

Echo

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More Byron CBD height exceedance approved

Paul Bibby

Two multi-storey mixed-use developments with a combined value of \$36.2 million have been approved for the centre of Byron Bay, despite both exceeding height limits for that part of the Shire.

The developments, located at 9 Marvell Street and 119-121 Jonson Street respectively, involve a mix of retail, commercial and residential uses, along with the now obligatory private rooftop swimming pool.

Both also feature large underground parking areas.

Greens councillor Duncan Dey was a lone voice of dissent in relation to the developments when they came before last week's Council planning meeting.

'These things are designed to fill the allotment right up to its boundaries,' Cr Dey said in relation to the Marvell Street development.

'Essentially, the whole thing is overkill. The developer spends tens or hundreds of thousands figuring out how to fill every drop of space that is deemed to be available.

'At my place, the roof is to keep the rain out. But in these places, the roof becomes a party area. I don't get it. It's basically an extra storey.'

But Cr Dey's arguments appeared to fall on deaf ears, at least as far as his fellow councillors were concerned.

Two-person design excellence panel

Mayor Michael Lyon said that both developments had been before Council's two-person design panel.

► Continued on page 2



Get set for the racket, May 4, 5

Mullumbimby is all abuzz with preparations for the much-anticipated Laneways Festival 2024. The event promises to immerse locals and visitors in a kaleidoscope of music, dance, art and delicious food. On Saturday, May 4, a fundraiser in the form of a 'progressive dinner party' will be held at three iconic Mullum venues, with proceeds contributing to the free day of activities, scheduled for Sunday, May 5. For more information, visit www.kaleidomullumbimby.org.au. Pictured are Bunny Racket's King Bunny, Andy Walker, Spaghetti Circus's Anouk Schlueter, the Versace Boys' Will Henderson and Alex Johnson, and Cassette, Vick Lawrance. Photo Jeff 'Causing A Racket Since Time Began In 1986' Dawson

2022 flood data quietly made public

Hans Lovejoy

The long-awaited state government analysis of the 2022 flood in the shire's north is now available on the SES website: <https://tinyurl.com/48fkecbw>.

It is called *The Post 2022 Event Flood Behaviour Analysis - Brunswick River*.

It was finalised in February 2024, and despite *Echo* requests over subsequent months, it was not released publicly by the NSW Labor government.

It's unclear why there was no media release on this important document, which details flood heights and modelling from the most devastating flood in living memory.

Council's Floodplain Advisory Committee had been privy to the document, but were gagged from releasing it to the public.

The technical 115-page document was compiled by WMA Water for the NSW government, and draws on hydrologic modelling from various gauges across the shire's north, including Durrumbul, Federation

Bridge, Yelgun Creek, Billinudgel, Brunswick Heads and Orana Bridge.

Peak 2022 flood levels were surveyed at Mullum, South Golden Beach, Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores/New Brighton.

Remarkably, the flood data supplied by the public was not included as levels, only as deviations from

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Questioning massive military spending ► p13

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Blockades continue as councillors wave next Wallum certificate through

Paul Bibby

A second subdivision works certificate for the Wallum estate was signed off by a majority of councillors last week, who again argued that they have no legal standing to further impede an approved development.

The first, and most crucial works certificate vote, was passed by the same majority at the February 8 meeting.

It comes as dozens of Save Wallum campaigners continue the blockade of the Brunswick Heads site in an attempt to preserve what is significant heathland biodiversity and a diminishing ecosystem.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the protectors successfully stopped contractors from entering the site, after locking on to machinery and deploying nonviolent resistance tactics.

Sydney-based riot police, assisted by local police and security, were at the scene.

A Save Wallum spokesperson said that eight people were arrested.

When asked by *The Echo*, developer Clarence Property's media spokesperson

said they did not pay for the riot police.

Like February 8, Thursday's vote was close, in this case, four to three.

Clarence Property needed Council to issue this certificate, which has been described as a procedural exercise, before it could start undertaking bulk earthworks at Wallum.

And like the previous vote on February 8, Council received legal advice from Council's new legal counsel, Matt Meir, who said that Council has no prospects of successfully defending this matter in court if it chooses to further impede development.

Support for legal challenge

However, there is considerable support for a legal challenge within the community to support those fighting on the front lines.

'We have seen that the system has totally let us down in terms of protecting the environment,' Greens councillor Duncan Dey told the meeting.

'The system, over a



Protectors locked onto machinery at Wallum in Bruns last week, where 124 residential lots are slated on rare and diminishing healthlands near Simpsons Creek. This woman was later arrested. Photo Jeff 'Locked-On From Within' Dawson

number of decades, has basically let through a monster, a dinosaur of a development.'

'It's like the white shoe brigade all over again – a 1950s approach to land management and rezoning.'

Cr Dey, his fellow Greens councillor, Sarah Ndiaye, and Independent councillor, Cate Coorey, called for the matter to be deferred.

But this course was opposed by the remaining

councillors, who argued that it would not assist in getting a good result for Wallum.

'The point is, how do we get to the best outcome here?' Mayor Michael Lyon said.

'It's about recognising that there's an approved DA and getting an outcome in the only way that the Council can.'

'If you can go and find the money for the site to buy it, that's a great outcome.'

'If you want to continue blockading the site through direct action and stop the development that way, that's an option if you choose to pursue that.'

'The other way, if you want to get a better outcome, is to negotiate. And the best way to negotiate is in good

faith with a developer who already has approval.

'My suggestion is to get behind the compromise position, that we can use the leverage of the protest to actually get the developer to lodge an amendment to the DA, so that we can actually get some results.'

For and against

Cr Lyon was supported in his position by independent councillors, Mark Swivel and Alan Hunter, and by Labor councillor, Asren Pugh.

Councillors Peter Westheimer and Sama Balson were absent for the vote.

A recent joint media release by Mayor Michael Lyon, Cate Coorey and Asren

Pugh provided their proposal for the site, based on negotiations with the developer.

It would see a slight reduction in the urban footprint, while saving the scribbly gums.

While Cr Lyon spruiked it as a good outcome, there is yet to be any agreement reached.

Negotiations after certificate issued

Cr Lyon was criticised by Cr Dey for waving the first works certificate through on February 8, and then trying to negotiate after.

Local ecologist, David Milledge, has described the concessions by the three councillors as ineffective.

Clarence Property CEO Simon Kennedy described the blockade in a media release last week as 'illegal and criminal activity'.

Despite the concerns of ecologists over their management of vegetation, Kennedy said, 'Guided by our ecologists, we've taken a holistic approach to consider management of vegetation extent and condition, weed invasion, feral and domestic animals, corridors and linkages, and the water cycle.'

Mr Kennedy said the rehabilitation and habitat creation works would not compromise its ability to make potential changes to existing plans, 'should they be viable'.

Join the community conversation

Roads, drains, parks, pools ...

What projects and services are priorities for you?

Council's draft 2024/25 Operational Plan, Budget and Statement of Revenue Policy which includes rates, fees and charges are all on public exhibition.

Have your say by taking a look at the draft documents and making a submission on Council's website or in-person.

Submissions close 17 May 2024.

Join a community conversation session:

- **IN-PERSON:** Tuesday, 30 April, 5 – 7pm, Byron Shire Council Chambers
- **ONLINE:** Tuesday, 7 April, 4–6pm, Zoom

More information

Read the documents, make a submission or register for the community conversation sessions at:

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/OP-budget-2025

www.byron.nsw.gov.au

More Byron height exceedance approved

► Continued from page 1 excellence panel, and that significant changes had been made to ensure they not only fitted in with, but enhanced, the character of the town.

Given no information is available around the design excellence panel, Cr Dey asked who was on it.

Staff replied it was head of planning and compliance, Shannon Burt, and architect and urban designer, Rod Simpson.

Embrace the height

'I think the future for Byron is always going to be bright in terms of the town centre... and people are going to want to develop there,' Cr Lyon said in relation to the Marvell Street development.

'We're gonna see more of this, and we have to embrace it. We've got an 11.5-metre height limit... and that compares favourably

in height to everywhere up and down the coast. You won't find somewhere that's only 11.5m... We've done a fantastic job of maintaining the character of our town.'

Earlier in the meeting, one of the planners involved in the Marvell Street development said they had amended the height of the building in response to concern about exceedances.

'At the Council site inspection last week, concerns were raised in relation to the number and nature of exceedances in relation to the 11.5m height limit,' Kate Singleton of Planners North said in relation to the development.

'While we submit that the variation sought to the height limit is appropriate... we have undertaken a further detailed review of the design which has identified the potential for a reduction in the height of the building'

Ms Singleton said that the revised plans included 13 per cent of the site containing elements that exceeded the height limit, and that those elements were not visible from the street.

Sensitive design

The developer behind the Jonson Street project, Jason Dunn, said the location was 'an important site that we've tried to honour with our sensitive design'.

'We designed a very large open courtyard and we've focused on designing the building around the large melaleuca tree.'

'Forty-two per cent of the total ground floor area is open space.'

'I believe that the Byron town centre desperately needs some high-quality, vibrant developments to improve the streetscape of our town... and I believe this development achieves that aim.'

Mullum railway station engulfed in flames

David Lowe

Fire destroyed the Mullumbimby railway station at around midnight on Sunday night/Monday morning.

While it's been 20 years since the last train came through, the building has been an important community hub, providing office space for a number of organisations, including COREM, Mullum Music Festival and Social Futures.

Shane Rennie of Island Quarry and Flickerfest is a long-term tenant of the station, and told *The Echo* he was devastated by the news.

Not suspicious

He said he saw the fire start on his security cameras, and notified the fire brigade immediately, but the building was well alight by the time the fire brigade arrived ten minutes later.

Police Inspector, Matt Kehoe, has confirmed that the station building has been severely damaged, saying the walls of the building look externally okay, but the internal structure and roof have been totally destroyed.

He said the cause 'appears to be an



Mullumbimby Railway Station on Monday morning. Photo Aslan Shand

electrical fault, and is not considered suspicious.'

Mr Rennie said many important archives had been lost relating to Island Quarry, while he hoped digital backups would have preserved most of

the Flickerfest material.

As well as the immediate loss to tenants, Mr Rennie said the loss to the community will hit hard, with the station building having been 'brought back from the brink' ten years ago.

Byron Yoga Centre shortlisted for biz awards

Congrats Byron Yoga Centre, who are a finalist in the prestigious Australian Small Business Champion Awards.

Founder, owner and CEO, John Ogilvie said, 'What a wonderful celebration of small businesses across Australia.'

'We were honoured to have been selected from over 5,500 entries.

'Through our programs, we aspire to spread the light of yoga to every town and village. As the benefits of yoga start to ripple out you start to feel you again.

'It's from this place that



John Ogilvie. Photo Eve Jeffery

we can discover how to become the best version of ourselves, and how to start

to live a sustainable life for ourselves, the community which we live in and planet

Earth as a whole.'

As one of Australia's leading yoga teacher training schools, and one of the longest-running yoga schools in Australia, the centre welcomes students from all over the world, as well as locals and interstate visitors.

They are also one of the few yoga organisations in Australia that operate as a RTO (Registered Training Organisation).

They offer Certificate IV in Yoga Teaching.

For more info visit www.byronyoga.com/byron-full-time-cert-iv-international.

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MULLUMBIMBY SHOWGROUND

2022 flood data quietly made public

► Continued from page 1 modelled levels, according to longtime Council watcher, Matthew Lambourne. He sits on Council's Floodplain Advisory Committee, and told *The Echo* that data from the public had been included in past reports.

Lambourne believes that Main Arm's Federation Bridge gauge is not accurate.

'The gauge is on the on the downstream side of the bridge, and the flood level was higher, so an accurate flood height was not recorded.'

'[Regarding the data collected], 'The difference between recorded height and modelled height was recorded', he says, 'but not the actual flood height.'

'All previous flood studies

identified recorded and actual heights.

'Obviously, the closer the levels between the two, the better. They are not all that close, particularly in Marshalls Creek, where it is off by an average of 200mm.

'It's been acknowledged that a new flood model is needed.'

New model needed

While the report says on page 15 that 'The current hydrologic model that covers the Brunswick River does appropriately replicate recorded flows and levels', the authors also recommend that, 'A full review of the Intensity-Frequency-Duration (IFDs) within the Brunswick River and Marshalls Creek catchment should

be undertaken to ensure appropriate representation of orographic [position of mountains] effects.'

Recommendations

Other recommendations include, 'The design flow estimates at Durrumbul should be reviewed and updated as part of any future study; the hydrologic model should be extended to cover the entire Brunswick River system, including adjacent catchments which only interact in larger events; [and] the hydraulic model should be updated and extended to cover all areas that impact flood levels within the Brunswick River system, including adjacent catchments which only interact in larger events.'



O'MEARA DENTAL

CARBON NEUTRAL SINCE 2019



O'Meara Dental warmly welcomes general Dentist Dr Roy Gamma and Oral Health Therapist Ms Cathy Elliott to their practice. With a combined 26 years of providing dental care to the Byron Shire community they are a very experienced and caring addition to our team. Appointments at our Mullumbimby practice are filling fast.

Byron Bay: 19/5 Easy Street **Mullumbimby:** 60 Stuart Street
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Ancient brewing tradition honoured



Heated stones are placed into a kettle as part of a brewery tradition. Photo Dane Pitman

An annual event and brewing ritual to honour ancient brewing traditions was held at Stone & Wood's Byron brewery last week.

The brewery's media spokesperson told *The Echo*, 'The Stone Brew Day is a nod to medieval brewing, it's a tradition held dear for the last 17 years since Stone & Wood's humble beginnings'.

Caolan Vaughan, Stone & Wood head brewer said, 'On this day, we pay homage to

tradition and the way things used to be done long ago, before electricity or any of our modern luxuries.

'Each year, we change recipe and select only the best ingredients we possibly can'.

Heated stones

Caolan says the tradition includes heating up stones until they glow a fiery red and then brewers carefully lower the stones into a kettle, creating a big cloud of steam.

'Stone & Wood has

been brewing this special beer since 2008, ever since their founder, Brad Rogers, brought back some special rocks from Fiji.

'These rocks are perfect for heating things up and adding a unique twist to the brew', said Caolan.

Friends of the brewery, local media, local hospitality venue managers and folks from the Australian beer scene were invited for the event, which was catered for by 100 Mile Table.

Marine Rescue Bruns rescue man after boat capsizes

A rapid response by Marine Rescue Brunswick volunteers saved a man's life last Wednesday (April 17), after his 4.9-metre boat rolled on Brunswick Bar.

Marine Rescue Brunswick Unit Commander, Jonathan Wilcock, said a member of the public called at 7.30am to say that a vessel had capsized on the bar, with a person in the water.

'Volunteer operators were immediately deployed on board Marine Rescue Brunswick rescue watercraft (jet skis) Brunswick 11 and Brunswick 12,' said Commander Wilcock.

'The Marine Rescue NSW operator on board Brunswick 12 retrieved the man from the water and took him to South Beach where he was assessed by the operator. The man was uninjured, but shaken and incredibly grateful for our assistance.'

Because the man's capsized vessel was a



A boat rolled on Brunswick Bar last Wednesday. Photo supplied

navigational hazard on the bar, Marine Rescue watercraft operators manoeuvred the overturned boat to the beach.

Dangerous boating conditions

Unit Commander Wilcock said conditions at Brunswick Heads were not favourable for boating that morning.

'There was a strong swell on the bar. The waves were

breaking around 100 metres off the bar on a runout tide, making it quite dangerous.

'We ask all boaters to check the conditions before heading out and to not risk their life,' he said.

'There is absolutely no shame in getting to the boat ramp and deciding not to go out because of unfavourable conditions, it is not worth endangering your life or others for a day on the water.'

Bupa replies over its Bruns dental closure

Foreign-owned corporation Bupa has provided a statement around the recent closure of its Brunswick Holistic Dental Centre (BHDC), saying reduced patient volumes and the need for significant building renovations led to the decision.

Long-term employee and senior dentist, Dr Roy Gamma, told *The Echo* last week the April 16 closure was devastating for the community and staff. He said, 'There were no attempts to sell the practice, prior to breaking news to the staff'.

A Bupa Dental spokesperson told *The Echo* it was a difficult decision and was 'part of Bupa Dental's ongoing commitment to optimising its portfolio and providing the best possible network and care for patients'.

'The Brunswick Holistic Dental Centre team has delivered amazing care and service to the local community over the years, but in recent times



The outgoing dental team celebrating at the Brunswick Hotel after their last day of business, following Bupa's decision to close the practice down on April 16. Photo supplied

the practice has experienced reduced patient volumes and the need for significant building renovations.

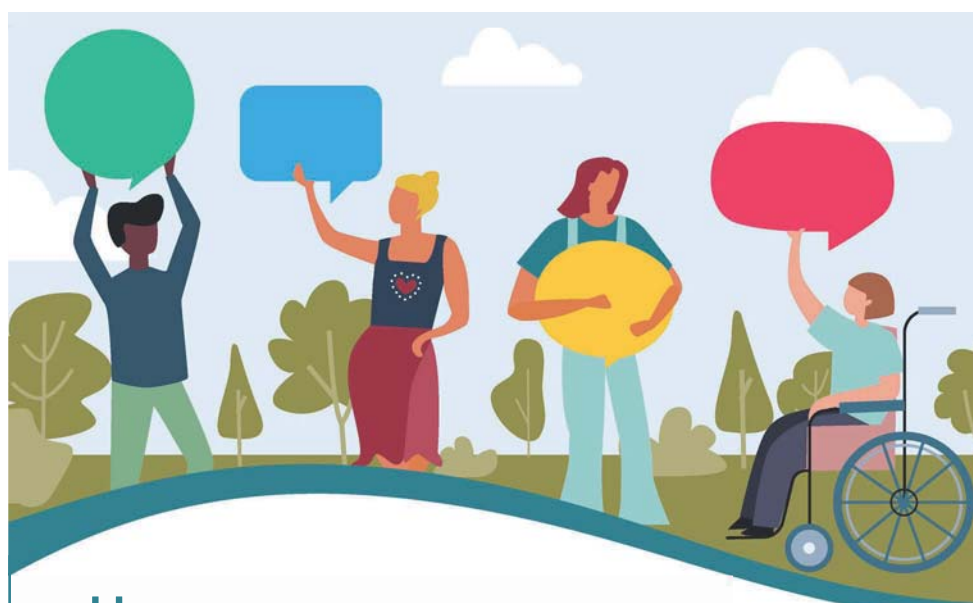
'While this closure is unfortunate, local residents are encouraged to view the Bupa Website for your nearest Bupa Members First network dental practice'.

The property owner of the dental building contacted *The Echo* to say they were surprised at the closure, and it came without much notice.

