

# Echo

DON'T WORRY, IT'S ALL PART OF THE SHOW

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 38 #44 • April 10, 2024 • www.echo.net.au

## Mayor's Wallum negotiations unsupported

Hans Lovejoy

An update on closed-door deals around the controversial Wallum development by Mayor Michael Lyon has been criticised as not providing any commitment, trading one endangered species for another, while also ignoring the input from the Save Wallum group.

### Direct action

Locals say they are prepared to take non-violent direct action (NVDA) to save rare heathland in Bayside, Bruns, from urban development. Dozens of protesters blocked three entry points to the proposed estate on Thursday morning as fencing contractors moved in to section off the cul-de-sacs leading into the site.

The mayor used his casting vote to sign off on subdivision works in February, giving Clarence Property the final approval to clear about 60 per cent of the 18-hectare site for 124 residential lots. His supporting councillors were Asren Pugh, Mark Swivel and Alan Hunter.

Approval for the development was authorised by the Northern Regional Planning Panel in May last year, which included panellist Simon Richardson, the former mayor and mentor to Cr Lyon.

This followed concept plan approval from the state government back in 2013 – a plan that many refer to as a 'zombie DA', because it sat undeveloped while environmental protection laws evolved around it.

Cr Lyon released his mayoral minute from last week's Council

► Continued on page 2

## Itching for a Mullum flea market?



A new flea market will launch this Saturday, April 13 from 8am until 2pm at the Mullum Community College campus. The Mullum Flea Market boasts over 70 stalls, and organisers say it's a great way to encourage a more community-minded and greener Byron Shire. 'The market ethos is recycling, reusing and reselling, and is a not-for-profit fundraiser for the college', co-organiser, Subhi Awad, told *The Echo*. 'Our big launch will include working with Sustainable Futures, Resilient Kids – Youth Week, and Salvage Culture. This is a great way for the community to connect with local artists, designers and organisations working to increase upcycling and reduce the need for landfill'. Pictured are Sasha Mainsbridge, Leisa McIlwain, Anne Stovin, Subhi Awad and Ella Scholl. Photo Eve Jeffery

## Surya McEwen joins Freedom Flotilla Coalition

Hans Lovejoy

'I've considered the danger', Surya McEwen told *The Echo*, speaking of his departure this week to Gaza.

'But I feel that I will return safely.'

McEwen has volunteered on Freedom Flotilla Coalition's voyage to take 5,500 tonnes of food and medicine to the Palestinian people, in one of the most dangerous war-torn parts of the planet.

Just last week, Australian aid worker, Zomi Frankcom, along with six other people working for the World Central Kitchen charity, were killed by Israeli forces.

'The screening process to be accepted was rigorous', McEwen says, 'and the coalition are very careful of who they allow aboard.'

'At this stage, it's possible that I will be the only Australian on the voyage. After arriving in Turkey, there will be three days of intensive training', he says.

According to freedomflotilla.org, the coalition 'is a grassroots

► Continued on page 3

## Community land trust group home approved

Paul Bibby

Construction work on the Shire's first permanent group home for women and children in housing stress could begin within months, after the project was formally approved by Byron Council.

And the organisation behind the project has a development application for two more group

homes on the same site ready to roll, paving the way for the location to become Byron's first community housing hub.

The group homes, to be located on a greenfield site at 66 The Saddle Road, Brunswick Heads, are the first initiative of the Byron Shire Community Land Trust, a not-for-profit organisation aiming to build modest rental

accommodation across the Shire.

Each home will provide short-medium- and long-term housing for at least two small single-parent families and two older women.

It is intended homes will have their own on-site power generation, water harvesting, and waste water treatment facilities, and will be managed by a community housing provider.

Speaking in support of the application at Council's last planning meeting on March 28, local developer and housing trust co-founder, Brandon Saul, said the organisation was ready to submit an application for the next two homes.

'If councillors look favourably on this [first DA] we've actually got a DA for two more houses,' said Mr Saul.

► Continued on page 3

Bruns River restoration funding ► p5

David Lowe asks whose life is valued in the fog of war? ► p8

First Qld drug testing a success! ► p13

Love Byron Bay ► p15

So much to do in the School Holidays! ► p17

Mandy: The nude beach is a wicked problem ► p24

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# SES kept busy over weekend

Eco Tsadik from Mullum SES says his team has been busy sand bagging, unblocking drains and helping to fix roofs during the heavy rain last week.

According to the Byron Shire flood awareness web-page on [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au), 'The Brunswick River is the main river system in the Byron LGA, with a number of smaller tributaries such as Lacks Creek and Marshalls Creek feeding into it which can contribute to significant flooding in certain areas.'

He says SES are always looking for capable young people to join – visit [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au) for more info.



Volunteers Manno and Jake assist with a submerged vehicle in Binna Burra, near Bangalow, last Thursday morning. Photo Eco Tsadik

# Riparian plantings for Mullum

More than 5,000 native plants along a 2km stretch of Riverside Drive, from Pine Ave to the Mullum Showgrounds, are about to be planted, say Council staff. They say it was made possible by \$220,000 in NSW government funding, that came via North Coast Local Land Services, to address 'priority river erosion sites from the 2022 floods'.

'The massive planting project will help strengthen the flood-affected riverbanks and slow erosion while also boosting flora, fauna and biodiversity for the area.

Council's Team Leader Bush Regeneration, Dave Filipczyk, said, 'last year, we completed

800 hours of regeneration works on this section of the Brunswick River and it has resulted in prolific natural regeneration of native species since the weeds were cleared'.

'Despite being in the middle of Mullumbimby, this section of the Brunswick River held 139 native species, and 79 weed species, within a 2km stretch of river'.

The project is part of Council's Bringing Back the Bruns project, described as 'a much larger bush regeneration program along the Brunswick River and its tributaries, being undertaken by Council's Bush Regeneration Team'.

# Marine Rescue gets remote controlled lifebuoy

Marine Rescue Brunswick's rescue capabilities are about to be bolstered, with a new state-of-the-art life-saving device called the USafe.

In a press release, Marine Rescue NSW Northern Rivers Zone Duty Operations Manager, John Murray, says it will be the region's first USafe.

He describes it as a versatile and reliable motorised remote controlled lifebuoy for rescue missions, which will assist with rescues in the Brunswick River, Simpsons Creek, Marshalls Creek and offshore.

Murray says it has a 300-metre working range, and

can transport up to 160kgs of buoyancy. It cost \$14,000; Murray says the federal government's Stronger Communities Grant contributed \$10,000, and community donations funded the remaining \$4,000.

For more info visit [www.marinerescuensw.com.au](http://www.marinerescuensw.com.au).

# Mayor's Wallum negotiations unsupported

► Continued from page 1 meeting, which outlined discussions with developer, Clarence Property.

Cr Lyon said he hopes that it will result in better outcomes, such as a smaller footprint, and smaller lot sizes for 'singles, couples and empty-nesters'.

## No development is best outcome

James Barrie, representing Save Wallum, told *The Echo*, 'no development at all is the best outcome for the ecological and cultural values of the Wallum site, and I think Council can try a bit harder, and be more inclusive with their methods if a "compromise" is to be considered'.

'After all the community has been through, and learned from this DA, this can't be another backroom affair. We have put so much time into educating councillors on the ecological values of Wallum, and this version of compromise doesn't reflect that it's been heeded.

'With NSW Premier Chris Mins just rejecting a development on the basis of flood liability, there's more to think about here. We have a high-profile blockade, with strong community backing, and the national media taking interest.

'This is a DA that has not been robust with its processes, and we're expecting more if any compromise is to be reached'.

Barrie says, 'This plan was introduced as a surprise mayoral minute, without any notice to the community, or other councillors. As such it appears like the mayor doesn't want to face any community discussion'.

'The community would've been there at the Council chambers, like we always are, when we have notice.

'It's not a good look for



Eastern osprey. Photo [www.savewallum.com](http://www.savewallum.com) / Mark Seiffert

democracy on an issue the community is agitated about.

'This new plan has unfortunately missed the mark, and while we would welcome 20 less tree-sits to have to resource, it appears to be even more damaging to threatened species in the west than the original footprint.

'It needs some work to address the major fragmentation of two highly significant threatened species' habitats that would still occur'.

## Pointless frog ponds

Ecologist David Milledge was asked for his views by Cr Lyon around the Wallum Froglet Management Plan in the mayoral minute, 'in order to understand if there were any improvements that could be made to the artificial ponds being proposed'.

Milledge told *The Echo* artificial frog ponds are 'pointless'.

'I don't consider that what is presented in the mayoral minute is a good outcome, just better than nothing'.

'However, there's no indication that the mayor's negotiations have resulted in any concessions from Clarence Property, who appear to be ignoring the major community opposition to the development and a complete lack of any social licence'.

He added, 'the development site plan, as approved, will be a disaster for biodiversity'.

## Continuing to work positively, says CEO

Clarence Property CEO, Simon Kennedy told *The Echo*, 'The mayoral minute is a fair reflection of the discussions to date, noting that any potential change from the existing approval is significant and Clarence Property are continuing to work positively and in good faith with the mayor in relation to feasible options'.

## Minimal loss for developer

Mr Barrie adds, 'The mayoral minute appears to ask for minimal loss from the developer, and maintains maximum loss to threatened species'. If there is any seeking of real ecological outcomes in a negotiation on this site, the development footprint would need to be substantially reduced and intricate input from concerned ecologists and First Nations people needs to be integrated into a compromise.

'I want to believe the mayor can get back to the drafting board on this and increase the inclusiveness and transparency with the community stakeholders, to reflect the values of Wallum and broker that proudly with the developer, as the community's current leading representative'.



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## Flood-prone frog habitat slated for industrial expansion

Paul Bibby

The Byron Arts & Industry Estate would expand onto the other side of Ewingsdale Road under a new project before Byron Council which is currently on public exhibition.

But the land in question is home to group of frog species that includes the nationally protected wallum sedge frog.

The \$4.3m development is slated for 22B Maleluca Drive, a greenfield site opposite the existing industrial estate, and next to the upcoming West Byron

development.

If approved by Byron Council, the project would see 74,000 cubic metres of fill trucked in to make the flood-prone land suitable for a 17-lot light industrial hub.

The DA was prepared by Planit Consulting, and its statement of environmental effects says, 'The new light industrial lots will assist in meeting the strong demand for additional employment land, with the property noted in Council's Business and Industrial Land Strategy 2020 (BILS), as the only

undeveloped appropriately zoned land in Byron Bay'.

The industrial lots on the site would range in size from 1,447m<sup>2</sup> to 13,897m<sup>2</sup>, and would lie adjacent to a new drainage reserve at the south of the property, which would contain a new stormwater basin.

The Biodiversity Development Assessment Report accompanying the development application concluded that avoidance and mitigation measures were such that 'the development will not have significant impacts

on local biodiversity values'. However, the same report also reveals that the property contains areas of habitat for acid frogs.

### Threatened species

According to the University of Queensland, this is a group of 'highly specialised and threatened species endemic to the acidic coastal wallum wetlands of eastern Australia, that include the Cooloola sedge frog, wallum rocket frog, wallum froglet, and the nationally protected wallum sedge frog'.

## Surya McEwen joins Freedom Flotilla Coalition

► Continued from page 1 people-to-people solidarity movement composed of campaigns and initiatives from different parts of the world, working together to end the illegal Israeli blockade of Gaza'.

McEwen has been supported via his chuffed.org fundraiser, which now stands at over \$10,000.

'Part of the goal is to break the siege', he says.

When asked whether the flotilla is asking Israel's government for permission, he says 'No'.

'However, we will provide a cargo and personnel list and will make it publicly available'.



Surya McEwen. Photo Herberto Smith

'This type of operation has never been done in an active war zone. This makes the risk and necessity accentuated, there has been lots of voyages undertaken by the flotillas, but never at this scale'.

According to his chuffed.org

fundraiser, 'some people ask why I've chosen to face the potential danger involved in such a voyage'.

'Many reasons come to mind. There's 2.3 million human beings being deliberately starved. I want to bring

them food.

'There's many hundreds of thousands injured and traumatised and desperate for medicine that's being deliberately denied them.

'I want to take them medicine. A genocide is unfolding before our eyes, and our leaders critique it cautiously in public, while providing arms contracts and weapons parts to carry on the carnage in our name. Governments internationally should've stepped up and demanded humanitarian aid for the starving, hurting masses of Gaza. But they won't, so we must'.

For more info visit [chuffed.org/project/108870-humanitarian-aid-ship-to-gaza](http://chuffed.org/project/108870-humanitarian-aid-ship-to-gaza).

## Community land trust group home approved

► Continued from page 1

'If all goes as planned, we'll have three homes, a shared vegetable garden, shared living areas... shared solar... [and] wastewater treatment'.

'One will be a mix of short-term, medium-term and long-term [accommodation]. One of the homes will be for people who are leaving domestic violence. One of the rooms in the first home is

for all abilities.'

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

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

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

'The community probably doesn't realise this, but the housing crisis is hard-baked in for the next 20 years,' Mr Saul said. 'We need hundreds of these things, not one. We've also applied for a Housing Affordability Future Fund grant to subsidise the rent for the next ten years [at

the group homes]'

'Everyone sees the visible homeless, men with drug and alcohol and mental health issues. The growing cohort is women and kids and older women, who don't have those problems.

'But we need homes for other people as well. Young people, older men, essential workers. All of them.'

Councillors voted unanimously for the DA.



## Could a Council Grant help your project or idea?

Applications are now open for two Council grant programs for 2024-2025.

The two grant streams include:

- **Community Initiatives Program** – grants of up to \$5,000 per organisation on offer with a total pool of \$57,500 for investment into inspiring community projects.
- **Creative Public Spaces Small Grants** – funding of up to \$5,000 (from a total pool of \$15,000) for art works or activations in public spaces in the Byron Shire.

Applications are open now and close on 30 June 2024.

Image: Spaghetti Circus Intergenerational Tour 2023, Photographer Hamish McCormick

### More information

More information, eligibility details and the application forms are available from Council's website:

[www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council-grants-2024](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Council-grants-2024)



[www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au)

## Mullum refugee support group formed

Russell Eldridge

A new group in Mullumbimby has formed to help settle a Syrian refugee family in the area within the next few months.

Mullumbimby Refugee Support Group (MRSNG) are operating under a federal government pilot program, which has already settled six refugee families in the Northern Rivers. The program is known as Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot (CRISP).

MRSNG co-ordinator, Delhove Blennerhassett, said his 16-strong group formed from a desire to do something practical about the plight of refugees.

'This area has such a great awareness and we loved the idea of the community getting together to help a refugee family in need,' Delhove said.

Anyone can form a community support group of at least five members, who must be fully committed and receive online training under the CRISP program.

The government grants humanitarian visas to eligible refugees who are based overseas. The CRISP program



Mullumbimby Refugee Support Group. Photo Delhove Blennerhassett

then matches refugees with approved Australian community support groups such as MRSNG. The support group then welcomes the family into their area and cares for them for a year.

This care includes finding accommodation, settling kids into school, dealing with Centrelink, helping find jobs, providing transport, and anything that helps the family settle into a new life in Australia.

Delhove said at first they balked at the fundraising challenge, but then signed a partnership agreement with Ballina Region For Refugees (BR4R), who will take on the lion's share of fundraising.

'We couldn't have done it

without BR4R,' Delhove said.

BR4R was formed in 2015, and raises all its own funds and does not receive any government support.

