

Echo

ACCEPTING SWEET BLESSINGS FROM MAGICAL BUNNIES SINCE 1986



The Byron Shire Echo
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Cover art by Chayne Hultgren
aka The Space Cowboy – see page 4

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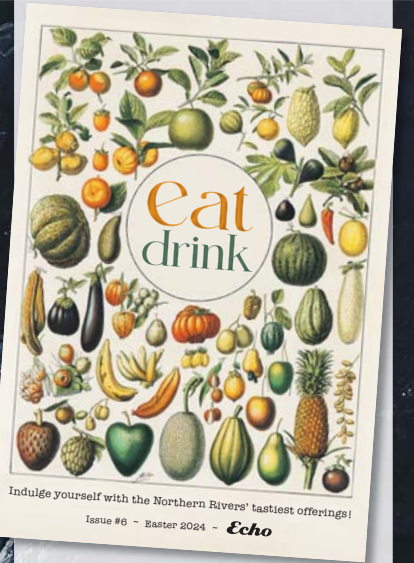
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Bonus magazine
with this issue!



The Space Cowboy

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It's a biggest little town festival!



From left organiser Steve Drake, musician Rebecca Ireland, Jenelle Stanford from the chamber and musician Dave Sanders. Photo Eve Jeffery

Supporters, performers, and volunteers gathered to launch the Mullum Laneways Festival 2024 last Friday.

Hosted at the Rock and Roll Coffee House, attendees got a sneak peek into what's in store for the music, dance, theatre, art and food festival, scheduled for May 4 and 5.

Festival Director, Steve Drake, expressed his gratitude to those who have already

joined the cause by sponsoring or volunteering their time.

Steve also highlighted the ongoing need for support to ensure the success of this year's expanded two-day arts celebration.

Fundraising drive

As part of the fundraising drive, the festival will host a special ticketed event on Saturday, May 4, spanning three iconic Mullumbimby venues.

The line up includes George Washingmachine, Ian Date and Versace Boys. For those eager to secure a ticket to Saturday evening's festivities or for information on sponsoring, volunteering, or donating to this year's festival, visit the newly launched www.kaleidomullumbimby.org.au.

The Mullum Laneways Festival 2024 is proudly presented by Kaleido Mullumbimby.

NAB Mullumbimby to close

Federal inquiry into regional bank closures continues

Hans Lovejoy

National Australia Bank (NAB), one of the nation's three largest and most profitable banks, is closing its Mullumbimby branch on June 18.

A NAB spokesperson told *The Echo*, 'There will be no job losses as part of this change, and our branch team have all been offered other roles across the bank.'

They said in a statement, 'More and more our customers are choosing to do their banking online, over the phone or by video conference... it's important we continue to adapt with them.'

Bank@Post option

The closure notice directs NAB customers to the Mullum Post Office, which offers Bank@Post.

'You can withdraw cash, deposit cash and cheques and check your account using a PIN enabled card', the bank says.

The bank described it as a 'difficult decision' to close the branch, located at 68 Burringbar Street.

NAB is the only big bank not pausing the closure of

regional banks in the midst of a federal government inquiry into the matter.

Nearly 600 submissions have been received on the Bank Closures in Regional Australia Inquiry, according to www.aph.gov.au.

The Senate granted an extension to table its report for May 16, 2024.

The inquiry will consider, 'the economic and welfare impacts of bank closures on customers and regional communities; the effect of bank closures or the removal of face-to-face cash services on access to cash; and the effectiveness of government banking statistics capturing and reporting regional service levels.'

Only bank closing regional branches

The Echo asked NAB, 'Why isn't NAB pausing closing regional banks in the midst of an inquiry, given the other three big banks have done this?'

They replied, 'While we understand the community will be disappointed, this decision was made after

looking closely at the decreasing number of customers using this branch and the increased use of digital banking in the area.'

'Just as they're using online government services to complete their tax or a Medicare claim, locals in Mullumbimby are increasingly choosing to bank digitally because it's more convenient.'

'Today, more than 93 per cent of customer interactions in Australia are taking place online, and this is increasing.'

The Echo asked NAB, 'What is planned for the historic building?'

They replied, 'NAB does not own the building, and will be handing back the premises to the landlord.'

\$7.7b in profits

NAB's cash earnings were up 8.8 per cent last year and its 2023 profit was \$7.731 billion.

In August 2023, *The Guardian* reported that 'National Australia Bank has announced the closure of almost 30 regional branches since a parliamentary inquiry into regional bank closures began in March.'

Bruns-Billinudgel RSL marches on

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

Though recently the membership of the Brunswick Heads-Billinudgel RSL sub-Branch has grown, the numbers are still very low and if there is not a continual increase, this chapter faces closing.

The group currently has 35 members and nine of those are on the committee. A group of five members are required to form a quorum for a meeting, and sometimes it's a stretch.

President Des Wraight, says the recent addition of four members has meant that the outlook for the Brunswick Heads-Billinudgel RSL looks much brighter, but they will always welcome more.

You don't need to be a member of the services to join the RSL, and Mr Wraight said that no one in the local community wants the local RSL to fold.



Brunswick Heads-Billinudgel RSL Sub Branch President Des Wraight, enjoying a mid-meeting cuppa with the committee.

'The local community currently enjoy attending the annual ANZAC Day Dawn Service and the RSL Hall is regularly booked for dancing classes, exercise classes,

painting classes and other organisations' meetings'. RSL meeting dates and time at the RSL Hall this year are April 17, July 17, November 11 and December 18.

The ANZAC Day Dawn Service on April 25 assembles outside the RSL at 04:50 hours. To find out more, email: Brunswick-Heads-BillinudgelSB@rslnsw.org.au.

NSW Labor no show with flood funds

Hans Lovejoy

A NSW government spokesperson has refused to answer *Echo* questions around why NSW Labor are yet to ask the federal government for grant money that was promised for flood-affected residents.

Flood-affected community groups are renewing their calls for the NSW Premier Chris Minns to request assistance from the Commonwealth to fully fund the promised flood recovery.

A February 13 letter to Mayor Michael Lyon from

Labor Prime Minister Albanese expresses his willingness to jointly fund further flood recovery efforts in the Northern Rivers.

The Resilient Homes Program, administered by the beleaguered NSW Reconstruction Authority, has been allocated half of the \$1.5b promised. Residents last year were told that new flood mapping excluded many homes from the Resilient Homes Program. This was despite them being flooded in 2022, and residents applying for the program in good faith.

The Community Disaster Action Group (CDAG) said in a statement last week, 'Thousands of families are still living in homes that are unsafe from future floods or unable to return home at all. The recovery and adaptation process has been inadequate, leaving thousands of people without dignified living conditions nearly two years later.'

A NSW government spokesperson told *The Echo*, 'The NSW government holds regular discussions with the Commonwealth on the recovery effort in the Northern

Rivers. The \$700 million Resilient Homes Program and the \$100 million Resilient Lands Program are the largest projects of their kind in Australia. Our focus has been on delivering these programs and making sure they're helping those who need it.'

Lacks transparency

CDAG added, 'Our community was explicitly told that if their homes flooded, they would receive support, yet we've been met with broken promises, delaying tactics and a lack of transparency.'

Saddle Road group home DA decision this week

Paul Bibby

Plans to build Byron Shire's first permanent group home for women and children in housing stress are moving ahead, with the development application for the project coming before Council this week.

It's the first initiative of the Byron Shire Community Land Trust, a not-for-profit organisation aiming to build modest rental accommodation across the Shire.

The group home will provide medium-term, transitional housing for at least two small single-parent families and two older women.

Located at 66 The Saddle Road, Brunswick Heads, the proposed development has a

total floor area of 176.8m² and contains a kitchen, lounge room, living area, five adult and two children's bedrooms, with bathrooms for each bedroom and a shared laundry.

Supporting this use is a separate building with store-room, toilet and 49m² office.

The structures are single storey in height and 4.1m tall.

The development includes parking for six vehicles, drinking water storage, on-site wastewater treatment facilities and waste storage and composting facilities.

Site landscaping includes an Asset Protection Zone (APZ) and the restoration of a gully to the east of the proposed buildings, and rainforest revegetation to the north along a north-flowing gully.

An ecological assessment undertaken by the applicant states that the majority of the area within the project footprint is 'degraded grazing land comprising exotic grasses and forbs'.

The land for the project has been donated by local developer Brandon Saul, who has played a central role in setting up the land trust.

The group home itself will be built using funds donated by four wealthy local philanthropists with the assistance of the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) and Mr Saul's company, Creative Capital.

It follows in the footsteps of land trusts set up in the US and northern Europe, and attempts to address the

Shire's housing and homelessness crisis by providing low-cost rental accommodation to those who need it.

Managed by Trust

It is a not-for-profit entity run by a board, that purchases land and builds housing that is then managed by a community housing provider.

Those managing the trust have publicly stated that all land it purchases for housing will be used for this purpose in perpetuity.

They have also pledged that rents will be genuinely affordable, rather than adhering to the flawed conceptions of affordability contained within state government housing policies.



Buckle in for the AR ride

Space Cowboy aka Chayne Hultgren is exhibiting augmented reality art at the Otherworld exhibition in Byron Bay. Photo Jeff 'Enjoying Free Rides Since 1986' Dawson

Distinguished circus performer and holder of 56 Guinness World Records, Space Cowboy, has now forged a new direction in fine art that combines emerging technology.

His latest art exhibition 'Enjoy the Ride' will be held at Otherworld in Byron's CBD, and combines digital with traditional mediums, which encourages exploration and interaction from viewers.

Space Cowboy told *The Echo*, "Enjoy the Ride" introduces the use of augmented reality (AR) technology,

transforming the artworks into interactive worlds. It's open to all ages, and I lead guests through the realms of the extraordinary, which includes the death-defying act of sword swallowing, to the intrigue of spoon bending using the power of the mind'.

Eight live events

Spanning eight live events, he says the exhibition is 'designed to captivate both families and art aficionados'. Scheduled shows are from 5pm on April 5, 6, 7, and April

12, 13, 14, with matinees from 3pm on April 6 and 13.

Space Cowboy adds, 'The Otherworld Gallery offers a groundbreaking interactive light and art experience, featuring artists from across the world who work at the leading edge of art and technology. Entry includes access to all Otherworld's incredible interactive installations, live performances and the all-new "Enjoy the Ride" exhibition. Refreshments available'.

Tickets are available at www.otherworld.live.

Retired local professor launches book *Grief and Growth*

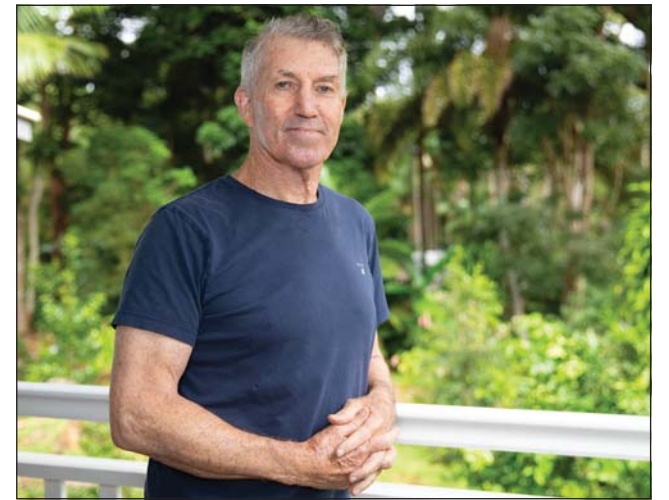
A leading international thinker and researcher in the development of innovative sport coaching and physical education teaching has returned home to Byron Bay and is launching his first non-academic book, *Grief and Growth*, on April 4 at The Book Room in Byron.

Ric Light's 21-year career includes Professor Emeritus at the University of Canterbury in New Zealand, and appointments in Australia and the UK.

He has been invited to lecture and speak at highly regarded universities in Japan, Canada, and France. Over his career, he has published more than 200 journal articles and book chapters, and 12 academic books on sport and physical education.

Growing up in Byron in the '60s

Ric told *The Echo* that the first half of *Grief and Growth* centres around growing up in Byron in the '60s, but shifts after his brother's death in the Simpson Desert.



Professor Ric Light. Photo Eve Jeffery

'It is a story about dealing with the loss of loved ones, and how it promoted personal, professional, and spiritual growth that gave life deep meaning', he says.

Rethinking grief

The synopsis reads in part, '*Grief and Growth* suggests answers may be found through meditation, sport, exacting disciplines like karate and tuning in to the spirits of nature'.

'It will have you rethinking your ideas on grief and other major challenges in life'.

Reviews have been positive, with Delvene Delaney saying, 'Ric Light's engaging, intriguing and enlightening life story highlights meaningful human emotions, from romantic nostalgia for his boyhood Byron Bay, to swift cultural shifts, and the momentous milestones that deeply affect us all'.

'It's well worth the read'. *Grief and Growth* will be launched at The Book Room on Thursday, April 4 from 6-7.30pm, with music from Simon Greaves and Gyan.

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Govt cost-shifting ‘erodes financially sustainable local government’

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council looks set to add its voice to the growing chorus calling on the state government to stop shifting responsibilities and costs onto local government.

In a mayoral minute to be discussed and debated at this week’s Council meeting, Mayor Michael Lyon asserts that the unrelenting growth of cost-shifting to councils is ‘eroding any possibility of financially sustainable local government’.

This is also ‘risking the capacity of councils to deliver tailored, grass roots services to their communities and properly deliver and maintain local infrastructure’.

Cr Lyon’s claim is partly based on a new report on cost-shifting, produced by Local Government New South Wales (LGNSW) which shows that the increase in cost-shifting has been accelerated by various NSW government policies.

The report found that \$1.36 billion has been passed on to councils, more than a third of which came in the space of just four years

between the 2017/18 financial year and the 2021/22 financial year.

‘This represents lost services, lost opportunity and lost amenity for all our residents and businesses,’ Cr Lyon said.

‘With councils having to fund this ongoing subsidy for the state government each and every year, it means our communities get less or go without,’ he said.

‘They go without better roads, they go without better parks, they go without important community services that only councils provide, and they and their ratepayers are effectively paying hidden taxes to other levels of government’.

Letter proposal

Cr Lyon is proposing in the mayoral minute that Council writes to the premier, the NSW treasurer, and the NSW minister for local government demanding that they ‘urgently address these costs through a combination of regulatory reform, budgetary provision and appropriate funding’.

He is also moving that a copy of the report be placed

on Council’s website so that it can be easily accessed by the community.

The mayoral minute will be debated and voted on at Thursday’s meeting.

Meanwhile, a newly formed ‘stakeholder reference group’ held its first meeting on Monday to advise the government on reforming the way emergency services are funded.

A NSW government media release said a ‘broad range of perspectives’ were discussed for a new model to replace the existing Emergency Services Levy (ESL), which is paid through insurance premiums.

The government statement reads, ‘The reference group is made up of leaders from the insurance and property industries, business and council representatives and emergency service experts’.

LGNSW says the NSW government ‘imposed the ESL on all councils without warning for the 2023/24 financial year’, and described it as ‘cost-shifting at its worse, as it is imposed on councils without any mechanism for councils to recover costs’.

Deb recognised by screen peers

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

Local screen producer, Deb Cox, who is responsible for about 40 hours of screen time filmed in the area, has been honoured by her peers with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 22nd Annual Screen Producers Australia Awards.

The awards ceremony, held on the Gold Coast last Thursday, saw Cox and fellow Every Cloud Productions founder, Fiona Eagger, presented with the award for their co-creation and production of three seasons of *Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries*, which has sold to more than 170 territories around the world.

Both are also responsible for creating the AACTA award-winning *Deadlock*, the Indigenous drama *The Gods of Wheat Street*, plus *Christmas Ransom*, *Newton’s Law*, *A Sunburnt Christmas*, *Eden* and the reboot of *Sea Change* (with ITV).

The award is a celebration of Deb and Fiona’s long-standing partnership and a testament to the power of female-led businesses.

Founded in 2009, Every Cloud Productions built a



Deb Cox has just been awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 22nd Annual Screen Producers Australia Awards.

platform for the development of female-led stories with content across ABC, SBS, Seven Network, Nine Network, Stan, and Acorn TV.

Active career

As she is still in the midst of a very active career, the award is not a complete summary of Cox’s work. She has a lot more yet to do.

‘We’re honoured to win it because it’s presented to you by your peers. That part of it’s delightful. It is also a reminder of the responsibility you have as a storyteller,’ said Cox from her home in Byron on the weekend.

‘But it’s also weird,

because I want to keep going and I think when you get an award like that, it feels like now it’s time to pass on knowledge to the next generation.’

Mentoring

Ms Cox said it’s a time in the screen industry where mentoring is really important.

‘We’re trying to fast-track a lot of emerging diverse voices who haven’t had the opportunities that my generation had. We are going through the big production houses like Crawford Productions, Grundy’s, and the ABC’s drama department’.



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Echo

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

Two rollovers at Ballina and 29 search and rescue missions

With two rollovers on the Ballina Bar during February, Marine Rescue has been busy not only on the North Coast but across the state.

Where will an extra 30,000 people fit in Tweed? Your last chance to comment

'The Tweed Shire Growth Management Housing Strategy (GMHS) Options Paper proposes a lot of significant changes across our Shire with many of the options put forward being controversial.'

Tweed Mayor, Chris Cherry told *The Echo*.

Celebrating the Easter Bilby in Lismore

The Lismore Bilby Discovery Adventure is a unique Easter celebration inviting families to join in during the lead up to Easter.

Ballina burnout workshops to support local community

The Northern Rivers community will have an opportunity to learn from leading burnout experts across March and April in a series of free workshops presented by Ballina Shire Council.

www.echo.net.au

Lismore Labor MP called out over native forest logging



Protesters against native forest logging, outside Labor MP Janelle Saffin's electorate office Sunday, 24 March. Photo Sean O'Shannessey

Mia Armitage

More than 500 people marched in the rain on Sunday through Lismore to the local state member's office in protest against government sanctioned native forest logging.

The crowd was calling on Labor Member for Lismore Janelle Saffin to use her power as someone in government to demand an end to the practice.

Labor state governments

elsewhere have banned native tree logging, including in Victoria and Western Australia.

But NSW was last year reported to be clearing 640 football fields' worth of land per day, amounting to an average of 95,000 hectares of native vegetation cleared every year for the four preceding years.

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

Youth crime Ballina, Tweed, Byron shires

Aslan Shand

Ballina has seen two meetings this month about increasing youth crime. At the same time, reports of youth crime have increased in some areas of the Tweed and Byron shires.

'There has been a significant spike in certain types of crime committed by youths aged 14 years to 18 years over the last 18 months in the Ballina electorate, and in many regional towns in NSW. Those crimes are car theft and break and enter offences,' explained Ballina MP Tamara Smith.

Detective Chief Inspector Bill McKenna from the Richmond Police told the recent Ballina meeting that February had been their busiest month.

'We've seen an increase of youth crime in some areas,' Matt Kehoe, Detective Chief Inspector for the Tweed Byron Police told *The Echo*.

'We are still seeing young people from the Gold Coast area coming to the northern half of our district including Kingscliff and Casuarina. They are breaking into houses, stealing car keys and stealing cars. Also young people are coming from Ballina and Lismore to Suffolk Park, Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores.'

One young woman from South Golden Beach recently told *The Echo* that her home had been broken into while she was at home in bed, which was very frightening.

Underlying causes need to be tackled

'I am appalled at this kind of behaviour and these crimes and certainly offenders must be charged and held to account,' said Ms Smith.

'However, these type of spikes in crime amongst youth across regional NSW have an underbelly in terms of the types of factors that are contributing and causes - poverty, the loss of essential services, chronic teacher shortages, disengagement with school and education, lack of activities for young people, mental health conditions, difficult home lives, and drug and alcohol dependence. These types of spikes in crime amongst children are a symptom of failures at the system level.'

Stricter bail laws

Many people at the recent Ballina meeting were reported as supporting

the recent changes to youth bail laws by the NSW government.

'People often support "tough on crime" reforms because they are scared and they want to feel safer, which is completely understandable - we all have the right to feel safe in our homes and communities,' said Ballina Councillor Kiri Dicker, who began as a youth worker in Ballina around 20 years ago.

'The problem is, the evidence clearly shows that the longer young people spend in the criminal justice system, the more likely they are to commit crime. So while it may be a short-term fix, it will only make the problem worse. Locking up young people is also exceedingly expensive, it costs taxpayers almost \$1,000,000 a year to keep a young person in juvenile detention. I'd rather see that money spent on programs and services that address the root causes of crime (inequality and disadvantage) and actually reduce crime. I want people to actually be safer, not just feel safer.'

Ms Diker's position is supported by The Law Society of NSW who says this '12-month "experiment" to tighten bail laws for children and young people prioritises a drive for political action instead of evidence-based, well-considered reform.'

Opportunistic crime

Detective Kehoe said that many of the crimes were opportunistic.

'They are stealing vehicles where car keys are in the vehicle, even in the ignition and when houses are left unlocked,' he said.

'So security is a big issue. Lock your doors.'

The police have a range of programs that work with young people and youth at risk. However, 'While the NSW Police Force will continue to work to empower youth to make the right decisions, there needs to be a concerted, societal effort to instil a sense of belonging and purpose to enable at-risk young individuals to reach their full potential. This could mean encouraging kids into activities such as work, school, community or sport,' a spokesperson for North Coast police told *The Echo*.

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

Casino to Bentley rail trail open



Richmond Valley Council Mayor Robert Mustow cuts the ribbon to open the Richmond Valley section of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail on Saturday, joined by supporters. Photo David Lowe

Mayoral casting vote gets Lismore's Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme over the line

Aslan Shand

At the recent Lismore City Council (LCC) meeting former Mayor Vanessa Ekins and councillor Elly Bird moved the motion to introduce an Affordable Housing Contribution Scheme (AHCS) and submit it to the state government for a gateway determination.

'Under my leadership as mayor, Lismore City Council declared a housing emergency. The situation was critical even before the 2022 floods,' Cr Ekins told *The Echo*.

'At the March LCC meeting, councillors endorsed an AHCS where [owners of] farmland that is upzoned to residential

land will make a small contribution of their profits to council for the building of affordable housing,' explained Cr Ekins.

'For example, a farm that is worth say \$3 million, after rezoning to residential, would be worth \$30 million. When a viable development is proposed on this land, and the developer has a profit of 22 per cent, only then will a small percentage be available to Council to build affordable housing.'

The motion was carried with the casting vote of the mayor.

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

Bruns' Best Day Out Is Back!

Mullum2Brunspaddle is on again for another fun day on the Brunswick River, beginning at Heritage Park in Mullumbimby and ending at Memorial Park in Brunswick Heads, a distance of 10km.

There's something for everyone:

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Staff baulk at councillors' promise of free parking for locals

Paul Bibby

Will Byron Council deliver on its pledge to make parking permits free for locals across the Shire when paid parking comes into force in Brunswick Heads?

The answer to this and other key parking meter questions will be determined at this week's Council meeting, when the implementation plan for the much-discussed Bruns paid parking scheme comes before councillors.

Endorsed by Council in December last year, the paid parking scheme will see more than a dozen parking meters installed in the centre of Bruns, as well as in the parking zones running parallel to the beach.

Deal sweetener

In order to sweeten the deal for locals, some of whom opposed parking meters, Mayor Michael Lyon's successful motion from December 14, 2023 included a clause stating that all locals would be entitled to a free parking permit, rather than paying the current \$55 annual fee.

Part of the December 14 motion reads that Council will, 'Update the fees and charges to change the "Shire Resident or Ratepayer Exemption, or Resident Interim Parking Permit" from \$55 to \$0 at the time that the scheme becomes operational in Brunswick Heads.'

This would effectively

exempt them for having to pay for parking in both Brunswick Heads, and in Byron Bay.

However, an implementation report from Council staff coming before this week's meeting has identified a series of significant issues with the free permit proposal, which they say will 'have a significant impact on the operation of the current scheme.'

They have recommended that the existing system of paid permits remain in place.

Staff at capacity

Council's Infrastructure Planning Coordinator, James Flockton, says in the report that making parking permits free for locals will produce a flood of applications, which staff will be unable to handle.

'Staff are already at capacity processing and administering the existing permit scheme, with only 30 per cent of residents opting to purchase a permit,' Mr Flockton said.

'With the removal of the fee, it is assumed that all residents or a majority, would take the opportunity to obtain a permit.

'This will more than double the system administration needs and therefore require a number of additional staff to cover this increase.'

Mr Flockton also stated that free parking permits would create an incentive for more locals to use their cars to get to the beach, rather than using alternative methods of transport.

This would potentially exacerbate the existing parking shortages in both Brunswick Heads and Byron Bay, increase the risk of system abuse, and significantly reduce the revenue generated by the Shire's paid parking schemes.

Possible \$750k loss

'Financially the scheme could see a loss of \$750,000 per year, plus the need to employ additional staff to administer the additional permit applications may take the total cost to the scheme as high as \$1 million.'

Staff have also recommended that councillors increase their proposed hourly rate for the Bruns parking meters from \$3 per hour to \$4, stating that this is necessary for the scheme's financial viability.

'\$4 per hour is suitable with current day costs, and is closer to the current scheme in Byron Bay,' Mr Flockton said. 'This rate will make it quicker and simpler to bring both schemes in line in 12 month's time.'

Given that parking meters in Byron Bay currently charge \$5 an hour, it suggests that the meters in Bruns could also potentially be increased to \$5 an hour within a year of implementation.

At \$4 an hour, Council's projected revenue from the Bruns scheme would be \$11,294,191 over five years.

At \$3 an hour the projected revenue would be just over \$9m.

Rotary gets behind falls prevention month

A national campaign to raise falls awareness is being supported by local Rotary Clubs of Lismore West, Ballina on Richmond, and the Satellite Club of Ballina Lifestyle.

Rotary's Trevor Kenneally told *The Echo* as part of April's Falls Month, a community information stand will be held at Bunnings Lismore and Ballina, from 10am until 4pm on Friday April 12, Saturday

April 13 and Sunday April 14.

He says NSW Health reps will also be on-hand to provide information.