Regarding Bupa's claims of reduced patient volumes, Dr Gamma believes there was 'not enough practitioners to meet the demands of existing and new patients to the practice, which ultimately led to reduced patient volumes'.

Staff not replaced

'Also, when practitioners leave and aren't replaced, the book tends to fall apart. It's so hard to build it up, and yet so easy to dismantle it'.



Have your say on the future of Byron Shire

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

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

The survey closes Wednesday 1 May 2024.

More information

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



www.byron.nsw.gov.au

E-bike rider dies after crash

A man has died in hospital following an e-bike crash in Byron Bay earlier this month.

According to www.police.nsw.gov.au, emergency services were called to Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay, following reports of an e-bike

crash at around 7.30pm on Saturday April 13.

They say, 'A 30-year-old man was treated by NSW Ambulance paramedics and airlifted to Gold Coast Hospital. No other vehicles were involved in the crash.'

'Officers from Tweed/Byron Police District attended the scene and commenced inquiries into the circumstances surrounding the crash. Police have since been notified that the man died in hospital on April 18'.

Council's Community Strategic Plan up for comment

A ten-year plan that 'reflects the visions, aspirations and needs of the community to guide Council's work and priorities' is open for feedback until May 1.

Council say on their website that it addresses four key questions for the community: Where are we now? Where do we want to be in ten years' time? How will we get there? and, how will we know when we have arrived?

The 50-page document outlines statistical data and profiles the region, and provides aspirations around 'effective leadership, inclusive community, nurtured environment, ethical growth, and connected, and infrastructure'.

The plan says the Shire's population is 35,773, and the region hosts around 2.4m annual visitors.

Biologically unique

On page 12 it reads, 'We live in one of the most biologically unique and diverse parts of Australia and a global biodiversity hotspot for rain-forest plants and animals'. Council's roles, as defined



Image byron.nsw.gov.au

on page 21, are 'provider, partner, advocate, planner and collaborator'.

As for 'Attitudes and behaviours', it provides dot points on page 23: 'Promoting positive community attitudes and behaviours; lead by example to help improve attitudes in behaviours in the broader community; and, encourage and support local businesses to improve access and inclusion, including to encourage tourism opportunities'.

The plan can be downloaded from Council's website www.byron.nsw.gov.au.

Flood-affected locations to be included in DCP

Hans Lovejoy

A redraft of development control plan (DCP) Chapter 2 'Areas Affected by Flood' will soon go on public exhibition without mentioning 2022 flood data.

Debate and a vote on the topic occurred at 6.30pm, the last item of a marathon nine-and-a-half-hour meeting last Thursday. Several councillors had left by that time.

And while the vote was unanimous, Cr Duncan Dey, who is also a flood hydrologist, was unsupported in his efforts to include what fellow Floodplain Committee members were also advocating, which was to include the 2022 flood data.

The long-awaited state government analysis of the 2022 flood in the Shire's north is now publicly available having been kept secret since February – see page 1 and 3.

Community meeting

Cr Alan Hunter's motion to amend the DCP with flood-affected areas also includes holding a community meeting with residents in the north

Key points

- Councillors voted on Thursday to put a draft flood chapter of a planning instrument on exhibition.
- It does not include 2022 flood data.
- It is a chapter 2 redraft of 'Areas Affected by Flood' within a development control plan (DCP).
- DCPs are planning instruments that have little to no legal weight and are considered development guides, sometimes for specific locations. Local environmental plans (LEPs) and the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*, do hold legal significance.

of the Shire, to inform and discuss the draft chapter.

Both Crs Hunter and Asren Pugh were satisfied at the meeting that the DCP should go on exhibition as is. Cr Dey explained to councillors his reasoning for including 2022 flood data.

'Where a significant flood has occurred, flood studies require updating, but this has not happened. Flood data, such as reported flood heights should be taken

into account'.

'[Council watcher] Matthew Lambourne pointed out [in morning access] that if you go to a place that doesn't have a flood study, then you gather flood height data and you utilise that'.

'We have got flood studies, and in the case of the *North Byron Flood Study*, it's out of date, and can't be fixed. It has to be replaced, and could take five years to complete. What we should

do is recognise we just had a big flood, the biggest in living memory.

'We could utilise that information as an adjunct to the computer study'.

Earlier in the day, Lambourne addressed Council and objected to the staff recommendation that Council not take advice from its Floodplain Advisory Committee.

As a floodplain committee member, Lambourne reminded councillors that other councils provide up-to-date flood levels, so that residents can be informed around such hazards.

Meanwhile, the 'Report of the Floodplain Management Advisory Committee Meeting held on February 13, 2024' was deferred for adoption.

Strong objections

In the Council agenda (item 14.1) from April 18, staff emphasised their strong objections to the committee's recommendations, such as making 'Flood Certificate information publicly available for all properties covered by suitable floodplain plans'.

Northern NSW Local Health District

Tweed Hospital services are moving

8am, Tuesday 14 May 2024

Public hospital and emergency services are moving to Tweed Valley Hospital.

If you need emergency medical treatment **after 8am on 14 May** go to the Tweed Valley Hospital Emergency Department at **771 Cudgen Road, Cudgen**.

The Tweed Hospital, Powell Street, will close at 8am on Tuesday 14 May 2024.

Dial triple zero (000) for an ambulance if you require urgent medical assistance.





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

Flood insurance inquiry's North Coast hearings

A public hearing into insurers' responses to the 2022 flood was held in Lismore last Thursday, with one local insurance brokerage business owner describing the compact that exists between insurers and society as 'broken'.

The bridges of Ballina Council

Ballina Shire Council has started preliminary investigation works at Fishery Creek Bridge, on River Street, and Canal Bridge, on Tamarind Drive, as part of their plan to duplicate both bridges.

Wage peace not war

Northern Rivers Peace group, Remembering and Healing is inviting all community members to a peace gathering on the eve of ANZAC Day.

Rural roads need a path to recovery

The recent and continuing rains have turned many of our roads into a sodden mud puddle and NSW Farmers have renewed calls for real action on road infrastructure funding after continual damage on roads and bridges across the state.

REDinc's new Performing Arts Centre is go!

It's been a long wait, but two years on from the 2022 flood REDinc in Lismore have announced the official opening of a new Performing Arts Centre.

Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program announces 36 projects

Bridge expansions, upgraded pumps, enhanced evacuation routes and nature-based projects are just a few of the 36 projects being rolled out as part of the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program.

www.echo.net.au

A third village for the Alstonville Plateau?

David Lowe

A proposal to assess the viability of a third village on the Alstonville Plateau was discussed at Ballina Shire Council's last meeting.

Moved by Cr Phil Meehan with the support of Cr Rod Bruem, the idea was mooted to 'address the current housing crisis and future housing needs'. Cr Meehan noted that there had last been significant public consultation and planning of sites around the year 2000, although Ballina Council eventually decided not to move forward with the concept.

He said that population growth in the area since then, and the 2022 floods, meant that floodplain areas could no longer be

developed in the Northern Rivers, and other areas needed to be considered.

Cr Jeff Johnson said that it was misleading to suggest that the current housing crisis could be addressed by beginning investigations of a new village on the plateau, which would take at least five years to amount to anything. He suggested increasing density in certain areas was a better approach.

Council staff confirmed to elected councillors that there was enough existing land available for urban development to last 20-30 years, depending on density and population growth.

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

Ballina Greens announce ticket

Aiming to build on their two existing councillors, the Ballina Greens have announced their team of candidates for the upcoming Ballina Shire Council elections, set for 14 September this year.

Councillor Kiri Dicker (Ward B) and Councillor Simon Chate (Ward C) have both announced they will stand for re-election in their respective wards. Councillors Dicker and Chate are the first Ballina Shire councillors to announce their intentions for the upcoming election.

In Ward A, the Greens have announced business expert Erin Karsten as their candidate. Growing up on her family's dairy farm in

upstate New York, Erin went on to have a successful career as a business and sustainability specialist with a focus on renewable energy and corporate real estate. She now lives in Ballina with her partner.

The Greens have also announced small business owner and creative professional Alexander Sharkey as their supporting candidate in Ward B. Mr Sharkey is well-known among small businesses in the Ballina Shire and is keen to represent their needs and interests on Council.

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

WATER Northern Rivers says Rous County Council is wrong

WATER Northern Rivers Alliance says despite decades of objection, Rous County Council (RCC) have just commissioned yet another heritage and biodiversity study in the Rocky Creek Valley, between Dunoon and The Channon, in the heart of the Northern Rivers. However, this time, Rous's heritage study is specifically seeking to excavate the registered, ancient, and sacred Widjabul Wia-bal cemetery.

WATER Northern Rivers says that for the first time, landholders are now 'locking their gates' and not allowing Rous or their consultants (Everick & Ecosure) physical access to their properties.

Resident Jan Petroff is one of those refusing access. 'Considering there have already been extensive studies into the biodiversity and cultural heritage aspects, we regard this (the 2024 study) as a totally unnecessary waste of taxpayers' money and a great inconvenience to all concerned, as this has already been going on for close to 20 years now.'

Intrusion or destruction of sacred burial grounds completely unacceptable

'Widjabul Wia-bal elders have made it very clear that they regard any intrusion or destruction of their sacred burial grounds as completely unacceptable. My family and I respect this, and will not be



Jan Petroff is refusing Rous, or their consultants, access to her property. Photo supplied

willing to allow Rous Water access to our property now or in the future.'

A WATER Northern Rivers spokesperson said Rous's consultant, Everick Heritage, is known locally for their heritage reports at the centre of other controversial 'zombie developments' such as, the Evans Head Iron Gates and North Lismore Plateau residential developments.

WATER Northern Rivers also say that Rous's tender document (page 5) claims RCC received a request from Widjabul Wia-bal people to commission an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment for the proposed Dunoon Dam project area.

However, the following statement has been provided from the Widjabul Wia-bal Gurrumbil Aboriginal Corporation on behalf of Widjabul Wia-bal: 'Widjabul Wia-bal Gurrumbil Aboriginal Corporation, Registered Native Title Bodies Corporate (RNTBC), strongly oppose the Dunoon Dam project. Widjabul Wia-bal Gurrumbil Aboriginal

Corporation RNTBC do not support RCC engaging Everick Heritage to undertake a further Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey of the area.'

'If a further Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Survey is undertaken by RCC, this must be done in direct consultation with Widjabul Wia-bal Gurrumbil Aboriginal Corporation RNTBC and adopt all recommendations made by the RNTBC on behalf of Widjabul Wia-bal.'

Please explain

WATER Northern Rivers says that there is no support from Traditional Owners nor is there a social licence. 'We now challenge RCC to show our whole community just cause as to why they're prepared to waste more of our public funds on a dead-end pipe dream. We believe this is yet another shameful waste of public resources in a long liturgy of abusing cultural heritage.'

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

Invitation to get to know the real Nimbin

The MardiGrass Organising Body (MOB) say Nimbin's annual festival will kick-off with the launch of a very special audiovisual book on Friday 3 May, *Out There: a potted history of a revolution called Nimbin*.

'This is an exceptional effort by a very talented creative French couple who fell in love with Nimbin as I see it,' says Michael Balderstone, president of the MOB.

'They have spent years perfecting this book in an effort to catch Nimbin's unique culture, photographing and interviewing 39 locals so you can immerse yourself and experience a multi-sensorial journey through their eyes.

'Out There will be



Nimbin MardiGrass. Photo Jeff Dawson

launched in the Church of Aquarius at 2pm Friday, 3 May, with further happenings throughout the MardiGrass weekend in the Church at 90 Cullen Street, including a photography exhibition and audio installation.

This will feature material that would otherwise quite likely be lost. A unique and vibrant look at a counter culture emblem!

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



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Nicholas Shand
1948-1996
Founding Editor

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

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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Geologist warns groundwater resource is 'shrinking'

Hans Lovejoy

A new book about Australian groundwater, soil and water has been published by geologist Philip John Brown, and aims to inform the general population about the importance of one of our most valuable resources – groundwater.

Brown told *The Echo*, 'The general thrust of *Australian Hydrogeology* is to illustrate that in a human life cycle, water, particularly groundwater, is a nonrenewable resource.'

Groundwater contamination

'Groundwater resources are shrinking astronomically, and groundwater contamination is the biggest threat to current groundwater stores.'

The self-published book is presented in a coffee table format, with plenty of high quality photos and diagrams.

Brown says he would like the book to inform future generations.

'I am a "green geologist", or what is termed as an environmental geologist, with a view to saving our water', he said.

'For example, the oldest water in the Great Artesian Basin is two million years old, yet water usage and contamination give this resource a short life span.'

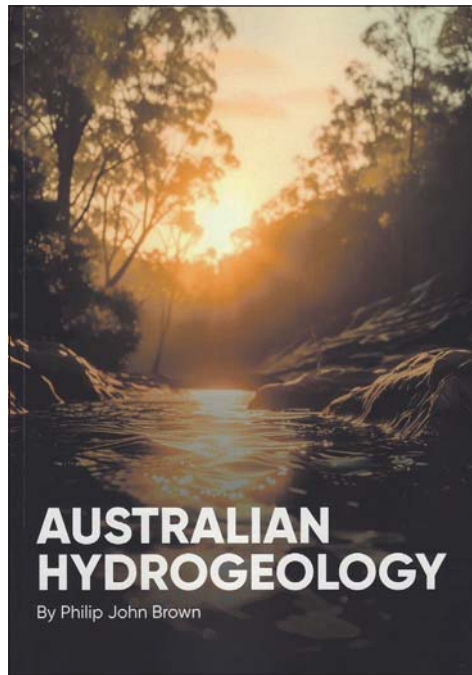
Chapters include reviews of the Snowy Hydro Scheme, Ord River Schemes, Rum Jungle Uranium copper project, Coal Seam Gas (CSG), climate change and salinity.

Brown says CSG is threatening the Great Artesian Basin. Another potential threat, he says, is the carbon storage proposal. 'I don't think carbon storage will work', he says.

'While the basin slowly recharges, it can't keep up with human use. We are heading towards what the US has now – open toxic pits of contaminated water and soil, and areas that are unable to be farmed. CSG also produces a lot of methane.'

Another issue that farmers already face, says Brown, is salinity.

'Once it reaches the surface, it ruins the



Front cover of *Australian Hydrogeology*.

land for agriculture, killing off the grass. This is likely to increase dramatically up to 2050 and beyond', he says, and is a result of 'mis-using groundwater and cropping techniques'.

And while 'huge swathes of Australia are affected', he says governments are not taking it seriously. 'Instead they appear to be accepting it'.

Salinity, land clearing

'Land clearing is also a major problem, given trees keep salt and the water table contained'.

Brown says he has connections to the Byron Shire as he attended Mullum primary and Mullum high school.

'I am the son of John and Frances Brown. John Brown worked for Mullum Municipality Council, and for a time with Byron Shire Council. He was the health and building surveyor for Mullumbimby.'

■ To get a copy of the book, email philjohnbrown@gmail.com.

Classroom shortages at Finbarr's

Hans Lovejoy

Parents and guardians of St Finbarr's Catholic Primary School are facing long delays in the installation of demountable buildings to ease classroom shortages.

And while the known flooding issues appear to have been addressed by the Director of Catholic Schools, Finbarr's Parent Committee told *The Echo* that it is unclear why there is a delay installing the demountable buildings.

The committee told *The Echo*, 'In 2024, with 13 classes and only ten classrooms, the library and school hall were being used as interim classrooms for years 3 and 6'.

'With significant recent rainfall, the library at St Finbarr's flooded, for the third time in the past four years, displacing 50 year 3 students, and leaving the school scrambling to accommodate all students.'

After a meeting with Adam Spencer, Director of Catholic Schools, and representatives from Catholic Schools Office (CSO) in December 2023, the committee says planning issues were delaying the demountables.

They told *The Echo*, 'The parent body and school have continued to press CSO to make the provision of demountables a priority. Students and teachers are bearing the brunt of this avoidable situations'.

In a statement provided to *The Echo*, Mr Spencer acknowledged the concerns raised regarding the delay in installing demountable classrooms and the storm-water problems affecting the school community.

Demountable delay

Mr Spencer said, 'Unfortunately, a variety of events including catastrophic floods in our region, the pandemic and a significant increase in building costs, meant that the original building program for St Finbarr's had to be postponed and reassessed, along with all DLCS capital works at the time'.

And while he says a hydraulic engineer has begun exploring design solutions to resolve the flooding issue, there were 'significant delays in getting the demountables onsite, owing to 'recent changes in the National Construction Code and the bushfire risk

associated with our school's location'.

The Echo has asked Mr Spencer what the timeframe was regarding the demountable buildings approvals, and other particulars, with regards to agencies that can be contacted for comment with National Construction Codes and bushfire risks.

The Echo asked, 'What is the particular issue with the code and the school's plans for demountables?'

'Also – has CSO lodged a Bush Fire Safety Authority application with RFS? If so, when is that expected to be approved?'

His office replied, 'Following our communication to the school community, we continue to work to ensure that all statutory requirements are met.'

'Our primary concern is for the ongoing safety of the school community.'

'For any further inquiry following this, please do not hesitate to contact our media team at media@lism.catholic.edu.au'.

■ The school's principal, Tim Bleakley, was contacted in regards to the story.

Emergency services on show April 27

Emergency services will be on show in Banner Park, on Saturday April 27 from 9am until 2pm.

The event had been postponed from April 6 owing to poor weather.

Council staff say Emergency Services Community Connect will offer the community a chance to come and meet local emergency response members and showcase some of the equipment used in an emergency.

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

'Come and get to know your local emergency services and ask any questions

you have about how they operate.'

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

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

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

Jonathan Wilcock from Marine Rescue is also encouraging people to come along for a chat.

'This is a great opportunity to come and meet the people who protect our community and see their

equipment in action. Come and grab a sausage and talk with volunteers and staff from a variety of response and recovery agencies.'

SES, police, ambos, RFS and Marine Rescue to attend

In attendance will be members of the local NSW SES, NSW Police, NSW Ambulance, NSW Rural Fire Service, Marine Rescue NSW and more.

Further information about the event is on Council's website.

This opportunity is supported by Byron Shire Council, and jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



Emergency Services Community Connect

Saturday 27 April 2024
9am until 2 pm

Banner Park
Brunswick Heads

Bring the family and come and meet your emergency response community at this free action-packed day.

Proudly funded by



Australian Government

More information

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



This opportunity is supported by Byron Shire Council, and jointly funded by the Australian and NSW Governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #47 • April 24, 2024

For King and Country

As the Edwardian period ended (1901–1914), the new era of WWI saw the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (Anzacs) land around Ari Burnu on the western side of the Gallipoli peninsula.

It was reported to be between 4.30am and 4.45am that 16,000 Australian troops landed on the shores of the Ottoman Empire on April 25, 1915.