### Tax deductible

They have raised tens of thousands of dollars to support refugee causes and have helped settle four families in the region. Donations are tax deductible.

For more info, contact Delhove Blennerhassett on 0434 007 276. For Ballina Region For Refugees, contact President, Marilyn Leeks, on 0407 219 898, or email [admin@br4r.org.au](mailto:admin@br4r.org.au).

The Australian government CRISP program is at [refugeesponsorship.org](http://refugeesponsorship.org).



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# After school care phased out

Paul Bibby

Byron Council will cease providing out of school hours care (OSHC) in the shire after deciding that the cost and regulatory burden is too great to bear.

In a move that was opposed by many of the families using the services and the staff who work at them, a majority of councillors voted last month to relinquish Council's licences for the services at Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads public schools. These are the only two remaining Council-run OSHC services in the Byron Shire.

The decision does not mean that the services will close. Rather, Council has promised to keep them open until the NSW Department of Education has undertaken a tender process to find new providers.

These providers will almost certainly be from the private sector, a fact which has raised concerns among families and staff about the quality of care children will now receive at the services.

'Many other [non-Council] services operate on a single educator model, which

means legally, they are able to run on a ratio of 1:15,' said Kori Nemme, whose child attends ones of the Council-run services.

'This ratio is unable to provide quality care and maintain health and safety standards.'

Dr Nemme, who has a PhD in early childhood education, went on to say that the current Council OSHC services had established good relationships with the children, provided quality care, and consistently received positive feedback from families.

'Let's not mess it up,' she said. 'Let's not create further issues for our children which will then affect the whole community.'

But Dr Nemme's entreaties did not convince councillors to keep hold of the licences.

More convincing, it seemed, was an internal service review undertaken by Council staff showing that Council had been carrying an unsustainable financial and regulatory burden in delivering OSHC services.

Council experienced an overall loss of \$114,600 for the 2023/24 financial year for OSHC services, the review

found, continuing a trend going back a number of years.

'Operating within this sector requires specialist skills, knowledge, and experience to effectively balance quality educational outcomes with strong governance and management that ensures service viability and sustainability,' Esmerelda David, Council's Director Corporate and Community Services, said in her written report to councillors.

'This is becoming increasingly challenging for Council.'

The decision to relinquish the licences ends Council's direct involvement in providing OSHC care in the shire.

## Mullum handed over

The OSHC service at Mullumbimby Public School has already been handed over to an alternative provider, because it was not viable financially.

Council and the new service provider, Rainbow Region Kids, finalised the transition at the end of last year.

It is not expected that fees will rise once the handover to private providers has taken place.



## Brunswick River funded for restoration

The Brunswick River. Photo Positive Change for Marine Life

Northern Rivers organisation, Positive Change for Marine Life (PCMF), is one of eight organisations to receive an Environmental Education grant from the NSW government.

PCMF say the grant, valued at \$57,096, will support their work improving the long-term health of the Brunswick River.

Dr Zeke Davidson from PCMF said they were thrilled to receive support from the NSW Environmental Trust for the Rewilding our

Floodplains project.

'This project will improve the health of the Brunswick River estuary and empower the community to become stewards of its future.'

## Rewilding Floodplains

'The Rewilding our Floodplains project goes beyond just environmental restoration. We aim to build a strong, connected community that actively participates in protecting

the Brunswick River for generations to come.'

Founder CEO and CEO of PCMF, Karl Goodsell, said, 'We believe that a healthy ocean is not just about protecting marine life, but also about creating a thriving future for coastal communities. Through collaborative efforts like the Rewilding our Floodplains project, we can empower communities to become stewards of their local ecosystems, ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come.'

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**Echo**

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**Tweed councillors ramping up political high jinks as elections near**

Tensions are running high at Tweed Shire Council as the upcoming September election pushes some councillors into overdrive in their desire to look like they are personally achieving outcomes for the community.

**17 year old dies jumping off Hastings Point bridge**

A 17 year old male was declared deceased at the scene after lifeguards and members of the public recovered his body from the water at Hastings Point on Saturday, 30 March.

**28 affordable home applications received by Lismore Council**

The Housing Grant program has now received applications to build 28 new units and dwellings, all qualifying under the Affordable Housing guidelines.

**After the fall: Mr Andersen's rise from the streets to mature-age study**

Richie Andersen is excited and grateful. After years spent suffering substance dependency, relationship breakdowns, health crises and sleeping rough, the Tweed-based grandfather is about to become a mature-aged student.

**Nearly 150 new state emergency services staff**

Nearly 150 new trainee paramedics and emergency call takers are to join the state's ambulance service.

**Ray Pascoe Park at Tweed Heads receiving new equipment for fishing and playing**

Construction is currently underway at the Ray Pascoe riverside park and boat ramp that will revitalise the children's play area, boat ramp and fishing facilities.

www.echo.net.au

**Pottsville and Tweed residents show up to save their koalas**

Aslan Shand

The Tweed Council rejected the proposal for a luxury caravan development with 112 long-term residential sites on an environmentally restrained site at Pottsville in September 2023.

Tweed Council staff had originally recommended refusal based on the ecological value of the site, tree removal, proximity to coastal wetlands, impact on koala habitat and sewerage. There were 319 objections highlighting the DA's lack of detail in relation to which sites would be for caravans and how many would be for more permanent manufactured home structures. Twenty-six of the proposed sites were within the prohibited wetlands area and the whole area is in the koala plan of management and the koala corridor.

Turner Contracting Pty Ltd property developers appealed the decision in the Land and Environment Court (L&EC) and on Wednesday, April 3 the Commissioner of the L&EC held a conciliation meeting at the site.

The meeting was accompanied by a large crowd of



**Odin comes out for the L&EC Commissioner.**  
Photo Josie Styles

the community against the development.

Josie Styles, one of the speakers from the Pottsville community said that if this development went ahead there is a real chance this koala colony would become extinct. As Ms Styles walked home Odin, one of the resident male koalas, appeared opposite her house.

'So I ran back and got everyone to come and see Odin the koala, including the commissioner,' Ms Styles told *The Echo*.

'Odin is one of the resident males that uses the koala corridor over the Seabreeze Estate into the proposed development area. I've recorded eight individual koalas, male and female, since August 2023.'

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

**Ballina argues about Australia Day, again**

David Lowe

The last meeting of the Ballina Shire Council saw another rancorous discussion about whether the local community awards ceremony should coincide with Australia Day.

A young man named Riley Chapman said he was 'immensely compelled' to be part of a 'deputation' in support of the status quo, from the perspective of a person with Indigenous ancestry.

Mr Chapman spoke about 'our wonderful mayor,

Sharon' before reading a prepared speech explaining his reasons for supporting the existing arrangements. Wardell's Cr Nigel Buchanan said he found all this 'very refreshing', and said he supported keeping the ceremony date on Australia Day.

Cr Jeff Johnson spoke against, describing the existing date as a divisive day. Rather than 'one people, one nation', he said 'we are many people in one nation'.

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

**Surfboard arrest in Tweed River**

An alleged stolen car; three police chases, including a crash that injured another driver; and a failed attempt to swim away from an arresting officer on a surfboard.

Officers said it all started when they spotted a stolen Volkswagen Amarok on Thursday, 4 April at Brunswick Heads.

The car had been reported stolen from Chinderah on Wednesday, 3 April before being reported as being used to steal fuel from a Mullumbimby petrol station.

By Saturday, 6 April, the

car was reported back in the Tweed Shire, where another two police chases happened.

Police said the second chase was from Tweed Heads to Murwillumbah. Police said the Amarok driver ran from the scene into the Tweed River at Tyalgah.

Officers said they set up a perimeter, before a sergeant commandeered a surfboard and paddled some 500 metres along the river to arrest the 24-year-old accused woman.

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



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# Justine Elliot and Anthony Albanese



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Authorised J Elliot, ALP, Tweed Heads South



The Byron Shire Echo  
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# Protest this

Remember Bentley, near Lismore, in 2014? Do you know what happened at Terania Creek, again near Lismore, or the Franklin River in Tasmania?

These are just a few protests that were successful. They prevented disaster, changed public opinion and persuaded those who make the rules.

The ongoing humanity project on planet Earth seems to involve oppression, 'progress' and protests that are sparked generally by civil rights and environmental issues.

And all protest movements, especially civil rights ones, are led by those fearless in the face of jail or death. Imagine if there was no fight for women's suffrage?

Or if segregation in the US was still law, as it was in South Africa?

## Wave Hill

In 1966, 200 Gurindji stockmen and their families walked off the Wave Hill pastoral station in the Northern Territory, protesting poor working conditions and low wages.

This sparked a seven-year land rights movement that led to the Labor Whitlam government returning over 3,000 square kilometres of land to the Gurindji people in 1976.

## Tent Embassy

The Aboriginal Tent Embassy was established in 1972 to protest the lack of Indigenous land rights.

This protest outside federal Parliament House attracted widespread support and helped shift the Labor party towards greater action on Indigenous rights.

## Mardi Gras

The first Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in 1978 began as a protest

march that was violently suppressed by police. While the march ended in arrests, it was a pivotal moment that galvanised the LGBTQ+ rights movement in Australia.

It's reasonable to assume that those who were part of these protest movements were given friendly advice.

'It's best to negotiate', a politician may have said. 'It's better to have something than nothing'.

Byron has a strong and long history of resisting inappropriate developments.

There is a reason you can't get a Big Mac in Byron: McDonald's wasn't made welcome.

## Paterson Hill

Paterson Hill in Byron Bay is another example of successful protest. The result saw an important space for the community retained.

The protests culminated in mass arrests in 1999 when over 60 people were detained for protesting a proposed housing development.

The developer, Detala eventually sold the land to the NSW government in 2004 and it was incorporated into the Arakwal National Park.

There is power in protest, and it works.

But in the case of Paterson Hill, Council was part of that protest and held strong with the community.

It's a fair question to ask what local government support there is now for environmental protest.

Is claiming to being 'pragmatic' appropriate, and reflective of this community's wishes in times of diminishing ecosystems?

Hans Lovejoy, editor

# Whose life is valued in the fog of war?

The language of the Australian government about the war in Gaza has hardened since the death of Australian aid worker, Zomi Frankcom, along with six other people working for the World Central Kitchen charity. They were killed when their vehicles were hit by three Israeli missiles.

So which lives are worth lamenting? When does the right of a country to defend itself become the justification to commit genocide, and when does such a war become unacceptable to the international community?

It appears to depend upon who dies, and when.

Peter Dutton's language on the war has not changed since the deaths of the aid workers, offering only thoughts and prayers, and continuing to say the whole situation is the fault of Hamas, but Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and Foreign Minister Penny Wong are both now demanding 'accountability' from Israel, after earlier commenting on the difficulty of making judgements from so far away.

Speaking in Ipswich last week (at a company which exports military equipment, incidentally), Mr Albanese said the death of aid workers such as Ms Frankcom was 'completely unacceptable' and that Australia supported a 'sustainable ceasefire' in Gaza.

In October, the Australian government refused to support a UN vote for an immediate humanitarian truce, which would have allowed aid access to the Gaza Strip, and the protection of civilians.

The reason given at the time was that the resolution did not explicitly name Hamas in relation to the 'immediate and unconditional release of all civilians' being illegally held captive.

Since then, similar resolutions have been blocked by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's international supporters and opponents, with UN representatives quibbling about wording while the death toll of civilians continues to rise; now beyond 30,000, mostly women and children.

After Zomi Frankcom and



*'This incident is not an isolated example, with 196 humanitarian workers having been killed in Gaza since October.'*

- David Lowe

her colleagues were murdered, Anthony Albanese lamented the 'extraordinary loss of life in Gaza', and demanded answers about the latest tragedy from his Israeli counterpart, who blamed the fog of war, despite the World Central Kitchen workers taking all appropriate safety precautions, clearly marking their vehicles, and negotiating the route of the aid convoy in advance with the Israel Defence Forces (IDF).

Two IDF officers have since been dismissed, and others 'reprimanded' over the deaths, but there is no sign of an independent inquiry into the deaths of the aid workers, despite international requests.

World Central Kitchen founder, Jose Andres, says bad luck could not be blamed for the air attack, in which his workers had been targeted 'systematically, car by car.'

Sadly, this incident is not an isolated example, with 196 humanitarian workers having been killed in Gaza since October. On the ground, the effect of these killings has been to slow the flow of food and other aid into Gaza, where it looks increasingly as through starvation is being used as a weapon of war against innocent civilians, a war crime by any definition.

136 journalists have also been killed in the conflict, making this story harder to tell.

Is Australia implicated?

Unlike Israel's ally, the United States of America (which also lost a citizen in the World Central Kitchen attack, and has the power to stop the war at any time by cutting off the flow of armaments, if it could find the political will), Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong has said that 'Australia has not supplied weapons to Israel since the start of the Hamas-Israeli conflict.'

Greens Senator David Shoebridge pointed out in parliament

that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade's own website says Australia exported \$13 million worth of arms and ammunition to Israel in the five years to 2022, along with hundreds of weapons export permits, but Senator Wong dismissed this as 'disinformation and misinformation'.

Recent investigations from Michael West have shown that Australia's Future Fund (established by Peter Costello, and representing \$273 billion plus in public monies) has been used to invest in Israeli arms manufacturer Elbit Systems, whose missiles appear to have struck the WCK convoy and killed Australian citizen Zomi Frankcom and her co-workers. There has been no official response from the Future Fund to this claim as yet.

Further complicating matters, former US National Security Agency employee, David Rosenberg, says satellite information gathered by the Pine Gap facility near Alice Springs is also playing a crucial role in Israel's ongoing bombing campaign in Gaza.

All of this is happening at the behest of a deeply unpopular Israeli leader in Benjamin Netanyahu, who is the focus of ongoing large protests in his own country and would probably be out of power or in prison by now, if not for the October 7 attacks precipitating the war, which some say he did not do enough to prevent.

PLO leader Yasser Arafat once described Hamas as a 'creature of Israel', and it seems clear that the current extremist political leadership of both sides are antithetical to the needs of their own people.

They will need to be replaced by new voices before there is any hope of a solution.

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



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The Echo on its travels stops at Isabela Island in the Galapagos.

**365 days per year**

Spare a thought for a group of residents whose homes were added to those properties that can operate as tourist accommodation every single day of the year.

Many of them are long-term residents in simple, old Byron cottages. They now have the added traffic of the Butler Street bypass and the tourist bus terminus. Come September they will have even more tourists holidaying in their neighbourhood as most of the shire's short-term holiday lets will be reduced to 60 days per year.

Adding them to the 365-days-per-year precinct is so unfair. Already they are suffering from too much tourist activity.

Sandra Heilpern  
Bangalow

**Beady-eyed miner**

As I sat for a coffee in Brunz the other day, sharing my table with a beady-eyed miner, I figured this is a

conversation rewarded by authoritative insights. Who better to turn to than Tim Low – many readers will have heard him speak at the Byron Writers Festival. His book *Where Song Began: Australia's Birds and How They Changed the World* (2014) Penguin Books Australia is a delight to encounter.

Low reveals that miners form colonies that co-operate to defend their area of occupation, against almost all other bird species through aggressive behaviour, physically attacking most other birds. As a result of their aggression, miners often comprise more than 50 per cent of all birds present and are increasing in abundance. They may break eggs and kill chicks of other birds.

Noisy miners are able to exclude almost all passerine (perching) birds that are similar in size or smaller than themselves. Birds larger than miners can be repelled but

are not always attacked and may even cooperate with the miners. Tim Low cites experience of butcherbirds, crows and magpies joining in the attacks of other birds and pied currawongs foregoing meals of miner chicks to win acceptance.

