

Echo

AND JUST LIKE THAT 1999 WAS 25 YEARS AGO

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Free locals parking on its way

Paul Bibby

A majority of Byron councillors have reiterated their commitment to make parking permits free for locals across the Shire when paid parking comes into force in Brunswick Heads, despite some asserting that the move is 'completely fiscally irresponsible'.

Endorsed by Council in December last year, the pay 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.

When originally passed by Council, the new policy included a clause stating that all locals would be entitled to a free parking permit, rather than paying the current \$55 annual fee.

This would essentially mean that locals could park for free anywhere in the Shire, assuming they met the criteria to obtain a permit.

Council staff opposed

But Council staff opposed this clause, arguing that it would produce a flood of parking permit applications which staff will be unable to handle, exacerbate existing traffic and parking issues, and cost Council up to \$1 million in lost revenue and administrative costs.

However, after a lengthy and impassioned debate at last week's Council meeting, a majority of councillors voted to reiterate their support for the free permit clause.

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Tex sets Bluesfest on fire

Tex Perkins was on fire at The Cruel Sea's Bluesfest set on Saturday. The band formed in 1987, but paused performing after the death of keyboardist/guitarist James Cruickshank in 2015. The recently reformed lineup now includes Matt Walker. Photo Jeff 'Call 000' Dawson

The 35th Bluesfest wrapped up on Monday in Tyagarah, with international and Australian acts energising large crowds and providing a much-needed boost to the local economy.

And despite occasional rain and some bogged vehicles, its Director, Peter Noble said in a statement: 'I have booked many, many editions of Bluesfest in the past, but I have not had one come together as well as this one did, in so many ways'.

'There were brilliant

performances every single day of the festival, beginning with Taj Farrant at the campers' festival on Wednesday, before the event officially started'.

Attendance same as 2023

'We're still calculating the numbers, but we know the attendance for Bluesfest this year was at least the same as in 2023.'

'We have held our position, and as much as we would like to see more people come, it's not going

to happen until interest rates drop. We do ask our government to support our industry until then.'

'We all know that the music industry is facing challenges right now. The interest rate rises, intended to curb the disposable dollar spending, have influenced all aspects of the industry except for superstars touring, such as Taylor Swift.'

'Bluesfest will be 125 million per cent back in 2025. Our Early Bird tickets for Bluesfest 2025 are already selling well'.

He said, 'From the first day to the last, there were so many outstanding performances'.

While it was difficult to pick the highlights, Mr Noble said some were Here Come the Mummies, Sweet Talk, Ben Swissa, Erja Lyytinen and The Women of Soul Collective, Katie Malua, Drive-By Truckers, Tom Jones, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Snarky Puppy, Tom Jones, PJ Morton, Brad Cox, Yirmal, Peter Garrett, The Teskey Brothers, Jimmy Barnes 19-Twenty, and Taj Mahal.

Sea Shepherd's ocean protection looks to new horizons ► p4

Afghan Files whistleblower speaks ► p7



Politics of live music: what are festivals worth? ► p16



April Echo Property Magazine with this issue

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Tiny homes taken to next level

Fairies need homes too! Vinnie Bleakley from the Brunswick Heads Post Office has been checking on a fairy's new tiny home to make sure they are comfy. There are a number of lovely little fairy houses tucked into interesting locations around Bruns - to learn more visit www.brunswickheads.org.au. Photo Eve Jeffery

Council's finances approved by AG

Byron Shire Council, water utility Rous and the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation have been given a clean bill of fiscal health by the NSW Auditor-General annual audit.

There are 128 local councils, 13 joint organisations and nine county councils in NSW.

Local councils that were given a 'unmodified' tick of

approval for their 2022-23 financial statements include Ballina, Lismore City, Richmond Valley, and Tweed.

There were 'unqualified audit opinions' issued for 85 councils, eight county councils, and 12 joint organisations, according to the report, *Local Government 2023*.

Shires that did not lodge

their financial statements, as of the tabling date, included Kiama Municipal, Orange City, Singleton, Glen Innes Severn, Liverpool Plains Shire, Narrabri Shire and Upper Hunter Shire.

A report into *Cyber Security in Local Government* was also published on www.audit.nsw.gov.au.

What's Going On event, April 8

The latest 'What's Going On' event, to be held on April 8, will present Kate Mason, a social ecologist.

Organisers say she will speak on the NSW government's proposal for managed retreat, based on climate modelling.

Co-organiser, David Warth says, 'Part of these plans for large scale relocation include the smart cities agenda, along with the newly emerging move to synthetic food'.

'These plans will impact our lives in many ways, and there has been very little



Helena Norberg-Hodge, localisation expert

consultation or input from the community. Increasingly, we are being told how things are going to be, regardless of the feelings of those who will have to live with the

consequences'.

Localisation expert, Helena Norberg-Hodge, will also speak on the corporate influence on governments.

Currency exchange

Warth says there will also be a launch of The Bobb, described as an 'emergency means of exchange based on the one ounce and half ounce silver coins'.

There will be introductions by Michael Williamson and Jambie.

What's Going On will be held at The Byron Bay RSL Club on April 8 from 6pm.

Bangalow's lack of comms sparks forum

Bangalow residents and businesses, struggling for years with inadequate internet and phone coverage, will hear from NBN and Telstra reps on planned improvements on April 4, from 5.30 till 6.30pm, at the Bangalow Hotel.

Hosted by the Byron Chamber of Commerce, the event is described as 'a frank and direct conversation with regional representatives' on the ongoing challenges of unreliable internet and mobile coverage in the area.

The chamber says, 'This pervasive issue, a constant topic of conversation and frustration for us all, will be tackled head-on'.

'NBN will present their upcoming solutions for both fibre to the premises and fixed wireless, while Telstra will discuss their plans to boost the mobile network in Bangalow and

■ Forum held April 4, from 5.30 till 6.30pm at the Bangalow Hotel

■ Tickets: events.humanitix.com/connecting-bangalow

■ NBN and Telstra reps to present their plans for improvement with Q&A

the surrounding area.

'Following the presentations, an open forum will provide you with the opportunity to pose your burning questions to both NBN and Telstra'.

A spokesperson from the Bangalow Pharmacy told *The Echo* that they are located in a phone reception dead zone, and that customers have to go to the post office to download their e-scripts before coming back to purchase them.

'It's been happening for years', they said.

MP petition

Labor MP Justine Elliot's response to the issue has been to ask residents to add their name to a petition on her website: justineelliott.com.au/betterconnectivity.

She writes, 'As your strong voice in the Albanese Labor government, I'm working with Telstra, who are currently reviewing rural sites adjacent to the M1 for a communications tower to improve the mobile and data coverage in Bangalow, Newrybar, and along the M1 itself'.

Stakeholders meet over nudist beach issue

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) are remaining tight-lipped over the outcome of a stakeholder meeting last week around the future of the clothes-optional beach at Tyagarah.

June 30 deadline

Tyagarah Beach will remain a clothes-optional location until at least June 30, after a concerted campaign from the local naturist community.

Residents, on the other hand, say for years the area has attracted undesirable and obscene behaviour, particularly in the lakes near the beach.

NPWS recently announced that Tyagarah would no longer be a nudist beach because it was not in keeping with the department's policies and values.

The Echo asked NPWS



The clothes-optional beach at Tyagarah. Photo Jeff Dawson

what the outcome of the meeting was, and also 'whether a clothes-optional beach closer to Byron has been considered?'

A NPWS spokesperson told *The Echo*, 'The NPWS met stakeholders, including naturists, concerned locals and Council to consider current and alternative locations should the Clothes Optional Area (COA) continue

into the future'.

'Participants provided feedback and a number of options were put forward.

'Safety and cultural values were important topics discussed.

'NPWS will collate the information received and provide a report to Byron Shire Council as requested. No decision has been made on the status of the COA'.

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Matilda's Easter hat is tops

There are still two more weeks of classes before the autumn break, which means this year's school holidays didn't follow on from the Easter break. Yet that didn't stop many local schools from celebrating. Matilda from Ocean Shores Public School wore this work of art to her school's annual Easter Hat parade last Thursday. Photo Eve Jeffery

Flood insurance inquiry wants to hear from public

Public hearings are planned for April as part of an ongoing inquiry into insurers' responses to 2022 major floods claims.

The Chair of the House Standing Committee on Economics, Daniel Mulino MP, says, 'We are entering the critical second phase of this inquiry, where we want to hear firsthand about the floods' impact on communities, and the experiences of local residents and businesses going through the claims process with their insurers.'

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Mullum hospital plans adopted

Paul Bibby

Plans to turn the former Mullumbimby Hospital site into a housing and community development with up to 100 homes have taken a significant step forward, with Byron Council endorsing a broad-brush rezoning proposal for the site last week.

Six years after Council was effectively given the land by the state government after the hospital closed, councillors unanimously voted to move forward with a planning proposal that would see it rezoned from SP2 infrastructure to General Residential.

This rezoning would also see the maximum building height limit for the site increased from nine to 11.5 metres. The rezoning will facilitate a future residential and community development that is likely to include medium density housing options, such as units and townhouses, along with other community facilities.

The planning proposal

will now go to the state government for final sign-off, paving the way for the more detailed development application process to begin.

While councillors unanimously voted in favour of the proposal last week, it has been far from uncontroversial.

Community submissions in relation to the project, published in last week's Council meeting agenda, show that locals are concerned about a range of issues, including the fact that the site is likely to be sold to a private developer to facilitate the construction of houses.

Council says this is the only way to ensure that badly needed housing for the community is actually built, and has promised that a significant proportion of the homes will be genuinely affordable.

It has already spent around \$6 million on remediating the asbestos-ridden site, and lacks the tens of millions of dollars required to build and run a community housing project.

'I think public ownership [of this site] is a red herring,' Mayor Michael Lyon (Independent) said. 'If it's simply going to lead to inertia in actually putting housing there, then I don't support it.'

'I'm not afraid of working with the private sector. I will accept less than 100 per cent affordable housing, if it means we will actually get affordable housing on that site.'

But Dale Emerson, from the Mullumbimby Residents Association, said the plan equated to 'selling off the jewels of Mullumbimby'.

Transfer from public to private wealth?

'We want the land kept in community hands,' Mr Emerson said. 'Let the community take its power back.'

Mr Emerson said that he believed ratepayers across the Shire would be willing to foot the bill to ensure the land stayed in public hands.

'Let's ask them: "how many years are you willing

to put an extra \$100 on your rates bill to keep ownership of this land?"' he said. 'I'll get my wallet out right now.'

In addition to endorsing the planning proposal, councillors signalled their intention to make the needs of the community the key consideration when making decisions about future housing on the site.

This included 'maximising affordable housing outcomes' and inviting the state and federal government to facilitate social, public, and affordable housing on the site.

Responding to concerns that there would be no social or public housing on the site, Cr Lyon said Council supported these types of housing, but was neither responsible, nor financially equipped, for such endeavours.

Cr Lyon also sought to allay concerns around traffic and infrastructure pressures, saying that any development on the site would be accompanied by significant infrastructure upgrades.

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— From W. Somerset Maugham's 1944 novel, *The Razor's Edge*

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Free locals parking on its way

► Continued from page 1

Mayor Michael Lyon continued his support for the move, describing it as an 'equity issue'.

'You shouldn't have to pay just to go shopping in your own town,' Cr Lyon said.

'Everyone still has to drive if they want to go shopping in our towns, because there is no viable public transport alternative.'

Cr Lyon said that free parking permits for locals would be good for local business, because it would encourage

more people to go shopping, and that the scheme would still net the Shire around \$12 million over five years.

Three Crs against

But three councillors, Sarah Ndiaye (Greens Deputy Mayor), Mark Swivel (Independent) and Cate Coorey (Independent) opposed the free permit clause.

'To me it seems completely fiscally irresponsible,' Cr Ndiaye said.

'We're not just moving away from residents paying

for parking, we're moving to a place where we're putting the cost onto the visitor to subsidise residents' parking.

'And this is going to cost us a million dollars a year.'

'I think if [local] people actually understood the mathematics of it they would get on board. The actual cost of a permit - \$1 a week to utilise parking anywhere in the Shire, is very little.'

'It doesn't make sense.'

But Cr Ndiaye was unable to change the minds of the majority of her fellow

councillors, with six councillors voting in favour and three against.

Councillors also voted to set a \$5 per hour rate for the parking meters in Brunswick Heads, and to charge this fee via a combination of existing cash meters, pay-by-plate cashless parking meters, and other options including phone apps.

Further investigation will be undertaken to discuss how the funds could be distributed in Brunswick Heads and the Shire.

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Sea Shepherd's ocean protection

Hans Lovejoy

Mention Sea Shepherd (SS) to most people, and it conjures up images of dramatic whaling boat collisions at sea.

Direct action as a means of gaining public attention works – since 1977, this committed group of hardy activists have been frontline defenders of marine life threatened by unsustainable large-scale fishing.

Founder, Captain Paul Watson, has led many high profile campaigns across oceans – many of which were dangerous – in search of whaling and poaching vessels.

But a public and bitter split with the SS board in November 2022 saw the founder booted out of the company he started.

Or as the ABC reported at the time: 'Depending on the side you're on, Watson has been forced out by the group he cradled into being, or he's making a power grab for an organisation that he chose to step away from, and has moved on without him'.

Watson has gone on to

start his own organisation: paulwatsonfoundation.org.

Well-known local Sea Shepherd stalwart, Adam Shostack, is clear with whom he supports.

Loose cannon

When asked what he thinks of Paul Watson's departure, Shostack told *The Echo* that 'Paul is a loose cannon'.

And while Watson inspired Adam to get involved with marine conservation, Shostack sees Watson as a traitor to the cause. 'Paul likes it his way', he said.

Chief campaigns officer, Peter Hammarsted, joined the organisation 'as soon as he was old enough to submit an application'.

He is part of the SS leadership team, and his crew were in Byron Bay last Thursday, as part of a northbound voyage up the east coast by Sea Shepherd's newest vessel, *AllanKay*. According to www.seashepherdglobal.org, *AllanKay* was delivered in February last year, replacing one of the organisation's



Sea Shepherd vollies Rosy (left) and Adam Shostack (right) with Chief Campaigns Officer, Peter Hammarsted. Photo Hans Lovejoy

four vessels, the *Bob Barker*. The former Patagonian toothfish longliner was 'renamed in honour of Australian couple, Allan and Kay, who donated \$5 million to Sea Shepherd Australia for

the purpose of buying a new ship'.

Hammarsted told *The Echo* the ship left Hobart around three weeks ago. 'We have around 120 crew at sea, which varies, and around 70

- Iceland, Norway, and Japan still actively engage in whaling – source: www.whales.org
- Illegal fishing and legal 'supertrawlers' are the main threat to marine life, says Sea Shepherd's Peter Hammarsted

per cent of those are vollies'.

In an interview with Paul Watson many years ago, Watson told *The Echo* at the time he was critical of large environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, and claimed they were more focused on fundraising, rather than getting results from direct action.

Direct action

Watson said their business model was focused on financially supporting its administration, including those who raise funds, while leaving activism in the backseat.

The Echo asked Hammarsted: 'Given the public fallout with Watson, how is Sea Shepherd positioning itself to be just as relevant as it was under Watson, and will SS continue similar work that was achieved

under Watson? Is there a shift in SS operations, and if so, where to?'

Hammarsted replied that SS are still engaged in direct action.

'Those clashes at sea were absolutely paramount in getting into the public consciousness.

'You get to a point in time where people know about the issues. People know that overfishing is a problem. People know that climate change is a problem.

'They know ocean pollution is a problem. And then people need solutions.

'It's not enough to raise awareness about an issue.

Effective tactics

'There needs to be a concrete solution. I believe in choosing the most effective

► Continued on next page

Byron Shire Community Awards 2024

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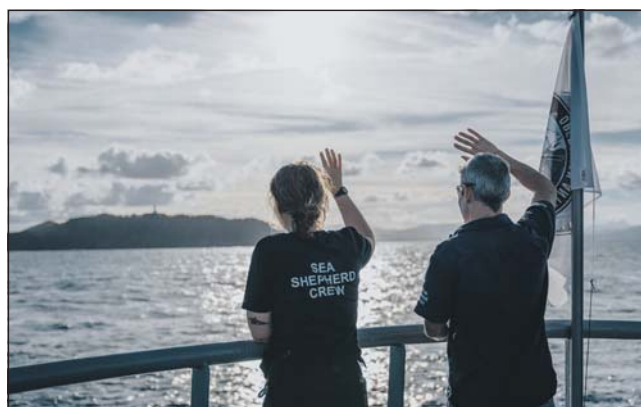
looks to new horizons

► Continued from last page tool or tactic for a particular problem. When it was illegal whaling, we could get into clashes and collisions at sea, because what they were doing was criminal.

'When we chased the most notorious Patagonian toothfish poacher in the world, a ship that my crew and I chased for 110 days, until it sank off the coast of West Africa, we could pull up their net and cut it open to free the animals. We could take their gear, because they were breaking the law.

