenever we rip up a road, we process those millings and we put that through the asphalt as well.'

Mr Hill says even more exciting opportunities for road surfacing are on the horizon, such as plant-based bitumens, which are already being trialled in New Zealand via a product called BioBind.

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

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Euromaid 2 Door Fridge

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MODEL: BFLB904ADW The Beko Washing Machine offers convenient laundry. With 9 kg capacity and autodosing technology, it ensures optimal detergent usage. The steam function adds fabric care.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #39 • March 6, 2024

Emergency volunteerism

Two years ago this week, it's fair to say the entire north coast was in shock and struggling to comprehend the extent of what just happened.

It took a while, but it emerged that unimaginable floodwater levels caused the most devastation on record. Landslides cut off roads and communications were completely cut. The BoM got it wrong, in part because of faulty or inoperable flood gauges.

There was no 'authority' with a plan, just a strong community willingness to help and save each other, along with stretched emergency services.

The question that Mitra Ardron poses on page 6 is what has been learned, and how can we prepare for the next one?

For a start, stop developing on floodplains. That would be ace.

Also, communication corporations should be required to have robust infrastructure in place. And fixing the flood gauges would help.

It's fair to say that governments and Council haven't learned much, and that too much tax money is spent on public relations and expanding bloated, unaccountable centralised bureaucracies like the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA).

It's a theme across all sectors of governance, because unfortunately, most politicians are too scared and not smart enough to challenge toxic bureaucracies.

Instead, many spend their time wanting to be part of that club, while pretending they care about you! It would be hilarious if it weren't so pathetic.

Preparing for the next big flood/fire/asteroid is easy: fund the SES and other emergency agencies with full-time employees so a well-equipped and trained team is on

'Preparing for the next big flood/fire/asteroid is easy: fund the SES and other emergency agencies with full-time employees'

permanent standby.

The Echo put this to the office of newly elected NSW Emergency Services Minister, Jihad Dib, in May 2023.

Minister Dib didn't seem keen on the idea (why?), but he replied that \$200 million in new funding had been committed, including '\$11.9 million to better support volunteerism, including training community members who may become "spontaneous" volunteers in a disaster'.

Should we accept poor political leadership when it comes to life-threatening emergency situations?

No. Never! Yet relying on governments is probably not wise, considering the standard of service delivery on offer. The reality is that the community will still need to step in, as it always has done.

Emergency training

The Mullum Neighbourhood Centre's ad on page 4 is inviting the community to emergency response training. With a skilled-up community, future emergency responses can hopefully run smoother. Email mdnc@org.au to get involved.

Additionally, the NSW SES has just launched its 2024 volunteer recruitment campaign.

The press release says, 'The campaign focuses on key regional locations, particularly those who have been affected by extreme weather events in recent times'.

Visit www.ses.nsw.gov.au for more information.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Who spies on the spooks?

The Dunkley by-election is done and dusted, with Advance's fear campaign failing to fire, and Labor's primary vote actually increasing.

The swing to the Liberals on preferences came from right wing voters not having anyone crazier to vote for this time, with UAP and One Nation out of the race.

Meanwhile, another question continues to be raised; which Australian politician was secretly working for a hostile foreign power, and when? ASIO's Director-General of Security, Mike Burgess, recently announced the existence of an 'A-team' (sadly not involving Mr T), a group working for an unnamed foreign intelligence service, specifically targeting Australia.

'Several years ago, the A-team successfully cultivated and recruited a former Australian politician, said Mr Burgess. 'This politician sold out their country, party and former colleagues to advance the interests of the foreign regime.'

'At one point, the former politician even proposed bringing a prime minister's family member into the spies' orbit. Fortunately, that plot did not go ahead, but other schemes did.'

Abbott-era treasurer and retired ambassador to the US, Joe Hockey, spat out his cigar and demanded Mr Burgess name names, for fear that the loyalty of all retired politicians would come under question, but the chief spook was unmoved.

He released another statement the next day saying the individual concerned was no longer a security concern, and that ASIO's policy of not discussing individuals or providing operational details was unchanged.

Malcolm Turnbull's son Alex has since named himself as one princeling who was approached, but reported the contact to authorities immediately.

Former Labor senator Sam Dastari says the mystery traitor is not him. The guessing game continues in the mainstream media, while the rest of Mr Burgess's speech has been largely ignored.



'Comparatively open democracies offer numerous avenues for ruthless authoritarians to gain entry'

David Lowe

Accelerationists

After dropping his political bombshell, Mike Burgess emphasised that ASIO was busier than ever, with Australians of all walks of life being heavily targeted by foreign intelligence, including members of the media, academics, business people, law enforcement officers and the judiciary, and a fast-growing threat from what he called 'accelerationists', people seeking to ignite race wars by inflaming divisions in society.

Spies and self-destruction are also discussed in a new book by Rachel Maddow, aptly named *Prequel*, which concerns the outrageous efforts of the German government in the 1930s and '40s to keep America out of World War II, and if possible, expand the Third Reich to the US. Largely forgotten now, this scheme was only stopped owing to the courage and investigative skills of a few individuals who lost pretty much everything as a result.

In the days before social media, Maddow's book shows how Joseph Goebbels used the influencers and technologies of his day to divide the US along pre-existing fault lines (particularly race), using compliant members of Congress, religious leaders and celebrities such as Charles Lindbergh. It's astonishing how close he came to succeeding.

Then, as now, comparatively open democracies offer numerous avenues for ruthless authoritarians to gain entry.

The book shows how citizens need to remain alert to the traps and seductions of fascism and other forms of magical thinking, such as the beliefs that drove the Train brothers when they murdered police in Qld in 2022, with the encouragement of Arizona's Donald Day Jr.

In the US last week, Donald Trump's supporters remained unmoved by the arrest of former FBI informant, Alexander Smirnov, upon whose evidence the entire bribery case against the Bidens rested. Smirnov is now proven to have links to Russian intelligence.

Similarly dodgy and unethical campaigns are at work in most democracies, with politicians like Peter Dutton accelerating things by seizing upon any cracks they can find in society, and then widening them for their own short-term interests.

AUKUS

Mike Burgess patted himself on the back in his recent speech by talking about 'embedding' ASIO officers in the AUKUS nuclear submarine taskforce. 'Security is being built into every step of the supply chain,' he said.

The wider question of whether the whole idea of getting into a nuclear bed with two increasingly rogue nations was making Australia more, or less secure was above his pay grade. 'Threats are not simple; threats are not static,' he said. 'Our adversaries are proficient, persistent and patient.'

The question remains though, who are Australia's enemies? And if they're so clever, why would they bother going through LinkedIn accounts, stealing laptops and trawling passwords of potential traitors when they could gain the ears of our highest elected representatives behind closed doors completely legally?

Powerful interests with no concern for the Australian environment or its people do this every day in Parliament House.

It's called lobbying.

■ David Lowe is an award-winning film-maker, writer and photographer.



The Byron Shire Echo

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Nicholas Shand
1948-1996
Founding Editor

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

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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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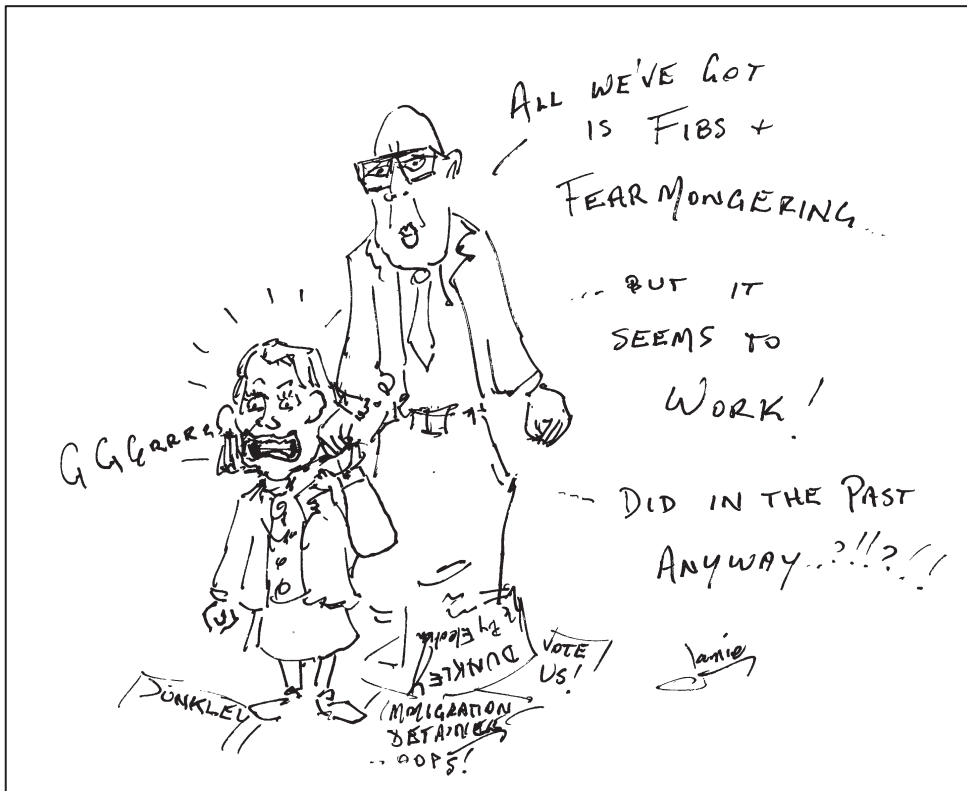
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Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

Rejoice!

Hallelujah! Holy mother of Gertrude: our roads have been given a little tender loving care and the natives will sleep better tonight. See Michael, it wasn't that hard was it...

Crap! The rains ruined it.

Kol Dimond
Upper Main Arm

Mullum madness

It's heartening to see the good residents of New City Road, Mullumbimby protesting against the current crop of crazy Byron councillors hellbent on developing on a floodplain. It's also deeply concerning that they have to fight for common sense to prevail.

As people say, one thing we learn from history is that some people don't learn from history.

Patrick Morrissey
Goonengerry

Floodplain development

Congratulations to the concerned residents of east Mullumbimby in taking on Byron Shire Council regarding the proposed development at 75 New City Road, and *The Echo* for publicity and editorial.

Whilst not a resident of this area (I'm a Westie), I went along to offer my support because our home flooded in 2022 and each and every new development on the floodplain is likely to increase future flooding. All flood-affected residents

should make an effort to sign the petition currently circulating. Mayor Michael Lyon won't be able to say in the future that 'there was no opposition to us approving this'.

My vision of what development on the floodplain might look like: all houses must be built on piers, in this area, up to 1.5 metres above natural ground level, (see the recent development in Fern Street, Mullumbimby). Fences should be rural-type fencing only: i.e. 1.2 metres high with wire strands (NSW

government recommendations) so as to not impede the flow of floodwater. You may ask, what about privacy and security? Security, no problem – just string up barbed or razor wire. Kids and pets will soon learn to stay away. Privacy – no problem – just add a 1.8 metre Colorbond fence to the top of the rural fence, to achieve some level of privacy, given your elevated living circumstances.

Need a swimming pool? No problems – in-ground pool, sure, just be prepared to clean it out after each flood event. Above-ground pool, sure, it should withstand all but floods similar to 2022.

Need a garage or two? No problem – just add an engineered and expensive garage and access ramp.

All these piers, posts, poles, and plumbing are going to displace future flood water to god-only-knows where, probably into our existing properties. Maybe some mathematician/engineer could calculate the average amount of floodwater displaced by each homesite and multiply by the possible 500+ homes Council would like to place on the floodplain on the south-east side of Mullumbimby.

Bob Phillips
Mullumbimby

No thrill

We recently had our house broken into and our car, plus both sets of keys, stolen. I keep wondering if the thieves realise the anguish their actions cause?

For the sake of them getting a thrill and a joy ride we have spent hours

▶ Continued on next page

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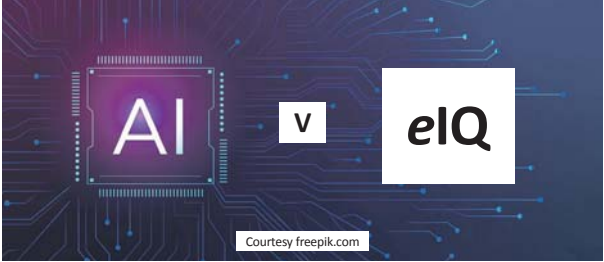
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THE SILENT KILLER
??Where IS the "VOICE" 4 END-USERS??
HEARING PROBLEM?

SPOT 1 ?REAL DARLING? of Aussie Media?



From my officially received email to our P.M. 28.1.24
Effectively, I am TOTALLY INVISIBLE to Mainstream Media because I'm a NON PROFESSIONAL and do NOT BELONG to a COMMUNITY GROUP, a burden I've had to endure since I started June 2013.
I will not beg you; but implore you to take my words, MY DREAM, my trip to Canberra seriously P.M. and all members of your cabinet.
**The 102,018 Aussie's lost as per my graph (43 yrs since 1980) cannot speak, but live in our hearts forever. But I ACT, and SPEAK for and on behalf of those future Hearts, Bodies, Minds and Souls that will Suicide AND Suffer Domestic Violence in future; if something radical is not done ASAP.*
*When you said Australia can Reach for the Stars, this STAR GAZER P.M.; is eagerly, simply and very passionately, responding to your beautiful call.**

NO PLACE 4 END-USERS 2B HEARD!

Is this country...
• SO POLITICALLY CORRECT? • With Federal and State M.P.s
• Apparently Unable to Respond • And ACT accordingly?
But this older Fella, Farmer, Poet and S.P. *Activist
WILL NOT STAY
SILENT
*Emergency 000, *Any Doctor, *Lifeline 13 11 14
Written by sheep farmer Tim Barritt. Barossa Valley, S.A.

▶ Continued from page 11 and hours dealing with the police, forensics, locksmiths, the insurance company and the towing yard. We're out of pocket thousands of dollars, even with insurance. Without any keys it is a costly exercise.

We've had our sense of security in our home and community violated. That car is something we saved hard for, and being without it for weeks means we've lost our independence and transport to get to work.

The whole ordeal has been very stressful and upsetting. We still don't know when the car will be repaired and returned to us yet. And the police say that there are five to seven cars a night being stolen across Ballina, Goonellabah, Lennox Head and Byron Bay. I feel for each of the families waking up to a similar nightmare to us.

Emily Batts
East Ballina

Growing mould together

A water-damaged rental in Byron caused me such severe health issues (none of them respiratory) that I felt like my life was ending.

I went from being a very healthy, mid 30 year old to suddenly suffering something so incredibly debilitating that no GP could figure it out. Body aches, brain fog, memory loss, concentration issues, otherworldly fatigue, digestive issues and many more.

At my worst point I wasn't able to walk by myself anymore. After nine excruciating months, an amazing physician in Bangalow connected the dots and recommended leaving the rental for some time to see if it was environmental, given my history. As soon as we arrived at a flat in Melbourne, I slept for 24 hours straight and the next morning 80 per cent of my

symptoms had disappeared. I was lucky.

However, we could do nothing against the landlord painting over the visible mould and renting it out right away. He had seen the mould report stating 'do not enter without PPE'. NCAT gave us minimal compensation, even though we provided nearly 100 pages of evidence. The water-damaged structures were never replaced - the bedroom wall had been wet for over a year due to blocked drainage and the crawl space was filled with mould from a badly-fixed roof leak.

There needs to be more protection for tenants against structural water damage and more awareness amongst GPs, especially in our region, that mould exposure is incredibly harmful beyond respiratory symptoms.

For all the people wondering if mould could be the reason for their health issues, go to 'Toxic Mould Support Australia' group on Facebook or toxicmould.org for great resources.

Carolyn Materna
Byron Bay

Thank you

For some reason, although I believe in having a voice, it never occurred to me to join a political party before now. I joined the Greens recently mainly because Labor still has not addressed the long-outdated environmental protection legislation. The Liberal Party never will. It's blindingly clear we need to leave trees in the ground and to move away from fossil fuels and I cannot believe this is not Labor's most urgent task in these precarious times.

But I also joined because I witnessed someone genuinely stepping up to contribute expertise to local decision-making at a grassroots level; someone

who cares about people and works really hard for the community.