Noisy miners are also believed to be culprits in the degradation and dieback of woodlands because their feeding habits do not remove as many herbivore insects (e.g. lerps) as other small birds. The activity of noisy miners is listed as a 'key threatening process' under the *NSW Threatened Species Act* in Sept 2013 and the federal *EPBC Act* in March 2013.

Low warns that as climate change occurs, noisy miners will also handicap eucalypts by reducing the mobility of pollen. To produce seedlings with a future, trees will need pollen from drier and hotter places, not pollen from the next tree. Droughts that

thin forests will aid miners. Lorikeets, red wattlebirds and flying foxes will assume more importance in the future as they can spread pollen widely, little deterred by miners.

If our reader, dear editor, is interested further, then the ever-passionate Dr Anne Jones is worth a look. *Noisy miners: when good birds go bad. The Secret Lives Of Our Urban Birds* (www.youtube.com/watch?v=-rIAJTdvQxw). To discover more about Tim Low's words about Australian birds you might like to watch (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=isKgMfKkLfM&t=64s)

Susan Fell  
Mullumbimby

**Speed limits**

I'm surprised to see that when you drive from Bangalow to Lismore via Clunes and Bexhill the speed limit goes from 80km/h up to 100km/h on these windy roads. But Hinterland Way, which was the Pacific Highway when I arrived here in 2009, remains at 80km/h all the way.

Please Byron Council, review this.

Margot Hays  
Bangalow

**Rains, drains, floods**

The ABC news and *Guardian* recently published reports of the potential return of La Niña in 2024 bringing similar rain to 2022.

We just experienced 100mm of rain and had streets and local roads blocked.

We have seen no significant clearing of drains, creeks and rivers, although a pathetic attempt following 2022, resulted in a few visible

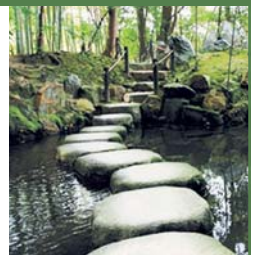
▶ Continued on page 10

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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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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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► Continued from page 9 areas of open drains cleared of weeds. The solid debris under driveway bridges remains. Money wasted.

Effective work would be a methodical, grid pattern from east to west of all streets and lanes. Saltwater Creek, Kings Creek and river.

Following the 2017 flood, Byron Council's investigation listed 20-odd recommendations for flood mitigation. None were completed. Money wasted.

Despite the 2022 disaster, there is still no work or plans for drainage. In a recent Zoom meeting Mayor Lyon was asked if any significant plans were in force to rectify the drainage problems before next flood season. He gave a hasty, dismissive reply, generalising about councils always being responsible for drainage. So take that as a 'no'.

The recent Whole Flood Mitigation plan demonstrates this disinterest and neglect of the problems. A brief mention of Mullumbimby at item 12, moderate priority, another mention of New City Road drainage, low priority. More assessment, investigation planned. No action. Money wasted.

Byron Council elections are in September. All current

councillors who have aligned with Lyon, showing no independent, intelligent ability to vote from their own integrity on issues affecting our town and community – vote them OUT. Duncan Dey in, if he runs.

We don't need sycophants, we need balanced debate and voting reflecting the needs as expressed by the community.

We need infrastructure first and housing development second.

**Marlene Crompton**  
Mullumbimby

■ Ed note: Cr Dey has indicated he is not intending to run again in September.

**We wonder why**

Living in Byron Shire the majority of people continue to ask why is this organisation [council] continuously letting this community down as far as representing their best interest.

The main reason is the committees that are formed to represent the best interest of the Byron Shire community are controlled by the executive of Byron Shire Council. This is not a consultation process. As it has been previously stated the agendas that are presented to the committees are

put together by the director who manages this division of Council and the mayor. How is this an open and transparent process?

These committees need to be allowed to question the process and results of what the executive of Byron Shire Council are allowing to be in place, and ask how well they are benefiting the community.

The current structure under which the committees operate does not allow this. It does not allow any form of constructive dialogue, it is a strategy which allows everything to remain the same. This does not benefit the community.

**Alan Dickens**  
Byron Bay

**Bangalow retaining wall damage**

The wall supporting the western end of Deacon Street has failed – opposite the Roman Catholic Church. Fortunately, this type of wall usually collapses slowly.

Byron Shire Council have discounted my concern (I am a retired L.G. engineer) ignoring the consequences when it completely fails to support the pavement in Deacon Street. This will lead to the complete closure of Deacon Street to traffic



Damaged wall at Bangalow. Photo Roger Seccombe

– for a long time.

Is there an 'easement for support' over the wall? Who benefits? Who is responsible for the restoration after it collapses?

**Roger Seccombe**  
Ballina

**Alternate facts?**

According to David Shoebridge of the Greens in a recent sitting in the senate, the UN has named Australia as one of a number of countries supplying weapons to Israel, albeit a minor supplier. He stated that 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'. Someone's lying to parliament? I think it's called alternate facts.

**Rod Murray**  
Ocean Shores

**Shame Mullum RSL**

For those that do not know, RSL stands for Returned and Services League Australia. An independent support organisation for people who have served in, or are serving in, the Australian Defence Force. Its legal status – *charity*. It advocates for the benefit, treatment and welfare of current and serving, and ex-members of the defence forces.

I was disgusted to hear that a political meeting was held on the premises. How insensitive and disrespectful

to the RSL itself. And then to hear it was an Israel-slandering session.

Two of my uncles were ex-servicemen, fought for Australia, and were Jewish.

I am horrified that Mullumbimby RSL thought that this type of political meeting was acceptable on the premises and under the heading of a 'peace and freedom in Israel and Palestine' fundraiser.

I reiterate again, the legal status is a 'charity'. The RSL venue should not be used for political meetings and especially as a political venue for venting hatred!

**Sandie Kleiman-Peleg**  
Ocean Shores

**Transgender rights**

Mandy Nolan might be surprised to discover how many women of all political persuasions, feminists or not, are alarmed at what we see as the erosion of very hard-won women's rights.

Even our language is being changed to accommodate a small minority of men who declare they are women. It appears there are now categories of women: trans women, biological, persons with uteruses, menstruators, chest feeders, etc. These same language absurdities are not applied to men. For instance, we don't call men 'sperm producers' or 'persons with penises'. Unsurprisingly, women who identify as men, trans men, make no such strident demands.

Mandy questions why

we feel threatened when it is quite obvious to many of us that many of these men (trans women) are trying to erase our identity as women. It is a new form of misogyny. Why should a man with gender dysphoria be allowed to compete against women in sport and have access to women-only spaces? Why should our language be altered to objectify women's bodies and reduce us to our sexual functions? It feels very *Handmaid's Tale* to me.

If someone is in possession of a perfectly healthy biological male or female body but believe they are otherwise, then clearly there exists a mental health issue. Of course such persons should be treated with compassion and kindness but their rights should not override women's rights.

I have been a feminist for over 50 years. I have worked in a women's refuge and seen the damage done. I have worked as a nurse and only ever encountered one 'category' of woman.

**L Andrews**  
Lennox Head

**Labor leading**

A very proactive Minns Labor government will celebrate one year in government with a massive investment of \$1.8 billion in renewable energy to get it back on track.

Another great initiative with the establishment of the Energy Security Corporation that will make investments in new storage projects and improve the reliability of our electricity network as we transition to renewables.

The Minns Labor government also committed an additional \$800 million to the Transition Acceleration Facility to connect the country's growing number of Renewable Energy Zones (REZ) to the grid sooner, like the Central West Orana REZ around Dubbo. This REZ is currently

► Continued on page 11

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### Less parking more drainage say New Brighton residents

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

Bad weather on the weekend only served to highlight an ongoing drainage problem in New Brighton, with residents incredulous at Council's plan to create dozens of new car parking spaces, yet they can't, or won't, fix the drainage problem.



Council's 'water over road' sign has been in place for weeks - long before the recent flood event.

The proposed Council work would see a total of almost 180 spaces between Park Street and North Head Road. The work would widen Park Street and Ocean Avenue and create 138 spaces to accommodate the Tuesday market.

Council say the parking challenges in New Brighton include lack of public space; narrow roads and housing

developments that were not designed to cater for such large numbers of visitors, and sensitive beach (dune) and bush environments.

New Brighton resident, Lisa Corbett, said Council says there have been complaints about parking. 'I'd love to know just how many complaints it took for them to consider spending our

rates money on car parks. I'm absolutely astounded that they are prepared to spend money on parking, and yet the drainage issue and bridge maintenance has gone untouched.'

Some residents feel that the farmer's market has grown beyond its humble beginnings 15 years ago and has outgrown the village.

'We do not have a patrolled beach, yet the parking will attract more beachgoers,' said Ms Corbett. 'They are planning to cut down a large number of established trees and foliage. It's complete madness!'

To provide feedback take the survey at: [www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au) and search for 'parking at New Brighton'.

► Continued from page 10 being built in partnership with the Albanese Labor government and will support around 5,000 construction jobs. Another massive NSW/federal investment in renewables is happening in the New England REZ Transmission Project where the first two stages are scheduled for completion in 2033.

These national infrastructure projects are vital to Australia's future, but sadly the

Lib/Nat Coalition are choosing to continue the 'climate wars' and are fighting the Labor governments all the way. But wait there's more, the NSW Office of Energy and Climate Change has funded the development of green hydrogen hubs across the state aiming to have a green hydrogen capacity of 700 MW by 2030.

And how good is this - the Albanese Labor government is committing \$1 billion

to kickstart a domestic solar panel manufacturing industry on the site of the now decommissioned Liddell coal-fired power station, to underpin the nation's future as a renewable energy superpower. The transition to renewables is finally underway and only a majority Labor government could achieve this massive nation-building project.

Keith Duncan  
Ballina Labor Branch, Pimlico

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# How should the rules around 'zombie' developments be improved?

Aslan Shand

**O**n the North Coast 'legacy' or 'zombie' developments are an ongoing issue with many locals aware of, or part of, ongoing community opposition to developments like Iron Gates at Evans Head, which the community has been fighting against for more than 30 years.

The issue of legacy or zombie developments is now subject to a new inquiry by the Legislative Assembly Committee on Environment and Planning (LACEP). The inquiry 'will be looking into historical development consents in New South Wales'. These 'historical development consents are development projects which were approved years, or sometimes decades, ago but remain unfinished with minimal work completed. Sometimes, work on these developments may restart after years or decades of no activity.'

Dr Richard Gates has been active in calling out the Iron Gates development and other zombie developments in the Richmond Valley Council (RVC) area. 'In my view there are two groups of zombie developments,' Dr Gates told *The Echo*.

1. The group where consent was given years ago with no time limit on the consent and work had commenced, 2.

The group where the land was zoned for residential or other form of development (such as infrastructure) many years ago and now the land owners are seeking approval for a development application (DA) for the site.

'We have at least three zombie developments in the mid-Richmond area of Richmond Valley Council: Iron Gates, Boundary Creek, and Rileys Hill Road. All three are before the Land & Environment Court (L&EC).'

Inquiry Chair, Clayton Barr MP explained that 'zombie developments reflect the law at time the development consent was initially granted. Planning and environmental standards have changed since some of these older consents were issued and the community's expectations have shifted too.'

Dr Gates explained to *The Echo* that the Iron Gates site was zoned for development more than 40 years ago.

'That was despite major community opposition for many reasons including fire and flood risk,' he said.

In 1997 the DA was removed by the L&EC and \$2 million of remediation was required by court order. However, developer Grame Ingles has never done the work.

**Developing known floodplains adjoining existing residential communities will result in significant cumulative impacts from increased flood levels'**

– Lindy Smith

'Richmond Valley Council continues to push for the development,' said Dr Gates.

'In this case the GM, John Walker, according to developer Ingles in evidence given at the NRPP case in August 2022, invited him to put in an application for the Iron Gates in 2014, the beginning of the current case which is now in its tenth year. The cost to the community has been enormous including legal fees and may have included subsidies for sewage treatment. There will be legacy costs to the public for future generations to maintain the site. Council refused to have a hearing on the zoning of the land. Buy-out of the land has been raised for inclusion in Broadwater National Park on at least five occasions but turned down by state government on the grounds that it doesn't have the money. Further litigation is expected if the appellant doesn't get its way.'

The Rileys Hill Road development currently before the L&EC which has high flood risk as well as potential sewerage risk to a lake in a National

Park and the Boundary Creek development is currently before the L&EC and has high flood risk plus coastal proximity problems.

'In all three cases Richmond Valley Council should have acted to knock back acceptance of DAs for these three sites from the get-go but failed to do so. It would appear that the state-driven imperative for housing and more housing is prevailing for sites which have major problems which will only get worse as climate change bears down on us,' said Dr Gates.

President of the Tweed Ratepayers Association Lindy Smith said that 'hard reality needs to head the Inquiry into zombie developments'.

'Who will be liable for the known impacts and risks to human communities today in 2024 from allowing developments on floodplains and within bushfire hazard areas? Will it be the proponent, or Councils and government with that cost being worn by ratepayers and taxpayers?'

'Developing known floodplains adjoining existing residential communities will result in significant cumulative impacts from increased flood levels,' Ms Smith told *The Echo*.

'Zombie developments on known floodplains and within bushfire hazard areas will be uninsurable. Will the government set up an insurance scheme? Are we going to open the door to a revolving door of class actions, rather than taking a proactive approach?'

'In the year 2024 and post the catastrophic disaster that hit our region in 2022 and continues to strike across our nation, are we to be committed to never-ending rebuilding, never catching up? With many of the approved zombie developments home to ever increasing numerous threatened species and habitat, endangered ecological communities and wetlands, are we as a society going to continue the business as usual approach until we have collapsed ecosystems?'

'My big concern relates to the legacy effects these developments, should they be approved, will have on future generations financially and otherwise. Planning legislation needs to be put in place which allows for reconsideration of lands that are high risk for residential development with appropriate compensation available for public acquisition. The 'unimproved' capital value of the property should be the benchmark for compensation, not its improved value based on an approved DA,' said Dr Gates.

As part of the inquiry, the LACEP will consider barriers in using the current planning framework to address the issue and the benefits and costs to taxpayers if action is taken on the issue.

Submissions close on Monday, 3 June 2024. Further information on the inquiry including the terms of reference and how to make a submission is available on the LACEP's webpage.

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Submissions close on Monday, 3 June 2024. Further information on the inquiry including the terms of reference and how to make a submission is available on the LACEP's webpage.

## Make a submission

The inquiry is looking to hear from a range of community members, businesses and local councils who live near or are affected by historical development consents.

'We are calling for submissions on the impact of these development consents on



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# Success for Queensland's first drug testing at Rabbits Eat Lettuce festival

Story & photo Aslan Shand

The sun was peeking through the clouds as festival-goers arrived at the Rabbits Eat Lettuce festival in Queensland over the Easter weekend. Tents were going up, vans exploding colour, and camp sites were being set up as everyone got themselves ready for a weekend of music, frivolity and drug testing.

When we arrived at our camp we were quickly handed a range of pamphlets that early arrivers had collected from the Highground tent at the festival site, next to Queensland's first drug testing service. They detailed a wide range of drugs, their impacts, dangers, times they take to be removed from your system and where to get assistance should things go wrong. Young people were sitting around discussing what were bad combinations, what were risks, who might take something and who wasn't interested. It was encouraging to see how the information was appreciated, absorbed, discussed and everyone's varying opinions respected.