'But when it's legal fishing vessels, like krill fishing boats, we need to change the law. The law is insufficient. It's crazy, but it's true, that it's perfectly legal for a massive 130m ship to plow through a massive feeding frenzy of whales'.

Hammarsted said SS recently assisted the Gambian government in Africa to arrest eight illegal fishing ships at sea, which could have only occurred because 'we had the law enforcement support to do it'.



SS crew aboard Allankay waved to Byron Shire as they sailed north last Thursday. Photo Alice Bacou

Political will

'This is a country with the political will for change', he said.

'I spent 15 years of my life chasing the factory whaling ships. We know the images, because we saw it on the news.

'And in 15 years of campaigning down in Antarctica, we saved 6,000 whales, and ultimately raised so much media attention that the Australian government took Japan to the International Court of Justice [which resulted in Japan halting

its southern ocean whaling operations].

'In Liberia, seven years ago, we assisted the Liberian coast guard to arrest one ship that was killing half a million sharks every year.

'That ship hasn't fished since. That's over three million sharks saved to date. We spent 15 years saving 6,000 whales. Yet in one action, working in partnership with government, we've been able to save three million and counting.

'We are in a situation where we need partners and allies. That includes government,

and it includes people. There is a bit of misconception that Sea Shepherd, through direct action, shut down whaling in the southern ocean.

'What we were able to do was put the issue on the political agenda, which resulted in the Australian government taking the Japanese government to court. Whaling there didn't end because of Sea Shepherd, it was the Australian public. It was businesses and people in Byron Shire, for example, who donated to the cause.

'We are still doing direct action. Last year, we pulled up 4,000 octopus traps in the Mediterranean. The year before that, we pulled up 8,000 traps.

'If the most effective thing to do is put our ship between a whaling vessel and a whale, and it is legal for us to do it - we are not a law-breaking organisation - then that's what we'll do.

'When the issue, for example, is illegal fishing in a country, then it makes sense to work with government to stop it'.

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Floodplain development proposed again in Mullum

Hans Lovejoy

Residents around 30 Chinbible Avenue, Mullumbimby, have been advised a proposal is being drawn up for a mix of 27 strata titled dwellings on a large 8,700m² vacant block.

Chinbible Ave is located near the Mullum Showgrounds and the flood-prone creek.

A letterbox drop to neighbours says the team of developers is led by Callum Sked.

Mr Sked caused much angst for residents around south Ocean Shores in early 2019, when he proposed eight townhouses over a water easement and Council infrastructure on a wet, forested, boggy environment at the bottom of a steep valley.

Sked later won a 'deemed refusal' L&E case against Council in the courts, after Council failed to assess the DA in the statutory time frame.

Those three large adjoining lots are yet to be developed.

The letter to residents around Chinbible Avenue claims the 27 'low set single storey' dwellings will complement the existing



Residents around Chinbible Ave are not happy with the prospect of medium density floodplain development. Photo Eve Jeffery

Mullumbimby lifestyle and street scape'.

No fill will be imported, the developer claims.

Another five titles are also proposed at the front of the property and are without details.

Fired up neighbours

Direct neighbour, Kate Walsh, and many of her neighbours, had floodwaters through their homes in 2022.

She told *The Echo*, 'Residents are shocked at the size and scope of the development. I've been out walking on Sunday and people are seriously fired up'.

Ms Walsh told *The Echo* she understands the landowner has a right to develop the lot, and no neighbours are against houses being built.

'But any development needs to be appropriate, integrated, supported by

adequate infrastructure, and responsive to what the community wants'.

She also questioned whether they can guarantee that it won't result in more flooding.

'Another five titles are also proposed at the front of the property. It is unclear at this stage how many dwellings these titles will have. If multiple dwellings were approved, it could bring the



An internal, one-way, loop driveway is proposed, 'with a maximum width of 6.7m to allow for garbage collection and emergency vehicle access'. Image from proposal

entire development up to over 40 houses'.

'Given the higher density of buildings proposed, I am concerned that if approved as is, it could create unnecessary dangers to life and property'.

April 8 meeting

Kate is encouraging neighbours – many of whom are elderly – to attend the community consultation to find out more.

It will be held April 8 at the Byron Community College, room 8 from 2 till 5.30pm.

The Echo asked Mr Sked,

'While you claim "floor levels have been set above the flood planning levels required by Council", the recently adopted *Residential Strategy 2041* relies on pre-2022 flood data'.

'Residents next door say that they were flooded up to their thigh in 2022.

'Will this development be based on pre-2022 flood data, and if so, why?

'Is it a concern to the developers that this proposes buildings on a known floodplain?'

Answers will be published when they are received.



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Afghan Files whistleblower speaks

Mia Armitage

The sound of his eldest daughter's silent crying over the phone in Australia ultimately compelled Afghan Files whistleblower, David McBride, to risk jail by coming home from Europe.

Her end-of-school father-daughter dance was coming up, and she wanted her dad there.

The charismatic former military lawyer from Sydney had been trying to work out his next move, after sharing classified documents alleging Australian war crimes in Afghanistan with ABC journalists in 2016.

Sure enough, police were waiting for the former major at the airport when he tried to leave Australia again in 2018.

Last-minute dash

One subsequent controversial trial in Canberra and a postponed sentencing date later, McBride made a last-minute dash to the Northern Rivers last week to share his story and raise funds for his children via his new book, *The Nature of Honour*.

Hopes of defending himself by arguing he was



David McBride and Mia Armitage in conversation at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club. Photo supplied

honouring his duty to the Australian people were dashed when the judge determined the former military lawyer was legally bound to serve the Crown foremost.

No choices left

Left with little choice other than to plead guilty, David McBride awaits sentencing, almost certain to include several years in jail.

But while the thought of being away from his children again is costing him his sleep, David McBride says as long as he has their love and respect, it's worth it.

Speaking in Mullumbimby's Ex-Services Club

on Saturday, David McBride shared his thoughts on media coverage of his story to date and Australia's state of democracy.

While ABC's *Four Corners* exposé of what came to be known as The Afghan Files went on to receive a Walkley Award, and one of the journalists, Dan Oakes, received an Order of Australia Medal, the source of the material relied on, David McBride, faces jail.

Earlier in the week he was interviewed on Bay FM's drivetime show, *The Sandpit*, and spoke about his dark hours, devotion to his daughters and love of the Northern Rivers.



Emergency Services Community Connect

Saturday 6 April 2024
9am until 2 pm

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Bring the family and come and meet your emergency response community at this free action-packed day, while enjoying the Brunswick Heads Markets.

More information

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/emergency-services-community-connect



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

Resilient Lismore's 'Repair to Return' funding

On the eve of the second anniversary of the second devastating flood in 2022, Resilient Lismore has welcomed the finalisation of its funding deed with the NSW Reconstruction Authority, which will enable the continuation of its 'Repair to Return' program.

Where should affordable housing go in the Tweed Shire?

Should affordable and social housing in the Tweed Shire be tucked away in a few discreet corners? Perhaps it should be on the block next to where you live?

Vision of Northern Rivers armed robbery released

Police have released CCTV vision as part of a public appeal for help investigating an armed robbery south of Tweed Heads on the weekend.

Making Lismore Showground accessible to everyone

The Lismore Showground isn't just a critical local community asset that plays host to a number of major events each year, but has also been used as an evacuation centre during past natural disasters in the region.

Teenage boy in custody charged with dangerous driving in Nimbin

Police say they've charged a Northern Rivers teenager with multiple driving offences as a part of investigations under their Operation Mongoose North.

www.echo.net.au

Lennox shed restoration a victory for community

Story & photo David Lowe

Long-time campaigners for the salvation of the historic Lennox Head shed/pavilion are very happy with the final result of the restoration and improvement works, recently delivered by Ballina Shire Council.

Dorothy Thompson's father did a lot of work for the Ballina Council, Surf Club and other community organisations in the early years, and was involved with the original resumption of the seaside blocks (where the pavilion now stands) so they could become public land, as well as the creation of the original building, in the 1950s.

Local historian Robyn Hargrave has fought for the preservation of the shed for a number of years.

While the building has been decried by some as an eyesore with no real heritage value, it's become obvious in recent years that it has significant sentimental value for many people in Lennox Head, as well as practical value when the weather closes in.



Robyn Hargrave and Dorothy Thompson at the shed.

Long battle

With almost everything else in Lennox Head changing beyond recognition in the last few decades, both women are pleased to see the shelter and associated buildings now have a new lease of life, following a torrid few years of battles to preserve them, through various plans put forward by Ballina Shire Council as part of the Lennox Village Vision revamp.

After multiple deputations to Ballina Council representing heritage interests, Robyn Hargrave says she's really pleased with how it's all turned out. 'We always had the confidence once we saw

the final plans. This was our preferred option.'

After many different approaches were considered and rejected at various stages, the building now features a long central table which is wheelchair accessible and contains chess boards. There's a new roof, a different colour scheme, and extensive use of timber throughout, with the neighbouring bus stop and toilet block visually integrated and connected via flowing pathways.

Many Bundjalung words about the area are built into the design, with local Indigenous input. As Ms Hargrave says, 'It's all part of our living history, our living culture, and we're all going forward.'

She believes with so much of the old Lennox now

having been knocked down, it was 'pretty precious' to have at least one public building preserved, to reflect the village's past and bring it into a new era.

Absolutely delighted

Dorothy Thompson is very grateful to have a piece of Lennox's heritage preserved. 'I'm absolutely delighted,' she said. 'I would have felt very down if it had been destroyed.'

One of the Ballina councillors who argued for the preservation of the building was Lennox's Kiri Dicker. She told *the Echo* the result was 'amazing', and beyond what anyone expected. She remembers wondering at times if she'd made the right decision to campaign for the shed because it was such a 'massive fight' to save it from demolition. Cr Dicker said she loves the chess boards (an idea which emerged from a listening post gathering) and the long central wooden table, and is excited about the potential for the revamped venue to become a location for new events, such as community dinners.

With little remaining of the original structure but the arches, Cr Dicker says the shed nonetheless symbolises

something important to a community which has been dealing with an enormous burden of growth. 'There's been some grumbles, but largely, we've been pretty gracious about it, although people are genuinely shocked at the pace of change.'

The beauty of randomness

Kiri Dicker said it was important for long term residents not to have their main street entirely sanitised and uniform. 'They wanted some randomness about it!' she said.

This idea has even been extended to the repairs of the cracks in the floor of the shed, which embrace the Japanese concept of kintsugi, in which the repair becomes part of the art, rather than being hidden.

'The idea is that not everything has to be brand new and the old thing can be worthy,' said Cr Dicker.

In terms of Ballina Shire Council's long argument with itself about the Lennox shed, she says the lesson is to listen to people, make a good decision and stick to it, rather than 'swaying around in the breeze'.

MardiGrass returning in May

Nimbin is gearing up for its 32nd annual MardiGrass, the cannabis law reform protest and gathering held on the first weekend in May.

'It's extraordinary the change in 30 years from being a gathering of protesting criminals to now we are hearing from AHPRA a million people in Australia have legal medical cannabis,'

said MOB president Michael Balderstone.

'However, as far as law reform goes, we still have a long way to go with change, especially the tragically cruel driving laws. Roadside drug testing needs to be about impairment and not just the mere presence of cannabis, and we also must be allowed to grow our own plants

instead of having to buy them with a prescription.'

The Kombi Konvoy leaves Byron on Saturday, May 4 and the Grand Parade and Rally for Cannabis Law Reform on Sunday, May 5 promises to be 'as colourful and controversial as ever'.

To join the volunteers or find out more, check out: nimbinmardigrass.com.

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Emergency services on show at Bruns, April 6

Emergency services will be on show at the next Brunswick Heads Markets in Banner Park on Saturday April 6 from 9am until 2pm.

Council said in a media release last week, 'Emergency Services Community Connect will offer the community a chance to come and meet local emergency response members and showcase some of the equipment used in an emergency.'

Sarah Boule, Byron Shire Council Recovery Coordinator, said that the event will provide the community with a chance to come together with a focus on emergency preparedness and resilience. 'Come and get to know

your local emergency services and ask any questions you have about how they operate'.

Jet skis, fire trucks

'There will be vehicles and equipment such as jet skis and fire trucks, and demonstrations throughout the day, so bring the whole family,' she said.

'Marine Rescue are organising this event, and we are grateful for all they, and the other emergency service organisations, do for our community.'

'These organisations are all largely run by volunteers, and they deserve to be recognised, so come and show your support,' she said.

Anti-protest laws under review

With a review of 2022 anti-protest laws now underway, the NSW Council for Civil Liberties is calling on the NSW Labor government to include public submissions in the process and for it to be undertaken 'in a clear and transparent manner'.

A statement from the

organisation reads, 'The right to protest is a fundamental democratic right that allows us to express our views, shape our societies, and press for social change. In NSW, and nationally across Australia, it is under attack.'

For more info visit www.nswccl.org.au

Greens announce their Council election ticket

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

The local government elections will be held in September, and in the Byron Shire, the Greens have announced their team with current councillor Sarah Ndiaye running for mayor on a four-woman ticket.

Running with Cr Ndiaye, are local women Elia Hauge, Delta Kay and Michelle Lowe.

Currently the Deputy Mayor, Cr Ndiaye said she is honoured to be part of a ticket with such a caring, intelligent and passionate team of community leaders.

'I'm in awe of all three of my running mates, and believe the Byron Shire will really benefit having them on Council.'

Elia Hauge

'Elia Hauge is a water engineer and on Council's Water and Sewer Committee. She has been very active in the local Greens group, and was a lead organiser during the "Yes" campaign.'

Delta Kay

'I've worked with Delta Kay over many years in a variety of capacities. She



Michelle Lowe, Cr Sarah Ndiaye, Elia Hauge and Delta Kay.

is a well known Traditional Owner, and a widely respected businesswoman and educator.

Michelle Lowe

'Michelle Lowe is a Bundjalung woman, high school teacher and mentor, and has been very active in the climate strikes, among other things'.

Cr Ndiaye said her run for mayor has been a long time coming. 'I think over seven

years on Council, and five as as deputy mayor, has put me in a very good position. I understand the position, its complexities and the needs of our community'.

'It's one role where you know you can never make everyone happy - but if you are genuine, you work hard for the community and do your best to explain where you're coming from, hopefully people appreciate that.' All of the women have

lived in the area for most of their lives.

'Our team is united in creating a sustainable, liveable and resilient future for the Byron Shire,' said Cr Ndiaye.

'From protecting the environment, to addressing our urgent housing needs, together we bring the experience and vision needed on Council.'

Current Greens councillor, Duncan Dey, says he will not run for re-election.



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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #43 • April 3, 2024

With the cleaning of the drains comes the whiff of local government elections

What's that smell? It's the first whiff of an upcoming election, and residents are to get free parking!

While Mayor Michael Lyon has managed to keep his election promise of free locals parking, staff were unsupportive of losing \$1m of expected earnings, which is in the context of an already precarious financial position.

So let the local political campaigning begin!

The first to announce their intention to run for the September election is Greens councillor, Sarah Ndiaye. She wants to be mayor, and presents an all-woman team (see page 9). Cr Ndiaye's team could, if elected, inject much-needed energy and a different perspective from what is happening now.

But buckle in peeps – the following comments will be uncomfortable for rusted-on Greens voters.

The Echo looks forward to seeing what policy vision is articulated by Cr Ndiaye in the coming months, notwithstanding that she has been in the job for over seven years now.

In those seven long years, it's unclear what she has achieved.

And the same really applies to the entire councillor majority.

Where's the reform?

Where's the reform? Whose interests do they represent?

The pandemic and floods have no doubt changed the demographics for the area. And a fractured community is easy to govern, as any military strategist will tell you.

So when it comes to September, and the same faces ask for your vote, here's a few things to consider:

Cr Lyon, Swivel, Pugh and Hunter are the most conservative lot in the room. They understand the importance of not upsetting

the well-paid executive staff, upon whom they rely heavily.

As we have seen over the past two years, they protect them from scrutiny, and put their interests over the community.

If that's your bag, then fine.

But don't be fooled into thinking they are interested in environmental issues or transparency.

No doubt, the 2024 election issues will be centred around housing, yet all those seeking election need to explain the nuance of how this area can maintain the diminishing high biodiversity.

Most people in this area actually care about such things.

And how will the failing and ageing infrastructure keep up?

At Thursday's meeting, the mayor burst into a *Yes Minister/Utopia* script while explaining that the Mullum hospital site plans have infrastructure plans rolling out concurrently.

'We have an infrastructure plan!' he said. So can we see it?

'Well, no. It's being developed.'

There is a reasonable question as to whether that valuable asset should be retained instead of flogged off to recoup \$6m in demolition costs. As the site was used as a public hospital for decades, should speculating developers be able to make a motser from it?

Longtime residents are well aware that decades ago, Byron's lack of sewerage capacity paused development. In times of extreme weather, water security is foremost.

And is floodplain development a smart way forward? At least an election is a good opportunity for change. It may result in a Council that cares for those who live here, instead of pleasing state government demands and acting like tinpot tyrants.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Putting infrastructure into focus

Is there anything more boring in the realms of public spending than infrastructure?