Duncan Dey espouses Green values with passion and conviction, yet is repeatedly not mentioned when it comes to any acknowledgement of a good outcome (and always seems to be named, or quoted out of context, when the outcome is not so favourable).

Without diminishing the fabulous work that other Greens representatives do, it's always a team effort, please acknowledge everyone's contributions and be generous, inclusive and egalitarian. That is the kind of party I want to belong to. It's the kind of party Australia needs.

Catherine Lane
North Ocean Shores

Shock and delight!
Germany has decriminalised small amounts of cannabis!
About time, but what about us?

Cannabis

Saturday morning, 6am ABC news. Shock and delight. Germany has decriminalised small amounts of cannabis!

About time, but what about us? Didn't the Greens promise the same after the last election? Politicians' promises last about as long as the dew on the grass [!] Come on Greens, if you are not going to support us, we will no longer support you.

The old ways are not effective and are expensive to the taxpayer. Legalise it.

Andrew Hall
Ocean Shores

For Julian

In my role as the spokeswoman for the East Timorese resistance movement working for Jose Ramos Horta during the 1990s,

we relied on a free and fair media populated by journalists with a passion and a capacity for truth-seeking and truth-telling. Unafraid of consequences they would run stories because that were in the public interest, roughly translated that is, 'in the interest of humanity'. Julian did that. That was the right thing to do. He is a truth-teller, a whistleblower, a man born for this moment.

The United States of America has made Julian a hero because, for some reason, they have developed a fear of the light of truth. And in so doing they have created the most important voice of our time. From now on, the world's attention is on Julian.

As humans, we all live on this planet together, regardless of how differently each of us does life. But one thing is for sure, the ongoing state of all of our lives, peace and the healthy democratic practice that underpins it, and the responsibility of nation states to uphold these values, have been placed fairly and squarely in the public's eye.

We are all watching. This gaze represents an opportunity for the US to humbly admit to its wrongdoing and put reparations in place.

Julian does not need pardoning because he has not done anything wrong. He has not broken any laws. He has acted only in the interests of justice, democracy, rule of law and the peace and stability of humanity on this planet. He is the voice. He spoke up, no one else did.

Respect him, honour him. Bring him home, compensate him and then, release all whistleblowers who have been incarcerated for telling the truth.

It is time for the US to shine.

Imagine it, I can.
Margherita Tracanelli
Ocean Shores

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How would you stop koalas going extinct in the wild?

Aslan Shand

Koalas in the wild in NSW are predicted to go extinct by 2050 and the NSW government has said their preservation in the wild is of the highest priority, yet they won't stop the logging of high-value habitat.



to log tens of thousands of koala feed trees in thousands of hectares of high-quality koala habitat every year.'

Unlike NSW, Victoria and WA have both brought forward an end to native forest logging that started on 1 January 2024.

'If the government was serious about saving koalas and saving money then their highest priority must be to protect koala habitat on public land,' Mr Pugh told *The Echo*.

'The government has identified 50 koala populations "where koalas have the potential to persist over the long term", and in 2021 prioritised 19 of these for immediate protection of strongholds, including in the Banyabba Area of Regional Koala Significance (Whiporie-Rappville).

'Despite this they (NSW Forestry) are right now logging identified koala strongholds in Braemar and Myrtle State Forests within the Banyabba ARKS.

'The government is asking people to tell them what else they should be doing to protect koala habitat.

'Please tell them to immediately stop logging koala habitat on public lands,' Mr Pugh said.

North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) spokesperson Dailan Pugh.

'To this end they have allocated \$71 million to buy private properties and implement conservation agreements on up to 22,000 hectares. So far they have bought 10,000ha of land to add to national parks and entered conservation agreements on over 7,700ha of private land. Only part of this is high-quality koala habitat.

'There are 230,000 hectares of State Forests on the NSW North Coast identified as high-quality koala habitat by the NSW government and as Nationally Important Koala Areas by the Commonwealth government, yet both governments refuse to stop logging them.

'The NSW Forestry Corporation is losing \$15 million a year, and getting tens of millions in equity injections,

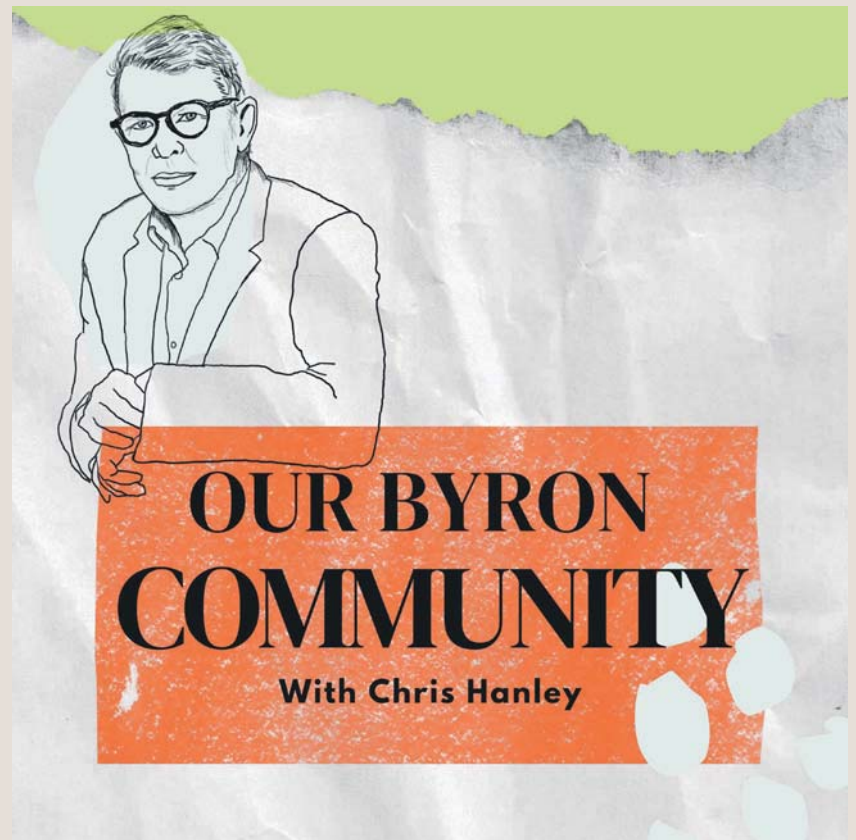
Your feedback

The strategy for koala conservation is currently under review and the community is being asked for feedback on the best ways to help NSW's endangered koalas.

'In the lead-up to the Koala Summit (at Taronga Zoo on 22 March), we are launching this paper [Koala Strategy] to seek innovative ideas and feedback. Everyone who cares about the future of our precious koalas is encouraged to provide their views,' said Minister for Climate Change and the Environment, Penny Sharpe.

Protect high-value habitat?

'The NSW government's 2021 Koala Strategy identifies that the highest priority to avoid the extinction of koalas in the wild by 2050 is to protect their habitat,' explained



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Jem Bendell to speak about living in the midst of climate collapse

Richard Hil

The brutal reality is that we're facing global biospheric collapse, with little or no prospect of reprieve. This is the existential consequence of a system hellbent on greed, overshoot and suicidal levels of greenhouse gas emissions. Geoengineering, nuclear power, 'clean energy' and other manifestations of magical thinking are unlikely to get us out of this mess. Baseless hope and despair will only make matters worse.

So how do we live in the midst of all this? Truth told; no-one really knows what the future holds. But we do have some clues in the nature, pace and scale of extreme weather events and the response of communities and powerful agencies to them. Obviously, the full range of climactic changes will play out differently across the world, with poorer and less carbon-emitting nations the most at risk.

We can't wish this away. It's the emergent reality we need to consider, so that we can respond rather than simply react. The current government keeps the full ghastly consequences of 'climate change' under wraps. I'm not making this up: a major report by the Office of National Intelligence is deliberately being kept from public view.



Jem Bendell will be speaking at Marvell Hall in Byron Bay about ways we can reduce harm in the hydrocarbon era. Photo supplied

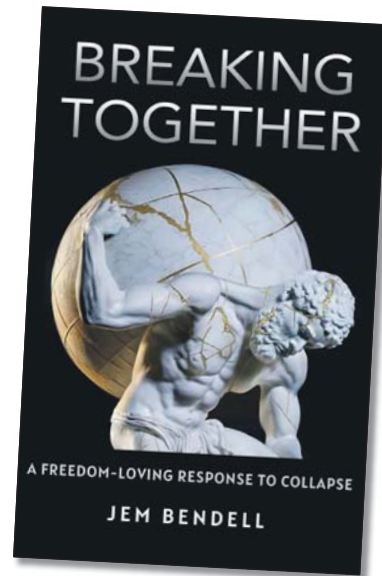
Loss of freedoms?

Faced with economic chaos, food and water shortages, civil disorder and the rest, we're likely to see powerful agencies encroach even further on our rights and freedoms. Barriers are already being erected to stop and/or regulate the flow of populations, especially those seeking refuge in richer nations.

We are, in author James Bradley's phrase, being 'unearthed'. So, we need to talk – urgently.

We need to talk about how each of us can make sense of what's going on around us, and how and why we need stronger and more resilient, connected, civic-minded communities.

We need to reflect too on how we might overcome the blockages of a grief-phobic culture, rethink our interior worlds and address those big metaphysical questions. Indigenous ancestral knowledge can offer us many important insights. We'll find few answers in modernism, the enlightenment or



cannibal capitalism – the very sources of our current predicament.

Celebrated academic, activist and advocate, Jem Bendell, has pondered this stuff. His latest book, *Breaking Together: A Freedom-Loving Response to Collapse*, speaks of the 'imperial modernist' mindset that has led us to the existential brink. 'The truth', he says, 'is that we live in a hydrocarbon civilisation which is coming to an end'.

But there's no new nirvana, at least not the one promised by clean energy advocates. Why? Because, 'the very renewable energy future that we are being told will save us from fossil fuels is currently itself utterly dependent upon fossil fuels'

The hungry ghosts of late capitalism will not be sated. We are staring into an abyss. But Bendell believes that, 'looking into the abyss is helpful to better work out why this is happening and what can still be done to reduce harm... it's worth remembering that we aren't in imminent danger. There is no need for a panicked response. We have some years ahead of us. But that doesn't mean we can get out of this. I think we won't'.

We can no longer avoid collapse. Bendell rails against those who urge us, 'to postpone our grieving and reassessment of how we want to live in a collapsing society'. In effect, he is inviting us to lovingly face up to the unfolding realities of environmental breakdown, 'by allowing the breakdowns in our privileges, comforts, worldviews and identities, to allow a new openness for connection with people, nature and even the eternal'.

Personally, I can think of few people who can speak with more eloquence, authority and insight about our current predicament than Jem Bendell.

Professor Jem Bendell will be interviewed by filmmaker Michael Shaw on Saturday, 9 March, 6.30-8.00pm at Marvell Hall, 37 Marvell Street, Byron Bay. To book go to: www.trybooking.com/CPERS.

BLUESFEST 2024

NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF THE BYRON SHIRE TRAFFIC CHANGES IN TYAGARAH: WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH TO TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2024

After working closely with Byron Shire Council and the RMS, our consultants have formulated a traffic management plan to manage and minimise potential traffic impact in proximity to the Bluesfest site at Tanner Lane, Tyagarah. We wish to inform you that the following changes will take place from Wednesday, 28 March 2024 through to Tuesday, 2 April 2024.

FESTIVAL TIMES:
THURSDAY 28 MARCH 2024: GATES OPEN 2:00PM - CLOSE MIDNIGHT
FRIDAY 29 MARCH 2024 - MONDAY 1 APRIL 2024: GATES OPEN 11:00AM - CLOSE MIDNIGHT

TRAFFIC:

- The Mullumbimby off ramp at Tyagarah will be closed to Southbound highway traffic.
- South bound festival traffic will be directed to turn into the Festival off ramp.
- North bound Festival traffic will enter the site via the indicated off ramp.
- These measures are designed to minimise traffic impact, however, please be prepared for possible delay.
- Grays Lane access to motorway will remain shut. Patrons departing south will use the main Gulgan Road intersection at the Shell station.

PARKING:

- The Festival car parks, in the North and South of the site are accessible from Tanner Lane and Yarun Road, this will be open for day patrons. Temporary "No Stopping" signs will be installed in Tanner Lane, Yarun Road, and Foxs Lane and on parts of Gulgan Road and Grays Lane.
- Please note, pre-paid parking will cost \$25 per day.
- 3-day parking is \$60 plus fees. 5-day parking is \$100 plus fees.
- Tickets are available to purchase via www.bluesfest.com.au/tickets
- To avoid lengthy delays pre-book your parking NOW online as there will be LIMITED facility to purchase on site.
- Please DO NOT park on the local road network around the Tyagarah Tea Tree Farm, which is the Bluesfest site.
- Council Parking Rangers will be on patrol throughout the weekend.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF AREA:

- There will be a pick-up and drop-off area for guests at the South Gate entrance. Please call the Bluesfest Hotline (02) 6639 9800 for clarification with respect to these arrangements. Please note that it is free to use this area.

DISABLED PARKING:

- There is an area set aside for disabled parking.

SHUTTLE BUSES:

- Shuttle buses will run every 40-60 minutes (subject to traffic) from Byron Bay Bus Exchange (Butler Street). There will also be shuttle bus services from surrounding towns. The bus timetable is now available on the Bluesfest website.

CAMPING:

- Camping is encouraged on the Festival site in the designated areas, contact the Bluesfest Hotline for information. Camping is not allowed in the Festival Day Parking Area or on local beaches, parks, or roadsides. Camping is only allowed in official campgrounds. People camping in banned areas will be fined.

BLUESFEST HOTLINE: (02) 6639 9800 EMERGENCY HOTLINE: 0402 495 806
We apologise for any inconvenience and thank you for your patience and co-operation.



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



This week, we celebrate women all over the world. This year's theme is **# Invest in Women**.

Our Club goal is to be relevant to our community and that means promoting and supporting local women of all ages. Projects include

- 'Body Bloom' girls' health schools program
- 'Say No to Family Violence' campaign
- Support of Fletcher St Cottage
- Science scholarships
- Youth development camps

JOIN US

We meet Tuesdays @ 6pm
Byron Bay Services Club
132 Jonson St, Byron Bay

[www: byronbayrotary.org.au](http://www.byronbayrotary.org.au)
f: byronbayrotary

Want to help girls and women in our community? Come to a Club meeting and see how you can get involved.

MECA invites Mullumbimby residents to its inaugural community conversation

Mullumbimby Emergency Community Action (MECA) is an emerging volunteer-led emergency response group working to ensure the community is a collective source of strength during a crisis.

The founders of MECA were actively involved in community support and recovery operations during the 2022 floods. They are inviting the Mullum community to be part of the preparation and recovery conversation on Tuesday, 19 March at 5.30pm at the Byron Community College, Room 5, 6/8 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby.

MECA's vision is for coordinated and community-led networks in Mullumbimby. 'We want the community to be self-reliant and self-empowered and to hear ideas on how we can all work together to build relationships and share resources to meet future challenges,' said a spokesperson.

The group is looking to ensure that relationships are well formed and communication amongst all groups involved in responding to a disaster is established and well-oiled before the intensity



The Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre was part of the support response during the 2022 flood recovery. Photo Aslan Shand

of emergency response.

One of the key goals is to help residents in the wider Mullumbimby region connect with each other and find ways to coordinate within neighbourhoods to ensure better preparedness for any future emergency situation.

Mukti Sadeh, one of the founding members, says, 'In the last six months MECA members have been working on identifying the areas that need to be strengthened. We have been mentored by Jean Renouf from Plan C and this has helped us create healthy foundations for MECA.'

'We believe now is the time to build a united and empowered community that

is ready to respond to future challenges. Every member of our community, from the youngest to our elders, has something to offer.'

MECA has been endorsed by Byron Council to participate in the CRN (Community Resilience Network) and Byron Shire Community Hubs. MECA is auspiced by Mullum Seed and tax-deductible donations to support MECA can be made via www.mullumseed.org.au/meca.

MECA is currently looking for people with grant writing, event and communications skills to join their core team. Anyone with the energy to be involved can contact Mukti at mullumeca@gmail.com.

bisque

Bisque are designers, importers and retailers of fine furniture, lighting, homewares and ladies fashion. We have moved our entire retail operation into our space in the Byron Bay Industrial Estate and sadly closed our Bangalow store. On display we have a much larger range of products including outdoor furniture and ladies fashion.