'Falls are unnecessary, and often preventable,' said Bob Barnes, of the Rotary Club of Lismore West.

He is also the founder of the Falls Committee, and spearheads the information campaign.

'We all know someone

who has had a fall and it can be devastating for them, with a domino effect on their family and friends, so we want to get a message out to the community that they can do something about preventing falls. Nine out of ten hip replacements are due to a fall.

Mr Kenneally adds, 'Falls are the biggest reason for premature admission to hospitals and aged care facilities.'

NRCF welcomes new chair, Johan Kortenhorst

Johan Kortenhorst has been appointed as chair to philanthropic organisation, the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF).

He said in a statement, 'Having grown up in the Northern Rivers, I joined the foundation after returning home from ten years of living

away. I wanted to find a way to have a deeper connection to the community that I grew up in, and NRCF was the perfect fit.'

'I was impressed with the people on the board and was fascinated by the concept of the community pooling its resources to fund

local organisations with the most need.

'Our goal as a foundation is to keep growing the funds that we hold in perpetuity for the community, so we can continue to support local projects every year.'

For more info, visit www.nrcf.org.au.

BayFM gets an upgrade!



BayFM presenters and station volunteers gathered at the studios on Saturday to celebrate a new fit-out with much needed equipment. Photo Mia Armitage

BayFM has new studio gear!

Community Newsroom presenter, Mia Armitage, says training will happen in coming months on the new digital desk, which replaces the 20-year old analogue equipment.

'The bulk of funds for the station's studio upgrades comes from the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF), and the Foundation for Rural and Regional

Renewal. The rest of the

money was pooled from station sponsors, subscribers, donors and fundraising events such as January's Boogie for Bay FM.'

BayFM President, Ange Kent, adds that Studio Two is the next project to be funded, with presenters facing regular equipment challenges.

Broadcasting is an expensive exercise, says Mia, with BayFM's annual running

costs at around \$250,000, including rent, power, insurance, licence fees and equipment maintenance.

The local community radio service is provided free of charge, with most presenters and all management working on a volunteer basis.

You can listen to Bay FM Community Radio via www.bayfm.org, the Community Radio Plus App, or at 99.9 FM on the Northern Rivers.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #42 • March 27, 2024

Joyous propaganda!

The NSW Labor government marked its one year in office this week with a jubilant statement of achievements issued from Macquarie Street HQ.

Premier Chris Minns' spin doctors say 74 bills were passed and they are 'delivering on major election commitments'.

There was a lot riding on NSW Labor when they finally got control of the state last year.

For nearly a decade, the state had been plundered by neoliberal ganster clowns, resulting in a less fair, and meaner society.

So how are Labor governments different to the Liberal-Nationals?

To be fair, Labor have made improvements with pay and conditions for essential services and frontline workers. Education, health, infrastructure etc are the bedrock of government business, and have always been Labor's strength.

The premier's media release also said, 'We've reduced debt by \$13 billion, despite inheriting the largest debt ever passed from one government to another'.

So how about protecting diminishing biodiversity and the unsustainable rate of land clearing and species loss?

There were passing comments about \$172 million to save koalas in the wild, but given they won't stop Forestry NSW logging koala habitat, it's all spin.

Planning reform

Despite all this, the joyous government media release puts cost of living as their number one priority, and 'at the centre of that is housing'.

Planning reform achievements were listed, yet they continue misleading the public around affordable housing.

When given the chance to reform the housing State Environmental

Planning Policy (SEPP) last year, they failed to improve the metrics which give advantage to speculating developers. The SEPP offers little for those who can't afford a home.

What wasn't included in their achievement list was a commitment to public housing.

No flood funding, yet

As demonstrated on the page 3 story, 'NSW Labor no show with flood funds', thousands of north coast flood-affected residents are still without assistance, despite promises.

Should the public accept broken promises and a lack of transparency? It's taxpayer money after all.

And how about Labor's values around social justice?

Like the NSW Liberal-Nats, NSW Labor appear unwilling to reform police behaviour around strip searching minors, or pointless and expensive cannabis raids, for example.

And last week, NSW Greens MLC, Sue Higginson, said, 'The Minns Labor government passed rushed, broad, and badly-drafted bail laws that will see vulnerable children and young people locked up'.

She says, 'The opposition to these laws is remarkable. The Bar Association, the Law Society, the cross bench and even members of the Liberal Party and the government united against both the spirit and execution of new laws'.

Is there room for improvement? Clearly. Yet comparing NSW Labor to the NSW Liberal-Nats won't produce better governance – the only agent of positive change is a more informed and active public.

Does that sound like a big ask?

Hans Lovejoy, editor
News tips are welcome:
editor@echo.net.au

A health check as Medicare turns 40

If you'll forgive the earnest tone, I'd like to propose a toast.

To a friend who's almost always there when you need them most. To a system that aims to treat people fairly and respectfully.

To a quiet cornerstone of Australia's civil society.

Yes, it's not perfect, it's perpetually preyed on by profiteers, and its work can be patchy, sometimes.

But here's to Medicare.

Happy 40th.

Painful birth

As some readers well remember, the birth of Australia's publicly-funded universal health system was not easy.

First delivered as Medibank by Whitlam's Labor government in 1974, it was viciously attacked by doctors' groups and conservative political parties, which effectively killed it off, a year or so later.

It wasn't until 1984, after the election of Labor under Bob Hawke, that Medicare was formally launched. It reduced people's big medical bills, cut the costs of healthcare nationally, and even drove down inflation.

But the idea of a taxpayer-funded system of free or low-cost care remained abhorrent to many in the medical community and the Liberals.

Doctors worried about falling incomes and government influence. The then opposition leader, John Howard, famously said the government should have 'taken a knife' to Medicare, describing it as 'one of the great failures of the Hawke government.'

Popular success

Unlike John Howard, big majorities of Australians have consistently supported Medicare. Some political observers have even suggested that the Liberals only won government in 1996, and Howard became prime minister, largely because they finally ended their opposition to Medicare.

Along with providing affordable access to hospitals, doctors, nurses, drugs, tests, and treatments, a strong publicly-run Medicare has also helped keep a lid on the overall costs of healthcare.



'Medicare is a manifestation of our humanity, so let's celebrate this solidarity.'

Dr Ray Moynihan

In Australia, we spend around ten per cent of total GDP on healthcare. This is similar to European countries, but just half of what's spent in the US.

With its market-based system, the US spends close to 19 per cent of GDP. That's one-fifth of the entire economy spent on 'healthcare', while at the same time Americans tend to have poorer health outcomes than comparable countries.

I was lucky enough to study health systems during a Harkness Fellowship at Harvard University.

I learnt a lot about the inequality, inefficiency, and inhumanity of US healthcare.

It's not really rocket science. Health systems based on solidarity tend to be fairer, more effective, and cheaper.

Of course, Medicare could be stronger on many fronts.

On the one hand, access to needed care can be hard to come by, particularly in some remote and regional communities. Public hospitals in many places are hurting and waiting times unacceptable.

On the other hand, Medicare is too often vulnerable to the vested interests which are driving the problem of too much medicine.

From corporate-controlled general practices to giant pathology companies, from big pharma to pharmacies, private for-profit players all push to sell more. The result is increasing amounts of harmful and unnecessary care, and wasteful increases in costs, threatening the very viability of a universal system.

The biggest challenge for Medicare, and health systems everywhere, is tackling this problem of too much of a good thing.

In just 20 years, the number of annual subsidised prescriptions under Medicare has jumped from 160 million, to over 220 million

today. And the annual drug costs from \$4.5 billion to over \$17 billion.

There is incontrovertible evidence that many of those prescriptions are unnecessary and harmful.

Deprescribing

The problem of 'polypharmacy', particularly among the elderly, is so out-of-control that good doctors are now learning the art of 'deprescribing'.

The Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care has repeatedly identified examples of overuse, including too many planned caesarean sections, too many colonoscopies, and too many inappropriate antipsychotics.

Globally-renowned Stanford University Professor John Ioannidis told me a few years back that 'we're just spending so much, and we're wasting so much, that healthcare is one of the leading public dangers for health.'

Ioannidis is one of the most cited medical scientists on the planet, and has sat on the editorial boards of some of the world's most respected scientific journals. 'I think at some point, we need to fight against medicine', Ioannidis told me. 'It's becoming really dangerous.'

There are ways to tackle these challenges, collectively, to better manage vested interests, and strengthen this vital public infrastructure. And there are ways we can protect ourselves and our loved ones from the dangers of unnecessary care. But they are columns for another day.

Medicare is a manifestation of our humanity, so in its birthday year, let's celebrate this solidarity.

■ Dr Ray Moynihan has been known to break out in a rash when confronted with for-profit healthcare.



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Phone: 02 6684 1777

Editorial/news: editor@echo.net.au

Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au

Office: 64 McGoughans Lane,
Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager **Simon Haslam**

Editor **Hans Lovejoy**

Deputy Editor **Aslan Shand**

Photographer **Jeff Dawson**

Advertising Manager **Anna Coelho**

Production Manager **Ziggi Browning**



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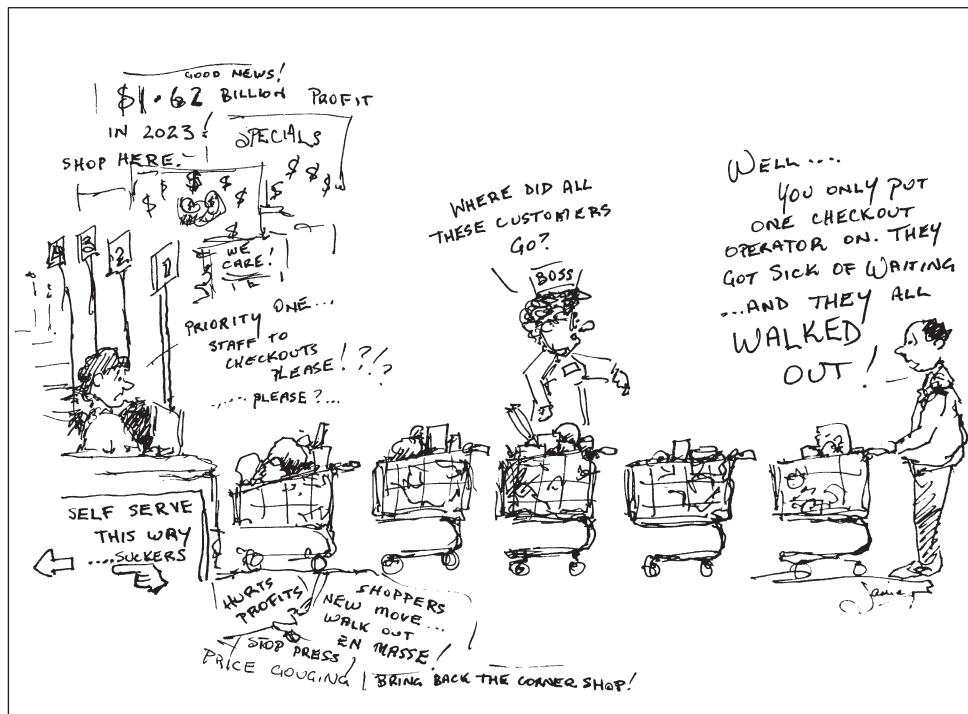
The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.

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

'The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.'

– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936





Profit is God! Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

Opposition to Sandhills Wetland Reserve Project

These are some of the reasons why several of my neighbours and I oppose the proposed development of the Byron Sandhills Wetland Reserve.

1) The Clarkes Beach stormwater outlet from the Sandhills Wetland has been obsolete for many years. Even at low tide, the stormwater from the wetland doesn't drain into the ocean. The whole wetland project won't work, but actually cause further pollution as will be demonstrated below.

2) We do not want thousands of trees being cut or offset or retired. We also oppose endangered and protected animals being killed by habitat loss.

Please see article by Hans Lovejoy in *The Echo* (7/2/2024 page 7) entitled 'A peek inside... wetland'.

The estimated cost per tree removal by the town planners at \$150 is highly inaccurate. Google search shows the average cost to cut one tree is \$1,950, stump removal extra \$100-\$400, so \$2,200 in total per tree. Excluding roots! 2,000 trees killed at \$4,400,000. The 'retirement' and shipment of trees would be an extra cost.

To dig the 1.8 ha of wetland 1m deep would cost \$126,000,000, \$126 million for soil removal, excluding the excavation of ponds. And excluding the treatment of acid soil.

The town planners quote the path-construction alone at \$2m (\$1,999,970).

3) Therefore the total cost of the whole project would be \$136.4 million and counting. We consider this an irresponsible cost for a controversial project which is doomed to fail. Do you want to shoulder this risk?

4) The initial quoted time of works was six months, then 'just under one year'. Realistically it would take two, three or more years. Noisy work for six days per week. 7am-4pm, only Sunday 'quiet'.

5) Many residents at Marvell Street (Feros retirement village and social housing) and Massinger Street are elderly and have serious health issues, and would not be able to tolerate the noise, diesel fumes and dust created by the works. Some of us, including me, would need alternative accommodation. There could be serious mental and physical health implications or even fatalities to residents, adding to the housing crisis, mental health crises and hospital admissions.

6) The storm water won't be improved, as no drainage is possible via the Clarkes Beach outlet. Sea levels are predicted to rise faster and higher than previously thought (6m).

The whole project will be flooded eventually. The only possible solution would be to channel the stormwater/creek east of Paterson Street directly out to the ocean, in between the caravan park and public toilet block (not via wetlands).

7) We oppose the building of pathways, dangerous e-bike runways, bridges and recreational areas. This would attract antisocial

behaviour, loud parties, alcohol and drug use/dealing, littering, using wetland as a toilet and would further worsen the groundwater. (See *Echo* 29/11/2023 Antisocial wave hits SGB).

We don't have antisocial behaviour at present in the proposed wetland project area bar two homeless camps close to Lawson and Cowper Streets.

Most of the homeless people camp in the drier western part of the reserve which doesn't have leeches and not that many mozzies. Most homeless people are peaceful yet leave garbage. Let the town planners house them first and remove their garbage piles.

8) We would have a pest explosion of mosquitoes, leeches, and cane toads if the proposed wetlands with ponds goes ahead. Dengue fever is documented to travel further south with our climate becoming warmer and more tropical.

9) There are no two major parts of Byron town to connect, as falsely claimed by town planners. Most houses at Massinger Street and further east and southeast are low-key holiday rentals and stand empty for most of the year.

Name withheld

The bush is back

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reports that the bush is back.

At the recent Paris fashion shows, Maison Margiela got his models to wear merkins (pubic wigs) underneath diaphanous material causing a stir and reigniting the thrill of actually having pubes. It is

ironic that they put pubic wigs on models who probably paid to have their own removed.

But how do they attach merkins? I shudder to think.

And why is it ok to see a merkin but not the real thing?

And does Nutbush City Limits really mean what I thought it did?

So many questions, so little hair.

It's about time the bush made a comeback. Believe it or not there are good reasons for growing pubic hair - it helps protect against bacteria, traps the pheromones that make us more attractive to prospective sexual partners, and acts as a buffer that reduces friction during sex.

Congratulations to the people who hosted the 'Let's Make a Merkin' workshop recently in Mullum to raise funds for homeless women. I hope it was very successful. I also hope that they will model their creations in some local fashion show. Well done Darling Muffs of May.

Magenta Appel-Pye
Mullumbimby

Beware of scams

We have been affected by fraudulent phone calls on our landline (now unplugged) when taking a call from Telstra/ NBN which was assumed to be in response to numerous issues with these service providers. (Haven't we all experienced these and tried to communicate and remedy?).

Very credible, seemingly knowing how our bills are paid and after a long and business-like conversation, persuading us to allow access to a laptop and to turn off mobiles so that the speed of service could be accurately assessed.

► Continued on next page



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Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

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► Continued from page 9

Long story – but a bank account was accessed despite no passwords being given; the limit was exceeded and \$9,000 was removed. As the mobile was turned off, the SMS sent by the bank for verification of the limit change and the new payee was *not* confirmed.

The bank's motto: 'our site and your transactions are secure'... hmmm, it doesn't feel like that!

Reporting the scam/fraud to our bank as requested when the mobile was turned back on when 'suspicious activity has been noted'. It took 39 very anxious minutes of waiting on hold before the call was answered!

Big breath.

We were contacted by a staff member who kept me on the phone for nearly an hour talking over and through me in legalese despite me telling her that it wasn't a good time and asking for a call back. A few days later, another call from a head of department and although he stated that the bank was not responsible for the scam/fraud, he was offering us a 'compassionate payment' of half of the funds lost. We have accepted this.

Alternatively we can go down the rabbit hole of attempting to recover the

total through a lengthy and stressful process with a questionable outcome.

So, I have been encouraged to write this to alert others to this very sophisticated and convincing activity and urge you to be extra careful and *if* you receive calls from Telstra/NBN – ask if you can call them back but *don't* take the calls and *never* let them into your devices. Despite having the laptop thoroughly 'cleaned' we still feel very vulnerable and that security mentioned above feels like a hollow promise!

Name withheld

Common sense?

It's good to see some sense emanating from the Station Street bunker with Byron Shire Council's removal of the flood-prone land in the Ann Street and New City Road areas from the Residential Strategy 2041.

There are however at least six other, smaller, areas in that strategy that are wholly or largely flood-prone, and development of these areas raises the same issues of the impact of filling on surrounding areas and the risk of flooding to houses built to Council's too-low flood planning levels.

I am hearing that Council may be coming around to the

idea of banning fill in these areas and requiring houses to be built on stumps. This removes the risk of fill raising flood levels on adjacent properties and because it costs little to build, say 0.5m higher than Council's minimum floor level, builders will be encouraged to build higher and save these houses from possible, or probable, future floods.

To me it makes no sense to build on the floodplain, but at least houses built on stumps can be raised in the future, if or when that becomes desirable.

Matthew Lambourne
Mullumbimby

Lyon a drain?

Me thinks Mullumbimby residents might prefer to cast off Michael Lyon's mayoral mantle, along with his blind eye for viewing existing houses' drainage, rather than our palms and lorikeets. He has done very little to deal with the town's long-neglected drainage issues, apart from advocating the filling of the floodplains where the pods are; where he wishes to do further development against new state policy.

Of course we need housing, but is his 'highrise in floodplains' model at all suited to this time and place?

His insensitivity and inability to consider those in existing housing is plain for all town residents to see.

Our palm fronds are a lot less messy than Michael's guise of solving the housing problem, whilst averting his fixed gaze from existing residents' need for security of tenure going forward.

The removal of the Byron Shire Access Committee – being replaced by one person – speaks volumes regarding the diversity of voices being heard.

The inappropriate adoption of the privacy policy to obfuscate the issues and blindside residents in his push to develop our town is evident for all to see. And we vote, Michael, not your future hordes trampling a once-beautiful town into the ground.

Oh hark, I hear the lorikeets calling – like the elderly, the palms, the disabled, the young mums laden with prams toddlers and shopping – who are all to be banished from town under Michael's 'who doesn't like a tree?' policy coming to a town whose functionality and beauty will be ignored.

Vicki Barton
Mullumbimby

► More letters on page 12

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Democracy on the ropes?



Democracy in peril.
Images Cloudcatcher Media

David Lowe

The ancient idea of democracy is under threat around the world. Today, there are only 63 democracies compared to 74 autocracies, and many of these democracies are highly problematic.

Russia has just had another fake election on behalf of Vladimir Putin, China doesn't have open elections at all, and India's democracy is looking increasingly strained. Elsewhere, things have got worse since the Covid pandemic, which simultaneously demonstrated the need for some kind of central authority to help people at times of national crisis, while also demonstrating the vulnerability of democratic governments.

In the US, there's the real prospect of an authoritarian-leaning charlatan returning to the White House, and populists with little regard for democratic principles are on the rise across Europe and Africa.

The conundrum is that while things are clearly better for citizens – in ways that can be measured – in more democratic societies, such as across Scandinavia, strongmen with fascist tendencies (and scapegoats to blame), look increasingly attractive when things go bad. War, climate catastrophe and other intractable problems are a boon to these political actors. Once anti-democratic forces are entrenched, it becomes increasingly difficult to remove them.

In Germany, where people have a particular interest in this problem, something called the Bertelsmann Stiftung Transformation Index has been published for the last 20 years, analysing the health of global democracy in great detail. The index points to signs of optimism in places like Brazil and Poland, where authoritarians have been pushed on to the back foot recently, but numerous other countries, such as Bangladesh, Mozambique and Türkiye, are heading in the opposite direction, along with Germany itself.

When social cohesion collapses, and compromise becomes impossible, democracy cannot flourish. The index authors point out that democracy is not a self-sustaining idea – it has to be protected and nourished. Public participation, trust, rule of law, and a well-informed populace are all vital (journalists must be able to do their work).



Democracy's health also depends on big money not being allowed to corrupt the system. The example of the US shows how easily democracy can become oligarchy.

Money, misinformation, fear, stupidity and ignorance threaten democracy's existence, which is why these things need to be carefully watched, and called out.

Aussie democracy

In Australia we're lucky enough to live in one of the most long-running and stable liberal democracies, along with Switzerland, but that doesn't mean we can be complacent.

Secret, compulsory voting for all adults is the bedrock of our system, administered by an independent electoral commission, but democracy is facing challenges here from multiple directions, including unscrupulous politicians and a rapidly changing media landscape.

Peter Dutton's shameful attack on the electoral commission last year, and use of misinformation on a range of issues, is beginning to look less like a blip than a deliberate strategy as far as the Liberal Party is concerned.

Down in Tasmania on the weekend, Liberal leader Jeremy Rockliff stood up in front of the cameras and declared he'd won the election, when in fact he had failed to gain a majority of seats and suffered a 12 per cent swing against him. The party with the biggest positive swing was actually the Greens. It's yet to be seen what type of minority government will be running the state.

Tasmania's Hare-Clark electoral system means that unlike most places in Australia (at least in lower houses), the politicians who end up sitting in the state parliament correspond fairly accurately to the choices of the electors, rather than having their votes diverted in various undemocratic ways.

Hooray for democracy!

■ Read David Lowe every Monday in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au.

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Queen at home on Country



Bee colony on Bundjalung Country. Photos Jeremy Perez

Spencer White

Colony Bees, based in Mullumbimby, are pleased to advise that a native nest of the *Apis* family has made home inside the hollow of an old growth tree on Bundjalung Country.

A queen and her maidens are now self sustaining, living among a broader ecological community of pollinators, in the Byron Shire of Northern Rivers.

Increased swarms

Since the establishment of the Community Bee Sanctuary, records of swarming in the area have increased, showing signs of an improved genetic resilience through natural reproduction. Research is continuing, to explore this area and

find ways to protect these species and their habitat for future generations.

This symbiosis between plant and animal shows such a wonderful coexistence in nature and is depicted in art for thousands of years. It is well and truly alive in culture today with conservationists implementing re-wilding strategies across nations in service of the bee.

Observations of a fellow bee guardian noted 'their bodies are darker in colour and show similar morphological characteristics to the black bee'.

It is excellent to see such a healthy ecosystem of pollinators including apis, sugarbag and amegilla blue banded bees contributing to the vitality and longevity of

plant life, and to the cultivation of food for birds and other animals.

New ways to observe bees

Citizen science monitoring is now also using sound as a medium to observe certain frequencies within the hive ranging from 7.83 Hz to 888 Hz as an indicator of activity and health. The frequency of these nests creates a mellifluous hum which is potentially due to the free form comb building structure created within.

Colony Bees is a local environmental charity, and partner organisation with Mullum SEED. They focus on native pollinator health and ecosystem restoration.

Tyagarah again

I understand that nudists don't want to lose their space at Tyagarah, but no-one can control the inappropriate behaviour that comes with it.

At Tyagarah, illegal and sexually suggestive and intimidating events happen regularly and are massively under-reported.

At Tyagarah someone coming out of the water with an erection and timing it perfectly to meet a passerby, or a man virtually standing on a woman's towel when she comes out of the water on such a big beach, or opening his legs while trying to make suggestive eye contact are not things the police would usually warrant as necessary to react to. Why is this kind of behaviour somewhat acceptable at Tyagarah when totally unacceptable everywhere else?

Most times the 'victim' just moves on and doesn't call the police. If they are called and if they do attend then the chance that they can identify anyone and gather evidence to charge someone is highly unlikely. If there is no charge laid then no record of the call to police is kept. No statistics from all those events.

There were also no statistics at Tyagarah leading up to the rape in 2017 that

was directly caused by the presence of the clothing-optional area. At that time it was virtually impossible for a woman to attend Tyagarah Beach without some form of harassment. Post Covid and Queensland border reopening we are headed back that way.

There is no prude on the hill wanting to close the clothing-optional area. What there is a committed community working to restore safety in their area. Looks like a pretty big cause to me.

And Duncan, this is a grassroots campaign. The developers are a figment of your imagination.

Gyan Moyes
Tyagarah

Fat bikes

It's time to stop calling those fat two-wheeled bikes, e-bikes. They are electric motorbikes. If they have an accelerator they are illegal. If they are on footpaths driven by anyone over 12 years old they are illegal. If they exceed the NSW electric-bike speed limit of 25 kph they are illegal. Children who may not know road rules or the law drive these heavy machines without helmets, at speed.

I have a legal electric bike and these 'fat bikes' pass me swiftly on bike paths when I am at my full speed of 25 kph. Fat bikes are a problem

everywhere. The drivers are not licensed. Nothing is insured. The bikes are not registered. If you are the victim of a hit and run, you may have no way of knowing who did it. If you are hurt or suffer damages from a fat bike accident, you have to sue somebody.

I feel like shouting at the fat-bike drivers to get off the footpaths. Signs stating 'No bikes on footpaths' and 'Speed limit 25 kph' on bike paths would help.

Raphael Lee Cass
Byron

Simply the best

I was thrilled to see *The Echo's* article last week 'Meet the food rescue heroes'. These unsung heroes are the lifeline for so many people. We are so often reminded how the mega-rich are spending up big on property acquisitions that have changed the lives for so many of the local community.

Life has become a tragic struggle where people now can't afford to rent, and even more alarmingly can't afford to eat.

The Liberation Larder volunteers give so much more than food - they welcome and offer a place to gather together and share.