They were part of an invading force in the Great War (1914–18), fighting on behalf of George V, King of the United Kingdom and the British Dominions, and Emperor of India.

The campaign aimed to ‘re-establish sea communications with Russia through the Black Sea and end the Ottoman Empire’s role in the war’ according to www.aph.gov.au.

At the time, Russia was weakened by the Germans, and asked the British and French for military assistance to defend potential attacks from the Turks.

Strategically, it appears that the Gallipoli campaign was not thought through by Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill.

Nearly eight months after the landing, troops were finally evacuated on December 20, 1915.

The death toll was staggering. According to www.nzhistory.govt.nz, there were ‘7,000 French, and nearly 115,000 British and dominion casualties’. ‘New Zealand suffered around 8,000 casualties, including 2,779 dead. Australia’s 28,000 casualties included more than 8,700 fatalities’.

Overall, around 60,000 Australians died in the Great War.

It’s said that Gallipoli was a turning point, because Australia began to assert its own identity and independence from the British Empire.

Former Labor PM, Paul Keating, famously refused to visit Gallipoli. He challenged the narrative that Australia’s nationhood ‘was baptised within the Anzac spirit of Gallipoli’.

SMH’s Tony Wright wrote in 2008, ‘This puts him at odds with former prime ministers Bob Hawke and John Howard, and former Labor leader, Kim Beazley, who have all made moving speeches at Anzac Day ceremonies at Gallipoli’.

We are told ‘Lest We Forget’.

According to anzacportal.dva.gov.au that means ‘to remember always the service and sacrifice of people who have served in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations’.

Perhaps we should also not forget that in those times, there was a strong commitment to follow orders from authority and governments, for good or bad. In modern times, would so many young Australian men wilfully put their lives at risk for war?

Hans Lovejoy, editor

‘Lot of people writes songs about wars and government. Very social things.

‘But I think about young guys, who were like I was when I was young. I had no more idea about any government, or political things, or anything.

‘And I think about those kind of young guys now. Who all of a sudden, somebody comes up.

‘And they are very law abiding. ‘So, if somebody says go, they don’t ask any questions, they just go.’

– Bill Withers, live recording of *I Can’t Write Left-Handed*.

Youth crime is increasing – what to do?

‘Children now love luxury – they have bad manners, contempt for authority, disrespect for elders and love chatter in place of exercise. They are tyrants, not the servants of their households’ – Socrates, 380BC.

There is something strange going on with youth crime in rural and regional Australia. Normally, I treat hysterical rising delinquency claims with a pinch of salt – explicable by an increase in police numbers, or a headline-chasing tabloid, or a right-wing politician.

Because while they talk of a youth crime wave, what they really so often mean is Aboriginal/Asian/African/Lebanese youth crime waves, and push every racist button available.

But my dive into actual crime statistics locally, and in Moree, Townsville and Alice Springs, shows a really disturbing picture.

Even allowing for over policing, target squads and hyperbole, there is a significant increase in home invasions, break and enters, car stealing and police pursuits, with young offenders the key protagonists.

Youth offender rate up

Nationally, the ‘youth offender rate’ also increased for the first time in 15 years. This is confirmed anecdotally by conversations with Legal Aid, Aboriginal Legal Service lawyers and magistrates around the country. Something is happening, and it is seriously bad.

Here in Byron Shire, we are not immune, with circumstantial and police commentary of an increase in serious youth crime in Ocean Shores and Suffolk Park in particular.

Lismore and Ballina have seen even greater increases, with some really serious and violent crimes committed by young people.

This begs two questions – what is causing this genuine crime wave, and what to do about it?

Maybe it is amphetamines. The ice scourge is becoming generational now. Cheaper than cannabis or alcohol, and chronically available because of policing priorities, it’s the ultimate escape – and risk inducer.

Perhaps it is because of the massive increase in the numbers of children in care in NSW and Qld?

Maybe it is a post-Covid



‘The prevalence of foetal alcohol syndrome in young offenders is incredibly disturbing’

David Heilpern

behavioural eruption. Possibly, it is complex trauma, where young people’s brain functioning is affected because they are dealing with the horrors of growing up around violence or abuse.

The prevalence of foetal alcohol syndrome in young offenders is incredibly disturbing, and owing to the expense and complexity of diagnosis, we are only just seeing the tip of that iceberg.

I know it is unfashionable to say so, but the level of pathological uncaring violence in video games worries me, and the effects on those with cognitive damage has not been studied.

Apparently, ‘post-boasting’ is a real thing, where those involved in crimes advertise their antics on pixelated social media in an effort to big-note themselves. I reckon the cost of living and housing crises must also be taking a particular toll.

Many young offenders are ensconced in permanent financial stress in households drenched in poverty, with the possibility of home ownership outside their wildest imaginations. Despair is rampant. There is no rosy future. Try renting a house as a young person.

I mentioned climate change anxiety (wondering if it was an issue) to a specialist youth lawyer colleague, and she laughed. Basically, I am off with the fairies and a middle-class wanker if I think that is even on their radar.

As to what works to curb the criminality, it is easier to start with what doesn’t.

I watched Jacinta Namatjira Price recently, and her answers were to remove more children from home, bring in the riot squad and military, lock them up for longer, and teach these little buggers some responsibility.

NSW and Qld have gone down the path of tightening bail for young people, which has led to an explosion of young people on remand.

They are innocent until proven guilty, and many are below the presumed age of criminal capacity, and for some alleged young offenders, an adult in the same situation would be subject to less stringent laws. In Qld, the detention centres are so full that imprisonment in police station watch-houses is the norm – these kids don’t receive any visits or schooling.

The Northern Territory government’s curfew for under 18s is problematic on so many levels.

Many young people are on the street because home is not safe.

And depriving a whole class of people of their liberty to be in public places is the ultimate in discrimination.

All of this is short-term political expediency at its worst. Criminalise, institutionalise and separate young people from their community. Long-term, this just kicks the problem down the road in the worst possible way.

What works?

What does work? The short answer is nothing quick. There are some great pilot programs starting up in Moree and the Koori Youth Court is showing promising results. In Alice Springs, ‘Breaking the Cycle’ and the Strong Grandmothers Group are on the right track. Ultimately, we need a sea-change in early intervention, support for families in crisis, more domestic violence programs, innovative health and education inclusion and First Nations-led programs within community. We also need real research into the causes of this crime wave. Why now? What’s happening?

The only bright side is that crime tends to come in surges, and we may well be at the peak of one now. In the meantime, buckle in for a while. Lock your doors, install sensor lighting, hide your car keys and get a dog.

■ David Heilpern is a former magistrate and is now Dean of Law at SCU.

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.

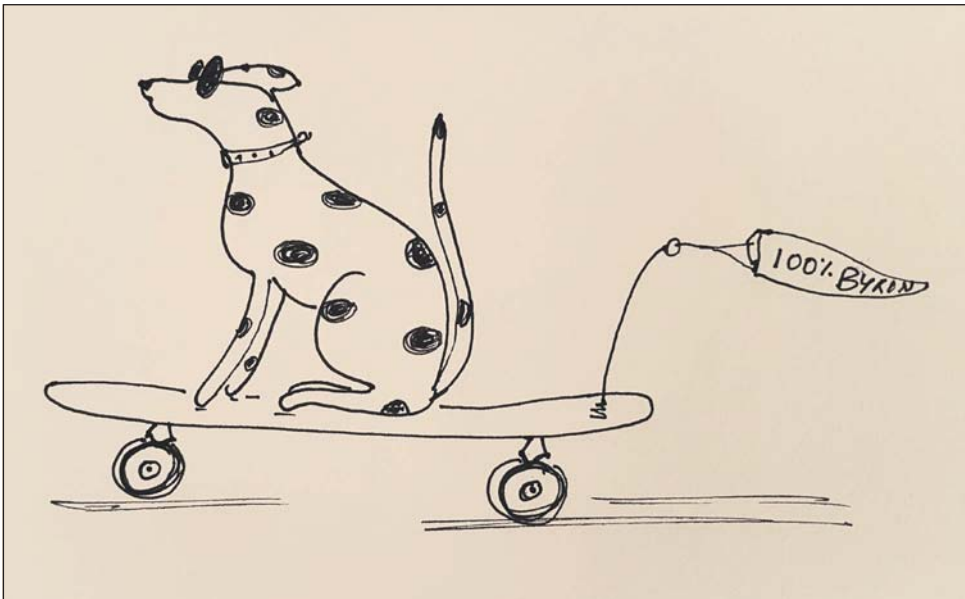
Emerging research shows that the impact of increasing compostable plastic content in compost (other than kitchen caddy liners that comply with Australian Standard AS 4736-2006) may impact its safe application to land. To be on the safe side, the EPA has changed green bin standards.

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).



Cartoon by Antoinette Ensbey

User-pays petrol

Isn't it about time that it's user-pays for petrol? Including the cost of carbon capture, and storage as rock (mineral carbonation). Try paying Climeworks to compensate for the fossil you burn.

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Cycling safety

Why are police turning a blind eye to cycling safety?

On Saturday night a young man came off his e-bike on Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay (see p4) and has since tragically passed away. I have watched in amazement as police absolutely refuse to do their jobs in regard to cycling safety in this town.

It is more common to see riders without helmets than it is to see someone wearing one, that goes for both children and adults alike. With e-bikes now more common we see riders on the roads going much faster than they should be, we have often driven alongside riders doing 50km/hr, I have anecdotal

knowledge of riders doing as much as 80km/hr on a modified bike. No helmet, no lights (even at night), on their phone, on the wrong side of the road, weaving in and out, texting away, and as many as three on one bike.

I have personally witnessed police completely ignore such dangerous cycling, overtake the rider, and continue on their merry way. I was stunned just a couple of weeks ago to see three girls under ten years old on a single e-bike on busy Ewingsdale Road at dusk, it is terrifying to observe. How can the police turn a blind eye? More than I, they would have first-hand knowledge of the impacts of severe head trauma and other injuries which can occur when something goes wrong.

As residents we have stopped into the station to discuss this with the local police, we have posted about it on all the social pages, we have contacted ministers, local members and the council, to no avail, we are treated like 'Henny

Penny's' for raising the issue and the deaths and injuries mount up. What will it take? If not this young man's life... who's? Are they waiting for the three little girls under ten to all be killed at peak hour in front of the police station before they act? I implore you, police, please do something about this issue before it gets to that point. Rest in peace to the beautiful young man who lost his life this week, and my heart goes out to his family and friends.

Kirsten Chambers
Federal

Dune regeneration

On all other coastal beaches where councils are working to prevent sand loss by growing their dunes, such signage reads DUNE REGENERATION AREA, not bush regeneration. Byron Shire Council are trying to grow a forest on the 100-year-old dunes between Main and Clarkes beaches. Rather than dune regeneration, which is the best natural protective measure against flooding and erosion, they are hell-bent on locking down our

dunes under trees, lawns, concrete pathways, streets, and buildings. It's completely counterproductive.

Obviously staff have never read the coastal management guides used by other authorities.

Here are just a few I quickly turned up:

'Stable dunes do not need to contain thick dense tall trees and shrubs if a good ground cover exists.' (*A Manual of Coastal Dune Management and Rehabilitation*, Department of Land and Water Conservation).

'...Low growing plants, such as grasses, are more effective at stabilising sand than trees or shrubs. This is because 90 per cent of windborne sand is transported in the 0.5m closest to the ground...' (*Tasmanian Coastal Works Manual*).

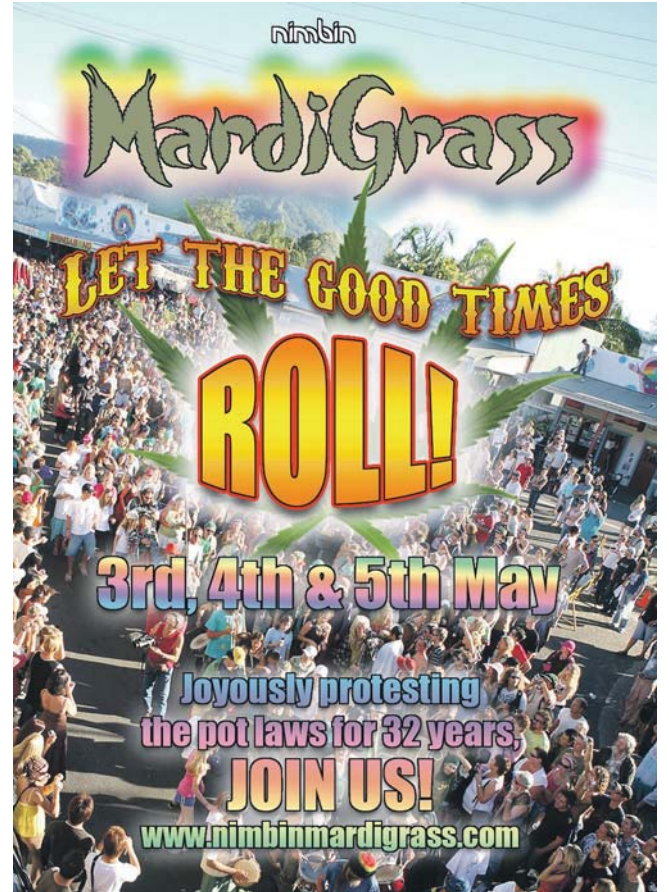
Misconception: A good cover of trees and grasses on the dunes will effectively prevent beach erosion.

Fact: A good cover of vegetation on the frontal dunes landward of a sandy beach traps the sand blown from the beach by the wind and causes the dune to grow and advance towards the sea.

'The roots of plants and trees have virtually no capacity to reduce the loss of sand from the beach caused by wave attack. The role of dune vegetation is restricted to building the frontal dunes and preventing sand loss from the beach system by wind erosion.' (*The Queensland government Environmental Protection Authority and the Beach Protection Authority Coastal Technical Series 2*).

Jan Hackett
Byron Bay

► More letters on page 11



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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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Families and children left struggling after government fails flood recovery commitments

Bella Clay

The recovery process following the February 2022 flood has been slow, and many people are still struggling to regain normality in their lives.

The flood has had a significant impact on the physical and mental health of many teenagers, like myself. Natural disasters can cause trauma in children, which may occur in various ways, and take varying lengths of time to overcome.

The flood went to knee height in the second storey of my house, this caused me and my family to be without a working house for three months. For those months, we lived at various friend's houses and my father's work, and we would return to our house every day to work on it. I am forever grateful for all of the help and support we received from our community during the flood.

Based on my experience, I have witnessed people being misled by promised projects and grants that



Bella, centre, with her parents cleaning up and rebuilding after the 2022 floods. Photo supplied

ended up being overlooked and downgraded. After the flood, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and then NSW Premier Dominic Perrottet announced a Resilient Homes project aimed at buying back, lifting, or repairing homes that have been damaged by floods. This project was initially promised \$1.5 billion, but the Labor Party cut it down to \$750 million. As a result,

there is only enough money to fund 1,100 buy-backs, and 400 house raisings or renovations; this is not enough to fix all the damaged houses. This has caused a lot of disadvantages for those who were relying on them, leading to an increased recovery time.

After two years since the 2022 flood, only 11 per cent of the 5,001 applications for the Resilient Homes project in Tweed, Byron, and Lismore

have been approved. This indicates that the project needs improvement, and applications should be approved faster. There is a need for more opportunities to help restore flood-affected homes, and actions should be taken to address the situation.

■ Bella Clay is doing work experience at *The Echo* and is from Lismore Trinity College.

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Creative
MULLUM

A fond farewell to Mungo's crosswords

David Lovejoy

This week we sadly publish the last of Mungo MacCallum's puzzles. Before he died in 2020 Mungo compiled a large archive of crosswords for *The Echo*. These were originally commissioned by the *Saturday Paper*, but Mungo obtained an agreement to gift them to his local newspaper.

Some of our newer readers may not be familiar with Mungo's connection with this area. In the '70s and '80s he was one of the leading members of the Canberra Press Gallery, but when the interior architecture of the new Parliament House revealed that lobbyists were to be given more access to politicians than journalists, he resigned from the Gallery,



Master wordsmith, Mungo MacCallum, in his element at the Byron Writers Festival. Photo Jeff Dawson

foreseeing the damage this would cause. In 1988 he moved with his wife Jenny to Ocean Shores.

Canberra's loss was our gain, and *The Echo* soon began publishing Mungo's

witty and humane views on politics in a weekly column that continued with unabated clarity for over 30 years. It was a tremendous boost for the young newspaper to have such a nationally respected contributor, and we were grateful for Mungo's willingness to help and advise.

The provision of over three years' worth of post-mortem crosswords was his final thoughtful contribution to *The Echo*. For more on Mungo's relationship with this paper, see www.echo.net.au/2020/12/vale-mungo-maccallum.

■ Mungo's final crossword is on page 22.

■ Next week we will introduce *The Echo's* new weekly crossword compiler.

Behind Paul Watson

The accusation of Paul Watson being 'a traitor to the cause' of marine conservation is possibly the most ludicrous and risible statement ever published in *The Echo*.

Having been alongside Paul for many years around the world at International Whaling Commissions, S4C campaigns and Sea Shepherd operations in the Mediterranean, the Faro Islands, Australia and Antarctica, I can only hope that all Australians will support Paul Watson's vision and determination to once again stand unequivocally against a likely invasion at the end of this year by Japan's whaling fleet (which includes a massive new factory ship) into the Southern Ocean Whale Sanctuary and Australian Antarctic territorial waters.

Surfers for Cetaceans remains in total solidarity with Paul Watson and his new navy. Please support his foundation.

Howie Cooke
South Golden Beach

Soapbox too 'extreme'

One minute Mandy Nolan blames Queenslanders, now she blames all men for her condition of fear (Soapbox: Shopping Centres Scare Me).

OMG, I know it's a Soapbox for her, and the copy was probably written in great haste to meet a deadline, but, really, she isn't safe anywhere? If that is the case, Mandy needs long-term, good therapy, to manage life's journey.

To write such an extreme article is a disservice to the non-violent agenda. Her Soapbox high point 'How can

anyone stab anyone - but a baby?' parrots everyone's legitimate initial horror of the incident but ignores the blatantly obvious issue of mental health, in this instance, [degenerating] to the point of utter derangement and complete loss of control. I really expected a better opinion piece from her.

Duncan Holmes
Byron Bay

Laugh or cry

Does no one laugh hysterically, sneer contemptuously, or cry inconsolably, when one is confronted by the following words of a reporter (Stephen Rice, Weekender, *Australian*, 6-7/4/24) 'the descent into farce may have reached its apex...?'

Charitably, one might just sigh resignedly, having recognised that some poor coot is struggling with a language that he does not really understand.