Infrastructure spending does nothing to increase teacher salaries or accelerate elective surgery.

According to the Infrastructure Partnerships 'Budget Monitor', state and federal governments across Australia will spend \$256.6 billion on infrastructure projects ranging from roads and Sydney's Western Airport to sewage and water infrastructure.

Their report notes an increasing focus on energy infrastructure to help the renewables transition.

This is all sunny news. So after last year's budget announcements, everyone returned to focusing on salaries and interest rates.

But since then, dark clouds have started forming – the Albanese Labor government received a report on the Commonwealth government's infrastructure \$120 billion pipeline, which identified an eye-watering \$44 billion in cost blow-outs. It recommended 100 projects continue, while dumping 82 planned projects. Many of these projects affect Western Sydney, so the NSW government has had to somehow find the money to make up the shortfall in projects like the motorway connections to Western Sydney's new airport.

For most citizens, it's eye-glazing – the size of the cost and the scale of the projects is tremendous.

Sydney projects impact us

What most of us fail to appreciate is the impact the cost blow-out has on each and every household in the Northern Rivers, where we are still trying to rebuild infrastructure post-flood, and have yet to solve issues such as water security and local roads.

The infrastructure debacle, which saw the federal government forced to find \$44 billion for cost blow-outs was a national disgrace, and frankly, it is fortunate for the infrastructure tsars and contractors that most of this happened on the former government's watch.

Subsequently, their scandalous mismanagement has gone under everybody's radar.



'Many homes and businesses around our region will continue to flood unnecessarily, because we still lack funding for proper drainage.'

– Catherine Cusack

Ad hoc planning

According to reports, this fiasco is owing to 'ad hoc planning', and a failure to properly plan and cost projects prior to committing to fund them.

When big projects in places like Sydney and Melbourne blow out to the tune of \$44 billion, every single rural and regional community carries the burden – funding for the Bruxner Highway between Wollongbar and Lismore was just one of the 82 projects axed.

Around the same time, Royal Life Saving Australia released a report on the state of the nation's aquatic infrastructure. It found the average public swimming pool was built in 1968, and 40 per cent (or 500 swimming pools), will reach the end of their life by 2030. They will cost \$8 billion to replace. And a further \$3 billion will be needed on public pools through to 2035.

Unlike the federal infrastructure debacle, there are no state or federal programs for funding public pools – the cost and responsibility falls onto local government.

Smaller councils are already overwhelmed with significant backlogs. There is no way our councils can take on such costs. Losing public pools would strike at the very heart of Australian culture.

Swimming pools are just one relatively small issue councils face – local roads obviously are the biggest.

Drainage is another council responsibility. Whether you live in Lismore or Byron, many homes and businesses around our region will continue to flood unnecessarily, because we still lack funding for proper drainage.

Issues like water supply and sewerage should be handed over to,

and funded and managed by, state government because it can never be solved locally. We desperately need our own version of Sydney Water, and it needs to be big – encompassing the entire region.

A third issue raised by infrastructure partnerships is a catch-22 – big city projects are placing a huge strain on the construction labour force, causing the cost of building to blow out. And this is competing with labour we need to be building houses.

In May 2023, a KPMG report estimated the cost of residential construction increased by 30 per cent over two years, causing thousands of plans for new homes to be torn up.

Everyone needs to care about what is going on with infrastructure in Australia – it's a policy minefield that seems utterly neglected owing to lack of political sex appeal.

But the dysfunction and mismanagement affects each of us more than any other aspect of government spending.

And its impact on our children and their future is far greater.

Our councils are overwhelmed to the point where we need to hit a pause button, band together and ask for a 'new deal' for Northern Rivers infrastructure planning and funding. My dream is that The Northern Rivers Joint Organisation (NRJO) can lead and tackle this project and support its member councils.

We are not even back on our feet from the floods – let alone investing in a big picture plan for our future.

We all need to wake up to infrastructure and make it the number one priority that it is.

■ Catherine Cusack is a former NSW Liberal MP.



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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor

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

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

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

– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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Where have all the festivals gone? Long time passing... Image Cloudcatcher Media

No fixed address

I've been resident in and around Mullumbimby for 28 years.

I am 70, and homeless. Has a pitiful ring to it, doesn't it? Being homeless is not my fault. It is the fault and shame of society, the fault and shame of government, the three tiers of it, from the top down. Advance Australia Fair be damned!

I am keenly invested in the outcome of the development at the old Mullumbimby Hospital site. I cannot express strongly enough the importance of the provision of social housing at this location. Not a token handful to placate the powers that be, or the neighbours, but a generous allocation of residences for independent over 55's, citizens who remain active and involved in community.

As a senior, I am only too aware of the stereotypes associated with my generation, the boomers. Contrary

to popular opinion, we are not all self-funded retirees, benefitting from the golden years of wealth creation. We have paid taxes, raised the children of today, it is our human right to be housed.

My situation is not unique. My story is representative of the hundreds, if not thousands of others in identical situations in the Northern Rivers. I implore council to act on the urgent need for social housing on the old Mullumbimby hospital site. It is not through any failure, behaviour or action of ours that spiralling rents and an astonishing lack of rental vacancies or social housing have reduced us to a disadvantaged statistic.

Catherine Perversi
No fixed address

One-dimensional

I have been a resident of Mullumbimby for many years, originally from Israel. On the 26th of March, I attended an event in Mullum's RSL called 'Politics

in the Pub', advertised as a 'peace and freedom in Israel & Palestine Fundraiser'.

I sat there listening from start to end, but couldn't believe what I was hearing, and especially what I was not hearing. I can't express in words how badly Israel was presented.

The incredibly complex conflict was reduced to a distorted picture, showing the Palestinians as the absolute good in this story, and the Israelis as pure evil. There was so much misinformation there, and especially so many important and relevant aspects that were conveniently and deliberately not mentioned. After attending this event, it felt as if there was no other option but to be totally convinced that Israel is the most monstrous country ever to be imagined.

I want to address the people who attended, hoping that at least some of them will read my words. I implore you, dear fellow

locals, to please think of what you were told. Does it all make sense? Does it sit well with other information you have?

Look around at the many Israelis you know and are part of our community; do they fit the profile of white supremacy you were told of? I am begging you, please go and keep digging into this topic, check the facts, ask questions, and try other sources.

Please don't be fooled into believing that the reality is one-dimensional, flat, and simple. This conflict is horrible for everyone involved; there is no need to falsify whole parts of history or deny real events in order to validate people's suffering.

Michal Schiff
Mullumbimby

Wallum's serious flaws

The efforts to save Wallum have brought to light serious flaws in planning approvals. This is a zombie DA using out-of-date assessments. Mayor Michael Lyon was very clear that if it came to Byron Council today it would not be approved. However, he claims Council had to approve it because it had already been approved by the state government's Northern Rivers Planning Panel.

Simon Richardson, who was part of the NRPP, said the panel had to approve it because it already had approval from Council. Catch 22.

Then it gets more crazy. Tanya Plibersek, the Federal Minister for Environment, says it is a state and local matter. That isn't entirely


► Continued on next page

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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Pic Courtesy: Google
Wikipedia
Same

The Australian Shark-Incident Database has recorded that between 1791 and April 2018 there were 237 fatal shark attacks in Australia.
I have recorded that between 1980 and 2022 there were 102,018 Suicides in Australia. Scan QR 4 Graph + info credits.
237 Shark Attacks are FAIR GAME 4 Aussie Media and get FRONT PAGE; 102,018 Suicides R quite rightly treated with discretion and care, but

MEDIA/M.P.'s SILENCE 2 my work is DEAFENING!
After placing 3 monthly adverts in a large Sydney Metropolitan Paper with a Saturday audited readership of ½ Million: it's NOT just my work, but my ♥ which has been met by TOTAL SILENCE. I've had...

- NO RESPONSE from my comprehensive, officially received email to P.M. Albanese sent on 28.1.24.
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- NO RESPONSE from Medical Professionals or Spokespersons.

Where's the FAIR GO VOICE 4 non-Professional USER END Aussies with OCEANS TEAMING with new, innovative *LIFESAVING IDEAS* 4 today, AND future generations. The ones the dot points above are MEANT 2B ACTING 4?
But I'll continue to practice what I've been preaching 4 a Decade...

😊 ***I WILL NOT STAY SILENT!*** 😊

*Emergency 000, *Any Doctor, *Lifeline 13 11 14.
Written by sheep farmer Tim Barritt. Barossa Valley, S.A.

► Continued from page 11 true as she has the power to call in the development for assessment under the Environment Protection Biodiversity Act.

What is most batshit crazy of all is that developers are supposed to self-refer their developments for assessments. Not surprisingly, Clarence Property has not – although there are a number of endangered species on the site as documented on the Save Wallum website.

Another piece of bullshit is the idea that this is degraded farmland. It isn't. The aerial photos show slashed heath. That is wetland. That is frog habitat. There are no weeds at Wallum. No European plants. Everything that grows there has evolved to survive and thrive in unique conditions. Under a thin layer of sand there is coffee rock, a mix of peat and sand and it acts like a giant sponge soaking up water. Clarence Property wants to cover that giant sponge with two metres of fill. That would be an environmental disaster.

Here is a challenge to Clarence Property. Simon Kennedy, CEO, please refer Wallum Estate for assessment under the Environment Protection Biodiversity

Act. If you don't it is pretty much an admission it would fail. Clarence Property, what is your response?
Amanda Midlam
Main Arm

Thanks Mandy
An excellent article from Mandy in the last edition, why more people won't vote for the Greens beggars belief.

David Shoebridge of the Greens, in a recent sitting in the Senate, recently stated the UN has named Australia as one of a number of countries supplying weapons to Israel (albeit a minor supplier), and some government leaders (as well as in other countries) may be held accountable for war crimes or crimes against humanity.

Labor's Penny Wong had dismissed and denied the claims as 'misinformation'. I wonder who is telling the truth? I think it's now called alternate facts?
Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

More children suffer
It is hoped that Byron Council have a local policy that addresses Closing the Gap. This addresses the ongoing injustices executed on First Nations children/adults since colonisation.
Assurance upholding

further suffering/ trauma/ despair is now articulated by NSW Premier Chris Minns who supports an upgraded policy incarcerating young Indigenous children, thus defying all of the years of honest work that has been created by the Closing the Gap activists.

This is a deplorable act. Contact the Aboriginal Legal Service for petitions. It is hoped that Byron Council stands against this action which defies compassion and Closing the Gap principles. A democratic Councilor voice(s) which condemn this inhumane act please.
Jo Faith
Newtown

Tyagarah Beach
Yes, it would be great to come out and play and romp around naked on the beach. The freedom of swimming butt-naked is a joy – I'm the first to agree. But that is only part of the truth at Tyagarah Nature Reserve.
David Heilpern gives a rosy picture of his experience of naturism. Stark naked people; unclothed men; women and children basking in their birthday suits. In an ideal world that would be wonderful, but the realities of Tyagarah are very different.

Imagine going for a swim at the ti-tree lakes and being abused for interrupting a bloke on his knees giving his mate a blow job – not fun; walking or jogging to the beach and being harassed by blokes trying to pick you up – not fun; or taking your teenage daughters to the beach for a swim only to have blokes expose themselves inappropriately – not ideal; sit on an almost deserted beach and have a bloke come and sit centimetres away pestering you – not relaxing.

Freedom has to go both ways. If naturists want a place to play then put it in a more public place where there is some control over unacceptable sex pests, not in an isolated beach where men, women and children have no protection. We deserve the freedom to go to the beach or the ti-tree lakes without being harassed, to relax and enjoy nature too.
Gwen Gould
Tyagarah

Deeply ashamed
I don't know if this is right but I think I've heard that Australia has the highest extinction rate in the world? Is that right, or close to?
► Continued on page 14


Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.
– Helen Keller

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The community is invited to participate in shaping the future of the Shire by providing feedback on the Byron Shire Community Strategic Plan.

Complete the online survey to tell us what you want to see in Byron Shire in the next ten years. Feedback from the community will be used to refresh the Community Strategic Plan.

The survey closes Wednesday 1 May 2024.

More information
To complete the survey and find out about other ways to get involved visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/communityplan





www.byron.nsw.gov.au

The way visitors to the area see us

A thrilling spectacle

The world adaptive surf competition held at Main Beach last week was a thrilling spectacle. A true celebration of diverse abilities and a collective sharing in the joy of wave riding. May it make its return to our shores next year. Commendations to all the competitors, organisers and volunteers.

On the downside, shame on Michael Lyon and the Byron Shire Council for not having a single wheelchair accessible ramp to access the beach in all of Suffolk Park. A group of young competitors from the US staying in Suffolk were confronted with this disabling environment. This is not in the spirit of this community and must be urgently addressed.

Sian Lewis
Broken Head

Thank you

For the second year in a row, I welcomed the new year in Australia. Flying all the way from New York, Paris, Tokyo (and it's January, the first earthquake!), I landed on the magical land of Byron Bay. It's been three months already and here again

I can't help but thinking: 'it's just the beginning'. It takes time to get the pulse of a land, to adjust with the vibrations of the people, the trees, the communities.

How is Australia? What is Australia? Like the rocks, grand and ancient, I see strength, immensity and potential. Like the rainbows, ephemeral and wide, I see hope and fragility. Birds are also like nowhere else here, they sing the songs of the very first day, when it all began, for the ones who dare to still listen to them.

In the land of surfers and beautiful people, I felt profoundly touched by the elders, the old hippies, the avant-gardes of their time; the teachers of anthroposophy. In their vulnerability and strong will, in their softness and engagement, they showed me the way to courage, dedication and understanding of living together. They are in their 70s and they care. They fight to protect the gardens, the farms, the forests! They are the ones who show up and watch the story of innocents put in prison. I wonder whether I was not as moved

by the actual documentary on Julian Assange I saw at the Regent Theatre in Murrumbidgee the other night, as I was by all the elders and earth carers in the room, silently crying for Julian's slow death in front of our eyes. Or this beekeeper in his 60s explaining to me how he is finally re-understanding the meaning of love and how to love a woman, putting aside all his old patterns and triggers. Speak about courage. Few are on social media, their time is spent on caring for the land and each other.

I found magic at the farmers' market. I will probably never look at bananas or sweet potatoes the same way again after tasting Craig's bananas and Frank's sweet potatoes, each respectively growing as they would their own children.

I found truth in the bus transporting the youth, the outcasts and the free spirits to places of humanity. That's where I had some of the most profound and fun conversations, that's where I got to write this story. I found hope in Baz and Shaz and the 'mom and pop' shops as we call it in America, where

one can still taste the life forces of food.

I met this one-year-old little girl whose parents are working around the clock to make sure she can get the best care and chances in life. She was a treasure. Life seems unfair when the extremely rich and extremely struggling live together. Yet, digging in a little further you also find that the sense of happiness and contentment is found in unexpected places and usually far away from materialism.

I missed more connections with the Aboriginal communities, there were so few First Nations people I got to meet here. They are the gold of this country.

I am thankful to you, *The Echo*, for sharing, week after week, the important news and information. Such a platform of knowledge is extremely rare nowadays and it makes me so happy to see you thriving the way you do.

May I carry the sound of your voice, Byron Bay and the wise down under anywhere life brings me.

Emilie Cresp
Suffolk Park

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Proposed lease over road reserve.

Council is proposing to lease 750sqm of the road reserve on Casons Road, New Brighton, to the adjoining landowner at 5-7 New Brighton Road, New Brighton (Lot 356 DP755687), for a period of 5-years, for a driveway crossover and bush fire truck-turning area.

In accordance with Section 154 of the Roads Act 1993, interested parties are invited to make submissions about this proposal within 28 days.
Submissions will open 3 April 2024 and close 1 May 2024.

Submissions must be made by visiting Council's website at:
<https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notices>

For all enquiries, please contact Tracy Armstrong, Road and Property Officer, on 02 6626 7201.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au

► **Continued from page 12**

The top half of our planet has been populated by whiteys a lot longer than the southern countries. So they had already driven everything there to extinction way before they even got to Australia.

Just a couple of hundred years ago, before we arrived here, this lovely land was so healthy and organic and how nature intended it to be. Once we arrived, we blew it up, spat it out and ruined the natural environment of every local, living creature and began the extinction of many.

As a thinking human being I'm deeply ashamed to be part of the demise of our beautiful, healthy country. For smart creatures, we can be so stupid.

Hannah Grace
Ocean Shores

Time for a change

There is an urgent need to change the name of a locality in Byron Shire. It contains an offensive element that must be removed by a total change of name.

We know that Mayor Lyon will be highly supportive as he obviously has high qualifications in linguistics, specifically lexicography and semantics. His support of

what the well-known literary figure calls shining wits in a recent street name change in Mullumbimby reveals his capacity for sympathy and understanding. Of course, we are confident other councillors will support us too.