► Continued on page 14



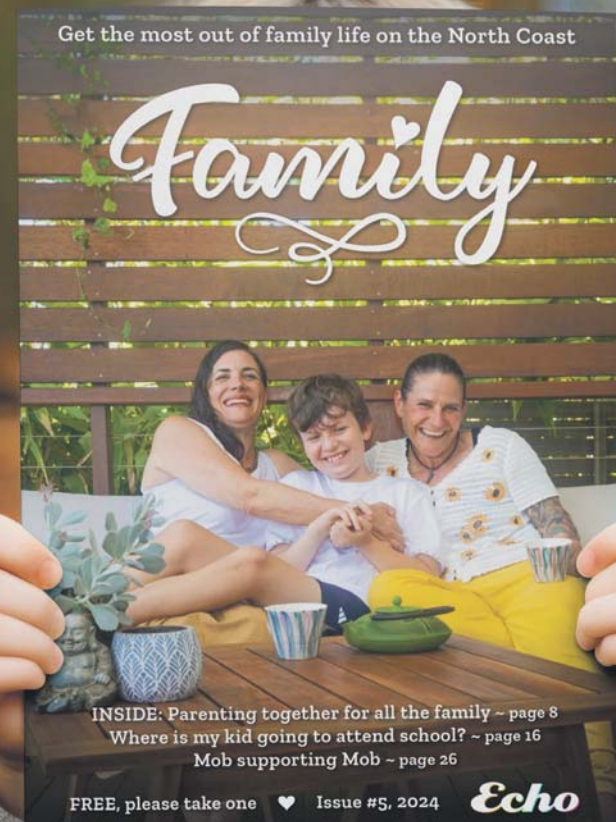
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Hypatia's Legacy



Three interwoven narratives depict the lost gospel of Mary Magdalen, the destruction of the ancient world's greatest library and the find at a modern archeological site that the Curia is desperate to keep secret. The link between David Lovejoy's stories is the young woman Hypatia, who gets dangerously involved in the church politics of fourth century Alexandria.

ON SALE AT THE MULLUM ECHO OFFICE \$12
Also available SF story *Yellowstone Butterfly* \$13
Gods and Heroes Greek myths revisited \$10

Is a development moratorium coming?

■ The refreshed Residential Strategy, as it applies to Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads, is said to be 'informed' by infrastructure capacity. The word 'inform' means to 'tell'.

Based on some of the latest inflow data to the Brunswick Valley Sewage Treatment Plant (BVSTP) I would 'inform' Byron Shire Council that we are headed for a Clause 45 Sewerage Moratorium. We have design capacity and collection system problems and this is before any consideration of new dwellings in the catchment over the next 20 years.

Clause 45 would stop any further development that would add to the load on the BVSTP. There are substantive reasons justifying this action.

Under the October '23 exhibited Draft Housing Options Paper (HOP), Mullumbimby is to take up 1,632 and Brunswick Heads 1,990 new dwellings.

It took 13 years to get the current BVSTP up and running. It was designed for 3,800kL/day and commissioned in April 2011 at a cost of over \$20m. It has an Average Dry Weather Flow of 1,300kL/day and is currently running at close to 2,000kL/day. This is without those already approved DAs in the catchment coming on line.

Between 15 and 18 January, 2024, during a rainfall event, BVSTP was exceeding its design capacity by up to 3.99 times. Such events are not uncommon.

Byron Council staff also want to bring raw sewage from the Ocean Shores STP over to BVSTP. Based on the January inflow figures, this would mean the existing design capacity at BVSTP would be exceeded by up to 6.04 times.

► **Continued from page 12**

It's a massive amount of organising, collecting the donated food from so many wonderful organisations, which in turn shows our wider community does care.

The Liberation Larder is a beacon of light in the endless struggle for so many. To the volunteers you are 'simply the best'.

Rhonda Ansiewicz
Federal

Logical symbiosis?

Ecosystems 101: Species function symbiotically.

Removing non-native palms that feed native birds is counterintuitive.

Like removing and demolishing houses to create more homes.

As stated in the HOP document, 'In July 2023, Council completed an infrastructure capacity review for Mullumbimby and Brunswick Heads to assess the water and sewer infrastructure required to support future housing supply.' The audit concluded that other than for some minor augmentation and connection works in Mullumbimby to the existing water and sewer network, the infrastructure could accommodate the projected residential growth!

What is missing, deliberately or otherwise, in that document is reference to the actual STP and its design capacity to accommodate an additional 3,622 new dwellings! This figure excludes bringing raw sewage from Ocean Shores/New Brighton/South Golden Beach's 2,205 dwellings and its HOP-projected 628 new houses!

If the federal and state governments are determined to push the political agenda of a 'housing crisis' then they are going to have to start funding the building of a new STP. The time lag involved demands this be done before there is any turning of any sod for new housing in the catchment. This infrastructure is directly related to public health and the health of the Brunswick River as the receiving environment!

Patricia Warren
Brunswick Heads

■ I am aware that people are concerned about the quality of the water in the Brunswick River.

One of the contributing factors is the E. coli coming from the Ocean Shores Sewage Treatment Plant (OSSTP). The plant has been exceeding its EPA licence. The reasons for this are:

As Byron Shire Council logic dictates, removing Council's ability to make decisions will create better decisions for Byron Shire.

Kate Anderson
Mullumbimby

Call to prayer

What bird will invade if the palms are removed? Territorial vicious Noisy Miners. We will lose our evening 'call to prayer', and Mullum will become like every town between Bondi and Brisbane, ruled by territorial yellow-eyed birds that steal from tables of street diners.

The Burringbar Street Draft Design Concept aims to improve climate resilience and biodiversity in the street.

(i) the operation process at OSSTP includes what is called a 'serpentine channel'. This was designed and constructed in the 1980s to extend tertiary treatment of the effluent leaving the plant by lengthening its exposure to sunlight before it entered the river. This date is significant for what has happened since.

(ii) Byron Shire Council's staff has labelled the serpentine channel as a 'wetland'. This was never designed as a wetland!

(iii) The serpentine channel for years has been generating E. coli and pathogens within itself. This is completely separate from the quality of the effluent leaving what is called the ultraviolet disinfection plant (UV plant).

(iv) In 1995 OSSTP was augmented. A new plant was constructed inclusive of a mechanical UV disinfection plant at the end of the tertiary process. This allowed effluent to pass through the UV plant and removed organic contaminants before it entered the Brunswick River.

(v) In 2003 testing of effluent leaving the UV plant showed nil E. coli. But testing of effluent leaving the serpentine channel exceeded the EPA E. coli licence. It was suggested at the time the serpentine channel should be removed from the process. It wasn't and the channel has been left as part of the tertiary treatment after effluent had passed through the UV plant.

(vi) In 2018 members of the Water and Sewer Committee were made aware the UV plant had to be taken offline because of its contamination by basically green slime and organic matter. It has to be chlorinated.

(vii) In the same year the committee was shown a

diagram of effluent leaving the serpentine channel being recycled by two submersible pumps to pass through the UV plant again! This made no sense because organic matter would be picked up by these pumps and returned to the UV plant. This would adversely affect the ability of the plant to disinfect the effluent.

(viii) Council's Water and Sewer agenda for 21.3.24 has stated that OSSTP has exceeded its E. coli licence through January, February and March! Operational staff have been involved in cleaning the UV plant of organic matter growing inside. It also states they have been involved in cleaning the 'wetland' channel.

(iv) Council will not let go of the term 'wetland.' In 2018 David Pont was invited to attend the Water, Waste and Sewer Advisory Committee meeting. He was introduced as the foremost authority on wetlands in NSW. The current Director of Infrastructure was present when Mr Pont was asked to confirm there was a wetland at OSSTP. Mr Pont responded there is no wetland at OSSTP but there was a serpentine channel. The former mayor asked, 'could it be made into a wetland?' to which Mr Pont responded, 'you could never make this into a wetland'.

It is incomprehensible why Byron Council continues to allow what has been proven to be contaminated effluent to leave the serpentine channel and enter the Brunswick River! The most sensible action to take would be to cut the serpentine channel off and allow the effluent leaving the UV plant to discharge directly into the river.

Alan Dickens
Ballina

To support this, the draft design proposes to replace the existing native Bangalow palm trees with native shade trees.

Do you agree with this? Absolutely not: The character of Mullum, our bird biodiversity will be totally destroyed if the native palms of Burringbar Street are removed. Burringbar Street will never again see, or hear the amazing biodiversity that is our own lorikeets.

Our town is special because every evening a giant flock of birds gathers in the palms, it is a cacophony, a fecund gathering place of Mother Nature's energy, retiring for the night. Mullum has resident birds that return

every day of the year, no matter what weather. It is chatter, it is vocalisation, it is community. This feeling pervades to people as well - whether visitor or local, this call to evening wind-down, is like our distinctive call to prayer.

Miners, while native to Australia, when gathered in large numbers, is not natural. They will not only pinch people's food, they will destroy any other bird populations, aggressively killing other birds. Lorikeets are our joy - let's not replace the joy with a curse. Mullum needs to retain its distinctive character.

Susan Fell
Mullumbimby

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

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

- The amount of renewable electricity the system produces or the amount of electricity consumption it reduces.
- The climate region where it's installed.

Under the package, the federal government will pay around \$400 per kilowatt towards cost of a solar system.

This amount reduces at the end of the calendar year so the right time to invest in solar is now.



ProSolar has designed three great packages to help you take advantage of the federal government discount.



Let's break it down

Maxine and Daniel are considering a 5.81kW solar system, supplied and installed by ProSolar for \$8,170. The federal government discount for this system is \$2,432 (at time of publishing). This brings their system cost down to \$5,738 saving them \$1,750 per year enabling them to pay back their investment in 3.13 years!

Alternatively the same system can be financed for \$32 per week. This can be an attractive way to reduce your bill and put the money you would normally pay your power company into your very own power system in your rooftop.

ProSolar provides advice and guidance in a simple and easy way, to ensure you select the optimal solution for your home and budget. This is the best opportunity Northern Rivers families and business owners have ever had to generate our own power. **For more information, call ProSolar on 02 7912 0760 or 0482 082 304.**

4.4kW Solar System

- 10 x Canadian 415W panels with a 25-year product and 25-year
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- 1 x GoodWe 4.2kW inverter with a 10-year premium warranty
- Cost \$5,995
- Less federal government discount of \$1,710
- **Total cost after discount = \$4,285 or \$22 per week.**

6.6kW Solar System

- 15 x JA 440W N-Type BiFacial Panels with a 25-year product and 30-year warranty
- 1 x GoodWe 5kW inverter with a 10-year premium warranty
- Cost \$9,300
- Less federal government discount of \$2,774
- **Total cost after discount = \$6,526 or \$33 per week.**

8.8kW Solar System

- 20 x JA 440W N-Type BiFacial Panels with a 25-year product and 30-year warranty
- 1 x GoodWe 8.5kW inverter with a 10-year premium warranty
- Cost \$12,454
- Less federal government discount of \$3,648
- **Total cost after discount = \$8,806 or \$45 per week.**

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



ProSolar Australia 91 Lockton Road, Bexhill, NSW 2480
02 7912 0760 | prosolaraustralia.com.au

Byron Arts & Industry Estate



1. GO TANGO

Go Tango's new studio is now open for business, offering weekly social Argentine Tango lessons at all levels. Beginner 4-week courses are available every month. Teaching is focused on ease and enjoyment. Join the fun - get out, move, smile and feel good!

Bookings essential - contact Esther.
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1/102-104 Centennial Circuit
www.gotango.com.au



2. CIRCUS ARTS BYRON BAY

Join Circus Arts this April and learn circus in a supportive and non-competitive environment, the perfect activity for all levels!

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Adult classes & 6-week courses | 2 April – 11 May

Term 2 Kids & Teens | 29 April – 6 July

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17 Centennial Circuit



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@ bodylanguagebyronbay
www.bodylanguagebyronbay.com



4. LOYAL CRUSH

Loyal Crush has moved! You can now find them upstairs in their brand new store. Drop in and try their range of perfumes, pick up your favourite journal or try out their range of makeup and skincare.

Shop their range of completely cruelty-free beauty and wellness products. Open 8.30am to 4pm, Monday to Friday.

The Depot
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23/73 Centennial Circuit
www.loyalcrush.com



5. VAMPT VINTAGE DESIGN

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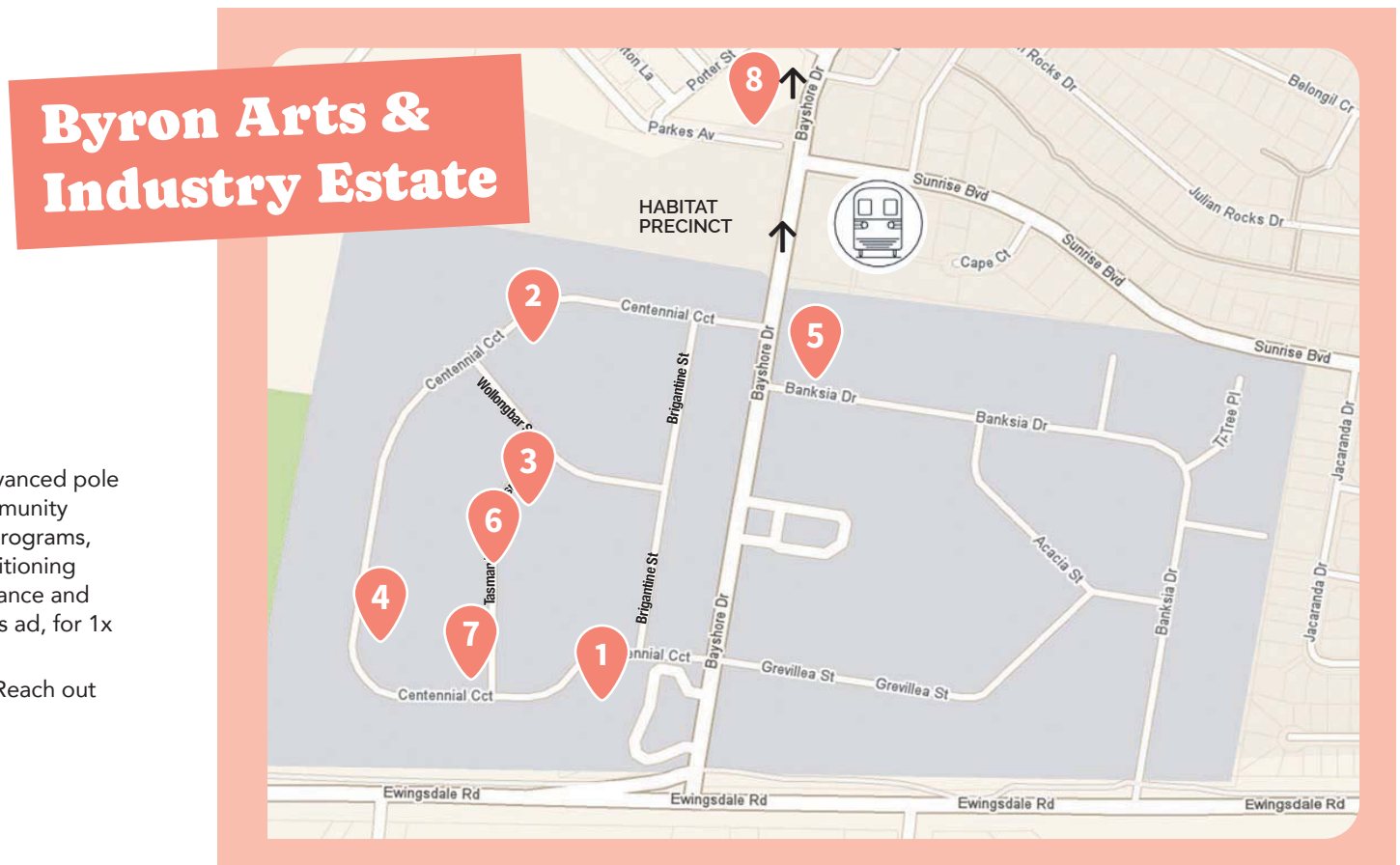


6. BODY FLOW PHYSIOTHERAPY

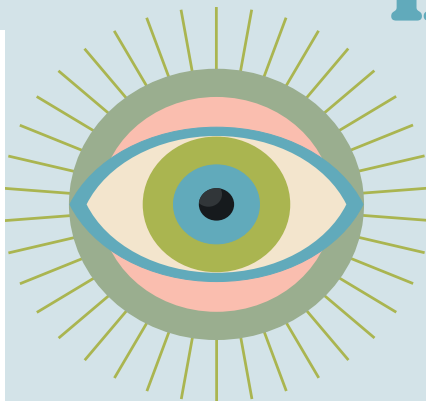
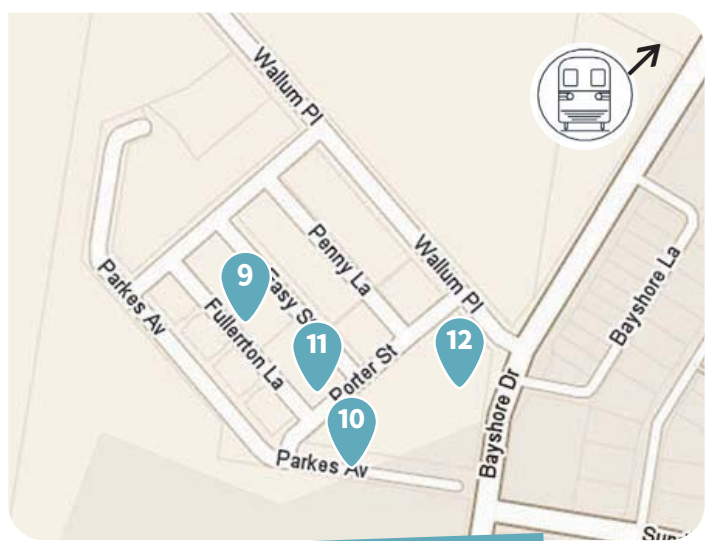
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Habitat Precinct



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

Over 20 years in the making, Habitat combines the best of old-school Byron (community, creativity, respect for the environment) with the latest in design and thinking (renewable energy, car sharing, hybrid live + work spaces) along with plenty of good times (bars, cafes, fitness, shopping) to create a little oasis within one of the most beautiful places on Earth.



HABITAT

Get out of town! Visit Habitat where you can shop, eat, drink and recharge, all in one place. They've carefully curated every flagship store, independent boutique and fashion label, so you can find the iconic style you'd expect from Byron, hassle free.

Plus, they've got all your favourite health and wellness studios and good food galore.

Habitat, Byron Bay

Habitat Precinct



7. BYRON BAY CAMPING & DISPOSALS

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

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

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

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



8. NORTH BYRON HOTEL

This mecca of incredible food, great music and a relaxed atmosphere perfectly captures the Byron vibe. Soak up the sunshine in their lush gardens with delicious cocktails and seasonal eats. Take home a tippie from North Byron Liquor Merchants, the best boutique bottle shop in the region. Try locally sourced spirits, craft beers and hand-selected wines at their weekly tastings!

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www.northbyronhotel.com.au



9. THE SECRET BYRON BAY

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10. ASTRID DISPENSARY AND CLINIC

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

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Suites 57-58/1 Porter St
[@astrid.health](https://www.instagram.com/astrid.health)
www.astrid.health



11. BYRON FAMILY LAW

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

02 6687 2774
1 Porter Street
www.byronfamilylaw.com.au



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Ready to scale your 7-figure business to 8? Join this monthly 7-Figures Business Mastermind specialising in e-commerce, SAAS, and online ventures. Led by a tech entrepreneur working with US private equity and running a 70+ employee company, receive guidance from fractional consultants across digital marketing, operations, finance, sales and HR.

Join their community at wldm.io/mastermind
Building B1/1 Porter St

Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BYRON BAY

NORTH BYRON HOTEL
61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay
6685 6500
Open: 11am Mon–Fri & 8am Sat–Sun
Kitchen hours: 11:30am–late daily
Breakfast: 8am–11am Sat & Sun
www.northbyronhotel.com.au

Step away from the centre of town and into a shimmering oasis away from crowds.
A tucked away treasure, the North Byron Hotel is a thriving mecca of good food, great music, laughter and the 'chilled Byron Bay vibes'.
Eat Drink Discover

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

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

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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.

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6680 9183
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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
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BANGALOW

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7am–2pm weekends.
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Pizza & drinks only: 2–5pm
Dinner from 5pm

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Bookings essential.
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MULLUMBIMBY

The Empire
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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.

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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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Caper Byron Bay Food & Culture Festival

Caper Byron Bay Food & Culture Festival returns to Byron Bay in May, and this year 'locals favourite' pub North Byron Hotel will be its 'official watering hole' and presenting partner. With a line-up curated by celebrated chef Louis Tikaram – a local who's worked around the world with industry heavyweights – this 10-day event (17–26 May 2024), spanning two weekends, honours the amazing produce, restaurants, arts and wellness community, and counterculture of the Northern Rivers.



Louis and Jedd (licensee of North Byron Hotel)

from live music performances to cooking demonstrations, kids' pony rides with Zephyr Horses, and cheese and wine tastings, ensure there's something for everyone. All Caper Festival ticket holders will receive a complimentary drink coupon with every purchase too.

Highlight of the festival

The 'We Like to Tiki' official closing party at North Byron Hotel might well be a highlight, where Louis Tikaram, Jake

Key chefs and restaurants involved

Dave Moyle from Salty Mangrove (inaugural festival organiser), Darren Robertson from Three Blue Ducks, Jason Saxby from Raes on Wategos, Ben Devlin from Pipet, Matt Stone from You Beauty, Mindy Woods from Karkalla, Karl and Katrina Kanetani from Beach Byron Bay, Pepsi Nakbunchuay from Bang Bang, Robbie Oijvall from Lightyears, and Marcello Polifrone from Harvest.

For everyone

As the official watering hole for the festival, North Byron Hotel is the perfect venue to kick off the festivities or unwind after a day of indulgence. The pub's daily activities,

Kellie (Arke, Adelaide), Ross Magnaye (Serai, Melbourne), and Jedd Rifai (North Byron Hotel) will delight guests with Pacific snacks cooked over an open fire, paired with refreshing drinks. Attendees are encouraged to dress loud and dance the night away to live music and DJs with the closing after-party kicking on late.

Caper Byron Bay Food & Culture Festival welcomes all who love Byron, from locals to those travelling through – this is a chance to unite at an annual event which pays a toast to the unique Rainbow Region.

Don't miss your chance to be a part of this culinary adventure. For ticket purchases visit capebyronbay.com and the festival's Insta @caperbyronbay.

The Good Life

Breakfast, Bluesfest weekend

Victoria Cosford

Oh to be a cow with a four-chambered stomach system! Farmers' market, Bluesfest long weekend, a spot of shopping for glorious Northern Rivers produce – but you'll want breakfast, or snacks, to fortify you for the big days and nights ahead. Except: all those options!

About a third of the Mullum Farmers Market could be nicknamed 'Eat Street', such is the plethora of food outlets. At Yummify, fiery-haired Arianne has a showcase of fabulous vegan treats like risotto balls, quinoa-based poke bowls, and passionfruit slabs. Then there's spicy, sticky deliciousness at Indonesian Kitchen: skewers and spring rolls and fried rice, samosas and noodles. River Café alumni Rob and Michelle from Nomadic Kitchen are back with their



glorious country-style Italian-accented breakfasts (those omelettes!) and cakes.

Then there's Radiance Kitchen with their divine gluten-free dumplings hand-made in rainbow colours, their potstickers and stuffed sticky rice cones – or, if you're feeling French, Peace Love & Crepes for a sweet or savoury crepe, gluten-free

batter and bulging with spinach and cheese, pesto and olives, or salted butter caramel.

Want something snacky, or to bear away with you as picnic ideas once you're out at the grounds, rug unfurled, a pause between musical acts? Both Cheeses Loves You and Nimbin Valley Dairy offer loads of beautiful local cheeses,

though you'll need Scratch Patisserie or Crabbes Creek Woodfired bread to go alongside, plus Grumpy Grandma's olives and dips courtesy of Spice Palace or Baraka. Oh, and Bay Smokehouse rillettes and Church Farm pickles... plus a Matcha Byron muffin or a Sourdough Doughnut – check out the Hot Cross Donuts! – just to nibble on.

Too many choices, only one stomach. Happy Bluesfest!

■ Yummify, Nomadic Kitchen, Indonesian Kitchen, Radiance Kitchen, Peace Love & Crepes, Cheeses loves You, Nimbin Valley Dairy, Crabbes Creek Woodfired, Scratch Patisserie, Grumpy Grandma's, Spice Palace, Baraka, Church Farm, Bay Smokehouse, Matcha Byron and Sourdough Doughnuts are at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am.

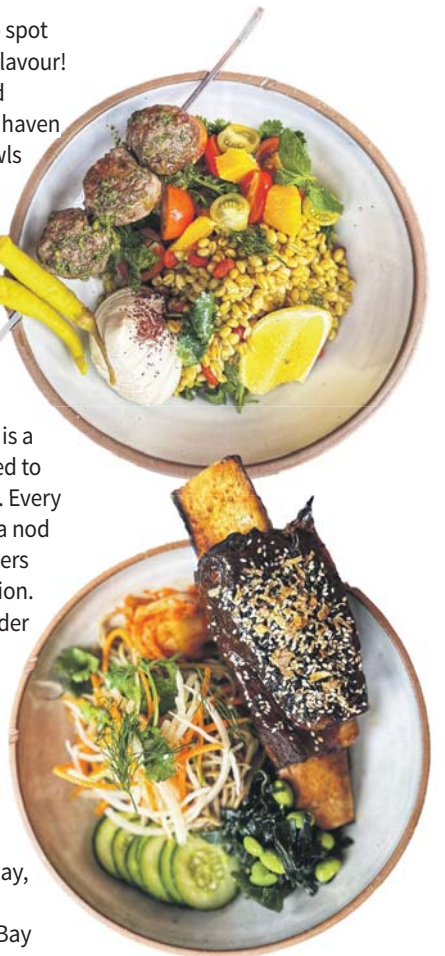
Superbowls

Superbowls is your go-to spot for a burst of woodfired flavour!