The Easter weekend saw Queensland's first festival drug testing take place over four days with hundreds of samples tested. It was the first time this type of testing had been conducted in Queensland, and a national first for a multi-day music festival. There is nearly \$1 million in funding allocated for the delivery and evaluation of drug checking services in Queensland over the next two years.

Pill Testing Australia conduct laboratory-grade drug testing integrated with health professional consultations. Following successful trials of drug testing at Groovin the Moo in 2017 and 2019, where they tested 80 and 174 drug samples respectively, they were able to create a policy document and guidelines for providing a pill testing service.

'That started Australia's first ever fixed pill testing service CanTEST in July 2022,' Professor of Chemistry, Malcolm McLead who was overseeing the drug testing facility told *The Echo*.

'The first post-Coivid testing took place at Spilt Milk in November 2023. There is no information available from that due to the operator's stipulation.'

## Anonymous

Anyone at the festival was able to bring in a sample of the drugs they were considering taking to get them tested. They would do a pre-test survey asking what they expected the drug to be, their intentions, demographics (age, sex, gender) etc. Following the drug test a second consultation would take place to look at the risks of the tested drug and get health advice on the drug and have the option to retain the drug or give it to Pill Testing Australia to dispose of. No identification or names are required so that the drug testing is anonymous. Initial data analysis



shows that out of the 210 samples provided for testing at the festival by qualified chemists, approximately 14 samples were discarded at the pill testing service.

One patron told *The Echo* that they had what they thought was MDMA, that they had bought at the previous Splendour Festival, tested but that the test had been unable to establish what the drug they had been supplied with was. They chose to have the drug disposed of rather than risk taking it.

'The idea of pill testing started in the early 2000s when I was working in South Australia,' said Dr David Caldicott who was medical lead and has been pushing for drug testing for 25 years.

'It was prompted by the death in hospital of a gentleman in his 20s that I was trying to care for when he died. He'd taken paramethoxyamphetamine (PMA) aka Dr Death. It took some time but it dawned on me "don't eat dangerous drugs"'

Dr Caldicott had arrived in

Australia from Ireland in 1999 and began talking to people in the Netherlands who were already implementing pill testing. The idea of pill testing in Australia got a significant push following the 2015 CLUB health conference in Portugal that had a number of Australian representatives and they came back supporting the idea of pill testing.

Currently 80,000 to 100,000 people are dying a year in the US as a result of drugs.

'There is a mythology that you can have your cake and eat it with the moral approach of "use less drugs" and the health approach of less people being harmed. But you can't have both. From a medical and scientific perspective we can prevent harm. This is a conversation that requires people to be alive to have the conversations,' said Dr Caldicott.

'For example, in the Netherlands where there is testing, more people use drugs but not many are harmed. In Sweden they have harsher drug laws and there is a low rate of use, but more people are harmed.'

'Opposition to drug testing is not scientific. It is a moral position, they are asking us to take a line that has no supporting evidence. If you took the money that NSW spends on its sniffer dog training alone (75 per cent unsuccessful), if we turned that budget to pill testing it could fund pill testing for Australia for a year. If you

took that budget and ran pill testing for a year in Australia you would demonstrably see a reduction in drug harm,' explained Dr Caldicott.

The most common substances presented for testing were MDMA and ketamine.

Some higher-risk substances were identified including dimethylpentylone (a synthetic cathinone) and 2-fluoro-2-oxo-phenylcyclohexylethylamine, which were both sold as other substances. The latter was detected for the first time in Australia by the CanTEST drug checking service in Canberra.

A fixed site service is earmarked to commence in mid-April in Brisbane and will be delivered by a partnership of service providers. A second fixed site will be determined through co-design processes with people with lived experience.

'In 2021, there were over 2,200 drug-related deaths in Australia, which is 2,200 too many. That is why this initiative is important,' said Queensland Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Service Shannon Fentiman.

'The drug checking service provided health advice and harm reduction information to hundreds of festival-goers this weekend, meaning that those who did decide to take drugs did so in a more informed way.'

'Many participants said that they would reconsider or take less of the substances they had in their possession, which is an excellent outcome.'

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# Is there a future for Israel and Palestine?

## Weighing in

I've hesitated to weigh in on the ongoing debate about Gaza and Israel, but Michal Schiff's pain over the apparent tenor of the recent 'Politics in the Pub' in Mullum's RSL (*Echo* 3 Apr) pushes me into it. How many of those present, I wondered, bothered to say that what happened on October 7 was an outrage, a crime against humanity? How many of them, when calling for a ceasefire, prefaced that by demanding that Hamas immediately release all of the hostages who are still alive? How many, in their rush to judgement against Israel, would admit that Hamas built command centres underneath Gaza hospitals, another crime?

This is essentially a fight over Palestinian real estate. Two tribes want it, each has rights to it, and extremists in both tribes want all of it, to the exclusion of the other tribe, driven partly by religious fundamentalism and partly by opportunism. As the late and great Christopher Hitchens said, '...those who think they have divine permission are truly capable of any atrocity.' That applied to Hamas on October 7; it equally applies to the Jewish ultra-orthodox nationalist/religious settler movement in the West Bank who have murdered over 400 Palestinians just since October 7. They think they have a divinely-ordained right to all of 'erezt Israel'.

Finding a lasting solution to this piece of real estate has defied clever minds and people of goodwill for over 75 years. Any solution requires that the two tribes share the land. As is often said, 'You can have peace or you can have all the land; you cannot have both'.

Getting there will require reasonable people in both tribes to confront their own extremists.

So, what to do? Moderate, reasonable Israelis and Palestinians (and they are many, even most of each tribe), supported by friends and well-wishers outside Palestine, will have to find the courage to say, 'This is what we want. If you stand in the way, we will sideline you. If you try to sabotage it, we will suppress you. If you resort to violence, we will stomp on you.'

Difficult? Of course! But out of the current tragic mess, perhaps Israelis and Palestinians will find the courage to sideline the extremists and bring forward the leaders to grab this opportunity. Israel could start by releasing Marwan Barghouti from prison, where he has been held for 20 years on spurious murder charges, just as Nelson Mandela was in South Africa. Barghouti could be Palestine's 'Mandela'.

**Will Liley**  
Coorabell

## Step towards healing

While reading Michal Schiff's letter (*Echo* 3 Apr) I am reminded of the *Uluru Statement from the Heart's* request for truth telling as a fundamental step toward historical healing.

As a descendant of white colonial rule in Australia we also have to face our shame of being complicit with an aggressive regime and the damage it did and still inflicts on the 'original' people of this land.

I empathise with Michal as it can be a very bitter pill to swallow as a person that aspires to a peaceful life. As he said it was a chance for the 'original' people of Palestine and their allies to speak but there is much more that could be covered. However, it is in our power to overcome our collective colonial injustices by coming together and supporting each other to face the truth and bring healing and understating where trust has been broken.

Many Jewish and white Australian people are on this path and I hope we can keep the fire for peace and justice burning bright in our hearts.

**Gina Lakosta**  
Hunonbrook

## Israel

It is difficult in the current situation to see Israel as anything but a malignant force in the world. Yes Israel has the right to defend itself but that does not give it the licence to commit genocide which is what they are actually doing while breaking innumerable other international laws in the process.

It is a very persistent rumour in some historical circles that Franklin Roosevelt was warned about the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour but chose to ignore

it as he was desperate for the US to enter the second World War.

Commentators have expressed surprise that Israel's highly-efficient intelligence services did not anticipate the October 7 attack but I am sceptical that this is the case. I think it is more likely that ruthless fanatics like Netanyahu and Bengvir were prepared to sacrifice 1,000 or so Israelis to excuse their destruction of Palestinian society so it can never be a threat to Israel ever again.

The war is also convenient for Netanyahu, to direct people away from the numerous corruption charges against him. I also have a strong impression that many local Israelis have moved here because they do not agree with Israeli government policies.

**David Gilet**  
Mullumbimby

## Peace

Elimination by people-power voting is necessary to remove dictators from Russia, Israel, China, Iran, wannabe (again!) North Korea, to avoid what is heading toward WWII.

It is getting scary and at my age, I don't want to go through WWII again. Just a thought. Especially as so much funding is directed to machines of war instead of where it is needed for humanitarian assistance. World news is getting SO depressing.

**Peter Walters**  
Ballina

## Aid workers killed

I along with the Israeli and Jewish community in general mourn with the rest of the world for the tragic loss of the seven aid workers from the World Central Kitchen when the Israeli Defence Force mistakenly targeted the car that they were travelling in that night.

Israeli officials from all levels have rightfully apologised for this unintentional error, and are doing what they can to make sure that it doesn't happen again.

The World Central Kitchen is an amazing organisation that provides much-needed support to people around the globe, and the people that work for them just want to do good, and to help others.

I think about their

families, co-workers and friends who will be forever scarred by their incredible loss.

Like all wars, this is a terrible war and deaths as a result of friendly fire are all but inevitable, especially in a war such as this one. Twenty per cent of all Israeli soldiers killed since the start of the ground invasion were from friendly fire, and hundreds, if not thousands, of Gazans were mistakenly killed by Hamas through rockets falling short and civilians being caught in the crossfire.

We can only hope that the fighting will end soon, and a permanent peace will somehow take over the region so that Israelis and Palestinians, who have so much in common, can live side by side and prosper. Peace now.

**Danny Wakil**  
Billinudgel

## Antisemitic racism

It takes the death of an Aussie, Zomi Frankcom, to remind Prime Minister Albanese that murdering aid workers is not kosher. After all, in Australia's calculus one Aussie death outweighs the 33,037 Gazans killed, 454 killed in the West Bank and East Jerusalem and 75,668 wounded. Two-thirds of the victims are women and children!

Animal rights activists shocked us all with their covert videos showing the most appalling cruelty, where flayed sheep ran amok, caged pigs were tasered and cattle with slit throats writhed on floors of pooled blood.

Is Gaza any different? What can you say when Israeli forces gun down starving people in flour massacres? What can you say when Dr Ghassan Abu-Sitta, a British plastic surgeon who volunteered to work in Gaza, says, 'This has effectively been a war on children'?

The 13,000 child deaths and 1,000 child amputees constitute a paediatric first, never before have so many children been maimed and killed in such a short time. In sharp contrast, about 1,700 Ukrainian children have been killed since May 2023, but Australia and Western governments prioritise Ukraine over Gaza. This is antisemitic racism!

**Gareth W R Smith**  
Byron Bay

# LOVE BYRON BAY



## A WORD FROM THE BYRON BAY CHAMBER

Since our last update, the Chamber has hosted three distinctive events that have sparked conversations, connected communities, and empowered individuals.

Byron's Badass Women of Business featured inspirational panel speakers who shared their journeys of overcoming business's patriarchal challenges. The inaugural Open Forum Board Meeting brought together a diverse group passionate about local business, with a notable call from Inspector Matt Kehoe for reports on crime and antisocial behavior affecting Byron businesses. Connecting Bangalow tackled the area's poor connectivity, with representatives from NBN and Telstra directly addressing community concerns.

Don't miss Business After Hours at TAFE NSW Byron Bay this Thursday, a chance to network and explore educational and training opportunities for your business, just \$5 with drinks and nibbles included.

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# School holidays

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## Spaghetti Circus Holiday Workshops are back!

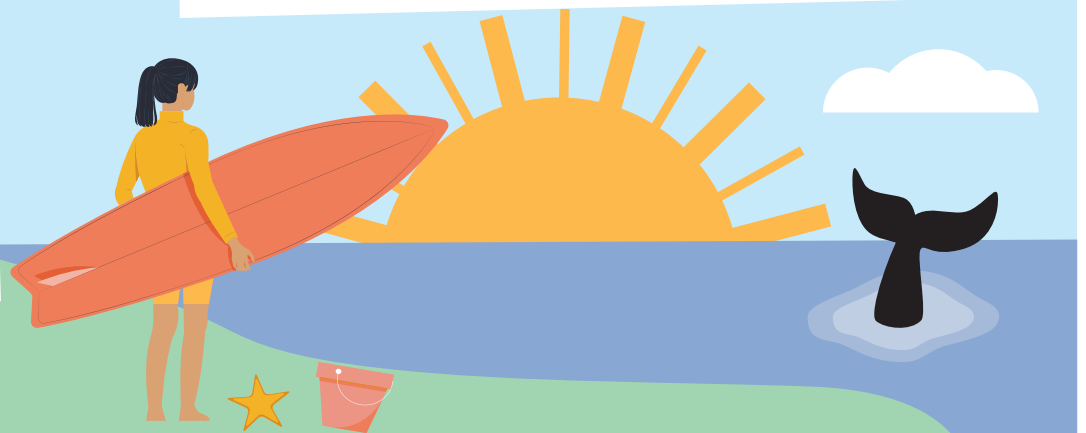
After a four-year hiatus Spaghetti Circus is pleased to be running holiday workshops these April holidays.

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Kids can test out a great range of skills and apparatus, including tightrope, big-tramp and mini-tramp, German wheel, tissu and trapeze, acro-balance, circus games, hula hoops, juggling and so much more!

A half-day program will run each day for 4-6 years, while kids aged 6-14 years will enjoy a full day program.

**Book at [www.spaghetticircus.com](http://www.spaghetticircus.com). Half day \$50 / Full day \$75 / 3-day package available. Places are limited.**



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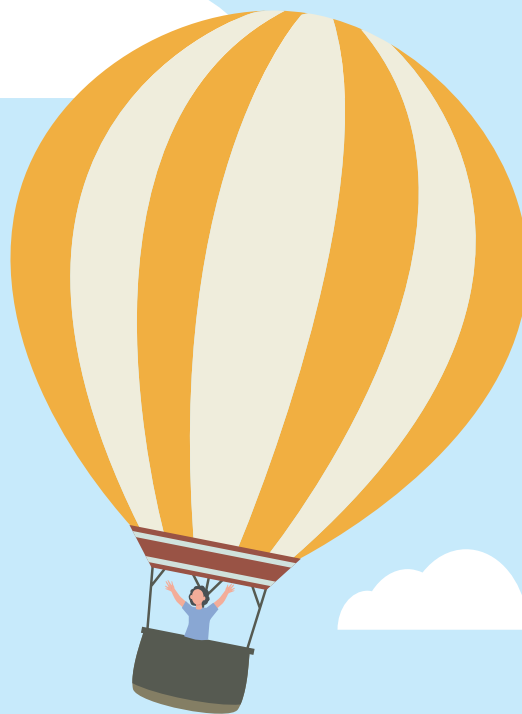


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# School holidays



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Your experience begins meeting at The Farm Byron Bay, followed by a one-hour flight and delicious breakfast afterwards at The Three Blue Ducks restaurant.

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School Holidays' Special Exhibits

# School holidays

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**16-28 April (except 17, 22, 25 April). 2 shows daily. 10am and 2:30pm.  
Tickets \$30 (group discounts available) [www.understory.roundabout.net.au](http://www.understory.roundabout.net.au)**

## Express. Empower. Get Loud!

Lismore Youth Week returns this year with an exciting program of FREE activities and workshops aimed at inspiring and empowering young people aged 12 to 24. From Tuesday 16, to Saturday 20 April, young people are invited to immerse themselves in a week-long celebration of creativity, culture and community.

Promising something for everyone, a diverse range of workshops will be on offer, including a 2-day zine-making workshop with artist Chris Lego, acting workshop with Madeleine West, screenwriting and film workshops, On Country Forest and Forage, Jarjums on Paper art workshops with artists Shannon Smith, Amarina Toby, and Susan Heywood, plus more!