We all know of the swearing abuse the unemployed suffer as if they are 'exploitative' of the general community. Demeaning, derogatory, and derisive terminology pursues the unemployed; it is only right that Byron Shire leads the charge to adopt a more sympathetic and kindly approach to negate the slandering of the unemployed.

I do not want to use any of the nasty characterisations of the unemployed, but I will have to use one such when I reveal the name of the locality. The last two syllables of the name contain the offensiveness, which is partly obscured by a deliberate misspelling.

The locality is Talofa.

J Rose
Mullumbimby

Call to prayer

I would like to reassure Susan Fell (*Echo* 27.3.24) that noisy fruit miners do not, as stated by her, 'destroy other bird populations'.

Noisy miners catch

enormous amounts of insects to feed their young, then change over to flowers and nectar. They are honeyeaters and as such are very protective and aggressive about what they see as a seasonal resource – just like rainbow lorikeets.

Mullumbimby never had palms down the street a few decades ago – it did have some beautiful fig myrtles in Stuart Street that were removed by the then Council one dark night as they 'dropped fruit on parked cars'. The virtues of palms as street trees are way overstated – they drop fronds and slippery berries and are rapidly becoming a headache for many places that have planted them, attracted by their neat root habits and rapid growth.

Probably nothing that Council chooses to replace them with will have the same height and grace, but the parrots may well take up residence again once the trees have grown back. An interesting Queensland University study has found that parrots, rainbow lorikeets in particular, love well-lit streets and shopping centres to roost in, it makes them feel safer because they can see any enemies who may be around. They do not nest

in palms, they prefer tree hollows. Perhaps Council can be persuaded to install a few more nesting boxes around town to help them out? If the parrots leave it will only be temporary, they are highly intelligent and adaptable and will return as soon they can see a roost.

In the meantime, has anyone even noticed that a mature paperbark tree was removed in Fletcher Street Byron Bay to install a crass, ugly electricity locker? A loss of a much more important food source for both lorikeets and miners than a palm tree.

Karena Wynn-Moylan
Bangalow

It's not over until it's over

In response to Jo Faith's recent letter (*Echo* online edition 23.3.24), it's definitely not all over for train services in our region!

The recent completion of the first on-the-ground study of our tracks in 20 years has shown that it will cost a fraction of what has been touted till now, to fix the tracks and bring train services back!

We are also surveying locals and finding that over 90 per cent want railway services to return!

► **Continued on page 17**







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There's always controversy around festivals

Festival days may be numbered

It's becoming common news. First Groovin in the Moo gets cancelled and now Splendour in the Grass.

You have to ask yourself: why are these music festivals getting cancelled even after tickets go on sale?

All you have to do is think back to Australia's longest-running rock/alternative festival the Big Day Out. It ran nationally and in New Zealand for over 20 years.

The breaking point for the festival was due to high ticketing prices. The festival organisers had lost touch with the festival audience. Most of the demographic of people who were attending weren't made of huge amounts of money. Just people who enjoyed listening to live music with their friends.

The festival organisers can't blame it on high inflation and low ticket sales. They rake in millions on the highly overpriced alcohol and bottled water, which would be more than needed to sustain a festival economically. Cheaper tickets, better lineups and

the crowds will attend once again.

One last point. Australian festivals are talked about throughout the music/band world.

The musicians always comment on how alive and energetic the Australian audiences are compared to other countries.

Che Hamill-Diehl
Coorabell

Pill testing

Are we caring for our younger ones enough in our society these days? It's a known fact that people have taken drugs since the beginning of time for humans to alter their reality/mind or find a deeper meaning/spirituality!

After 64 people died since 2000 in this country at festivals, the need to have pill testing or drug checking is more than obvious. Why should a person lose their life only because some greedy producer/dealer put some dangerous substance into an ecstasy pill for example, so called 'stretching'. That's why pill testing is important and needed.

The ACT is, and believe it or not, Queensland will

have a trial soon and have committed \$1 million dollars over the next two years towards it. Pill testing has been used since the early nineties in some European discos and it's now available in 20 countries in Europe, the Americas and New Zealand. Sometimes they do it in community health centres or treatment clinics.

I remember that there was a huge police operation one night in Kings Cross in the nineties, when they were going through nightclubs in big numbers and patrons were swallowing two and more pills at once, which they wanted to use over the next 20 hours or so dancing the night away. The operation caused chaos in the nearby hospitals, because of the number of people being brought in. This sometimes still happens when people at festivals see the police with their sniffer dogs approaching them.

In Switzerland drug testing has been used since the 1990s and is now a central part of Swiss drug policy. In the UK's first drug checking service, nearly 50 people (20 per cent) chose to

dispose of their drugs, while another 20 plus decided to take only small amounts of it.

Some of us might remember the devastating effect of 'moonshine', alcohol made illegally after the 1919 alcohol prohibition in the USA, which killed thousands of people, built the organised crime syndicates and made the government change the laws.

NSW has the opportunity to run a trial at the 'Splendour in the Grass' festival in July this year. It would be able to provide results to the NSW drug summit, which was promised and is more than urgently needed.

Let's not forget that the former Coalition government had the recommendations from the very expensive Ice Inquiry report lying on their desk for over two years while the community suffered big time. Criminalising medical cannabis users for driving to work is still following the 'war on drugs' penalising principle.

Chibo Mertineit
Lillian Rock

Op Shop



Byron Dog Rescue

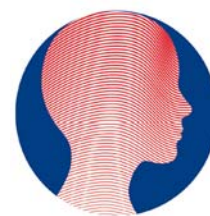
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The politics of live music: what are festivals worth?

David Lowe

The collapse of Splendour in the Grass before it reached the starting gates has been blamed on a lot of things, including the cost of living, Taylor Swift, the weather, ticket prices, millennial laziness, Kylie Minogue and inadequate government support.

The event joins a growing list of major music events to be cancelled. So what do taxpayers owe music festival culture in Australia, if anything?

All eyes on Bluesfest

With all eyes on Bluesfest as the last behemoth standing in the (muddy) NSW regional music festival paddock, there were huge digital slides beside the stages all weekend asking punters to advocate for the music industry's future, by urging state and federal governments to invest more in its growth.

'Support the life-blood of Australian culture by providing financial aid to major, long-standing music events.

Make your voice heard.'

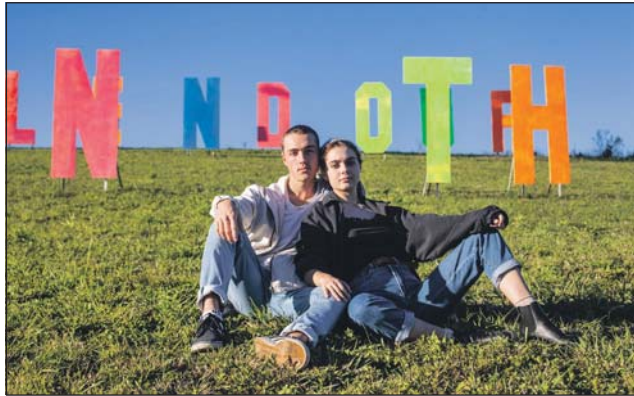
A big QR code led to a petition aimed at the government in aid of 'over 2,100 professionals and 700 artists and crew members at the heart of this extraordinary event'.

Money for nothing?

The fact is that after extensive lobbying from the late Michael Gudinski and others, under the current state and federal Labor governments there is already substantial public support flowing to the popular live music sector, after years of neglect from the Coalition, which favoured ballet and opera.

Splendour in the Grass, for example, was the beneficiary of \$100,000 announced with great fanfare earlier this year by Richmond MP Justine Elliot and the Albanese government. There's no word on whether this will be repaid. In January, \$2.5m of federal money was allocated to music festivals across the country under the Live Music Australia program, with more funding rounds to follow.

After the news about Splendour last week, John



Am I ever gonna see a festival again? Photo Tree Faerie

Graham, the NSW Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy (as well as Jobs and Tourism), said the cancellation was devastating news, noting that the festival industry was under 'extreme pressure', and he was deeply worried about the health of the festival scene in NSW.

Financial support to help Splendour

Mr Graham said the state government offered financial support to help Splendour proceed in 2024, but apparently it was not enough. Another NSW government initiative to keep the live music industry alive after

attacks of streaming and dwindling live performance opportunities.

Am I ever gonna see your face again?

It's a strange time for live music here, with visiting megastars like Taylor Swift able to fill arenas and ask anything they want for tickets, while the once-thriving Australian pub music scene is under threat like never before.

That other sector of the entertainment industry, sport, still receives a greater share of government funding than the arts, with live music a subset of that, although more people attend arts events and concerts than sporting events, and the flow-through positive economic effects of live music are substantial, even without considering the more intangible psychological and community benefits.

In terms of festivals, many commentators have said Splendour simply became too big. Smaller, more niche festivals are managing to

survive despite the many challenges of the sector. Perhaps the mega-festivals will need to return to their humble roots if they are to have a future.

Climate change is beginning to bite the outdoor live music scene too. After contending with extreme heat waves this year, Womadelaide may have to move to a different time of year. Splendour turned to chaotic mud in 2022. The Pitch Music Festival in Victoria was cancelled a few weeks ago due to bushfire risk.

It's a growing problem. Between 2013 and 2019, ten Australian music festivals were affected by extreme weather, but in 2022-2023 at least 22 music festivals were cancelled or disrupted in this way.

The Minister for the Arts, Tony Burke, who approved the massive Maules Creek coal mine in a previous incarnation, has just announced an inquiry into the challenges and opportunities within the Australian live music industry.

Submissions are open until the end of April.



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► Continued from page 14

No real community consultation has ever occurred in any of our shires about what the people really want: trains or a bike path, or both!

Local railway companies are working hard to extend services from the current Byron Solar Train, the first in the world, to Mullumbimby and then up to Bangalow.

Then extending to Bilinudgel to service 7,500 residents in Ocean Shores, South Golden Beach and New Brighton and on to Yelgun (it may help Splendour come back).

Then on to Lismore from Bangalow, via Eltham and Bexhill. Lismore needs some of the 2.4 million annual visitors to Byron Bay. They will be able to visit our region's towns, safely and in comfort, and support our local economies.

Our roads are more congested than any other region in NSW. The Northern Rivers has also recorded some of the highest drink driving rates, as there is no option but to drive if you want to go out for a drink!

The train tracks are the best route for restoring early movement of people and produce, as part of an evacuation plan, in times of flood. They become

accessible, well before roads are cleared.

For so many reasons we need to save our tracks from being any further destroyed, for the future sustainability of the Northern Rivers! We can have both train services and a bike path within the current railway corridor.

For more information and to donate go to www.northernriversrail.com.au.

Lydia Kindred,
Secretary,
Northern Rivers Railway

Helmets please

A friend of mine fell off her bike on the rail trail. She lost quite a lot of bark, but she was wearing her helmet and that probably saved her from a much worse injury.

When I am driving through Byron, I often wonder why helmet rules don't apply there, including school-aged children – am I missing something?

Is fluffed hair blowing in the breeze for your Insta profile worth more than your life?

Will it only be when someone has an irreversible brain injury that people will comply with the law?

Dear NSW Police, please explain?

La Madonna del Ghisallo
Patron Saint of Cyclists

Just two words

How is it, that just two words can break one's heart yet harden another's?

How is it that just two words aren't enough to bring us all to our knees as we beg for forgiveness?

How is it that these two words don't propel us all into action and awaken us from our slumber?

Just two words...

The children

And if not these two words, what about these...

The maimed

The broken

The tortured

The orphaned

The starving

Hollow eyes

Gaping mouths

Dry tears

Endless cries

Heart-wrenching goodbyes

Stolen lives

Stolen land

Stolen stories

Stolen songs

Stolen dreams

Stolen hopes

Broken spirit

Eternal souls

And how I wish these two words were enough to stop it all...

I'm sorry.

Esther Berkon
Mullumbimby Creek

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Fresh, intelligent, friendly and energised – vale Treena Lenthall

Local woman Treena Lenthall passed away last week after a two-year battle with cancer. Her partner David Bradbury said she was an amazing women, mother and activist, partner to him in life and his committed activist filmmaking as well as the closest and dearest friend to the many who knew and loved her.

David Bradbury

Treena went to Balmoral Highschool, graduated in Social Work at Queensland Uni in 1994 and then completed her BA majoring in Peace and Conflict Studies.

Treena's heart lay in peace and social justice activism. After graduating she was part of a collective that worked to support marginalised people grappling with mental health and physical disabilities. The friends she made then, remained her best mates and were at her wedding last week, surrounding her with love in her final hours.

Treena was inspired by, and warmed to, former journalist-turned-activist Dorothy Day in the United States. Treena flew out of Brisbane in 1996 and travelled to the United States by herself. She stayed at various Catholic Worker houses in the US where she joined them in anti-war actions as well as helping the poor as she did for a brief stint at the Mullum Neighbourhood Centre.

On return to Australia, Treena quickly jumped back into activist actions. She was at the Jabiluka blockade in 1998. She and fellow activist Ciaron O'Reilly disabled a forklift used by the mining company to load yellowcake for export.



Treena Lenthall at the Talisman Sabre military exercises holding a photo of an Iraqi boy injured by American depleted uranium munitions.

They waited until the police arrived to arrest them. She used my documentary Jabiluka to defend herself in a Northern Territory court. That's how we first 'met'. But not in person. Alas, the magistrate was not impressed by Treena. She was ordered to pay the mining company \$2,000 to repair their forklift, or go to gaol for two months. There was no way principled Treena was going to pay the mining company. So she went to gaol.

The NT gaols were pretty rough in the '90s but Treena won the respect of inmates and acted as their scribe.

When East Timor won its independence in 1999, Treena jumped one of the first UN flights from Darwin to Dili and she campaigned for human rights for the East Timorese.

Treena and I met in 2005 at the first protests against the US-Aust Defence

Forces Talisman Sabre bi-annual military exercises.

As highly respected American activist Kathy Kelly said of Treena: 'I remember being wide-eyed with admiration when I first met Treena. She was so fresh, intelligent, friendly and energised.'

I think that sums up Treena to a T. Fresh, intelligent, sharp wit, friendly and energised. I was immediately besotted by her when I first met her at 'the barricades' in Rockhampton and wanted to spend the rest of my life with her. Which has been my privilege and good fortune. Not nearly long enough however. She was 51 when she died.

We had been engaged for three years intending to marry, but Treena's battle with cancer intervened. She put ALL of her strength and might into fighting that. She told me in the last months of her life that if it was just her, she would accept her fate. 'I've had an incredible life, many experiences far beyond what most have. And wonderful people and friends I've met. I'm only going through all this for Omar's sake. I don't want to "abandon" our son.'

You didn't abandon him my darling. He knows who his Mamma is and how valiantly you fought to stay around here for him, even when the pain was crippling.

Omar and I were by her bedside when she passed.

■ There's a celebration of Treena's life this Thursday (April 4) from 11am at 714 Wilsons Creek Road, the driveway immediately before Wilsons Creek school.

To watch the ceremony via zoom, email: david@frontlinefilms.com.au.

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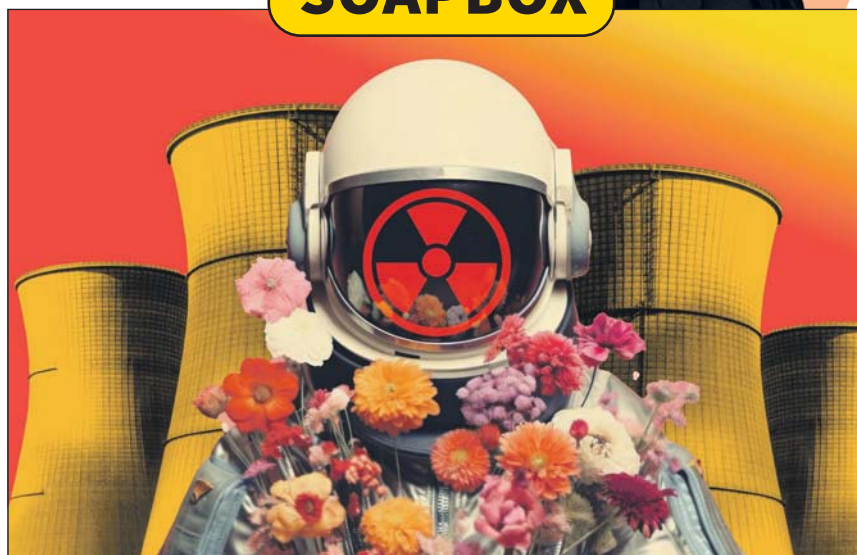
When we work out how to manage power we can work out how we manage power.

It's something I've contemplated a lot. In a world dependent on us being plugged in, what we plug into matters. Not just literally but philosophically. To me it makes sense of why government is so long lingering at the coal and gas bar. They know it's last drinks, but they're not moving on. They're not moving on because the big players haven't worked out how to use renewables to capture us. There's too much potential for self-reliance. And no one at the top of the trickle-down wants that.

Renewables have the potential to show us that life exists off the grid. That small and sustainable is possible. We can generate our own energy and share it. We can do trickle-across! That's contrary to the core ethos of trickle-down economics that insists we just wait at the bottom and eventually someone will get to us.