Nestled in Byron Arts and Industry Estate, the cosy haven serves up delectable bowls and smoothies crafted with locally sourced ingredients. Dive into a healthy, seasonal menu that's sure to nourish both body and soul. More than just a food destination, Superbowls is a community hub dedicated to supporting local farmers. Every woodfire-cooked dish is a nod to the hardworking growers and producers in our region. In a rush? No worries! Order online and savour the Superbowls experience from the comfort of your home or office.

Embark on a unique culinary adventure!

■ Open Monday to Friday, 8:00am to 2:30pm
1/6 Tasman Way, Byron Bay
www.superbowls.com.au
@superbowls_byronbay



Launched to market in July 2022, Hiatus Beers is all about brewing crisp, refreshing, full-flavoured, non-alcoholic beer. The founders (Jules Ryan, Nic Sandery and Nick Detmold) have been in the alcoholic drinks industry for 20 years and with age, health and young families all had become interested in the 'no and low' space, more from a perspective of managing alcohol consumption versus removing it completely. Jules

and Nick shared the view there was room in the market for a premium dedicated non-alcohol beer brand and Nic was already making some fantastic non-alcoholic beers at his brewery Molly Rose in Melbourne. Jules had previously worked with both Nick and Nic and was the common link and from the initial catch-up it was clear the three were a great fit of skills and experience and they all saw the same opportunity.

Who are Hiatus Beers for?

Hiatus Beers are for anyone who is looking to take a break from alcohol. It was incredibly important to Jules, Nic and Nick to develop a brand and beer that was inclusive and that everyone could enjoy, beer drinkers and non-beer drinkers. At the same time the founders, long time beer industry participants, wanted to create a beer they could enjoy if they were having a day or week off alcohol, or as a 'spacer' drink

before wine or beer to avoid layering alcohol on alcohol.

Enjoy a Hiatus

So if you are thinking about taking a break for a day, a week, a month or just the next round, check out our first release Non-Alcoholic Pacific Ale (NAPA) with all the classic tropical aromas and flavours and a hint of balancing bitterness.

■ Sales and partnership enquiries Contact Jules Ryan
M: 0421 510 559
E: jules@hiatusbeers.com
INSTA: @drinkhiatusbeers
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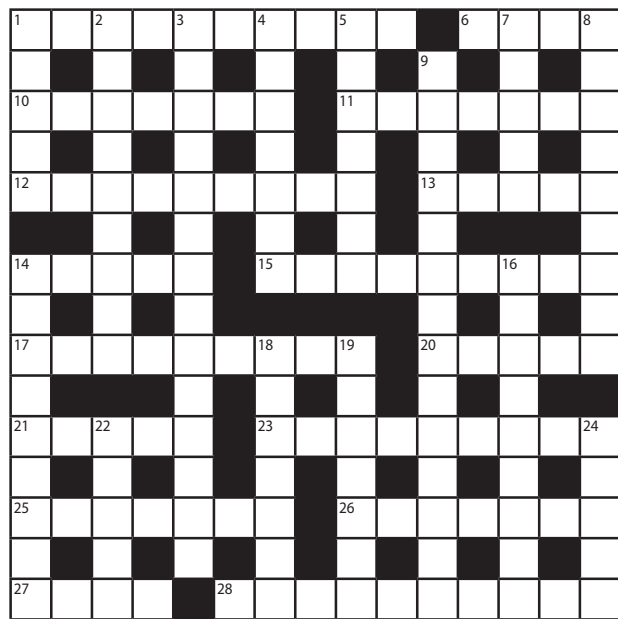
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Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Savoury snack for sleuth – thanks, a bag (4,6)
- Horrible vile sin (4)
- Communications giant called bank employee left extremist (7)
- Make a mistake with notices covering jobs (7)
- Eastern Australian turns back for painful callus – a cob! (3,2,4)
- Ocean returns to engulf ship of fools (5)
- Alarm – god in charge! (5)
- Lofty arrangement – a big ask (4,5)
- Last word – it's over, that's the answer for conveniences (9)
- Provide income – but finish with a cry of pain! (5)
- Find equivalent contest (5)
- A cat slain brutally – fiendish! (9)
- Nana, a lawyer in Spanish city (7)
- Follower, a job with the French (7)
- No quarter – not any (4)
- Hang English-Spanish grandee – found necessary (8,2)

DOWN

- Former newsreel organisation presents 'Trail over East' (5)
- Cheer in a dream – that's patience (9)
- Making peace, senior school course – M1 (7,7)
- Relieve soviet garrison (7)
- Shorebird in mystery tale – endless! (7)
- Openings, but no start for happenings (5)
- W – the backbreaker (4,5)
- Decorate a grand arrangement – it can link to 3 (5,5,4)
- Man, pig, rat, steer, bird (9)
- Set apart princess and whip, indeed (9)
- Popular nation – where the nobles lie (2,5)
- Place – use it at random (7)
- Time to storm public transport (5)
- Don't get up – fabrication included (3,2)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Flatbread split and filled (4,6)
- Wicked (4)
- Provider of voice, data and video transmission (7)
- Assignments (7)
- Central component of maize (3,2,4)
- Donkeys (5)
- Overwhelming fear (5)
- An unreasonable demand (4,5)
- Pleasant facilities (9)
- Bequeath (5)
- Put together (5)
- Diabolical (9)
- City of the Alhambra (7)
- Proselytiser (7)
- Zilch (4)
- Relied upon (8,2)

DOWN

- French/British film distributor (5)
- Forbearance (9)
- Major east coast transport route (7,7)
- Solace (7)
- Everlasting (7)
- Expresses one's feelings (5)
- Latest in a series of unfortunate events (4,5)
- Victorian scenic coastal drive (5,5,4)
- Rocky terrain grouse (9)
- Committed (9)
- A coffin on display for the public to pay respects (2,5)
- Locate (7)
- Coach (5)
- Stay in bed later than usual (3,2)

Last week's solution #535



Why Being Seen is Beautiful

MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX



There is something profound about being seen. Being accepted and loved for exactly who you are. It's life changing. It's simple. It's transformative. But some people don't get to experience this. Nearly half of transgender Australians have attempted suicide.

That data tells the very real impact of discrimination, stigma and lack of access to gender-affirming surgery. I write this as a woman who was born a woman, who identifies as a woman. I'll admit, that even in that gender role, that fits within the societal binary, I've had my own challenges.

I know the pain of not meeting the societal expectations about what women 'should' look like. What they 'should' do. I know what it feels like to be discriminated against. To be the only woman in the room. I know what it feels like to walk a street and feel unsafe. But I do not know what it feels like to be a trans person.

I do not know what it feels like to have a gender that is different to what was presumed for me at birth. I do not know what that feels like growing up. I don't know the sense of loneliness. The isolation. I don't know what it feels like to be told by society not to be me. I don't know what it feels like for this conversation to sit in the public domain, like it doesn't belong to you.

As a feminist I do not understand or agree with TERFS – or gender-critical feminists. If transgender people don't have allies in feminists who can embrace broad definitions of gender, who can stand in solidarity with anyone hurt by the same system that has hurt us, then what is the point of smashing the patriarchy? From my perspective, trans-rights are an integral part of the feminist movement. A movement that by its very definition, claims to subvert exclusion.



I don't know what it feels like to be told by society not to be me. I don't know what it feels like for this conversation to sit in the public domain, like it doesn't belong to you.

I don't understand why some fear transgender people. They are one of the most marginalised groups in our community, yet there seems to be an endless amount of unfounded, bigoted fear and misinformation. Hate speech abounds. The hate is very often hidden in posts about 'women's safety'. I came across one the other day on a local community Facebook page. I will not repeat what it said because it was so offensive, but it inferred that transgender acceptance would lead to women being unsafe in public bathrooms. Mainly men were on the post.

I scanned past it and wondered how admin of the group had not blocked it. I read the comments. It was a hate fest. There wasn't a single comment

in defence of trans people. I can't imagine what it would feel like reading that as a person who identified as transgender. As a cis-woman I found it disturbing. This kind of hate is laced with violence. Ironically they were talking about women's safety – like they give a shit. Real data shows us that women are not at risk from trans people, we are at risk from men. Angry men who we are in relationships with. Men in our families or in trusted institutions who sexually assault us.

So that's what I wrote. Basically, if you are so worried about women's safety stop killing us. One woman is murdered by her partner or ex-partner every week. And it's a man. Be a man who stands up against that. Transgender people in public bathrooms pose no risk. Statistically they are the community at risk in public places.

March 31 every year is International Transgender Day of Visibility. It's about celebrating accomplishments and victories. It's about raising awareness of the work that still needs to be done. It's about being seen. Being celebrated. And being safe.

Let's make our spaces – public, and private – from physical buildings to metaphysical mindsets, inclusive. Let's see.

STARS BY LILITH

Fiery Mars joining Venus, Neptune and Saturn in watery Pisces augurs an atmosphere of steam heat in this week's celestial sauna...

ARIES THE RAM

ARIES: As the sun and Mercury restart the astrological year for 2024 in your firecracker sign, Aries' planet boss Mars sinking into a water element decreases his usual speed. This can be a good thing, so think sizzle rather than grizzle, and please take this week at your ease.

TAURUS: Expansive Jupiter and changemaker Uranus only align every 14 years, so make the most of this week's rare planetary pairing in Taurus: a once in a lifetime opportunity to rethink what you have to offer the world, and step beyond whatever you've outgrown onto a larger platform.

GEMINI: Mercury's been activating inspirational ideas and Venus making adventurous communal plans, but this week random fantasies get a reality check from sensible Saturn calling for facts. His message? Time is precious and you don't want to waste it on what is currently in the too-hard basket.

CANCER: The quartet of planets in a sensitive water sign like your own has the potential to make this full-forward, no-holds-barred, possibly tactless week ruffle some feathers. Try not to take things personally, because it's unlikely that offence is intended, and up to you whether or not it's taken.

LEO: With magnetic Venus putting on her best red dress and unapologetically strutting her stuff, this week encourages you to play with new stylings – think wardrobe makeover, upgrading your website or professional profile, giving your domestic decor a seasonal refresh. Have fun, and keep asking 'what if?'

VIRGO: Virgos like to get things done, but at present make-it-happen Mars has his flames dampened in a water sign. The fringe benefit of this? When you have no option but to go with the flow, fresh perspectives and unexpected insights on how to move forward have a chance to emerge.

LIBRA: The annual cycle of your opposite and complementary sign on the astro-wheel is about creative expression, and isn't that your Libran thing? This exuberant and assertive week could spark some bold adventures, style revamps, artistic experiments and romantic antics, so don't hesitate, reach out.

SCORPIO: As the planetary kaleidoscope shifts our world into new patterns, Scorpio actor Tilda Swinton's recipe for radical living makes excellent sense this week: Trust in change. Forgive human frailty. Make friends with chaos. Dance daily. Challenge assumptions. Listen to the quiet. Defy unkindness. Look upwards.

SAGITTARIUS: The celestial season of the ram is dynamic, enthusiastic, impulsive, spontaneous, idealistic, fiery, jam-packed with dedication and passion. Sounding familiar? Yes, like Sagittarius, Aries energy is direct and uninhibited, and this week could benefit from extra sensitivity, empathy and diplomacy.

CAPRICORN: This energetic week kicks off with impatient Mars and cautious Saturn, your planet mentor, locked in a push-pull, start-stop, whiplash dynamic with speedy Mars urging just do it, and security guard Saturn warning that haste makes waste – all of which make staying in cruise control your savviest strategy.

AQUARIUS: The winds of change rattling your panes and shaking your shutters might feel like you're in the heavy wash cycle at the cosmic laundrette. But current Plutonic rearrangements are also highly favourable for a system reboot, so revise your flight plan, adjust your work procedures, streamline and redirect.

PISCES: With Neptune, Saturn, Venus and Mars all aligned in your sign, this week's cosmic choreography couldn't be more auspicious. Though with steamy Mars meeting misty Neptune head-on it might be hard to tell an oasis from a mirage, so don't make binding decisions without running serious reality checks.

35TH ANNIVERSARY BYRON BAY BLUESFEST

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2024

16 PAGE LIFTOUT!



Echo

**THIS EASTER WEEKEND! BYRON EVENTS FARM, TYAGARAH, BYRON BAY
THURSDAY 28TH MARCH TO MONDAY 1ST APRIL**

PETER GARRETT GIVES BLUESFEST THE NOD

If I say the words ‘US Forces give the nod’, I can pretty much guarantee that you will hear the unmistakable voice of Peter Garrett ringing in your ears. Your head may even start to bob up and down a bit.

Garrett is a classic and not because he is a septuagenarian – it’s because he is absolutely unique, and he’s embedded in our musical psyche.

The Echo spoke to Garrett, on the tail end of his current tour and his prep for Easter in Tyagarah, in Sydney on what he described as a ‘halfway day. It’s cloudy but not raining.’

Can you tell me about the music you’re bringing to Bluesfest this year?

So I’ve just finished a new record, *The True North*, which will be out by Bluesfest. We recorded in Sydney – with Martin Rotsey from the Oils and Heather Shannon from the Jezabels, and a group of other musicians who were in town. It was organic, open and really just reflecting exactly what I think, and where I am at this point in time. We’ll play a fair bit of that I’m hoping, with some special guests with a bit of luck, alongside some of the older material.

I’ll pluck a few Oil’s songs out of the ether and give them a run probably and we’ll just make it the biggest, bestest, most full-on wonderful night we can.

It sounds like things aren’t necessarily set in concrete, but do you have an idea of how many people will be on stage?

It depends a little bit. My daughters Grace and May will be on stage singing which will be fantastic. I really love that.



And maybe apart from The Alter Egos (including Martin Rotsey, Heather Shannon, Evan Mannell and Rowan Lane), we might have another one or two.

Grace also did the design for the album cover and all the artwork this time around. She’s a designer, so that was nice. Bit of family synergy as well.

Is there anything in particular about Bluesfest that you find different from other festivals?

I think the strength of Bluesfest lies in the adherence to the traditions and the backstory of popular music really. It’s not just about the moment, although there’s plenty of that that goes on, it’s also about how we got to the moment,

and having artists that have contributed to where music finds itself today – but particularly on the blues side of things, has always seemed to me to be one of the features of Bluesfest itself.

You said that the new album’s a little bit about where you are at now. What is your approach or your motivation for performing and writing now? Has it changed a lot from when you began? Are there different reasons for doing music for you now?

That’s a really good question. There’s not a straight-up answer for it. Music is so mysterious. It comes and goes on the wind.

You know, I spent such a lot of time in a band that had very strong songwriters, Rob (Hurst) and Jim (Moginie) – there was never a shortage of material. We always had plenty of stuff to chew on and work on. I was very involved in political activism, the environment, and then, of course, ultimately, in that interregnum [don’t worry, I had to look it up too!] in the early 2000s, in formal politics.

As much as I can tell, because I’ve not particularly spent a lot of time navel-gazing, I think that I’ve just created enough space around me, with the charge of coming off two very big tours with The Oils, to find the songs were just starting to spring out of the ‘place’, and you’ve got to grab them when they do and go with them. It’s a very organic thing. It’s not something that you really should overthink in my experience, you just have to sort of almost go with the muse, as it were.

▶▶ *continued on liftout page 3*

IN THIS GUIDE: FULL PLAYING SCHEDULE, PERFORMER HIGHLIGHTS + MORE!

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WE JUST LOVE HIM!

If you're over 50 you might not be a fan of **TOM JONES**, but you can bet your mum is. If you're under 40 you might not even know who he is, but your grandmother probably wet her pants at the mere mention of his name.

Legendary Welsh singer and performer Sir Tom Jones is coming to Bluesfest! He continues to sustain his popularity around the world, captivating audiences with his timeless discography of hit songs and enduring talent and charisma. With a remarkable career spanning over six decades, Jones is widely considered to be one of the greatest singers and recording artists of all time, selling over 100 million records and continuing as an esteemed and influential figure in the music industry.

At the age of 83, Jones has received some of the best reviews of his career for his most recent Ethan Johns-produced albums *Surrounded By Time*, *Long Lost Suitcase*, *Spirit In The Room*, and *Praise & Blame*. Critics have praised both the recorded material and Jones' performances, highlighting his undeniable and unique talent in both the studio and on stage.

Born in the mining town of Treforest, South Wales, Jones quit school at an early age, working various odd jobs before getting his start as a member of a local band called The Senators, later forming his own group, Tom Jones and the Squires, gigging in clubs and pubs around the local area.

In the early 1960s, he signed with Decca Records in London, kickstarting a successful and diverse career and achieving international fame with his powerful voice and dynamic stage presence. He had a string of hit songs including 'It's Not Unusual', 'What's New Pussycat?', 'Delilah', and 'Green, Green Grass of Home' which sat alongside his hugely popular 1969-1971 cross-continental TV show, *This is Tom Jones*. Jones has always had a fundamental interest in a wide range of music, leading him to work with dozens of iconic collaborators over the years, ranging from Stevie Wonder and Aretha Franklin to Van Morrison, Dolly Parton and Ed Sheeran – just some amongst many. Although he is well known for his hits, he is first and foremost a diverse artist with a true rhythm and blues soul.

Jones's career has been filled with

numerous honours and accolades, including a deeply cherished knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II in 2006, multiple BRIT Awards, a Silver Clef Award, the prestigious Music Industry Trusts Award and a Hitmaker Award from the US Songwriters Hall of Fame. He has also acted in films such as Tim Burton's *Mars Attacks*, and *Playhouse Presents: King of The Teds* for Sky Arts. Along with his yearly touring, Jones has continued to be active in the industry as a longstanding coach on *The Voice UK* and being a valued contributor at a variety of events and broadcasts such as the 25th Anniversary of MusiCares (honouring Bob Dylan) and the 57th Grammy Awards as well as many others for charitable causes. His recent autobiography *Over The Top And Back* was a rollicking best-seller, and his 2021 album release *Surrounded By Time* made him the oldest male to claim a Number 1 spot on the UK Official Albums Chart with an album of new material, overtaking Bob Dylan.

Sir Tom has indeed cemented his place in music history as one of the most successful artists of all time, traversing musical eras and genres, cutting across class divides, and appealing to all genders and ages, as well as both mainstream and cutting-edge audiences. Sir Tom has always been about the power of the song, and the power of the voice, qualities that have made him a true legend in the music zeitgeist. Despite the passage of time, Sir Tom Jones continues to be a force to be reckoned with in the music world, and his legacy will undoubtedly live on for generations to come.

On a hectic tour schedule that would make the hardest of rockers wilt, Tom has touched down in Australia, and if Gran has gone missing, she was probably at the airport waving her undies.

■ For one-and-a-half hours of awesome on Saturday night, get yourself to the Crossroads stage for some Tom!



A NOTE FROM THE FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

With anticipation building and excitement in the air, we stand on the brink of a special occasion: Bluesfest's 35th birthday celebration! I, Peter Noble, am delighted to welcome all festivalgoers, old and new, as we kick off this fantastic celebration of music, community, and good times.

Bluesfest has been a hub of creativity, diversity, and pure enjoyment, drawing music fans from around the world to come together and have a blast. For over three decades, we've swayed to soulful tunes under the stars, and this year marks another milestone in our journey.

As we approach our 35th birthday, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to our loyal attendees, talented



artists, and the wonderful Byron Bay community. Your spirit makes Bluesfest shine, filling the air with energy and excitement.

As the festival director, I'm proud to see how Bluesfest has grown, offering a mix of musical genres, from blues and roots to rock and folk and beyond. Our lineup reflects this diversity, featuring a range of

performers who, I promise, will captivate and entertain.

From headline acts to rising stars, each artist brings their own flavour to the stage, creating moments that linger long after the music ends. Whether you're a die-hard blues fan or just looking for a good time, this festival has something for everyone.

But Bluesfest is more than just a music festival; it's a chance to connect, unwind, and enjoy live music in a beautiful setting. Bluesfest week always reminds me of the joy music brings and the bonds it creates.

Welcome to Bluesfest, folks. The stage is set, the music will soon play, and the fun is about to begin. Don't miss out!

Peter Noble OAM



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PETER GARRETT

► continued from liftout page 1

So I think I'm probably more open to that because I put myself in a place where I can be in more of an open field as opposed to the crowded hurly burly of a busy street.

So what sorts of things are you doing to keep your energy up and prepare yourself for an event like this?

Well, touch wood, I've got lots of energy present and it seems to be really coursing through the veins and making me feel very excited about being out on stage. It's almost as though coming off the back of the big Oils run my adrenaline didn't turn off. Sometimes it switches off at this time, but it seems like it hasn't. You've got to make the most of that when it's happening.

Also just drawing on a really basic level of charge and gratefulness at still being alive, from sharing a stage with people and creating an environment where whoever's in the room, can just have that almost sacred experience of sharing songs and performance and making that whole thing work.

I don't ever try to overanalyze it or think about it too much. It just has to unfold, and it in itself is something that produces a form of energy and I've always been someone who goes with whatever I can feel on stage.

It's the final show of this run at Bluesfest so by the time we get to the stage, I imagine we're going to be throwing everything at it plus some.

Do you feel that as a person who has a profile, there is a certain responsibility upon you to put your voice to causes that are important to you?

I think my answer is given on the basis of having



been in the public arena for decades, and been in a band whose politics was very important to it, and who acted upon it, and I've acted upon my politics as well on numerous occasions, for better and for worse, you know.

So, clearly, I think that you do have a voice, but there's a really big capital B for 'But' there – I don't believe that everybody has to speak their politics out, if their vision, and their music is tied up in something else altogether, that's fine. And even when you do, it always has to be on the basis of 'this is how I feel, this is what I think', not a prescriptive view of the world, which says, 'this is how YOU should think', because music operates at a visceral, sublime level, and you add meaning to the music, and sometimes that meaning has got a political edge to it. But the politics itself seriously only happens when you actually DO something. You can sing from the rooftops forever, but if you're not in a position, or you're not willing to roll up your sleeves and go down and get involved in the sometimes boring, difficult and

time-consuming side of politics, whether it's in the local Landcare group, or whether it's, you know, handing out leaflets for a politician that you believe in, or whether it's lobbying, or whatever it might be, then it doesn't mean anything.

What do you find inspiring?

I'm always inspired by the extraordinary resonance of nature. The sort of explicit beauty that the natural world provides for us even when it's taking a bit of a tramelling – and that ranges from the beauty of the great landscapes of the true north – the Kimberley, the South Alligator Floodplain, Kakadu, Cape York – where I've been spending a bit of time over the last 18 months, down to the shape of a gum nut or the way a creek just trickles down through a gully. Any aspect of nature, I find, has always been very, very important to me, and I get a great deal from. Alongside that, in fact, probably even more important in a way to the soul, my family and close friends and just maintaining those good, intimate, direct connections – sharing

the simple stuff and turning off the machines and the screens and just letting life unfold at a slightly less frantic pace.

Do you currently have an earworm?

Well, I've actually got the album rolling around in my head because we've already played some shows, we've done some festivals. But we haven't played them all. And we go into a little studio next week and start writing them down. So I've got some of that rolling around in my head.

Other than that, my listening tastes are extremely catholic and wide. I've been enjoying a little bit of time with some of the sort of, I think, strong female artists of this country – Mia Dyson, Sarah Blasko.

I got the Dylan book for Christmas – *The Philosophy of Modern Song* – I started working my way through the songs that he was writing about and I have discovered some gems there. It's very ecumenical, I'll take something from anywhere and have it roll into my head for a while.

Are you having enough fun?

Probably not. I need to work on that.

I just want to ask you from the point of view of a vocal coach. I'm curious to know how long do you take to warm up?

That's really interesting (laughs) – so, not very long. Yeah, look, I do warm up before I go on, but I don't specifically do vocal warm-ups. I find that you've just got to go with the moment. Once you hear that first guitar chord, once the snare drum smacks you in the back of the bum, and once the crowd sort of looks at us, then out it comes.

■ You cannot miss Peter Garrett and The Alter Egos at Bluesfest – they play Sunday 8pm on the Mojo stage.



PROUD TO BE A PART OF BLUESFEST 2024

EASTER LONG WEEKEND

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BLUESFEST 2024 HIGHLIGHTS!

As always there are amazing performing artists by the bucketload at Bluesfest – more than we can fit on these pages. Over the following pages of this liftout read up on some of the highlight performances waiting for you at the festival.

