

Echo

REMEMBER: WHEN YOU EMPTY A VACUUM CLEANER, YOU BECOME THE VACUUM CLEANER

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 38 #48 • May 8, 2024 • www.echo.net.au

2022 flood data will not be incorporated into Council planning 'at this stage'

Hans Lovejoy

With the recent release of local flood data from the devastating 2022 floods now public, Council staff have told *The Echo* there is no budget this year to apply for funding to incorporate it into their planning instruments.

The Echo asked Council staff whether there would be any analysis or summary of the report made public by Council's flood engineers/hydrologists, yet that also appears to be not forthcoming.

The Post 2022 Event Flood Behaviour Analysis - Brunswick River was quietly published on the SES website recently, and came without any announcement by the NSW Department of Planning & Environment.

The Echo also asked whether/when 'this report will be incorporated into Council planning instruments'.

A Council staff member replied, 'The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Flood Report has now been publicly released on the SES website and Council will shortly be sharing the link to it on our website'.

Floodplain management plans need updating

'While the report's findings provide various recommendations that Byron Shire Council support, we will not be making any changes to our planning instruments at this stage.'

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Biggest little town alive with colour



Tiana on bubbles and Stella and Raffia on stilts showered Mullum's main street with rainbows, love and colour for the Laneways Festival, held over the weekend. The event filled the streets and venues, and thankfully the rain held off. Photo Jeff 'Without Rain There Are No Rainbows' Dawson

Student HECS debt to be cut, say federal Labor

Two new major initiatives to support current and former higher education students have been announced by the federal Labor government.

Last week, *The Echo* asked local Federal Labor MP, Justine Elliot, what she thought of the expected increase of HECS loans, which were set to soar by 4.7 per cent on June 1.

She referred to a reply by PM Anthony Albanese; during the week, he announced that more than three million Australians would have their student debt wiped, equating to around \$3 billion.

Mrs Elliot said in a press release on Tuesday that it will benefit 20,000 people with tertiary debt

on the North Coast.

She said, 'The government will cap the HELP indexation rate to whatever is lower out of the Consumer Price Index or the Wage Price Index with effect from June 1, 2023, and backdate the relief to June 1 last year. This will benefit every person with a HELP debt, fixing the issue of

last year's spike in the CPI indexation rate of 7.1 per cent...'

The other changes that will 'make a big difference to locals on the North Coast', will be a \$319.50 per week payment for those undertaking mandatory work placements for teaching, nursing, midwifery, and social work qualifications.

Artificial intelligence used for beach safety? ► p4

Multicultural fest lights up Byron, May 12 ► p7, 17

Shhh, don't mention the environment to Labor ► p12

Support local and love Byron ► p21

Scoop up something good ► p22

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Young woman sexually touched in Byron

Reports of a young woman being sexually assaulted in Byron Bay have been clarified as 'sexual touching' by Detective Chief Inspector Matt Kehoe.

He told *The Echo* the matter was reported to police at around 1am on Wednesday April 24.

'Police attended and spoke with a 23-year-old female Belgian tourist'.

'She reported a sexual touching matter near

the Arts Factory at about 12.30am on 24/04/24.

'The victim was unable to provide any description other than three males "touched her" on the outside of her clothing and rubbed against her, before she screamed and yelled at them and they ran off.

'A search was conducted but failed to locate the males. [It was] Reported as a sexual touching, but not a sexual assault.

'Victim welfare was provided and the matter was investigated by detectives. Investigations ongoing'.

Wednesday 12.30am

'Anyone with dashcam footage or CCTV footage from Burns or Gordon Streets around 12.30am on Wednesday 24/04/24 is asked to contact police'.

The Echo understands the woman has now left the region.

Freedom flotilla efforts for crucial Gazan aid tied up in red tape

A freedom flotilla attempting to get much-needed aid to starving Gazans in war-torn Palestine is being hampered by Israeli forces, according to a statement by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC).

They say the small African nation of Guinea Bissau has withdrawn its flag from two of the three ships planned to sail to Gaza.

'Without a flag, the ships are not authorised to leave Istanbul port and sail into international waters', they said. 'This is wasting critical time that the people in Gaza do not have'.

FFC says, 'Guinea Bissau's decision is the result of underhanded Israeli political pressure on the small country. The FFC are now searching for a willing country to offer their flag as a replacement'.

Local man Surya McEwen on board

Local man Surya McEwen, has joined the FFC, and is one of three Australians committed to the cause.

All three are in Istanbul, says FCC.

'Some of the human

rights observers that were to participate in the mission have decided to return to their respective countries owing to the delay.

'Many have said they will return, and some have said they will be encouraging more applicants to join them.

'We are imploring on the media to highlight this mission, and in doing so, apply pressure on the Australian government to support our Australian representatives, Surya McEwen, Daniel Coward and Helen O'Sullivan, and ensure this aid reaches Gaza'.



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2022 flood data yet to be adopted into Council planning

Continued from page 1

'In order to do this, we would need our own updated floodplain management plan for each catchment in the shire.

A review to review

'The tenders to review the Belongil and Tallow Creek Floodplain Management

Plans are currently under review, and the successful consultants will be engaged soon. These have been funded by the NSW government's floodplain management grant program. Staff will likely seek a further grant to complete a review of the *North Byron Floodplain Management Plan* as part of

the 2025 NSW government's floodplain management grant program. Unfortunately, at this stage, Council does not have budget to make an application in this year's round that closes on 16 May.

'All reviews will involve working closely with our established Floodplain Advisory Committee, etc'.

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.




Freemasonry looks to its future

Hans Lovejoy

Meet the Freemasonry Grand PooBah of Lodge Cavanbah in Byron Bay, Nick Towers. Nick has taken the chair for the seventh time during the past 30 years, and is calling on local men to get engaged with the organisation.

He told *The Echo* they have supported many different charities and others who sought help over the decades. The Byron Bay Croquet Club is the most recent beneficiary – they recently received a state-of-the-art, automatic, voice command defibrillator from Lodge Cavanbah.

‘Lodge Cavanbah has been going since 1903’, says Mr Towers, and according to www.masons.au, it’s the longest-serving community organisation in the town.

‘Only the lighthouse, built 1901, has served the town longer in a continuous capacity. Freemasonry in Byron Bay has operated in the town longer the Byron Shire Council (now in Mullumbimby), which commenced in 1906, or the Surf Lifesaving Club which commenced in 1907 and the Boy Scouts Group



Freemasonry Grand PooBah of Lodge Cavanbah, Nick Towers. Photo Jeff Dawson

which started in 1910.

‘Charity has always been our main focus,’ says Mr Towers. ‘In the past, with strong membership, we preferred to just give, quietly. Charity has no bragging rights. Yet today, membership is falling.’

He says the group are hoping to attract new members who are interested in helping others.