We are also offering a complete interior design and styling service. We can arrange full project management, sourcing builders, materials and a full client consultation service.

We are also providing furniture rental and styling service for home sales, where we use our classic Bisque luxe range to bring your property to the next level.

All pieces are also available wholesale.

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First Australian-made, and, -owned rocket test flight

Gilmour Space Technologies is looking to put Australia on the map when it comes to space with the first test flight of an Australian-made and -owned rocket coming in a few months.

Gilmour was started in 2013 by brothers Adam and James Gilmour. The launch of their first rocket Eris would see Australia join the ranks of the 12 countries in the world that have their own orbital launch capability. They have designed and manufactured the orbital launch vehicle on the Gold Coast and fully assembled it at the Bowen Orbital Spaceport in north Queensland.

'As a nation, we rely heavily on space technologies to meet our civil, commercial and defence needs; but they are supplied almost entirely by foreign countries and companies,' explained a spokesperson for Gilmour Space.

'Having our own "road to space" will give us more security, access, and control over our critical space infrastructure, and lead to a thriving new space industry.

Launch bottleneck

'Despite SpaceX's incredible performance, there just aren't enough rockets to take



Adam Gilmour, CEO of Gilmour Space Technologies, *The Echo's* own Electron Wrangler Ewan Willis, and the Gilmour team read *The Echo* as they assemble Eris, the first Australian-made rocket.

up the tens of thousands of satellites hoping to launch in the next five years. We're looking to help close that gap for small satellites in low Earth orbit (LEO).'

Helping make this happen is the Queensland Investment Corporation (QIC), with co-investment from Blackbird, Main Sequence, Hostplus, HESTA Super, and Fine Structure Ventures, among others who have invested \$55 million in Gilmour Space.

Co-founder and CEO Adam Gilmour said, 'Our team is fortunate to be backed by high-calibre investors whose unwavering support has led to the development of Australia's first orbital rocket, built by an

Australian-owned company, and supported by a local space supply chain.'

'Our vision is for rockets made and launched in Queensland, carrying satellites and other payloads to space for our global customers, and we're incredibly grateful for the support of QIC in helping us realise that vision.'

SpaceX took four launch attempts to successfully make it to orbit and New Zealand's Rocket Lab was the first private spaceport to host an orbital launch attempt. Rocket Lab became the first private spaceport to host a successful orbital launch.

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

How to supply water to the increasing population?

Aslan Shand

It is predicted that the next 40 years will see the demand for water increase by 50 per cent in the local government areas (LGA) that Rous County Council (RCC) supplies with water.

This is due to the pressure on the region to accept a significant population increase. The current population uses approximately 37,000 residential connections and 3,800 non-residential connections. This is forecasted to grow to 63,700 residential connections and 8,640 non-residential connections by 2060 across the Lismore, Byron, Ballina, and Richmond Valley LGAs. That is an expected increase of 31,540 connections over the next 40 years. However, these figures exclude growth in the towns of Mullumbimby, Wardell, Nimbin and Casino.

Each council elects two councillors to the RCC, which is responsible for securing the water supply to these LGAs, and the midterm elections have seen the status quo retained on the RCC governing body.

Dunoon Dam

Richmond Valley Mayor Robert Mustow was reelected

chairperson and Ballina Shire Mayor Sharon Cadwallader was reelected deputy chairperson.

Following the last council elections the controversial Dunoon Dam was again put back on the agenda at the first RCC meeting; it had been removed by the previous RCC board in December 2020.

The removal was based on the two cultural heritage studies that had been conducted, objections by traditional owners to the dam, the environmental impact, and the cost to ratepayers.

Ms Cadwallader told *The Echo*, 'Rous is taking immediate actions to secure water for the region by developing new groundwater schemes and to meet the challenge of a growing population and a changing climate, so an "all options on the table" approach is being taken to Rous's third stage of planning.'

'The proposed Dunoon Dam is one of these options being investigated with comprehensive cultural heritage and biodiversity assessments commencing in the coming weeks. These assessments will provide Councillors with the comprehensive and contemporary information required to make an

informed decision regarding the next steps.'

Third time lucky?

This will mark the third cultural heritage study done at the Dunoon site with traditional owners repeatedly stating that they are opposed to the Dunoon Dam.

'The suggestion to drown our sites to protect them, as stated in the 2013 Cultural heritage impact assessment is deeply offensive to us,' Widjabul Wia-bal woman of the Bundjalung Nation, Skye Roberts told RCC in February 2022.

WATER Northern Rivers who formed in opposition to the Dunoon Dam and to promote alternative strategies to ensure water security in the region told *The Echo* that they 'invite members of this governing body to update our community on what Rous has done to date to bring real water security into reality by fixing system losses (leaks), enhancing ground water sources, and progressing recycled water and desalination in line with the Far North Coast Regional Water Strategy.'

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

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Free Assange: It's Up to Us

MANDY NOLAN'S
SOAPBOX

If war can be started by lies, then maybe peace can be started by truth.

~ Julian Assange



It's a simple profound statement said by someone who knows that as a journalist the truth doesn't set you free. It gets you locked up in solitary confinement in Belmarsh Prison. The truth can cost your life. Assange knows that too well.

He is a Walkley-winning journalist who did what journalists are supposed to do. He published material that exposed the US war machine. He told the world who they are. It's made him, not them, the enemy. We live in an Orwellian world where lies and cover-up are currency. Where truth is more dangerous than guns. Where we lock up our heroes and watch them die.

This is the ethos of *The Trust Fall: Julian Assange*. Filmmaker Kym Stanton from Films for Change has made this epic documentary on Assange, now on international release. He has trawled through over 24 hours of interviews and hundreds of hours of archival footage to create a two-hour film that Stanton himself calls 'a seminar'.

If you want the long-form of this story, the one not seen in mainstream media, this is it.

In watching this film, I am reminded of how brave Assange was. That he was compelled to tell the truth even though he knew the consequence. That

everything he has been accused of is without proof or foundation, including the allegation that his revelations put people at risk. This was just not true.

Julian Assange is the story powerful governments tell their people about truth tellers. He is the gun to the head of the modern media. When Assange released *Collateral Murder* in 2010, the video footage that shows US troops callously murdering innocent civilians in Iraq, Assange made himself the target. He showed that it's innocent civilians and truth tellers who are the target.

The murderers in the video are free. They have never been indicted for trial. The man who did his job has been politically persecuted, vilified and locked up and now he awaits the outcome of his extradition to the US. We won't know the outcome of that until sometime this month, but it's not looking good.

Assange is very unwell. It's clear he won't make it.

Our PM and Attorney-General speak in broad terms about 'bringing this to an end'. But what does that mean? Why haven't they fought harder? Why hasn't our government done what our government is supposed to do for an Australian citizen? Assange should be free by now. Don't just vote to bring

him home. Go and get him.

Instead, now we must wait to see if the British courts are going to allow him to be extradited to the US where he faces charges that could see him face 175 years behind bars. He will be tortured. He could get the death penalty.

And he hasn't killed anyone. He has just told the truth.

When asked about the free press in Stanton's film, journalist and human rights firebrand John Pilger, in one of his last interviews before his death last year, said 'What free press?'

Chilling. There are currently over 500 journalists behind bars around the world for telling the truth.

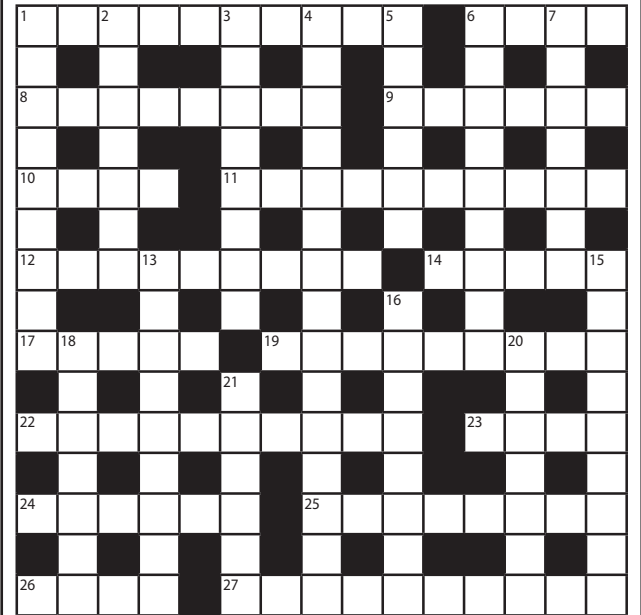
Assange can't rely on government. He needs us. He needs us to make this an issue. He needs us to rise up to demand his release. Every one of us must apply pressure.

Because as quoted in *The Trust Fall*, 'once it becomes a crime to tell the truth, we are living in a tyranny'.

Set Assange free. Bring him home. Now.

Kym Stanton's film *The Trust Fall* is screening with a Q&A by the director at Kyogle Cinemas on 14 March and at The Regent in Murwillumbah on 15 March. There are currently no screenings in Byron or Ballina.

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #532



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. It's about pressure to deal with erratic mob (10)
6. Oriental cardinal (4)
8. The name of the newspaper: M! (8)
9. Concoct a new ingredient for petrol rating (6)
10. Could be a tiger, but proverbially white (4)
11. Popular, stripped to the raw! In trouble. (2,3,5)
12. Senior officers, supporters with hidden stash (5,4)
14. Canberra journo played his part (5)
17. Contestant to attempt after two courses (5)
19. Dreams of soft drink that is in the steamer (9)
22. Press for aborted maiden trip (5,5)
23. Newts included in left side (4)
24. D could be one of 12 (3,3)
25. Mercy for traumatic Len and niece (8)
26. Employer of American queen (4)
27. Betting, listen with bosses - they're ahead! (10)

DOWN

1. It brings buzz to mismanage worker (6,3)
2. Everything return after blossom and bird (7)
3. They say I bring authority to vision (8)
4. Left ashen and depressed, but intensely patriotic (3,5,3,4)
5. Belts hundred hooligans (6)
6. Two cardinals with dreams of the ways in (9)
7. Report of evil prophet, but honest (7)
13. Singer is less fussed over notice (9)
15. Princess's flowers are catastrophes (9)
16. She works hard for a sieve (8)
18. Gets thinner working back with lines (7)
20. Popular soft drink for Spanish princess (7)
21. Portraits of Indian wizards (6)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Relating to atmospheric pressure (10)
6. Where the sun rises (4)
8. The banner on the front page (8)
9. Component of gasoline (6)
10. Flower symbolising purity (4)
11. In a pickle! (2,3,5)
12. High-ranking military personnel (5,4)
14. Performed (5)
17. Place of ingress (8)
19. Delusions (9)
22. Newspapers and magazines (5,5)
23. Online transfers of money (4)
24. Dominant individual (3,3)
25. Clemency (8)
26. Junky (4)
27. They led the attack (10)

DOWN

1. Large, hairy flying insect (6,3)
2. Australian parrot (7)
3. Ability to see (8)
4. US flag (3,5,3,4)
5. Nails with large flat heads (6)
6. Spellbinds (9)
7. Heartfelt (7)
13. Crooner (9)
15. Calamities (9)
16. Colander (8)
18. Water passage; strait (7)
20. Daughter of Portuguese monarch (7)
21. Depictions (6)

Last week's solution #531



STARS BY LILITH

With Mercury, Saturn, Neptune, the Sun and weekend new moon holding a cosmic summit meeting in Pisces, leave time in your diary to enjoy this year's most artistic, empathetic and magical week ...



PISCES THE FISH

ARIES: This week's celestial emphasis is in Aries' zone of closure and winding up cycles in order to move forward. For info on lingering unresolved issues, be open to planet healer Chiron's clarifying passage through your sign providing some eye-opening insights on certain repeating personal patterns.

TAURUS: Feel like you're getting mixed messages? Scarcely surprising with so much psychic energy circulating. This week requires tuning into a different wavelength or bandwidth, reading body language, listening for what's not being said, letting your spidey senses guide you for a change - it's actually quite fun.

GEMINI: How to choose between the welter of opportunities presenting themselves this week - decide which possibilities to pursue? First, relax. Don't overthink things. Slow down and listen. Watch and wait. Create the energetic space for revelations to appear and you might be surprised at what arrives.

CANCER: This week has you at your most spookily intuitive, and activities supported by the current cosmic climate include giving back, inspiring others, caring and sharing, spiritual gatherings, if you're into them - but most of all spending quality time with your soul tribe doing what you all love.

LEO: Are you possibly being a bit hard on yourself Leo, or on others? Then be advised that this week isn't likely to respond to common sense, logic or reason. It calls for empathy, understanding and a heartfelt approach, so don't be surprised if there's even a few teary moments.

VIRGO: This week's star map encourages loving people the way they are, in all their imperfect glory, rather than waiting for their best selves to take the stage, which might be the twelfth of never. So bless the mess, embrace random synchronicities, and enjoy life in whatever form it presents.

LIBRA: With your planet muse enus in her most outrageously innovative placement, and five other heavenly bodies in the zodiac's most artistic, poetic and musical sign electrifying aesthetic ventures, by all means go ahead and start that art project, memoir, wardrobe overhaul, decor rearrangement or song-writing workshop.

SCORPIO: If it makes sense to you to align your moves with cosmic rhythms and natural principles, combine rest and rampant creativity, operate with less push and more flow, in a way that's sane and sustainable, then this week has much to offer if you stop, stay still and listen to its intuitive prompts.

SAGITTARIUS: This week's elemental energies could have Sagittarians feeling restless, in which case the astrological recommendation is to consider the difference between being spontaneous and recklessly impulsive, which you may regret. Emotions are close to the surface, so let them flow, then let them go.

CAPRICORN: Capricorn's ruling planet Saturn is currently conducting a reality check on personal integrity, so are you walking your talk, or is there something you could be doing differently? Some kind of lightbulb experience that connects the dots between mindset, emotions and physical results is possible this week.

AQUARIUS: Although the specifics differ for every Aquarian, this week's themes revolve around freedom, commitment and responsibility, discipline and exploration. Around finding that place where your individual aspirations support a collective vision for a better world. Around knowing when to retreat and recoup, and when to advance your plans.

PISCES: This week's Pisces new moon on 10 March celebrating the beginning of your astrological year, offers a personal portal for downloading specific life guidance for the coming year. Give yourself quiet time and space around this date to tune-in and receive the rich gifts of your inner wisdom.

Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BYRON BAY



The Rocks
Brunch 7am–1pm
Dinner 5pm–10pm
14–16 Lawson St,
5642 0149
therocksbyronbay.com.au
@therocksbyronbay

Happy Hour 6pm–8pm
\$6 tap beer or wine
\$12 selected cocktails
\$25 Pasta & Wine/Beer + Garlic Bread
Live Music Thursdays and DJ Saturdays
Open for dinner Wed–Sun



KARKALLA
Byron Bay
Native Indigenous Restaurant
Cnr of Bay Lane & Fletcher St,
Byron Bay
Book online at
www.karkalla.com.au

KARKALLA BYRON BAY
Ancient food and Modern Flavours
PROUDLY BUNDJALUNG
SPECIAL DINE and RUM EVENT
Thur 14th of March | 6.30pm
Celebrating bunya nuts with Birds of Isle rum
4-course menu and matching bunya nut rum drinks
DINNER Mon, Thur, Fri, Sat | 5pm–late
BREAKFAST Sat and Sun | 8am–12pm




Loft Byron Bay
4 Jonson Street,
Byron Bay
6680 9183
Book online:
www.loftbyronbay.com.au

Signature cocktails, and casual dining
with ocean views.
Happy Hour | Every day from 4–6pm.
\$8 loft wine or lager, \$10 spritzer,
\$14 margaritas & \$30 house wine bottle
Half price deli board & \$2.50 fresh oysters
Espresso Martini Nights | Every day 9pm–close,
2 for \$25 Classic Espresso Martini.
Open 7 days from 4pm. Sat lunches from Noon.



LIQUOR MERCHANTS
NORTH BYRON HOTEL
North Byron
Liquor Merchants
61 Bayshore Drive,
Byron Bay
Ph 6685 6500
liquor@northbyronhotel.com.au
Open 10am–8pm daily and
10am–9pm through Summer

'Byron's boutique bottle shop'
Local service
Old and rare wines
Natural wines
Craft beers
Specialty tequilas



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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.
Menu and more details
@mainstreet_burgerbar
'Make a meal of it'
Add chips and a drink, just \$5.