YIRRMAL

An enigmatic and captivating performer, Yirmal's storytelling transcends time and space. As an extraordinarily passionate and incredibly gifted singer-songwriter, Yirmal creates accessible, powerful and authentic new music of passion and truth, helping people to feel good, and to feel good about themselves. He's from the Rirratjingu clan group in the remote North East Arnhem Land community of Yirkkala, and his works share his joy of creating, retelling and performing stories as old as time – with a fresh, inspired and contemporary reflection. Yirmal's music expresses a powerfully instinctual and intuitive pledge that echoes and embraces buoyant courage and empathy, and he has plenty to say, learning from mentors such as Archie Roach, Shane Howard, Neil Murray, Yothu Yindi and Andrew Farriss. Secure and comfortable in his own identity and belief, Yirmal charts his own journey. 'I want people to forget about their troubles for a while, to live in the moment and just enjoy this music,' he says. Yirmal's self-titled debut album is magnetic – a collection of works that is bold, celebratory and timeless, capturing thoughts and feelings of what it means to be alive in a beautiful and ancient landscape.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY

TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND

Tedeschi Trucks Band is a Grammy Award-winning 12-piece rock and soul powerhouse, that holds a well-deserved reputation as one of the best live acts touring today. Led by the husband/wife duo of guitarist Derek Trucks and singer/guitarist Susan Tedeschi, TTB is known for world-class musicianship and the contemporary blend of a wide range of American musical influences that defines their extensive catalogue. The band is currently touring behind their 2022 release, *I Am The Moon*, TTB's fifth and most ambitious studio project to date. Written while off the road during the pandemic, *I Am The Moon* captures a prolific and collaborative songwriting period for TTB that was inspired by an ancient poem of star-crossed lovers. *I Am The Moon* includes four albums, *I. Crescent, II. Ascension, III. The Fall, IV. Farewell*, and four companion films – delivering more than two hours of music that unfold across a robust tapestry of genre-defying explorations and propels the treasured American ensemble into new and thrilling creative territory. Since forming in 2010, TTB's caravan has travelled countless miles to bring their music to audiences around the world. From sold-out multi-night residencies across America to barnstorming tours through Europe and Japan to their flagship Wheels of Soul annual summer tour, the band's shows are an eagerly anticipated highlight of the live music calendar. Whether on stage or in the studio, when these supremely talented artists get together, it's a musical experience of profound quality.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY



Yirmal



Tedeschi Trucks Band

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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, 27 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:

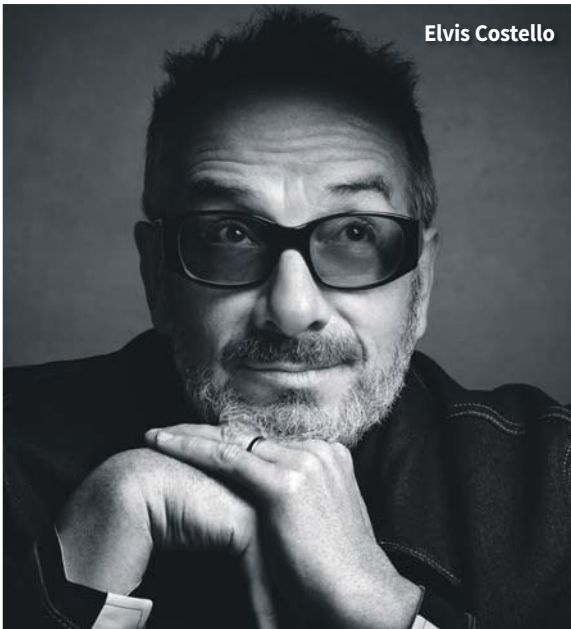
- Shuttle buses will run every 40-60 minutes (subject to traffic) from Byron Bay Bus Exchange (Butler Street). There will also be shuttle bus services from surrounding towns. The bus timetable is now available on the Bluesfest website. Prebook your tickets at bluesfest.com.au.

CAMPING:

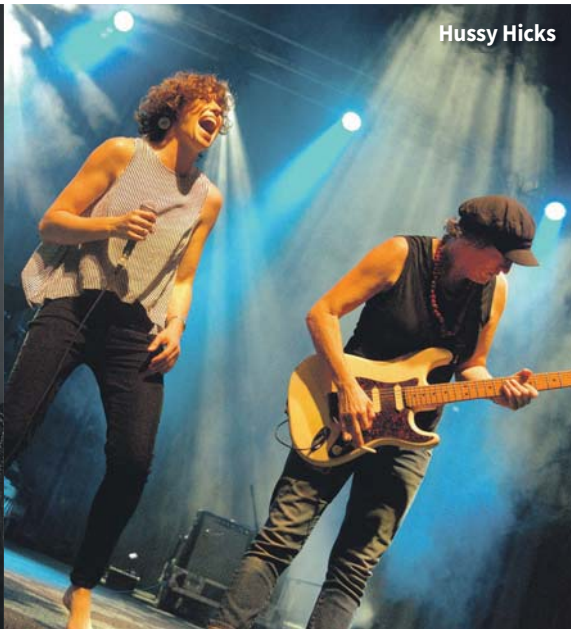
- Camping is encouraged on the Festival site in the designated areas, contact the Bluesfest Hotline for information. Camping is not allowed in the Festival Day Parking Area or on local beaches, parks, or roadsides. Camping is only allowed in official campgrounds. People camping in banned areas will be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



Elvis Costello



Hussy Hicks



The Blind Boys of Alabama

ELVIS COSTELLO & THE IMPOSTERS

Elvis Costello's career is legendary, spanning more than four decades and thirty-plus albums, and his songs, such as 'Alison', 'Pump It Up', 'Everyday I Write The Book', '(What's So Funny 'Bout) Peace Love and Understanding', are classics. He has performed worldwide with his band, The Attractions, and his current group, The Imposters – Steve Nieve, Pete Thomas, and Davey Faragher – as well as solo concerts and appearances with jazz ensembles and symphony orchestras. Costello has entered songwriting collaborations with Paul McCartney, Burt Bacharach, the Brodsky Quartet, and with Allen Toussaint for the album *The River In Reverse*, the first major label recording project to visit New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina and which was completed there while the city was still under curfew.

Costello's songs have been recorded by a great number of artists, including George Jones, Linda Ronstadt, Georgie Fame, Chet Baker, Johnny Cash, June Tabor, Roy Orbison, Dusty Springfield, Robert Wyatt, Anne Sofie von Otter, Solomon Burke and Darlene Love. In January 2020, Costello received the Grammy Award for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album for his 2018 studio record *Look Now*. Elvis Costello and The Attractions were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2003. The same year, Costello was awarded ASCAP's prestigious Founder's Award. In 2016 Elvis Costello was inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame in the company of Chip Taylor and Tom Petty.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

HUSSY HICKS

'Some artists need to be seen to be believed, and Hussy Hicks fit that category.'
 – Sarah Howells, ABC.

Hussy Hicks, the dynamic duo of Leesa Gentz and Julz Parker, have conquered the last decade of the Australian music industry with their unique blend of folk, blues, country, and roots. With their innovative approach and relentless drive to stretch themselves creatively, Hussy Hicks have continued to innovate and push boundaries with their music and projects, captivating audiences all over the world. If you haven't yet, it's time to jump on the Hussy Hicks train, because it's a ride you won't want to miss. For fans of soaring vocals, insane guitar playing, tight harmonies, tasty rhythm sections and big stage energy!

SATURDAY & MONDAY

BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA

The Blind Boys of Alabama are recognised worldwide as living legends of gospel music. Celebrated by The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS) with Lifetime Achievement Awards, inducted into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame, and winners of five Grammy Awards, they have attained the highest levels of achievement in a career that spans over 70 years. The Blind Boys are known for crossing multiple musical boundaries with their remarkable interpretations of everything from traditional gospel favourites to contemporary spiritual material, by songwriters such as Eric Clapton, Prince and Tom Waits. They have appeared on recordings with many artists, including Lou Reed, Peter Gabriel, Bonnie Raitt, Willie Nelson, Aaron Neville, Susan Tedeschi, Ben Harper, Patty Griffin and Taj Mahal. The Blind Boys of Alabama have also appeared on *The Tonight Show*, *Late Night*, the *Grammy Awards*, *60 Minutes*, *The Colbert Report* and many other television shows.

SUNDAY & MONDAY

OUR BYRON COMMUNITY
 With Chris Hanley

◀ ▶ ⏸ ▶▶

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CARRYING AND PASSING THE TORCH

With eight USA Blues Music Award nominations, career tour dates in 20 countries, and her recent induction into the Blues Victoria Hall of Fame, **FIONA BOYES** is a relentless and curious musical explorer. Fiona plays deep blues, influenced by a myriad of traditional regional styles and has carved an international reputation as a blues guitarist, bandleader, vocalist and songwriter.

Winner of the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, USA, she is also a Blues Blast Music Award winner and former Port Fairy Folk Festival Artist of the Year. Fiona's nomination for the Koko Taylor Award (Best Traditional Female Artist) at the 2019 USA Blues Music Awards in Memphis was her eighth BMA nomination over various categories since 2007. Fiona is the only Australian ever to be nominated for these awards, which are considered to be the Grammys of the Blues.

We caught up with Fiona to see what she likes about Bluesfest.

Fiona, like me, you're a Melbourne girl.

I'm a Melbourne girl originally and it's funny because when people say where are you from? I say I'm from Melbourne - I still consider myself quite Melburnian but I actually haven't lived at home in Melbourne for some 15 years. I lived in America for a couple of years and I've been in South Australia and Canberra and I did a stint for quite some time in the Northern Rivers.

It's actually funny because when I first got started as a player, I didn't start playing till I was in my late 20s, and in my first band, one of the first times I got out of Melbourne, was Bluesfest in 1995 when it was a bunch of fields at Belongil.

Traditionally when you think of blues you think of old black men in smoky-filled rooms in the Mississippi Delta and



here you are, a white blonde Australian chick. Do people find that unusual when you walk out on stage?

I have to say that I've been absolutely thrilled and humbled at how well received and how welcomed I've been by the elder statesmen and women of the blues - you know, when you go to America you're conscious that you're playing an American art form.

We've lost a lot of those older players over recent years - I got to play with Pinetop Perkins, the legendary piano player who played with Muddy Waters and everybody else - he recorded on one of my albums. He sat in on a session, he was 96 and he played piano, and it was just fabulous. And for me, it was not only a chance to play with these players, for me, the whole concept of the blues is about that notion of it being an historic thread and it is a traditional art form. So when you write and play, you need to be respectful of the genre. But then, of course, you try and find your own voice within it, and part of that is respect

for elders and to have the opportunity to sit with those foundational players.

It's not just about 'what can I learn' or 'what licks can I pinch' or something, but also to listen to their stories, because the whole history is amazing.

It's like the whole package of that learning from the elders and passing the torch on to younger players, that I think has been foundational to the music.

I've played some pretty funky places in the States and I've had the chance to play in some very traditional black juke joints in the south where white players don't often play, you know, let alone white women from Australia, so to be accepted, and often encouraged by those by those older players is just priceless to me.

What inspires you?

My inspiration tends to be very much drawn from the roots of the music. A lot of people who love blues have fallen in love

with rock and then found a player like Hendrix or Clapton and gone 'where are their roots?' and moved back.

The first blues I ever heard was the early documentary recordings 20s 30s 40s, and classic Chicago was from the 50s, and the closer to the roots it gets, the happier I am generally, but as far as songwriting goes, look, it's magic, I don't even know where that inspiration comes from. Some songs you have an idea and you agonise over it takes ages for a song to settle. And some songs, I've had a couple of songs in particular, that I just wrote down a title on a piece of paper and put it away and then five years later, I got up one morning, picked up my guitar and played the song.

Are you having enough fun?

Yes, I am. I do. I actually have a song which is called Too Happy To Sing The Blues because I was told once I smile too much to be in a blues band.

■ You too can have too much fun with Fiona Boyes & The Fortune Tellers on Thursday and Saturday at Bluesfest.

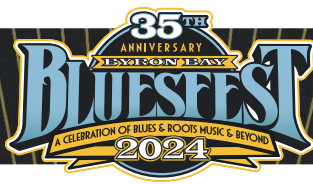
JIMMY BARNES

Jimmy Barnes is the heart and the soul of Australian rock and roll. His name evokes the sound of ear-splitting rock classics plus signature readings of soul standards. He has enjoyed nineteen #1 albums here - more than The Beatles - and sold more records in this country than any other local artist. For well over 40 years he has delivered some of our most intense and iconic live performances and sung unforgettable hits like 'Working Class Man', 'Flame Trees', 'No Second Prize', 'Khe Sanh' and 'Shutting Down Our Town'. From a wild youth fronting the legendary Cold Chisel to his more recent years as a beloved family man, Jimmy has been through it all, and literally lived to tell the tales. He is truly in a league of his own, having been inducted into the ARIA Hall of Fame - twice.

SUNDAY



THURSDAY 28TH MARCH



Echo 7

Playing schedule subject to change

CROSSROADS

22.00-23.15 PORTUGAL. THE MAN EXCLUSIVE
 20.30-21.30 ZIGGY ALBERTS
 19.00-20.00 DAN SULTAN (Band)
 17.30-18.30 YIRRMAL
 16.00-17.00 JACKIE VENSON EXCLUSIVE
 15.30-15.45 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

MOJO

21.00-22.30 ELVIS COSTELLO & THE IMPOSTERS
 19.30-20.30 DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS
 18.00-19.00 ALLMAN BETTS FAMILY REVIVAL
 16.30-17.30 TAJ FARRANT

DELTA

21.30-22.30 PLAYING FOR CHANGE BAND
 20.00-21.00 HERE COME THE MUMMIES EXCLUSIVE
 18.30-19.30 SWEET TALK
 17.00-18.00 BEN SWISSA

JAMBALAYA

20.30-21.30 CARAVANA SUN
 19.00-20.00 MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO
 17.30-18.30 FIONA BOYES & THE FORTUNE TELLERS
 16.00-17.00 WOMEN OF SOUL COLLECTIVE



TAJ MAHAL

'The blues is bigger than most people think,' says Taj Mahal. 'You could hear Mozart play the blues. It might be more like a lament. It might be more melancholy. But I'm going to tell you: the blues is in there.' Taj is a towering musical figure – a legend who transcended the blues not by leaving them behind, but by revealing their magnificent scope to the world. Quantifying the 77-year-old's significance is impossible, but people try anyway. A 2017 Grammy win for TajMo, Taj's collaboration with Keb' Mo', brought his Grammy tally to three wins and 14 nominations, and underscored his undiminished relevance more than 50 years after his solo debut. Blues Hall of Fame membership, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Americana Music Association, and other honours punctuate his résumé. Taj appreciates the accolades, but his motivation lies elsewhere. 'I just want to be able to make the music that I'm hearing come to me – and that's what I did,' says Taj. 'When I say, "I did", I'm not coming from the ego. The music comes from somewhere. You're just the conduit it comes through. You're there to receive the gift.'

SATURDAY & SUNDAY



THE WAIFS

The Waifs have built a career out of continually circling Australia and the globe. From bustling cities to the farthest regional and coastal towns, they have spent more than 30 years sharing their folk-infused, feel-good sounds with adoring, now multi-generational audiences thanks to their enchanting live shows and affable natures. The original independent avant-garde folk heroes turned multiplatinum-selling, multiple ARIA Award-winning, international touring outfit have released eight LPs, self-titled *The Waifs* (1996), *Shelter Me* (1998) and *Sink or Swim* (2000), *Up All Night* (2003), *Sun Dirt Water* (2007), *Temptation* (2011), *Beautiful You* (2015) and *Ironbark* (2017), and two live albums *A Brief History* (2004) and *Live From the Union Of Soul* (2009). Following the success of their recent Australia-wide, mostly sold-out 50-date 'Up All Night' 25th Anniversary album tour, Donna Simpson, Vikki Thorn and Josh Cunningham (with the ever-faithful and long-standing rhythm section of David Ross Macdonald and Ben Franz on board as usual) continue to forge a proudly independent path with no sign of slowing down. The Waifs look forward to seeing you at Byron Bay Bluesfest to welcome you back – or invite you into Waif World!

MONDAY

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The Whitlams Black Stump



The Playing For Change Band



Jerome Williams



Perry Street Park

THE WHITLAM'S BLACK STUMP

The Whitlams Black Stump, formed in 2021, is Tim Freedman and long-time Whitlams drummer Terepai Richmond joined by an 'A Team' of roots musicians, reconstructing the best of The Whitlams' repertoire with an assortment of new songs and classic Americana. The five-piece band features Rod McCormack and Matt Fell, two CMAA Producers of the Year, on banjo and bass, and young gun Ollie Thorpe on electric and pedal steel guitar. The act debuted at the Tamworth Country Music Festival in 2022, and then wound its way down Australia's east coast in a three-week tour that bonded their musical chemistry. The next step was selling out the capital cities on the Big City Debut tour, all the while chipping away at their January 2024 debut album. The themes of the group's repertoire are proudly parochial. Rarely have Australian stories sounded so good on American instruments as when The Whitlams Black Stump casts forth tales of John Sattler's jaw, of Ned Kelly's sister Kate, and of our national impulse to blow up the pokies.

SUNDAY

PLAYING FOR CHANGE BAND

The Playing For Change Band is a tangible, travelling representation of the Playing For Change mission to inspire, connect and bring peace to the world through music. With a unique fusion of influences and talents in constant evolution since 2008, the band currently consists of 10 musicians from 10 countries, carrying music from the streets to the hearts of people. These musicians come from many different countries and cultures, but through music, they speak the same language. The Playing For Change Band is now touring the world and spreading the message of love and hope to audiences everywhere. To date, the Playing For Change Band has played over 400+ concerts in 25+ countries, including being one of the first to perform in Argentina's DirectTV Arena, a tour in Brazil headlining for an audience of 35,000, and a tour in Australia as the opening act for Robert Plant. The band has collaborated with artists such as Bono, Keith Richards, Robert Plant, Jimmy Buffett, Stephen Marley, Manu Chao, Toots Hibbert, Ziggy Marley, Sara Bareilles, Keb' Mo', Baaba Maal, Tinariwen, Los Lobos, Bombino, The Doobie Brothers, Little Feat, and many more. When audiences see and hear musicians who have travelled thousands of miles from their homes, united in purpose and chorus, everyone is touched by music's unifying power.

THURSDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY

JEROME WILLIAMS

Some people march to the beat of their own drum. Jerome Williams marches to the beat of his own guitar. When Jerome picks up an acoustic guitar, he makes it do things you've never heard before. Expect the unexpected as he switches from percussive guitar beats to spitting bars then suddenly throwing in some insane shredding. Kind of like if Drake and Slash had a mildly deranged lovechild. Unashamedly his authentic self, Jerome was put on this earth to perform. His mission is to make people want to get up and dance. Like no one's watching of course. The more chaos, the better. He does this with a pure rawness and a mashup of rock, hip hop and funk. Whatever you do, don't put Jerome in a box - he'll break out of it! By day, Jerome is a captivating and gifted acoustic solo artist, and as the sun goes down, he becomes a phenomenal, high-powered frontman with only one speed - GO! Werewolf vibes but super friendly and fun. Speaking of wolves, Jerome has supported Byron Bay's very own Wolfmother and performed all over Australia's east coast, including Airlie Beach Music Festival, Byron Bay Guitar Festival, Byron Music Festival and, more recently, he played at Byron Bay's famous Bluesfest 2023! Jerome Williams Band comes with a warning: wear comfy shoes. Jerome Williams Band brings their high energy to every single song they perform. They take you on a ride from toe-tapping to high-slapping and ultimately dancing with your hands in the air like you just don't care.

FRIDAY & MONDAY

PERRY STREET PARK

Perry Street Park is your new rock pop cure - stemming from Queensland's south-eastern region, they crossed paths in the Meanjin/Brisbane music scene in 2019, forming the band during the Covid-19 pandemic. Fans of rock will appreciate Perry Street Park's carefully cultivated sound; embodying modern rock (The 1975, Gang Of Youths, The Vanns) while also staying true to their Australian roots (Cold Chisel, INXS). Releasing their debut single 'She!' in early 2022, PSP cut their teeth touring in the months that followed. From playing sets at Byron Bay Bluesfest and Airlie Beach Festival, to providing the pre-game and half-time entertainment for the Gold Coast Titan's 2022 season, the band's popularity continues to grow. Capitalising on this success, they released debut EP *Bad Habits, Broken Hearts* at the tail end of 2022, and three singles over the course of 2023, garnering upwards of 77,000 streams across their discography on Spotify alone. Perry Street Park embarks on a new era, promising a whirlwind of new sounds, stages, and electrifying performances.

SATURDAY

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CROSSROADS

MOJO

DELTA

JAMBALAYA

21.30-23.30 JACK JOHNSON DELUXE
20.00-21.00 MATT CORBY
18.15-19.30 L.A.B
16.45-17.45 COTERIE
15.15-16.15 YIRRMAL
14.00-14.45 EMDEE

21.00-22.00 THE DEAD SOUTH
19.00-20.30 ELVIS COSTELLO & THE IMPOSTERS
17.30-18.30 THE PAPER KITES
16.00-17.00 DRIVE-BY TRUCKERS
14.30-15.30 KATIE MELUA
13.00-14.00 19-TWENTY

22.30-23.30 SNARKY PUPPY
21.00-22.00 HERE COME THE MUMMIES DELUXE
19.30-20.30 MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO
18.00-19.00 JACKIE VENSON DELUXE
16.30-17.30 LISA HUNT'S 'FOREVER SOUL'
15.00-16.00 CLAYTON DOLEY'S BAYOU BILLABONG
13.30-14.30 TAJ FARRANT

20.30-21.30 WOMEN OF SOUL COLLECTIVE
19.00-20.00 SWEET TALK
17.30-18.30 ERJA LYYTINEN DELUXE
16.00-17.00 VELVET TRIP
14.30-15.30 JEROME WILLIAMS
13.15-14.00 BROTHERHOOD OF THE BLUES



Katie Melua



Snarky Puppy

KATIE MELUA

Katie Melua is one of Britain's most successful musical artists, having sold in excess of 11 million albums and received over 56 platinum awards. Originally from Georgia, Katie moved to the UK at a young age where she studied at the acclaimed Brit School of Performing Arts. It is her extraordinary voice, and the ability to truly inhabit a song, that has been her trademark since the young 19-year-old school graduate first appeared in 2003 performing 'The Closest Thing To Crazy'. One of the UK's highest-selling female recording artists of all time, Katie has released eight Top Ten studio albums: *Call Off The Search*, *Piece By Piece*, *Pictures*, *The House*, *Secret Symphony*, *Ketevan*, 2016's self-produced, critically acclaimed *In Winter*, and most recently *Album No. 8*. Her latest album *Love and Money* is out now. Katie is an accomplished songwriter, composer, and arranger, and her songs have seen her tour globally to high critical acclaim. A constantly in-demand touring artist, Melua enchants her audiences worldwide with her uniquely powerful and captivating voice, flawless performances, and charming personality. Katie hasn't toured Australia since 2005.

FRIDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY

SNARKY PUPPY

Snarky Puppy is a collective of sorts with as many as 20 members in regular rotation. At its core, the band represents the convergence of both black and white American music culture with various accents from around the world. Japan, Argentina, Canada and the United Kingdom all have representation in the group's membership. But more than the cultural diversity of the individual players, the defining characteristic of Snarky Puppy's music is the joy of performing together in the perpetual push to grow creatively. 'Our soundscape has expanded dramatically over the years,' says Michael League, the band's bassist and founder. 'When the band started, we were jazzier, brainy and music-oriented. Moving into the Dallas scene we became groovier, more emotional, deeper in a sense. We focused more on communicating a clear message, understandable to a listener, without dumbing things down.'

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

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MESHELL NDEGEOCELLO

Meshell Ndegeocello is an unassuming colossus whose body of work extends far beyond the early hits and virtuosic bass playing with which she is most associated. Her taunting and funky breakout single, 'If That's Your Boyfriend (He Wasn't Last Night)', immediately set her apart as an instrumentalist, vocalist, songwriter, and producer. Less than a year after the song entered Billboard's R&B/hip-hop, dance, and pop charts, Ndegeocello was nominated for four Grammys, including Best R&B Album for *Plantation Lullabies* (1993) and Best Pop Vocal Collaboration for 'Wild Night', her Top Ten hit duet with John Mellencamp. Ndegeocello has remained impossible to typecast ever since. A preternatural synthesist, she has mixed and moved across jazz, blues, soul, funk, and reggae, as well as folk and rock. As a leader, she has alternated just as freely between small combos and large ensembles, and as a session musician and featured artist has written and recorded across an even wider spectrum of styles. In addition to her lithe and melodic primary instrument the bass guitar, and vocals encompassing authoritative raps, pensive spoken word, and ethereal choruses, Ndegeocello has played keyboards, drums, and guitar, among other instruments. Nominated for eleven Grammys throughout her career, the pairing of Ndegeocello with H.E.R. for 'Better Than I Imagined', on Robert Glasper's *Black Radio III* was the 2021 Grammy winner for Best R&B Song.

THURSDAY & FRIDAY

Meshell Ndegeocello

SATURDAY 30TH MARCH



Echo 11

Playing schedule subject to change

CROSSROADS

21.45-23.15 TOM JONES
 20.15-21.15 PJ MORTON
 18.30-19.45 TAJ MAHAL
 17.00-18.00 LISA HUNT'S 'FOREVER SOUL'
 15.30-16.30 PLAYING FOR CHANGE BAND
 14.00-15.00 19-TWENTY
 12.30-13.30 ROSHANI

MOJO

22.00-23.30 TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND
 20.30-21.30 SNARKY PUPPY
 19.00-20.00 THE CRUEL SEA
 17.30-18.30 IAN MOSS
 16.00-17.00 TOMMY EMMANUEL EXCLUSIVE
 14.30-15.30 TAJ FARRANT
 13.00-14.00 BEN SWISSA

DELTA

22.30-23.30 THE TURNER BROWN BAND
 21.00-22.00 FIONA BOYES & THE FORTUNE TELLERS
 19.30-20.30 ALLMAN BETTS FAMILY REVIVAL
 18.00-19.00 PIERCE BROTHERS
 16.30-17.30 BLUES ARCADIA
 15.00-16.00 DAN SULTAN (Solo)
 13.00-14.30 ROCKWIZ LIVE

JAMBALAYA

21.45-22.45 EXCLUSIVE HERE COME THE MUMMIES
 20.15-21.15 CARAVANA SUN
 18.45-19.45 HUSSY HICKS
 17.15-18.15 YIRRMAL
 15.45-16.45 VELVET TRIP
 14.30-15.15 EMDEE
 13.15-14.00 PERRY STREET PARK 2023 BUSKING OVER 18 WINNER
 12.00-12.45 DA MANAGER 2023 BUSKING GROMMET WINNER



Brad Cox

BRAD COX

Brad Cox, the beloved Australian artist and songwriter, has carved a remarkable path in the music scene, captivating audiences with his authentic spirit and down-to-earth persona. With a series of chart-topping albums and hit singles, Cox has solidified his place as one of the most celebrated musicians in the country. In 2023, Brad's third studio album *Acres* reached #1 on ARIA Country Charts and #7 on ARIA Album Chart and was awarded the Golden Guitar for 'Top Selling Country Album of the Year'. The album stands as a testament to his versatility, navigating thematically from earthy country pop to heartfelt piano-led ballads and anthemic party songs. Following the album release Brad and his band of brothers embarked on the *Acres* tour which was met with overwhelming support, with packed houses singing along word for word, highlighting Brad's powerful connection with his fans, and his established status as a renowned festival headline act.