J Rose
Mullumbimby

Alice Springs kids

I don't know why these kids are doing what they are doing in Alice Springs. What pissed me off was hearing the federal member Jacinta Price saying 'send in the riot squad'. Yes, typical Liberal party reaction to this type of problem, or hers. What is the problem? Probably bored teens with no jobs and no prospects. I can only presume that's the case?

Sending in the riot squad will only escalate the problems and politicians making stupid remarks like Price doesn't help either. She doesn't represent her

community only the Liberal party, which is no representation at all.

Paul Brecht
MacLean

Beacon's bright spark

The wonderful new laundry opening in Bangalow is a good news story of hope and employment - that was 'opened' by our prime minister and our invisible federal member who never usually ventures beyond the Tweed.

Perhaps there is an election looming? The commercial laundry was an inspired creation and the local community could do with a little more imaginative problem-solving support from our federal and state representatives.

Carole Gamble
Mullumbimby

PM - deserves praise

While not a usual Labor voter, I take issue with *The Echo's* front page report on the prime minister opening the Beacon laundry in Bangalow last week.

The Echo used a negative slant about the visit, calling it 'the Anthony Albanese show' and describing 'a carefully curated event' in which the PM was 'whisked through the facility'.

Unlike his predecessor, Mr Albanese has frequented our region many times. During the floods, when he was opposition leader, and post floods as PM he's visited Murwillumbah, Tweed Heads, Ballina and Lismore to name a few.

Rather than whisk through, he met people on the ground and seemed very gracious, personable and

► Continued on page 12



PROGRAMME

5:30am - DAWN SERVICE

6am - \$5 BREAKFAST

10.30am - ANZAC MARCH

10.55am - ANZAC DAY SERVICE

11.30am - BALLINA RSL LUNCH

2pm - BROWNIE'S TWO-UP



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New insights into great white shark behaviour off California coast

Cosmos Magazine

Marine scientists using tracking devices have been able to shine a spotlight on the behaviour of great white sharks (*Carcharodon carcharias*) with the publication of two new studies this week.

Australian-led research in the journal *Ecosphere* revealed that great whites along the US California coast adapt their routines to suit the specific habitat they are hunting in. The finding highlights the importance of a shark's location when considering how or why it may be behaving in a certain way.

Between 2017 and 2021, researchers fitted 21 great white sharks with motion-sensitive biologging tags that measured swimming depths and

body movements for up to six days at a time. The sharks ranged from small juveniles to large adults and were tagged in four contrasting environments: two offshore islands, a coastal headland, and an inshore cove.

'We found the greatest differences in movements were from sharks from different areas, while the size of the shark and time of day were also important,' says marine scientist and spatial ecologist Oliver Jewell of the University of Western Australia, who led the research as a PhD student at Murdoch University.

They found that sharks at all sites were generally more active during the day, swimming up and down the water column and in 'tortuous' paths – moving back and forth in a non-linear path. This suggests they were searching for prey.

However, sharks showed more active behaviour at both dawn and dusk in places where they were thought to feed on fish rather than marine mammals.

'This means the sharks are adapting their movements and routines to suit their local environment, rather than behaving the same way everywhere they're found,' says Jewell.

A separate study in *Frontiers in Marine Science* has found that juvenile great whites gather in nurseries in warm, shallow waters up to 1 kilometre from the shore in California.

In 2020 and 2021, researchers tagged 22 pups aged from 1 to 6 years old with sensor-transmitters that measured their position and local water pressure and temperature.

The baby great whites, which

don't receive any maternal care after birth, were found to congregate without adults in nearshore waters up to 10 meters deep.

Author Emily Spurgeon, a researcher in the Shark Lab at California State University, says: 'We showed that juveniles directly altered their vertical position in the water column to stay between 16 and 22°C, and if possible between 20 and 22°C.'

'This may be their optimum to maximise growth efficiency within the nursery.'

The findings will inform great white shark conservation efforts and help avoid unwanted encounters with swimmers. South Australian great white expert Professor Charlie Huvener, who wasn't involved in the research, says the tagging and

data collection represents excellent science.

'Advances in technology now enables scientists to delve into the fine-scale movement patterns, behaviours, and habitat selection of sharks in more detail than ever before,' Huvener told *Cosmos*.

'These two papers are outstanding examples of studies using tags that incorporates 3D-accelerometers and/or temperature/depth sensors to go beyond where and when white sharks are, towards better understanding of why and how white sharks use these areas.'

'Similar tags are being used in New South Wales and South Australia and have provided us with new insights in white shark activity and predatory behaviour at key Australian aggregation sites.'

► **Continued from page 11** genuine. Indeed, when meeting the kids at Murwillumbah East Public School he joked around and displayed something rare in a modern leader, self-deprecating humour.

One shopkeeper in Murwillumbah even joked that Albo has spent more time in the town than any leader since Doug Anthony (who lived there).

Whatever you think of his politics, let's not slander our PM with disingenuous

reporting designed to make him appear phoney. If he's here showing an interest in our region and making some positive changes, such as the Beacon laundry, please give him some credit when credit is due.

We're not asking for *The Echo* to endorse his policies (I disagree with him on some issues too), just for some fair reporting, free of political bias.

Simon Alderton
Murwillumbah

Israel – Gaza

John Scrivener claims that *The Echo* 'refrains from any mention of the momentous developments regarding Palestine over the past few months'.

Sadly, we all know that *The Echo* has had plenty of these letters, and a large percentage were against Israel with many statements that lack truth.

Regardless of this, people on both sides are suffering greatly, especially the Palestinian civilians. Now Iran who

because of the ongoing attacks against Palestine launched a huge multi-pronged attack on Israel directly from its territory trying to initiate a regional war, since its ongoing attacks on Israel from Lebanon and other countries have not succeeded. This is the only reason the Iranian military high command is in Syria and Lebanon in the first place and was the only reason they were targeted by Israel in Syria.

Luckily Israel, along with Saudi Arabia, Jordan, the US,

UK and France fought off the attack and succeeded.

A huge percentage of Iranians are peace loving and are against their violent extreme Islamist government and actually don't want a war against Israel.

I look forward to the day that there are no letters in *The Echo* about the region from me or anyone else, unless they are about examples of coexistence since Palestinians and Israelis have more in common as people

than not. John, I respectfully invite you to look for these qualities in both people. Peace is the only solution.

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

Splendour Estate

Unfortunately, no more, but all is not lost! They own the land, and Byron Shire is crying out for houses. Splendour Estate sounds good. A hundred plus homes for sale.

Andrew Hunter
Bangalow



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Some spending cannot be questioned – Lest we forget

David Lowe

The euphemisms were flying when Australia's Defence Minister Richard Marles announced last week that an extra \$50 billion would be spent on our military over the next decade, and that \$72.8 billion of already announced spending would be redirected.

It's one year since the Albanese government released its *Defence Strategic Review*, which Mr Marles described as an attempt to go back to fundamentals and respond strategically to 'the prospect of major conflict in the region that directly threatens our national interest', while never explaining what that meant, exactly.

Now we have the political response, attached to dollar figures. If previous defence spending blowouts are anything to go by, this represents a fraction of the actual price to be paid by future taxpayers.

In practice, Richard Marles' concept of a more 'focused' defence force appears to mean keeping the bulk of our human-based forces close to Australia, while 'projecting' our technological weaponry (cyber, drones, submarines and now also missiles) beyond the country, with a view to defending shipping lanes, and the interests of our primary

military partner, the United States of America, if not those of our primary trading partner, China.

Strategy of denial

Once upon a time, there were Ministries of War, and projecting was called attacking, but we live in more delicate/hypocritical times. As Deputy Prime Minister Marles continued in his address to the National Press Club. He spoke about a 'strategy of denial', which seems to be about scaring our neighbours off from approaching our northern borders, instead of the traditional Australian approach of having our military mostly based in the more comfortable south.

He said part of this plan was to 'look at ways in which we can recruit from among certain non-Australian citizens to serve in the ADF', with the sector currently unable to compete with other industries to get the required number of people in uniform. Gurkhas, anyone?

Ignoring the many clouds hanging over the AUKUS concept (another \$368 billion), Mr Marles spoke confidently about nuclear submarines rolling off the production line and into the Australian Navy in the early 2040s, saying 'this platform will give an adversary pause for thought and hold their



Deputy PM, Member for Corio and Minister for Defence, Richard Marles. Photo Aust government

assets at risk further from our shores.' (China already has at least six nuclear submarines, along with 50 other subs).

Richard Marles went on to speak about ordering new frigates, long range naval missiles, and 42 high mobility artillery rocket systems for the army, extending their tactical range from 30 km to beyond 500 km. The RAAF won't be left out in the new toys department, gaining longer range and higher tech missiles, with Australia also set to build its own guided weapons, in conjunction with major arms manufacturers such as Lockheed Martin.

Under Minister Marles' vision, the Australian Army is set to

become a much more amphibious force, with air and sea-based drone technology to also be prioritised. All in all, he said that this would be 'the largest sustained growth in the defence budget since the Second World War'.

With the rest of his speech given over to attacking the Liberals' record on defence, their response was also predictable; too much military spending is never enough.

Who or what is the enemy?

One page in the 2023 *Defense Strategic Review* discussed climate change, but the likelihood of massed movements of poor, desperate, dispossessed people from the global Equator to the north and south as the situation worsens doesn't seem to rank highly in Labor's concerns, even as their fossil fuel policies continue to make this situation more likely.

Here in Australia, the most obvious role for the military going forward is to assist with fires, floods and other 'natural' disasters. No amount of long range missiles will help there.

In spite of the patriotic language of Minister Marles, it's been noted that many of the things on his shopping list will benefit our allies

and their needs more obviously than ours, with much Australian wealth flowing overseas in the short term and the defence benefits to be seen only in the distant future, if at all.

Unfortunately, the massive cost overruns of large defence projects don't just happen under Liberal governments, but seem to always accompany major military procurements and changes of direction.

Another consistency is the revolving door between government and multinational military hardware companies, with the latest announcement from Minister Marles no doubt welcomed by the many former politicians from both major parties who now occupy well-paid private roles in the military industrial complex, including Scott Morrison, Christopher Pyne, Joel Fitzgibbon and Brendan Nelson.

Yes, Australia does need a military, but it's hard not to be cynical about the timing of this announcement, in the leadup to Anzac Day. At this time of year, even more than usual, peace doesn't stand a chance. Increased defence spending cannot be questioned.

David Lowe can be found in *The Echo* online every Monday at: www.echo.net.au.



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Access all areas – unless you are a person with disability

Megan Louis

Almost a quarter of the Northern Rivers can't access the places most people take for granted, like our beaches, parks, and public toilets. That's a significant chunk of the population; which is why Living Lab Northern Rivers brought research and local knowledge together in their recent talk 'A Home for Every-Body'. It focused on how design impacts people's independence and ability to participate in the community, which should be a growing concern with 24.8 per cent of people in the Northern Rivers living with disability, a whopping seven per cent above the Australian average.

On the panel to discuss inclusive design and community-led research was: Phillippa Carnemolla, a leading researcher of inclusive environments; Zac Misfud, a performer, dancer and musician, whose projects include My Radio Heart, a theatre show with a mixed-ability ensemble; and, Cath and Andy Graeme-Cook, a local couple who contribute to various committees like the Byron Council Access Consultative Working Group, informed by Andy's experience living with multiple sclerosis.

What does accessibility mean?

A vibrant community is a diverse one. And a diverse community is one where everyone gets to fully participate.

Without accessibility, people's basic human rights aren't realised, because they're unseen. This means everyone misses out on the rich contribution of the elderly and people with disability, which is what's happening right now with one in four residents of the Northern Rivers currently impacted.

But what does good design and accessibility mean? A ramp over a gutter? Or a handrail in the bathroom? Well, that depends on who you ask, because you'll get radically different answers from an architect, urban planner, and someone with lived experience.

Take a public toilet for example. Not a space anyone really wants to access, even the ones designated 'accessible' are often a complete horror show for people using a wheelchair, which is why Phillippa Carnemolla started a highly focused study at UTS recently.

'We were really interested in speaking with people who use wheelchairs about how public bathrooms are actually used,' says Phillippa. 'And it was really



The UTS My Home My Community team (l-r) Aine Healy, Jack Kelly, Phillippa Carnemolla & Catherine Donnelley. The team worked together in 2018-2020 on the NDIA-funded project to guide local governments as agents of inclusion in local communities. Photo supplied

striking what we found. I learnt that the toilet seat, for many people who transfer from a wheelchair, becomes a handrail. And people are viscerally close to the bowl during that process. This means people need to find a good clean toilet, so maintenance became one of the critical aspects of accessibility.'

The value of lived experience

This gap between design and reality is something that Andy Graeme-Cook has been dealing with in the Northern Rivers for the past 22 years, while living with multiple sclerosis and using a wheelchair.

'Inclusive design is done by clever people with great intentions,' he says. 'But often not by people with lived experience. A classic example is the hospital in Lismore. Everyone has these clever devices, like a vehicle hoist to get them out of their van, but try putting them down on a street that's sloping 45 degrees. Everything goes wrong. Gutters is another. They're nice in parts of town, and I can get up some, but it's often a perilous journey. I came out of my chair once and that was a horrific experience.'

Supporting Andy on his journey, from using sticks to walkers to a wheelchair, Cath always managed to find humour in the early stages of Andy's disability journey.

'I remember this local employment agency that was for disability, and it had stairs out the front,' says Cath. 'We just thought that was the funniest thing. We used to laugh about it, but now we

realise it's everywhere and people just walk past these issues all the time.'

Home modifications

Then there's housing. Just when you thought the news couldn't get worse for the Northern Rivers, it turns out 'affordable' housing typically means narrower and less accessible, so a guy like Andy literally couldn't even get in the front door. It's an easy fix, and some developers and councils are making progress, but too often these design decisions are being made without the right people's input.

'I did my PhD in home modifications, and started doing some advisory work with councils,' says Phillippa. 'Then I became really interested in who's not in the room on these committees. Often, they rely on people being able to volunteer and turn up in a council setting.'

Joining the dots

'It's shocking accessibility isn't a bigger issue because it's something that impacts older people too, so it's coming for everyone. It's not enough to have an accessible home or shopping centre,' says Phillippa. 'It's critical our streets and all the connection points are well designed too. It's about understanding diversity within the full breadth of the community and most critically it's about designing with community.'

■ Living Lab Northern Rivers is a project bringing research and local knowledge together to create solutions for our region to thrive. A recording of 'A Home for Every-body' is available at www.llnr.com.au.

MULLUM2BRUNSPADDE

SUNDAY 26 MAY 2024

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Wallum – what are the options moving forward?

A negotiated outcome?

It was refreshing to hear at the most recent Byron Council meeting that members of the Save Wallum group have reached out to Clarence Property, the developer at Wallum, to engage in discussions about the potential of a negotiated outcome.

The Mayor, Councillor Coorey and I had some productive conversations with Clarence Property over a number of weeks. The culmination of these discussions were released as soon as possible, in fact within about eight hours of revised draft plans being finalised, and put out into the public realm for discussion.

It was a shame that *The Echo* decided not to publish a map of the alternative plan. If adopted, it would protect the most significant scribbly gums in the north east part of the site and more important wallum froglet habitat. I understand those that want to exclusively pursue an all or nothing approach. The danger is that this approach could leave us with nothing.

In my view, it's always worth having discussions to see if common ground can be reached. If either side walks away, then nothing has been lost, but at least an attempt has been made.

Cr Asren Pugh
Bangalow

More coming

Regarding Clarence Property bringing in Newcastle and Sydney police to expel protesters from the blockade of Bashforth heavy machinery in Torakina Road, Bayside Brunswick Heads.

The police had punched one protester in the nose and arrested at least 18 protesters. If, as witnesses on the sidelines said, security guards were manhandling protesters, my understanding of law is that this was not lawful.

I just escaped being hammered with a wire fence again by security guards although one lady who hadn't been able to get out of the way had her back injured. I do believe the police informed the security that they needed to stop especially as we were directed by police to be where we were.

The machinery rolled on as police pushed back protesters. The machinery was in and protesters had to move in too, they had no choice they were there to save Wallum and eventually they did. The protesters, about six of them, managed to chain themselves to machinery and the police made the call – orders given for the machinery to pull out and orders given for the protesters to get out. All preparation for the next stand-off. It is now becoming very

apparent that fill is to be used on site. The Yamba fiasco of two metres of fill up to existing property boundaries is beyond belief, how these sorts of developments on floodplains and in these areas of diminishing habitats is allowed via zombie DAs is beyond belief. I believe there will definitely be more protesters again for the next round. Take care all you wildlife warriors and hopefully our state government will finally make good their promises.

Annie Radermacher
Brunswick Heads

Wallum – Council

As global communities face the realities addressing climate change and species extinction, it is axiomatic that citizens witnessing massive extinctions, floods, fires, displacement, and traumas will resort to articulating truth to power.

Advocating ongoing non-violent direct action to all supporters shows integrity and wisdom and the Wallum campaign has also made itself available to negotiating with the developer and Byron Council. That said, during this process it is very disappointing that the protesters have had to deal with arrests and a muscular police presence.

All the more alarming is the fact that the Byron Councillors utilised the decisions of the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) decision to justify draconian actions against peaceful Wallum protesters.

There remain outstanding questions surrounding the NRPP panel's decision to develop Wallum. The previous Green mayor, [Simon Richardson] immediately joined the NRPP upon retiring from Council, and was supported by Byron Council to join the NRPP. One questions the decision of the previous mayor in advocating the development of Wallum?

During this period a distinct sociological change occurred in the Byron region.

The Greens advocate for grass-roots democracy and the rights of nature. Yet, from the moment the NRPP spoke in favour of the Wallum development the Byron Shire underwent a structural/social authoritarian change.

Wallum holds significance to First Nations people, is rich in biodiversity and threatened species and is on a floodplain!

How could such a decision, to develop same, not have long-term consequences?

Did the previous mayor actually visit Wallum? If not, on what basis did he base his decision to

authorise development on Wallum?

If the mayor DID visit Wallum, can the public be treated with respect in this case and actually view his report? It must exist, given the Councillors uphold its dictates.

Whilst this current DA is viewed as a zombie DA (approx. 2013) there exist large doubts within same concerning existing water management. This factor did not please the current Mayor Lyon when the subject was raised at the recent Byron Council meeting.

Every piece of evidence and research, historical and present, is vital to this case, as it sets a precedent to the onslaught of current development contradictions – namely developers' bulldozers destroying floodplain habitats for uninsurable housing.

Too many contradictions exist and muscular authoritarianism, whilst supporting developers' dictates, will continue to create dangerous social /community consequences. Best to come to the community table with a healthy discourse of caring, compassion, truth, vision, respect and democracy.

Climate surprises will abound – be prepared.