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

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



Success Thai
Open Lunch Wed–Fri
12–2.30pm.
Dinner Mon–Sat 5–8pm.
Closed Sunday
3/31 Lawson St, Byron Bay
[www.facebook.com/
pages/Success-Thai-
Food/237359826303469](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Success-Thai-Food/237359826303469)

All your favourites, every lunch and dinner.
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Thai food for you.
BYO only.
Welcome for lunch, dinner and takeaway.
Menus available on Facebook.


BANGALOW



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

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bread, hand rolled pastries, award winning pies and
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Pizza & Pasta
4/74 Ballina St, Lennox Head
Open 7 days
Lunch: 12–2pm
Pizza & drinks only: 2–5pm
Dinner from 5pm

Views, Brews, Cocktails, Beats, and Eats!
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Bookings essential.
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Follow on Insta: @lennoxpizza

MULLUMBIMBY



The Empire
20 Burringbar St, Mullum
6684 2306
Open for brunch and lunch,
seven days 8am–3pm
FB/Insta: EmpireMullum
empiremullum.com.au

The seasonal menu features classic and
modern dishes with innovative twists.
Find something for all tastes, from epic burgers
to vegan delights. Enjoy delectable treats and
good vibes at this Mullum icon.


MURWILLUMBAH



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Brunch + Lunch
Weddings + Events
Wednesday–Sunday from 9am
Bookings recommended.
www.apexdining.com.au
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A hinterland 'destination dining' favourite with
spectacular views, first or last stop on the Rail Trail
from M'bah station.
Modern cafe / bistro fare featuring regional produce
with a cheeky Asian twist.
Excellent coffee, fresh artisan pastries and a full a la carte
brunch and lunch menu accompanied by a natural wine
list, cocktails and house made soft refreshments.

CATERING



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BY LIZ JACKSON

Celebrations
Cakes by
Liz Jackson
lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441
GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR.

National inquiry highlights the importance of shopping locally



Locals outside the Mullumbimby Santos store circa 2001. Photo supplied

The final report of the *Inquiry into Price Gouging and Unfair Pricing Practices* released last month revealed big business has worsened the cost-of-living crisis by deliberately driving up prices to increase their profit margins. With concentrated market power (65% market share for groceries), Coles and Woolworths combined made over \$2.7 billion net profit in 2023 while consumers paid more. Has the inquiry got you thinking about where your dollars are going and for what purpose?

Over the last 45 years Santos Organics has represented an alternative way of doing business that takes care of people and the planet. Do you know any other grocery stores in Australia that are a not-for-profit social enterprise and environmental charity?

Since becoming a not-for-profit in 2016, CEO Jolene Ryan says Santos Organics has given over \$340,000 directly to dozens of local community and environmental organisations and each year recirculates over \$9 million back into the local economy through hiring locals, using local tradespeople and services, and supporting local growers, makers, and suppliers, all whilst supporting the environment through purchasing only organic and ethical products, prioritising low food miles, and insisting on the most ecological packaging.

So next time you're wondering whether to duck into a large corporate supermarket to buy milk, eggs, bread, fresh fruit and veg, dried fruit, toilet paper and almost any basic grocery item you need, consider where you're putting your dollars – into the hands of profiteering corporate giants, or back into the local community whilst contributing to a healthier environment, and at no extra cost.

If you haven't compared prices between Santos Organics and the big supermarkets lately, you may be pleasantly surprised to find you can buy the same products at a competitive price (like-for-like, such as certified organic) and with a comparatively small ecological footprint.

'Santos Organics is like a seven-day a week farmers market, selling a wide range of locally grown certified organic produce and locally-crafted products at three locations. We are your one-stop shop for all of your food, sustainable ware, and personal care needs,' says Jolene Ryan, Santos Organics CEO.



Sophie Rawlings took on James Atkins to demonstrate that, if you time it right, women can also carry a dozen rainforest trees with ease.

Seedlings: start another Big Scrub

Victoria Cosford

There's something about trees that makes people happy, that evokes a positive response. I'm standing at the newish ReForest Now stall at the markets observing this very thing, the woman who says, 'I get excited about seedlings'; the other who, when asked by bubbly stall-holder Sophie if she needs help, replies that, 'I'm just happy moseying around your trees!'

Based in Mullumbimby, ReForest Now has been running for six years with the aim of bush regeneration, seed collection, the planting of native, endangered tree species, and the reforestation of native sub-tropical rainforest. It is a beautifully bold and brilliant initiative which, according to CEO and

co-founder Maximo Botaroto, has 'far exceeded any realistic expectations we had. We certainly couldn't have expected to attract around 100 business/corporate partnerships and individual supporters from over 45 countries in these first years.'

Having always run their nursery for internal use only, they realised that they wanted, says Maximo, 'to provide trees by donation to the public, [and] the markets allows us to engage more local people and raise funds for our reforestation projects.'

And, of course heighten awareness that such an organisation exists, whereby everyone has the opportunity to contribute, as their website states, to reconnecting 'remaining

patches of the Big Scrub rainforest.'

The little trees, boxed up and ready to be borne away and planted, cost from \$4.50 to \$6.50 – and, according to Maximo, pretty much anyone can successfully grow them. 'We find very few failures occur,' he tells me, 'even when landholders care for the trees themselves.' Given the area's 'great soil and almost two metres of rain per year,' he continues, 'the only threat, 95% of the time, is simply weed overgrowth.'

'Last year alone,' Max concludes, 'we added almost 20% total rainforest cover in the Big Scrub.'

■ ReForest Now is at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am.

Crystal-infused cocktails

Elevate your next birthday, celebration or health and wellness workshop with the healing and vibration-lifting energy of crystals,



combined with vegan food such as tapas from No Bones, crystal-infused cocktails and vegan wine.

The Quartz Gallery is a remarkable place, right in the heart of Byron in Jonson St, but hidden away from the hustle and bustle on the first floor. You will be stunned to see the curated collection of precious, rare and luxury crystals – this is a wonderful place to recalibrate, especially sitting drinking a special cocktail with friends.

The gallery is also available to hire for events and functions.

■ For more information, please email: hello@quartzgallery.com.au or go to quartzgallery.com.au for more information.

Enjoy the finest Taiwanese tea and cuisine at Radiance Oolongtea House in the heart of Mullumbimby

Tea is integral to Taiwanese culture. The art of tea is a lifelong journey, with the tea ceremony being a meditative, calming practice that strengthens friendships, respects traditional values and fosters cultural etiquette.

The ritual of preparing and drinking tea centres on appreciating the spirit of the ceremony, and of the tea itself. Participation engages the senses and focuses the mind, allowing time to discern the distinctive appearance, aroma, and flavour of the leaves.

The selection offered at Radiance Oolongtea House includes revered varieties from Taiwan's Alishan mountain range and Li Shan (Pear Mountain). The tea experience includes the ceremonial art of preparation and serving, the tea being steeped in beautifully crafted, unglazed clay teapots. As with wine, each tea varietal reflects its terroir – the combination of factors producing its singular characteristics. A semi-fermentation process removes tannin, releasing the tea's delicate fragrance and flavours while retaining nutrients and natural healing qualities.

Radiance Oolongtea House, recently opened by Linda and Dexter, fulfills a long-held dream. Their food stall at Mullum's weekly farmers' market has delighted locals and visitors, young and old, for the past 12 years. The couple left Taipei 17 years ago in search of a new lifestyle in a small, quiet town where they could raise their two sons in a friendly community. They've been here ever since. With them came the dream to share their passion for Taiwanese High Mountain Oolong tea and traditional Taiwanese fine food.



Radiance Oolongtea House literally radiates light, energy, peacefulness and love. Come and relax in this homely, tranquil oasis, enjoy Linda and Dexter's cuisine, and savour some of the world's best tea.

'Drinking tea is something in itself, to be done for its own sake and not to fulfil an ulterior

purpose, for only in this way can the drinker come to "taste sunlight, wind, and clouds"'

– John Blofeld, *The Chinese Art of Tea*

■ The Radiance Oolongtea House is at 45 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby, open Monday to Friday 12:00-5:30pm and Saturdays 12:00-4:00pm. Phone (02) 5643 9070 or check out Insta-free options are included. @radiance_kitchen.

NORTH BYRON HOTEL

EARTH Beer Company

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Northern Rivers Women in Business

Celebrating International Women's Day 2024

Making a better world, together by Aslan Shand

If the unpaid work women did globally were to be recognised and given a monetary value they would account for more than 40 per cent of GDP. This year's International Women's Day (IWD), which is held annually on 8 March, is focussing on the value of inspiring the inclusion of women in all areas of life and invest in women so that their full value is recognised.

From gaining the vote, to the right to work, and self-determination IWD has been a way for women around the world to come together and highlight changes that need to occur. Education, closing the gender pay gap, and awareness of the vital role of women both in the home and workplace are key to inspiring and achieving the key UN challenge of gender equality by 2030.

'Organisations, groups, and individuals worldwide can all play a part – in the community, at work, at home, and beyond,' says the International Women's Day website.

'To truly include women means to openly embrace their diversity

of race, age, ability, faith, body image, and how they identify. Worldwide, women must be included in all fields of endeavour.'

When women are included, educated and have control of their lives the world is a better place. They bring diversity and engagement and help deliver positive, respectful and accepting workplaces.

However, in workforces that are traditionally male, bringing women into the workplace and the benefits they deliver takes thought and engagement. Looking at what blocks are in place for female application, participation, and promotion in the workforce of a business as well as ensuring there is a safe and inclusive workplace environment is a clear place to start.

Valuing women, including them and providing support and opportunity are all key ways individuals and businesses can work towards creating a better world for everyone.



Kim Jones

A prominent figure in the real estate domain, Kim specialises in high-end properties within Byron Shire. Relocating from Sydney in search of a lifestyle change, Kim has strategically positioned Kim Jones Property as a leading authority in this unique market.

As a dynamic corporate leader, top-tier sales agent, and savvy business owner, Kim managed a quartet of offices in Sydney over a remarkable three-decade span. Her adept management skills propelled her business to secure a coveted position in the top 1% of the highest-earning agents nationwide.

Kim considers her greatest life achievement as the nurturing of her four children. Embracing the mantra 'If you want a job done, give it to a busy woman,' she adeptly juggles the complexities of single motherhood while assisting clients in their quest for optimal properties.

Leveraging her expertise and extensive network, Kim ensures an unparalleled 6-star experience.

0414 629 924

kimjonesproperty.com.au



Tahlia Ward & Yasmina Cross, No Bones

'As we approach our sixth anniversary at No Bones, it's hard not to get a little sentimental'. Six years of dishing out deliciousness, six years of laughter, and six years of creating a community that feels like family. Yasmina and Tahlia started this journey with a dream and a whole lot of passion, and here we are, still going strong.

'Looking back, it's been a wild ride but we love what we do and the people we do it for.

'As we celebrate International Women's Day, we're reminded of the incredible journey we've been on together'. Yasmina and Tahlia have not only built a restaurant; they've built a home away from home where everyone is welcome and every flavour is celebrated.

So here's to six years of delicious food, unforgettable moments, and the amazing women who made it all possible.

Cheers to No Bones, and to many more years of good times ahead!

[@nobonesrestaurants](https://www.instagram.com/nobonesrestaurants)



#InspireInclusion



Justine Elliot

Justine Elliot is your local MP and the Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence.

'The Albanese Government is committed to driving gender and economic equality.

'We've made women's safety a priority, and we're boosting our National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children with a \$2.3 billion investment in prevention, early intervention, response, and recovery.

'The theme for International Women's Day is centred on counting women in and driving economic empowerment, that's why our tax cuts and cost of living relief measures are vital.

'This is especially true for those working in highly feminised industries such as teaching and aged care, 98% of whom will keep more of their money under our tax plan from 1 July.

'Supporting workforce participation is crucial - that's why measures like our paid parental leave reforms, including single parents, and cheaper childcare - are working to reduce the gender pay gap.'

www.justineelliot.com.au



Brianna Pearl

Founder & CEO
Body Language Byron Bay

Brianna grew up here with a dream to bring community together through movement. Body Language is the realisation of this – a place for play, connection, and expression, offering Latin, heels and pole dance, calisthenics, strength and conditioning, yoga, barre, movement intelligence and weekend workshops.

'People often assume you're extremely confident, or wealthy, when you start a business. Once upon a time, I thought I needed to be both. Now, I realise the main ingredient is courage. And to be courageous, you must also be incredibly vulnerable.'

Brianna's courage stems from support, and a very strong belief in the purpose she is serving - to provide space for community to experience the freedom of their fullest expression, and a deeper connection with themselves and others that is courageous and vulnerable.

Dance gifted Brianna with a discipline and expression after her sister, Naomi, passed in 2020. This business is an ode to her.

0432 780 655
@bodylanguagebyronbay
www.bodylanguagebyronbay.com



Lauren Donnellon

Lauren is a Senior Associate with BvK Solicitors Attorneys in Byron Bay and has been with the firm, originally Bottrill van Kempen, since she graduated from Southern Cross University School of Law & Justice with a Bachelor of Laws in 2006.

Lauren has a genuine desire to help people. This combined with her calm, practical and pragmatic approach and her professionalism, ensures she is always highly regarded by clients and within the industry.

Having completed mediation training in 2023 Lauren is now a Nationally Accredited Mediator and is ready to provide facilitative mediation services with BvK Solicitors Attorneys in areas such as commercial law, workplace disputes, building law and wills and estates.

With 18 years at BvK, Lauren is a highly valued member of the family bringing her specialty skills to complement the varied range of quality legal advice that BvK Solicitors Attorneys has always offered.

BvK Solicitors Attorney
Upstairs in the Byron Arcade
02 6680 8522
www.bvk.com.au



Yasmin Dulley, Byron Family Law

'International Women's Day honours the remarkable achievements of women who have overcome barriers and defied expectations. From business and politics to science and the arts, women have made a profound impact on our world. Let us honour the progress we have made and recommit ourselves to the work that remains to be done. Together, we can create a world where every woman has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.'

Principal Solicitor & Director of Byron Family Law, Yasmin is proud to be part of this legacy and has built a successful career despite many challenges. She is among the countless women inspiring the next generation of female leaders making a positive impact in our community by breaking down barriers across every discipline and advocating for social justice. Yasmin is currently the Secretary of the Far North Coast Law Society and the Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce. She is the proud mother of three young children, has a business in fashion archiving, a pilot's licence, and is a member of the Australian Army Reserves.

18 Parkes Avenue, Byron Bay
www.byronfamilylaw.com.au



Mercedes Castrikum

A long time local, Mercedes leads the team at Castrikum Adams Legal in Bangalow as Principal Solicitor. Her latest initiative, Bangalow Conveyancing has been in full swing for over 12 months with great success locally and in the broader Northern Rivers community. With five outstanding women on her team, Mercedes is reminded daily of the remarkable contributions made by women across all facets of life.

With two fiercely independent teenage daughters, the conversation around equality for women is a regular topic in the Castrikum Adams household. Whilst the current reality for a woman is that she has to work twice as hard for half as much, Mercedes maintains that empowering her daughters to challenge stereotypes such as gender roles in families and society by actively speaking up when faced with out-dated perspectives, can help to promote gender equality.

Castrikum Adams Legal 02 6687 1167
Bangalow Conveyancing 02 6687 0548



Candice Joseph, Entourage

Candice is a mortgage broker assisting in luxury property acquisition, providing specialist support for a range of sophisticated professionals including CEO's, executives, entrepreneurs, medico and legal professionals, and family office groups.

Having moved to Byron 12 months ago, Candice began her career in Melbourne at a major lender providing private banking services to top-tier buyers.

A passionate advocate encouraging women to master their finances, and to achieve strong financial independence. Candice believes in the importance of financial wellness being a key part of a person's overall wellbeing.

'Within our broader business, I love helping support the amazing women I work with, for and in aid of. Indeed, as time goes on and my career unfolds, I have loved seeing the transition of financial advocate within a family group. What used to be a primarily male domain, managing loans and finances, is now a role with a distinctly feminine touch.'