Whatever they choose to experience, participants will have the opportunity to explore their interests, express themselves, and connect with like-minded peers.

**More info at <https://lismore-events.bookable.net.au/>**

## Lismore Youth Week (16-20 April)

	<p><b>Quad Offsite:</b> <b>On Country Forest and Forage</b> Tuesday, 16 April / 10-3pm Namabunda Farm 112 Whites Lane, Alstonville</p>	<p>Join us at Namabunda Farm to forage for native foods and fibres, cut down bananas with bush knives, plant some bush tucker trees and become a part of the Youngman Creek Big Scrub rainforest restoration story. For transport support please contact Mykaela at <a href="mailto:mykaela.baillie@lismore.nsw.gov.au">mykaela.baillie@lismore.nsw.gov.au</a> or 66274607.</p>
	<p><b>Quad Offsite:</b> <b>Jarjums on Paper Youth Week Workshops at Amarina AARI</b> Wednesday, 17 April / All day Amarina Aboriginal Artist Run Initiative: Shop 1/126 Molesworth St, Lismore</p>	<p>Join artists Shannon Smith, Amarina Toby and Susan Heywood to explore digital art, storytelling, drawing, natural crafts and more. Drop in throughout the day to participate in 1 or all 3 workshops.</p>
	<p><b>Zine Making workshop</b> Thursday, 18 April and Saturday, 20 April / 1pm - 5pm both days Elevator ARI, 3 Rural St, Lismore</p>	<p>Join artist Chris Lego for a 2-day workshop on all things Zines! Zines are a homemade, DIY publication often devoted to specialised and often unconventional subject matter. You will be able to explore a collection of zines from Lismore and around the world, and then create your own!</p>
	<p><b>Screenwriting and Film workshop</b> Wednesday, 17 April / 10am - 11am Lismore Meeting Room (Lismore Central Shopping Centre)</p>	<p>This workshop will introduce you to the basics of writing and making films. It will be led by a surprise presenter who has written and directed three feature-length films.</p>
	<p><b>Drama workshop with Madeleine West</b> Thursday, 18 April / 10am - 11am Goonellabah Library: 27 Oliver Ave, Goonellabah</p>	<p>Join Neighbour star Madeleine West to learn the art of telling stories with your voice and your body, on stage and on screen.</p>

Proudly funded by



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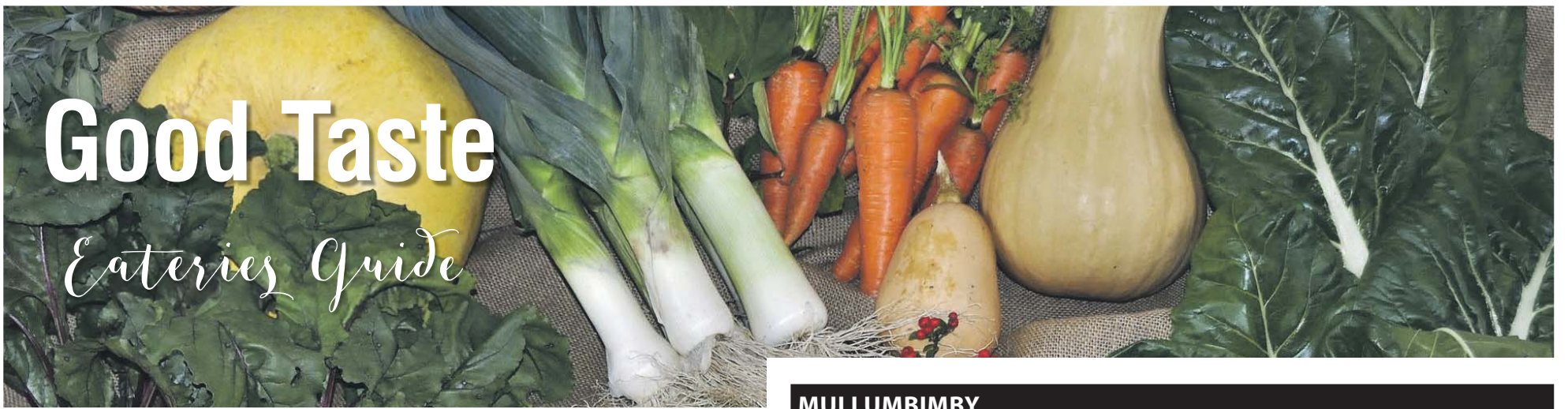



Richmond Tweed Regional Library  
Connect. Discover. Escape.









# Good Taste

## Eateries Guide

### BYRON BAY



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

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



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

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



**The Rocks**  
Brunch 6.30am–1pm  
Dinner 5pm–10pm  
14–16 Lawson St,  
5642 0149  
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




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

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



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

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



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

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


### BANGALOW



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

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

### LENNOX HEAD



**Lennox Head Pizza & Pasta**  
4/74 Ballina St, Lennox Head  
Open 7 days  
Lunch: 12–2pm  
Pizza & drinks only: 2–5pm  
Dinner from 5pm

Views, Brews, Cocktails, Beats, and Eats!  
Live Music Friday, Saturday, Sunday.  
Bookings essential.  
Head to lennoxpizza.com  
Follow on Insta: @lennoxpizza

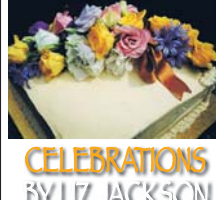
### MULLUMBIMBY



**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.



## Bananarama

Victoria Cosford

A piece of trivia: the banana is a herb!  
Bananas are receiving a special focus at the moment due to an insidious virus called 'bunchy top virus'. At the farmers' market lately, the Australian Banana Growers' Council has had a stall in a bid to educate and alert the public about it. Spread by aphids, it's the most devastating viral disease for bananas, affecting the chlorophyll and preventing growth, and it's long been endemic to the region. Giving away magnifying glasses, the Council's representatives are hoping that people who grow bananas in their backyards can learn to identify – usually via dark green stripes along the leaf mid-rib – the signs of infection, then call a special hotline so that authorities can deal with it and prevent it spreading further.  
Banana farmers Lance Powell of Mount Chowan, Neville Singh and Matt Everest have long been aware of the virus, though are relatively unbothered by it. 'It's affected our whole region for as long as I've been growing bananas,' Matt tells me. 'Not many plantations are free of it, but we're in a lucky position – there's hardly any.' Lance and Neville are similarly unfazed, Neville saying he hasn't had much experience of it either.  
All three, on the contrary, have had bumper banana years. 'I've never seen so many bananas in a long time,' Lance tells me. 'It's been a great season although it's also been tough – because of the extreme heat.' His workers, he says, have been 'knocking off at lunchtime.'  
Bananas aside, I ask Matt what we should be planting now – and the answer is brassicas. 'The second week in March is the rule for this area,' he tells me. 'Get in early with all your winter stuff.' Plus, most brassicas like 'a good healthy soil, boron and zinc!'  
Neville Singh and Everest Farm are at New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday from 8am to 11am and, along with Mount Chowan, at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7am to 11am.



## Earth Day message from Santos Organics: a reflection on our power to make a positive impact

'As Earth Day approaches each year, our focus often centres on the urgent need for environmental action to address pressing issues like climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss, especially with the threat of the proposed development on our local and sacred Wallum site right here in Brunswick Heads,' says Jolene Ryan, CEO of Santos Organics. 'While these challenges are indeed significant, perhaps it's time to take a different perspective on Earth Day – one that celebrates the profound connection between humans and the planet and the positive impact we can make when we focus our hearts and minds towards living harmoniously within our natural environment.'

'Earth Day is a timely

opportunity to celebrate the awe-inspiring power of connecting and relating to the land on which we live and the incredible life that surrounds us, and to acknowledge the many monumental environmental campaign wins in Australia (including the local Bentley blockade and Terania Creek campaigns) that have radically changed the course of events and successfully protected our precious Earth. We hope the Save Wallum campaign will also be a win and are very grateful to the dedicated people in our community working hard to save this precious land and the incredible wildlife it supports from development.

'As an environmental charity, Santos Organics has always been a

passionate defender of the natural environment, especially the rich biodiversity we are blessed with here in the Northern Rivers. In support of the Save Wallum campaign, for every 1kg jar of local raw Santos Organics honey sold, \$4 will be given to the campaign, turning your grocery shopping into a direct contribution to the protection of this culturally and ecologically significant site.

'Then again, this is the essence of what Santos Organics does – turning grocery shopping into positive action, offering an alternative and ecologically sustainable way of shopping that redirects profits back toward protecting and enhancing the local environment. Supporting local growers and makers



is another important way Santos Organics cares for the environment by keeping food miles low, prioritising organic and biodynamic ingredients and ecological packaging, and supporting

local organic farmers.

'As Earth Day comes around there's an invitation to reflect on how your actions can create a positive ripple effect and deepen your connection

to our local environment whether that be through direct environmental action or making conscious choices around the way you shop for planetary health to create a better tomorrow.'

## Harvest Food Festival: Thursday 2 to Saturday 5 May

As part of the Northern Rivers Food Harvest Festival in May you'll have the chance to get up close and

personal with some of our region's finest producers at the Twomey Dispute Lawyers Harvest Hub.

It's happening at the Bangalow Bowlo on Saturday, 4 May from 11am to 4pm. You're invited to come along

and taste a delicious range of local food and beverages, and meet the people behind the businesses.

The Hub is one of multiple stops on the self-drive Harvest Food Trail, which runs right across the weekend. 'If you're a bit short on time but want a taste of the Food Trail you can pop in and sample some amazing local produce from our members, all under one roof,' said Harvest Trail Manager, Lucy Ashley. 'If you're taking the trail at a more leisurely pace, this can be just one fabulous stop on your self-drive itinerary. Bring your esky.'

All stalls will offer tastings and sales and include some exciting local start-ups such as Birds of Isle Distillery, who produce a smoked bunya nut-flavoured rum, to one of the food success

stories of our region, Salumi Australia, who will have their ever-popular salumi cones available for sale.

Entry is free and you're encouraged to visit the Hub, then linger on at the Bowlo for lunch and a laid-back afternoon. This is a family-friendly event. The Northern Rivers Food Harvest Festival runs from Thursday to Sunday, 2 to 5 May. Find more information at [northernriversfood.org/harvest-food-trail](http://northernriversfood.org/harvest-food-trail).

The organisers of the Harvest Food Trail say it wouldn't be possible without Twomey Dispute Lawyers, to whom thanks go for sponsoring the Harvest Hub, and to Bangalow Bowlo who are hosting the event.



The new Birds of Isle Distillery produces a smoked bunya nut-flavoured rum. You can try it at the Hub during the Harvest Food Trail in May.

[www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)



The Hub will include some exciting local start-ups, as well as one of our region's food success stories, Salumi Australia.



Open 6am – 12pm  
Monday – Saturday  
Shop 6/108 Stuart Street  
Mullumbimby.  
@bimbi\_coffee\_shop  
ALLPRESS ESPRESSO



# seven entertainment

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W: [echo.net.au/entertainment](http://echo.net.au/entertainment)



## SHARE THE LOVE CACTUS

Want to experience fresh, new music? A new local band has germinated from the fertile artistic soils of the Northern Rivers. Hashimoto's Cactus is the lovechild of Stephen Lovelight, who is one of the members of the Round Mountain Girls. Lovelight's original power rock blues pop trio project explores psychedelic sounds of '60s pop and blues, yet they sound modern enough not to be pigeonholed into nostalgia. Alongside some serious heavy rock riffing and catchy choruses, there are moments of folk and country too. They also ambitiously rip into Hendrix and Zeppelin tunes.

Joining Stephen (guitar/vocals) is bassist and *Echo* scribe, Hans Lovejoy, and drummer Michael Di Cecco. Lovelight says, 'It's a labour of love. And light. And joy. Thankfully all those words are contained in our surnames. While Lovejoy's bass talents are well known, Michael Di Cecco's incredible drumming abilities also must be noted. We are all the richer for his relocation from Melbourne a few years ago. I love this sound. Cactus love!'

**Hear Hashimoto's Cactus at The Rails, Sunday, 14 April from 7pm.**

**LISTEN HOWEVER,  
WHENEVER**

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

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*Creativity is seeing what others see and thinking what no one else ever thought.* – Albert Einstein

## UNDERSTORY: A THEATRE SHOW CONNECTING KIDS TO NATURE

*Understory* is a magical, interactive theatre adventure created for children by Roundabout Theatre, springing to life in the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens this April school holidays.

It is the fifth immersive theatre production creator Valley Lipcer has made for young audiences. She says she is fascinated by immersive theatre for children: 'I love creating story worlds in which children can roam and interact and be active players.'

The fictional 'world' of *Understory* takes inspiration from the amazing biological connections that underpin all life. 'I wanted to create a show that inspires a deep love and sense of belonging to nature, in young people and their adult companions, as well as a feeling of care for the environment', says Lipcer.

The show has been created for children around 7-11 years and their parents/carers to experience together, but it's suitable for a bit younger and older too.

There are only 20 people per show so it's an intimate adventure and in this production, Lipcer embeds science and ecological concepts through the fiction. 'I am trying to help children "feel" the science, become curious through their senses and playfully embark on their unique learning journey about the natural world sparked by their individual fascinations.'

'The children are asked to become central players in the show.'

***Understory* by Roundabout Theatre is on 16-28 April at Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens. There are two shows daily at 10am and 2.30pm. Tickets are \$30 (group discounts available).**

[www.understorv.roundabout.net.au](http://www.understorv.roundabout.net.au)

Murwillumbah Community  
Murwillumbah Youth Action Group Presents  
**MURBAH YOUTH FEST**  
Youth Week NSW  
Express - Empower - Get Loud

**Save the date**  
Saturday  
13 April 2024  
10am - 3pm

**Venue**  
Knox Park  
Murwillumbah  
Wet weather alternative  
Murwillumbah Community Centre

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

**Drug & alcohol free event**  
0481 982 068  
Insta: @murbahyouth2484  
youthworker@mccentre.org.au

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SOCIAL RESILIENT FUTURES KIDS  
TWEED FRRR  
headspace  
VERTO

**FRANK SULTANA**  
WITH SPECIAL GUEST MADISON WILLCOCKS  
**REVOLUTION**  
A NIGHT OF PROTEST SONGS

BYRON THEATRE PRESENTS

**SAT APRIL 20TH**

TICKETS FROM -  
[BYRONTHEATRE.COM](http://BYRONTHEATRE.COM)



# GIG GUIDE

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



## REVOLUTION: - A NIGHT OF PROTEST SONGS

Award-winning Australian bluesman Frank Sultana has been releasing original music since 2011.

In January 2023, in Memphis Tennessee, Sultana competed in and won the prestigious International Blues Challenge, becoming only the third person outside of North America to do so in the event's 39-year history.

Original blues, however, is not what brings him to Byron this time.

Accompanied by partner Madison Willcocks, he will be premiering 'Revolution! A Night of Protest Songs', at the Byron Theatre on 20 April - with songs from the 1960s, '70s and '80s by artists like Bob Dylan, Crosby Stills Nash and Young, John Prine, the Byrds, John Lennon and Peter Gabriel amongst others. This is a reverent tribute to not only the artists and the songs, but the turbulent times and social upheaval that inspired them.

Frank says when these songs were written, they cast a light onto important issues and helped shape the consciousness of a generation. 'In some ways, they changed the world, but also we see a lot of the same issues in 2024 that we saw in 1964, and that parallel is what gives these songs poignancy today.'