We've accepted, and been dependent on, a system that makes us quite literally powerless. When we ask why it's taken so long for a country full of wind and solar and all the natural resources to make batteries, I sometimes think it's this: capitalists need to capture the cash. Sure there's expenditure on solar panels and installation, and batteries certainly aren't cheap, but they continue to improve and decrease in cost, making it possible to generate our own supply. What happens when we are no longer power junkies waiting on our dealer? What happens when we localise our power supply?

In theory, small communities should be able to power share. I think it's why, in essence, lots of powerful people seem to hate renewables. Power sharing isn't their thing. They like to own power and dole it out. They like us dependent on them. Power goes in, money goes out. We are plugged into their machine. Micro-grids, and in particular community micro-grids, are the way forward. But the systems are expensive and they have to be licensed. Fees are between



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX

There's no inter-dependence in nuclear. You can't put one in your backyard and hook in. It's trickle-down until you die. And you probably will.

\$430k and \$600k. There is some movement on micro-grids for regional and remote communities, but it's difficult to do and I can't just share power with my neighbour because apparently that's not legal.

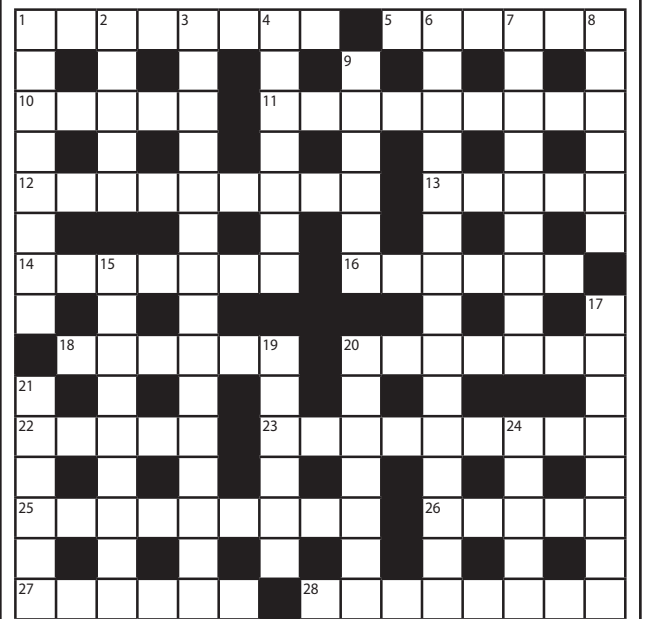
Nuclear power is loved by those who love controlling the power. There's no inter-dependence in nuclear. You can't put one in your backyard and hook in. It's trickle-down until you die. And you probably will. It's a 5-7 year build with a massive infrastructure spend, and then it's operational for at best 40 years (if it doesn't leak, malfunction, blow up or be impacted by outside forces). Because thanks to climate change we can look forward to bigger floods, fires, hurricanes and all things biblical. And then when the nuclear plant is finished it has to be de-commissioned. Hmm,

lovely, maybe it could be remodelled as apartments? Put the CEO's in there.

The thought of a landscape filled with reactors fills me with fear. It's the stuff of dystopian nightmares. I can't unsee the footage from Fukushima and the subsequent devastating radiation and poisoning. The land there is uninhabitable for 100 years. Apparently. Some say 30. I just don't trust anything I read around radiation and its long-term effects because of who controls the data. And it's still leaking into the sea. I don't know if anyone remembers that the sea is made of liquid which travels around the world? Small detail. Oh, and remember Chernobyl, the nuclear plant where a reactor went out of control and exploded? It was back in 1986 and it's gone. That area is uninhabitable for 20,000 years. That doesn't feel like 'safe green' power to me. When a malfunction can wipe out safe habitation for that long it's insane it continues. The risk profile is too big. I can't think 20,000 years into the future but I can go backwards. 20,000 years would be the time from the end of the Stone Age, or Upper Paleolithic until now. We weren't even wearing pants for another 18 000 years.

The solution to our power struggles? Stop using infrastructure-dense systems that have 'power over' and use renewable systems that 'power share'.

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #537



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Nagging worry: the boss, a Marxist revolutionary (8)
- A single commercial transaction with little ethical standards (6)
- Australian dead, surrounded by red eyes spoken and spokes! (5)
- One baseball team holding a contest between nations – that's guts! (9)
- Peace keepers – a fluke indeed! Not at all clear (9)
- River mammal decapitates scoundrel (5)
- Reverse support covering Keating's emblem of rank (7)
- Goes round with alternative fragments (6)
- Release and detonate (3,3)
- Whip up a storm to entice around two courses (7)
- She's lost her husband, but golly, she's got primitive drive inside! (5)
- Do the numbers – clever, a cute call (9)
- Infamous – no time with alternate obligations (9)
- Record of memories – a big bottom (5)
- Unsafe side road – stop! (6)
- Made a mistake about time – very scared! (2,6)

DOWN

- A strong man – he's cruel, savage! (8)
- Increased numbers – 500 among dead, unfortunately (5)
- Units follow farm rezoning, a total shemozzle (1,3,4,2,5)
- I ran the business – it keeps locks in order (7)
- Cause chaos in dance club – man with explosive device, you say expired (15)
- Realist to interpret philosopher (9)
- Directs cattle (6)
- Boss ten in workshop (6)
- Acted one's fantasies in amusing stories (9)
- Diligently remaster ribbon (8)
- Truth, or a part (6)
- Dobs in William and his boy (5,2)
- Enmeshed, Bundy grabs a victory (6)
- Orange gum (5)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Migraine (8)
- Exemplars (6)
- Bones of the forearm (5)
- Alimentary canal (9)
- Non-specific (9)
- Aquatic, carnivorous and often playful animal (5)
- Military shoulder decoration (7)
- Curved paths of celestial objects (6)
- To not punish (3,3)
- Uproar (7)
- Dowager (5)
- Compute (9)
- Egregious (9)
- Compilation (5)
- Discontinue (6)
- Extreme fear (2,6)

DOWN

- Roman god with incredible strength (8)
- Supplemented (5)
- When opened causes unforeseen problems (1,3,4,2,5)
- Worn on the head, particularly in the kitchen (7)
- Totally confuse (15)
- Greek shipowner ... Onassis (9)
- Bullocks (6)
- Atelier (6)
- Reminiscences; happenings (9)
- Someone who watches video online (8)
- Component (6)
- Informs; snitches (5,2)
- Interlaced (6)
- Fossilised tree resin (5)

Last week's solution #536



STARS BY LILITH

As if the sun, Venus, Mercury and new moon solar eclipse in Aries aren't hot enough, Mercury going retrograde in this fiery, eruptive sign channels Hawaii's volcano deity, Pele...



ARIES THE RAM

ARIES: When the potent mix of sun, Venus and new moon eclipse in Aries on April 8 invites the spirit of forgiveness, it's time to stop relitigating those old issues. And yes, retro Mercury in Aries does give this year's birthday cycle an additional stretch, but don't you of all signs relish a challenge?

TAURUS: This week's Mercurial slowdown is all about tapping the brakes and taking time out to ask the necessary and relevant questions about your progress so far this year, with a view to possibly crafting a new combination of classic and cutting edge before pressing the pedal to the metal again.

GEMINI: Just as you were getting nicely into the year's stride, Mercury your mentor planet embarks on the first of its three annual reversals. So be prepared to downshift, even go back to the drawing board to review, revise and reshape. And it goes without saying: check everything before sending.

CANCER: This month's turbo-charged, game-changing, fresh-start new moon eclipse on April 8 could reenergise something that's been flagging, into a beautiful contemporary rebirth. Though be advised that taking the initiative on what matters to you might require leaving a piece of your old life behind.

LEO: With Mercury backpedalling, expect technical setbacks, missed messages and delayed responses. Best sanity-saving strategies? Slow down and keep taking care of whatever business you can. Check the fine print before signing. Get reference numbers. Try not to lose your temper when buttons get pushed.

VIRGO: Only say 'yes' to what sparks joy this week, which might actually be saying no. Surround yourself with people who have no agenda for your reform. While it's normal to be cautious during Mercury retrogrades, taking a graceful initiative could pay off, so go ahead and extend that invitation.

LIBRA: There's astral support this week to experiment, investigate and explore, and if the overtures you make don't pan out in quite the way you might have liked, then it's worth following Libran actor Carrie Fisher's creative Venusian advice: Take your broken heart and make it into art.

SCORPIO: As Mercury, in trickster mode, sends messages astray and communications into disarray, passionate opinions could be entirely misinformed during this week's inflammatory transit. Smartest way for Scorpios to navigate potential minefields? Your stars say don't get hooked into engaging: stay away from the fray.

SAGITTARIUS: If this week's flammable sun/Pluto clash brings tempestuous emotions to the surface and you choose to challenge something, demonstrate your strength by remaining composed. Exercise your best, and most refined, negotiating skills by standing up for your beliefs without making others wrong.

CAPRICORN: This week's planetary sizzle session could feature unexpected setbacks, maddening interactions with machines, interpersonal misunderstandings and/or frustrating delays. So confirm everything. Make backup plans, and others are likely to applaud your foresight. The upside of all this? New and improved ways of operating.

AQUARIUS: Current planetary perambulations announce that it's time to courageously blaze your own way, even if this means diverging from a job, group or relationship. Trust yourself to share whatever knowledge you've amassed and distilled, because your innovative mindset could produce a solution nobody's thought of yet.

PISCES: This week's astrological options for Pisces are absorbing the courage of Mars into your compassionate nature. Observing taskmaster Saturn highlighting growth areas where you need to work at polishing your skills and knowledge. Holding off making binding decisions till after Mercury moves forward again on April 26.

ART GALLERIES

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

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

GALLERY COSMOSIS

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

MACKAY HARRISON GALLERIES

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

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

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

LENNOX ARTS COLLECTIVE

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

LONE GOAT GALLERY

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

H'ART GALLERY

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

KARENA WYNN-MOYLAN, FINE ART

World award-winning contemporary realism
art direct from the artist at her Bangalow studio
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MIST GALLERY

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

MULLUMBIMBY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY

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

NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY

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

ARTIST'S HOME GALLERY

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

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

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

THE ARTS

The Nimbin Art Fair

The Nimbin Art Fair supports local creatives. Buy local, keep our Art Industry alive.

Join us at the Nimbin Artists Gallery from 30 March to 21 April for the Nimbin Art Fair, supporting local talent and the vibrant arts scene of Nimbin and its surrounds.

Experience the full spectrum of creative expression from this diverse arts community.

Northern NSW is renowned as Australia's hub for arts and festivals, encompassing music, food, performance, and of course, the arts. This annual fair plays a vital role in supporting local artists, contributing to the cultural richness of our region.

When you buy art at the fair, you're directly supporting the artists. Proceeds from sales primarily go to the creators, with a small portion retained by Nimbin Artists Gallery to further support the local community.



Jenni Rogers, Sweet Tumble



Amanda Bragg, Bangalow Street Race

From annual grants to Nimbin Central School, to backing local art initiatives, your contribution stays within our community.

Discover works from established local talents including Donna Sharam, Leigh Arnold, Pauline Ahern and Amanda Bragg, and emerging artists such as Jenni Rogers. Whether you're a seasoned collector or a first-time buyer, there's something for everyone to love.

Don't miss this opportunity to immerse yourself in the vibrant world of local art. Let's celebrate creativity and keep our art community thriving!

Opening hours 10am to 5pm daily
49 Cullen St, Nimbin

Murwillumbah Arts Trail

Weaving in and around Murwillumbah on 11 & 12 May, the Murwillumbah Arts Trail showcases artists from across the region, offering the community a chance to see them at work, participate in art activities and purchase unique works direct from the artists.

The Northern Rivers Rail Trail will be involved with an outdoor sculpture exhibition. A collection of artists will be exhibiting at the stunning Belle Riverhouse. The M|Arts Precinct will host a colourful soiree, while the Citadel will echo with powerful words of slam poetry on Saturday night.

Uncover hidden gems of the region! Meet talented artists, immerse yourself in creative workshops, and explore the charming villages nestled in the valleys around Wollumbin. Don't miss this opportunity to experience our region's rich culture and creativity!

www.murwillumbahartstrail.com.au



wollumbin art award 2024

FIRST PRIZE \$15,000	THE BUNDJALUNG ART AWARD \$10,000	EMERGING ARTIST AWARD \$5,000
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ENTRIES NOW OPEN

For Artists living in the Tweed, Ballina, Byron, Kyogle and Scenic Rim Shires, Richmond Valley, Lismore and Gold Coast City.

Entries close 5 pm, Monday 3 June 2024.

To enter visit gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au or use QR code.

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY
presents

NIMBIN ART FAIR 2024

Sat 30 March – Sun 21 April

10AM to 5PM DAILY
NIMBIN SCHOOL OF ARTS

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



2022 WAA winner Amber Wallis receives flowers from then Gallery Director Susi Muddiman OAM, after the official announcement from guest judge Alison Kubler. Photo: Jaka Adamic.

Gallery's major art award returns

Entries are now open for the Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre's biennial \$30,000 Wollumbin Art Award (WAA).

The award is open to artists living in the areas of Tweed, Byron, Ballina, Kyogle, Scenic Rim Shires, Lismore, Gold Coast City and the Richmond Valley.

Artists can submit entries of any subject matter and medium. Award categories include a first prize of \$15,000 and 2-week residency in the Gallery's Nancy Fairfax Artist in Residence Studio; a \$10,000 WAA Bundjalung Award for First Nations artists and a solo exhibition in the Gallery, and a \$5,000 Emerging Artist Award.

Artists aged 5-18 years can enter the Wollumbin Youth Art Award.

Entries open 25 March and close 5pm, Monday, 3 June. WAA is \$35 per entry. Youth award entries are free.

For more information, visit gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/prizes-awards 2 Mistral Road (corner Tweed Valley Way), Murwillumbah South 02 6670 2790

Tales of hope and survival

Join Sean Turnell, author of *An Unlikely Prisoner*, and Ma Thida, activist and author of *A-Maze*, for an intimate conversation with Mick O'Regan about their time in Myanmar's notorious Insein Prison.

Sean Turnell spent almost two years captive, accused of being a spy. Ma Thida was also incarcerated there, denied medical treatment and came very close to dying. In the face of such trauma, how did they survive? And what hope do they hold for the return of democracy?

**5.30-8pm, Thursday, 30 May
Mullumbimby Civic Hall
\$30 members / \$35 general + booking fees
Visit byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on to book your tickets**



Art in the heart of Mullumbimby

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

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

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

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

Enquire at info@solveig.com.au



Art Kind

All Welcome at the opening of 'Portals'

Local Byron Bay artist Rosie Gordon is cultivating optimism and reconnection with her new exhibition 'Portals' opening this Friday, 5 April at Art Kind Gallery. Meet the artist, browse the exhibition and enjoy complimentary refreshments. This is a family friendly event and a community art table will be set up for opening night visitors who want to get creative!

**Doors open at 5pm on Friday, 5 April
3/18 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay**

The Doyles Art Award

Aspiring artists can try their luck at winning the prestigious Doyles Art Award. Entries have opened for the 2024 Award and the first prize is a massive \$20,000 cash! The Doyles is one of Australia's best known representational fine art awards, named after famous artist d'Arcy Doyle. The exhibition, featuring over 300 artworks, is held in Mudgeeraba on the Gold Coast in the winter school holidays (June 27-July 7). Categories include landscape, figurative, still life and juniors.

Visit thedoylesaward.com.au for details and entry form

ENTER NOW

\$30K PRIZE POOL

**EXHIBITION 27 JUNE - 7 JULY
MUDGEERABA**

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Art Kind presents
ROSIE GORDON
portals
5 - 26 APRIL 2024

FRIDAY 5 APRIL
OPENING NIGHT EVENT
5PM

DRINKS / FOOD / COMMUNITY ART TABLE

3/18 CENTENNIAL CCT BYRON BAY
ARTKIND.COM.AU @ARTKINDBYRONBAY

MURWILLUMBAH ARTS TRAIL

MEET THE ARTISTS

TWEED VALLEY STUDIOS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC FOR ONE WEEKEND 11-12 MAY

H'ART GALLERY

**Art in the heart
INSPIRED LOCAL ART**

Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre

TALES OF HOPE AND SURVIVAL
FROM MYANMAR'S INSEIN PRISON

Ma Thida and Sean Turnell
In conversation with Mick O'Regan

THURS 30 MAY | 6:30PM
POCKET CURRIES + BAR | 5:30PM
MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL


Bookings at byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on

Good Taste

Eateries Guide



BYRON BAY



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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details @mainstreet_burgerbar

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



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

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



Success Thai
Open Lunch Wed–Fri 12–2:30pm.
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Dinner 5pm–10pm
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therocksbyronbay.com.au
@therocksbyronbay

Happy Hour 6pm–8pm
\$6 Beers & \$7 Wines
\$12 selected cocktails

Live Music Thursdays & Latin Night Sundays
Open for dinner Wed–Sun



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4 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
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Signature cocktails, and casual dining with ocean views.