0432 862 457
Office 3/6 Jonson St, Byron Bay
entourage.com.au



FEATURE MAGIC MURWILLUMBAH



McGuinness Funerals

For generations, serving families of Tweed Valley, Byron and Brunswick Valley hinterland areas, through two convenient chapel locations at Murwillumbah and Billinudgel.

These locations serve as compassionate hubs for grieving families. Whether you prefer to call or visit in person, the funeral directors at McGuinness Funerals are available to guide you 24/7 through the planning of a meaningful farewell.

16 Mogo Place, Billinudgel
Call Kellie on 02 6680 3084
billinudgel@mcguinnessfunerals.com.au

19 Wollumbin Street, Murwillumbah
Call Libby on 02 6672 2144
info@mcguinnessfunerals.com.au

www.mcguinnessfunerals.com.au

1



Flannerys

Flannerys Organic & Wholefood Market has been a leader in organic and wholefood living since 1973.

With qualified naturopaths and nutritionists in their stores, there is a strong focus on organic wholefoods, naturopathy and holistic living with personalised health advice, liquid herb tinctures and homeopathy. Friends of Flannerys Save 20% off vitamins and supplements the first Friday & Saturday of each month – it's free to join in-store!

Flannerys Murwillumbah is the community hub for all your wholefood and organic needs.

From certified organic produce, pantry essentials, gluten-free breads, toxic-free skincare, ocean-safe household cleaners, quality vitamins and supplements, bulk foods and free naturopath advice – they are open 7 days right in the heart of Murwillumbah.

Open Monday–Friday, 7.30am–6pm

Saturday, 7.30am–5pm

Sunday, 9am–4pm

02 6678 2284

**66 Murwillumbah Street,
Murwillumbah
murwillumbah@flannerys.com.au
www.flannerys.com.au**



2

Best view in the valley!

Have you had lunch at the Tweed Regional Gallery lately? New operators Hannah and Toby took on the gallery's cafe / restaurant and launched Apex Dining late 2023. They have been busy building a reputation for a dining experience that matches what can only be described as one of the best views in the Tweed valley.

Apex Dining, sitting on the 'apex' of the hill and an easy first stop on the Rail Trail, is now offering full table service with a fresh, Asian-influenced menu that is brimming with local produce and has something for every mode. Pop in to enjoy artisan pastry paired with Ground Control Coffee or make a booking for lunch and linger over the vistas with a full a la carte menu and an extensive wine and drinks offering. Elegant dining, at a world class Art Gallery, with stunning views...."

02 6672 5088
**2 Mistral Rd,
South Murwillumbah
apexdining.com.au**

3



Murwillumbah Arts Trail 11 & 12 May 2024

Embarking on the Murwillumbah Art Trail is a journey into the heart of a vibrant and dynamic artistic community. This bi-annual event, held in May, immerses visitors in the lush landscapes of Northern NSW, where the coast meets the river and hinterland, unveiling hidden gems and lesser-known paths.

The Trail presents a rare opportunity for the public to venture into artists' studios, historic halls, and pop-up galleries scattered across quaint villages. The event celebrates a wide spectrum of art forms, spanning from traditional painting and printmaking to intricate jewellery, imposing sculptures, finely crafted glassworks, and dazzling mosaics. The Trail offers an excellent platform for art enthusiasts, collectors, fellow creators or curious minds to gain insights into the artistic process, discover emerging talents, and avail studio sales.

For participating artists, it's an invaluable chance to engage with fresh audiences, inspire young visitors, and convey the deeper meanings behind their creations. A detailed directory mapping the locations of studios and providing information on participating artists accompanies the event. Join the collective of artists, crafters, musicians, poets, storytellers, and other creative minds that make the Murwillumbah Art Trail an awe-inspiring event each year.

murwillumbahartstrail.com.au





JET Real Estate

At JET Real Estate, they deliver a complete 'end-to-end' service. They assess your property, advise you on the health of the property market, access a wide range of genuine buyers and help you prepare your property for sale. They are committed to making sure you get the best possible price.

Their team lives and works here in the beautiful Northern Rivers and they're serious about doing right by the community. They value the relationships they form with their clients, helping locals to relocate and welcoming new owners to the area with open arms. After all, we're all going to be neighbours. They work with integrity, honesty, and transparency, and have over 70 combined years of local expertise.

If you've been thinking of selling, get in touch with the team.

Contact them today at jetrealestate.com.au for a complimentary appraisal.

Shop 1/41-45 Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah
02 6672 2499
jetrealestate.com.au

4



Riverside dining at Tweed River House

Celebrate the best of the Northern Rivers' seasonal produce when you dine at the chef-hatted Tweed River House.

Dine in the magnificent century-old plantation style house, located on the banks of the Tweed River with sweeping hinterland views.

The riverside Lawn Bar is ideal for a drink and lighter bites.

02 6672 5269
131 River St. Murwillumbah South
tweedriverhouse.com.au

6



Knit Happens

Knit Happens is your premier yarn destination in Murwillumbah. Their store offers a curated selection of quality and sustainable yarn from popular brands like Fiddlesticks, Katia, Knit or Dye, Wool and The Gang, and much more. Whether you're a seasoned knitter, crafty crocheter or a newbie, their eco-friendly fibres will inspire your creativity.

Explore their range of tools and notions from Chiaogoo, Clover, and Birch, including high-quality needles, hooks, and accessories. Join their informative classes and workshops to enhance your skills and connect with fellow crafters. Plus, one-on-one private lessons are also offered for all ages.

Creative Kids vouchers are accepted.

02 6672 8300
Unit 2/75 Wollumbin St, Murwillumbah
www.precisepcs.com.au

5



1. McGuiness Funerals
2. Flannerys
3. Apex Dining
4. Jet Real Estate
5. Knit Happens
6. Tweed River House

ART GALLERIES

ART KIND

Contemporary art gallery and studio providing engaging exhibitions, art classes and workshops
3/18 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
Open Tues-Sat 10am-2pm
0404 946 553
@artkindbyronbay
www.artkind.com.au

ARTIST STUDIO GALLERY

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

GALLERY COSMOSIS

2/22 Brigantine St
Arts & Industrial Estate
Byron Bay
0431 331 205
gallerycosmosis.com
linktr.ee/gallerycosmosisbyronbay

MACKAY HARRISON GALLERIES

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

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

Cnr Cherry & Crane Sts, Ballina
Open Wed-Fri 9am-3pm, Sat-Sun 9.30am-1pm
02 6681 0530
nrcgballina.com.au

LENNOX ARTS COLLECTIVE

painting | photography | woodwork | ceramics
jewellery | classes | workshops
2/72 Ballina Street, Lennox Head
Open Tues-Sun 10am-3pm
lennoxartscollective@gmail.com
FB & Insta: @lennoxartscollective

LONE GOAT GALLERY

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

H'ART GALLERY

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

KARENA WYNN-MOYLAN, FINE ART

World award-winning contemporary realism
art direct from the artist at her Bangalow studio
Phone or text 0414 822 196

MIST GALLERY

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

MULLUMBIMBY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY

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

NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY

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

ARTIST'S HOME GALLERY

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

STUDIO SUVIRA

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

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

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

THE ARTS

OTHERWORLD

OTHERWORLD is an immersive art and light gallery that promises a sensory journey beyond imagination. Blending cutting-edge art and technology, OTHERWORLD offers an interactive experience for all ages, transporting visitors to a realm of wonder and magic. The mesmerising features include, responsive video walls, giant glowing flowers, pulsating art installations and the only 360 VR Dome in the Northern Rivers. Inspired by light and featuring works from national and international artists, OTHERWORLD is a visionary landscape where visitors can directly engage with the art and make the canvas come alive.

OTHERWORLD is open from Tuesday to Sunday, 10am-10pm at 102 Jonson Street, Byron Bay. For more info and tickets visit www.otherworld.live



New BWF 2024 workshops

Byron Writers Festival is pleased to announce three new workshops to help inspire you on your writing journey. On Saturday, 4 May Australian Poetry Slam Champion Luka Lesson will be taking poets on a journey from page to stage in Freedom for the Poet Within. Can we become authors of our own life story and write our way out of the existential corners we might sometimes feel hemmed in by? Join award-winning author Tim Baker on Saturday, 1 June and light the way ahead. Historical-fiction authors can join Mirandi Riwoe on Saturday, 29 June to learn the ways research can enhance both their writing practice and their historical fiction.

Visit byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on for more information and to book your spot.

New 2024 Workshops



Whether you're ready to unleash the poet within, research your next historical fiction idea or heal through the power of writing, Byron Writers Festival has you covered with these transformative day workshops.

Spots are limited. Book now!



For details visit byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on

OTHERWORLD
BYRON BAY - 102 JONSON ST.

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Featuring Over 20 Interactive Exhibits
All Ages - All Weather
Tuesday to Sunday
10 AM to 10 PM
Tickets available at
otherworld.live

Apply Now to Exhibit at Tweed Regional Gallery!

PLATFORM is Tweed Regional Gallery's exhibition program for artists of the region. It provides artists at any stage of their career with a professional venue for the exhibition of new work.

Applicants must be residents of Tweed, Kyogle, Byron, Ballina shire's, Scenic Rim Region, Lismore or Gold Coast City.

Through PLATFORM artists will work alongside Tweed Regional Gallery staff to deliver a solo or group exhibition in the gallery.

Tweed Regional Gallery strongly encourages First Nations artists, artists from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, deaf and disabled artists and LGBTQIA+ artists to apply.

Applications for 2025-26 exhibitions close 12 May 2024. Visit the gallery website for more information and to apply online.
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au



The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

A photography exhibition by Monica Buscarino opens on March 17th at Stain in Murwillumbah. Through analog photos capturing desert escapades and typewriter musings, Monica contemplates the enigmatic interplay of time and existence. Join this journey from 4-8 pm at Stain, 15 Queen Street, Murwillumbah. Live music with Bobby Alu, food by Cade McConnell, and Donna Stain's botanical installations. Immerse in the guaranteed good times. A portion of sales will go towards First Nations Futures and The Returning.

March 17th, 4-8pm
15 Queen St, Murwillumbah



Image: Garden Of Colourful Delights by Donna Sharam



Nimbin Art Fair: Autumn 2024

Saturday, 30 March to Sunday, 21 April

The Nimbin Art Fair supports local creatives and advocates buying local to keep our art industry alive.

Hosted by Nimbin Artists Gallery, a not-for-profit organisation supporting local creatives, this annual fair allows you to see the whole gamut of creative art from the vibrant arts community of Nimbin and its surrounds. An integral part of this cultural circuit is a range of small shows that support locals.

Nimbin Artists Gallery has been providing support for local artists for many years.

Works from local but nationally-renowned artists through to emerging practitioners will be on view, and there will be something to love whether you're a seasoned collector or a first-time art buyer.

02 6689 1444

www.nimbinartistsgallery.org

nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com

Art in the heart of Mullumbimby

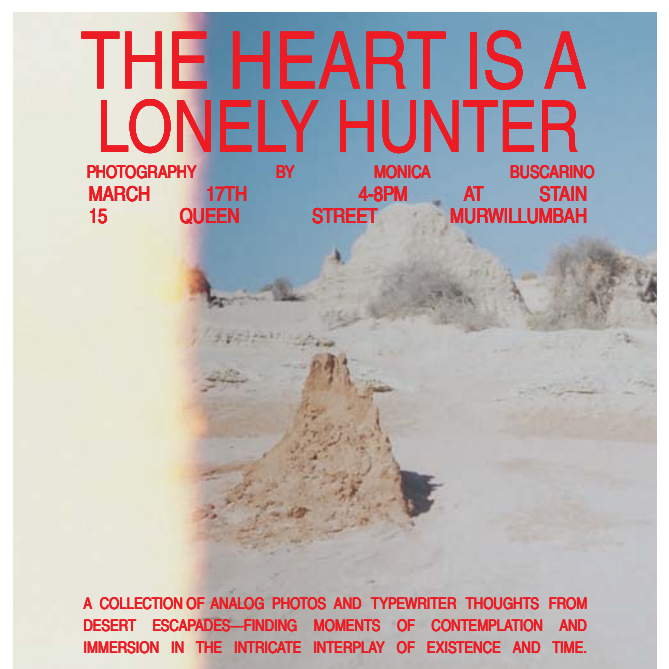
Art lovers need look no further than the Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre, home to the H'Art Gallery. Featuring more than 30 artworks by 10 local artists, the gallery is an absolute must-see.

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

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

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

Enquire at info@solveig.com.au



H'ART GALLERY

Art in the heart
INSPIRED LOCAL ART

Mullumbimby
Comprehensive Health Centre

NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY
presents

NIMBIN ART FAIR 2024

Sat 30 March – Sun 21 April
10AM to 5PM DAILY
NIMBIN SCHOOL OF ARTS

CONTACT: 02 6689 1444
www.nimbinartistsgallery.org
nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com

Apply Now!
 PLATFORM EXHIBITION PROGRAM

Applications for
2025-2026 Exhibitions
 close 12 May 2024

Photo: Kate Holmes
 Artist: Amella Reid

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY
 & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is a Tweed Shire Council Community Facility and is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

Open Wed – Sun | 2 Mistral Road, Murwillumbah South | gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

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seven **entertainment**



L.A.B COME TO BLUESFEST

Following on from a year that has seen them sell-out tours in the States and Europe, L.A.B will soon return to Byron Bay Bluesfest with a new album ready to go.

After winning Best Group, Best Song and Best Album two years in a row at the New Zealand Music Awards, taking out Best Record at the 2022 Rolling Stone Awards and being voted New Zealand's Best Live Act by Radio New Zealand, L.A.B are on fire.

L.A.B's eclectic mix of reggae, blues, funk, rock and electronica creates a sound entirely their own, and one that we love.

On vocals and guitar, Joel Shadbolt chatted with *Seven* about crossing the Tasman to play in Byron at Easter.

Hi Joel – is the new record a departure from your other stuff?

I'd say it's quite similar, but we've also brought fresh concepts and ideas – we're definitely still on that rich reggae sound, with a soul R&B kind of influence. The songs are quite a mixed bag. Like 'Ocean Demo' is a really roots/reggae kind of feel and 'Take It Away' is kind of more guitar/riffy, but still kind of reggae. So yeah, it's definitely a mixed bag for sure.

How was your Bluesfest debut in 2022?

That was incredible. It was at a time we were touring Australia and we were kind of halfway through the tour. I was pretty gutted that we couldn't stay on and see other acts as well. And it was such a such a prolific festival.

So this year, we're hoping to stay on a little longer and check out bands like Tedeschi Trucks Band, – and there's some serious blues players coming over from the States, which is awesome.

Do you find yourself being drawn more towards doing festivals or do you prefer smaller events?

I think internationally – we're trying to make waves overseas, so playing festivals like Bluesfest is important for the band. Back at home we're definitely changing the mould of that. I like both.

What inspires you?

My family and my community. I'm definitely inspired by lots of other artists too. But I think at the core of writing music is when you start touring internationally, and you become very proud of the sound of where we're from in New Zealand – the east coast of the North Island – so taking that sound to the world becomes quite precious, quite special. My community is really cool.

What is your current earworm?

To be honest, it's gonna probably catch you off guard, but I saw Foo Fighters live the other day. I was absolutely blown away, it just felt like 'Elvis is in the building'. You know Dave Grohl is just such a presence.

Are you having enough fun?

Oh, for sure. I mean, I think I've got, for lack of a better word, the balance right. I have my job with L.A.B, if I can call it a job. I pack a suitcase and leave the house and it's off to work. But when I'm home, it's about staying grounded and staying connected to the people around me and the people that love me. So that keeps me happy. And then when I go on the road, I'm not resentful. I mean, that if it was the other way around, and I was, you know, not fueling myself outside of the band, I think it would be quite hard and tiring.

It has been that in the past, and I guess it's something I've acknowledged and I'm really kind of passionate about looking after myself more and more, the further down the track I get as a musician, I'm realising that I want to do this for the next 50 years. I want to do it right.

Get tickets to see L.A.B at Bluesfest from www.bluesfest.com.au

jem bendell.
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Q&A in Byron Bay
March 9th 6:30-8pm.
37 Marvell St \$25/\$10

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THEY'RE JUST A TEENAGE FANCLUB, BABY

Teenage Fanclub will return to Australia in March performing their first live shows down under since 2019.