You can see this great show on Wednesday, 24 April at 7.30pm at the Byron Theatre. For more details and tickets go to [www.byroncentre.com.au](http://www.byroncentre.com.au)

### 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**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

### THURSDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **MUNGO'S HIFI MEETS THE 420 SOUND**
- THE YAC, BYRON BAY, 4PM **YOUTH WEEK OPEN MIC AT THE YAC**
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JORDY QUINN**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 7.30PM **BANGALOW THEATRE COMPANY - SPEAKING IN TONGUES**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- THE LEEVE, LISMORE, 5PM **ANDY JANS-BROWN**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**

### FRIDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PINK ZINC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8.45PM **LAZY GHOST + COSMIC VICE & THIRST TRAP**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **A TASTE OF IRELAND - THE IRISH MUSIC & DANCE SENSATION**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **DJ JR.DYNAMITE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATTY ROGERSHOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM JORDAN MAC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 7.30PM **BANGALOW THEATRE COMPANY -**

### SPEAKING IN TONGUES

- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ PAPA BITCHO**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **HAYLEY GRACE DUO**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10AM **TOMMY MEMPHIS, MORNING MELODIES WITH DEAN DOYLE**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **MILO GREEN DUO**
- THE LEEVE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **DAVEY BOB RAMSEY**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 6.30PM **POLY & CO**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BLACKBOI**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **PINK ZINC**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7.30PM **A KIND OF HUSH**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7PM **TANIA DOKO & ERIC BAZILIAN**

### SATURDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SUPERCHEEZE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JEROME WILLIAMS DUO**
- BYRON THEATRE 8PM **VINCE JONES**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **OOZ**, 5PM **DJ KAI NOON**
- BYRON TWILIGHT MARKET 5PM **TIN PARLOUR**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**, 7PM **HARDBEAT + NOTIVA**, **MILTON MONTENEGRO**, **ILÜZI**, **PRETENCE**, **LILXBIT**, **ALISON BELLE & POLI**, 9.30PM **KANE MUIR**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 1PM **DJS JOE + ZACH**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 2PM & 7.30PM **BANGALOW THEATRE COMPANY - SPEAKING IN TONGUES**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **REVERIE FEAT. EBONY, AFRODISEA**, **JACOB JON & LOSTBOY LUDO**
- MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL 6PM **BYRON KIRTAN - MADHAVA**

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **PISTOL WHIP**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM **LIL' CHEEKY**, 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **FAT ALBERT DUO** BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 7PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- KNOX PARK, MURWILLUMBAH, 10AM **MURBAH YOUTH FEST 2024**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **GLENN SHIELDS**
- THE CHILLINGHAM STORE 3PM **ULYSSES BOW**
- AMBROSE BROWN PARK, POTTSVILLE, 3PM **RAISSA HARI**, **TRIANGLE PEOPLE**, **GROOVE UNION & SOUTHWALL**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **ADAM BROWN**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 6PM **DREAMS TRIBUTE SHOW TO FLEETWOOD MAC AND STEVIE NICKS**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **PINK ZINC**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 8PM **A TRIBUTE TO ROY ORBISON**

### SUNDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HASHIMOTO'S CACTUS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **THE BLACK SEEDS & KORA**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4PM **IAIN YES**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 1PM **UPBEAT**, 5PM **PHIL HOWELL** BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **PHANTOM LIMBZ**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **GEED UP**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4PM & 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ ABEL EL TORO**
- TINTENBAR HALL 3.30PM **TINTENBAR UP FRONT - FEAT TOPAZ LYON**
- LENNOX PIZZA 4PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**

- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB WITH FBI WITH GUEST DENNIS WILSON**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SUNDAY SESSIONS FT KEVIN BORICH**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- NORTHERN RIVERS HOTEL, LISMORE, 2PM **ULYSSES BOW**
- THE LEEVE, LISMORE, 4PM **MARTIN LARTIGAU**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 3PM **KWASI BRUNI**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **JASON DELPHIN**

### MONDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TONY MANGO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MADDY MONACELLI**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARK USHER**
- MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL 6PM **SPOONBILL, BRAN, ZIV, SEED & SUNNYSIDEUP**

### TUESDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAMIEN COOPER**
- BYRON THEATRE 10AM & 1PM **THE ALPHABET OF AWESOME SCIENCE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- RAINFORREST BOTANIC GARDENS, LISMORE, 10AM & 2.30PM **UNDERSTORY**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 11AM **VIVA PAVAROTTI**

### WEDNESDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ANDY JANS-BROWN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **AKOVA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX BROWN**
- COORABELL HALL 6PM **RAINBOW TEMPLE FUNDRAISER**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- RAINFORREST BOTANIC GARDENS, LISMORE, 10AM & 2.30PM **UNDERSTORY**

### Session Times

Thurs, April 11 - Wed, April 17

PALACE CINEMAS

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>SPECIAL SCREENINGS</b></p> <p><b>CHALLENGERS</b> (CTC) GRAND PREMIER EVENT Wed: 6:30PM</p> <p><b>FREUD'S LAST SESSION</b> (M) Sat: 3:30PM</p> <p><b>JEANNE DU BARRY</b> (M) ADV SCREENING Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:00PM</p> <p><b>JUST A FARMER</b> (M) Q&amp;A SCREENING Sat: 6:30PM</p> <p><b>THE TEACHERS' LOUNGE</b> (M) Fri: 6:30PM</p> <p><b>FAMILY FILMS</b></p> <p><b>GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE</b> (PG) Daily: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 3:45PM</p> <p><b>KUNG FU PANDA 4</b> (PG) Daily except Thurs, Mon: 10:45AM, 12:50PM, 2:20PM, 5:15PM. Thurs, Mon: 10:45AM, 12:50PM, 2:40PM, 5:15PM</p> | <p><b>RICHTAR THE STORK &amp; THE MYSTERY OF THE GREAT JEWEL</b> (PG) NPT Daily except Thurs, Mon: 10:30AM, 1:45PM. Thurs, Mon: 10:45AM, 1:45PM</p> <p><b>ROBOT DREAMS</b> (PG) NPT Daily: 10:45AM, 3:00PM</p> <p><b>THE TIGER'S APPRENTICE</b> (PG) Daily: 4:40PM</p> <p><b>ALL FILMS</b></p> <p><b>BACK TO BLACK</b> (M&amp;A5+) NPT Daily: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM</p> <p><b>BOB MARLEY: ONE LOVE</b> (M) Thurs, Mon: 5:15PM. Tues, Wed: 8:45PM</p> <p><b>CIVIL WAR</b> (M&amp;A5+) NPT Daily: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:30PM</p> | <p><b>DUNE: PART TWO</b> (M) Thurs, Mon: 11:15AM, 3:45PM, 7:00PM. Fri, Sat, Tues, Wed: 10:30AM, 3:45PM, 7:00PM. Sun: 10:30AM, 6:15PM</p> <p><b>GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE</b> (M) NPT Thurs, Mon: 1:15PM, 6:10PM. Fri, Sat, Sun, Wed: 4:20PM, 6:10PM. Tues: 1:15PM, 4:20PM, 6:10PM</p> <p><b>LA CHIMERA</b> (M) NPT Daily: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 4:15PM, 7:00PM</p> <p><b>LATE NIGHT WITH THE DEVIL</b> (M&amp;A5+) NPT Daily except Thurs, Mon: 12:20PM, 4:10PM, 6:45PM, 8:30PM. Thurs, Mon: 12:40PM, 4:10PM, 6:30PM, 8:30PM</p> | <p><b>MONKEY MAN</b> (M&amp;A5+) Daily except Thurs, Mon: 8:45PM</p> <p><b>ORIGIN</b> (M) Thurs, Mon: 7:30PM. Fri, Sat: 8:15PM. Sun: 7:00PM. Tues, Wed: 1:45PM</p> <p><b>PERFECT DAYS</b> (PG) Thurs, Mon: 2:30PM, 8:15PM. Fri: 1:45PM, 8:30PM. Sat: 1:45PM, 8:45PM. Sun: 1:45PM, 8:15PM. Tues, Wed: 8:15PM</p> <p><b>THE FIRST OMEN</b> (M&amp;A5+) Daily: 8:30PM</p> <p><b>WICKED LITTLE LETTERS</b> (M&amp;A5+) Daily: 11:20AM, 6:10PM</p> |
|--|---|---|---|


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

### Session Times

Thurs, April 11 - Wed, April 17

### Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

- |   |  |  |
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| <p><b>BACK TO BLACK</b> (M&amp;A5+) NPT Daily: 12:15PM, 2:45PM, 7:30PM</p> <p><b>CHALLENGERS</b> (CTC) GRAND PREMIER EVENT Wed 17th: 6:30PM</p> <p><b>CIVIL WAR</b> (M&amp;A5+) NPT Daily except Wed: 12:00PM, 6:15PM. Wed: 12:00PM, 8:00PM</p> <p><b>DUNE: PART TWO</b> (M) Daily: 4:45PM</p> <p><b>GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE</b> (PG) Daily: 9:50AM, 5:10PM</p> | <p><b>GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE</b> (M) Daily except Wed: 2:20PM, 8:30PM. Wed: 2:20PM</p> <p><b>KUNG FU PANDA 4</b> (PG) Daily: 10:15AM, 12:10PM, 2:10PM</p> <p><b>MONKEY MAN</b> (M&amp;A5+) NPT Daily except Wed: 8:00PM</p> <p><b>ROBOT DREAMS</b> (PG) NPT Daily: 9:45AM, 4:10PM</p> | <p>To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!</p> <p>SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE</p>  |
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Ballina Fair Shopping Centre FREE parking Book Online at [palacecinemas.com.au](http://palacecinemas.com.au) \*NFT = No Free Tickets

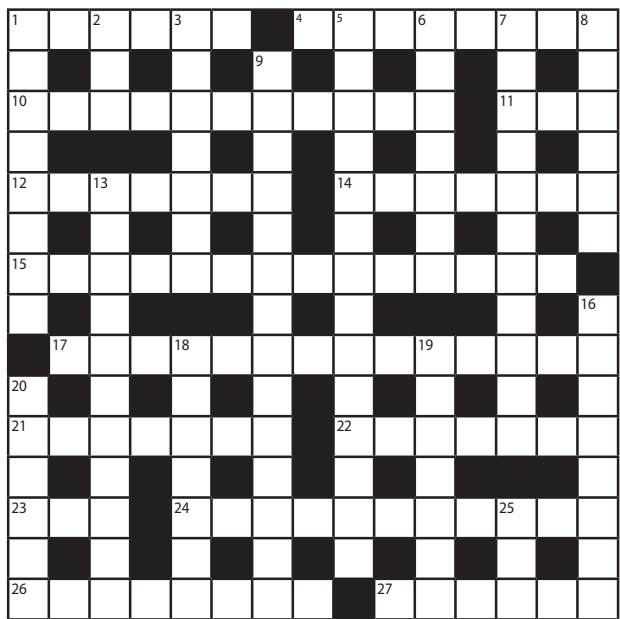
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**Cryptic Clues**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Sphere and circle – time to vote (6)
- 4. Brownfellas – they're touching (8)
- 10. Work with English net stalkers for sanitary supplies (6,5)
- 11. Number 49 – zero (3)
- 12. Very old vault, Anglo-Indian church (7)
- 14. A thousand raved, and conferred (7)
- 15. Indicate indoor activity – regulated temperature (3-11)
- 17. Monkey nuts, perhaps – they're found in soup (6,8)
- 21. About half a dozen pose and drop in again (7)
- 22. Complete American queen – the last one to employ! (3,4)
- 23. Mongrel in cold old city (3)
- 24. Meeting's moderator allocates share in crop (11)
- 26. Reveal old record, and fall short (8)
- 27. Turn wise men to methods of employment (6)

**DOWN**

- 1. Gamble with Charles and Capone – treachery! (8)
- 2. The French Italian garland (3)
- 3. Gold and Eastern silver ring for Herb (7)
- 5. Trial pearl sago mix for avocados (9,5)
- 6. Feared police force overeats in principal mail exchange (7)
- 7. However untidy, she lent tone (11)
- 8. Side dishes for state boys (6)
- 9. I also corrected characters involving false contrition (9,5)
- 13. Horribly carnivorous pandemic (11)
- 16. Star anis prepared for queens (8)
- 18. Sum up one state – Oklahoma, perhaps (7)
- 19. Vehicles hold up, for instance, 500 mendicants (7)
- 20. Followed – time went fast! (6)
- 25. Hydrogen, for one, rises – but decline (3)

**Quick Clues**

**ACROSS**

- 1. Poll (6)
- 4. Discussions unrelated to the issue at hand (8)
- 10. Items of lavatory paper (6,5)
- 11. Zip (3)
- 12. Anachronistic (7)
- 14. Conceded (7)
- 15. Having systems to provide heat relief (3-11)
- 17. 1930 Marx Brothers film (6,8)
- 21. Consider again (7)
- 22. The ultimate consumer of the service (3,4)
- 23. Dog (3)
- 24. Head of the board of directors (11)
- 26. Divulge (8)
- 27. Modes of expression (6)

**DOWN**

- 1. Double-crossing (8)
- 2. Necklace of flowers (3)
- 3. Aromatic perennial herb (7)
- 5. Avocados (9,5)
- 6. Nazi secret police (7)
- 7. Notwithstanding (11)
- 8. Mixed greens (6)
- 9. Insincere show of grief (9,5)
- 13. COVID-19 cause (11)
- 16. Russian empresses (8)
- 18. Melodious (7)
- 19. Moochers (7)
- 20. Tracked down (6)
- 25. Slump (3)

**Last week's solution #537**



# Why The Nude Beach is a Wicked Problem

**H**ow do you keep a nude beach safe from sex pests, accepting nudity is not the cause, but that a remote location can encourage predatory opportunism? For me, Tyagarah nude beach is a wicked problem. And I don't mean morally. I mean culturally. A wicked problem is a social or cultural problem that's difficult or impossible to solve because of its complex and interconnected nature. Wicked problems lack clarity in both their aims and solutions and are subject to real-world constraints which hinder risk-free attempts to find a solution. We need to drop our binary lens to solve this one, so I'm going to have a crack (pardon the pun).

I have listened to both sides of the argument and it's hard (pardon the pun, again). It leaves me supporting the rights of liberty requested by both sides of the argument. That is a) the right for people to swim naked with their associated community at a designated location, recognised and protected by the law, and b) for people living in that area, and attending the beach to enjoy said beach, clothed or unclothed, free of harassment and sexual predation.

They are both perfectly reasonable requests, and we should aim to achieve both goals, thus ensuring the continuity of a much-loved nude beach, AND the safety of all those attending or living nearby. I feel like the conversation we have been having has been reduced to an 'either/or' situation, where the argument is 'free thinking libertarians who are comfortable with nudity' vs. 'anti-freedom body shaming prudes.' I don't think that's fair.

It has minimised, and at times erased, the harassment and predation many local residents have experienced and made the argument about public morality, rather than everyone's right to not be confronted by a man masturbating in the carpark.

Surely addressing sexual predation and harassment is in the interests not just of local residents, but of anyone attending a nude beach? Shouldn't safety for all beach users be a number one priority?

So I decided to listen to some local residents. One of the women told me about being followed home by a man asking her to get in his car. Others spoke of being confronted by men publicly masturbating on the beach or in the carpark. When one



woman took her phone out to film a perpetrator as advised by the police, he chased her off the beach. She was terrified. Stories come gushing like a tap. They all spoke of being laughed at by authorities, and how the sexual predation was constant. They're scared. And they're over it. I wondered if a woman or child confronted by a man masturbating at The Pass would be treated with the same disregard?