‘George Feros was an active

member of Lodge Cavanbah’, he said, referring to the ‘loveable eccentric’ Byron local who successfully campaigned for an aged care facility.

Not a religion

‘Freemasonry is not a religion’, he says. ‘Nor do we discuss it. It’s the same as with politics.’

‘We are seeking out a younger generation with their heart in the right place.’

‘Those older than me are in their 80s and 90s, yet they never miss a meeting!’

According to www.masons.au, ‘The eligibility criteria includes being male, over 18, and to ‘Believe in a Supreme Being or not be an atheist.’

The group meet at 1/6 Byron Street, Byron Bay on the third Thursday of the month from 7.30pm. To get involved, email ntowers@inet.net.au.

Protests aim at Labor’s coal/gas project approvals

Local Federal Labor MP, Justine Elliot, has labelled those who protested at her Tweed office last week as Greens members, and claimed it was ‘just another cheap political stunt’.

As part of national ‘Rise Up’ protests against fossil fuel impacts on climate, activists are calling on the Albanese government to stop approving new coal and gas projects.

The Rise Up protesters say the protests were nationally co-ordinated by GetUp, 350 Australia, Australian

Conservation Foundation, Australian Youth Climate Council (AYCC), Rising Tide and Move Beyond Coal.

They say their concerns includes ‘No more coal and gas; strong nature laws, and ending coal, oil and gas handouts’.

Mrs Elliot’s 258 word reply to *The Echo* included previous criticisms of the Greens, and she added that the Greens voted with the Liberals and Nationals in 2015, ‘to change the pension asset test, which cut the pension to around 370,000 pensioners by as

much as \$12,000 a year, and saw many part-pensioners lose their pension all together.’

Greens candidate, Mandy Nolan, is contesting the once safe Labor seat of Richmond.

Mrs Elliot says her government ‘has taken strong action on climate change’.

‘We’ve lifted our country’s emission reduction targets by half, from 26 per cent to 43 per cent, and become one of just 33 countries to have enshrined those targets, together with net zero, in the law of the land, sending a message to renewable energy

investors around the world that Australia has changed and is open and welcoming to renewable investment’.

Yet Move Beyond Coal Northern Rivers say Labor have failed to deliver on their promise to fix broken environment laws – see page 12.

They say, ‘There are almost 30 new coal and gas projects that will likely be approved under our current weak nature laws. These fossil fuel projects represent up to 17 billion tonnes of emissions (or 30-years of Australia’s total annual emissions)’.

MEDICINAL CANNABIS PATIENTS DESERVE

FAIR DRUG DRIVING LAWS

Right now, the NSW drug driving laws that facilitate police roadside drug testing are unjust. Many locals are prescribed cannabis for effective treatment of chronic pain and other conditions, but current driving laws leave hundreds of unimpaired patients falling foul of the law for driving with traces of lawful cannabis medicine in their system, days later.

Scan here or visit tamarasmith.org.au/FairDrivingLaws to sign the petition calling on the NSW government to reform this discriminatory system.

TAMARA SMITH MP
MEMBER FOR BALLINA

Authorised by Tamara Smith MP, Member for Ballina. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.

Where art gets political



This Saturday, May 11, The Mandy 4 Richmond campaign will be holding their 'Art of Change' art auction at Mullum's Byron School of Art from 5.30pm. It is to help Mandy Nolan get elected to the local federal seat. Organisers say, 'Works by of Australia's most exciting established and emerging artists, like Lindy Lee, Adam Cullen, Emma Walker and Blak Douglas, will be auctioned off on the night'. Pictured are Greens senator, David Shoebridge, and local Federal Greens candidate, Mandy Nolan, with an Adam Cullen print. Photo Jeff 'Hounded' Dawson

John Shipton to speak in Mullum, May 8

John Shipton, father of detained Wikileaks founder Julian Assange, will participate in a Q&A session this Wednesday evening, May 8, from 7pm.

The award-winning journalist is still in London's

high-security Belmarsh Prison, where ill health prevented his appearance at his latest legal hearing.

The UK High Court is to decide on an appeal from Mr Assange's lawyers against a recent decision in favour of

the US Justice Department's extradition request.

The court's decision is expected on May 20. Shipton will appear in Mullum's Civic Hall as part of Turning Point Talks, along with David Heilpern and Mia Armitage.

Food security workshop May 11

Paul Bibby

How can we as a community ensure that a steady supply of nutritious food is available to everyone after a natural disaster?

Do we go down the prepper's path – stockpiling tonnes of canned food and tanks full of drinking water, or is there a better way?

This key question will be the subject of four upcoming workshops being run across the Northern Rivers, with the Byron event kicking off from May 11.

Run by local not-for-profit organisation Plan C, the Rising Together workshops are designed to help ensure our community's ongoing access to food in the aftermath of the 2022 floods and in anticipation of more challenges to come.

'I think with people seeing empty shelves after the 2002 floods, it showed that "okay, well, yes, this really is an issue"; said the founder and CEO of Plan C, Dr Jean Renouf.

'Food drops had to be organised for people who

were cut off, and we also saw that, for those who were already in a precarious position, the floods really made getting the basics like food extremely challenging.'

Response to demand

The workshops, which were a response to community demand, will provide an early step in addressing these food security challenges by exploring four key areas: ways to access land for food cultivation, region-wide initiatives for addressing food security, and key strategies for food preparedness that each of us can implement right now.

'The key principle is diversity of access to food,' Dr Renouf said.

'From a prepper's, perspective, it's a year's worth of canned food and, yes, that's one option. But there's also growing, exchanging, buying food directly from the farm, raising your own (animal-based) food and fishing.

'We want our community to be able to access food

from a multiplicity of places and then to have multiple options for storing. Cans are really only one option, there's also freeze-drying, dehydrating, pickling – there are a lot of alternative options out there.'

The overarching themes of the workshop are skill building, exchanging information and connecting – continuing the theme that resilience is achieved collectively rather than individually.

Four workshops

The four workshops will take place in Byron (May 11), Lismore (May 17), Kyogle (June 14) and Casino (June 15), with seven additional sessions planned for later in the year.

With the project funded through the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF), attendance is free.

However, with numbers capped at 25 people per session, spaces are likely to be snapped up fast.

For more information and to register, go to www.planc.org.au/rising-together.

Can artificial intelligence be used for beach safety?

Paul Bibby

Is it time for a new approach to beach safety that utilises AI technology to tell locals and visitors where it's safe to swim?

Despite numerous public education and school-based beach safety campaigns going back more than a century, more Australians are statistically losing their lives at the beach than ever.

According to the latest National Drowning Report, there were 75 beach drowning deaths across the country in the 12 months to July last

year. That's a 29 per cent increase on the ten-year average. Interestingly, 39 per cent of beach drowning victims live within 10km of the drowning location, suggesting that while most victims are visitors, locals are not immune.