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

Espresso Martini Nights | Every day 9pm–close, 2 for \$25 Classic Espresso Martini.
Open 7 days from 4pm. Sat lunches from Noon.



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info@bangalowbread.co

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Lunch: 12–2pm
Pizza & drinks only: 2–5pm
Dinner from 5pm

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Live Music Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
Bookings essential.
Head to lennoxpizza.com
Follow on Insta: @lennoxpizza


MULLUMBIMBY



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

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

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR.

The energetic goodness of sprouts and seedlings

Victoria Cosford

'It's just about getting more goodness into your body', one customer tells me. Sipping a freshly pressed wheatgrass juice, she's picking out a couple of bags of sprouts from Avi Karny's stall, and I'd intercepted her to ask what she planned to do with them. 'I put them in salads', she replies. 'In green smoothies, with eggs – even just to have as a snack!'

And she is just one of a steady stream of customers: Avi's business is buzzing. His range of certified organic sprouts and microgreens includes sunflower, broccoli, radish, snow pea and wheat grass. They're grown in organic soil which, Avi tells me, 'adds richness to the sprouts – we have such great soil.' The broccoli sprouts in particular have a devoted following, and I want to know why.

'They contain a unique medicinal compound called sulforaphane', he replies. 'People know about it – people in the area are more conscious about what's nutritious.' He says that the sprout has '100 times more nutritional value than the vegetable broccoli itself.' Indeed, this in general is the great advantage of sprouts – or seedlings – yielding as they do a much higher nutritional benefit than their mature counterparts.

The wheatgrass juice Avi will prepare freshly for you, using his very smart little machine. 'It's a purpose-built cold-press juicer', he tells me, 'very slow-grinding but it does the job' – and oh the colour of the juice once extracted! This intensely vibrant green beverage just screams chlorophyll and goodness!

Back to the sprouts though: their crunchy texture is the thing. Jane Grigson in her *Vegetable Book* suggests adding a handful to soups or stews instead of shredded leek. '[It] changes the flavour and gives an even better crunchiness', she says.

If you wish to grow your own sprouts then Avi is the man to see!

■ Energetic Greens is at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7am to 11am.



The Good Life



World-class pizza in the heart of Byron Bay

In the picturesque heart of Byron Bay, a culinary revolution is unfolding—with pizza taking centre stage. Spearheaded by the dynamic duo that brought pizza prowess to The Roadhouse, chefs Leonardo Giorgetti and Maurizio Gabbrielli are redefining pizza by blending Italian tradition with scientific precision. Bay Pizza Lab isn't your typical pizzeria; it's a culinary destination where science meets art, simplicity and quality reign supreme, and artisanal cocktails and Australian-made wines invite you to sip and stay a while.

A destination for foodlovers

Good vibes and exceptional food define Bay Pizza Lab. Open Wednesday to Monday from 5pm to 9pm, it's the perfect spot for a casual weekday dinner or a Saturday night out with friends. It's a place where the pizzas are served piping hot, beverages are crafted with care, and every visit feels like a reunion with old friends. Happy hour from 4pm to 5pm serves up margherita pizza by the slice with your choice of beer, spritz, or wine. And for those nights you'd prefer the comfort of your home, you can order your favourites for takeaway online.



Menu highlights

Start your meal with Italian-style antipasto plates ideal for sharing amongst friends—think fresh burrata, heirloom tomatoes, and homemade garlic bread. The pizzas are truly exceptional with bold flavours and a base that is both perfectly light and crispy—a true testament to Giorgetti and Gabbrielli's dough mastery. Don't leave without trying the 'Lab Slab'—their Roman-style pizza featuring a new flavour each week. With cocktails infused with the likes of roasted pineapple and rhubarb, and wines from local Australian winemakers, each dish is complemented perfectly. And for dessert? Their panettone slice topped with mascarpone cream and the tiramisu are non-negotiable.

Whether it's the scientific precision of the pizzas or the masterful cocktails, every item on the menu is a celebration of quality and craftsmanship. Come for the pizza, stay for the experience.



■ Open Wednesday to Monday, from 5 to 9pm.
Happy Hour from 4 to 5pm.
Shops 4/5, 2 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay.
baypizzalab.com.au.
@baypizzalab.

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AT THE NORTH BYRON HOTEL

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The Harvest Food Trail



Delta Kay sharing her knowledge of local bush tucker at the Mullum Farmers Market.

When it comes to celebrating the extraordinary food and beverage producers and unique provenance of the Northern Rivers, it doesn't get more authentic or grassroots than the Harvest Food Trail. Now in its eighth year, the 2024 festival is presenting 53 epic local producers across 33 spectacular locations from Thursday, 2 May to Sunday, 5 May. Kicking off the festival is Taste the Harvest – two days of immersive experiences enabling you to get up close and personal with local native foods and produce, our proud indigenous heritage and of course, with food from some of our finest and most passionate chefs.

Already announced is an afternoon featuring an extraordinary culinary journey at Elements of Byron Resort, starting with a captivating foraging tour led by Alistair Oakman, followed by a six-course degustation created by Executive Chef, Ebony Baker, showcasing the richness of local native

ingredients and produce.

Friday morning at Mullum Farmers Market will mark the official opening of the festival. Bundjalung woman Delta Kay will perform a Welcome to Country and give a cultural talk, followed by a cooking demonstration showcasing native foods by AGFG's first Indigenous Female Chef Hat winner, Bundjalung woman Mindy Woods from Karkalla, Byron Bay.

Later that day, you're invited to a special collaboration at award-winning Potager at Carool, between Head Chef Mikey Lee and Forager, Chanterelle Foggin, presenting a five-course, wild-food degustation from locally-sourced farmed and foraged ingredients.

■ For full details of the four-day Harvest Food Trail program and tickets, visit www.northernriversfood.org and click on Harvest Food Trail.



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Wed - Sun 9am-4pm | lunch 12pm -2.30pm

Bluesfest 2024



Bluesfest 2024 as captured by *The Echo's* photographers, Jeff Dawson and Eve Jeffery.

- 1. Jimmy Barnes (JD). 2. Steve Poltz (JD). 3. Hussy Hicks (EJ). 4. Yirmal (JD).
- 5. Grinchy and festive at the same time! (JD). Ben Harper (EJ). 7. Peter Garrett (JD).
- 8. Here Come The Mummies! (JD). 9. The crowd was a little bit fruity (JD).
- 10. Finding the best spots was easy with these little helpers (JD). 11. Taj Farrant (JD).
- 12. Coterie (JD). 13. eMDee (JD). 14. Festival director, Peter Noble (JD) . 15. Taj Mahal (JD).
- 16. Jack Johnson (EJ). 17. Festival vollies spruik an awesome prize for charity (EJ).
- 18. Arrrgh, me hearties! (EJ). 19. Tex Perkins fronts The Cruel Sea (JD).

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Seven

entertainment



THE SECOND TIME AROUND IS MORE FUN

Murbah Youth Fest 2024 is on this **Saturday from 10am to 3pm in Knox Park**, at the heart of Murwillumbah. This is the second edition of a Youth Week event that was born last year to create new opportunities for young people and create public presence by actively contributing to the social and cultural life of their vibrant town and surrounding villages.

The Youth Action Group, established in November 2022, has been involved and consulted in every step of the co-design and planning of this event.

With financial support from the NSW Office for Regional Youth and the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal they are able to present a day to celebrate and recognise the outstanding skills and talents of local young people and their valuable contribution to our community, hugely impacted in the past few years by all the climate and health events.

Organisers are extremely grateful for the support received this year from local businesses such as IGA, Lions Club, Crystal Castle, Jet Real Estate, Bakers Delight, Coles, SAE, Kmart, Sportsworld, the Murwillumbah Service Club, and others for their in-kind and funding



Tweed-Byron police get in on the fun.

contributions. They say it is really rewarding to see how the local community is acknowledging the value of supporting events like this to improve youth development opportunities.

The group are hoping that more and more local young people hear about this event and come and join in on Saturday. Continuing what began last year, there will be a battle of the bands, a talent quest, games and stalls, with this year's event including a chill-out zone, creative tent, and workshops such as drumming, hip hop, stamp-making and other crafts, skate demos and jams, bubble soccer and food trucks.

For more information, you can follow on Insta @murbahyouth2484. Saturday from 10am to 3pm in Knox Park, Murwillumbah.



DIGGING IN DEEP AT THE NUDGE

Only fools would miss April's **Nudge Nudge Wink Wink** with two awesome Australian guest DJs **Jason Digby**, and **Embelina**, joining the Cunning Stunts' resident DJs **Lord Sut** and **Dale Stephen** in the Shed at April's Nudge Nudge Wink Wink: The Ultimate Party with a Conscience!

For the March and April 2024 events, The Cunning Stunts are donating to the important funding needed for the Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre (MDNC) to continue to deliver services to meet community needs as well as build individual and community capacity.

So far Nudgers have helped raise \$403,181, helping 39 local charities since December 2015. Community supporting its own!

Final tickets may still be available at https://bit.ly/Tickets_Nudge_6_April. If the event is sold out – remember, the only legitimate site for purchasing any tickets available for resale is Tixel.com.

Nudge yourself down to the Billi this Saturday from 4pm. This is a ticketed 18+ event at The Billinudgel Hotel.

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APRIL 5TH -13TH

BANGALOW THEATRE COMPANY

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YOUTH WEEK 2024 | THE YAC

AGES 12-24

THURS APRIL 11TH

- BRING YOUR TALENT! LIVE MUSIC, POETRY OR COMEDY.
- FOOD, DRINK & YOUTH CONSULTATION.
- HOSTED BY LOCAL ARTIST D.A.SH.
- 4:00PM 6:30PM 1 GILMORE CRESCENT, BYRON BAY

BYS byron youth service

CUNNING STUNTS

nudge nudge Wink wink

PARTY WITH A CONSCIENCE

FEATURING DJs

JASON DIGBY
EMBELINA
DALE STEPHEN
LORD SUT

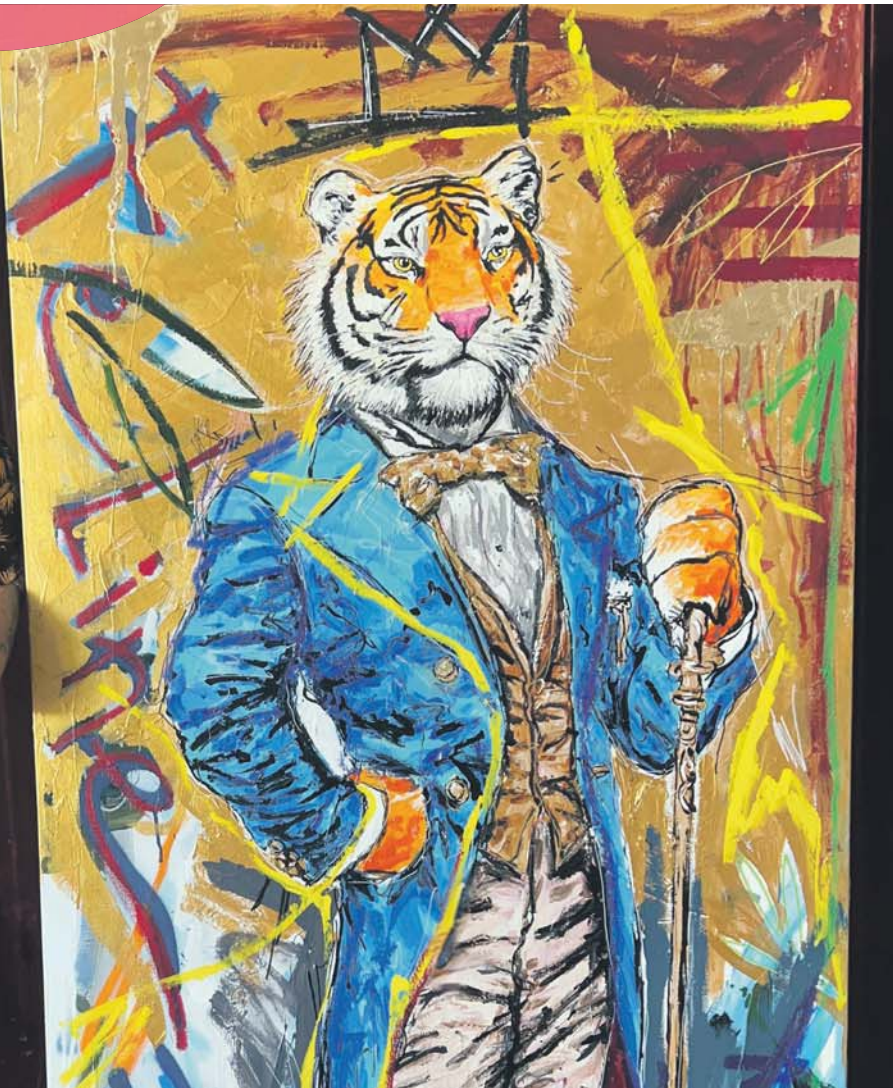
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'ENJOY THE RIDE': The Space Cowboy's New Artistic Expedition at Otherworld



As we gear up for 'Enjoy the Ride' at Otherworld in Byron Bay, we caught up with the man behind the art, The Space Cowboy, aka Chayne Hultgren. From setting 56 Guinness World Records, to captivating audiences in over 40 countries, he's now making worldwide waves as a visual artist. Here's what he had to say about his latest venture.

Tell us about 'Enjoy the Ride'. What's the idea behind it?

Well, 'Enjoy the Ride' is kind of my way of showing where I've been and where I'm heading. After years of performing and always chasing the next big thrill, I found a new kind of excitement in painting. This show at Otherworld? It's really something else. It's not just about hanging my art on the walls; it's about pulling people into these worlds I've created. Using augmented reality, I get to mesh my love for performances with my paintings, making something that's more than just looking at art—it's about feeling it, interacting with it and being part of it.

What made Otherworld the perfect venue for 'Enjoy the Ride'?

Choosing Otherworld as the venue for 'Enjoy the Ride' was a no-brainer for me. It's a place where art and

technology meet in the most innovative ways, offering an immersive experience that's unlike anything else. Otherworld's dedication to interactive and cutting-edge installations perfectly complements the essence of my exhibition, which blends visual art with augmented reality. It's the ideal setting to bring my artworks to life, allowing visitors to not just see but truly experience each piece.

Can you share what performances you'll be showcasing during your 'Enjoy the Ride' live events?

Absolutely! My performances are all about the extraordinary. I'm known for a range of unique acts, like catching speeding arrows while blindfolded, juggling chainsaws on a 3m tall unicycle, and even shooting lightning from my fingertips while standing on a one million volt Tesla coil. During these live performance events, attendees will get an up-close look at the skills that helped me earn 56 Guinness World Records. You can expect to witness firsthand the art of sword swallowing and even see me bending spoons in spectators' hands with nothing but the power of the mind. It's a blend of art, danger, and a bit of magic that really showcases the essence of my work and how I bridge the gap between performance art and visual creativity.

How does it feel to transition from performance art to visual art?

It's been an amazing ride, honestly. Performing live is all about that instant connection with the audience, right? There's this rush, this immediate feedback loop. With painting, it's more of a slow burn. You create in solitude, but then once the art's out there, it starts speaking for itself, connecting with people over time. And with 'Enjoy the Ride', I'm finding ways to bring the immediate excitement of my performances into the gallery.

Augmented reality plays a big part in this exhibition. What drew you to incorporate AR into your art?

AR blew my mind because it's like the perfect bridge between my old world and my new one. It allows me to

add layers, movement, and a bit of magic to each of my paintings. Suddenly, a static image can tell a story, move, and even interact with you. It's like the art comes alive, and that's something I just had to dive into.

What's the main message of 'Enjoy the Ride', and can attendees buy the artwork?

I hope visitors of 'Enjoy the Ride' feel inspired to embrace life's journey, including its ups and downs. It's about finding beauty in mistakes and learning from failures. If people leave feeling more ready to face life with courage and see the beauty in imperfection, then I've succeeded. The show is a celebration of life's full ride.

I'm also excited to offer both original artworks and limited edition prints for sale, making it possible for everyone to own a piece of this experience, no matter their budget. Even the prints are quite special—I have made secret animations for each of them so they come alive with augmented reality technology when viewed through any smartphone. This means that even a simple print becomes an interactive, engaging piece of art in your home.

Artistic Director at Otherworld, Chris Decker, says having 'Enjoy the Ride' at Otherworld is a real honor. 'The Space Cowboy isn't just creating art; he's creating experiences that push boundaries. His blend of world-record-breaking performance and visual art, especially with the augmented reality, is exactly the kind of forward-thinking creativity we love at Otherworld. This exhibition is set to be a game-changer.'

As 'Enjoy the Ride' prepares to open its doors, The Space Cowboy extends an invitation to everyone to come and see the world a little differently, through his eyes and his art. It's not just an exhibition; it's a chance to step into a world of wonder, challenge, and beauty, all crafted by a man who has truly lived the title of his show.