The renowned Glasgow five-piece – led by founding members **Norman Blake** and **Raymond McGinley**, with drummer **Francis Macdonald**, bassist **Dave McGowan** and keyboardist **Euros Childs** – will perform in Byron Bay on **Tuesday, 12 March**. The tour celebrates the band's upcoming 12th studio album, *Nothing Lasts Forever* – set for release in September.

A rare thing, Teenage Fanclub are one of Britain's most beloved cult outfits, with a career spanning three decades and fervent fans growing up alongside them. Ever since their formation in 1989, the band's esteemed discography has soundtracked many a life: from the early '90s era-defining *Bandwagonesque* to albums such as *Thirteen*, *Grand Prix*, *Songs From Northern Britain*, *Howdy!*, *Man-Made*, *Shadows*, *Here* and *Endless Arcade* and more.

With music recorded in an intense ten-day period in the bucolic Welsh countryside at Monmouth's Rockfield Studios, one of the recurring themes of their latest release, *Nothing Lasts Forever*, is light, as both a metaphor for hope and as an ultimate destination further down the road. You can hear the effect of that environment on the band's new record – it's full of soft breeze, wide skies, beauty and space.

'We never talk about what we're going to do before we start making a record,' says



Raymond McGinley of the forthcoming release. 'The record feels reflective, and I think the more we do this thing, the more we become comfortable with going to that place of melancholy and expressing those feelings.'

'These songs are definitely personal,' says Norman Blake. 'You're getting older, you're going into the cupboard getting the black suit out more often. Thoughts of mortality and the idea of the light must have been playing on our minds a lot ... when we write, it's a reflection of our lives.'

Looking for positives while faced with the grim realities of the 21st century feels very Teenage Fanclub – a band who can effortlessly turn melancholy into glorious, chiming harmony. Selling out shows across the country on their 2019 headline tour, don't miss the incredible Teenage Fanclub – become an any-age fan on Tuesday at The Northern. Tickets from tickets.oztix.com.au.



THEY'RE WILD AND THEY'RE BACK!

Wild Marmalade return to the Beach Hotel this week for a free Sunday session – if you don't know Wild Marmalade then you are in for a treat. The world's original didgeridoo and drum band certainly know how to spin the dial to 11 and get the high vibes rolling.

They will be joined by Tijuana Cartel front man and guitar virtuoso, **Paul A George**; this is sure to be an epic afternoon of groove.

Head to the Beachy ready to kick it – this is definitely a dance event.

A little history from **Si Mullumby**, Wild Marmalade didgeridoo player: 'If you were around in the early 2000s you will remember Wild Marmalade played on the streets of Byron Bay most nights over summer. We would block the street with throngs of dancing people from all over the world.'

'Then, in the Aussie winter, we'd head to Europe to play street shows and sell CDs. We didn't need gigs. We reneged festivals and set up our own stages. The best day we ever had was in Barcelona. We sold 374 albums in a day.

'As time moved on and CDs lost their value, we moved into playing festivals at home and abroad: Woodford, Earth Frequency, Rainbow. We toured Japan

and Europe every year. At one point we were headhunted by Cirque du Soleil for a lead role in the show KA in Las Vegas.

'Japan was massive for us. We did so many shows over there we never knew where we were, it was just about getting back in the van and doing what we were told. Somehow Japanese people understand that dynamic primal and sacred fusion that the band holds.

'We played Boom Festival in Portugal many times. To feel the didgeridoo and bass drum through the biggest Funktion One sound system in the world has been an experience in itself. Desert skies and an ocean of people dancing like rag dolls in the dust.

'Twenty years in, it's amazing to kick back and see the wave of didgeridoo and drum bands that we have inspired all over the world.

'Our music creates unity. It brings people together. It's an activation of our inherent intelligent wildness. After more than 20 years of touring we can be sure of one thing – people always want to dance. They just need the right music to take them there.'

Wild Marmalade, Sunday from 4.30pm at the Beach Hotel.

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OF
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CONCERNED ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE AND SOCIETAL COLLAPSE?

Join a Q&A with **Jem Bendell** for one night only in Byron Bay – **Professor of Sustainability**. Jem Bendell, was one of the first to directly name and speak out about what the climate crisis means for our civilisation. His seminal paper *Deep Adaptation* started a global movement by that name as well as inspiring the creation of Extinction Rebellion.

When faced with the magnitude of the ecological and societal changes emerging now, Jem warns about the dangers of false solutions and the potential of panicking elites making the situation worse. His recent book *Breaking Together* was described by Charles Eisenstein as being 'part of a healing movement that extends beyond what we normally think of as ecological'. Jem encourages us to face the truth and then to use it to become kinder, more alive and more potent human beings.

This is a rare chance to hear Jem speak live, and in our community, as well as a chance to ask your questions.

Saturday at Marvell Hall, Byron Bay from 6.30pm. Tickets from www.trybooking.com/CPERS or pay cash \$20/ \$10 at the door.



THE SECRET'S IN THE COLLABORATION

Tijuana Cartel is a renowned Australian musical collective celebrated for their pioneering fusion of diverse genres. Their latest masterpiece, *Alectura* is an innovative album that once again showcases the band's expertise in blending organic house and melodic house with captivating rhythms, beats, and global influences.

The key creative forces behind the band, Paul A George and Carey O'Sullivan, say *Alectura* serves as a testament to their profound musical connection and shared vision. Their collaboration has flourished over time, and this maturity resonates throughout every note of the album.

Seven spoke to busy Mullum dad, guitarist and lead vocalist **Paul A George**, on the creative process.

I'm interested to know about the collaboration between yourself and Carey.

Carey and I have been making music together since high school – that's about 30 years. We just have a good flow with it, I guess, where we both have separate studios, but we do a lot of emailing parts to each other. We slowly kind of pull stuff together.

It's sort of weird to write music with anyone else.

Have you tried writing with anyone else?

Yeah. It's funny. I mean, I still enjoy that, but with Carey it's kind of easy. With other people, I have to tell them what I

want. With Carey it's just kind of instinctive, we don't really have to talk much, we just kind of do it.

Do you think he would say the same things about you?

I think so. Yeah. [laughs]

Do you argue?

We don't anymore. We used to. We had a point where we were kind of bickering a lot. Now we don't – I think we're like an old couple now.

What's between now and the Blues on Broadbeach gig?

We've still got quite a few shows on the tour, although it's kind of wrapping up. We've done most of the travelling. By the time we do Blues on Broadbeach, we would have really nailed it so it'll be as tight as we get, I'd say.

Have you done Blues on Broadbeach before?

Yes, but not for many years. It's a really fun festival. There's many good bands on and you can just sort of walk around Kurruwa Park. It's fun.

What inspires you?

Other musicians – I've been really into a lot of flamenco guitarists in the last few years.

What is your current earworm?

Currently, a lot of South American producers – in particular, Chance Via Circuito.

I'm often curious to know if musicians feel that they have a responsibility to use the influence of their voice for causes they believe in.

Yeah – less and less as I get older... I guess I'm active on certain things. You know, for instance, like my dad lives in Tasmania around fish farming, and they're really ruining the waterways and stuff. We do jump on board with that. But then again, I'm a musician. I spend most of my days at home, practising guitar for eight hours, so I don't really feel like I'm an expert in world events. So I generally shy away from being too political.

Are you having enough fun?

Yeah, we are having fun actually. It's like hard work, but it's kind of good.

Are you okay with hard work?

Yeah, I mean, I'm okay with lazy too, but you have to be willing to not sleep very much.

It is definitely like a grind and it's somewhat a competitive industry. You kind of have to be okay with all that.

Tijuana Cartel will be playing Blues on Broadbeach on Sunday, May 19, at Kurruwa Park, Broadbeach. The Blues on Broadbeach has always been a free event and still is. This special gig on Sunday at Kurruwa Park is a ticketed event. Tickets available from bluesonbroadbeach.com.

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6 FUNNY MONDAY | 6 VANYA
8 BADASS WOMEN | 9 LYDIA
LUNCH | 11-15 SENIORS FESTIVAL
13 WHITE RABBIT, RED RABBIT
15 KINGSWOOD | 16 MAESTROS
OF INDIA | 20 DAOIRI FARRELL
21 DUBIOZA KOLEKTIV
22 FIGHT CLUB | 23 YIRINDA
24 THE UMBILICAL BROTHERS

BYRON THEATRE .COM

CINEMA

FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL – JUST DELICIOUS

Last year's **Alliance Française French Film Festival** (AF FFF) was just too delicious for words and the 2024 program promises to be just as tasty!

The AF FFF in collaboration with the French Embassy, has unveiled its complete 2024 program of ground-breaking French cinema. Presented by MSC Cruises, the emblematic 35th edition of the largest celebration of French film outside of France, arrives across Australia this week.

The 2024 edition spotlights contemporary creation, focusing on the emerging talents and innovative voices shaping the French cinematic landscape – and the French really know how to make films.

The whirlwind program of 41 films features some of the greatest directors (**Catherine Breillat, Michel Gondry, Albert Dupontel**, and more) and the biggest stars (**Juliette Binoche, Catherine Deneuve, Daniel Auteuil, Laure Calamy, Camille Cottin...**) of the French silver screen.

Established by the Alliance Française, the French culture and language institution offering online and in-person language courses and events nationwide, the AF FFF is a celebration of cultural exchange, fostering deeper connections and understanding between France and Australia.

This year's opening night choice is a unique adaptation of **Alexandre Dumas's** thrilling and beloved classic novel *The Three Musketeers*. In a double blockbuster film production nominated for six César awards, from director **Martin Bourboulon**, the opening instalment, *D'Artagnan*, will open the festival.

Double feature screenings of *D'Artagnan* and its sequel *Milady*, will also screen so audiences can enjoy the expansive cinematic journey in full.

Closing the festival, from director **Albert Dupontel**, a renowned troublemaker in French cinema, comes *Second Round* – an audacious and at times hilariously savage portrayal of modern politics and media.

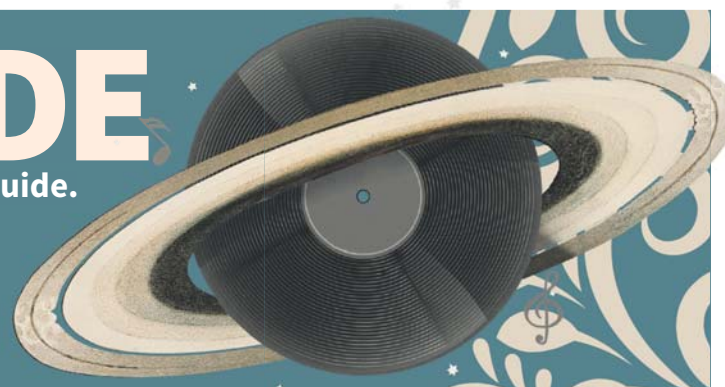
Avid fans of the festival were this year invited to vote to screen a film they felt most encapsulated the joy and wonder of French cinema. Topping the poll was *The Intouchables*, a film that stole hearts worldwide and remains an unparalleled box-office sensation in France.

Of the 35th anniversary, Festival Artistic Director and Cultural Attachée to the French Embassy in Australia, Karine Mauris said, 'for over three decades, we've showcased the finest in French cinema, known for its profound simplicity and relatable humanity. Our stories reflect struggles, triumphs, passion, and possess an extraordinary ability to touch hearts.'

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit: affrenchfilmfestival.org.

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 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JOSH LEE HAMILTON**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **NATIONAL THEATRE LIVE: VANYA**, 7PM **SHAHAR HASON AND YOHAY SPONDER**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX BOWEN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**

THURSDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CRAIG ATKINS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **LUKE HAYWARD**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JAMES SUTHERLAND**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **OOZ**
- ELTHAM VILLAGE GALLERY 7PM **GAILLA, MYKI JAY AND JESA**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **ROD MURRAY – A TRIBUTE TO JAZZ**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 6.30PM **JON STEVENS**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**

FRIDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MATTY ROGERS BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **CHRIS DEL MAR + DÉVU + PLACE LATE NIGHT THERAPY + DJ MY HAPPY**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **CASS EAGER, SARAH GRANT, SHELLY BROWN, AND THE MATERIAL GIRLS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **BEN WHITING**, 5PM **DJ ABEL EL TORO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KANE MUIR + POLY & CO**, 9PM **NO SCRUBS**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **GORDI**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ PAPA BITCHO**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- COURTHOUSE HOTEL, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **SHYBABY**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **BEN WHITING**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **THE COASTERS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **MARTIN FRAWLEY & DAN KELLY**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **MONKEY AND THE FISH + DJ OVALS**

- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **DJ BIG RED & FRIENDS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MERLIN**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **MEL SCARLETT**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 6.30PM **JON STEVENS**
- TWEED NIGHT MARKET 5PM **TIN PARLOUR**

SATURDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **RAGGA JUMP**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **HERMITUDE (DJ SET) + JOEY TUCKSHOP + KIRA SUNDAY**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **LYDIA LUNCH & JOSEPH KECKLER – TALES OF LUST & MADNESS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ KAI NOON**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCOR + KANE MUIR TRIO**, 8.30PM **OSUNLADE W/ WREN, AFRODESIA AND AUREAL**
- MARVELL HALL, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **JEM BENDELL**
- MEMORIAL HALL, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **HOUSE OF BLISS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **THE LYRICAL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **OLD FRIENDS SING SONDHEIM – SHIVARTI NIGHT**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ ROB SYDNEY**

- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 6.30PM **KEVIN JAMES – DEVOTIONAL HEART MUSIC**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **READING: THE ELDERSHAW CHRONICLES**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **SAM BUCKLEY**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 6PM **KEVIN BORICH**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **TURTLE BOY DUO**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **PINK ZINC**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **ROOFTOP SUNSET WITH DJ'S ALAKO, SHLUFFY, HOCKEY ROCK + LIQUID CREATIONS**

- THE CHANNON CAFE & GALLERY 5PM **JACKIE DEVINE EXHIBITION 'STANDING'**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MR TROY**
- M-ARTS, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **TIN PARLOUR**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **LETZ ZEP**

SUNDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PHIL & TILLEY TRIO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **WILD MARMALADE**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 10AM **JOE CONROY**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12.30PM **INO PIO**, 3.30PM **DJ JACKIE GLASS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **MATTY ROGERS BAND**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN-MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ ABEL EL TORO**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM **READING: THE ELDERSHAW CHRONICLES**
- TINTENBAR HALL 3.30PM **BRODIE BUTTONS**
- LENNOX COMMUNITY MARKET 9AM **BROADFOOT**

- LENNOX PIZZA 4PM **JOE CONROY**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS DARREN JACK, LEVEL ONE 2.30PM DARREN JACK TRIO**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SUNDAY SESSIONS FT. LOVE BUG**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **MANDY HAWKES**
- DUNOON SPORTS CLUB 4PM **OPEN MIC**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 3PM **BLUE SKILLET ROVERS**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 3.30PM **ADAM GARDINER**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **LUKE YEAMAN**

MONDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FINTAN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MADDY MONACELLI**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL**

TUESDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JOE CONROY**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **TEENAGE FANCLUB**

WEDNESDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OOZ**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **WHITE RABBIT, RED RABBIT BY NASSIM SOLEIMANPOUR**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE ANIMALS – THE FAREWELL TOUR**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **KARAOKE + LIVE POETS**