So, is it time for us to amend the time-honoured adage of 'swim between the flags' to include the phrase 'swim where the AI app tells you?' A quick chat to locals last week revealed a diverse range of views on this topic.

'An app won't help as conditions change too fast,' local Blake Williamson said.

'Education on rips, sweeps, currents, tides, and different types of beaches is needed'.

Another local, Daniel Nauman, said locals generally got to know their beaches well over time and to so an app would be more helpful for casual beach users such as tourists.

'Swim between the flags is best, but there are big stretches of our coast without flagged areas,' he said.

'So I see potential in AI assistance for those areas.'

Surf Lifesaving New Zealand has teamed up with that country's institute of water

and atmospheric research to create a rip identification app that uses AI and deep learning technologies.

Tens of thousands of ocean images have been loaded into the program so that it can identify rip currents in stills or video with more than 90 per cent accuracy.

Swimmers can now simply take a video of the beach on their smart phone and then receive a hot-spot style graphic showing them the safest (and most dangerous) spots to swim on the beach.

The University of NSW and Surf Lifesaving Australia

(SLSA) are currently collaborating on an Australian version of the app, called Rip Eye.

But the research team are not in favour of simply giving all swimmers a digital tool that advises them about where it's safe to swim.

Professor Rob Brander, who is part of the team developing Rip Eye, told *The Guardian* that, 'I'm very wary of giving people technology that will give them a false sense of security and may actually encourage them to avoid swimming between the flags.'

Professor Brander, and

others, have suggested that more education is needed so that those who do decide not to drive to a patrolled beach where they can swim between the flags can learn how to spot a rip at the beach.

Research conducted in Australia and overseas suggests that the vast majority of us cannot consistently spot a rip, even if we think we can.

It seems that while AI is becoming generally accepted in many areas of our lives, the jury is still out on using it for rip spotting.

For now, it's still 'swim between the flags'.

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Justine Elliot and Anthony Albanese



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Authorised J Elliot, ALP, Tweed Heads South

Top-down planning failing, says Greens MP

Data released by the NSW government on its key housing policy, the Transport Oriented Development (TOD) State Environment Planning Policy (SEPP), has been criticised by Greens MP, Sue Higginson. She said in a media release on Tuesday that the TOD has come under intense criticism from planning experts.

'The government has used a theoretical capacity metric to promise 170,000 new homes across 37 precincts, but experts indicate that only

two thirds of those houses could actually be delivered owing to market conditions and other factors'.

'These new figures represent a perfect example of the state government's ill-planned and poorly-executed top-down, developer-driven agenda'.

'The figures not only represent a theoretical density capacity, failing to take into consideration market conditions, but have been handed down to councils who have

not yet been supplied with current housing targets in the first place'.

No public housing

She adds, 'As it stands, not only do the numbers not add up, but the policy has been rushed to this point with poor consultation.'

'There is a decided lack of specific minimum affordable housing incorporated into the Labor government's band-aid development plan, and no public housing whatsoever'.

Exploring the Burmese struggle, May 30

Kerry Wright

Rosemary Breen, from Inverell, is 85 this year, and still going strong, despite cancer. Rosemary (and her late husband) have been teaching, then quietly building clean water systems for villages and schools in the 'dry region' of Burma (renamed Myanmar by the military) for some years, unhindered.

So far, her local team has designed and set up over 450

highly successful projects, which is rather a miracle.

Each tank costs around \$2,000. She hopes to get to 500 completed in her lifetime. Each has a donor plaque on the side. The first person I thought of after I met Rosemary was Jacqui Boyett, from Global Ripple. Sure enough, a tank for them is now well on its way!

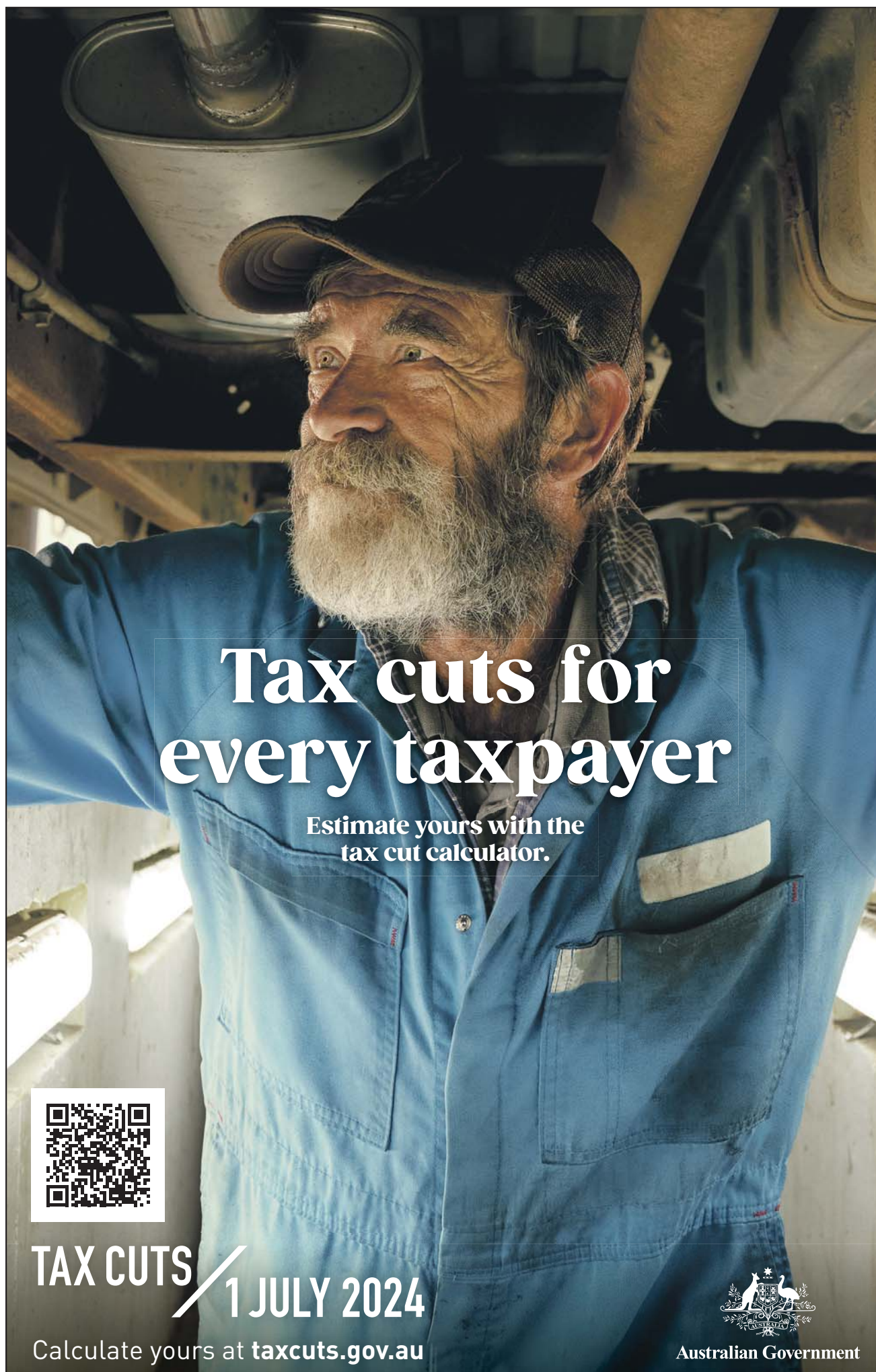
Many Burmese people have had enough. Unfortunately, not all the young men being conscripted into the army are able to escape, and more than 20,000 prisoners languish in cages.