Special live performance dates are: evening shows at 5pm on April 5, 6, 7, and April 12, 13, 14; matinee shows at 3pm on April 5 and 12.

These performances are the heart of 'Enjoy the Ride', offering an immersive blend of The Space Cowboy's daring performances with the dynamic world of visual art.

The exhibition at Otherworld is available for viewing until May 1.

Your ticket gives access to all Otherworld's incredible interactive installations, live performances by The Space Cowboy and the all new 'Enjoy the Ride' exhibition. Refreshments available.

Book Your tickets now!

Tickets available at www.otherworld.live

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ENJOY THE RIDE
BY THE SPACE COWBOY
ONLY AT OTHERWORLD, BYRON BAY

AR ART

MASTERING THE ART OF STORYTELLING: MARK'S PATH TO CREATIVE SUCCESS

Travelling the world as a photographer and journalist has the makings of a dream career for most, but for **Mark Gambino** he admitted he wasn't achieving much. With a passion for filmmaking and carving out a career in Australia's booming screen industry, Mark enrolled in **SAE Creative Media Institute's Master of Creative Industries**.

'I realised that I'd been coasting and had been very lucky with the kind of work that I'd done in the past, so it was really a time of self-reflection,' says Mark.

Acknowledging that he had to change to have the career he wanted, Mark enrolled in the Master of Creative Industries at SAE and has since gained a greater commercial awareness of the screen industry.

'The reality is that to survive and thrive as a filmmaker, you must be able to craft stories that are going to satisfy the demands of studios and audiences. Having a good narrative is no longer enough, you have to know how to get it out there – that's what the course has taught me.'

SAE's Master of Creative Industries is 100 per cent online and gives students the chance to study flexibly, while enhancing their employability prospects upon graduation. With access to industry mentors, and a place to meet fellow creatives, Mark said he had been exposed to new ideas and experiences.

'I have been in classes with lecturers who have been there and done it; and students who are everything from audio engineers and musicians to graphic designers and game designers,' says Mark. 'Being exposed to ideas that I would never be able to come up with, because I don't have those lived experiences, has been refreshing and I've come away from those classes feeling really inspired.'

During Mark's career, he has managed creative teams as a marketing manager and managing editor. Nevertheless, Mark explained how he's been able to enhance his management skillset during the course. 'The master's course has given me the knowledge and skills to see the bigger picture of creative collaboration and how each person is contributing to the final outcome of that project.'

Mark says that the studying process for the master's course is all geared towards preparing students for successful careers in the creative sector upon graduation.

'It has been quite a learning experience fine-tuning those skills as a creative over time,' he said. 'It's like getting fit at the gym – you're slowly developing those muscles. The



Mark Gambino is skilling up his creative game.

results may not be immediate, but over many months you'll see changes.'

Creative Australia, the Australian Government's principal arts investment and advisory board, reported in November 2023 that creative employment is growing at a rate more than 50 per cent higher than the rest of the workforce. With this in mind, Mark remains optimistic about his creative future, once he graduates.

'Transmedia storytelling has created incredible avenues for contemporary storytellers through micro episodic content on platforms like YouTube, Facebook, streaming services, and television, and that's where I'd like to see my career go. Creatives are pushing the boundaries and breaking the rules in how conventional content is produced, so it is certainly an exciting time to be a creative.'

Master your craft and lead your field with SAE's Master of Creative Industries. Enrol now for May 2024 at sae.edu.au.

THEY'RE SPEAKING IN TONGUES IN BANGALOW

Bangalow Theatre Company (BTC) presents **Speaking In Tongues**, written by Andrew Bovell.

This play was the inspiration for the film *Lantana* and explores the core themes of trust, relationship, connection and obsession. Bovell paints an emotional landscape of consequences and unspoken truths through various interconnected stories.

BTC's adaptation guarantees a raw and riveting theatre experience staged at the beautiful **A&I Hall, Bangalow**. It is a fascinating play and the plot provokes genuine tension, suspense and is an intellectual puzzle.

This unmissable drama showcases the brilliance and versatility of BTC and will once again demonstrate the magic and creativity of our award-winning director Anouska Gammon.

Speaking In Tongues will have its opening night on **Friday April 5** and performances are on until **Saturday, April 13**.

Tickets from <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1184762>.



Raw and riveting theatre from Bangalow Theatre Co.



The YAC is such an important space for young musicians to feel safe and confident

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The **YAC** has a long history of music in the Byron area and the team are always looking to add more opportunities for young people to rehearse, perform and entertain their community. As part of **Youth Week 2024**, Byron Youth Service is hosting an open mic night in the beautiful amphitheatre at The YAC for ages 12-24. Youth Week is an annual week-long celebration for young people to 'Express, Empower & Get Loud!'

Event coordinator Max Squires says not much empowers more than the feeling of live performance and showcasing talent among friends and community.

'The YAC is such an important space for young musicians to feel safe and confident to explore their craft and build confidence but also just have a good time,' says Max. The Youth Week event is open to musicians, poets, or comedians of any level or experience to come along and perform and jam along with like-minded creatives.

The open mic features a range of genres from pop to metal, folk to hip hop and the stand-up comedy sessions always get a good belly laugh.

The YAC has long been a nursery for musical talent in the region and the music program continues to offer mentorship, rehearsal space and performance opportunities for emerging musicians. So get on down to The YAC and take this opportunity to be part of this event and surround yourself in the history of The YAC building and the sounds of music and youth culture. BYS will be providing food and drink plus youth consultation for young people in the area seeking support.

Thursday, April 11 from 4pm to 6.30pm at The YAC, 1 Gilmore Crescent, Byron Bay.

For more info about the open mic event email Max@BYS.org.au or call the office on 6685 7777.

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THE TIGER'S APPRENTICE

Young Tom Lee is in high school and the bullies have him in their sights...

This school holidays Palace Cinemas are screening *The Tiger's Apprentice* an animated action explosion that begins when Tom refuses to put up with kids bad-mouthing his grandmother – his anger unleashes the power that he carries within him.

When Tom unknowingly removes protective charms from his home that stop evil spirits from coming inside, it's not long before the house is surrounded by dark souls called Yaoguai – but, with the guidance of a mythical tiger named Mr Hu, Tom discovers he is part of a long lineage of magical protectors known as the Guardians.

With Mr Hu's help, Tom trains up to take on Loo, a force that is as powerful as a Guardian but with evil intentions to use magic to destroy humanity. To have a fighting chance against Loo, Tom must reunite all 12 Zodiac animal warriors and master his own newly discovered powers.

The film stars the voices of Brandon Soo Hoo as Tom Lee, Henry Golding as Mr Hu, Lucy Liu as the empress of the spirit world, and the unmistakable voice of Michelle Yeoh as Loo, the evil sorceress.

This is just the sort of fun kids love on the school holidays and you can see it at both the Ballina and Byron Bay Palace Cinemas.

For more information, visit their website: palacecinemas.com.au.



GIG GUIDE

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

WEDNESDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 00Z
- 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**

THURSDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LILLI FAIRFAX**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ANGUS KAFTAN**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **MET OPERA LIVE: CARMEN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM & 7PM **TIM DEGEN**
- THE BOOK ROOM, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BOOK LAUNCH – 'GRIEF AND GROWTH' BY RICHARD LIGHT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **RIVER DEMONS + COUCH WIZARD, IRON BLANKET, ZOOD AND RATTLE SNAKE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **ROD MURRAY**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**

FRIDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BULLETPROOF**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **LIFE IS A MYTH**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **CALIENTE LATIN NIGHT**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 7.30PM **BANGALOW THEATRE COMPANY – SPEAKING IN TONGUES**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 7PM **THE IMPERIAL BLUES REVIEW**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **PHIL GUEST**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **TIM STOKES**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **CANTA LA TUMBA**
- FLOURISH ART GALLERY, SOUTH LISMORE, 5PM **JEHT BURGUYNE 'AVES OF LIFE' EXHIBITION OPENS**
- KINGSCLIFF **BEACH BOWLS** 5PM **MR TROY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **FAT ALBERT**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **WORLD OF MUSICALS**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **LAZY GHOST + FERNY FAIRWAY & COSMIC VICE**

SATURDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE BILLY GUDGEON BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ANIMAL VENTURA + DJ ZAC EWING**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM **THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA ENCORE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **THE HILLBILLY SKANK**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM **LIL' CHEEKY**, 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **BEN WHITING**, 5PM **DJ ABEL EL TORO**

- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 7.30PM **BANGALOW THEATRE COMPANY – SPEAKING IN TONGUES**
- MULLUMBIMBY 5PM **QUEER FAMILY – MULLUM TRANS DAY OF VISIBILITY**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 4PM **NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK -DJS JASON DIGBY, EMBELINA, DALE STEPHEN & LORD SUT**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **WEAR THE FOX HAT**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 6PM **FOSSIL ROCK 25TH ANNIVERSARY & FUNDRAISER CONCERT**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 7PM **JORDAN MAC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6PM **C.W. STONEKING**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MARK AITKEN**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 4PM **WILD RANGERS WILDLIFE SHOW**, 6PM **PINK ZINC**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **MEL SCARLETT**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 5.30PM **ASH GRUNWALD**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 7PM **WANDERING GUITARS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **ROCKET MAN VS. PIANO MAN**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7PM & 8PM **TAHIR**

SUNDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PHIL & TILLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **THE FERAMONES**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **NATHAN BERETTA BAND**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- BYRON COMMUNITY MARKET 9.30AM **TIN PARLOUR**

MONDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS FISHER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO DUO**

TUESDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCOR**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **BACK TO THE TIVOLI**

WEDNESDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TIM STOKES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JOE CONROY**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **NT LIVE: THE MOTIVE AND THE CUE**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

Session Times

Thurs, April 4 – Wed, April 10

PALACE CINEMAS
108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	10:45AM, 1:45PM, 3:15PM, 5:15PM, 7:15PM, 9:15PM	4:10PM, 6:20PM, 7:20PM, 9:10PM, 11:00PM, 12:50PM, 2:45PM, 4:45PM, 6:45PM, 8:45PM	4:10PM, 7:00PM
BACK TO BLACK (PG)	Tues: 6:30PM	Fri: 12:50PM, 4:10PM, 6:20PM, 7:20PM, 9:10PM, 11:00PM, 12:50PM, 2:45PM, 4:45PM, 6:45PM, 8:45PM	PERFECT DAYS (PG)
LA CHIMERA (M)	Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:00PM	Sat, Sun: 11:30AM, 4:10PM, 6:20PM, 7:20PM, 9:10PM, 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 3:15PM, 5:15PM	Thurs: 10:30AM, 1:45PM, 6:45PM, 9:45PM
NT LIVE: THE MOTIVE AND THE CUE (PG)	Thurs: 10:50AM, 2:00PM, Fri, Sat: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, Sun: 11:00AM, 12:00PM, Mon, Tues: 6:00PM, 4:00PM	Tues: 10:45AM, 12:50PM, 4:10PM, 7:20PM	Sat: 11:10AM, 1:40PM, 4:00PM, 6:45PM
OPERA DI ROMA: MEFISTOFELE (PG)	Sun: 1:00PM, Wed: 11:00AM	GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE (M)	Sun: 11:10AM, 4:00PM, 6:45PM
FAMILY FILMS	ANATOMY OF A FALL (M)	Thurs: 10:30AM, 12:50PM, 3:50PM, 7:15PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:40AM, 12:50PM, 3:50PM, 7:15PM	THE FIRST OMEN (M)
GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE (PG)	Daily except Sun, Wed: 10:45AM, No screening Sun & Wed	Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:15AM, 12:50PM, 3:50PM, 7:15PM	Daily: 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM
BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE (M)	Thurs: 8:15PM, Fri, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:50AM, 8:15PM, Sat, Sun: 8:30PM	LOVES LIES BLEEDING (M)	Thurs: 10:30AM, 2:00PM, 6:10PM
KUNG FU PANDA 4 (PG)	Daily except Thurs: 10:45AM, 12:50PM,	Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:00PM	Fri, Mon, Tues: 10:50AM, 2:00PM, 6:10PM
		MONKEY MAN (M)	Sat, Sun: 10:50AM, 6:30PM, Wed: 10:45AM, 2:00PM, 6:10PM
		Daily: 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM	
		ORIGIN (M)	
		Daily: 11:00AM,	

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Session Times

Thurs, April 4 – Wed, April 10

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

DUNE: PART TWO (M)	Daily: 12:30PM, 8:00PM	THE FIRST OMEN (M)	Daily: 3:45PM, 8:40PM
GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE (PG)	Daily: 10:30AM, 5:40PM	THE TIGER'S APPRENTICE (PG)	Daily: 2:15PM
GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE (M)	Daily: 10:10AM, 4:10PM, 8:40PM	WICKED LITTLE LETTERS (M)	Daily: 6:30PM
KUNG FU PANDA 4 (PG)	Daily: 10:00AM, 12:10PM		
MONKEY MAN (M)	Daily: 12:50PM, 3:15PM, 6:10PM		

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- 584 The Pocket Road, The Pocket. Wed 3-3.30pm
- 8 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park. Thurs 12-12.30pm
- 299 Myocum Road, Ewingsdale. Thurs 4-4.30pm
- 29 Pinegroves Road, Myocum. Fri 11-11.30am
- 7/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 5/12 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 26K Coomburra Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 75 Butler Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 2B/107 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 25 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30-10am
- 24 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 27 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1109 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Montecollum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 69 Lindsay Avenue, Cumbalum. Sat 10.30-11am
- 4 Electra Close, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 28 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 77 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10.30-11am
- Lot 1, Wilsons Creek Road, Wilsons Creek. Sat 11-11.30am
- 419 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby Creek. Sat 11-11.30am
- 13 Cavanbah Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 17 Campbell Street, Bangalow. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 1/49 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 31 Tristania Street, Bangalow. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 486 Broken Head Road, Broken Head. Sat 12.30-1pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 4/84-86 Mellis Circuit, Alstonville. Sat 10-10.30am
- 4 Vera Street, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 6 Crane Street, Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 337 Hermans Lane, Pimlico. Sat 11-11.30am
- 19 Hickey Street, Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 65 Lindsay Avenue, Cumbalum. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1/2 Barnwall Street, Cumbalum. Sat 12:45-1.15pm

MANA RE

- 28 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 9 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Wed 3-3.30pm
- 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 11 Dignan Street, Burringbar. Sat 9-9.30am
- 9 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Sat 9-9.30am

- 2/5 Canowindra Court, South Golden Beach. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/1 Durroon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 10.30-11am
- 26 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 24 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 385 Clothiers Creek Road, Nunderi. Sat 12-12.30pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 50 Tristran Parade, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30-10.15am
- 3 Kooringa Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.45am
- 53 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.45am
- 59 Tuckeroo Ave, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.15am-12pm

Ray White Rural Bangalow

- 677 Cowlong Road, Eltham. Sat 10-10.30am

Ruth Russell Realty

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

Scott Harvey Real Estate

- 5 Majors Lane, Fernleigh. Sat 10-10.30am

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 3 Carnarvon Court, Lennox Head. Sat 9.15-9.45am
- 9 Keith Street, Bangalow. Sat 10.30-11am

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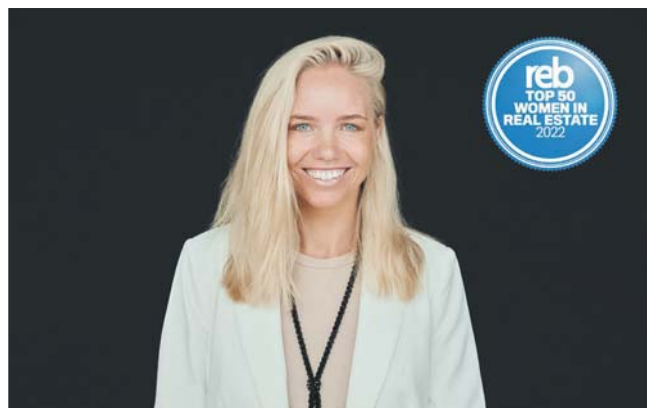
- 35-37 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 10-10.30am
- 6153 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 81 Harwood Road, Burringbar. Sat 1.30-2pm

New Listings

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 59 Tuckeroo Ave, Mullumbimby. Contact Agent
- 142 Wanganui Road, Wanganui. \$1,160,000 - \$1,276,000
- 3 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. \$1,795,000
- 103 Goonengerry Mill Road, Goonengerry. \$1,150,000
- 77B Overall Drive, Pottsville. Contact Agent
- 20 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. \$1,695,000
- 3 Kooringa Court, Ocean Shores. \$895,000

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The Echo Service Directory is online – www.echo.net.au/service-directory

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Removalists continued on next page

Removalists continued

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

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

Echo Classies also appear online:
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PETS

CATS AND KITTENS



HELP! We literally have a flood of kittens pouring into the shelter & sadly there are more waiting to come in. There are kittens available that fit all hearts, homes & circumstances. If you'd like to give a little fluff ball the chance of a fabulous life, please visit us. To meet our cats & kittens, please visit the **Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.**

OPEN: Tues 2.30–4.30pm, Thurs 3–5pm Sat 10am–12 noon

Call AWL on 0436 845 542

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AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R25100222



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The Byron Shire Echo does not make any representations as to the accuracy or suitability of any content or information contained in advertising material nor does publication constitute in any way an endorsement by *The Byron Shire Echo* of the content or representations contained therein.