Jo Faith
Newtown



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Wallum at Brunswick Heads – the site of Australia’s rarest butterfly

Gary Opit & Carmel Daoud

The world’s rarest butterfly, the Australian laced fritillary, has its last known habitat at Wallum at Brunswick Heads.

Here is a challenge for all of those wonderful people who have been photographing the delightful animals and plants that make up the ecology of Byron Shire’s last wetland wildflower plain at Wallum in Brunswick Heads. This may be the last intact habitat of the world’s rarest butterfly, the critically endangered Australian fritillary (*Argynnis hyperbius inconstans*), a particularly beautiful species with a 6cm wingspan.

If you can photograph it or its caterpillar you will make history. Professor Don Sands, OAM, world-renowned entomologist, of the CSIRO and the School of the Environment, the University of Queensland and Kath Vail after years of searching, found the butterfly in its last refuge in the Billinudgel Nature Reserve before a major bushfire, after which it was never again seen, and the last sighting was at Wallum in 2015.

Its only habitat were the gorgeous moist wildflower plains that covered much of the coastal regions of south-east Queensland and north-east New South Wales and this butterfly was common when I was identifying the fauna

and flora as a teenager in the 1960s explained Gary.

All of the moist wildflower plains were bulldozed into extinction for housing estates and drained for farming. Now the very last surviving remnant and its beautiful butterfly have been approved for extermination at Wallum by local and state governments.

The female fritillary butterfly lays her eggs on the native purple arrowhead violet (*Viola betonicifolia*), which is a small perennial herb. The black caterpillar with an orange stripe down its back and lines of soft protective orange tubercules feeds exclusively on the violet. The leaves of the violet are up to 6cm long and 2.5cm wide and have a very distinctive arrowhead shape.

The violet favours moist swampy areas beneath taller ground plants.

The violet also grows in drier habitats, though these have been so badly disturbed that introduced weeds have now out-competed the purple violet and it can only be found where the habitat is still dominated by native plant species. Which is why the Wallum site is the very last locality of this stunningly beautiful butterfly, which if seen, will never be forgotten. They fly in sunny weather, usually low to the ground in open areas near patches of violets in all months of the year.

Featured in an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* on April 27,



Australia’s rarest butterfly the Australian laced fritillary butterfly. Photo Garry Sankowsky

2021, Miki Perkins described it. ‘The Australian fritillary looks as ornate as it sounds: a striking black and orange butterfly with a delicate lacework of olive and pink on the undersides of its wings... it holds the unenviable title of the “most imperilled” butterfly in Australia.’

The NSW government listed it as an endangered species, is desperate to find it and at their site at www.environment.nsw.gov.au the following statements can be read. ‘The few remaining extant populations are threatened by weed invasion which displaces the host plant as well as by swamp drainage and coastal development. (Dunnet et al., 1994; Sands, 1999; Braby 2000). In view of the above the Scientific Committee is of the opinion that *Argyreus hyperbius* (Linnaeus, 1763) is likely to become extinct in nature in New South Wales unless the circumstances and factors threatening its survival or

evolutionary development cease to operate. If you see an Australian fritillary make careful observations and try to photograph it. Note details of the exact location, take pictures of the site and immediately contact the Office of Environment and Heritage.’

It is also listed under the NSW government’s Saving our Species program and the Office of Environment and Heritage, and the Lepidoptera Conservation Group of North East NSW are trying to locate this butterfly.

The Australian government’s National Environmental Science Program’s Threatened Species Recovery Hub part of the Australian government’s national environmental science program coordinated a study, ‘Butterflies on the Brink’ published in *Austral Entomology*. This identified the top 26 Australian butterfly species at greatest risk of extinction and the Australian fritillary butterfly tops the list. An ABC News article posted on 4 May 2021 at www.abc.net.au/news quoted Dr Lambkin as follows, ‘The Australian fritillary habitat has been disrupted incredibly.’

The entomologists state that the major problem facing the Australian fritillary, and many other butterflies, is habitat loss. As swamps have been drained for farming and urbanisation, weeds have smothered the native violets the butterfly lays its eggs on.

Professor Michael Braby from the Australian National University is quoted as stating, ‘It is vital that we value and conserve Australia’s invertebrate biodiversity – our ecosystems and ultimately our survival may depend on it.’

‘Every species is important, and every species has an ecological function. You can take a few out but if you take too many out the whole system will just collapse,’ Dr Braby said.

Keep your eye out and try to photograph another three critically endangered butterfly species, the last of which may be on the wing sipping nectar from the rare flowers of the last remnant at Wallum. These include the stunning bullock jewel, the pale imperial hairstreak, and the mangrove ant-blue. The latter was also last recorded adjacent the Wallum site in the sanctuary zone of the Byron Marine Park’s Simpsons Creek, where developers propose to discharge their stormwater, pouring acid sulphates, herbicides, pesticides and other carcinogenic toxins into Brunswick Heads’ pristine waters.

The way things are going, Byron Shire residents will always be known as being so uncaring that they allowed the world’s rarest, and one of the most beautiful, butterflies to be exterminated for yet more profit for the rich and powerful.

making SPACES

Eden at Byron

It’s time to plant!

If you haven’t started planting the cool season kitchen garden, now’s the time. The soil is moist, just add plenty of locally-made organic Living Farm Compost, and start planting.

All the brassicas (cabbage, broccoli, broccolini, kale, cauliflower) can go in now, as well as lettuce, dill, rocket, coriander, shallots, silverbeet, spinach and tomatoes. Asian greens are super quick – you can start picking within a few weeks.

Peas, snow peas and broad beans are a winter treat. The climbing varieties will give you a greater yield, but there are dwarf ones too.

Plant successive crops, a few weeks apart, to extend your harvesting season. Watch out for pests, and use controls that are safe for beneficial bugs and humans.

140 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay
www.edenatbyron.com.au
66856874



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Unlike Unblock Pipe Clearing, many plumbers don’t have the latest technology, equipment or experience that comes with specialising in clearing blocked pipes and drains, but for Unblock Pipe Clearing. ‘It is what they do, all day every day.’

The equipment allows them to accurately locate, identify and fix the issue correctly the first time. They don’t just fix the issue, they will give you a warranty on most jobs!

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Phone James on:
0429 888 683



Mark Tuckey

Mark Tuckey started his business in a garage in Armadale, Melbourne in 1990 with an old blue Ford F100, \$200, some knowledge and lots of passion to work with his head, his hands and his heart.

He started making tables and restoring bits and pieces he picked up from auctions and council tip outs. The business quickly grew to four shops, 50 staff and a 3000 sq metre workshop.

The products have always been timeless and high quality. The ethos was to make things he wanted to put in his own home.

Mark is currently selling some of his personal collection in a pop up showroom in Newrybar, behind the Newrybar Merchants.

Open daily until May 26.

Custom orders are available from the Melbourne showroom.

byronbay@marktuckey.com.au
0418 997 978



Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BYRON BAY



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

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.



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.



Bonito Byron Bay

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Ground Floor, Hotel Marvell
4 Marvell Street, Byron Bay

Breakfast Daily 8am – 12pm
Laneway light lunch Daily 12pm – 5pm
Dinner Tuesday – Saturday From 5pm
Book hotelmarvell.com.au/restaurant
Call 6685 7385 | @bonitobyronbay

Enjoy breakfast, coffee or light lunch in our casual dog-friendly laneway or treat yourself to a comfortable elegant seafood dinner experience.



Horizon Rooftop

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 DAYS
Horizon Rooftop, Hotel Marvell
4 Marvell Street, Byron Bay

Open Daily | 12pm – 9pm
NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED
Call: 6685 7385
@horizonbyronbay

**Welcome to Horizon,
Byron's newest rooftop bar.**

Enjoy hinterland views, stunning sunsets and signature cocktails showcasing local distilleries and breweries.



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.

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

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CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com

0414 895 441

**CELEBRATIONS
BY LIZ JACKSON**

GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR.



Foodie road-trip paradise: Harvest Food Trail

Calling all food and farm enthusiasts, the iconic Harvest Food Trail is happening soon, over four days from May 2–5. It's your chance to embark on a delicious self-drive adventure through the heart of the Northern Rivers.

Imagine winding down scenic country roads, stopping by charming farms, restaurants, and cellar doors – a true foodie's dream come true! Now in its eighth year, the Harvest Food Trail offers a unique glimpse into the soul of the region's vibrant food scene.

What awaits you?

Go behind the scenes: explore the paddocks, kitchens, and production areas of some of the Northern Rivers' finest food and beverage producers. Meet the passionate faces behind Tweed River House, Duck Creek Macadamias, Five Sixty Farms, Nimbin Valley Dairy, Zentveld's Coffee, The Spotted Pig, Cape Byron Distillery, Marquis Macadamias, Sunshine Sugar, Elements of Byron and North Byron Hotel.

Meet the passionate faces: chat with local farmers, learn about their deep connection to the land, and sample their fresh, high-quality produce.

Discover hidden gems: get acquainted with a new generation of distillers crafting award-winning spirits using local ingredients, like Winding Road Distilling and Cape Byron Distillery.

Connect with culinary masters: join tours of inspiring kitchen gardens led by renowned restaurateurs, and savour dishes made with the region's bounty, like those at Potager at Carool.

Fuel Your foodie journey: no road trip is complete without delicious pit stops. Throughout the weekend, participating restaurants and cafes will offer special Harvest Food Trail menus, showcasing the region's seasonal produce.

Harvest Hub: nestled at the Bangalow Bowlo on Saturday May 4, the Twomey Dispute Lawyers Harvest Hub is a vibrant marketplace bursting with local producers eager to share their stories and products. Here you'll meet and get to taste and buy from a diverse range – such as distillers and salumi makers, native bee honey producers and non-alcoholic beer brewers.

'The Harvest Hub is a fantastic opportunity to connect directly with the people who are shaping the Northern Rivers food scene,' says Lucy Ashley, Harvest Food Trail Manager. 'It's a chance to discover new favourites, stock your pantry with local goods, and learn about the passion that goes into every bite.'

Plan your adventure: The Harvest Food Trail offers a mix of free-to-visit locations and ticketed events that tend to sell out fast. To explore the interactive map, plan your route, and discover all the participating venues, visit <https://www.northernriversfood.org/harvest-food-trail/>.

The Good Life

Sweet and sour doughnuts

Victoria Cosford

'It's probably a good thing I don't have a sweet tooth,' says Megan.

I've called in at the pop-up shop/bakehouse at Mullumbimby Industry Estate where for the last six years Megan Hunter has been baking, refining and perfecting her sourdough doughnuts. Due to all the recent rain, the market where she has a regular stall has been cancelled, so here she is, where the magic all happens, a welcoming smile behind the display of puffy doughnuts. Despite the moody dampness of the morning, there's been regular drop-ins by customers, mostly known to Megan, who after agonising decision-making, bear away boxes of 'mixed'.

Originally from Christchurch, Megan arrived in Australia 29 years ago. 'My father was here,' she tells me, 'and I needed a change.' At a certain point she started looking around for a job. 'I knew I wanted to work for myself,' she tells me. Her parents managed hotels and she herself had always worked in hospitality, though not in food. When inspiration struck, via online research, she launched into the business of making sourdough doughnuts. 'I figured it all out on my own,' she says.

It required months to perfect. With daughter Rania alongside, it took 'six months to learn how to roll them with two hands.'

It's a huge achievement; these doughnuts with their faintly fermented dough



Megan with a tray of her amazing sourdough doughnuts

are gloriously light, and that could be enough – except that Megan's fillings lift them to luscious heights. There are her staples, raspberry, lemon curd and the brown sugar custard-filled constants, but she's always working on new combinations. Today there's dulce de leche, the Latin American-inspired caramel that's become popular this past decade ('it's insane!' says Megan, 'the brown sugar and milk caramelise...') Over Easter there were the hot cross ones; in winter she'll

produce her apple pie version and at present she's working on a crème brulee.

The lemon curd has native lemon myrtle and finger lime pearls; there's a hint of rose in the raspberry; and spikes of honeycomb jut out of the chocolate ganache ones. Surrounded by these, day-in day-out, to have a sweet tooth would be a dangerous thing!

Sweet'n' Sourdough Doughnuts are at Mullumbimby Farmers Markets every Friday from 7 to 11am.

Cape Byron Distillery release world-first macadamia cask whisky



S Haslam

The parents of Cape Byron Distillery CEO Eddie Brook established the original macadamia farm that you can see from the distillery at St Helena, above Byron.

The nuts go into Brookfarm's muesli and other, even more exciting products, such as the Brookie's Mac macadamia and wattle-seed liqueur. This award-winning liqueur tastes great on ice or on ice-cream, but I prefer the barrel-aged version, aged in ex-bourbon barrels, which has darker and more complex flavours; it isn't always available in bottle shops – I buy it from the distillery.

Then, to make the whole macadamia journey even better, they've finished a small batch of their well-known whisky in these seasoned liqueur casks – after four years they have just 550 bottles now at 45 per cent ABV. The resulting whisky has a distinct character, more of a milk chocolate, cereal sweetness and a buttery macadamia palate – apparently!

Try it for yourself from April 29. It's a world first, and it's available at select retailers, from the distillery, or online from www.capebyrondistillery.com.

Buzz Byron Bay, brewing unforgettable moments with a tuk-tuk twist

In the charming coastal haven of Byron Bay, where laid-back vibes meet bespoke experiences, there's a new buzz in town – literally. Enter Buzz Byron Bay, a local, family-owned mobile tuk-tuk on wheels that is redefining the art of coffee service at private events, weddings, and corporate gatherings.

Buzz isn't just a coffee cart; it's a journey into the heart of simplicity and exceptional taste. Picture this: navigating unique spaces with ease, Buzz brings a touch of charm and down-to-earth authenticity to every cup it brews. The boutique coffee cart is a storyteller of delightful moments, one barista-made cup at a time.

Uncomplicate your coffee moments with Buzz Byron Bay. The team at Buzz believes in creating memories that feel like home. As you sip on their meticulously crafted brews, you'll discover that it's not just about coffee; it's about infusing warmth and pleasure into every event. Whether it's a wedding celebration, a corporate affair, or an intimate private gathering, Buzz adds that perfect dash of heart and a sip of joy.

What sets Buzz apart is its commitment to bringing a sprinkle of



The crew at Buzz Byron Bay love creating coffees at your event

happiness to high-end occasions throughout the Northern Rivers and beyond. The tuk-tuk experience is more than a coffee break; it's a statement – a declaration that every event, big or small, deserves a touch of authenticity and a memorable cup of coffee.

To experience the genuine and charming touch Buzz Byron Bay adds to your special day, visit their website

at buzzbyronbay.com.au, drop them an email at buzzbyronbay@gmail.com, or simply give them a call on 0404 546 878.

Buzz Byron Bay is a journey, an experience, and a promise that your event will be remembered for its unique charm and the delightful aroma of Buzz's exceptional brews. Because, as they say, every event deserves a dash of heart and a sip of joy!




Open 6am – 12pm
Monday – Saturday
Shop 6/108 Stuart Street
Mullumbimby.
@bimbi_coffee_shop
ALLPRESS ESPRESSO

Byron Arts & Industry Estate



1. GO TANGO

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

Bookings essential - contact Esther
0431 130 465
1/102-104 Centennial Circuit
www.gotango.com.au



2. MCTAVISH SURFBOARDS

Mctavish is the ultimate destination for all things surf. Grab a pre- or post-surf coffee and browse the range of handcrafted surfboards (all made on-site in the factory behind the showroom), surf accessories and apparel, or borrow a demo board for the weekend.

Surfboard Factory, Surf Shop & Cafe
91 Centennial Circuit
www.mctavish.com.au
@mctavishsurf



3. BODY LANGUAGE BYRON BAY

Now offering breath and ice workshops, advanced pole tricks and exotic choreography, weekly community yoga (by donation), mobility and flexibility programs, calisthenics (male and female), and BP conditioning (barre, bosu, and pilates) classes. Somatic dance and iyengar yoga classes start soon. Mention this ad, for 1x free trial class!

Need space to host your workshop/shoot? Reach out about studio hire.

3/12 Tasman Way
@bodylanguagebyronbay
www.bodylanguagebyronbay.com



4. LOYAL CRUSH

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

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

The Depot
02 7204 0630
23/73 Centennial Circuit
www.loyalcrush.com



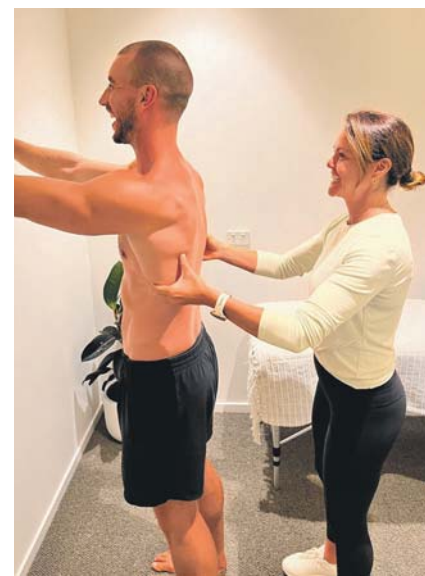
5. VAMPT VINTAGE DESIGN

- Specialists in mid-century original vintage design, imported from Brazil, Italy, Denmark, Holland and beyond.
- Interior design solutions: property, commercial and event styling.
- Also stocking an array of vintage pots with plants to complement your space.
- Huge warehouse, packed with vintage design icons from all over the world.

Open Mon - Fri 10-3, Sat 10-2.
Dave: 0414 80 549
Cnr Bayshore Dr & Banksia Dr
www.vamptvintagedesign.com
@vamptvintagedesign @eternity.design.collection



Creative, small batch, hand-made, state-of-the-art, artisan, innovative, ethical, imaginative, hyper-local, leading-edge, quality. EXPLORE premium, master, handcrafted, accomplished, cutting edge, organic, designer, eclectic. DISCOVER ingenious, beautiful, unique, sensational, avant-garde, original, visionary, inspirational, expert, brilliant, gifted, ahead of the curve. YOU wonderful, compelling, THERE experiencing, witnessing, engaging. NOW.