While we may not immediately be able to help brave Burmese souls from their

truly shocking situation, we can attend a very special event, and hear the truth from those who know about the Burmese plight.


We can possibly also meet Rosemary, if she is well enough to drive, at her table. We can certainly hug Jacqui very tightly. Rosemary hopes to be at a special Byron Writers Festival event along with Australian academic, and ex-Insein Prison inmate, Sean Turnell, previously Aung San Suu Kyi's economic advisor, and ex-political prisoner, Dr Ma Thida. They will be in conversation with Mick O'Regan at Mullum's Civic Hall on May 30.

► More info, see page 23




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Australian Government

SCU Lismore 'suspends' music degree, adds others

The Bachelor of Contemporary Music has been 'suspended' from Southern Cross University's Lismore campus, owing to 'low demand' from students, a spokesperson says.

In a statement, SCU's Chief Marketing Officer, Dean Gould, says the course 'continues to attract steady numbers at Southern Cross University's Coomera campus on the Gold Coast, where it is also offered'.

Yet Gould did say the uni 'continues to upgrade its mix of courses at the Lismore campus with veterinary sciences and physiotherapy on

the horizon'.

He says a Veterinary Technology degree will be offered next year, and Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine in 2026.

'There is no vet science degree course offering anywhere close to northern NSW, so this important career has, until now, called our local people away from the region,' Mr Gould said.

New degrees

'A Bachelor of Physiotherapy starts at the Southern Cross Coffs Harbour campus next year, and is planned to open at the Lismore campus in 2026'.

Clive Hamilton to speak in Lismore June 13

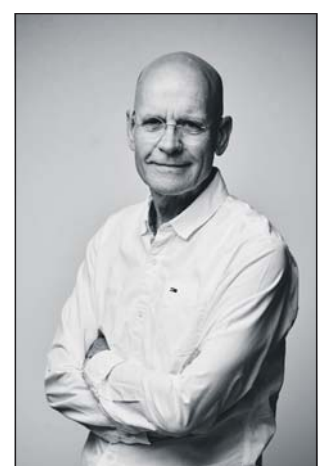
Celebrated author and professor, Clive Hamilton, will discuss the notion of how to prepare and manage the challenges of a warming climate in Australia.

Organisers say the topic is explored in *Living Hot*, the book Clive has co-authored with George Wilkenfeld.

Clive will be in Lismore on Thursday, 13 June at 7pm at Lismore Heights Bowling Club 'to give a sober assessment of our climate change predicament, and also explore how we can survive and even thrive'.

Organisers say, 'Clive is a professor at Charles Sturt University in Canberra. He has been named a "living legend" by academics and scholars for his influential work on social and environmental issues'.

'Lismore Politics in the Pub is a non-profit organisation



Clive Hamilton.
Photo supplied

and all monies raised go towards speaker expenses and event running costs.

'The committee is run by volunteers who will be delighted to see you on the night'.

The club is located at 181A High Street, Lismore.

Multicultural fest lights up Byron, May 12

Multikulcha Festival organisers say they are thrilled to announce their lineup ‘as one of the best multicultural programs ever in Byron’.

The free family event will take place on Sunday, May 12, at Marvell Hall, Byron Bay, from 1.30pm till 9.30pm.

Festival organiser and Bay FM presenter, Judy Shelley, told *The Echo*, ‘Throughout the day and night, the stage will be set for over 100 talented performers, showcasing an incredible range of multicultural expressions.’

‘In addition to incredible music, attendees can partake in a variety of activities, including face-painting, raffles, and kids’ craft activities. International flavours will be available through an array of delectable dishes, while art enthusiasts can explore unique creations by local artists such as Nickolla Clark, Nigel Stewart, Oral Roberts and more’.

Indian maestro

Judy says, ‘One of the highlights of the festival is an exquisite performance of classical Hindustani music by Indian maestro, Poly Varghese. Poly is a musical genius, and considered a national treasure of India’.

‘He is a multi-instrumentalist



Some of the performers and organisers of the Multikulcha Festival – from left the adults are Michelle Michels, Lili, Fia Fia, Aiden, Marian Mana Aloha Hula, Judy Shelley, Natty Dolaiasi, Kate Payne, Renata Uchoa, Anna Freeman
Photo Jeff Dawson

who plays 100 instruments, composing and touring with the London Philharmonic, and many other prestigious musicians. Being an international touring star, he has

performed in 55 countries during his career.

‘Poly Varghese will visit Byron for the first time, playing classical instrument, the mohan veena,

along with local tabla musician, Rodney Wright.

‘Another very special offering on the day will be the Mother’s Day afternoon tea, a heartwarming

gathering that will raise funds for the Red Heart Project, a charity started by Mullum local, Jo Morrish.

‘Jo has just arrived back from Kenya, supporting women and girls in creating their own feminine hygiene products on a sewing machine she brought all the way across several countries.

‘The afternoon will feature BayFM comedian, Kate Payne, and musician, Sophia Fletcher, and there will be door prizes.

Big lineup

‘Leading the lineup for the evening of multicultural maestros is Natty Dolaiasi, a renowned elder and song man from Malaita, Solomon Islands. His sell-out shows and tribal melodies have been capturing audiences across Australia. Joining him on the program are highly esteemed artists such as Greg Sheehan, Lucy Gallant, Kai-Fi, Las Comadres, Batala as well as Poly Varghese and Rodney Wright.

‘Performance artists such as Bundjalung man, Nigel Stewart, Mana Aloha Hula Troupe, The Bollywood Sisters, Veil of Dreams Belly-dance, Gabriel Otu African drumming, Batala Samba Reggae, Fred Ramanzini, and many other artists will be joining the festival.

For more information visit www.aiaa.org.au.

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A trail of tipples for Harvest



'I'm always looking for an excuse to indulge in a small tittle at 11am', says *Echo* photographer, Jeff Dawson. Holly Sheaffe provided just that excuse, with Dawson sipping a Bunker's botanical gin at the Harvest Food Trail hub, the Bangalow Bowlo on Saturday. The trail encompassed venues around the north coast last weekend, featuring free-to-visit events, as well as ticketed events. For more info, visit www.northernriversfood.org/harvest-food-trail.