Why are we minimising sexual assault? It's not the fault of the nudists. They want safety too. But we have to face facts, predators are by nature opportunistic. A remote nude beach means surveillance is irregular if at all. It seems unfair to ask one portion of the community to suffer the unintended consequences of a remotely located naturist beach. As a speaker at the infamous 1997 Nude Ain't Rude Rally calling for clothing-optional beaches at Belongil, the argument was that remote nude beaches make beach users unsafe as it opened the door for sexual predators to be unchecked.

In 2017 a young backpacker was raped at Tyagarah Nature Reserve by a man who said 'you asked for this, you came to a nude beach all by yourself?' This was widely reported. That perpetrator went to prison for nine years. He'll be out soon. So let's stop hiding nude beaches in places that make women vulnerable?

If we are really OK with it, then let's locate clothing-optional beaches closer to town? Let's trial days of the week, or hours of the day? I attended the English Garden in

Munich. In the centre of the city is an enormous park with nude bathing. One side of the river is nude, the other is clothed. They are fully visible to each other. Everyone looked pretty comfortable. So clearly, other countries have made it work.

One thing that hasn't been addressed adequately is the impact of online platforms supercharging the safety concerns. Tyagarah Beach is EVERYWHERE online. One post was asking for people to come shoot a porno. It shouldn't be a debate about to nude or not to nude, it's simply: how do we get rid of the uninvited wankers?

Queensland. It's a major wanker source. You see they made nude beaches illegal so anyone who wants to access beaches has to come to ours. Local residents remarked that during Covid, with border closures, the sexual predation was close to nil. So was it mainly Queenslanders driving down to engage in predation? Anecdotally it would appear it's not locals who are the problem. Sex pests are the cane toads of naturist beaches. So is this a way of solving this wicked problem? Border control? You shouldn't need a global pandemic to feel safe.

So instead of talking about nudity, maybe we need to start talking about how we tackle predation. Predictably it's men. To date no masturbating women have chased men on the beach or followed men in their cars demanding they get in.

Maybe the root (pardon the pun) of the wicked problem is, we've been talking about the wrong thing.

## STARS BY LILITH

Every planetary aspect has a silver lining, and this week's Mercury retrograde is splendid for reinventing yourself, bringing curiosity to your game, exploring novelty, enjoying differences, and agreeing to disagree...



ARIES THE RAM

**ARIES:** With massive cosmic energy switching on the ignition of your imagination, this is a good week to ask: What new approach is possible here? And be satisfied with microsteps and bite-sized wins until 26 April when Mercury in your sign hits the heavenly highway again.

**TAURUS:** Taureans know how to exercise cruise control, which this week you could definitely benefit from. In the current assertive climate, a bulldozer approach is only likely to arouse resistance, so don't underestimate the power of a lighter touch, which will be easily understood and appreciated.

**GEMINI:** Your Gemini twin selves can have differing agendas. Gregarious, outgoing Twin's a party animal, but if your rhythm's more reclusive right now, and you feel less like being locked into social or group commitments, then listen to inner twin having its say this week, and go with that.

**CANCER:** This week's astral aspects recommend taking the initiative and addressing simmering issues before they trigger bigger problems. Check whether everyone's feeling supported and getting what they need, course correct as necessary. A secret may be revealed if you can let your guard down to receive it.

**LEO:** If your impatience starts breaking the speed limit this week, don't yell at the customer service person. Yes, these are trying times your majesty, so focus on upgrading your emotional communication skills. Let your naturally kind heart be your guide, then enjoy your reward of warmth and gratitude.

**VIRGO:** Every planetary retrograde contains a hidden gift, often not immediately apparent, and your mentor Mercury's no exception. So if this week's plans hit a speed bump or setback and you're forced to slow down, things which wouldn't normally be on your radar get their chance to be noticed.

**LIBRA:** This week's cosmic combination challenges you to assert yourself and not settle for the sake of peace. To bust out of your usual grooves, brush the dust off some old moves, broaden your world view and explore the opportunities on offer for new experiences with new people in new places.

**SCORPIO:** As the current Neptune/Saturn/Pluto pattern continues refining group involvements, some friendships you've outgrown may dissolve so that you can lay the past to rest and step more fully into the ever-evolving present. Connecting with old friends could also spark new opportunities this week.

**SAGITTARIUS:** If people, places, ideas or activities you used to love have lost their magnetic pull, focus on finding the fine line between truthful and tactful in this week's discussions. With impetuous Mercury in his most foot-in-mouth mode, it's so worth zipping the lip and editing before uttering.

**CAPRICORN:** Mercury retrograde in the sign of fresh starts could see a blast from the past re-emerge for another round, or a decision to revive an old favourite, give a tired relationship a seasonal refresh, start a personal style makeover, or simply withdraw for some timely re-evaluating, reconsidering and culling.

**AQUARIUS:** This week's individualistic energetics and activities might have you finding smaller, even one-on-one, connections more rewarding than your trademark Aquarian communal groups. If this tricky week is taxing on the nerves, you're an air sign, so soothe frayed neurons by getting plenty of the fresh kind.

**PISCES:** As energetic Mars and sensible Saturn in your sign continue their stop/go push/pull tug of war between fantasy and fact, wishful thinking and what might be practically possible, wisest advice is likely to come from sensible Saturn, busy refining this year's interactive dance between 'me' and 'we'.





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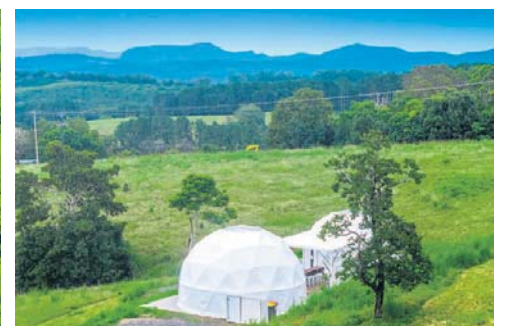
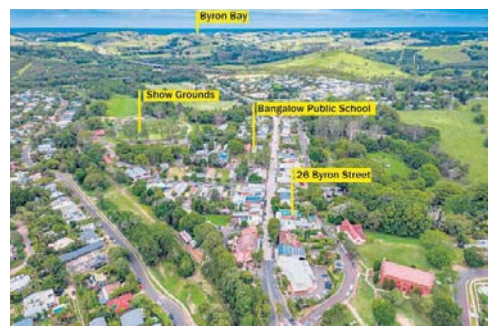
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- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Fri 11–11.30am
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- 69 Lindsay Avenue, Cumbalum. Sat 9–9.30am
- 5/12 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 34 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 9–9.30am
- 4 Azolla Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30–10am
- 25 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30–10am
- 27 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1 Lychee Drive, Rosebank. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1/21 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1109 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Montecollum. Sat 10–10.30am
- 27 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2B/107 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30–11am
- 24 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.30–11am
- 28 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30–11am
- 29 Pinegroves Road, Myocum. Sat 10.30–11am
- 419 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby Creek. Sat 11–11.30am
- 584 The Pocket Road, The Pocket. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 1/49 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 486 Broken Head Road, Broken Head. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 1/6 Warrabee Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 17 Campbell Street, Bangalow. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 4 Electra Close, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 1/59 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 1.30–2pm

### Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 4/84–86 Mellis Circuit, Alstonville. Sat 10–10.30am
- 4 Vera Street, Ballina. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1/2 Barnwall Street, Cumbalum. Sat 10–10.30am
- 337 Hermans Lane, Pimlico. Sat 11–11.30am
- 65 Lindsay Avenue, Cumbalum. Sat 11–11.30am
- 20 Lindsay Crescent, Wardell. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 19 Hickey Street, Ballina. Sat 12–12.30pm

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- 2/5 Canowindra Court, South Golden Beach. Sat 9–9.30am
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- 17 Yengarie Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 7 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 9 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 2/1 Durroon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 2–2.30pm
- 9 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Sat 3–3.30pm

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- 61 Tuckeroo Avenue, Mullumbimby. Wed. 4.15–4.45pm
- 50A Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 1/4 Durroon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 1/10 Sandbreak Cres Lennox Head. Sat 9.30–10am
- 31/9 Easy Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- Units 1–5, 56B Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 5/1 Wollumbin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30–11am
- 3 Raftons Road, Bangalow. Sat 10.45–11.15am
- 60 Kingsley Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 5/42 Bilin Road, Myocum. Sat 11–11.30am
- 69 Brushbox Drive, Mullumbimby Creek. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 61 Tuckeroo Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 12 Cudgerie Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 2–2.30pm

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- 20 Fawcett Street, Brunswick Heads. Thurs 4–4.30pm
- 50 Tristran Parade, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30–10.15am
- 20 Fawcett Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30am
- 3 Kooringa Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.45am
- 20 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 59 Tuckeroo Ave, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.45am
- 53 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.45am

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- 11 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Wed 2–2.30pm
- 346 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Wed 2–2.30pm
- 4 Old Byron Bay Road, Newrybar. Wed 2–2.30pm
- 11 Greenview Place, Skennars Head. Wed 4–4.30pm
- 2/19 Marattia Place, Suffolk Park. Thur 1–1.30pm
- 20/11 Constellation Close, Byron Bay. Thur 2–2.30pm
- 109–111 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 9–9.30am
- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 11 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2/19 Marattia Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1/2–6 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 20/11 Constellation Close, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 346 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Sat 11–11.30am
- 11 Greenview Place, Skennars Head. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 23 & 23A Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 12–12.30pm
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### Scott Harvey Real Estate

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### Tim Miller Real Estate

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- 9 Keith Street, Bangalow. Sat 12.45–1.15pm

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- 2 Pioneers Crescent, Bangalow
- 1/6 Warrabee Drive, Lennox Head
- 13 Cavanbah Lane, Byron Bay
- 124 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
- 8 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park

#### Mana RE

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- 16 Eloura Court, Ocean Shores

#### McGrath Byron Bay

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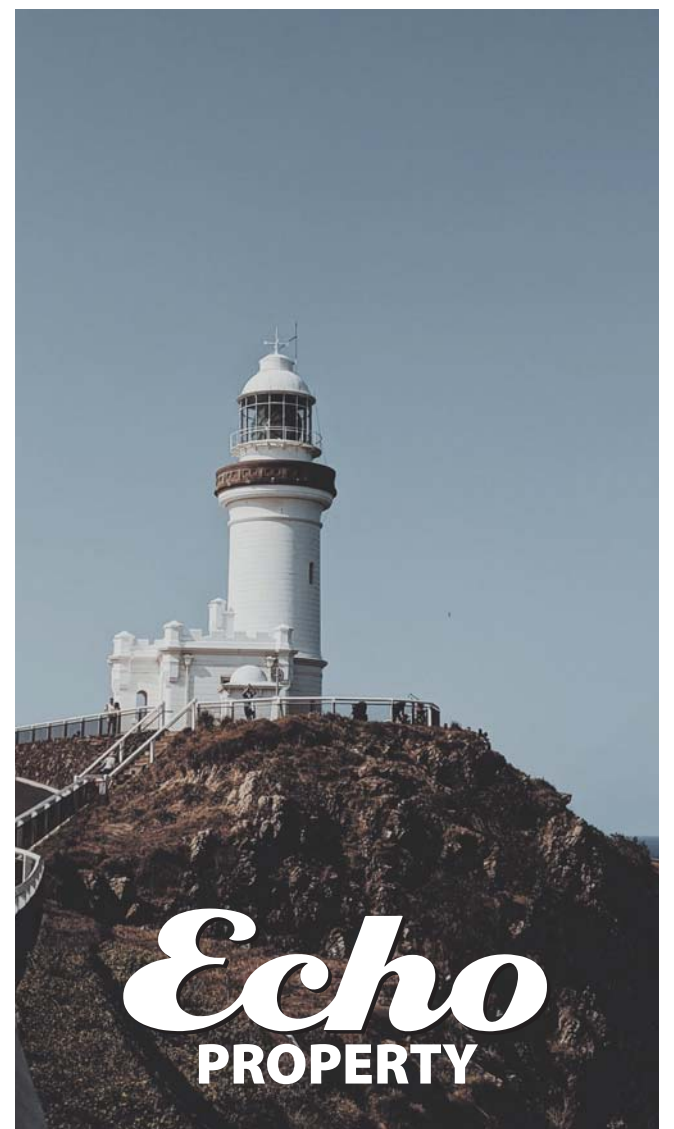
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The Echo Service Directory is online – [www.echo.net.au/service-directory](http://www.echo.net.au/service-directory)

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## INDEX

Accounts & Bookkeepers.....33	Painting.....35
Acupuncture.....33	Pest Control.....35
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration.....33	Photography.....35
Architects.....33	Physiotherapy.....35
Asphalt.....33	Picture Framing.....35
Automotive.....33	Plastering.....35
Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters.....33	Plumbers.....35
Bricklaying.....33	Pool Services.....35
Building Trades.....33	Religious Services.....35
Bush Regen & Weed Control.....33	Removalists.....35
Carpentry & Joinery.....33	Roofing.....36
Chimney Sweeps.....33	Rubbish Removal.....36
Cleaning.....33	Self Storage.....36
Computer Services.....33	Septic Systems.....36
Concreting & Paving.....34	Smart Sensors.....36
Decks, Patios & Extensions.....34	Solar Installation.....36
Design & Drafting.....34	Television Services.....36
Driveway Maintenance.....34	Tiling.....36
Earthmoving & Excavation.....34	Transport.....36
Electricians.....34	Tree Services.....36
Fencing.....34	Truck Hire & Haulage.....36
Floor Sanding & Polishing.....34	Upholstery.....36
Furniture Maker.....34	Valuers.....36
Garden & Property Maintenance.....34	Veterinary Surgeons.....36
Gas Fitters & Suppliers.....35	Water Filters.....36
Guttering.....35	Welding.....36
Handypersons.....35	Window Cleaning and Repairs.....36
Health.....35	Window Tinting.....36
Hire.....35	
Landscape Supplies.....35	
Landscaping.....35	
Locksmith.....35	

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# Service Directory

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# ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

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

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

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Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

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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

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**\$17.00 for the first two lines**

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The family of the late **MARY ELIZABETH FLYNN** 24 October 1933 to 13 March 2024 would like to express their sincere thanks and appreciation to those people whose acts of kindness and sympathy continue to be of great comfort to us in our time of sorrow. In particular, thanks go to the kind staff of First Light Healthcare and Dr Kelly Hawkes, Michael Lewis, Phil Chapman and neighbours. Forever in our hearts and our memories, the Flynn family.

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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.

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Suit mature or stable person.