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AGMs

FEDERAL SCHOOL OF ARTS ASSOCIATION INCORPORATION (FSAAI)

AGM will be held on Saturday 13 April at 10am in the Federal Hall at Federal. All community members are welcome to attend. Membership forms available at Federal Store.

PROF. SERVICES

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THE BYRON SHIRE

Echo

The Echo now has new contract positions available delivering papers to:

- OCEAN SHORES: 900 papers
- BILLINUDGEL: delivery only
- MULLUMBIMBY: 540 papers
- MULLUMBIMBY: 1000 papers

Unless specified the positions involve inserting, folding and (in wet weather) bagging and delivery of papers (throwing them accurately to driveways from a car).

The work tends to suit a semi-retired or underemployed person/couple who just want a reliable job to do at their own pace at the same time every week.

The successful applicants for these runs will have an ABN, a reliable vehicle, a strong throwing arm, and ideally they will live near the distribution area.

They will collect the papers/inserts from e.g. Mullumbimby (approx 7–8.30am) on Wednesday and will have delivered all the papers by 6pm Wednesday.

Suit mature or stable person.

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BIRTHDAYS



Happy birthday to the gorgeous Lucien. Love from all the Shand-Willis clan xxx

Byron Dog Rescue (CAW)



Lucky is a 6-month-old male Kelpie Cattle Staffy; Lucky is a healthy, happy, very sweet-natured and loving boy who is gaining tons of confidence residing at our open-air shelter. Lucky will need ongoing training, an active lifestyle and we recommend crate-training as a way to combat separation anxiety and the current destructive period that pups undergo. Lucky is gorgeous with young children and great with other dogs.
Contact Shell on 0458 461 935. MC: 991003002332297



Deniz is a 5 month old Staffy/Shar Pei. He came from an emaciated litter. He is one of the smaller pups and will make a great family dog, he has a lovely nature and loves cuddles. #991003002063709

Location: Murwillumbah For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128. Interested? Please complete our online adoption expression of interest.

<https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>

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

PETS (continued)



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We have some gorgeous kittens waiting for someone to love them. Sociable, playful, curious and, of course, irresistible. Pop in and get ready to fall in love. All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped. All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped. No: 953010200682583



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MUSICAL NOTES

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

SUN, MOON & TIDES
– TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (April)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
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 0.20
7	SU	5:59 17:37	3:53 16:38	0711 1.82 1938 1.62	0134 0.30 1325 0.20
DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS 7 APRIL 3:00AM					
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
11	TH	5:59 17:37	8:29 19:09	1000 1.42 2238 1.84	0403 0.34 1549 0.26
12	F	5:59 17:37	9:38 19:57	1044 1.26 2325 1.77	0501 0.44 1627 0.36
13	SA	5:59 17:37	10:44 20:51	1130 1.12	0605 0.53 1705 0.47
14	SU	5:59 17:37	11:44 21:48	0016 1.68 1228 1.02	0715 0.60 1753 0.58
15	M	5:59 17:37	12:37 22:48	0115 1.58 1350 0.97	0829 0.64 1900 0.67
16	TU	5:59 17:37	13:22 23:47	0225 1.50 1525 1.00	0939 0.64 2032 0.72
17	W	5:59 17:37	14:00	0336 1.47 1636 1.09	1037 0.60 2157 0.70

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415
1st SUN	Byron Bay	02 6685 6807
1st SUN	Lismore Car Boot	02 6628 7333
2nd SAT	Tabulam Hall	0490 329 159
2nd SUN	The Channon	02 6688 6433
2nd SUN	Lennox Head	02 6685 6807
2nd SUN	Chillingham	0428 793 141
2nd SUN	Coolangatta	
3rd SAT	Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370
3rd SAT	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
3rd SAT	Salt Village Market, Casuarina	
3rd SUN	Federal	0433 002 757
3rd SUN	Uki	0487 329 150
3rd SUN	Ballina	0422 094 338
4th SAT	Evans Head	0432 275 765
4th SAT	Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglebazaar.com.au
4th SUN	Bangalow	02 6687 1911
4th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764
4th SUN	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
4th SUN	Coolangatta	(in a 5 Sunday month)
5th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764
5th SUN	Lennox Head	02 6685 6807
FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS		
Each TUE	New Brighton	0424 168 672
Each TUE	Organic Lismore	02 6636 4307
Each WED	Murwillumbah 7-11	0415 328 672
Each WED	Nimbin 3-6pm	0418 940 653
Each WED	Newrybar Hall 4-7pm	
Each THU	Byron 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each THU	Lismore 2:30-6:30pm	0459 309 223
Each FRI	Mullum 7-11am	0424 168 672
Each SAT	Bangalow 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each SAT	Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)	
Each SAT	Uki 8am-1pm	02 6679 5438
Each SAT	Lismore 8:30-11am	
Each SAT	Wadeville 8:30am-12pm	
Each SAT	Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr	
Each SUN	Ballina 7-11am	

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

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

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

- Flood recovery support service:** personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods.
- Community support:** food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.
- Listening Space:** free counselling.
- More Than A Meal:** free community lunch Tuesday–Thursday 12.30–1.30pm.
- Financial counselling**
- Staying Home, Leaving Violence program:** information, referral, and advocacy.
- Gulgani affordable pantry shop:** located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.
- Orange Sky:** free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon.

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

Byron Community

The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to get practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. Fletcher Street Cottage services are open Tuesday–Friday. **Breakfast:** Tuesday–Friday, 7–9am. **Showers and laundry:** Tuesday–Friday, 7am–12pm. **Office support:** Tuesday–Friday, 9am–12pm. **Support appointments:** Individual support appointments with community workers or specialist services. For bookings please call 6685 6807. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au. **Byron Community Cabin:** Seniors Computer Club (school term only), 9–11am, Friday, Carlyle Steet. More info: www.byroncentre.com.au Phone: 6685 6807.

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30–11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **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 Alcoholic Parents and/or Dysfunctional Families (ACA) help & recovery group meets in Lismore every Friday 10–11.30am, Red Dove Centre, 80 Keen Street. Byron meetings are on Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom – meeting ID 554 974 582 password byronbay.

Drug support groups

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

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.

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 and South Tweed) or Peter 0429 950 352 (Ballina).

Carers' support

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

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, mazzzerati2010@gmail.com.

Older adult exercise

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

\$5 pilates classes

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

Pottsville Community Association

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

Language exchange

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

Brunswick Valley Historical Society

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

Library fun

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

Byron Bay Cancer Support Group

The Byron Bay General Cancer Support Group has been running for six years and welcomes new participants. The aim of the group is to provide a safe, supportive and friendly environment for people with cancer to discuss how they are feeling and connect with other people with

cancer. Meetings are held every four weeks on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am. For more information contact the Cancer Council on 13 11 20.

Social sporting groups

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

Toastmasters

Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters meetings coaching in communication and self-development run on 1st and 3rd Mondays, 6.15 for 6.30pm at Byron Bay Services Club, Byron Bay. Online attendance allowed. **Mullum Magic Toastmasters:** Mullum Magic provides a safe and fun environment for members and guests to develop their public-speaking and leadership skills. Meeting 6.30–8.30pm every second and fourth Thursday of the month at the Presbyterian Church, 104 Stuart St, Mullumbimby. New members and guests welcome. Contact Ian Hamilton 0458 268 469.

Meditation

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

Brunswick Heads CWA

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

Byron Gem Club

The Byron Gem and Lapidary Club is open weekly to members new and old. Visitors welcome to view club facilities. Activities: semi-precious and gemstone cutting, shaping and polishing, gem faceting, silver work, gem setting and jewellery making, etc. Facebook @ Byron Gem Club. Club workshop located past Sky Dive Byron at Tyagarah Airfield. Contact 0428 591 360 or 0427 529 967 for more info.

Lions Club

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

Free ESL

Free English as a Second Language classes suitable for beginners to advanced learners. Kingscliff 6674 7267.

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).

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 Brigid'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.

Byron Bay XI wins third-grade premiership



Byron Bay cricketers celebrate their 2023/24 premiership win. Photo supplied

Byron Bay third grade have claimed the Ballina District Cricket Association third-grade championship after beating Bangalow in the grand final played last month at the Byron Bay Recreation Grounds. Bangalow won the toss and sent Byron into bat. Byron Bay reached 4/60 before Sean Wills (51) and Owen Delian (50no) combined to put on a 101 run stand that drove the side to

a competitive total of 7/183 from the allotted 40 overs. Scott Kilpatrick (32) and Louis Sivewright (17) were the only other batters to reach double figures on a relatively slow scoring wicket. Arlo Wooldridge was the best of the Bangalow bowlers taking 3/16 off six overs, supported by Connor Redden 2/41 off eight overs. Bangalow went out to bat and lost skipper Brett

McPhail (0) in the first over. By the 18th over they were 4/36. After drinks the scoring rate picked up led by top-scorer Peter Stubbings (28), with James Buchanan (15) and Grant Erickson (15). But the wickets kept falling and Bangalow were bowled out in the 36th over for 127. Pick of the Byron bowlers: Sam Davis (2/9), Sean Wills (2/11), and Reece Egan (2/17).

Mullumbimby men win the 2024 far north coast water polo grand final

The Mullumbimby men's water polo team has won the far north coast championship for the second year in a row after a hard-fought grand final against the season's major rivals, the Alstonville Rattlesnakes.

The game could barely have been closer with the full-time scores locked at 11-11 and the penalty shoot out going the way of Mullumbimby 4-3.

'We have been the team to beat all year. We played well as a team in the final and that got us over the line,' team member Sean Hunter said. 'We were playing at home at the Mullumbimby pool which is always a big advantage.'

Going into the premier-ship game both teams had managed a win against the



Mullumbimby's winning side includes: Brian Donnellan, Mark Edwards, Clancy Coker, Davide Finotti, John Dixon, Pim Hendrix, Sean Hunter, Sam Dwyer, Elliot Foote, Phil Cosgrove, Simon Clarey, Rohan Napoli, Lewis Harvey. Photo supplied

other in earlier rounds.

'Alstonville will definitely have an opinion next year about letting us win three in

a row,' Sean said.

Mullumbimby finished the season with 16 wins and two losses.

Seven local runners heading to national championships

Caroline Bailey

Seven young Byron Bay Runners have made state teams to compete in Athletics Australia's national championships later this month in Adelaide.

They qualified either by time or achieving a podium finish at state championships.

Having this number of athletes achieving these standards from a small regional club is an outstanding achievement for both the athletes and club coaches supporting their training.

The athletes competing for national titles are: Amy Bailey (U/20 400m hurdles), Daniel Williams (U/18 800m and 1500m), Alexandra Dogan (U/14 1500m), Skye Dogan (U/16 2,000m



Amy Bailey (centre) is the current state champion in the 400m hurdles. Photo Kylie Nyssen

steeplechase, 3,000m), Jett Beck (U/17 2,000m steeplechase), Connor McGreevy (U/16 2,000m steeplechase), Wyana Pietramale-Sewell (U/20 3,000m steeplechase).

Amy Bailey and Daniel Williams are the current state champions in their respective events.

If you're interested in

finding out more about high performance run coaching (juniors, adults and masters) please contact coaching@byronbayrunners.com.

Byron Bay Runners offers three coached, track-training sessions (both sprints and distance) a week at the Cavanbah Centre, for adults and juniors.

Local croquet clubs ready to host state titles

For the fourth consecutive year Ballina Cherry Street, Ballina, Byron Bay and the Lismore croquet clubs will welcome local, and interstate croquet players competing in the 2024 NSW Golf Croquet Division 3 Doubles and Singles events.

The four local croquet clubs unite to host the titles from July 9 to July 13, 2024.

Tournament Manager, David Scott, welcomes the return of Lismore Croquet Club following the devastating 2022 floods which saw their lawns unplayable for the 2022 and 2023 events.

Most NSW events are held within the Sydney region, so local club members are excited to be able to enter a NSW event without having to travel and bear the cost of accommodation.

'Similarly, non-local members are excited about the prospect of combining



Some of the competitors at last year's state croquet titles at Byron Bay Croquet Club. Photo supplied

a NSW croquet event with a holiday in the best region within Australia,' publicity officer, Deborah Jones said. 'Planning is well underway to ensure the events are successful, so visiting participants want to return to the area.'

All golf croquet players on a handicap of nine or higher are encouraged to enter.

Send us your sport stories!

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

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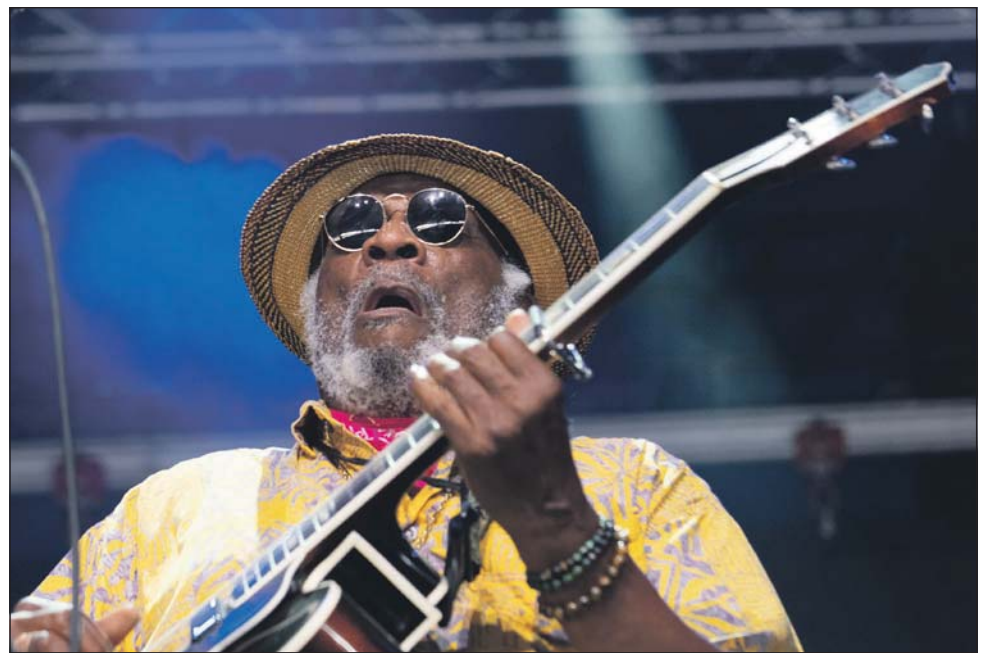
The NSW Police showed off their new fleet of extra-large RAM trucks on the streets of Byron this Easter. Surprisingly, the US-built monster is more fuel efficient than it looks: it sucks up 12.2 litres per 100km. Is that good? It's an odd signal the plod are sending to the public. The question is whether this is the best use of taxpayer money.

It's great to see Greens councillor Sarah Ndiaye's strong ticket for the upcoming September election – see page 9. Only thing is Cr Ndiaye is mostly aligned with the current mayor, which means more of the same 'governance' if she is elected mayor.

The sale of North Star Holiday Resort, near Hastings Point, has set a record for a caravan and holiday park, according to *AFR* (Nine). It sold for more than \$50m.

While Splendour in the Grass pulled the plug for 2024, Nimbin is gearing up for its 32nd annual MardiGrass cannabis law reform protest/festival on the first weekend in May. To join the volunteers who run the festival or find out more, check out nimbin-mardigrass.com.

CEO of the NSW Reconstruction Authority, Simon Draper, is being replaced by former cop Mal Lanyon. Draper will continue as Secretary to the Premier's Department. In 2021, Lanyon was named in a www.change.org petition, which called for 'Support for an open and transparent investigation into the conduct of senior NSW police'. It was prompted by a Friendly-jordies YouTube report: *NSW Police: Utterly Compromised*.



Well done, Bluesfest crew, for their 35th event, held last weekend. It was largely disaster free, except for some boggy parking. It was a great reminder of the power of top quality live music. Pictured above is blues legend Taj Mahal. More pics on page 24. Photo Jeff Dawson

On page 6, a NSW government's ad urges the public to boost themselves against Covid. This is not an endorsement by *The Echo*. On the other side of the debate, prominent UK professor, Angus Dalgleish, says mRNA vaccines should be banned.


A Gofundme fundraising site has been set up to help Goonengerry resident Richard White, whose home burnt to the ground on March 26. To help him out, visit www.gofundme.com/f/richard-white-lost-his-home-in-a-fire.



'Building the Death Star will create hundreds of thousands of jobs'.

Residents around the north coast are still finding their homes are being broken

into – so report break-ins to police, so they can catch the buggers.



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Paul Bibby is a qualified local mindfulness and meditation educator who has helped organisations across the country boost their performance and wellbeing through the practical tools and strategies of mindfulness.




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