SUNDAY



Dirty Honey

DIRTY HONEY

Some musicians take a while to build an audience and connect with fans. For the Los Angeles quartet Dirty Honey, success came right out of the gate, and hasn't let up one bit. To start, the band's 2019 debut single, 'When I'm Gone', became the first song by an unsigned artist to reach No. 1 on Billboard's Mainstream Rock chart. Their second single, 'Rolling 7s', entered in the chart's Top 5, and to date, its companion music video has exceeded ten million YouTube views. During the summer of 2019, Dirty Honey was the 'must-see' band at major North American rock festivals, and for their first US headline tour, every, single date was sold out. *Dirty Honey* their self-titled debut album – produced by Nick DiDia (Pearl Jam, Bruce Springsteen, Rage Against The Machine, Stone Temple Pilots) and recorded at his Byron Bay studio – captured the band's lightning-in-a-bottle dynamics and energy of their live sound. The album hit the streets in April 2021, and made its bow on the Hard Rock Albums Chart at #2.

After spending the past year conquering the UK and Europe with three sold-out tours, Dirty Honey – Marc LaBelle/vocals, John Notto/guitar, Justin Smolian/bass, and new drummer Jaydon Bean – returned to Byron Bay with DiDia in April 2023 to record their sophomore album, *Can't Find The Brakes*. The album's first single 'Won't Take Me Alive', is a literal, take-no-prisoners-balls-out rocker. Dirty Honey launched the first leg of their 2023-24 world tour in the US in September, supporting Guns N' Roses, and headlined US dates until December 2023.

SUNDAY & MONDAY

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BEN SWISSA

Meet Ben Swissa, Australia's sensational 17-year-old musical prodigy who is making waves in the industry. With a remarkable live debut at Bluesfest and an invitation to join Coterie on their Australia-wide tour, Ben has proven himself as the one to watch. Tash Sultana recognised his talent by selecting him as the winner of a nation-wide competition, solidifying his status as a rising star. Ben has garnered attention from top industry movers-and-shakers including praise from *Rolling Stone*. Currently working on his first EP across Australia and America, Ben's is also contributing extraordinary guitar virtuosity on collaborations with notable artists across the globe.

THURSDAY & SATURDAY

EMDEE

eMDee aka Mark Hoffmann is the number one underground, independent success story from the Northern Territory who has been wowing audiences with his high-energy sounds on the yidaki/didgeridoo for over 20 years. eMDee's duo high-energy performance is a unique, original composition of didgeridoo and drums heavily influenced by classic drum and bass, jazz and hip-hop that weave a story transcending time or space. eMDee plays with the greatest respect with permission from many First Nations elders such as Djalu, Bill Harney, David Gulpilil, David Blanas and many more. eMDee does not, nor ever will, play cultural songs. He is acknowledged for inspiring an entire generation of First Nations youth to return to their roots to pick up the yidaki once more, by traditional owners based in Arnhem Land, home of the didgeridoo. Inspiring many performance acts such as Baker Boy and more to bring the yidaki into the modern era, eMDee is the only white yidaki player given permission by the Traditional Owners and respected First Nation elders from the NT, to play around the world. He's also the only white didgeridoo player to be invited to participate in ceremony on Country.

eMDee has been acknowledged for his unique style of playing by the now deceased David Blanas, who coined the term 'aeroplane style' in the early '90s and has been noted as a true ambassador for multiculturalism and bridging the gap by actor David Gulpilil.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

PJ MORTON

PJ Morton is a soul singer, songwriter, performer and producer based in New Orleans. With four consecutive years of Grammy wins as a self-released, self-produced artist, chart-topping achievements and countless collaborations, his album *Watch The Sun* was the next step in a remarkable career that continues to bridge styles, traditions, and generations. Released in 2022 on his own Morton Records, *Watch The Sun* features Stevie Wonder, Nas, Jill Scott, JoJo, El DeBarge, Chronixx, Wale, Alex Isley and more. In August 2023 he released *Watch the Sun Live: The Mansion Sessions*, featuring Susan Carol, Shelea, Kenyon Dixon, and more. Following the breakthrough of his *Gumbo* LP in 2017 and the six albums he's released since then, PJ Morton has experienced a prolific and critically-acclaimed streak that has also led to his first-ever NAACP Image Award and Soul Train nominations, BET Award nominations, sold-out shows at the historic Apollo Theatre and far beyond. His resume also includes work with Erykah Badu, Jon Batiste, Yebba and many others.

SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY

PIERCE BROTHERS

Twin brothers Jack and Patrick Pierce's high-energy duo Pierce Brothers has been a staple of the Australian indie-folk/blues and roots scene for years. Bursting onto the global stage in 2014, Pierce Brothers embarked on their musical journey as buskers on Bourke Street. Before long, their performances became an absolute must-see for anyone in the know. Their music, like their journey, has

evolved, resulting in a debut album that climbed to top 15 on the ARIA charts, along with two EPs that made it into the Top 10. Their tracks have garnered over 30 million streams worldwide. Dreams became reality when they headlined a sold-out Forum Theatre, before embarking on an expansive world tour, headlining venues across the globe, supported the likes of Tash Sultana, Boy & Bear, The Cat Empire as well as gracing the lineups of massive festivals in North America, Europe, South Africa, and Australia. As they ventured into 2023, the brothers kicked off the year with an epic single, 'High & Unsteady', a collaboration with the platinum award-winning Tash Sultana, garnering over one million streams and earning a spot on Spotify's 'Happy Folk,' 'Indie Highlights,' and 'Discover Weekly' playlists. Their long-awaited Australian metro and regional headline tour in 2023 was a sold-out success, cementing their status as an unstoppable force in the music industry and a must-see act in 2024.

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

PORTUGAL. THE MAN

Over the past decade, Portugal. The Man has established themselves as one of rock's most prized possessions and a live phenomenon, with over 1,600 shows under their belts and a storied reputation as festival favourites. Originally heralding from Alaska, the Portland-based band – comprised of John Gourley, Zach Carothers, Kyle O'Quin, Eric Howk, Jason Sechrist and Zoe Manville – soared to new heights in 2017 with the release of their RIAA certified-gold album, *Woodstock*. The album was marked by the astounding success of their infectious single, 'Feel It Still', which earned the group a plethora of new accolades – including a Grammy Award for Best Pop Duo/Group Performance, a 5x RIAA platinum certified single certification, a mind-blowing 20-week residency at #1 on alternative radio, and an inescapable presence on the Top 40 airwaves.

THURSDAY



Ben Swissa



eMDee



PJ Morton



Jack and Patrick Pierce



Portugal. The Man

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Playing schedule subject to change

CROSSROADS

22.00-23.30 **BEN HARPER & THE INNOCENT CRIMINALS** EXCLUSIVE
 20.00-21.30 **TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND**
 18.15-19.30 **BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA**
 16.30-17.45 **TAJ MAHAL** EXCLUSIVE
 15.00-16.00 **PJ MORTON**
 13.30-14.30 **THE WHITLAMS BLACK STUMP**
 12.00-13.00 **PIERCE BROTHERS**

MOJO

21.30-23.00 **THE TESKEY BROTHERS**
 20.00-21.00 **PETER GARRETT & THE ALTER EGOS**
 18.30-19.30 **JIMMY BARNES**
 17.00-18.00 **BRAD COX**
 15.30-16.30 **DIRTY HONEY**
 14.00-15.00 **ALLMAN BETTS FAMILY REVIVAL**
 12.30-13.30 **LITTLE QUIRKS**

DELTA

22.30-23.30 **PLAYING FOR CHANGE BAND**
 21.00-22.00 **RICKIE LEE JONES**
 19.30-20.30 **NEWTON FAULKNER**
 18.00-19.00 **STEVE POLTZ**
 16.30-17.30 **HARRY MANX**
 15.00-16.00 **KATIE MELUA**
 13.00-14.30 **ROCKWIZ LIVE**

JAMBALAYA

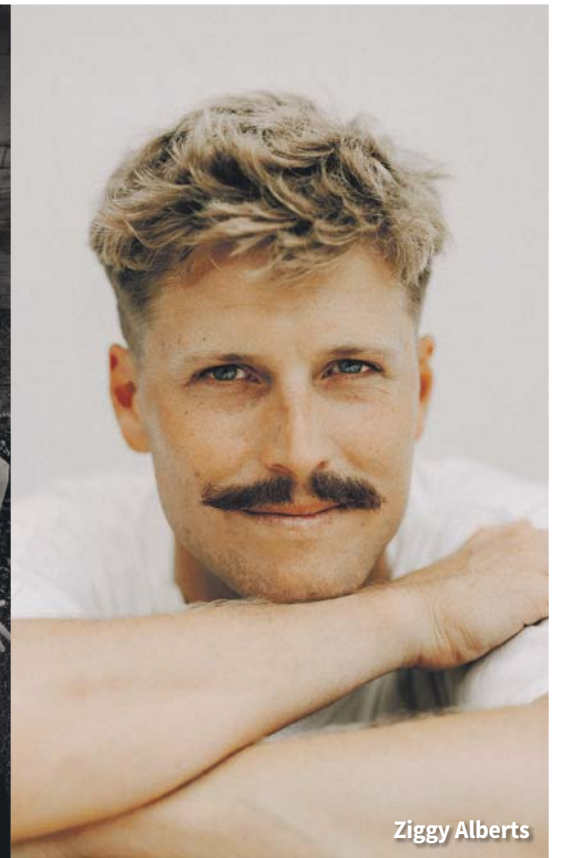
20.30-21.30 **ERJA LYYTINEN** EXCLUSIVE
 19.00-20.00 **JACKIE VENSON** EXCLUSIVE
 17.30-18.30 **19-TWENTY**
 16.00-17.00 **WILSN**
 14.30-15.30 **CLAYTON DOLEY'S BAYOU BILLABONG**
 13.15-14.00 **2024 BUSKING OVER 18 WINNER**



Sam and Josh Teskey



The Cruel Sea



Ziggy Alberts

THE TESKEY BROTHERS

Sam and Josh Teskey, known around the world as The Teskey Brothers, are no strangers to Bluesfest having performed across many of its five stages in various capacities over the years. Going back even further, a young Josh was known to make the annual pilgrimage north at Easter time to witness the likes of Buddy Guy, Taj Mahal, Charles Bradley, Richard Clapton, Chain and many others. All of which had a magic and profound effect on him. Over the past ten years The Teskey Brothers have proven themselves capable of their own magic, reaching global success in a fashion most unexpected for a blues band out of Melbourne. Their soul-drenched take on rock, folk and blues across three studio albums has struck an undeniable chord with music lovers around the world. 2023's *The Winding Way* was no exception, landing at #1 on the ARIA album chart and receiving critical acclaim. On the back of it they've played sold-out headline shows all across Europe, UK and North America, iconic festivals such as Glastonbury, Montreux Jazz and Austin City Limits, and even opened for Bruce Springsteen in Milan. Along with their stunning eight-piece band The Teskey Brothers will close out their massive Australian tour at none other than their spiritual home at Tyagarah.

SUNDAY

THE CRUEL SEA

The Cruel Sea is reuniting with original band members Dan Rumour, Jim Elliott and Ken Gormly to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the release of their phenomenal, 5 x ARIA Award-winning / Triple Platinum album, *The Honeymoon Is Over*. Guitarist/keyboardist Matt Walker will take the place of the late James Cruickshank. While the five-piece was already a fixture on the live scene with two acclaimed albums, it was their 1993 third studio album, produced by Tony Cohen, that thrust the band into the spotlight and firmly planted itself in the Top 40 charts for two years after its release, becoming a favourite with many for years to come.

SATURDAY

ZIGGY ALBERTS

Ziggy Alberts is an Australian singer-songwriter and author who has established himself as one of Australia's leading independent artists. His genuine grassroots story has lifted his artistry into universal acclaim, captivating audiences across the globe – a testament to his songwriting ability and powerful live performance. Founder of his own independent label, Commonfolk Records, and book publishing house, Commonfolk Publishing, Ziggy Alberts has managed to craft what many musicians and authors dream of – the ability to tell a story on their own terms. His sixth studio album, *Dancing In The Dark*, is no exception, providing yet another example of how he showcases his artistic growth and shares his ever-evolving story with the world. In 2022, Ziggy was awarded an APRA for his track 'letting go'. He has also earned ARIA Platinum certifications for 'Laps Around The Sun' (Double Platinum), 'Gone', 'Runaway', 'Heaven', 'Love Me Now', 'Stronger' and *Four Feet in the Forest* (EP) plus, Gold certifications for his *Laps Around The Sun* album and six tracks in his catalogue. With over 1.6 million monthly listeners on Spotify alone, global show sizes on the continuous rise and praise from the likes of *Billboard Magazine*, *American Songwriter*, *Ear Milk* and *Clash UK*, there is no doubt this will be Ziggy Alberts' year.

THURSDAY

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DA MANAGER

Da Manager is a powerhouse four-piece rock band that's causing quite a stir on the music scene after winning the 2023 Bluesfest Busking Grommets Competition. Despite their youthful ages, these talented teenagers are making waves with their electrifying performances and raw sound. Hailing from the coastal region of northern New South Wales on Bundjalung country, Da Manager is made up of Banjo Golder on vocals and guitar, Arlo Kirk on lead guitar, Phoenix Preston on bass and Cruz Kill on drums. Drawing inspiration from iconic Australian bands like Grinspoon, Wolfmother, and early Silverchair, Da Manager has managed to capture the essence of the '90s grunge and alternative rock era while infusing it with their own youthful energy. Da Manager's sound is a perfect blend of aggressive riffs, thundering drums, and soulful lyrics. Their songs resonate with a sense of rebellion and youthful exuberance, making them a magnet for fans both young and old. In 2023 Da Manager released their first EP *Prequel* onto all streaming platforms and recently recorded their newest single 'Max 20' with Grammy and Aria award-winning producer Nick DiDia at his Brooklet recording studio.

SATURDAY

WILSN

Possessing the kind of voice that stops you in your tracks, WILSN makes classic soul music with a contemporary approach and a healthy dose of raw power. Originally hailing from Geelong, WILSN, aka Shannon Busch, moved to Melbourne out of high school to study jazz at the city's prestigious Victorian College of the Arts. Upon signing a publishing deal with Pulse, she relocated to America and spent two years in writing rooms with Grammy Award-winning writers honing her craft, before being asked to join The Teskey Brothers on their 2019 UK/Europe tour. Moving back home to Melbourne at the start of 2020 she began recording anew with producer Stephen Charles (Blessed, Tyne-James Organ). These sessions birthed her debut album *Those Days Are Over* which was released through Ivy League Records in Australia and Virgin Records in the US and UK/EU. Full of jaw-dropping vocal performances, the record exciting fusion of modern soul, pop, jazz and Motown and has all the hallmarks of an instant classic.

SUNDAY & MONDAY



Da Manager



WILSN



The Paper Kites



19-Twenty



Steve Poltz



Taj Farrant



Erja Lyytinen

THE PAPER KITES

The Paper Kites are a folk/rock five-piece from Melbourne, Australia. Formed in 2010, members include Sam Bentley, Christina Lacy, David Powys, Samuel Rasmussen and Josh Bentley. The ARIA-nominated group have released five studio albums, with their most recent record *Roses* (2021) garnering over 88 million streams and *Double J's Feature Album*. They received 160 million streams in 2022 alone from their 6.5 million monthly listeners, and over 1 billion streams across their catalogue. Their single 'Bloom' was recently certified platinum in the US, Canada, Australia, Italy and The Netherlands.

FRIDAY

19-TWENTY

19-Twenty lads have been whipping up a frenzy on the festival scene for good reason. They are electric; an infectious riff and groove-based blue-billy-grass-rockin'-roots band. Their high-energy sonic party headlining shows have sold out in all states and territories. Performing anywhere and everywhere, this straight-up 100 per cent independent act has been steadily gaining new music fans and friends around Australia and Europe, including Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY

STEVE POLTZ

Some people start life with a plan. Not Steve. He opens himself up to the universe in a way most of us will never be loose enough to achieve, and the universe responds with a wink, a seemingly bottomless well of inspiration, and the talent to truly connect with an audience. With a cult following that includes

fellow musicians, regular folks and festival goers who stumble onto his performances, there's no common denominator to Steve's fans. Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and raised in San Diego, CA Steve toured and recorded with San Diego cult favorites The Rugburns (they still play annual sold-out reunion shows). But it was through his creative partnership with Jewel that he vaulted into the national spotlight; co-writing her multiplatinum Billboard Hot 100-busting smash, *You Were Meant For Me*, and continues to work with her to this day. Over the years, the Nashville-based troubadour has built a fascinating solo catalog, earmarked by his debut, *One Left Shoe*, *Dreamhouse*, *Folksinger*, and 2019's *Shine On*.

SUNDAY & MONDAY

TAJ FARRANT

Taj Farrant has taken the world by storm with his exceptional guitar skills and captivating performances. At just 14 years old, Taj has already made a name for himself, leaving audiences

in awe of his talent and potential. Taj was born into a family with a deep appreciation for music, which played a significant role in shaping his early life. Growing up in Australia, Taj was exposed to a variety of musical genres from a young age, thanks to his parents' diverse taste in music. It all started at an AC/DC concert at the age of six. Sitting on his Pops' shoulder's he witnessed Angus Young come up through the stage rocking to 'You Shook Me All Night Long'. He leant down to his Dad and said 'I want to do that for the rest of my life!'. The rest they say is history. Taj's ability to connect with his audience through his music has earned him a loyal fan base, eager to witness his future endeavours. With his undeniable talent and growing popularity, Taj has a promising future ahead of him in the music industry. He has already attracted the attention of industry professionals, leading to speculation about potential collaborations and future projects. Taj's unique playing style and musical influences set him apart from his peers, positioning him as a force to be reckoned with in the music world.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY

ERJA LYYTINEN

Erja Lyytinen is one of the leading blues-rock guitarists on the international touring circuit. During a recording career spanning 19 years, the High-Flying Finn has released twelve studio albums as well as several live albums. Lyytinen's musical pallet is vast, encompassing the very best of contemporary blues-rock whilst inspired and influenced by the blues greats of yore. The artist's last studio album *Waiting for the Daylight* was released in 2022 and was ranked #3 on Finland's Official Physical Album Charts and #14 on the IBBA October Charts in the UK. The first single released from Erja's latest studio offering, 'Bad Seed' was chosen as the 13th Best Rock Song of the year by Classic Rock Magazine. Furthermore, Lyytinen's guitar solo from 'Bad Seed' reached 10th place in Guitar World's Best guitar solo of 2022 reader's poll. Lyytinen has been acknowledged for her work by her fans, peers, and the industry alike with a treasure trove of accolades. This includes being ranked #2 on Total Guitar Magazine's "10 Best Guitarists Now" poll as well as being awarded 'Best Guitarist' at the 2017 European Blues Awards. Erja made history by being the first Finnish artist nominated at Canada's Maple Blues Awards in the B.B. King International Artist of the Year category.

FRIDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY

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Playing schedule subject to change

CROSSROADS

18.30-19.45 **TIM FINN**
17.00-18.00 **THE WAIFS**
15.30-16.30 **KATIE MELUA**
14.00-15.00 **RICKIE LEE JONES**
12.30-13.30 **HUSSY HICKS**

MOJO

20.30-21.30 **INFECTIOUS GROOVES**
19.00-20.00 **HERE COME THE MUMMIES** EXCLUSIVE
17.30-18.30 **DIRTY HONEY**
16.00-17.00 **ERJA LYYTINEN** EXCLUSIVE
14.30-15.30 **BLUES ARCADIA**
13.00-14.00 **LITTLE QUIRKS**

DELTA

21.45-22.45 **PLAYING FOR CHANGE BAND**
20.00-21.15 **BLIND BOYS OF ALABAMA**
18.30-19.30 **PJ MORTON**
17.00-18.00 **WILSN**
15.30-16.30 **ROSHANI**
14.00-15.00 **JEROME WILLIAMS**

JAMBALAYA

20.30-21.30 **THE TURNER BROWN BAND**
19.00-20.00 **NEWTON FAULKNER**
17.30-18.30 **STEVE POLTZ**
16.00-17.00 **HARRY MANX**
14.30-15.30 **LOCAL AREA HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE**
13.15-14.00 **2024 BUSKING GROMMET WINNER**



HERE COME THE MUMMIES

Here Come the Mummies is an eight-piece funk-rock band of 5,000 year-old Egyptian Mummies with a one-track mind. Their Terrifying Funk from Beyond the Grave is sure to get you into them (and possibly vice versa). Since their discovery, HCTM has been direct support for P-Funk, Al Green, Mavis Staples, KC and the Sunshine Band, and Cheap Trick; rocked Super Bowl Village; become a regular on The Bob and Tom Show; appeared on That's My Jam with Jimmy Fallon; played massive festivals like Summer Fest, Summer Camp, Common Ground, Musikfest, and Suwannee Hulaween; and sold tickets by the thousands across large swaths of North America. Maybe that's why the ladies (and some dudes) can't stop losing their minds over these mayhem-inducing mavens of mirth. Some say they were cursed after deflowering a great Pharaoh's daughter. Others claim they are reincarnated Grammy-winning studio musicians. Regardless, HCTM's mysterious personas, cunning song-craft, and unrelenting live show will bend your brain, and melt your face. Get ready! Here Come The Mummies.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY, SATURDAY, MONDAY

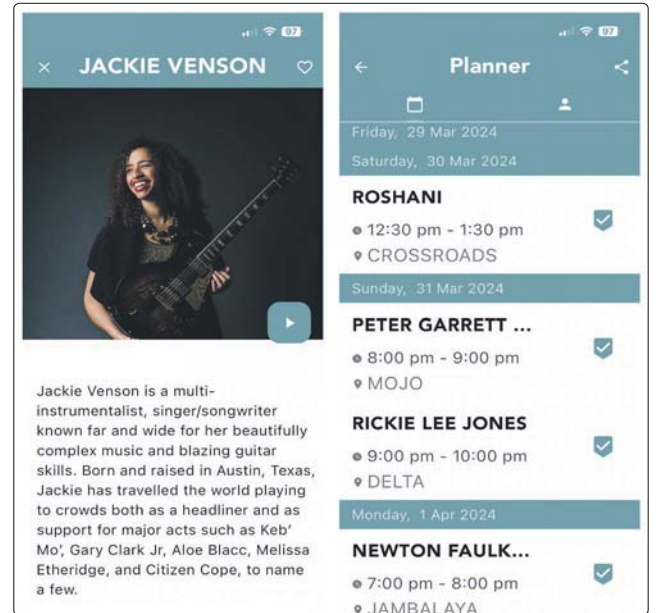
GET YOURSELF THE BLUESFEST APP

The best Bluesfest hack I have discovered in the last few years is definitely the Bluesfest app.

Every year, I find there are so many artists that I want to see, and I have trouble keeping track of them all.

This little doo-dah lets you plan your days - it has all the information you need about the artists, the playing schedules, as well as catching buses to the event, bringing the family and whether you're going to be able to find something vegan or gluten-free to eat when you get there (you will).

It's a great little tool for when you have a free space in between two artists that you really want to see, it can show you at a touch, other artists that are playing at that time and you just might find the best little treasure you



ever saw at Bluesfest.

But the best thing is there is less foot slogging - my ankles turned 60 last birthday and if I can save a bit of energy walking from stage to stage,

then I am a happy camper!

You can download the app for free at your friendly neighbourhood app store.

Eve Jeffery

NORTH BYRON HOTEL



Experience the magic of North Byron Hotel, where you'll find a mecca of incredible food, great music and a relaxed atmosphere that perfectly captures the vibe of Byron Bay.

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Start your weekend right with breakfast at North Byron Hotel. With fresh, locally-sourced food and a relaxed atmosphere, gather your crew and make a day of it.



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MARCH 29TH-31ST

Join us in the Garden Bar for fun for the whole family all Easter Weekend. Enjoy live music, food specials and an Easter Sunday roast and kids activities including an egg hunt hosted by North Byron Hotel Easter Bunnies.



DRAG TRIVIA

EVERY MONDAY, FROM 6PM

Add a little oomph to your Monday nights with Drag Trivia hosted by the queen herself, Terry Daktyl. It's free to play with prizes up for grabs. Bring your mates and make it a weekly ritual.

*Strong language may be present

NEWTON'S LAW OF THE SCIENCE OF SUPPORTING, SPONGEBOB AND HAVING ENOUGH FUN

NEWTON FAULKNER is continually adjusting to a music landscape dominated by flux, he's moved from the phenomenal success of his debut album *Hand Built By Robots* to the surging triumph of 'Write It On Your Skin' – from *Studio Zoo* – which was the first album ever to be live streamed online while being recorded.

Newton in the past has often found himself in his home studio working away solo, but not for this next record or in fact this tour. The next phase for Newton is full of collaboration which you can feel in the music to come. Seeing these songs come to life on stage is going to be nothing short of joyous.

What do you love about festivals?

To be honest, festivals are my favourite things I get to do. It's that perfect blend.

Normally there are two types of gigs. There are gigs where you're headlining and people are there to see you, and then there's gigs where you're supporting someone else, and they're there to see someone else. And the job is different in both of those circumstances. So if they're there to see you, you're starting from that point, they're already converted.

If it's a support slot, then it's different. I kind of got into the science of it, it was really fun. I loved it. And I had the opportunity to support lots of amazing artists, but the roles are different and I think festivals are the perfect blend of both, because that first chunk of people, are

the people who are there to see you, and then for me, it's all about that kind of moving, swirl further back. If you can get them to stop.

For me, a festival 'win' is seeing someone walk past, like at the end of one of the bits of the rope holding the tent up, and seeing them be like, 'Oh, that's interesting', and then seeing them edging in.

I was in the acoustic tent at Glastonbury – and I watched this guy. He had a wild hat on so I could really follow his movements. I watched him start as far back as he possibly could. And he ended up near enough for me to talk to him, which is amazing.

I'm very interested in your secrets of the science of supporting.

What it comes down to is, on the drive home. So they've seen you and they've seen someone else. You want to be not the only one that is talked about not the whole drive home, but just at least get a mention.

So to begin with, I tried to do it with whole songs and fiddly guitar – quite wide, lofty, conceptual things, and then I realised you could do it in a matter of seconds by just doing something absolutely stupid. It really stuck with them.

For me that took a few different forms I mean, I went through stages of basically bartering with the crowd – so if they got involved enough for me to split them into four groups and get them doing something together, I swore to them I would embarrass myself by playing the SpongeBob SquarePants theme – now I have played the SpongeBob tune A LOT!