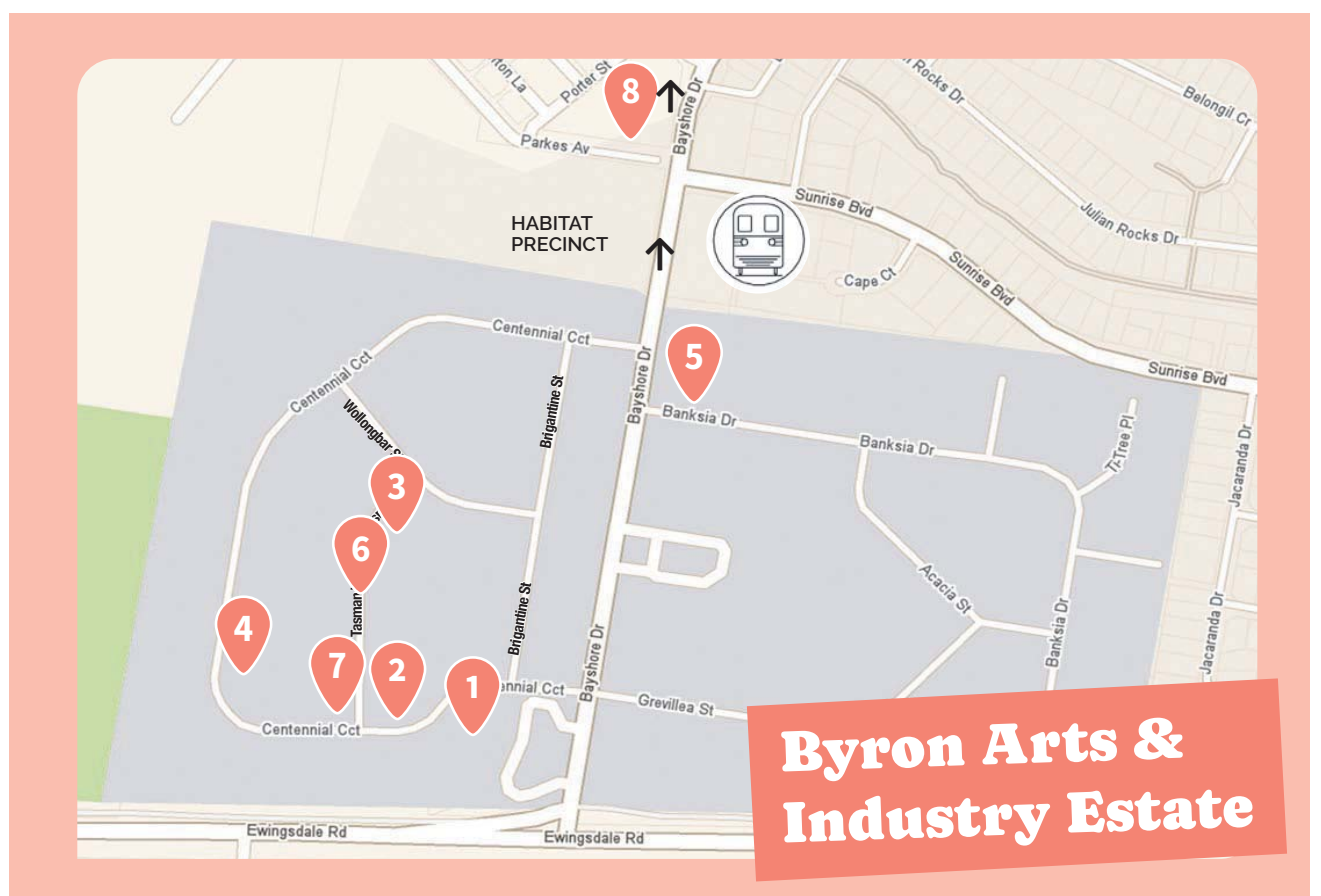


6. BODY FLOW PHYSIOTHERAPY

Body Flow Physiotherapy is designed for active people who want to move from pain to performance and joyful movement.

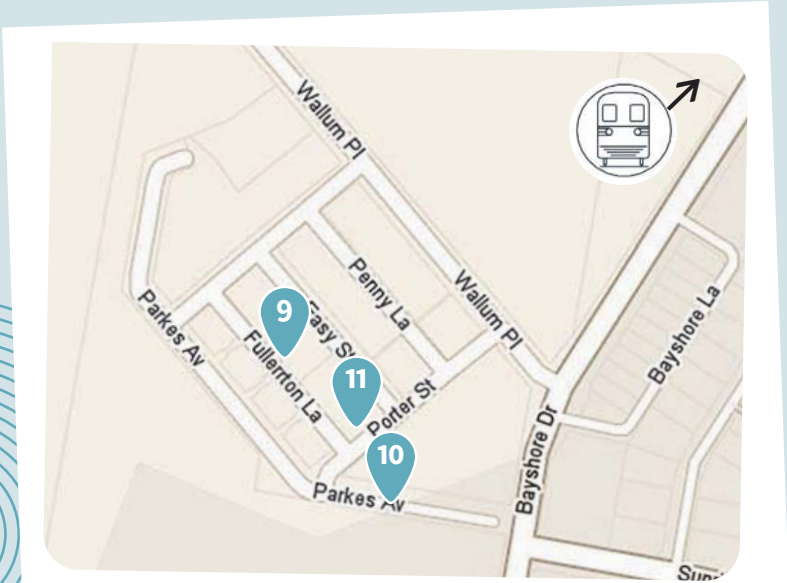
They consider the individual as a whole, focusing on the root cause of an issue rather than solely concentrating on the specific injury. Their approach often includes a combination of dry needling, manual therapy, pilates, functional movements and lifestyle adjustments.

0433 786 798
1/12 Tasman Way
www.bodyflowphysiotherapy.com
@bodyflowphysiotherapy



Byron Arts & Industry Estate

Habitat Precinct



Habitat Precinct

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

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



7. BYRON BAY CAMPING & DISPOSALS

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

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

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

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



8. NORTH BYRON HOTEL

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

02 6685 6500
61 Bayshore Drive
www.northbyronhotel.com.au



9. THE SECRET BYRON BAY

Aesthetic nurse and owner of Byron Bay's new 'chic' skin clinic, Gina has been treating the Byron community for nine years. The Secret's philosophy is one of 'ethical minimalist aesthetics', choosing micro-dosing for reducing the appearance of wrinkles and increasing volume loss with the latest regenerative treatments. This approach ensures patient safety and promotes a natural looking skin enhancement.

Book Online www.thesecretbyronbay.com
0458 628 555
Suite 24 / 5 Easy Street
[@thesecretbyronbay_](https://www.instagram.com/thesecretbyronbay_)



10. ASTRID DISPENSARY AND CLINIC

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

Monday-Friday: 9am-5pm
02 7908 4459
Suites 57-58/1 Porter St
[@astrid.health](https://www.instagram.com/astrid.health)
www.astrid.health



HABITAT

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

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

Habitat, Byron Bay

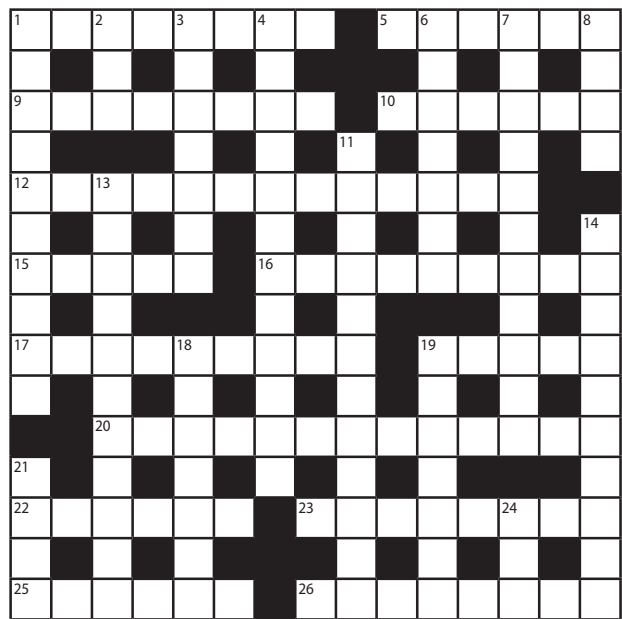


11. BYRON FAMILY LAW

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

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

Mungo MacCallum's Crossword #540



Cryptic Clues

- ACROSS**
- Large rye – mixed drink! (4,4)
 - Like hot and cold, a new place to dump rubbish (3,3)
 - Wilder spasms in hereditary science (8)
 - Woman from Heraklion falls into trance (6)
 - Close shaves involved. Answer: a corpse (6,7)
 - Deter daughter and mother's sister (5)
 - Popular book kept for later (2,7)
 - Biden tops, enthused Spooner of P C Wren's eponymous hero (4,5)
 - Trophy identification for Venus's son (5)
 - Clumsy goat thieves? (6,7)
 - Deny food for top performer, day of triumph (6)
 - Balls with prophet watchdog (8)
 - Type of fuel distilled at once (6)
 - Retreating, shout over river – Northern Territory river. Funny business! (8)
- DOWN**
- Desperately need bug? See American socialist! (6,4)
 - Operated service (3)
 - Take a chance around second and leave at once (3,4)
 - Cassie selects ingredients – but says it's all vanity (12)
 - Bands of wandering priests (7)
 - Report of Tom and idiot – prize disaster (11)
 - Not a single sister, it's said (4)
 - Clever faster letters can produce severe rash (7,5)
 - Sound a warning: Repent jibe, time with skill for a sweet treat (7,4)
 - Heavy metal, like salver – steer in the wrong direction (4,6)
 - Grab first lady with new revenge (3,4)
 - Cool around territory, right? Take charge (7)
 - Spies, like ten (1,1,1,1)
 - See setter, we're told (3)

Quick Clues

- ACROSS**
- Tea flavoured with bergamot (4,4)
 - Receptacle for cinders (3,3)
 - Study of DNA (8)
 - Inhabitant of the largest Greek island (6)
 - Dangers avoided by slim margins (6,7)
 - Intimidate (5)
 - Ready and waiting to be called on (2,7)
 - A gracious, but usually meaningless, act (4,5)
 - Roman god of love (5)
 - A tendency to drop things (6,7)
 - Undermournish (6)
 - Manager (8)
 - Chemical in petrol (6)
 - Buffoonery (8)
- DOWN**
- US socialist and five-time presidential candidate (6,4)
 - Sprinted (3)
 - Beat it! (3,4)
 - Old Testament book written by Solomon (12)
 - Streaks (7)
 - Cataclysm (11)
 - Zero (4)
 - Bacterial skin disease (7,5)
 - Pastry dish containing red stalks of perennial vegetable (7,4)
 - Corrupt; divert (4,6)
 - Settle the score (3,4)
 - Regulate (7)
 - Australia's M15 (1,1,1,1)
 - Peeper (3)

DOWN

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Last week's solution #539



www.echo.net.au/soap-box



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX

Couching an Opinion

There is one witness that hasn't been called. One witness that saw everything but has been kept quiet. One witness who knows exactly what happened in the Senator's office that fateful night.

The Bruce Lehrmann and Brittany Higgins case was never about establishing whether or not Lehrmann raped Higgins. It was about Brittany. She was established as not 'the perfect victim' so we overlooked the blazingly obvious fact that Bruce Lehrmann was 'the perfect perpetrator'. An entitled, compulsive wrecking ball of cocaine, \$400 steaks, free rent and very very expensive massages.

This conversation has rarely been about rape. It's been about defamation. Ruined reputations. Hurt feelings? Um, can we get back to the fact a girl was raped? It's been painful to bear witness to the failure of parliament to provide a safe workplace. The failure of the courts to provide a safe trial. And the failure of our justice system to deliver real justice. Why do we keep minimising and

disappearing this rape? When it comes to rape, the system has ADD.

Justice Lee pronounced the rape proven, allegations of a coverup not proven. So it's very possible it's still not over for Brittany. Senator Reynolds is clear that she will proceed with a defamation trial unless Higgins concedes to Lee's ruling that there was no cover-up. Must a woman who was raped, be made do this again? Although...

There is one witness that hasn't been called.

One witness that saw everything but has been kept quiet.

One witness who knows exactly what happened in the Senator's office that fateful night.

The couch.

The couch that was steam-cleaned hours after, in line with Lee's judgement, Lehrmann raped Higgins. Of course, at the time of the couch cleaning, no such incident had been reported. The cleaning was random?

I've got couches. I've NEVER had them steam-cleaned – ever. Steam-cleaning couches would appear to me, as extraordinary as being raped on a Senator's couch. The fact that two events happened so closely together can only tell me one thing – the couch knew something.

What we know, from evidence, is that a security guard saw Brittany naked

and rolled in a foetal position on the aforementioned couch. This same security guard had escorted Ms Higgins and Lehrmann to the Senator's office at 1.30am. She conducted a welfare check at 4.30am after Ms Higgins failed to come out of the suite. Brittany's dress and shoes were on the floor. And Brittany was asleep, naked in the foetal position facing the minister's desk.

Not long after this, the Senator's couch and office was steam-cleaned. A clean ordered by the Department of Finance as an 'additional clean'. It's never properly been established why. No one has really properly answered this. We've been too busy putting the rape victim on trial to find out about why the couch was cleaned. And who requested it? I don't know, but it feels important.

During this trial I have missed the political smarts of Mungo MacCallum. I would have appreciated his insights. This week is Mungo's last crossword. The final hurrah of a great journo and wordsmith.

2 Down. 5 letters. To put an idea forward, in a specific style. Upholstered but not yet upended. COUCH!

Gendered violence is on the increase.

Join me to SAY NO to domestic violence in a candlelit vigil to honour the women and children on Wednesday, 1 May at Northern Rivers Conservatorium from 5.30pm to 6.30pm. Bring a candle and a flower.

STARS BY LILITH

This week's sun is in sensual Taurus, the full moon in simmering Scorpio, and best news of all, communicator Mercury springs forward again out of retrograde...



TAURUS THE BULL

ARIES: Now the hearty partying's done, astral energy in your sector of worldly affairs says it's time to assess your financial trajectory; Is it heading in a direction you're happy with? If not, let clever Mercury in your sign direct you to who, where and what will provide the best advice.

TAURUS: Happy birthday Taurus, as the sun joins genial Jupiter for its final month in your sign. And yes, Uranus, that agent of disarray, is also in Taurus, dismantling whatever isn't working to make room for what might be a better fit for current conditions, so get busy making practical magic.

GEMINI: If your mojo's been in slow-mo during Mercury's reversal, the silicate planet's forward move powers this week to get stuff done. Doors open, people smile more, your ideas are met with a warmer reception, and you can finally have a conversation without causing offence by not knowing someone's preferred pronoun.

CANCER: The sign of Cancer is ruled by the moon, and when April's forensic full moon shines her midweek high beams of mystery and intrigue, you can decide to be either furious or curious. Frightened or excited. Confused or enthused. Reactive or proactive. As always, the choice is yours.

LEO: You're entitled to your strong beliefs, but the world at large isn't under any obligation to agree with them. With four planets in fixed signs like your own, this week's mantra is 'stay flexible'. Afford others the respect that you would want for yourself, even if you think it's undeserved.

VIRGO: This week's powerful full moon comes with the potential for deep healing, so devote some time, as much as possible, even the whole week, to acknowledging yourself for all your hard work, dedication to duty, practical savvy and whatever other sterling Virgo virtues may be relevant.

LIBRA: Your celestial muse Venus, the pleasure planet, is particularly drawn during the next few weeks to indulging her appetite for earthly delights, never mind the consequences. Which, however, do have a pesky way of showing up, so try to balance your love of beautiful things with sensible spending.

SCORPIO: This week's full moon in Scorpio, also known as a blood moon, is a profoundly healing time to schedule deep and meaningful conversations with nearest and dearest. Plus it's Scorpio's personal annual date to celebrate your loyal spirit, your sexy self, your evolving life path.

SAGITTARIUS: As this week's energetics shift from simmering fire to a cooler earth element, and Mercury turns forward again, it's time to move past offended feelings and take advantage of the increasing celestial support for getting those wild ideas and passionate sparks into some sort of productive form.

CAPRICORN: Whether your love language is messages or spoken words of appreciation, acts of service, special gifts or quality time, this week's annual full moon in the sign of loyalty is for honouring your support group; those people in your personal world – partnership, platonic and professional – who always have your back.

AQUARIUS: The majority of planets are currently in fixed signs like Aquarius, but having too fixed a vision of how you want things to work out isn't recommended this week. Your guiding planet, Uranus the changemaker, is busy disrupting business as usual, so stay tuned for its flashes of crazy inspiration.

PISCES: In the physical body, Saturn rules the skeletal structure which holds and protects our soft, pliable organs, allowing them to move freely. Similarly, the principles, practices, rules and routines of Saturn in your sign are a guiding key to managing this week's tender feelings and sensitive reaction.

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entertainment

GABRIELLA COHEN IN BRUNS

Gabriella Cohen, Australia's folk darling, is coming to Brunswick Picture House to perform a one-off intimate solo show on Saturday.

Known for her magnetic performances, off-hand charm and pop sensibilities, Gabriella plays music that is all-at-once laid-back, tongue-in-cheek, and peppered with the sweet sounds of '60s girl groups.

Channelling the sounds of the Beach Boys, Carol King and The Beatles, Gabriella is a unique and eclectic songwriter with infectious melodies to boot.

Gabriella has captivated audiences worldwide, sharing stages with luminaries like Paul Kelly, Big Thief and Marlon Williams.

With three internationally acclaimed records under her belt and a string of world tours, *Rolling Stone* has predicted 'she'll be a household name in no time'.

Kicking off the evening is chanteuse, **Sara Yael**, known to many as the captivating frontwoman of the infamous gypsy cabaret band, Rapskallion. A seasoned performer and acclaimed songwriter, Sara promises to enchant you with her distinctive blend of smoky blues, pop, and soulful folk.

Audiences can expect a unique and intimate evening of story, song and soul.

Don't miss this one-off show at Brunswick Picture House on Saturday.

Doors 6.30pm, show at 7pm.

Tickets \$33 online at brunswickpicturehouse.com.



HAVING FUN IN THE PLAYGROUND

Playground is a well-established event that will go off at **Coorabell Hall** on **Saturday**. For over two years, three long-term local DJ's – Pob, Curly Si and Halo – have been curating this rhythmic happening. Their pedigree is assured and they guarantee the best underground electronic music and a loyal crew that bring a big-hearted vibe. On Saturday they'll be bringing the dance to the hills.

Starting time is 6pm and you're not going to want to miss a beat from Si's first set of the day till the last drop from Pob at midnight.

See their Facebook page for more details.



THE DRILL THEATRE COMPANY

GHOSTING THE PARTY
 BY MELISSA BUBNIC
 DIRECTED BY LIZ CHANCE

MAY 2 - 19

DRILLHALLTHEATRE.ORG.AU
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 PUFF

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STONE WOOD

FREE ENTRY

playground @ coorabell hall

curly pob halo

april 27th sat 6-midnight

seven

DON'T 'GHOST' GHOSTING THE PARTY AT THE DRILL HALL

'No-one ever came back but all reports indicate it's lovely,' and so begins this wickedly funny play about death and motherhood. Directed by the Drill's accomplished artistic director, **Liz Chance**, *Ghosting the Party* tells the story of three generations of women who face questions of mortality and life with rigour, honesty and humour.