What's on the Council agenda for May 16?

Items before Council's meeting on May 16 include a push by two Greens councillors to make Byron Shire beaches accessible to people with disabilities.

Cr Duncan Dey requests a report into the flooding of Mullum's east, yet while supportive, staff say they don't have the staff resources

or budget to undertake it currently.

'Council has one engineer overseeing flooding and drainage', James Flockton, Infrastructure Planning Coordinator, Infrastructure Services, writes.

Meanwhile, Mayor Michael Lyon seeks councilor support to endorse the

'Northern Rivers Compact', in his role as Chair of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation. He writes the compact is an MoU between the Northern Rivers Leaders' Forum, the Reconstruction Authority, and the National Emergency Management Agency.

The draft MoU is a confidential document.

Women's Giving Circle empowering locals

A collective of passionate women taking action to tackle local disadvantage have seen essential local projects funded, and the results are starting to take shape.

Amy Colli, co-ordinator of the Northern Rivers Community Foundation's (NRCF) Women's Giving Circle says, 'The goal is to have 100 women donating \$1,000 annually, so we can gift \$50,000 each year to grassroots women and girls empowerment projects'.

'The remaining \$50,000 grows the Northern Rivers Women's Fund, which guarantees projects will be supported each year into the future'.

A postpartum care program recently received a \$25,000 grant, which greatly expanded its capacity to support culturally safe postpartum care for Indigenous mothers.

Kirilly is a proud Barkindji woman who collaborates with The Returning Indigenous Corporation in facilitating the program.

She told *The Echo*, 'Ongoing colonisation has significantly impacted First Nations women's maternal and infant health'.



Kirilly Dawn, who facilitates the postpartum care program. Photo supplied

'Pregnancy, birth and child-rearing practices which have been in place since time immemorial have been disrupted, which affects mums and bubs health over many generations.'

First five years critical for long-term health

'Recent research has highlighted the critical importance of the first five years of life for lifelong health, influencing the likelihood of developing diseases such as diabetes and heart disease, which disproportionately affect our communities.'

'At The Returning, we believe that supporting First

Nations mums and bubs with culturally safe care and nutritious ancestral foods during postpartum, will help to foster a foundation of lifelong health from the beginning.'

'The support from the Women's Giving Circle has enabled us to cook with local volunteers in a commercial kitchen, and collaborate with local Widjabul Wiabul chef Mindy Woods to bring mums the best healing foods with native ingredients from beautiful Bundjalung country.'

To learn more about joining the Women's Giving Circle, visit www.instagram.com/nrcfwomensgiving-circle and nrcf.org.au/womens-giving-circle.

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North coast fire fighter honoured

Paul Bibby

It was a hot, smoky morning when Senior Deputy RFS Captain John Holmes and his comrades arrived at the Bean Creek fire, near Bonalbo.

Having been a member of the Mallanganeer Brigade (Kyogle Shire) for more than half a century, Deputy Captain Holmes was more than familiar with the tasks that lay ahead.

But this job, during last year's spring fires, was different.

'When we got there around 10am, it was already 35 degrees,' Mallanganeer Brigade Captain Neville O'Malley recalled on ABC radio last week.

'We were on a fairly steep hill going down.

'Within 20 minutes John had collapsed on us... He got up and said he was okay... but within five minutes he had collapsed again...'

When Deputy Captain Holmes completely collapsed a third time, soon after, the brigade hit the emergency button on their radios, bringing a swift response from the nearest paramedics.



John Holmes; Brigade Captain, Mavis Goodlad; Senior Deputy RFS Captain, and Neville O'Malley. Photo indyNR.com

But it was too late, the 74-year-old died on the fire ground.

Last week, around six months after his death, Deputy Captain Holmes was honoured at the National Emergency Services Memorial in Canberra.

As his partner Mavis Goodlad watched on, the proud firey joined 17 other emergency services personnel in being immortalised on the wall, located on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin.

'This is a fitting tribute to those who have tragically left us while carrying out the selfless act of defending others,' Commissioner of the RFS Bob Rogers said.

'Our thoughts continue to be with their families, loved ones, friends and fellow brigade members.'

Captain O'Malley said his mate would have been quietly 'stoked' at being included on the wall.

53 years of service

'John was in the brigade 53 years... and joined when he was 21,' he said.

'He loved the fire brigade... meeting nights, training days... wash the truck... John will show up.

'John would be stoked, but he wouldn't tell you that...he's shy, doesn't like too much fuss...but deep down he'd be stoked.'

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Echo

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

Lismore residents 'dumbfounded' by councils lack of scrutiny of DA with 'serious short-comings'

Local residents and Wilson Nature Reserve Landcare Group have said they are 'dumbfounded' at the lack of scrutiny of the ongoing development application (DA) at 37 City View Drive, East Lismore.

Evans Head's Irons Gates developers spend another \$2.5m on legals – how can a local community keep up?

The Evans Head Iron Gates development has been objected to by the local community for 40 years and they are asking why the current developers, who are in administration, are getting another go in the Land and Environment Court when their registrar Sarah Froh recently ruled against the case.

Seas The Day returning to Kingscliff

Surfing Australia has announced the return of Seas The Day for its second year running. The world's largest female participation surf event will take place over 22-23 June at Kingscliff Beach.

Housing roundtable held in Lismore

Member for Lismore, Janelle Saffin MP explained that the housing roundtable was prompted in large part by the need to plan for the transition of residents at pod villages.

Man charged over alleged driving and property offences

A man will appear before court today charged with 22 offences following an investigation into several alleged driving and property offences at Murwillumbah.

Rising Tide Northern Rivers launched

Rising Tide Northern Rivers is part of a peaceful mass movement for climate defence, recently launched at Hastings Point and in Lismore.

www.echo.net.au

\$230 million in DV prevention

Around 100 people rallied in Ballina on Sunday with support from the Ballina Shire Council to call for more government action to address domestic violence in Australia.

The NSW government has announced \$230 million as part of an emergency support package over the next four years for domestic, family, and sexual violence victim-survivors.

The announcement detailed on Monday includes \$38 million for the state's first dedicated primary prevention strategy, with the government promising long-term prevention reform.

The Pathways to Prevention: NSW Strategy for the Prevention of Domestic,

Family and Sexual Violence 2024-2027 is to be informed by the lived experience of victim-survivors and experts, including leaders in the domestic family and sexual violence sector who have engaged with the NSW Cabinet last week.

At least one prevention strategy has already been outlined, with \$8.1 million promised for an 'all in' early childhood pilot aimed at teaching young children about healthy relationships.

Five million dollars has been allocated for research into perpetrators and effective interventions.

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

Remember to 'Wage Peace, Not War' says Lismore local



Lismore resident, Sandra Handley, with the peace signs. Photo supplied

A global peace movement that aims to blanket the world with peace signs started in Lismore last week.