Session Times

PALACE CINEMAS

Thurs, March 7 – Wed, March 13

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>SPECIAL SCREENINGS</p> <p>THE THREE MUSKETEERS – D'ARTAGNAN (M) (AF FFF OPENING NIGHT)
Thurs: 6:30PM</p> <p>NT LIVE: VANYA (ICTC)
Fri, Sun: 6:00PM.
Sat: 3:00PM.
Wed: 1:30PM</p> <p>FAMILY FILMS</p> <p>COMBAT WOMBAT: BACK 2 BACK (PG)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:20AM, 1:00PM.
Sat, Sun: 1:00PM</p> <p>MIGRATION (G)
Daily: 11:00AM</p> <p>PIXAR FILM FEST: LUCA (G) (NFT)
Sat, Sun: 11:15AM</p> <p>WONKA (PG)
Daily: 1:15PM</p> | <p>ALL FILMS</p> <p>ALL OF US STRANGERS (MA15+)
Thurs: 1:30PM, 4:30PM.
Fri, Sun: 1:30PM.
Mon, Tues: 1:15PM</p> <p>ANATOMY OF A FALL (MA15+)
Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 7:15PM.
Fri, Sun, Mon, Tues: 11:00AM, 7:15PM.
Sat: 11:00AM, 7:30PM.
Wed: 11:00AM</p> <p>BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE (M)
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:15AM, 4:20PM, 6:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 4:20PM, 6:45PM</p> <p>CABRINI (M)
Daily: 1:15PM, 2:45PM</p> <p>DUNE: PART TWO (M)
Daily: 11:30AM, 1:15PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:00PM</p> <p>FALLEN LEAVES (M)
Thurs, Fri, Sat: 3:50PM.
Sun, Wed: 4:00PM.
Mon, Tues: 3:30PM, 5:15PM</p> | <p>FORCE OF NATURE: THE DRY 2 (M)
Daily except Fri, Sun: 11:00AM, 3:30PM, 5:45PM.
Fri, Sun: 11:00AM, 3:30PM</p> <p>FOUR DAUGHTERS (M)
Daily except Thurs: 1:15PM.
Thurs: 11:10AM, 1:15PM</p> <p>IMAGINARY (M) (NFT)
Daily except Sat, Wed: 2:45PM, 5:00PM, 8:15PM.
Sat: 1:30PM, 5:15PM, 8:15PM.
Wed: 2:45PM, 4:50PM, 8:15PM</p> <p>POOR THINGS (MA15+)
Thurs: 6:45PM, 8:00PM.
Fri, Sun: 8:15PM.
Sat: 8:00PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 8:20PM</p> <p>THE GREAT ESCAPER (M) (NFT)
Daily: 11:10AM, 2:00PM, 4:10PM, 6:15PM</p> <p>THE ZONE OF INTEREST (M)
Thurs, Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 4:00PM, 5:45PM.
Sun: 11:00AM, 3:45PM, 5:45PM.
Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 4:00PM, 6:10PM</p> |
|--|--|---|

For Alliance Française French FF Sessions, please check online.
Please check online for ALL films screening. Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking Validation for all Palace Cinema 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, March 7 – Wed, March 13

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE (M)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:20PM, 3:40PM.
Sat, Sun: 3:40PM</p> <p>COMBAT WOMBAT: BACK 2 BACK (PG)
Sat, Sun: 10:30AM</p> <p>DUNE: PART TWO (M) (NFT)
Daily: 10:15AM, 12:15PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM</p> <p>FORCE OF NATURE: THE DRY 2 (M)
Daily: 2:30PM</p> | <p>ONE LIFE (PG)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 5:00PM.
Sat, Sun: 5:00PM</p> <p>PIXAR FILM FEST: LUCA (G) (NFT)
Sat, Sun: 12:30PM</p> <p>THE GREAT ESCAPER (M) (NFT)
Daily: 10:10AM, 1:30PM, 7:15PM</p> | <p>To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!</p> <p>SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE</p>  |
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Ballina Fair Shopping Centre FREE parking
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Rustic Village Hideaway

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- Scenic drive to Byron beaches

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Saturday 23 March

View
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Greg Price
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greg.price@raywhite.com

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- Wrap around verandahs, high ceilings, timber floors and french doors
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Auction
Saturday 23rd March

View
Saturday 10 - 10.30am
2 Leopard Wood Crescent, Bangalow

Greg Price
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greg.price@raywhite.com

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CONGRATULATIONS Heidi Last and team

Winner 2024 Agent of the year Mullumbimby

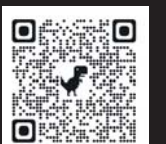
“We are thrilled to be awarded this achievement, for the fourth year in a row, thank you to all our clients & friends who put their trust in us to sell their homes. We are inspired by these special moments and we are also very appreciative”.



**Agent
of the year
Mullumbimby**



McGrath





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amir prestige

📍 18 RED BEAN CLOSE | SUFFOLK PARK

4 🛏️ 4 🚿 6 🚗 12140m²*  Disclaimer *= approx.

Set high on the hill within Suffolk Park, with the dramatic nature-scape of sandstone cliffs dividing the beach suburb from Coopers Shoot, sits a home that can only be likened to a land-borne super yacht with ocean views! The architectural build quality is something to behold, equal to the breathtaking views. This is beach acreage at its absolute best!

The home was built in 2008 and up-kept stunningly. Minutes to town by car or accessible by bike you will find Tallow Beach, shops, schools, restaurants and everything a beach lifestyle promises. This is a privately tucked away 3 acres that nobody knows about until now. The home is powerfully built with attractive geometry, classic design elements with no expense spared from top to bottom.

Inspection by Appointment

Contact the Listing Agents

Oliver Hallock 0419 789 600
oliver@amirprestige.com.au

Colleen Brunt 0437 533 943
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24 NEW CITY ROAD, MULLUMBIMBY



Charming 1930's Home in Central Mullum Location with Approved Secondary Dwelling

5 beds 2 sofas 2 baths 2 cars

632M²

- Substantial renovation completed in 2023 with air-conditioning throughout
- Fully approved, self-contained 1 bed granny flat with rear lane access
- Turn key ready, excellent investment opportunity with 5%+ return
- Separate office space with its own entry at the front of the house

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | By Appointment



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668

253 EUREKA ROAD, ROSEBANK



'Grace Farm' Elevated Charming Queenslander Home with Multiple Outbuildings

3 beds 2 sofas 2 baths 2 cars

11.2HA

- Freshly painted with high, ornate ceilings and VJ walls
- Established gardens and Coopers Creek frontage
- Two original outbuildings, perfect for renovating with the potential for generating extra income
- 10 mins to Clunes and 30 mins to Byron Bay

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Thurs 7th March 11 - 11:30am
Sat 9th March 9 - 9:30am



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



Jasmin McClymont
0434 029 668

3/140 JONSON STREET, BYRON BAY



A Unique Blend of Historical Charm and Modern Luxury

3 beds 1 sofa 2 baths 2 cars lift

- Open-plan kitchen, dining and living with north facing balcony
- The main bedroom located on the third level includes an ensuite, office and private balcony
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- Centrally located, moments from restaurants, shops and beaches

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Sat 9th March 1 - 1:30pm



Luke Elwin
0421 375 635

75 BUTLER STREET, BYRON BAY



Renovated Character Home and Extra Accommodation in Central Byron

3 beds 2 sofas 3 baths 2 cars lift

613M²

- Character beach-house and granny flat
- Short walk to town, Main Beach and Farmer's Market
- Ducted air-conditioning and fans throughout
- Attached, self-contained one-bed second dwelling with full-sized kitchen, modern bathroom, deck and separate access

PRICE | \$2.25M - \$2.35M
OPEN | By Appointment



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594

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Happy International Women's Day!

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75%

of positions at First National Byron are held by Women.

75%

of leadership roles at First National Byron are held by Women.

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First National Byron is committed to providing a flexible and supportive work environment to encourage a balanced life for ALL employees and their families.



For the 8th consecutive year, our team are very proud to have won the RateMyAgent 2024 Agency of the Year for Byron Bay. We have also been named the 2024 Agency of the Year for Suffolk Park and Mullumbimby.

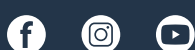
A huge congratulations to our very own Su Reynolds for winning the 2024 Agent of the Year for Byron Bay and Suffolk Park.

It's a privilege to guide our clients through their real estate journey.

We love this community, and we love what we do.

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Century 21 Plateau Lifestyle Real Estate

- 232 Pears Creek Road, Alstonville. Sat 9–9.30am
- 341 Ellis Road, Alstonville. Sat 10–10.30am
- 13 Woodbury Place, Wollongbar. Sat 11–11.30am
- 12 Westland Drive, West Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am

First National Byron Bay

- 584 The Pocket Road, The Pocket. Wed 3–3.30pm
- 253 Eureka Road, Rosebank. Thurs 11–11.30am
- 257 Whian Road, Eureka. Thurs 11.45am–12.15pm
- 8 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park. Thurs 12–12.30pm
- 29 Pinegroves Road, Myocum. Fri 9–9.30am
- 2/39 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Fri 10–10.30am
- 5/114 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Fri 4–4.30pm
- 253 Eureka Road, Rosebank. Sat 9–9.30am
- 20 Taylors Lane, Ewingsdale. Sat 9–9.30am
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry. Sat 9–9.30am
- 2/54 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9–9.30am
- 35 Gordon Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30–10am
- 31 Tristania Street, Bangalow. Sat 9.30–10am
- 77 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30–10am
- 257 Whian Road, Eureka. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2B/107 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30–11am
- 69 Lindsay Avenue, Cumbalum. Sat 10.30–11am
- 8/2 Langi Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30–11am
- 27 Redgum Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
- 3/78 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.45am–12.15pm
- 1528 Eltham Road, Teven. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 1/49 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 28 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 2 Seastar Court, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 3/140 Jonson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 4 Electra Close, Byron Bay. Sat 2–2.30pm
- 2 Electra Close, Byron Bay. Sat 2–2.30pm

Mana Re

- 3 Kallaroo Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 2/1 Durroon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.30–10am
- 2/5 Canowindra Court, South Golden Beach. Sat 10–10.30am
- 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1/9 Boondoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. 10.30–11am
- 24 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 14 Spring Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 11–11.30am
- 2431 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 241 Middle Pocket Road, Middle Pocket. Sat 12–12.30pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 50A Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 12 Cudgerie Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am
- 56 Charlotte Street, Bangalow. Sat 10–10.30am
- 42B Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10.30–11am
- 21 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 88 St Helena Road, McLeods Shoot. Sat 11–11.30am
- Units 1-5/56B Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 12–13.30pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 31 Fingal St, Brunswick. Sat 9–9.30am
- 50 Tristran Parade, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30–10am
- 2/35 Fingal St, Brunswick. Sat 10–10.30am
- 3 Kooringa Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.45am
- 20 Robin St, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 4/46 Durrumbul Road, Main Arm. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 53 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.45am
- 185 Kielys Rd, Mooball. Sat 12–12.30pm

Ray White Byron Bay

- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Wed 2–2.30pm
- 23 & 23A Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Thurs 3.30–4pm
- 109-111 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 9–9.30am
- 48 Jacaranda Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 31 Beachcomber Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30 am
- 2/19 Marattia Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am

- 3/8 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30–11am
- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 1/2-6 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 3 Lofts Road, Coorabell. Sat 11–11.30am
- 10B Coopers Lane South, Main Arm. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 10 Orana Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30–1pm

Ray White Rural Bangalow

- 2 Leopard Wood Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 10–10.30am
- 8 Coachwood Court, Federal. Sat 11.30am–12pm

Real Estate of Distinction

- 35-37 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 9–9.30am
- 6153 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar. Sat 10.30–11am

Ruth Russell Realty

- 41 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30 am

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 4 Bangalay Court, Bangalow. Sat 9.30–10am
- 62 Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 10.15–10.45am
- 648 Bangalow Road, Talofa. Sat 11.15–11.45am
- 25 Main Street, Clunes. Sat 12.15–12.45pm

New listings

First National Byron Bay

- 253 Eureka Road, Rosebank
- 2/54 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby
- 1/49 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay
- 169 Cedar Road, Wilsons Creek
- 24 New City Road, Mullumbimby
- 486 Broken Head Road, Broken Head
- 257 Whian Road, Eureka
- 584 The Pocket Road, The Pocket
- 20 Taylors Lane, Ewingsdale

McGrath Byron Bay

- Units 1-5/56B Bangalow Road, Byron Bay

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INDEX

Accounts & Bookkeepers.....37	Painting.....39
Acupuncture37	Pest Control39
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration....37	Photography.....39
Architects37	Physiotherapy.....39
Asphalt37	Picture Framing39
Automotive.....37	Plastering.....39
Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters.37	Plumbers.....39
Bricklaying.....37	Pool Services.....40
Building Trades37	Printing.....40
Bush Regen & Weed Control37	Removalists40
Carpentry & Joinery37	Roofing.....40
Chimney Sweeps37	Rubbish Removal40
Cleaning37	Self Storage40
Computer Services38	Septic Systems40
Concreting & Paving38	Smart Sensors.....40
Decks, Patios & Extensions.....38	Solar Installation40
Design & Drafting.....38	Television Services40
Driveway Maintenance.....38	Tiling.....40
Earthmoving & Excavation.....38	Transport.....40
Electricians38	Tree Services.....40
Fencing.....38	Truck Hire & Haulage.....40
Floor Sanding & Polishing.....38	Upholstery.....40
Furniture Maker38	Valuers40
Garden & Property Maintenance....38	Veterinary Surgeons.....40
Gas Fitters & Suppliers.....39	Water Filters40
Graphic Design39	Welding.....40
Guttering.....39	Window Cleaning and Repairs40
Handypersons.....39	Window Tinting40
Health39	
Hire39	
Landscape Supplies.....39	
Landscaping39	
Locksmith39	

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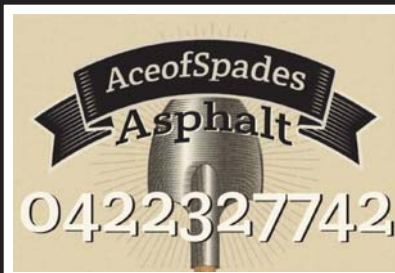
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DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

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INDEX

- Annual General Meetings ... 41
- Caravans 41
- Death Notices 42
- For Sale 41
- Funeral Notices..... 42
- Garage Sales 41
- Health Notices 41
- Items Under \$100 41
- Land For Sale..... 41
- Lost and Found..... 42
- Musical Notes 42
- Only Adults 42
- Pets..... 42
- Positions Vacant..... 42
- Professional Services..... 41
- Public Notices..... 41
- Social Escorts..... 42
- To Lease 42
- To Let..... 41
- Tradework 41
- Tree Services 41
- Tuition..... 42
- Wanted 41
- Wanted To Rent..... 42

AGMs

WILSONS CREEK COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL AGM. Tue 19 March. 3.30pm at the Preschool. All welcome.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL MEN The assets of the DOUGLAS, E.M. deceased Estate have been gifted into a private trust, are now held as part of the collateral in the Security Agreement Ref. EMD-100278-SA-300623-02. The lien is perfected.

SAVE THE DATE

AUXILIARY TRIVIA NIGHT

The Tweed Hospital Auxiliary is pleased to announce that our 2024 Trivia Night will be held on Thursday, 4 April in the South Tweed Sports Club. All booking details will be announced shortly so have your teams ready.



Osho Dance Meditation Day

Saturday 9 March

8am Osho Silent Dynamic

10am Osho Discourse

12 noon Osho Dance Meditation

2pm Osho Humming Meditation

4pm Osho Kundalini Meditation

6pm Osho Evening Meditation

Call Shahido 6688 2494

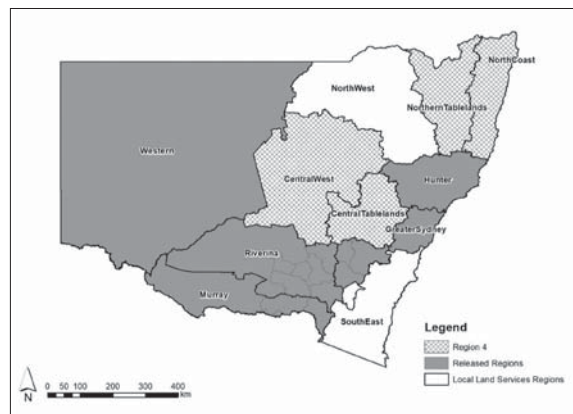
Draft Native Vegetation Regulatory map expanded release for Central West, Central Tablelands, North Coast and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Regions

The Local Land Services Act and Regulation require preparation and publication of a Native Vegetation Regulatory Map. A staged release of the draft Native Vegetation Regulatory map commenced on 5 October 2022. Region 4 is now released for the Central West, Central Tablelands, North Coast and Northern Tablelands Local Land Services Regions.

The draft NVR map is a tool landholders can use when considering how best to manage native vegetation on their land. It does not impose any new legal obligations. The map provides certainty when determining whether an approval is or isn't required.

A free review of the draft map as it relates to your land is available now or at any time in the future. The review will normally be completed in 40 days. Landholders in all regions can request a free map review at any time, even when the map is finalised.

Information about and access to the draft Map is available at: environment.nsw.gov.au/native-vegetation-regulatory-map.