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Mullumbimby

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**10am to 12pm**  
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 With love from the Echo Crew  
 XXXX

**PETS**  
**Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)**  
  
**JOHNNY**  
 Johnny is a 3-year-old desexed male German Shepherd x Border Collie. He is a very intelligent boy and is fantastic with young children. He's also great with other dogs and very playful.  
 He will need further recall, leash and house training.  
 Johnny has a beautiful nature and will make someone, or a family, a loyal, loving and protective guardian.  
**Please contact Shell on 0458 461 935.**  
 MC: 991003000609156

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

**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)
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 / 0016 1.68	0605 0.53 / 1705 0.47
14	SU	5:59 / 17:37	11:44 / 21:48	1228 1.02 / 0016 1.68	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 / 0:44	0336 1.47 / 1636 1.09	1037 0.60 / 2157 0.70
18	TH	5:59 / 17:37	14:33 / 1:44	0436 1.48 / 1728 1.19	1122 0.55 / 2300 0.65
19	F	5:59 / 17:37	15:02 / 1:40	0525 1.50 / 1808 1.30	1157 0.50 / 2349 0.59
20	SA	5:59 / 17:37	15:29 / 2:33	0606 1.52 / 1844 1.40	1228 0.45
21	SU	5:59 / 17:37	15:55 / 3:25	0643 1.53 / 1917 1.49	0031 0.53 / 1256 0.40
22	M	5:59 / 17:37	16:21 / 4:17	0717 1.52 / 1950 1.57	0110 0.49 / 1321 0.37
23	TU	5:59 / 17:37	16:49 / 5:10	0749 1.48 / 2023 1.65	0147 0.47 / 1346 0.34
24	W	5:59 / 17:37	17:19 / 6:05	0822 1.43 / 2057 1.70	0225 0.46 / 1413 0.33

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

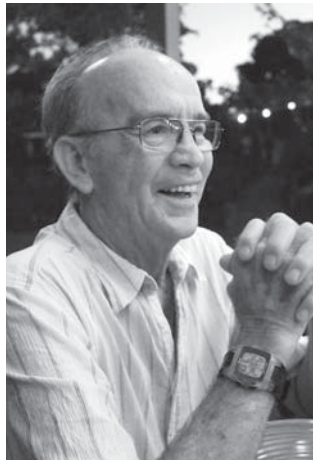
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**BALLINA EXCLUSIVE**  
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**Devoted to Pleasure**  
 • Couples, Men & Women •  
[touchofjustine.com](http://touchofjustine.com)  
**0407 013 347**

**LIFE CELEBRATIONS**  
  
**JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE LIFE OF KEVIN DEVLIN**  
 who passed away on 27 March to cancer. We will gather to remember him on **Saturday 13 April, 8am** (surf paddle out at Wategos Beach) and **Monday 15 April, 3pm** (memorial at Fig Tree Restaurant, Ewingsdale). Please bring your fondest memories to share with family and friends.  
 His children ask that instead of flowers, please donate to Liberation Larder in Byron Bay or to a cancer charity. Contact [yengen@gmail.com](mailto:yengen@gmail.com) for any questions and to RSVP

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

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS**  
 Please stick this by your phone

**AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE** ..... 000  
**AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay** ..... 131 233  
**POLICE Brunswick Heads** ..... 6629 7510  
**Mullumbimby** ..... 6629 7570  
**Byron Bay** ..... 6685 9499  
**Bangalow** ..... 6629 7500

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

**On The Horizon**  
**DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY**  
 Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' to [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au).

**BV VIEW**  
 Brunswick Valley VIEW Club will hold their luncheon meeting on April 12 at Brunswick Bowling Club at 10.30am.

**Open day Lismore Rainforest Botanic Garden**  
 May 26 Open Day at Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens at 313 Wyrallah Road, East Lismore as part of an Australia and NZ-wide open day for Botanic Gardens. Book a guided walk starting from 9.30am by emailing [membership@friendslrbg.com.au](mailto:membership@friendslrbg.com.au). Numbers limited Cost \$5 per person, children free, cash only. The native plant nursery is open from 9.30am till 12pm with great advice and sales of healthy local rainforest plants.

**Mullumbimby CWA**  
 Mullumbimby branch of the Country Women's Association of NSW will meet on Wednesday, April 10 at 10am at the CWA Rooms. Bring a plate for a light lunch following the meeting. Info: Sue 6684 1675 or Jenny 6684 7282.

**Federal Hall**  
 All welcome at the Federal Hall AGM on Saturday April 13 at 10am. For more information and membership email: [info@federalhalls.com.au](mailto:info@federalhalls.com.au).

**Holiday activities**  
**Byron Bay Library school holiday activities:** Lego fun, special challenge morning. The clock starts ticking. See what you can create in one hour. Take up the challenge on Tuesday, April 16 at 10.30am. Book in and build for 6+ Ph 6685 8540.  
**Mullumbimby Library school**

**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	<a href="http://kyoglebazaar.com.au">kyoglebazaar.com.au</a>
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](mailto: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.  
**Gulganii affordable pantry shop:** located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.  
**Orange Sky:** free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon.  
 To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website [www.mdn.org.au](http://www.mdn.org.au), or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

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

**holiday activities:** Bee plastic free and make a beeswax wrapper for 5+. The folk from North East Waste will be your guides on Wednesday, April 17 at 2pm. Everything supplied. Come for some fun at a Kids Create session on Tuesday, April 23 at 10.30am using material provided by the library. Booking required for all activities. Phone 6684 2992. Fun felt Workshop: Make a cool, no sew kindness pocket on Wednesday, 24 April 10.30am for 5+ book on 6685 8540.

**Mullumbimby Youth Week Event**  
 Youth week activity / sustainable floristry workshop: Are you between 12 and 24? Join us for our first young and connected workshop, that feature youth-led, peer-to-peer activities on Friday, April 19 at 10.30am. Bookings essential on 6685 8540. Mullumbimby Library is putting on an exciting Latin dance session for 13 to 20 year olds as part of youth week this year on Tuesday, April 16 at 3.15pm. Join our amazing local Salsa teacher, Potts, coming to demonstrate solo dance moves for different Latin dance style that can be used for parties and any social occasion. This invigorating event is held for youth from 13 to 20 years old. Bookings essential on 6684 2992.

**Brunswick Valley Scrabble Club**  
 Brunswick Valley Scrabble Club meets 1pm every Tuesday at The Brunswick Heads Bowling Club. More social than competitive. We welcome new members whether you're new to the game or not. Contact Steve Bellerby on 0407 844 718.

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](http://www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au).  
**Byron Community Cabin:** Seniors Computer Club (school term only), 9-11am, Friday, Carlyle Steet. More info: [www.byroncentre.com.au](http://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](mailto:fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au), website: [www.byronrespite.com.au](http://www.byronrespite.com.au).

## Oceans 12 ready to compete at state level



Oceans 12: (L to R) Valentino Blandford, Addison Cecil, Orlando Blandford, Molly Boyle, Tully Harper, Addison Collins, Madison Harper, Delilah Warton, Jack Matkevich, Kaia Roberts, Mali Stewart, (not pictured Lawson King). Photo supplied

A dozen swimmers from the Ocean Shores Aquatic Swim Team are Sydney bound, having secured places to compete in state finals after battling through schools, district, zone and regional eliminations.

The swimmers from across various ages will compete in a range of different state championships including those for the Primary Schools Sports Association, Combined High Schools, and Combined Independent Schools.

The finals will take place over the coming weeks.

'What was needed to be enforced was quality control, doing it once and doing it well, maintaining effort upon effort and a higher level of discipline which would make up for any time deficit for those looking at staying competitive,' swim coach Adrian Filipic said.

'To their credit Oceans 12 did precisely that and will now get the opportunity to compete at Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre along

with a few others on the team who are going down for relays.'

Some of the athletes have multiple events to compete in, some are on debut, and some are veterans that are familiar with the territory having swum there for many years in succession.

Relay swimmers include: Monty Wilton, Angus Boyd, Jaxon Molenaar and Harriet Killips.

'We wish them all the best, to enjoy the moment and give it their all,' he said.

## Local triathletes triumph at Kingscliff

After a strong showing at the Kingscliff triathlon in late March the Byron Tri Club has extended its lead in the north coast triathlon league with just two races to go for the season.

'Given the vast expanse of competitors at the Kingscliff Tri, we harboured uncertainty about our performance, especially with a few of our key players out due to illness or injury,' Byron Tri Club's Deb Fuller said.

'However, as it turned out, there was no need for concern at all. It looks like we will win the championship again.'

After six races Byron Tri Club has 149 competition points, ahead of Coffs Harbour (116.5), Yamba (104), Hat Head (85.5), Ballina (63), Grafton (58.4), Port Macquarie (41) and Tweed Valley (31).

There are two events left on the schedule for the season: the Byron Tri (May 11) and the Club Championships



Cara Brisbane on the podium at Kingscliff. Photo supplied

at Tweed Heads (May 25).

Many club members earned a podium finish for their age groups at the Kingscliff Tri.

### Results

Top sprint (750m swim, 20km cycle, 5km run) results for the club: Cara Brisbane first (40-44 years) and seventh overall, Gracie Richter

first (25-29), Deborah Fuller first (60-64), Robyn Darke second (60-64), Sandra Killen second (65-69), Peter Clarke second (75-79) and Nerida Clarke second (70-74).

Top standard (1.5km swim, 40km cycle, 10km run) results for the club: Jaime Cascajares second (40-44) and Leonie Pedrazzini first (60-64).

## Local wins Pan American BJJ Championship

Raz Harel

Multiple times world champion and head coach of Jiu Jitsu at The Academy Byron Bay, Thalison Soares, is continuing his 2024 dominance on the world stage with a win at the prestigious Pan American Championship in Orlando, Florida in late March.

This is the second out of four major yearly events and Thalison has so far won both the Europeans in January and now the Pan Ams.

His next stop is Sao Paulo for the Brazilian National Championship at the end of April and then the World Cup at the end of May.

Winning all four major



Thalison displays his Pan American winners medallion after the championships in Florida. Photo supplied

events in one season is a rare achievement and allows the athlete a Grand Slam title.

The local BJJ community will be eagerly watching the rest of Thalison's season.

## Byron Magpies AFL club celebrates 40 years

After a few tough COVID-19 and flood-affected years Byron Magpies AFC is celebrating the club's 40-year anniversary in 2024.

The club returns to the Gold Coast-based QFA Division 2 South Competition in season 2024, after winning the 2023 men's premiership in the NSW AFL North Coast competition, under the guidance of coach and former AFL star Andrew Swallow.

That was the 18th men's premiership in the club's history, to go with two women's premierships.

The women will also return to the Gold Coast in 2024 after playing in the QFA Women's Competition.

Club president Nick Rojo said the Magpies had come a long way.

'We've had to rebuild the club from the ground up, which we have managed to do thanks to the dedication and passion of our committee, players and volunteers,' Rojo said.

'The 40-year anniversary is a great way to celebrate the resilience and community spirit of our region. We might get knocked down, but we're never out.'

As part of the 40th anniversary celebrations, the club is encouraging former players to get down to home games and reconnect with the club.

The women's team will play its first home game at the Cavanbah Centre on 13 April, while the men's first game at the Cavanbah will be on 18 May.

The club's first game of the season, playing as the Southern Stingrays, a joint venture with the Ballina Bombers, did not go as planned when they travelled to Burleigh last weekend.

The home side won 23.17-155 to the Southern Stingrays 6.5-41

The Reserves fared worse going down 190-1.

### 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](mailto:sport@echo.net.au).

## GREEN BIN STANDARDS HAVE CHANGED

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

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

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

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



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

# JONSON LANE



BAR HEATHER BLOE DEIJI STUDIOS  
 LIGHT YEARS RESTAURANT NAGNATA  
 PIXIE FOOD & WINE SATURDAYS NYC  
 STRONG PILATES VENROY

139 JONSON ST, BYRON BAY @JONSON.LANE

Save Wallum is inviting everyone who is 'interested in protecting the last remaining wallum ecosystem in Brunswick Heads' to attend the upcoming Save Wallum public meeting. The meeting will be held at Mullum Civic Hall from 6pm, Thursday, April 11.

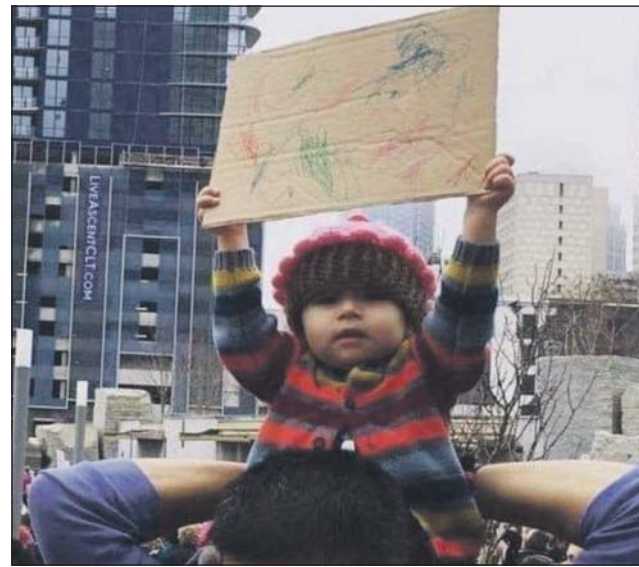
The Byron Chamber's first Business After Hours event for 2024 will be held on April 11 from 5pm, at the TAFE NSW Byron Bay CLC (23 Bayshore Drive). To get involved visit [www.events.humanitix.com/business-after-hours-tafe-nsw-byron-bay](http://www.events.humanitix.com/business-after-hours-tafe-nsw-byron-bay).

With flea markets to be held at the Mullum Community College campus from April 13 (page 1), there is also a valuable community asset close by to visit. Sasha Mainsbridge says, 'Across the road, just beyond the Scout Hall, you will find the Library of Stuff open from 9am till 12pm, so visitors to the flea market can pop over for a look. The library celebrates its fifth birthday on April 19!'

With Suffolk Park first grade rugby player, Otis Floyd, recovering from a serious accident over the Easter Weekend, his friends and family have launched a GoFundMe campaign to assist with medical costs. He has a C5/6 right uniface dislocation in his spine. For more info, visit [www.gofundme.com/f/otis-floyd](http://www.gofundme.com/f/otis-floyd).

ICYMI - Iran executed 853 people in 2023 - the highest number on record since 2015, according to a new report by Amnesty International.

Grab your tiny violin: the founder and CEO of the world's wealthiest asset



Protesting! What is it good for? Well, there's plenty of examples where it made a difference, especially in Byron Shire. How else will the public get educated on endangered species, for example? See page 8. Photo internets

manager, BlackRock, has suffered a pay cut! According to Reuters, Laurence Fink's pay for 2023 was \$26.9 million, down from \$32.7 million in 2022. Reuters reports BlackRock managed \$10 trillion in assets as of December 31, 2023, and serves clients in over 100 countries. ICYMI Blackrock are also significant shareholders in Australian corporations.

Name correction from last week: Sea Shepherd's Chief Campaigns Officer, is Peter Hammarstedt, and local SS campaigner is Adam Shostak. SS founder Paul Watson's reply to the article will be published next week.

On Good Friday night or Saturday morning, Andrew Mignot says his hire car was deliberately broken into in the Mullum Woolies carpark. He said, 'The air cleaner and fuse box top were taken out, presumably in an attempt to drive it'. If you know anything, his email is [andrew711156@gmail.com](mailto:andrew711156@gmail.com).

million dollars from clients' trust accounts. SMH (Nine) reports that she now faces Parramatta Court. Dougan 'reinvented herself as a wealthy American CEO' of a medical testing laboratory, SMH reports, and 'faces an impossible choice: risk her new life and fortune to face justice in Australia, or get kicked out of the US permanently'. Dougan now has five children, according to her affidavit, and they need her care. 'She also had health issues, which made long-haul flights dangerous', her lawyers told the court.

Good to see the Byron Bay Wildlife Sanctuary bounce back and reopen after being flooded last Thursday. They say, 'We called on the community and the community showed up for us in ways we had never imagined!'

Residents may recall Byron Bay Belle realtor, Sarah Dougan, who took off to the US in 2012, stealing half a

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**YOUR FACILITATOR**

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.