So it's that thing of just being willing to be ridiculous – but, people were talking about me on the way home and because they did that I'd get 'follows' the next morning and it kind of snowballs because you've managed to stay in their mind.

What is it that inspires you?

It's changed a lot over the years. I think it has to. And I think at the moment truly what's inspiring is I've just had my second child. That's obviously a hugely inspiring thing. I got married halfway through last year, and it's just, I guess, what I thought I was capable of feeling just keeps expanding further than I could ever possibly imagine.

Are you having enough fun?

Currently, I'm not quite having enough fun. I think I've been quite serious, especially at the end of last year. There's been some stuff I've had to deal with. And I've had to be... my eyebrows have had to lower and I had to put on my 'man' voice. And I had to get some stuff done. But I do think I'm coming out the other side of that now, but also, with all the seriousness of parenthood in terms of – you've got to step up and you've got to be a good parent – there's also so much silliness involved in that. I spend a large portion of my evenings just making like a 'pee' noise that my son just hysterically laughs at. It goes on for about half an hour that I should have been putting him to bed. That's like naughty dad. Bedtime high jinks. I'm having enough 'baby' fun, and 12-year-old fun, which is playing Fortnite and trying to work out why I'm terrible at it. I don't think I'm ever gonna have enough 'adult' fun.

■ You can have plenty of fun when you see Newton Faulkner on Sunday and Monday.



byron healing

Do you need a massage, yoga class or nourishing treatment these holidays?

Head to the Byron Healing website to view a host of wonderful spas, wellness centres, practitioners, classes and health based retailers in the region.

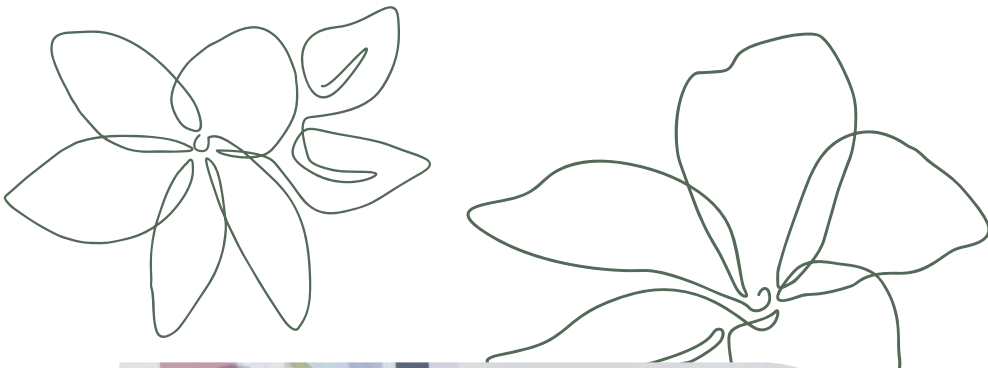
www.byronhealing.com.au

Your guide to maintaining health and wellbeing in Byron and the Northern Rivers





making SPACES



Why buy an adjustable bed? The question should be: why not?

An adjustable bed lets you customise your position, helping to keep your spine aligned, reducing pressure on your lower back and hips, improving circulation to provide a deeper state of relaxation. Whether you're sleeping, or in bed reading, working on your laptop or watching TV, an adjustable bed can adjust to provide the support you need, while reducing strain on your neck and back. With a selection of optional features

like vibration massage, USB ports and underbed lighting, Beds R Us Byron Bay has everything you need to make your sleep and relaxation more comfortable and supportive.

Come in, chill out and lay down

Beds R Us
16 Brigantine Street,
Byron Arts and Industry Estate
02 6685 5212

Eden at Byron

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

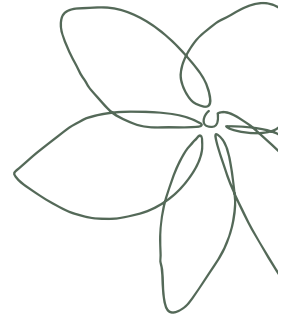
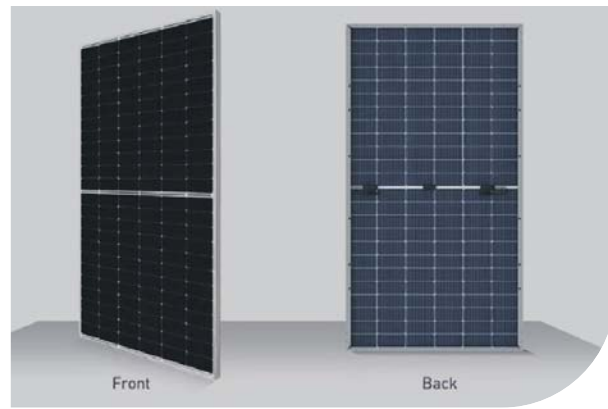
Australian native plants are a diverse group, thanks to the extraordinary range of climatic conditions and soil types in this country. Plants have adapted to survive in environments ranging from coastal heath, through rainforest, to the arid outback.

So, wherever you are, there will be many native plants that will happily grow in your garden. Native plants are not only

beautiful and productive, but they are essential for the survival of our native animals. While many native animals will happily feed on introduced species, some, like the larvae of the Richmond birdwing butterfly, will not.

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

140 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay
02 6685 6874



Pro Solar

Unlock more energy with JA Bifacial Panels through ProSolar Australia

Harness the power of both sides with JA Bifacial Solar Panels. These cutting-edge panels capture sunlight not only from the front but also from the back surface, maximising energy generation. In optimal conditions, they can produce up to 30% more energy than traditional monofacial panels.

Key features include: Percium technology - High-performance cells encapsulated in

glass-glass panels; reliability - superior low irradiance performance; dual-glass design - ensures better reliability and energy yield.

Whether for residential or commercial use, JA Bifacial Panels are your gateway to efficient, sustainable energy.

Contact the ProSolar Australia team today to embrace the future of solar power!

02 7912 0760
admin@prosolaraustralia.com.au
prosolaraustralia.com.au

Welcome to Island Luxe, two unique locations, two unique experiences



In 2007 Island Luxe was created in an old building with original turn of the century architectural features. It became a perfect blank canvas, its pure white stucco walls allowing curated artisanal pieces to become the main focus.

Using nature's palette of muted colours puts a greater emphasis on textures, materials, ceramics and fabrics.

Every piece you see, touch or experience allows you to feel the spirit of the craftsmen who put all of their energy, skill and love into their creations.

In 2010 Island Luxe Tribe was created; a darker, more mysterious space with a cool palette of concrete, steel and raw reclaimed timber offering respite from the tropical heat of the street and a feeling of discovering treasure deep in the shadows.

Island Luxe
62 Byron Street, Bangalow
info@islandluxe.com.au

Island Luxe Tribe
1/11 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
tribe@islandluxe.com.au



Powering the Northern Rivers Since 1987

Founded by solar pioneer 'Peter Pedals' in 1987, Rainbow Power Company's vision hasn't changed. With \$90, some solar know-how, and a passion for the environment, it all began with rechargeable torches.

Started when there were only a handful of businesses registered to sell solar, the company's aim was to be a major protagonist of the increased use of renewable energy both in Australia and overseas.

They want to inspire a people-led clean energy future to reduce global emissions. To empower people to become their own power stations by harnessing the power of the sun (and storing that power for night-time).

Go charge your EV at their FREE charging station at their Nimbin HQ and find out how they can help get your Power On.

02 6689 1430
team@rpc.com.au

Volume 38 #42
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 Editor: Eve Jeffery
 Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
 Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday
 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
 P: 02 6684 1777
 W: echo.net.au/entertainment

entertainment seven



NORPA'S WILD RIDE AT LISMORE SHOWGROUNDS

NORPA is taking audiences on an adventure outside the theatre once again, announcing it will stage its original work *Wildskin* in a warehouse space at the Lismore Showgrounds.

A sensory, destination theatre experience, *Wildskin* inhabits an outrageous and unpredictable world that's part bush-thriller, part road-trip and a whole lot of NORPA's signature theatrical style.

From the company that brought you *Love for One Night* at the Eltham Hotel, *Wildskin* will transform the space at the Lismore Showgrounds to immerse you in the story from the moment you arrive. Be taken on a wild ride with Eva, who believes the only way to mend her broken life is to go on the road, solo. Lost, alone and under-prepared, she is soon breaking rules, and embracing danger.

First performed in 2018, *Wildskin* thrilled audiences with its whip-smart dialogue and hilarious physicality and was hailed as 'A visual and emotional feast' (Australian Stage), and 'Inventive, playful, accessible and life-affirming' (ArtsHub).

Wildskin director and NORPA Artistic Director, Julian Louis, has turned up the dial for the 2024 version, relishing the opportunities presented by reimagining *Wildskin* as a site-specific work.

'*Wildskin* at the Lismore Showgrounds is a fantastic new beast, using an atmospheric location that perfectly lends itself to NORPA's playful and physical style of storytelling,' he says. 'We're creating a whole experience and doing what we love as a company, taking theatre into surprising places, pushing the form, and bringing audiences with us. It's going to be a wild ride!'

Wildskin roars into the Lismore Showgrounds from September 12, for a limited season only, with tickets on sale now through norpa.org.au. Like *Love for One Night* at The Eltham Hotel *Wildskin* at the **Lismore Showgrounds** is bound to sell out, so round up your mates and book your tickets for a night of daring and joyous theatre.

***Wildskin* by NORPA – September 12 to 28 at the the Lismore Showgrounds, 116 Alexandra Parade, North Lismore NSW. Tickets on sale now at www.norpa.org.au.**



DYNAMIC, RUSTIC YET POLISHED

Animal Ventura is the brainchild of Byron Bay-based singer-songwriter Fernando Aragonés. Growing up playing punk and reggae in noisy garage bands in Southern Brazil, Aragonés ventured to Australia where the eclectic sounds of the Sydney music scene beckoned.

It's very little wonder that this eclectic artist has been quickly embraced – from the skate parks in Brazil to surf breaks across Australia, Animal Ventura has rapidly stormed the industry with numerous festival appearances and gigs throughout Brazil, Europe, the UK and New Zealand, as well as chalking up some Aussie royalty supports.

Whether at solo capacity or with his full band mode, Animal Ventura's live performance is dynamic, rustic yet polished and has the ability to transport the listener to different parts of the globe through stunning music.

Sunday at the North Byron Hotel from 12pm.



WORKSHOP
 CREATIVE
 WRITING FOR
 BEGINNERS

SATURDAY
 13 APR
 & 20 APR
 BANGALOW

FOR
 MORE INFO
 OR TO BOOK
duststar.com.au/workshops

NAIMA BROWN

Murwillumbah Community
 Murwillumbah Youth Action Group Presents

MURBAH
 YOUTH FEST

Youth Week NSW
 Express – Empower – Get Loud

Save the date
 Saturday
 13 April 2024
 10am – 3pm

Venue
 Knox Park
 Murwillumbah
 Wet weather alternative
 Murwillumbah Community Centre

Free Entry

Special Guests – Prizes – Competitions
 Battle of the bands – Talent Quest
 Free workshops – Youth Stalls
 Bubble Soccer – Games
 Food Trucks – Skate Fun & more

Drug & alcohol free event
 0481 982 068
 Insta: @murbayouth2484
 youthworker@mccentre.org.au

kalindig.com
 Social Resilient Futures Kids
 TWEED FRRR
 VERTO

BANGALOW THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

SPEAKING
 IN TONGUES

APRIL 5TH -13TH

BANGALOW THEATRE COMPANY

BANGALOW A&I HALL
 tickets via website or QR code

Botanical public domain artworks by James Bolton (1735-1799),



THE PICTURE HOUSE IS TURNING 8

It feels like we were only just ringing in the new year days ago and here we are approaching Easter weekend at **The Brunswick Picture House**.

It's already been a whirlwind start to 2024 with their biggest and busiest program so far, bringing an eclectic mix of some of the hottest stand-up comedy, music gigs, film screenings and cabaret – and that was just last week!

For those keeping track, Easter is extra meaningful to the 'House, as they opened their doors back on the Easter weekend of 2016 with a wild, indescribable little show called the *Cheeky Cabaret* and they haven't looked back!

The reputation of their outrageous genre-bending Cheeky has had people talking all over the Shire, with its weird and fabulous line-up, attracting international artists who would ordinarily play much bigger stages – it's without question the wildest night you'll have in the Northern Rivers! They've put together another bumper season of Cheeky starting this **Thursday, March 28 – running for three big weeks until April 14**.

If you've been to more than their of our Cheeky shows, you'll know that each season features a new cast – made up of troubadours, miscreants, delectable divas and cabaret queens – so no two

shows are ever the same! You'll leave spellbound, titillated and amazed.

Good nights out don't get much better than this.

But it doesn't stop there – the little ones need to be entertained too, so don't miss the wild ride that is *Lil' Cheeky*. This family-friendly circus bonanza is back in an all-new, all-ages circus show that no one – young or old – should miss.

Two Saturday sessions on April 6 and April 13 at 2pm with family discounts available.

Want front-row seats to any of their events? Fancy a discount off your Cheeky tix... or any other gig? Then you should really think about joining their Housemate program. There are amazing benefits, including priority entry to all shows, a 20 per cent discount on tickets for you and three friends, special membership events and access to tickets throughout the year. You'll also be supporting a local community not-for-profit entertainment venue. Consider yourself a friend with benefits!

The Cheeky Garden Bar is open an hour before showtime – grab a bite and a fancy cocktail – before, during the show and at intervals.

And be sure to check out the upcoming program – there is so much to come!

Tickets at brunswickpicturehouse.com.

LAIID-BACK BUT LIVELY

Ooz is an acoustic roots reggae artist with a large, eclectic repertoire of crowd favourites. His unique, laid-back but lively style creates a relaxed atmosphere and his song choices have you remembering many of those forgotten classics. His ability to create layers with a loop pedal enables him to play bass guitar and lay percussion beats to accompany his performances and get the audience on their feet.

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

Saturday at the North Byron Hotel from 1.30pm.

BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

SEXY FUNNY DANGEROUS CHEEKY CABARET

THU 28 MAR - SUN 14 APR

CIRCUS ALL AGES LIL' CHEEKY 6 APR & 14 APR @2PM

TIX brunswickpicturehouse.com | 30 FINGAL STREET

WILDSKIN A NORPA PRODUCTION

Don't miss this wild and darkly comical destination theatre experience, from the team behind *Love For One Night*.

norpa

FROM 12 SEPTEMBER LISMORE SHOWGROUNDS
Buses from Byron and Ballina – see website

BOOK NOW **norpa.org.au**
02 6622 0300



QUEER FAMILY VISIBILITY

Did you know that, statistically, if you've met a redhead, you've also met a trans person?

Over 800 trans and gender diverse people live in the Byron Shire, which includes at least 200 children. They're often a bit hidden though, so come on down and celebrate with them this Trans Day of Visibility!

Join Queer Family as we showcase our local trans and gender-diverse creatives at this fun-filled, free, all-ages community event in Mullum town!

What: Art exhibition, interactive art shows, clay play, performances, musicians, DJ, dancing, food truck, kids' zone with games and activities.

When: Sat April 6, 5–8pm.

Where: Secret location in Mullum central – Queer Family will email ticket holders 48 hours before the show so check your spam!

Cost: Free, but donations to support Queer Family's community work are always welcome!

Get your tickets now at events.humanitix.com/host/queer-family

If you're a trans or gender-diverse creative and would like to have your work displayed, contact us at queerfamilynorthernrivers@gmail.com.

This is an all-ages, drug and alcohol-free event.

Queer Family would like to thank partners and sponsors including FRRR, NRCF, Social Futures, Headspace, Tropical Fruits, and Red Tornado Arts.



LISTEN HOWEVER, WHENEVER

In your car?

Jump onto BayFM at 99.9FM for the Shire's own and only radio station.

On your device?

Find us on your radio app, or go to the source at bayfm.org to listen live or to listen back via the Program Guide.

Yep, you have options.



More at bayfm.org

WORKSHOP IN CREATIVE WRITING FOR BEGINNERS

Have you always felt like you have a novel in you, but don't know where to start? Or have you begun the process and found yourself stuck with a bad case of writer's block? Do you feel the call of creative writing, but would like to learn more about the mechanics?

Consider this the shallow end of the pool, where you will learn all the basic elements of strong creative writing to put you in the best position to both create and continue your own writing practice.

You will research, outline and learn the skills needed to create a well-paced, unique dialogue, leaving with one complete, or nearly complete, short story which will illustrate all of the methods and tools you've acquired; a template and roadmap to apply to your creative writing life; inspiration and big juicy ideas - and the skill set to bring them to life as well as new connections and contacts – and potentially a writers' group!



Saturday April 13 and Saturday April 20 at Bangalow Showgrounds.
Contact Naima Brown at duststar.com.au/workshops.

RECORDS GALORE!

Byron Bay Easter Record Fair returns again to Ewingsdale Hall. Now in its 15th year, the Byron Bay Easter Record Fair is one of the biggest and best in this country. Matt the Vinyl Junkie has spent years on buying trips to the US and Japan scouring dusty warehouses, shops, flea markets and private collections. He can offer an astounding 30,000 records in one place covering most genres.

A recent buying trip to Japan has further topped up the crates. The Vinyl Junkie will also be DJing most days at the fair and will be playing records from the crates so if you hear something you love be quick to buy the copy on the decks while it spins.

Starting Good Friday, March 29 the fair runs until Tuesday, April 2. This is an event not to be missed for any record lover. Open 10am to 6pm everyday.

Tonnes of fresh \$5 stock added as well.

A SEASONED BARD

Guy Kachel had an idyllic entry to the world of music.

Born in Tamworth, he was raised on the banks of the Peel River. The landscape was a fertile ground for his imagination. Seeing this rustic world change, as

Tamworth developed into an inland city and friends grew to sometimes troubled adulthoods, provided insights for the artistry that later powered his career as a performer.

His paternal grandfather, an itinerant harmonica duelist, gave him his first guitar at 15. However, bereft of musical guidance Guy progressed no further than the riff to Smoke on the Water until, as an apprentice electrician, he struck up a lifelong friendship with Lawrie Minson, who went on to become one of the country's best-known journeyman musicians. Minson coached him through the rudiments of guitar and transplanted a love of hillbilly guitar picking and such southern-rock stalwarts as the Ozark Mountain Daredevils.

Skip forward several years and Guy found himself drifting east, to the Byron Shire where the fertile tropics energised his creative talents. He started writing songs, cathartically, about his past, Tamworth, the fate of his peers – and ultimately, himself. The result is startlingly confessional wry observations from a seasoned bard about people immersed in their dreams.

Guy Kachel will appear at the Ballina RSL as the special guest of the Soren Carlberg Trio on Sunday from 2.30pm at the Ballina RSL Boardwalk.



Byron Bay Easter Record Fair from March 29, Ewingsdale Hall, William Flick Lane, Ewingsdale. (Opposite The Farm)

QUEER FAMILY

**MULLUM TRANS DAY
OF VISIBILITY**

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT
SAT 6TH APRIL 5-8PM

#beseen

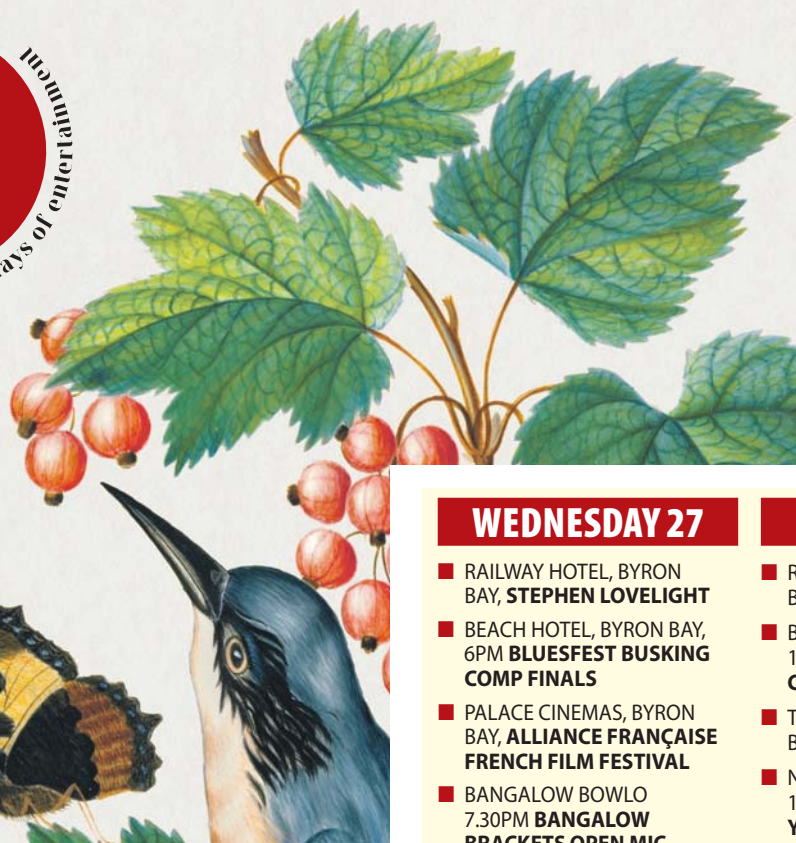
ART, CLAY PLAY, PERFORMANCES, MUSICIANS, FOOD TRUCK, KIDS' ZONE

Richard Light Book Launch

Grief and Growth

Richard will be in conversation with David Reiter on Thursday, 4 April at 6pm. Drinks and nibbles provided. Music by Gyan Evans and Simon Greaves.

Grief and Growth
navigating the rough waters of life
Richard Light



GIG GUIDE



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

WEDNESDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BLUESFEST BUSKING COMP FINALS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **GABRIELLA COHEN + SARA YAEL**, 7PM **WILD WOMEN**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **KARAOKE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY - FEAT TOM SIEGERT**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7.30PM **GRAHAM NASH**

THURSDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BEN WALSH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN + DJ LONGTIME**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM **COLBEY**
- NEWRYBAR HALL 5.30PM **ART BYRON ARTIST DINNER - LARA MERRETT & SHAUN GLADWELL**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7PM **THE BIG GIG COMEDY NIGHT - MC MANDY NOLAN FT TOM SIEGERT + ANISA NANDAULA**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **OOZ**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **ALEX TILLEY**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6.30PM **HUMAN DINOSAUR MACHINE + THUNDER GOD OF THE MULTIVERSE + PIPPIN**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**

FRIDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HARRY NICHOLS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 12PM **BLUESFEST BUSKING COMP**, 7.30PM **MADISON KAT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **SMITH STREET BAND**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1PM **INO PIO**, 5.30PM **DJ YASMIN**
- EWINGSDALE HALL 10AM **BYRON BAY EASTER RECORD FAIR**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **CALLUM CREELMAN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **TRILLAH**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ OREN SELECTA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **JOE CONROY**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 2PM **SAM BUCKLEY**
- KELP BAR, BALLINA, 6PM **JAY & LYNDEY**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **KAFFENE**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7PM **POLY & CO**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MARTIN WAY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **GREGG PETERSON**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **INO PIO**

SATURDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PAPER LANE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **IZAEAH MARSH BAND + DJ JOEY TUCKSHOP**
- BYRON THEATRE 6PM **S.A.S.H 14TH BIRTHDAY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **THE FERAMONES**

- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **OOZ**, 5PM **DJ JR.DYNAMITE**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **YOLAN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **THE SWAMPS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY 7PM **Z-STAR TRINITY**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ DANE**
- EWINGSDALE HALL 10AM **BYRON BAY EASTER RECORD FAIR**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 1PM **INO PIO**, 5PM **DJS JOE + ZACH**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 2PM **THE WILDLIFE TWINS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **KAFFENE**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **OOZ**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **CHILDREN OF BOB**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **MP3 + DJ THE WHO'S WHO**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **JACK PERRY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **BLAKE EVANS DUO**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **JAMES SUTHERLAND**

SUNDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HAYLEY GRACE TRIO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **BOBBY ALU**
- KARKALLA, BYRON BAY, 10AM **MARTA KALANI**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN-MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**

- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ ABEL EL TORO**
- EWINGSDALE HALL 10AM **BYRON BAY EASTER RECORD FAIR**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 3PM **DJS JOE + ZACH**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS SOREN CARLBERGG TRIO WITH SWEET FELICIA**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SUNDAY SESSIONS FT PUSH**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **WAY OUT WEST**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **ADAM HARPAZ**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN **CHARLIE BRAVO**

MONDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **NATHAN KAYE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **CHRIS CAVILL**
- EWINGSDALE HALL 10AM **BYRON BAY EASTER RECORD FAIR**

TUESDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- EWINGSDALE HALL 10AM **BYRON BAY EASTER RECORD FAIR**

WEDNESDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OOZ**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BEN JANSZ**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6.30PM **SCREENING - LUKU NGARRA: THE LAW OF THE LAND**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL **NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **COMEDY OPEN MIC**

CINEMA



WICKED LITTLE LETTERS

Based on a true scandal that stunned 1920s England, *Wicked Little Letters* centres on neighbours Edith Swan and Rose Gooding in the seaside town of Littlehampton.

The story follows these two neighbours: deeply conservative local Edith Swan (Olivia Colman); and rowdy Irish migrant Rose Gooding (Jessie Buckley). When Edith and fellow residents begin to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. The anonymous letters prompt a national uproar, and a trial ensues – Rose risks losing both her freedom and custody of her daughter. However, the town's women – led by Police Officer Gladys Moss (Anjana Vasan) – are determined to find the real culprit and solve this perplexing mystery. They begin to investigate the crime as they suspect that something is amiss, and Rose may not be the culprit after all. It's a real whodunit.

Wicked Little Letters is rated MA15+ and is screening at Palace Cinemas in Ballina and Byron.