Landholders with any enquiries about the map can submit an online enquiry form via the website, email map.review@environment.nsw.gov.au or call our staff based in regional NSW on **1800 001 490**.



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MUSICAL NOTES

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POSITIONS VACANT

THE ECHO

With the incumbents moving on to full-time jobs elsewhere, *The Echo* have contract positions available from 28 Feb, delivering papers to:

LENNOX HEAD WEST: 1000 papers &
MULLUMBIMBY 540 papers

The positions involve inserting, folding and (in wet weather) bagging and delivery of papers (throwing them accurately to driveways from a car) The work tends to suit a semi-retired or underemployed person/couple who just want a reliable job to do at their own pace at the same time every week.

The successful applicants for this run will have an ABN, a reliable vehicle, a strong throwing arm, and ideally they will live near the distribution area. They will collect the papers/inserts from Ballina or Mullumbimby (approx 8-8.30am) or Byron A&I Estate on Wednesday and will have delivered all the papers by 6pm Wednesday. Suit mature or stable person.
Email simon@echo.net.au or phone/text 0409324724

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FUNERAL NOTICES

John Donoghue



Son, brother, husband, father, grandad, friend, surfer, traveller, manager of Clubs, CPA.

Born on December 6th, 1948 in Edinburgh, Scotland and died of a rare respiratory disease, February 27th, 2024.

John loved his life, his family and friends, his wife Deborah, his son Steven and his sons Aiden and Finley; his daughter Jodie, her partner Gavin Allison, and their children Evie and Fraser; and his sisters Janice and Kathy; and countless others.

Please join us to farewell John at 10:00 am AEDT, Friday 15th March at Tweed Heads Memorial Gardens and Crematorium, 176 Kirkwood Road, Tweed Heads. For those unable to attend, a live stream is available; please contact info@elysianfunerals.com.au for information.

A celebration will be held at Byron Bay Golf Club, 62 Broken Head Road, Byron Bay from 1:00 pm AEDT. Please RSVP to jmd56@hotmail.com

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PETS



Tomaso is the most dog-like cat you'll ever meet! Very chilled and rolls over for belly rubs. He's such a placid kitten & completely black except for 1 white whisker. Need a cuddly cat? Tomaso is waiting! To meet Tomaso & our other cats & kittens, please visit **the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.**

OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm, Thurs 3-5pm
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Call AWL on 0436 845 542

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AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R251000222

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



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

Contact Shell on 0458 461935.
MC: 991003002332297



Lucy's a delightful character, sweet and playful and just waiting for someone to take her home and make her their own. She's had kittens and was probably malnourished as she appears to be still growing although she's about 18 months old. This gorgeous girl was quite scared and shy when she first came to us but is now happy and loving.

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.
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DEATH NOTICES

Sparke - Mary

13/10/1949 - 29/2/2024

Passed away with family by her side. Much loved wife of John and loving mother and mother-in-law to Brendan & Mandy, Paul and Deepa and adored mamie to Tylah & Mali.
Forever in our hearts

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (March)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
6	W	6:41 19:13	1:27 16:16	0600 1.56 1815 1.08	1250 0.55 2351 0.46
7	TH	6:41 19:11	2:34 17:07	0701 1.70 1917 1.20	1340 0.42
8	F	6:42 19:10	3:45 17:53	0753 1.82 2010 1.32	0054 0.34 1422 0.31
9	SA	6:43 19:09	4:58 18:33	0841 1.91 2057 1.45	0148 0.23 1502 0.22
10	SU	6:43 19:08	6:09 19:10	0925 1.94 2143 1.56	0239 0.15 1540 0.16
11	M	6:44 19:07	7:18 19:45	1007 1.90 2228 1.64	0328 0.13 1617 0.14
12	TU	6:44 19:06	8:27 20:20	1047 1.79 2314 1.69	0417 0.17 1654 0.16
13	W	6:45 19:05	9:35 20:56	1128 1.63	0508 0.26 1730 0.21
14	TH	6:46 19:04	10:43 21:35	0000 1.70 1208 1.44	0603 0.39 1807 0.30
15	F	6:46 19:02	11:50 22:19	0048 1.66 1250 1.24	0706 0.52 1845 0.40
16	SA	6:47 19:01	12:56 23:08	0144 1.60 1342 1.08	0823 0.63 1929 0.51
17	SU	6:47 19:00	13:58 23:58	0250 1.53 1458 0.97	0953 0.68 2031 0.60
18	M	6:48 18:59	14:53 0:01	0410 1.48 1646 0.95	1123 0.66 2202 0.65
19	TU	6:48 18:58	15:41 0:59	0525 1.49 1806 1.03	1229 0.60 2328 0.62
20	W	6:49 18:57	16:23 1:57	0624 1.52 1859 1.12	1313 0.54

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

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On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Learn lawn bowls

Learn to play lawn bowls in a friendly and fun environment at Mullumbimby Bowls Club on Thursday, 7 March at 10am. For more information call John on 0448 812 971.

BB Hospital Auxiliary

Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary will be holding their Easter Garage sale on Saturday, 16 March at 105 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park, from 8am to 12noon. All your favourites: cakes, jams and pickles, and bric a brac. Further details contact Maureen on 6685 3162.

Flower show

The Coorabell Hall Flower Show returns this weekend when this popular community hall will be transformed into a colourful extravaganza of events. This homage to flowers will be open to everyone from midday to 5pm on Saturday, 9 March and 10am to 4pm on Sunday, 10 March. The fundraising gourmet feast will be held on Saturday evening with tickets available via Humantix-Coorabell Flower Show Dinner. For more information: <https://www.coorabellhall.net>.

Sanctuary Northern Rivers AGM

The Annual General Meeting for Sanctuary Northern Rivers Inc will be held on Tuesday, 12 March at 6pm (gathering from 5.30pm) at the Lismore Heights Bowling Club, High St, Lismore Heights. For more information email: info@sanctuary.asn.au.

Mullumbimby CWA

The next meeting of Mullumbimby branch of CWA is at 10am on 13 March at the CWA Rooms. New members are always welcome to attend. A light lunch will follow the meeting. For more information call secretary Jenny on 6684 7282.

Cancer Support Group

The Byron Bay General Cancer Support Group has been running for six years and welcomes new participants. The aim of the group is to provide a safe,

supportive and friendly environment for people with cancer to discuss how they are feeling and connect with other people with cancer. Meetings run every four weeks on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am. The next meeting is on Tuesday, 7 March at the Byron Bay Services Club, Jonson St, Byron Bay. For more information contact the Cancer Council on 13 11 20.

BV VIEW Club

The Brunswick Valley VIEW Club (BVVC) is supporting the Smith Family Foundation to help children with their education. The BVVC is sponsoring seven disadvantaged children to continue their education. The next BVVC luncheon meeting, with guest speaker from Byron Shire Council, is on 14 March at Brunswick Bowling Club, Brunswick Head. Start at 10.30am. Apologies to Wenda on 0449 563 580 no later than Monday before or email wjhunt@yahoo.com.au.

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>.

Unmasked in Lismore

Do you identify as autistic or maybe you are wondering? Would you like to meet other people from your neuro-tri-be? Unmasked in Lismore is a new autistic adults meet up that is gently facilitated and neurodiversity led. Unmasked meet on the last Wednesday of every month from 6-7pm (except March). The next meetings are on 28 February and 20 March. Places are limited so please grab your spot by texting 'RSVP & YOUR NAME' to 0413 358 457 before the date. For more info see the ADULTS tab under MORE at: www.stepboldlyspeechpathology.com.au/. Please text if you would like to bring a support worker or partner as we prioritise autistic adults. Gold coin donation to cover costs. No referral, NDIS or organisational affiliations.

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-Thursday 9am-4pm and offers a range of services and activities. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy art, music, games, great food and more. Call reception on 6684 1286 and discover what is on offer. MDNC services that are running include:

Community support/emergency relief: Food parcels, meals, assistance with electricity and Telstra bills. **Listening Space:** free counselling. **Staying Home, Leaving Violence program.**

Integrated Domestic & Family Violence program. **Financial Counselling:** outreach available Thursdays & Fridays **Financial Counselling:** free service funded by the government, offering advocacy & assistance to find options to address debts. **Information, referral and advocacy.**

To enquire about accessing any of these services call 6684 1286 or fill out an online enquiry form.

Byron Community Centre

Homeless Breakfast: 7:30-9am
Homeless Showers:

Monday and Wednesday 10am-12pm (book in at breakfasts). Women's **Support and Counselling:** Friday 1-3pm, Community Cabin Carlyle St. **Free Phone Counselling:** Call 0415 322 064 10am-2pm. **Seniors Computer Club:** Friday 9am-11am, Community Cabin Carlyle St. **Seniors drumming, yoga, ukulele, art, nourishing arts and drama:** 66856807 for booking and time details. **Volunteer Hub referral service:** Call 66856807.

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30-11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. If you have any sort of Centrelink card you may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **Free Food Relief Bags** for anyone doing it tough, every Wednesday 10-12noon at The Hub Ocean Shores, cnr Rajah Rd and Bindaree Way. No ID or Concession Card required. NILs referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details.

Respite Service

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

Byron Bay Boardriders was Australia's top club in 2023 and is vying to win another national final this weekend

The Byron Bay Boardriders (BBB) are brimming with positive energy after winning Surfing Australia's 'Club of the Year' award last week in Bondi, and are well-primed to defend their national title at Burleigh Heads this weekend.

The Surfing Australia Simon Anderson Boardrider Club Award was for the BBB's '...outstanding performances in the water and their contributions of all kinds to the benefit of its wider local community'.

The award was a great boost for the team ahead of the Australian Boardriders Battle final, where they will be defending champions and number one seed, after winning the event in Newcastle last year.

Eleven-year-old surfer Leihani Zoric is a new



The Byron Bay Boardriders took home a big cheque after winning the national final last year. Photo Surfing Australia

addition to the Byron Bay team that also includes Dakota Walters, Danny Wills, Kieren Perrow and Soli Bailey.

'We have a lot of confidence in Zeihani to get the job done,' BBB's Neil Cameron said.

'All up we have a well of experience in the team. We

are confident, but not overly confident,' that the club can achieve back-to-back wins.

The Boardriders Battle final weekend will see a total of 32 clubs competing.

The new location is considered more challenging as surfers will need to run much further than before as the course starts at the top

of the Burleigh Hill. They will also have to navigate rocks before catching a wave, then run again, past the Pavilion and back up the hill.

Heats are 70 minutes long (up from 60 minutes).

The 'tag team' style of the event, as well as the course, will require plenty of tactical nous to negotiate successfully. But this style of surfing is really 'exciting, everyone is amped up. It is a great spectacle,' Neil said.

Other local boardriders clubs competing in the finals include: Lennox-Ballina, Cabarita and Kingscliff.

The Boardriders Battle is the world's biggest team surfing event.

The finalists won through from eight qualifying rounds held around Australia involving more than 80 Boardriding clubs.

Nippers sign-off another season with ice-cream



At the end of February the Byron Bay Surf Life Saving Club U/8 nippers signed off on another successful season with a well-deserved scoop of gelato. Photo Mike McCabe

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.

Byron Bay set to play Lennox Head to decide second-grade premiership

Byron Bay and Lennox Head will face each other in this year's grand final of the Far North Coast Cricket Council's Coastal League after winning their semi-finals last Saturday.

Minor premiers Lennox Head played at home against Terranora Lakes and were sent in to bat and scored 9/167.

Captain Nicholas Asser topped the scoring with 57 and was backed up by Jesse Williams (40) and Blake Perkins (20). Terranora's skipper did his bit with the ball taking 4/32, and Jackson Webb bowled 3/22.

But Terranora's batters crumbled after a blitz by Lennox Head bowler Blake Kernaghan who took 6/10 off seven overs including four ducks from the top six batters.



Mitch Loane drives for Byron Bay. Photo Mr Bridle

After the openers got to 47 the side was soon bowled out for 86.

Byron Bay

In the other semi-final played at the Cavanbah Oval, Byron Bay were sent in to bat by the Tweed Banora Colts.

Byron got to 10/167 with contributions from Lenny Bridle (43), Doug Jarvis (35) and Mitch Loane (30).

The best bowlers for the

Colts were Hamish McFie (2/5) and Lewis Koppel (2/22).

In reply the Colts lost both openers cheaply but rebuilt the innings with Arren Laycock scoring 39 at first drop. He was backed up by Keats Chipps (33) and Ben Thomas (21). But the last five batters only scored 19 between them and they fell short by 14 runs.

The grand final is scheduled for Meghan Crescent Oval, Lennox Head, this Saturday March 9, from 1.00pm.

Byron Bay cyclists take on Yamba road race

Two Byron Bay Cycle Club (BBCC) members joined riders from the Clarence Valley for Yamba Cycling Club's first road race of the season, the weekend before last.

There were roughly 25 cyclists from Grafton, Yamba and Byron Bay cycle clubs racing altogether in a handicapped format.

A-grade were handicapped to start 16 minutes after the D-grade start, with C and B grades within that 16 minutes. The winner was the first over the finish line out of all the cyclists.

The James Creek (near Harwood) course was about 45km with some undulations but predominantly flat.

'The handicap proved too large against some strong D-grade riders who took out the first three placings. The remaining 4th-6th places



Cyclists set a good pace on the James Creek circuit to open Yamba's 2024 race season. Photo Sharon Mitchell

swent to the A- and B-grade bunch that formed midway through the event.

'Nonetheless, it was a fast race with A-grade riders averaging over 40km/h for the race,' BBCC member Mat Johnson said.

'It was of a reasonable standard with some of us using the event as part of our prep for the Grafton to

Inverell Open coming up at the end of April,' he said.

BBCC member Mat Perkins (B grade) came fourth with Mat (A grade) in sixth place.

Local racing

The BBCC has their first criterium of the autumn season at the Cavanbah Centre this Sunday, 10 March.

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The Bush Fire Danger Period (BFDP) for the region has been moved forward to March 1, say the NSW Rural Fire Service, owing to easing conditions and recent rainfall. The standard BFDP runs from October 1 to March 31.

Be on the lookout, Byron residents, break-ins and thefts in Byron are still prevalent, particularly in Sunrise. Resident Jenny Pandava contacted *The Echo* and asks, 'How many reports are being made? I made a report to police and they said people need to report all thefts. They can then increase patrols in the areas.'

Further to last week's story around residents of Butler Street precinct being unhappy with being included in all-year-round holiday letting areas, Catherine Henniker told *The Echo* that her precinct was not in Council's original map, but was added on the revised map. 'There was no communication from Council to us on this,' she said.

Nine-piece Byron dance band, Soul'd, are on the lookout for an 'electrifying' female vocalist - if you think you have what it takes, email dersid@hotmail.com.

Bangalow Weir Parklands has been officially named Piccabeen Park, after the Indigenous name for the Bangalow palm tree and the baskets made from its fronds. The park is located on Deacon Street, and can be accessed via an informal roadway next to Heritage House, home of the Bangalow Historical Society and Museum.



Last week, Council issued a works certificate to allow the highly controversial Wallum urban development in Brunswick Heads to get underway on rare, pristine ecology. The Save Wallum responders say they are trained in non-violent direct action (NVDA), and are 'determined to stop any works destroying this sacred place'. Mayor Michael Lyon used his slim casting vote to issue the work certificate, and was supported by Crs Mark Swivel, Asren Pugh and Alan Hunter. An alternative motion was lost, which aimed to keep the pressure on the developer Clarence Property, as well as state and federal politicians. Two tree-sits have been installed on the site, and organisers say 'the community is ever-watchful with a 24/7 peaceful vigil'. Photo Eve Jeffery

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It must be busy times for Woolies' public relations people: just after its CEO made an arsehat of himself on *Four Corners* and then quit his job - oops, 'retired' - the massive price-gouging monster is now copping flack for dropping Aussie milk co-op NORCO from 90 of its metro stores.

March 2 was Lions Awareness Day. There, you have been made aware! To learn more about the great stuff they do, visit lionsclubs.org.au.

Congrats Margaret 'Peggy' McNamara, who turned 102 on February 23. Her adoring fans told *The Echo* she lives at Byron Aged Care, and 'embodies, grace, and strength, inspiring those around her. Her presence is a testament to a life well lived'.

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