This sharply intelligent play written by internationally-renowned Australian writer **Melissa Bubnic** premiered at the Griffin Theatre in 2022. 'Bubnic's writing is poetic and punchy in this pitch-black comedy. At rehearsals, we have been moved to tears with laughter and love for the recognisable situations that these three feisty, independent women find themselves in,' says Chance.

Ghosting The Party begins with Liz Chance (who is directing and narrating the play) telling jokes about the best and worst ways to die. Returning home from her sister's funeral, Grace the contentious matriarch (**Sonia Borenstein**) has decided, at 87, her time has come. She's ready to leave the party and wants independence and freedom to make her own choices. Her recently divorced and devoted daughter Dorothy (**Gabrielle Le Brun**) is not impressed by her mother's suicidal ruminations, and is determined to help her see the light. Dorothy's daughter, Suzie (**Holly Matheson**) is sympathetic to her grandmother's state and humours Grace in her ideations, but is distracted by her high-pressure marketing job in Montreal and the lure of a 'happier life' that beckons her return. **Rachael Gorham** (who starred in *The Almighty Sometimes*), returns to the Drill Hall stage as Suzie's powerhouse Montréalité marketing mentor. Veteran actor **Charles Hambling**, plays the recently bereaved Eric and hopeful love interest of Dorothy.

Ghosting The Party is full of life, laugh-out-loud moments and intensity. The challenging topics of death, suicide, aging and family dynamics are handled with consideration, artfulness and hilarity by a skillful production team.

Bubnic's writing is brilliant, provocative and thoroughly entertaining. The characters are honest with their compromises, mistakes, and disappointments and are brought to life by a stellar cast.

'Our final moments don't need to be sombre,' says Chance. 'This play pulls no punches, but facing the Grim Reaper has never been so funny.' *Ghosting the Party* premieres the completed stage and infrastructure upgrade at the Drill Hall Theatre proudly funded by the NSW Government.

***Ghosting the Party* runs from May 2 to 19, Thursdays to Saturdays at 7.30pm, and Sundays at 5pm. For bookings go to drillhalltheatre.org.au.**

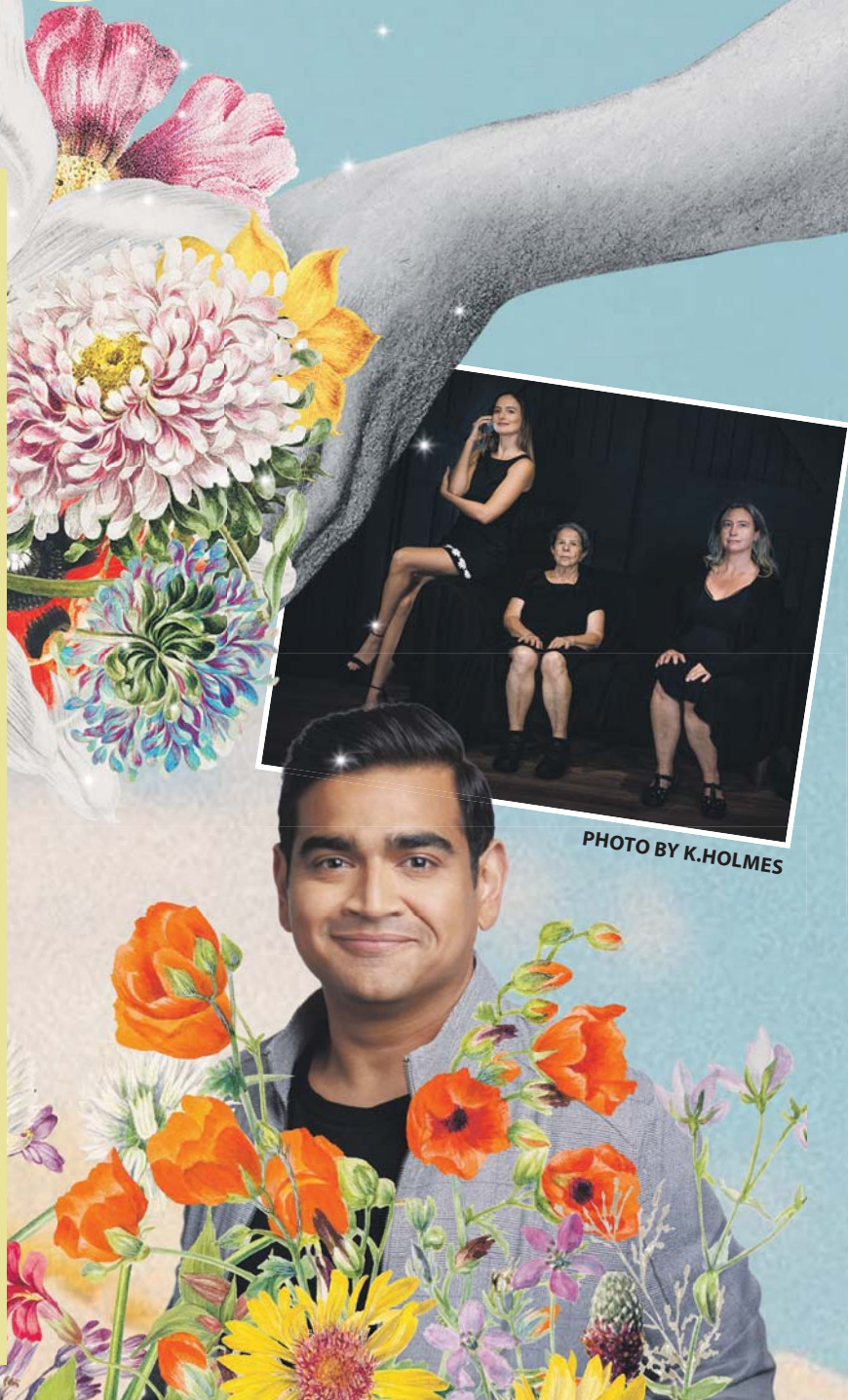


PHOTO BY K.HOLMES

BYRON COMEDY FEST 2024 LAUGHS

The legendary **Northern Hotel's Backroom** opens its doors to laughter when it welcomes **The Byron Comedy Fest** with eight big headline shows.

With audiences packing out shows every year, Festival Directors **Mel Coppin** and **Zara Noruzi** have decided a new venue with increased capacity was in order. It also means the festival is an all-weather event – expect all your favourites!

With perennial sell-out shows, *Best Of British* is headed up by UK comic **Dan Willis**. Willis welcomes his favourite British funny people, this year's crop include **Bob Franklin**, **Matt O'Neill** and **Gillian Cordiner**.

Sri Lankan-born comedy superstar **Dilruk Jayasinh** left the world of finance as a sit-down accountant and started working as a stand-up comic. While his parents may have been a little dismayed at first, Dilruk has become an award-winning face on Australian TV. He's guested on Network Ten's *Have You Been Paying Attention?*, *Would I Lie To You*, and *Hughesy*, *We Have a Problem*, ABC's *Spicks and Specks* and *Question Everything*, and showed off his mercurial acting abilities on Channel Ten's *How to Stay Married* and ABC's *Utopia*. Dilruk has also appeared as a contestant on renowned reality shows including *I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out of Here*, *Celebrity MasterChef* and the Amazon Prime comedy game show *Last One Laughing* hosted by **Rebel Wilson**.

Bringing bites of the *Bold and the Beautiful* is **Bev Killick**. A non-stop joke-fired power plant of comedy gold. Newly Australian insights come from Venezuelan-born comic **Ivan Aristagueita** – performing comedy in a second language more expertly than most would do in their first.

With his critically acclaimed show *Weed C#nt* full of drug references and suitably strong coarse language, **John Cruckshank** is funny in a way that is raw and sometimes brutal.

Byron Comedy Festival is also featuring two of Melbourne Comedy Festival's finest, **Lewis Garnham** and **Scout Boxall**. Unique, insightful, and pushing into the zeitgeist of the younger gen.

And for those who prefer not to choose, there's the *Comedy Showcase: Gump's Big Box of Comedy Chocolates*.

Shows can be bought as single tickets, or one-day or three-day passes.

Don't miss a relentless weekend of laughs with Byron Comedy Fest.

May 30, 31 and June 1.

byroncomedyfest.com for more info.



Looking to kickstart your musical career?

You need to be part of BaySounds, the Northern Rivers own songwriting competition – a joint initiative from SAE University College Byron Bay and BayFM to give our local talent the exposure you guys deserve.

Send us your best original track and you could win a professional recording opportunity and headlining spot at SAE's Open Day. PLUS have your music played on BayFM and promoted across our socials.

Entries close June 16th.

Head to sae.edu.au/baysounds for more info.





seven

entertainment

IGNITE YOUR CREATIVITY AT MULLUM LANEWAYS FESTIVAL

This year's **Mullum Laneways Festival**, to be held on **May 4 and 5**, promises to be a feast for the senses, set to captivate visitors of all ages.

On **Sunday, May 5** everyone is encouraged to immerse themselves in the heart of the Festival, as Burringbar Street is transformed into a vibrant tapestry of music, dance, art, and more.

This is a free event, funded by local sponsorship and a gala fundraising event on **Saturday, May 4**.

Headlining on the Main Stage on Sunday are music legends **Bunny Racket**, **The Loveys**, and big band **SOUL'D**. But the true heart of the event lies in the four enchanting Mullum Laneways, each offering a unique experience that brings people together through the arts.

At **Carnivalé** you're encouraged to doodle with coloured chalk on the Laneway pavement; transform yourself with face painting, or join the Mullum PreSchool in crafting enchanting crowns, delve into the magic of lantern making, or channel your inner architect with fairy house building hosted by the Bush School, and don't miss **Ziggy & Zumba's Circus Show**.

Relax in plush velvet chairs at **Art Noir** as Oriol from **Henna Harem** adorns you with intricate henna designs; discover the art of botanical cyanotype printing with **Katie Alleva**, and view screenings of **Mullum Magic** and **Mullum Madness**, followed by **Lady Lynx Gatekeeper** and **Moonshine**.

The Snug is an intimate space filled with creativity and warmth – with board games and a mandala workshop. Play the piano or see storytellers **Nina and Zeus** and **Luminous Youth**.

At **L'Atelier** get together with fellow art enthusiasts – art materials await your creative touch – watch local artists at work, or join **Hot Mess** for a decadent life drawing experience.

From 3pm, support fledging musicians on the Busking Stage and at 4pm **Bunny Racket** kick off the day's musical entertainment on the Main Stage. Down at Centre Stage be part of the fun with **Bubble Fairy** and **Swami the Magician** – also be on the lookout for an impromptu **ukulele flash mob**, the **Spaghetti Circus** stilt walkers and the groovy moves of **The Cassettes**.

The Mullum Laneways Festival is not just an event, it's a celebration of community, creativity, and connection.

See www.kaleidomullumbimby.org.au for more details.

IT'S MARDIGRASS!

This year is **Nimbin's 32nd annual MardiGrass** and you'd reckon by now 'weed' be left alone.

The same helicopter raids, the disgusting, and completely unfair, saliva testing of drivers, and we're still not allowed to grow our own plants. We can all access legal buds via a doctor, most of it imported from Canada, but we can't grow our own. There's something very wrong there.

At MardiGrass, organisers do their best to make it an enjoyable and fun protest – there is a lot of comedy, and good comedy, we need it in the face of so much nonsense. The Hemp Olympix committee has finally accepted 'Correct Weight' into their program as well as a new team event, the 'Dealers Nightmare', to join the 'Joint Rolling' and 'Bong Throw'.

On a more serious note, **Dr Jeffrey Hergenrather** is flying in from California for the weekend to share the latest from America where they have had legal mediweed for nearly 30 years. He was a cannabis doctor long before that.

Half a busload of Green and Legalise Cannabis members of parliament are speaking at the Hemposium in the Hall, all working for us and this plant, arguably the most useful in the creation. This year there is a tent dedicated to other entheogens like mushrooms, owing to the ongoing recognition of their importance.

The **Kombi Konvoy** wending its way from Byron, to arrive for the **4.20pm protest** on the **Saturday** of the event, is a highlight as is the **Big Rally** and **Parade on Sunday arvo**. Dress up in green, paint a placard or whatever, and join everyone to protest this war which is filling our jails, breaking up families and traumatising lives.

It's a war against ourselves! We all know drug use is really a health issue, but instead, we now have big businesses fighting over who gets the huge profits to be made from relieving our pain. We could be growing our own plants or getting a cooperative to grow it for us, instead of buying it from the chemist.

Remember cannabis is a plant that has never killed anyone and is nothing like the other illegal drugs which are all chemical or processed. It is the safest, most useful and best medicine in the plant world. The laws are the real crime.

MardiGrass is on the weekend of May 3, 4 and 5 in Nimbin.

For \$150 you get three nights camping and entry into everything.

One-day entry is \$30.

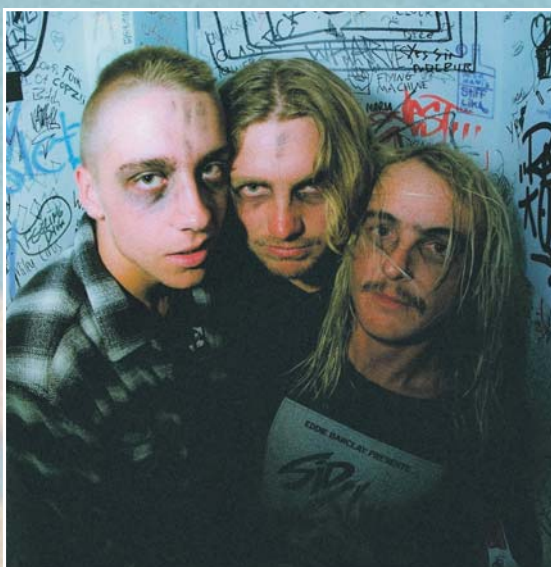
Check out the very full weekend program at nimbinmardigrass.com.

HEAVY MUSIC WITH A BANG!

Heavy music is back at **The Northern** this week, with a bang!

Regular Backroom legends **Dead Crow** and **Mudwagon** are joined by **Dipodium** and Northern Rivers locals **Liminal** and **Puff** – the plan is to raise the roof on **Thursday** at **The Northern**. This is definitely a night, and a mosh, not to miss.

Entry is free!



AN EVENING WITH **GABRIELLA COHEN** (SOLO)



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AUCTION | Thurs 16th May
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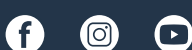
Tara Torkkola
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Sally Green
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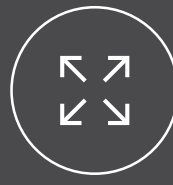
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Open For Inspection

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First National Byron Bay

- 30 Kennedys Lane, Ewingsdale. Wed 2-2.30pm
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Fri 10-10.30am
- 240 The Manse Road, Myocum. Sat 9-9.30am
- 11 Dalmacia Drive, Wollongbar. Sat 9-9.30am
- 34 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2B/107 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 25 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30-10am
- 1109 Coolamon Scenic Drive, Montecollum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3 Gira Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3 Sunrise Crescent, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 29 Pinegroves Road, Myocum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 27 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 4 Azolla Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 10.30-11am
- 12/10 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30-11am
- 1/21 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10.30-11am
- 13 Coral Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5/12 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 3/7 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 28 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 75 Butler Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 45 Corkwood Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 584 The Pocket Road, The Pocket. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 1/49 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 13 Cavvanbah Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 371 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 30 Kennedys Lane, Ewingsdale. Sat 2-2.30pm

Ray White Byron Bay

- 2/19 Marattia Place, Suffolk Park. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 4 Old Byron Bay Road, Newrybar. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 75 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 11 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Wed 2-2.30pm
- 20/11 Constellation Close, Byron Bay. Wed 2-2.30pm
- 11 Greenview Place, Skennars Head. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 11 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Fri 9.30-10am
- 11 Greenview Place, Skennars Head. Fri 1.30-2pm
- 109-111 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 21 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/19 Marattia Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 75 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.30-11am
- 20 Ribbonwood Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 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
- 23 & 23A Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 20/11 Constellation Close, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 4 Old Byron Bay Road, Newrybar. Sat 1-1.30pm

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Contact: Denzil Lloyd: 0481 864 049
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Price Guide: Contact agent



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The 3 bedrooms on the main level are generously proportioned, each boasts soaring original pressed metal ceilings and private deck access, with an ensuite off the main bedroom. On the lower ground level a spacious fourth bedroom also has its own ensuite.

A convenient double lock-up garage with internal access completes this enchanting home, located in a peaceful, family-friendly neighbourhood just minutes from the main street of Bangalow.

Contact: Renee Schofield 0400 028 594
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Removalists continued on next page

Removalists continued



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 SURFWAGON - Car/Home/Office tint. Lifetime Warranty. W/sale price..... 0434 875009

Find **The Echo** Service Directory online anytime at **echo.net.au/service-directory**



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ECHO CLASSIFIEDS - 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

Ads may be taken by phone on 6684 1777

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines
\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa
Prepayment is required for all ads.

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The Byron Shire Echo does not accept any liability for the representations or promises made in paid advertisements or for any loss or damage arising from reliance on such content, representations or promises.



White Horses and Dark Knights
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~ 1950 - 2024 ~

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Please bring food to share

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Enquiries 0488 563 563

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after 12 noon Sunday 5th May



PUBLIC NOTICES

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10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall



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



Road Closures

PROPOSED ROAD CLOSING UNDER SECTION 38B ROADS ACT 1993

In pursuance of the provisions of the Roads Act 1993, notice is hereby given that Byron Shire Council proposes to close the following council public roads listed in Schedule 1.

Schedule 1:

- Part road reserve adjacent Browning St, adjoining 144 Jonson Street Byron Bay Lot 6 DP 258071
Part road reserve adjoining 860 Coolamon Scenic Dr, Coorabel, Lot 1 DP577281

Upon closure of the road, council intends to sell the land to the adjoining landowner.

All interested persons are hereby invited to make submissions concerning the proposal to the General Manager Mark Arnold, Byron Shire Council, PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482, within twenty-eight days of the date of this advertisement. Please note that under the provisions of the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009, such submissions may be referred to third parties for consideration.

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

Council Ref: #E2024/35964

Enquiries: Tracy Armstrong Telephone: 02 6626 7201

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

Submissions Close: Friday 31st May 2024



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

Contact Sylvia - Volunteer Coordinator
Mon-Fri
6684 1286

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Mullumbimby

Available throughout April. Contact Kate Messenger to enquire or book.

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crystalsanddreaming.com.au

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Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

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Leaf it to us 4x4 truck/chipper, crane truck, stump grinding. Local, qualified, insured, free quotes. 0402487213

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CHESS PLAYERS NEEDED AND WELCOMED Near Byron Bay. Contact Josie 0401020293.