Session Times

Thurs, March 28 – Wed, April 3

PALACE CINEMAS

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	ALL FILMS	IO CAPITANO (MA15+ NFT)
HATE TO LOVE: NICKELBACK (M) SPECIAL SCREENING Sat: 3:00PM	ANATOMY OF A FALL (MA15+) Daily: 4:15PM, 6:40PM	Daily: 11:15AM
LATE NIGHT WITH THE DEVIL (MA15+) BAD FRIDAY SCREENING Fri: 8:30PM	BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE (M) Daily except Sat: 1:30PM, 4:20PM, 8:10PM, Sat: 12:45PM, 4:20PM, 8:10PM, 7:15PM	Daily except Fri: 3:50PM, 8:00PM, Fri: 3:50PM
ROBOT DREAMS (PG) ADV SCREENING Sat: 1:00PM	DUNE: PART TWO (M) Daily except Sat: 11:00AM, 1:00PM, 3:15PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM, Sat: 11:00AM, 3:15PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM	PERFECT DAYS (PG) NIFT Daily except Wed: 11:10AM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM, 8:10PM, Wed: 11:10AM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM
GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE (PG) NIFT Daily except Sat, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 3:15PM, 5:45PM, 8:30PM, Sat: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 5:45PM, 8:30PM, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 3:15PM, 8:30PM	FORCE OF NATURE: THE DRY 2 (M) Daily except Sat: 1:00PM, Sat: 1:10PM	THE NUT FARM (PG) NIFT Daily except Sat: 11:10AM, 1:50PM, Sat: 11:00AM, 1:50PM
KUNG FU PANDA 4 (PG) NIFT Daily: 11:00AM, 1:10PM, 2:15PM, 4:15PM, 6:30PM	GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE (M) NIFT Daily: 11:30AM, 1:20PM, 3:45PM, 6:10PM, 8:30PM	THE ZONE OF INTEREST (M) Daily: 2:00PM
THE TIGER'S APPRENTICE (PG) NIFT Daily except Sat: 11:15AM, Sat: 11:00AM	IMMACULATE (MA15+) Daily: 6:00PM	WICKED LITTLE LETTERS (MA15+) NIFT ADV SCREENING Daily: 11:10AM, 3:50PM, 6:00PM

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

Session Times

Thurs, March 28 – Wed, April 3

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

DUNE: PART TWO (M) Daily except Sat: 2:50PM, 7:45PM, Sat: 3:00PM, 7:45PM	THE GREAT ESCAPER (M) Daily except Sat: 12:45PM	To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!
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GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE (M) NIFT Daily: 10:20AM, 3:20PM, 6:10PM, 8:20PM	WICKED LITTLE LETTERS (MA15+) NIFT Daily: 3:50PM, 8:30PM	SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE
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Freehold - Golden Commercial - Brilliant Returns

- Prime location in Lismore CBD's thriving Strand Arcade
- Well-maintained and inviting space for retail, business, and consulting rooms
- Both shops have undergone a modern renovation post-2022 floods

Sale: \$320,000 – \$350,000

Brett McDonald 0421 606 422



70 Conway Street, Lismore NSW

🏠 🛒 🚗

Brilliant Returns - Dual Income Property

- Fantastic position with high passing traffic
- Zoned B3 Commercial Core, 553sqm, 12.19m frontage
- Spacious ground floor brick building, high ceilings
- Ground floor: approx. 90sqm + 2 toilets and laundry
- Upstairs: 4 bedrooms + study/storage, 2 bathrooms, kitchen, 2 living areas

Price Guide: \$550,000 to \$600,000

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Mitchell Smith 0419 346 676



70 Cullen Street, Nimbin NSW

🏠 🛒 🚗4

Invest In Central Nimbin And Reap The Rewards

- Rare opportunity in Nimbin's tightly held commercial market
- 30 year old pizza restaurant and a renowned art gallery/shop
- An opportunity to preserve a piece of vibrant history and community connection

Price Guide: \$990,000 to \$1,098,000

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391 Dunoon Road, Tullera NSW

🏠 🛒 🚗

Stunning Views From Two Acres

- Tullera is just minutes from Lismore and the gorgeous villages of Dunoon and The Channon
- A generous land area of 8094 sqm
- Surrounded by nature with stunning views of fields, valleys and woodlands
- Steeped in history – once the original site of Modanville

Vacant Land: \$600,000 – \$650,000

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3 CARNARVON COURT, LENNOX HEAD

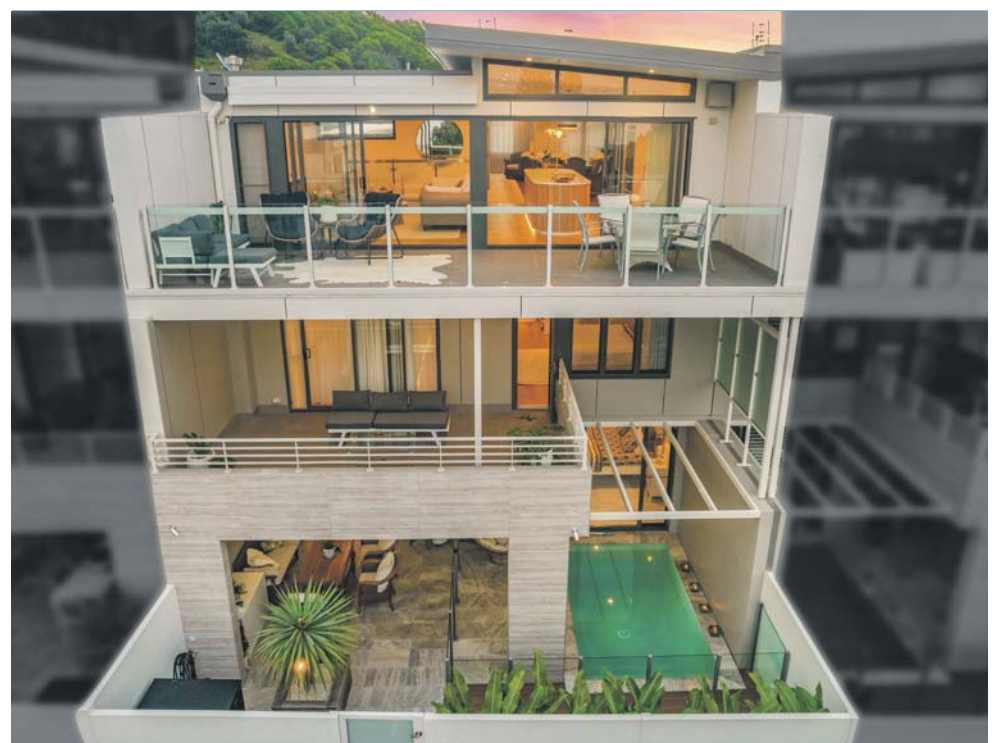


Auction: 13th April 11:00am on site

🏠5 🛒2 🚗3 🏠640m2

Spacious living a short walk to the beach

3/4A RAYNER LANE, LENNOX HEAD



Inspection: by appointment

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Nestled at the end of a serene cul-de-sac, this exquisite residence has been meticulously developed to the highest standards, offering a sweeping panoramic view that spans from the Koonyum Range, Mount Warning, and Mount Chincogan to the Myocum valley and the ocean.

This property's dual titles offer a strategic investment, allowing you to secure both blocks now and choose between selling one immediately or exploring the option at a later stage.

AUCTION FRIDAY 5TH APRIL, 11AM ON-SITE

Contact the Listing Agents

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amir@amirprestige.com.au

Brenton And Ashleigh Hawes
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brenton.ashleigh@amirprestige.com.au



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15 KARALAUREN COURT, LENNOX HEAD



Elevated and Grand Family Home with Pool in Lennox Head

4 beds 2 sofas 2 bathrooms 2 cars 940M²

- Immaculately renovated traditional Queenslander
- Family friendly neighbourhood, minutes to the closest beaches and amenities
- Expansive entertainers deck overlooking magnesium pool and established gardens
- High-end kitchen appliances and walk-through pantry

PRICE | \$1.75M - \$1.85M
OPEN | By Appointment



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660

24 NEW CITY ROAD, MULLUMBIMBY



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

5 beds 2 sofas 2 bathrooms 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 | \$1.3M - \$1.425M
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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 bathrooms 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 | \$1.7M - \$1.86M
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2B/107 PATERSON STREET, BYRON BAY



Charming timber home in town Byron

3 beds 1 sofa 2 bathrooms 1 car 253M²

- North facing entertaining deck and low maintenance, fenced yard
- Polished timber floorboards throughout
- Generous sized bedrooms, each with built-in robes
- Perfectly positioned in Byron town, close to amenities and beaches

PRICE | \$1.29M - \$1.395M
OPEN | Sat 30th March 11:30 - 12pm



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5 CAVVANBAH STREET, BYRON BAY



'Allure' Charming Beach House in Central Byron

5 beds 1 living 3 baths 2 cars

610M²

- Spacious, quiet and private yet only a few minutes' walk to Byron's CBD
- Moments to the sand of Belongil Beach
- Immaculate, light and bright Hampton's style interiors
- Private north facing deck and yard featuring tropical landscaping

EOI | Closing 22nd April 2024 at 12PM
OPEN | By Appointment



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5/12 BROWNING STREET, BYRON BAY



'Lomani' Freestanding 4 bedroom Home with Pool the Ultimate to Luxury in Town Living

4 beds 1 living 2 baths 2 cars lift

351M²

- Tightly held, first time to the market since build
- Outdoor, undercover living area, resort style pool and landscaped gardens
- Main bedroom includes a walk-in-robe, luxury en-suite and private balcony
- Perfect as a family home, holiday rental or savvy investment

PRICE | \$2.5M - \$2.75M
OPEN | Wed 27th March 9 - 9:30am



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0434 029 668

17 CAMPBELL STREET, BANGALOW



Historical Luxurious Masterpiece in Bangalow Village

4 beds 1 living 3 baths 2 cars

441M²

- Circa 1919, historical Bangalow residence underwent a meticulous restoration in 2023
- Split level layout, sunlit gourmet kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances and finishes
- Infinity-edge magnesium swimming pool and wraparound deck
- Family-friendly neighborhood with minimal traffic, just moments from town

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Thurs 28th March 5 - 5:30pm
Sat 30th March 10:30 - 11am



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Positioned conveniently near the M1, it facilitates easy travel to Brisbane or Byron Bay. The property's zoning as RU2 offers diverse potential uses, appealing to those seeking innovation. Additionally, with 33 solar panels and an 8.2kw inverter, self-sufficiency becomes a viable option.

Notably, Ducat Park's proximity to amenities like Gold Coast International Airport, universities and hospitals enhances its appeal as a desirable coastal rural property.

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BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

Road Renaming

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ROAD RENAME

Council has received a proposal for the renaming of the following road within Byron Shire and invites written submissions.

Hottentot Crescent, Mullumbimby

Council initiated a formal proposal process for renaming Hottentot Crescent in response to a request from a member of the community. Council has proposed "Tussock Court" and "Moonlight Close" which recognises the flora theme in the area. Additionally, "Drunken Parrot Parade" has also been proposed as an option by the local community.

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

Council Ref: #E2024/29163

Enquiries: Tracy Armstrong

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

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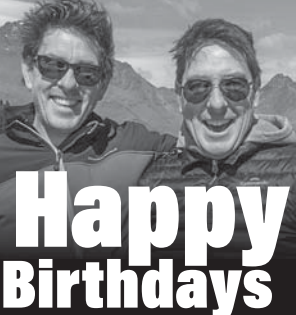
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cat can do. Her sister Skittles, is her
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for them to go to a special home
together. To meet Buttons & Skittles,
please visit the **Cat Adoption Centre**
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MARIE TRANTER
4.10.1942 - 2.4.2014



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SUN, MOON & TIDES

- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (March/April)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
27	W	6:53 / 18:49	19:46 / 8:16	1026 1.49 / 2254 1.58	0415 0.42 / 1623 0.34
28	TH	6:53 / 18:47	20:17 / 9:11	1055 1.41 / 2328 1.59	0452 0.46 / 1648 0.36
29	F	6:54 / 18:46	20:52 / 10:09	1126 1.31	0532 0.52 / 1715 0.40
30	SA	6:55 / 18:44	21:32 / 11:08	0004 1.58 / 1200 1.22	0617 0.58 / 1746 0.45
31	SU	6:55 / 18:44	22:20 / 12:09	0046 1.55 / 1243 1.12	0714 0.64 / 1824 0.52
1	M	6:56 / 18:43	23:16 / 13:09	0139 1.51 / 1344 1.04	0829 0.68 / 1917 0.58
2	TU	6:56 / 18:42	14:07	0250 1.50 / 1513 1.01	0958 0.67 / 2039 0.62
3	W	6:57 / 18:41	0:19 / 14:59	0415 1.53 / 1648 1.06	1117 0.59 / 2215 0.59
4	TH	6:57 / 18:39	1:26 / 15:45	0530 1.61 / 1802 1.18	1217 0.49 / 2335 0.50
5	F	6:58 / 18:38	2:35 / 16:26	0630 1.71 / 1900 1.32	1305 0.38
6	SA	6:58 / 18:37	3:45 / 17:03	0723 1.79 / 1950 1.48	0039 0.39 / 1346 0.28
7	SU	5:59 / 17:37	3:53 / 16:38	0711 1.82 / 1938 1.62	0134 0.30 / 1325 0.20
8	M	5:59 / 17:37	5:01 / 17:12	0755 1.79 / 2023 1.74	0127 0.24 / 1401 0.16
9	TU	5:59 / 17:37	6:10 / 17:48	0837 1.71 / 2108 1.82	0217 0.23 / 1437 0.16
10	W	5:59 / 17:37	7:19 / 18:26	0919 1.58 / 2153 1.86	0310 0.27 / 1514 0.19

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

PETS



DAPHNE
Daphne is a 4 month old, Staffy/Shar Pei X. She is from a litter of 9 pups that were surrendered to FOP in extremely emaciated condition. She is fit and healthy now and looking for a new home. She will make great family dog. #991003002063719

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Louis

Louis is a handsome ragdoll cross tabby 15 months old boy who would be the ideal ratter! He's independent and likes his own way but is also affectionate. Ideally he would prefer to be the only cat in the house!

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.
No: 953010200682583

Please make an appointment 0403 533 589 • Billinudgel petsforlifeforlifeanimalshelter.net

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

Johnny is a 3-year-old desexed male German Shepherd x Border Collie.



JOHNNY

He is a very intelligent boy and is fantastic with young children. He's also great with other dogs and very playful.

He will need further recall, leash and house training.

Johnny has a beautiful nature and will make someone, or a family, a loyal, loving and protective guardian.

Please contact Shell on **0458 461 935**.
MC: 991003000609156

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Richmond-Tweed family history

The next meeting of Richmond-Tweed Family History Society will be held on Saturday, 6 April at 2pm-4pm. The topic of this meeting will be 'I Need You' military stories. Enquiries contact Victoria Evans on 046 573 282.

Flower foliage spectacular Kyogle Garden Club will be hosting the flower foliage spectacular on Friday, 19 April 9am-5pm and Saturday, 20 April 8am-2pm at St Bridgid's School Hall and grounds. Entry \$3.

Junior Book Club

Are you 8-12 years? Byron Bay Library Junior Book Club is a great and fun program to get involved in. We invite you to read, laugh and explore new and exciting books, chosen by genre, perfect for all reading levels. Meeting monthly. To join contact the Byron Bay Library 6685 8540. Thursday, 4 April has spaces available.

BV Probus Club

The Brunswick Valley Probus Club meeting is on Tuesday, 2 April at 10am

at the Ocean Shores Country Club. Guest speaker is Dr Susan Wood, a Byron roaming vet, will be speaking of her many experiences. Visitors welcome. Inquires ring Margaret 6680 3316.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina, South Tweed and Ballina. Attendees must be Exit Members. For further information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina & South Tweed) or Peter 0429 950 352 (Ballina).

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm (closed 12.30-1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286. Some of our services include:

Flood recovery support service: personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods.
Community support: food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.

Listening Space: free counselling.
More Than A Meal: free community lunch Tuesday-Thursday 12.30-1.30pm.

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

Gulgani affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.
Orange Sky: free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon.

To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdn.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community

The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful place where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to get practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. Fletcher Street Cottage services are open Tuesday-Friday.

Breakfast: Tuesday-Friday, 7-9am.
Showers and laundry: Tuesday-Friday, 7am-12pm. **Office support:** Tuesday-Friday, 9am-12pm. **Support appointments:** Individual support appointments with community workers or specialist services. For bookings please call 6685 6807.

Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au.

Byron Community Cabin: Seniors Computer Club (school term only), 9-11am, Friday, Carlyle Steet. More info: www.byroncentre.com.au Phone: 6685 6807.

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30-11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **The Hub** Baptist Church in Ocean Shores has food relief available for anyone doing it tough, please contact us on 0434 677747 if you find yourself doing it tough. No ID or Concession Card required. NILS referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details.

Liberation Larder Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre.

Respite Service

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

Alateen meeting

Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5-6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For

8-16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert's Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au.

ACA

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

Drug support groups

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

Support after suicide

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

Volunteer call out

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

Big week in Byron Bay for adaptive surfers

Australia's first-ever international adaptive surfing contest held in Byron Bay last week was an overwhelming success according to organiser Mark 'mono' Stewart.

'Were stoked. Across the whole event everything went according to plan. We couldn't be happier,' he said.

Crowd support for the 92 entrants from 16 countries was there all week.

There was also contestable waves at the Pass for five days, supported by early morning off-shore winds.

And to add icing to the cake Mark collected a first place in the kneel division.

'I was pretty physically and emotionally tired by the time my final came up, but I got a good start and then managed to finish it off with a nine-point ride,' he said.



Brazil's Felipe Kizu Lima tucks in. Photo supplied

The Byron Bay contest kicks off the Adaptive Surfing Professional (ASP) World Tour for 2024.

Other stops include Hawaii, Cost Rica, Japan (trial) and California.

Lennox Head's Joel Taylor collected a second place in the prone division.

Byron Bay has the Australian leg for a total three years.

'We set the bar really high,' Mark said.

'We also had a chance to see the accessibility issue that many small towns face,'

Organisers are meeting with Byron Shire Council to discuss any problems and solutions to make improvements into the future.

'But really, it was an amazing first event,' he said.

Roller derby rocks the Cavanbah Centre

The Red Kennedys have once again dominated the Northern Rivers Revolt Roller Derby Tournament held at the Cavanbah Centre over the weekend of March 16-17.

The Red Kennedys are part of the Brisbane City Rollers and won all five of the games they played. This is their third consecutive tournament win.

All up six teams competed in this nationally diverse and all-inclusive tournament, run in partnership by the Tweed Valley Rollers and Northern Rivers Roller Derby teams.

The hosts entered a combined team called the River Valley Rollers that won three out of five games.

Visiting teams included the Capital Brawlers from ACT, the Nerdy Dragons from



Fast and physical: the Northern Rivers Revolt had plenty to offer over 15 games at the Cavanbah Centre. Photo supplied

Victoria, the Inconceivables from Western Australia and the Sirens from Sydney.

The event raised almost \$1,600 for The Sanctuary Women, Children & Pet's Refuge.

'The feedback we received from visiting clubs is overwhelmingly positive and that the venue, the Cavanbah Centre, is perfect,' Lisa O'Leary, tournament coordinator said.

'Smooth stroking' Rainbow Dragons earn trophies



Rainbow Dragons Women's 10s: gold medal winners at the Grafton regatta. Photo supplied

Rainbow Dragons (Lennox Head Ballina) won three trophies and had a fantastic weekend of fun, fitness and friendship at Grafton Dragon Boat Club's regatta earlier in March.

Eight boats raced in steamy 30-plus degree conditions in Saturday's 6km Around the Island Marathon where Rainbow paddlers won third place.

Sunday's 200m sprint race placings were based on

total times over two heats which meant a crew could look good in a heat, but not be guaranteed a place. Race conditions were blustery too, slowing down times.

However, the Women's 10s and Open 10s teams managed the conditions well earning a first and third place respectively.

'Lots of comments were made about how well the Rainbow teams looked on the water with their smooth,

synchronized stroking. This is something the teams have been training hard to perfect,' Rainbows' head coach, Mary Davis said.

Now, the club wishes the very best to eight Rainbow Dragons and a Ballina Dragons paddler who have been selected in the Northern Region versus Region competition, at the NSW State Championships in Sydney on Sunday April 7.

Casuarina cricketers too strong for Mullumbimby Brunswick in grand final

Lachlan McKenzie

Mullumbimby Brunswick Cricket Club (MBCC) had a very successful season finishing second on the ladder at the end of the home and away season with 13 wins and 4 losses, but fell short of winning the grand final against the Casuarina Crocs.

In the semi-final played two weeks ago MBCC could only muster 87 runs, however, thanks to some tight bowling and outstanding fielding the side, playing at home, bowled out Cudgen for 82 to win by five runs.

Josh Hayes was the best of the bowlers claiming 4 /11 from four overs.

In the grand final last Saturday MBCC travelled north to face the Casuarina Crocs, who have won the past two seasons and finished the home and away season in first position.



The MBCC third-grade XI. Photo supplied

MBCC won the toss and sent Casuarina in to bat with the hope of the wind assisting the bowlers. Unfortunately, the wind only brought the rain and within a few minutes the ball resembled a piece of soap. Hamish Lang was able to bamboozle the Crocs batters, slow the run rate and pick up two wickets to finish with figures of 2/25 from five overs.

As the ball dried out the

Crocs slowed down and they posted a respectable 5/210 from their 40 overs. While the target seemed possible the Crocs continued to take wickets as they have done all season and bowled out MBCC for 73.

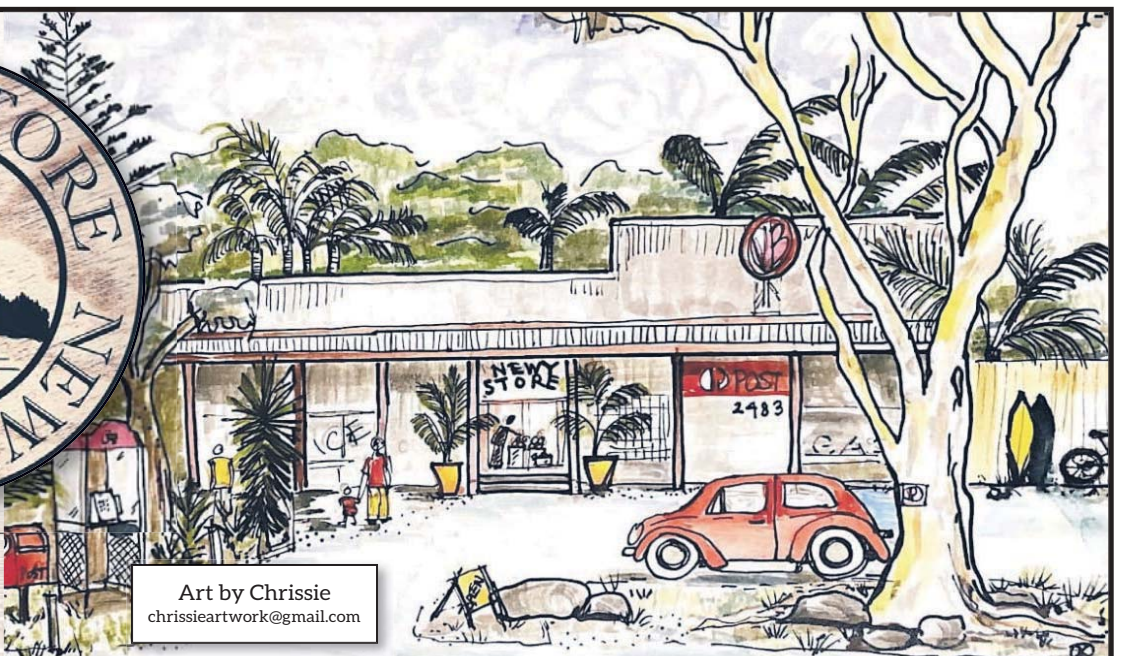
While it was not the result Mullum-Bruns were after, the team should be proud to finish as runners up in their first season in the Tweed district cricket association.

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Last week's story headline 'Rezoning adopted' wasn't correct, given Council adopted a request to ask the state government to rezone 17 parcels of land for future housing (some of which is flood-prone).

Those over 40 might want to pause and reflect that local thrash metal legends, Parkway Drive, have announced their 20th Anniversary Tour. Well done lads :)

Rolls Royce's nuclear division said in a media release last week they are very happy that the Australian government's AUKUS agreement/slush fund will prop up their operations in Derby, UK. Well okay, that wasn't the wording, but you get the gist.

Regarding the Tasmanian elections held on the weekend, Senator Jacqui Lambi tweeted: 'Why on earth would @TasLabor concede so quickly? Why wouldn't they wait for the final result - honouring their voters and their party workers! It's like they don't even want to govern!'

Independent MP, Dr Monique Ryan MP tweeted, 'The Chief Scientist says nuclear is very expensive and the former Chief Scientist says it will cause carbon emissions to skyrocket. Once again on climate change, the Coalition is one side and the science is on the other. I'll go with the science.'

Pity the fool: April 1 is also Test Your Smoke Alarm Day!

Congrats JD Property Group, whose Jonson Lane project just won Urban Development Institute of Australia's Best



Arielle and Kira were very happy with the lanterns they made at the Harmony Day event in Railway Park on Saturday. They were part of the Lantern Parade, who made their way to Apex Park on Main Beach, just after dark. Photo Eve Jeffery

Boutique Development in Australia. 'My congratulations go to the many local consultants and organisations behind this win', said local MP Tamara Smith (Greens).

Congrats Vanamala Mayr-Reisch, who is nominated for the Women Changing the World Award 2024, for her work empowering women and instilling a positive body image for mental and physical wellbeing. For more info visit wcvawards.com.

Vale well-known and loved Byron Bay identity and surf legend, Max Pendergast, who has died, aged 80.

ICYMI According to Julian Assange's wife Stella, the long-awaited case, *Assange v Secretary of State for Home Department*, was held last Wednesday in the Royal Courts of Justice in the UK.

Psst: One of Australia's most high profile whistle blowers, David McBride, will

hold an intimate meeting at the Mullum RSL this Saturday (March 30) from 2pm. As a military lawyer, he has been pursued by the

federal government in the courts for years after leaking evidence of war crimes in the Afghanistan war.

VINTAGE & RETRO FAIR

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