Local resident, Sandra Handley launched her global peace campaign 'Peace in Our Lifetime' at Remembering and Healing's 'Wage Peace, Not War' peace gathering in Lismore.

If you want to be part of this far-reaching campaign, follow the actions: PLACE a peace sign in public, PASS ON the idea to your networks and get them to PLACE and PASS ON. Send your peace sign photos to Sandra on peaceinourlifetime.global@gmail.com.

As Sandra says, 'Together, we CAN change the world!'

Contentious Cudgen Connection refused – but developer not backing down

Aslan Shand

The contentious Cudgen Connection development proposed on State Significant Farmland (SSF) on the protected Cudgen Plateau next to the Tweed Valley Hospital (TVH) site was in front of Tweed Shire councillors at the May 3 planning meeting.

Council's staff report had recommended the application for gateway determination should be approved; however, Kignscliff Raptayers and Progress Association (KRPA) were clear in their objections to the proposal and highly critical of the inaccurate statements and reports.

When the TVH was proposed on the SSF both sides

of the political spectrum gave 'iron clad' promises that there would be no further development of, or rezoning of, SSF on the Cudgen plateau.

Six-to-one in favour of refusal

'We are so grateful to the six councillors who voted to refuse this application,' Peter Newton, President of KRPA told *The Echo*.

'Particularly the community could not have had better representation than from Mayor Cherry, Deputy Mayor Dennis and Councillor Firth who forensically addressed every community concern in speaking to the item. It's disappointing that it was left to Mayor Cherry

and others to detail the clear shortcomings and inconsistencies within this proposal, which we would have expected to see in the Council report.'

Highlighted by KRPA was the fact that the Cudgen Connection proposal duplicates what is already planned on the TVH and Kingscliff TAFE sites.

'The NSW government (in particular, Health Infrastructure) have indicated several times that the combined available land on these two sites is all that is required for the full development of a health/education precinct,' explained Mr Newton.

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

MDMA features in post-flood PTSD trial

More than 200 people with post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of the 2022 Northern Rivers floods and landslides are to receive support through a clinical trial.

The \$3.8 million trial at Southern Cross University (SCU) is part of the federal government's \$750 million ten-year Clinical Trials Activity Initiative.

It's one of 26 projects due to have started from March 2024 as part of \$62 million approved under the program.

Researchers say there have been very few clinical trials focused on recovery from disaster-related PTSD and the one at SCU is to be the world's first, based on a stepped care model.

Stepped care is described

as an evidence-based system for treating mental health, involving a hierarchy of treatments, from least to most intensive.

The SCU trial is to feature two steps, a five-session arts-based group compassion program as Step One and group-based MDMA-assisted therapy as Step Two where participants still have PTSD.

Join the trial?

Responding to the trial's funding announcement last week, SCU Lead Researcher Professor Bennett-Levy said the stepped care program had been designed with a self-compassion focus.

Research after the 2017 ex-Cyclone Debbie floods showed mental health

problems were compounded if people were self-critical and blamed themselves, Professor Bennett-Levy said.

Prior research showed MDMA-assisted therapy was an effective evidence-based treatment for PTSD and enhanced self-compassion.

State Labor Member for Lismore Janelle Saffin, said she was happy to support the project thanks to the professor's international reputation for 'innovative mental health approaches' and his commitment to the wellbeing of rural Australians.

Anyone interested in participating in the trial can register by emailing compassiontrial@scu.edu.au.

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

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Volume 38 #48 • May 8, 2024
Established 1986 • 22,000 copies every week
www.echo.net.au

Phone: 02 6684 1777
Editorial/news: editor@echo.net.au
Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
Office: 64 McGoughans Lane, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager **Simon Haslam**
Editor **Hans Lovejoy**
Deputy Editor **Aslan Shand**
Photographer **Jeff Dawson**
Advertising Manager **Anna Coelho**
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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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The Byron Shire Echo
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Are we all finked?

A old dude named Larry Fink runs a US asset management corporation called BlackRock that not many people have heard of.

It controls over \$10 trillion in assets, which is equivalent to being the world's third-largest economy, behind China.

BlackRock is connected to other asset managers without much of a public profile either: State Street and Vanguard.

Asset management corporations are hard to untangle.

A web of shelf corporations cloud their operations, but it is generally accepted that they are managing the funds of large weapons corporations, big pharma, big banks, big ag, big media, etc.

According to CNN, the three 'collectively manage an impressive \$15 trillion in assets, which is more than three-quarters the size of the US economy.'

Third-largest economy

And they extend their tentacles into Australia.

They are 'substantial shareholders' with voting rights in all of Australia's four major financial institutions, for example.

There's also QBE, Suncorp and Insurance Australia Group.

They have also have shares in Woolworths and Coles, who control around 65 per cent of the Australian grocery market.

And then there's major interests in fossil fuel companies.

According to corporateaccountability.org, 'BlackRock remains the single largest institutional investor in coal, with around \$109 billion invested in the industry. This includes \$1.2 billion invested in Adani Group's coal mine project in Australia.'



A 71-year-old balding bespectacled billionaire named Larry appears about as interesting as a beige envelope, yet is more powerful than elected politicians.

Try putting your superannuation into a fund without their influence.

With Fink's fingerprints everywhere across the Western globe, it's worth asking how this represents a free market?

The cornerstone of a free market is supposedly competition, not a concentration of power.

Quandary

It leaves those of us who want to pass on a better planet to younger generations in a quandary.

Everything you buy or borrow or loan leads back to one of these corporations, which are not guided by the principles of preserving or improving the planet.

It's the shallow pursuit of making money for its own sake, and doing it within a framework of weak and inadequate laws.

Enacting much-needed anti-trust laws is perhaps the obvious answer.

Expecting the Fink to have an epiphany and invest in a future less like *Mad Max* doesn't seem likely.

His corporation is literally named scorched planet!

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Shhh don't mention the environment to Labor

The state of Australia's natural environment is rapidly going from bad to worse, as those in government with a duty of care choose to dress windows and kick potential solutions down the road.

Tanya Plibersek is widely thought to have been given the environment and water portfolio to restrain her ambitions.

Although reportedly fond of bushwalking, she has no previous experience in an environmental role, either in government or opposition, having spent her political life specialising in health, education, foreign affairs, human services and women.

Big promises

It can be something of a curse to be the human face of the government's environment policy, with little real power to change things, but Minister Plibersek's fall has been further than most, having been elected as part of a government promising to do much better in this area than its predecessor – not a big ask in this case.

When the Albanese government released its *Nature Positive Plan* in 2022, there was an expectation that sweeping reforms of Commonwealth environmental law would follow, particularly a reworking of the deeply flawed and unfit for purpose *Environment Protection Biodiversity and Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC).

So far, little has changed, apart from the announcement of two additional bureaucratic bodies; a new federal EPA (this is the watchdog with no teeth, only able to implement existing laws), and another one created to manage environmental data, to be called Environment Information Australia (EIA).