LP RECORDS: good condition, no op shop crap! Matt 0401955052
TREE FERNS
Any shape, size. Royalties paid. Ongoing supply needed. 0414904396

VEHICLES WANTED
JAGUAR MARK 2 1959-1966 MODEL
Derelict, rusted and long forgotten. For spares. 0401810941

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CARAVANS
We buy, sell & consign. All makes & models. 0408 758 688

Caravan for Sale
Regent Crusader- 2003
Great Condition
\$18K NEG - Simon 0431 447 471

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Modern kitchen with gas stove
Beautifully appointed bathroom
Open plan to suit a variety of uses
All electrical wiring & internal plumbing complete
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Veranda 3m x 6m
Transportation and set up on your land
All new and quality construction
\$120,000
Feel free to phone and book an inspection on this great value package.
Scott 0419 443 196

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4-PERSON MOBILE BUNGEE TRAMPOLINE. \$22,000. Fully licensed, all compliance certificates up to date. Many extras; this jumper is as new. Excellent cash business for motivated, fit person/s. 0421440461.

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BYRON CBD 2BDR APARTMENT with courtyard. Fully furnished. Avail mid-April for 3 months. \$920p/w inc. elec & Wi-Fi. 0404314285

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SUNRISE Large room, 3 bedroom townhouse. \$270p/w. No pets. 66856760.

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OCEAN SHORES luxury 1 bdr house, sun-filled inside/outside area. Bath & shower & built-in. Off-street parking, private. Short/med term, furn or unfurn negotiable. \$650p/w inc Wi-Fi and all bills. NO PETS. Avail now. 0413720771

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LIGHT-FILLED first floor office, Mullumbimby CBD, 80m2. Private balcony, separate meeting room, shared kitchen & bathroom. Fast internet. Free parking. \$400p/w inc outgoings. Available now. Lease break. 0402 485 902

One bedroom cabin in beautiful nature 7 mins from Mullumbimby.

The cabin has a kitchen, outdoor shower and bath, spring water and solar system. Also has a 3 x 4 metre garden shed for storage. \$280 per week plus a day per week in the gardens or helping on the land. Contact Mandy on 0432 570311

TO LEASE

BRUNSWICK HEADS

Large commercial space. Approx 200m², overlooking the beautiful Brunswick River. Suit offices or other various types of business. Long lease available. Contact 0419 627 109

MUSICAL NOTES

SEEKING DRUMMER

for established reggae band 0434438706

GIUITARS, RECORDS, HI-FI WE BUY AND SELL 66851005

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SCT LOGISTICS HC OR MC DRIVERS

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Competitive pay rates. Please send resume to wendy.keel@sctlogistics.com.au or during office hours 0409 568 795

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TUITION

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BIRTHDAYS

SOCIAL ESCORTS

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

SUN, MOON & TIDES

- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE/SET	MOON RISE/SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
24	W	5:59 17:37	17:19 6:05	0822.143 1413.033	0225.046 1413.033
25	TH	5:59 17:37	17:53 7:02	0855.137 2131.173	0304.047 1441.034
26	F	5:59 17:37	18:32 8:01	0930.129 2208.173	0345.049 1510.037
27	SA	5:59 17:37	19:18 9:03	1006.122 2247.171	0430.052 1543.041
28	SU	5:59 17:37	20:11 10:04	1047.115 2332.167	0520.056 1619.047
29	M	5:59 17:37	21:11 11:02	1140.109	0619.059 1706.053
30	TU	5:59 17:37	22:16 11:55	0027.163 1248.106	0728.060 1810.059
1	W	6:13 17:13	23:23 12:42	0133.161 1413.108	0838.057 1932.063
2	TH	6:13 17:12	13:24	0245.161 1533.117	0943.051 2100.060
3	F	6:14 17:11	14:01	0354.165 1640.131	1036.043 2216.054
4	SA	6:15 17:10	1:37 14:35	0454.168 1737.146	1123.034 2322.047
5	SU	6:15 17:09	2:42 15:08	0547.168 1829.162	1204.027
6	M	6:16 17:09	3:48 15:42	0637.164 1916.176	0021.040 1244.022
7	TU	6:16 17:08	4:56 16:18	0724.157 2003.186	0117.036 1322.020
8	W	6:17 17:07	6:05 16:58	0809.148 2048.192	0212.034 1400.021

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

DEATH NOTICES

RAY GARDINER

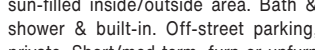
March 23, 1933 - April 13, 2024

Retired Billinudgel banana grower Ray Gardiner has peacefully passed away at 91 years-of-age.

He is survived by his wife Dot, his five children and their spouses, 10 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

A funeral service and afternoon tea farewell was held this week.

His family thank God for Ray's long life and legacy.



IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of Dorset Campbell-Ross, late of Tyagarah

Musician. Writer. NVC Practitioner. Counsellor. Businessman. World Traveller.



Born on 19/01/52 in Dorchester, UK. Died on 12/03/24 at Lismore Base Hospital.

Loved and cherished always by his beloveds, Gina and Chinta.

"So I throw the windows wide and call to you across the sky."

A private Tibetan Buddhist Bardo Prayer blessing will be conducted by the Venerable Tencho (who conducted the prayers as Dorset was removed from life support) at the end of Dorset's 49-day Bardo period on Monday, April 29 at precisely 11.45am. For those wishing to join in, wherever you are in the world, light a candle, play a song, or mark the moment in a way that connects you to Dorset.

For those inclined, please chant the Bardo Prayer.

Oh Buddhas and Bodhisattvas abiding in all directions, Endowed with great compassion, Endowed with foreknowledge, Endowed with divine eye, Endowed with love, Affording protection to sentient beings, Please through the power of your great compassion come forth, Please accept these offerings, both actually presented and mentally created.

Oh Compassionate Ones, you who possess The wisdom of understanding, The love of compassion, The power of doing divine deeds, And of protecting in incomprehensible measure, Dorset is passing from this world to the next, They are taking a great leap, The light of this world has faded for them, They have entered solitude with their karmic forces, They have gone into a vast silence, They are borne away by the great ocean of birth and death...

Oh Compassionate Ones, protect Dorset who is defenceless. Be to them like a mother and father.

Oh Compassionate Ones, let not the force of your compassion be weak, but aid them.

Let Dorset not go into the miserable states of existence. Forget not your ancient vows.

A public Tibetan Buddhist Prayer blessing and celebration will be held for Dorset in the coming months, which will be announced here in The Echo.

ONLY ADULTS

BALLINA EXCLUSIVE 34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late. In & Out Calls. 66816038. Ladies wanted Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

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PETS

Eywa

Eywa is a 5 month old Kelpie X. She is full of energy and very clever. She is good with kids and other dogs. Eywa would suit an active family on acreage or property. #953010100637287 Location: Murwillumbah For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128. Interested? Please complete our online adoption expression of interest. <https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/> Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338

Misty

Mighty 'Misty', a 6-year-old desexed female Amstaff x Boxer, is big, strong, healthy, charming and still has the hilarious antics of a pup. She is very well behaved, obeys commands and is happy to chill after a good morning run. Misty is a lover. Great with other dogs, cats and children. If you're looking for a gorgeous, mature yet playful, characterful companion for you and/or the kids, please contact Shell on 0458461935. MC: 982000411508615

Skittles

Beautiful Skittles is a fun seeking, affectionate girl. She gets along well with other cats and enjoys playing with them. Having been in foster care initially, she is a well socialised, loveable teenager. To be bowled over by Skittles, 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: R251000222

MIMI

This is Mimi - she was found with her brother and sister on a pumpkin farm in Federal. She's a silver tabby, very playful, sweet and affectionate. She and her siblings are all looking for their forever homes. All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped. No:900164002252834 PETS FOR LIFE Please make an appointment 0403 533 589 • Billinudgel petsforlifeanimalsheleter.net

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads 0418 400 415
1st SUN Byron Bay 02 6685 6807
1st SUN Lismore Car Boot 02 6628 7333

2nd SAT Tabulam Hall 0490 329 159
2nd SUN The Channon 02 6688 6433
2nd SUN Lennox Head 02 6685 6807
2nd SUN Chillingham 0428 793 141
2nd SUN Coolangatta

3rd SAT Mullumbimby 02 6684 3370
3rd SAT Murwillumbah 0415 328 672
3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina

3rd SUN Federal 0433 002 757
3rd SUN Uki 0487 329 150
3rd SUN Ballina 0422 094 338

4th SAT Evans Head 0432 275 765
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar kyoglebazaar.com.au
4th SUN Bangalow 02 6687 1911
4th SUN Nimbin 0475 135 764
4th SUN Murwillumbah 0415 328 672

4th SUN Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)
5th SUN Nimbin 0475 135 764
5th SUN Lennox Head 02 6685 6807

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

Each TUE New Brighton 0424 168 672
Each TUE Organic Lismore 02 6636 4307
Each WED Murwillumbah 7-11 0415 328 672
Each WED Nimbin 3-6pm 0418 940 653
Each WED Newrybar Hall 4-7pm

Each THU Byron 8-11am 0414 595 169
Each THU Lismore 2.30-6.30pm 0459 309 223
Each FRI Mullum 7-11am 0424 168 672

Each SAT Bangalow 8-11am 0414 595 169
Each SAT Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)
Each SAT Uki 8am-1pm 02 6679 5438
Each SAT Lismore 8.30-11am
Each SAT Wadeville 8.30am-12pm
Each SAT Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr
Each SUN Ballina 7-11am

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

Byron Bay takes second at NSW grade three regional bowls championships



Runners-up at the grade three regional bowls championships (L-R): Eileen Dekantzow (skip), Kym Quinnell, Jeanette Beaton, Mirtha Christian, Judy Wallace, Lynda Child, Julie Higgins, Bev Gawnd and Pat Bigg (skip). Photo supplied

Pam Scarborough

Byron Bay's district winning, grade three pennants bowl team knew they had stepped up a grade when they began the first round of the regional district championships held at Ballina earlier this month.

Round one was against South Grafton and it came down to the last few ends with Kym Quinnell's team going down by just one point, but the partner team skipped by tenacious Pat Bigg saved the day with a three-point win for her team, giving an overall, 34-32 win to Byron Bay.

After lunch, Byron Bay took on Ballina and the competent leads set the game, with the seconds and thirds able to build on that. An overall synched team effort was reflected in the comfortable score of 49-29.

In the final, the Byron women came up against Park Beach (Coffs Harbour) who were keen to stamp their superiority over Byron and got away with a reasonable lead right from the start.

Byron Bay put down some great bowls, but the Park Beach seconds and thirds just took the shots away, leaving the skips in a tricky place.

However it wasn't all Park's way, and Byron Bay enjoyed some sweet victories throughout the game. The end result of 39-26 over 42 ends, was a pretty good two-day effort from a small club like Byron Bay.

The Ballina Cherry Street Club hosted the championships and roughly 100 players, with their reserves and support crew, enjoyed great weather, and some excellent competition and camaraderie on the North Coast.

Try-fest for Byron Bay in local league

The Byron Bay A-grader league players left the Clarence Valley on Saturday afternoon after scoring 11 tries on their way to beating the Magpies 56-16, and remain undefeated after three rounds.

Red Devil, Jack Rogers, managed to convert six tries including one of his own.

The try-splurge from the A-graders, however, was almost matched by the reserves who put on ten of their own in their 54-4 win over the Lower Clarence.

Nicholas Asser was the reserve stand-out, scoring three and converting seven from seven.

The Byron Bay U/18s did their bit with a comfortable 22-4 win.

The Magpies had the upper hand in the women's touch keeping the visitors scoreless in their 38-0 win.

The Byron sides have home games this Sunday when they take on Northern United. The visitor's A-grade side had a good win in round two when they beat the Kyogle Turkeys 40-24. Their home game at Lismore last Sunday against Cudgen was cancelled due to the wet weather.



Mieka goes on the attack for the Gianst at home against the Marist Brothers. Photo Sarah Archibald

This Sunday's (April 28) action starts with the U/18s from noon with the women's touch unscheduled at time of print.

Giants

The Mullumbimby Giants played at home last Sunday and had a 12-12 draw with Marist Brothers. It was their second draw from two games.

Giants captain Cody Nelson was definitely seeing the results from the positive side. 'We felt we could've won it, but I guess the Rams did too,' he said. 'It really

just shows there will be no easy games.'

'The team is in really good spirits and the defence has been really tested over the last two games. When our attack starts to click then we will be a really hard team to beat.'

In reserve grade Mullum lost 16-8, in U/18s they won 28-12, and the women's touch side went down 12-0.

'Despite the weather there was a packed clubhouse for Sponsors Day,' Cody said

The Giants travel to Kyogle this weekend.

Tweed Shire asking for input on sporting needs

Tweed Shire Council's (TSC) draft Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2023-2033 is open for public comment.

The strategy will provide direction for the planning, development and management of the Tweed Shire's sport and recreation facilities for the next ten years.

'We need to plan to accommodate an expected population growth of more than 7,600 people over the next ten years, meaning the Tweed will need an estimated additional 13 hectares (at a minimum) of space for sport and active recreation,



Yoga is one of the new trends that the TSC strategy will take into account. Photo supplied

as well as considering the types of facilities and programs we deliver,' said TSC Manager Parks and Active Communities, Murray Smith. Council is asking the

community to review the draft strategy currently on exhibition and share their thoughts by making a submission before 4 pm on Friday 31 May 2024.

Big names at local chess tournament

A major Northern Rivers chess tournament was held at the Byron Bay Services Club in late April.

'It was well-attended, with players from the whole region as well as Gold Coast and Brisbane,' according to local player and former Australian Chess Federation president Peter Wallman.

'It is the first serious and competitive chess tournament we are aware of in the area,' he said. 'Some really good players came for the event and International

Master and former Australian Champion, Alex Wohl, emerged the winner.'

It is hoped that Byron Shire will become a leading chess hub.

'We want to enable chess for everyone's enjoyment, mental health and deeper thinking. This will be particularly important if Byron Council chooses to support chess in the Shire,' he said.

Peter Hanna, Northern Rivers volunteer chess organiser said, 'the proposed chess facilities at Byron's

main beach would be a winner for businesses in the town by attracting more well-behaved visitors, and for longer stays.'

Send us your sport stories!

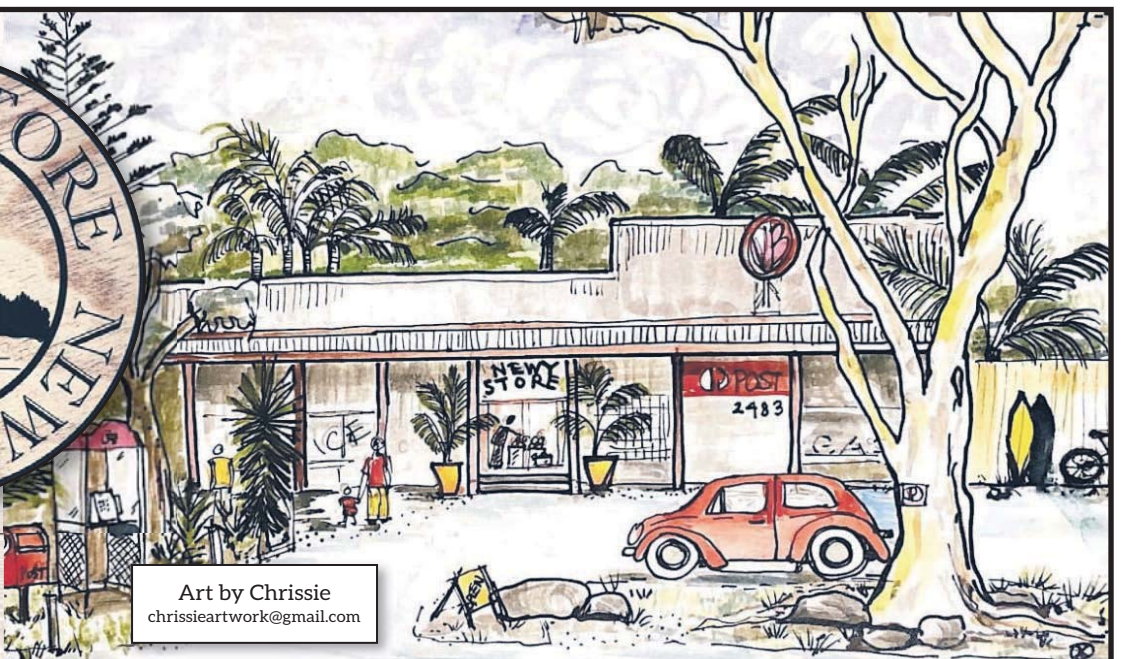
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The arrests at the Wallum blockade last week are a reminder that law was established to protect private property, above all else. And Nan Nicholson summed up the Wallum blockade, along with just about every protest movement: 'The more police are needed, the more ridiculous and unjustifiable it looks!'

PSST: The Byron Community Market is on Sunday, May 5 in the town's centre. Organisers say it promises 'a day filled with artisanal delights and live performances from some of the area's most talented musicians'

The Economist reports 'America's trust in its institutions has collapsed'. And in related news, *The Hill* reports no one is interested in the upcoming US election.

FYI BCU Bank, a division of Police & Nurses Limited, say it will reopen its Ballina branch on April 22. They said in a statement, 'As a customer-owned bank, BCU Bank doesn't have shareholders, which means there is no natural conflict like there is with the listed banks'. NAB have said they will close their Mullum branch on June 18.

'The Drain is for Rain' is the tagline of a new education campaign by Council. Staff say, 'The campaign encourages residents, businesses, and visitors to keep their waste out of drains and easements, which will reduce flash flooding, damage to property, and help the environment'. Phil Holloway, Byron Shire Council's Director of Infrastructure Services, said tree branches,



Longtime Brunswick Heads resident Di is known for her beautiful outfits, big heart and wonderful dancing, said her neighbour Elizabeth Hook. Recently, some of Di's ducks that feature outside her home were stolen again. Elizabeth said, 'I arrived home from work to find Di in the garden, in tears that her ducks have been taken in broad daylight. Di and her family lost everything in the recent floods, and these ducks bring her and the community much pleasure'. Photo Jeff 'So, Whoever Took The Ducks, Please Return Them' Dawson

old fridges and children's toys have been dumped in drains and easements, which 'causes all sorts of issues for our drainage system'.

Vale legendary Byron/Tweed surfboard shaper and designer, Geoff McCoy, who has died at 76. According to www.beachgrit.com, his 'no-nose concept paved the way, at least partly, for the modern thruster outline'. He is also known for his Lazor Zap design, 'a tear-drop shaped surfboard... that Cheyne Horan rode to consecutive world title runner-up finishes in 1981 and 1982'.

On April 25, 1915 - 109 years ago - the First Australian Imperial Force arrived on the shores of the Ottoman Empire (now Turkey) - see page 8. #lestweforget.

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