The rest of the *Nature Positive Plan* – the part concerned with legislating real change on the ground, to protect species and ecosystems – has been broken up and relegated vaguely into the future. This has been warmly welcomed by mining companies, particularly in WA, while the environment organisations and other stakeholders who have been working behind closed doors with government to develop the plan are calling it a betrayal.



'The absence of legislative reform means that coal mine and gas field expansions, along with the destruction of forests, can continue just as they did under Scott Morrison'

– David Lowe

George Woods from Lock the Gate recently appeared at a parliamentary committee and said, 'This delay is going to drive wildlife closer to extinction. It's going to maintain the blindfold in Australia's keystone environment law on climate change damage caused by coal and gas mining and exports.'

She said the government had failed in its promise to halt new extinctions, citing 'the lack of any kind of response from the minister to these really substantial problems.'

The absence of legislative reform means that coal mine and gas field expansions, along with the destruction of forests, can continue just as they did under Scott Morrison, with no additional consideration of climate or species protection, but with a new body providing the green light.

Even without the new EIA, the data on Australia's environmental decline is overwhelming.

Leaders in extinction

Australia leads the world in mammal extinctions, is second in the world for biodiversity loss, and has been named as the only rich country on a global deforestation hotspot list, with an area of bushland and forest equivalent to the MCG being bulldozed every two minutes, mostly for beef production.

More often than not, being mapped as threatened species habitat is no protection against destruction in the lucky country, with agriculture and forestry exempt from existing federal environment laws.

The CSIRO has recently estimated 50 million native animals are killed each year in Qld and NSW owing to deforestation, on top of the three billion estimated to have died from bushfires across Black Summer.

The Great Barrier Reef is currently undergoing its worst ever coral bleaching (with no obvious response from the government), logging in Tasmania is accelerating, new coal mines are opening, ecosystems in WA are collapsing under the pressure from climate change and other human activity, offshore gas in NSW is back on the table, wind farms are being built in environmentally sensitive areas, new pipelines are being laid, and the fracking industry is spreading across the Northern Territory with no federal intervention, potentially permanently polluting underground water.

In a rare ray of sunshine, Tanya Plibersek did reject the Toondah Harbour development proposal near Brisbane, but only after a decade of grassroots community activism.


She has declared herself ineligible to step into the Wallum dispute.

Minister Plibersek's role diminished

Recently, the federal environment minister's role has been further diminished, with her ability to oversee the offshore petroleum industry now handed over to Resources Minister, Madeleine King, a woman who has shown as much enthusiasm for fossil fuels as Keith Pitt, Matt Canavan and Barnaby Joyce, who each held the portfolio before her.


How any of this squares with the government's stated commitment to net zero is anyone's guess. What happened to the climate trigger, Albo?

■ David Lowe is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and photographer with particular interests in the environment and politics. He's known for his campaigning work with Cloudcatcher Media.



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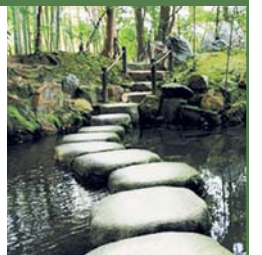
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JAMIE

Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

Flooding again

I live in Bottlebrush Crescent in Suffolk Park. In 2022 our houses were flooded due to heavy rain and, in my opinion, inadequate or non-maintenance of the drain on the property of 41 Bottlebrush Dr. At the time this property was being developed for the sale of land parcels.

After the flood a Byron Council representative came to investigate the catchment area and it was obvious that the drain on the southern side had been blocked and that the northern side had not been built up. This resulted in several houses in Coogera Crescent as well as our properties in Bottlebrush Dr being awash with flood water. The councillor assured us that when the development application (DA) was lodged these two problem areas would have to be addressed for approval.

The DA was passed and neither problem was solved. 2024 and we have flooded again! After extensive emails to Byron Council a reply said they would look at the catchment area at the end of 2025

Meanwhile we are again facing high rainfalls...

I contacted Council to request, at the very least, could sandbags be placed at the overflow end to prevent more damage? The answer was no, this required an engineer investigation. I then contacted the SES to ask for sandbags to protect our houses. I was told to go to

the hardware store and buy some! I am 72 years old.

Peta Fitzsimmons
 Suffolk Park

Lighthouse walkway

Soon most of the lighthouse walk that National Parks are responsible for will be top shelf.

Could the Byron Council please finish the walking path to the lighthouse from where Brooke Drive (the Pass turnoff) and Lighthouse Road come together? It is a mess, rocky, eroded and uneven. Dangerous for older people and difficult for prams. It's been like this for many years. There is also no crossover markings or traffic moderation at the road junction where the walk crosses Lighthouse Road.

Wally Hueneke
 Byron Bay

Rights to protest

In reply to Clarence Properties. Peter Fahey is incorrect when he calls protests at Wallum illegal and criminal. Protests are not illegal.

The Knitting Nannas recently took the state government to the High Court to contest its draconian anti-protest laws. The Nannas won... the anti-protest laws were found to be unconstitutional.

If Mr Fahey is so concerned about people obeying, if not the letter of the law, at least the spirit of the law, he should obey the EPBC laws and self-report as required under the

legislation, the endangered species his development threatens to extinguish.

Also there are human rights laws protecting First Nations peoples from being prevented from having access to Country and carrying out their cultural and customary practices.

Truth be told at the minimum Mr Fahey is recklessly pursuing the destruction of valuable wetlands and placing homes on a floodplain and has not got social licence to do so... *Non sans droit* has standing in the law in every courthouse in the country which declares *Dieu et mon droit* on the shield behind every judge for good reason. Civil society.

Rosie Lee
 Byron Bay

Groundwater contamination

Regarding groundwater contamination (*Echo*, May 24), for a period of some 30 plus years I have been trying to have something positive done to protect our groundwater.

I have written to state and federal government departments e.g. Department of Agriculture, EPA, Department of Water, Agriculture, and local government regarding contamination to no avail. Now there is a panic about 'forever chemicals' (3M) to the fore!

What about all the other chemicals - Agent Orange, DDT, Deildrin, Roundup, arsenic (from sheep/cattle dip

sites) which we have used for the last 100 years? We just hope nature has cleaned these up before hitting our aquifers.

It takes between 100 and 300 years for rain to reload aquifers, some of these chemicals have only just hit the water table.

When addressing the NSW Chief Scientist's panel it was shown there is very little knowledge or information on groundwater research. At least the general public assisted us in having water mining/bottling banned in Ballina Shire.

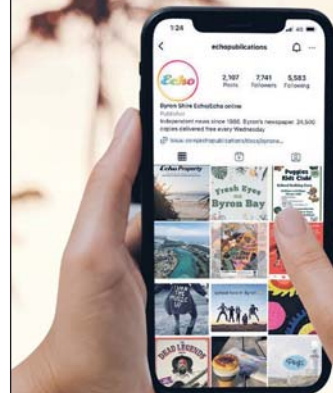
Aquifers run between states and countries, so this is a world problem. They say you cannot live without love, trying living without water.

Clive Quick
 Rous

► More letters on page 15

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Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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



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Organised communities change the world and create the solutions we need to solve the climate crisis

Drew Beacom

From the black glossy cockatoo to the hinterland, valleys and countless national parks, there are plenty of reasons to want to make a difference in the Northern Rivers. When confronted with issues like climate change and the extinction crisis one of the first questions we often ask ourselves is 'where do I begin?', often followed by a second question of 'can I actually make a difference?' In the age of the internet, it can feel as though all our emotional responses are tipped into a vacuum with headlines and social media creating a constant flood of frightening information. Understandably, these situations can leave us alienated and disengaged, halted by systems that frustrate any progress we try to make towards creating a better world.

Uniting communities

Communities have demonstrated that uniting behind shared concerns, creating people power and deploying this power has the potential to shift institutions, politicians, and even entire electorates. At ACF (Australian Conservation Foundation), we work to disrupt bad decisions, create ambitious



Black cockatoos have been seen at the Wallum site in Brunswick Heads. Photo supplied



This koala survived the Black Summer fires at Braemar State Forest. Photo Dailan Pugh

solutions to the climate and extinction crisis, and activate organised communities to create positive change. This coming Saturday, May 11, ACF will provide training in core community organising skills so we can build community and deploy collective power to win campaigns.

At present, we are at a critical juncture. We have the opportunity to protect our environment and our communities at both a local and national level. As local campaigns build power to protect threatened species habitat, there is also an opportunity to ensure that our

laws, and our political ambition, are world-leading.

Organised voices are the catalyst for progress and change. The conversations we have with our neighbours are the first step to building powerful communities, ready to react to whatever comes their way.

By actively going into our communities, chatting to friends and neighbours at farmers' markets, having conversations around dinner tables, building connections with like-minded folks and institutions, together we can build lasting

power. Together we can influence policies, narratives, and politics to ensure that we are building a climate for our communities and one that allows its creatures to thrive.

For the Northern Rivers, this is not a new phenomenon. The unity between traditional owners, farmers, environmentalists and concerned community members of all backgrounds saw amazing success in the case of the Bentley Blockade. The remnants of this power are visible next to town signs, declaring 'gas-free' communities willing to do what it takes to create change.

Today, the Save Wallum campaign continues to demonstrate the power in organised communities, as traditional owners, environmental activists, and concerned locals have come together to save threatened species habitat. Their ability to hold off bulldozers and persuade a local earthmoving company to walk away from the project speaks to the depth of their power.

As the need for people power continues to grow, it's important that we learn the lessons of our local histories and turn towards our communities to create the change we want to see in the world, together.

How to build community?

If you would like to learn about building power in your community, please come along to the Australian Conservation Foundation's Activate Richmond - Community Organising Training, Saturday, May 11 from 10am to 5pm at Byron Spaces. RSVP and find out more at: https://www.acf.org.au/activate_richmond_community_organising_training.

■ Drew Beacom is National Growth Organise at the Australian Conservation Foundation.



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Generosity trashed

The wishes of Florence Price (nee Wigmore), a great benefactor to Ballina, is now just a pile of rubble. Demolition of the Florence Price Village in Florence Price Place is almost complete and the attached photo shows the results of demolition of 14 perfectly-liveable units to nothing more than piles of bricks and concrete.



Fourteen perfectly-liveable units on the site donated by Florence Price to Ballina Council have been sold then demolished. Photo Alan Nicholls

They have turned our peaceful location into a living hell of noise and dust and Ballina Council should be ashamed of selling off this property without placing a covenant on future development. Greed to make their bottom line look good and the power of the Catholic Church are evident.

All the Council calls for low-cost, affordable housing are just plain bulldust and, with upcoming elections, residents would do well to call out this hypocritical bunch that are now in power. No one will take any responsibility for overseeing the demolition which was what I predicted when the development application (DA) was approved.

Alan Nicholls
Ballina

Question defence!

Thank you David Lowe, for drawing attention to \$50 billion more defence spending.

I add these points:

At least six to seven per cent of the world's climate emissions are generated by the militaries of the world. 'At least' because reporting countries' military emissions to the IPCC is optional. Emissions from waging war, and associated environmental destruction are not counted.

Australia doesn't report its military emissions accurately, and doesn't include commercial defence manufacturing in what it does report.

Our government is ramping up the sale of military equipment under an ambitious plan to make Australia a global weapons-making powerhouse. We even have a Defence Industry Minister, Pat Conroy.

There are now 250 private military manufacturing and exporting companies in Australia according to the 2023 Defence Sales Catalogue which reads like a giant K-Mart catalogue of military capability.

Australia supplies weapons to Israel, killing Palestinians, to Saudi Arabia killing children in Yemen, and to dictators arming child soldiers in the midst of famines in Africa.

As David Lowe said, we have our own military-industrial complex in which many former politicians now hold senior roles in defence, gas, mining, consulting, lobbying companies such as Santos, Dow Chemicals, Worley Parsons, Fortescue Metals, Strike Energy, Dragoon, BHP, United Petroleum and Raytheon.

Yes, David Lowe, we do need to ask: 'who or what is the enemy?'

'Climate change is a more real and present danger to the security of Australians than an over-hyped threat of war with China'. This is the assessment of Admiral Chris Barrie, retired chief of the Australian Defence Force who heads the Australian Security Leaders' Climate Group.

The Albanese government's Strategic Defence Review, released in April 2023 devoted an entire chapter to warning that the acceleration of climate change risked "overwhelming" defence, as nations increasingly grew reliant on defence forces for humanitarian assistance and disaster response.'

So don't hold your breath for the Australian Army to come and help after the next flood.

If our governments will not question increased defence spending and its associated emissions, then we must.

Bobbi Allan
Mullumbimby

DV

Call it for what it is, murder and violent assault.

The terms 'domestic violence' or worse 'DV' appear to give this abhorrent situation some kind of special case connotation.

If men were doing this to other men would it be tolerated? Think again.

Platitudes, and announcements, throwing more money to various education programs have been tried – and are not working well or fast enough.

Let's look at what does

work and make a real difference in our society – consequences!

If a person breaks bail conditions or ignores an AVO (apprehended violence order) they should go on remand instantly until their court date. Build remand centres with the available money.

The one-punch laws and consequences have made a difference, high-speed chase laws have made a difference. Drink-driving consequences have made a difference as have speeding laws.

Do something fair dinkum please!

I am not a letter writer usually, but we need to: 'Take arms against a sea of troubles, and by opposing, end them.'

Susan Meehan
East Ballina

Teenage crime

National service would help eliminate most of the problem and simultaneously bolster the defence force manpower.

Peter Walters
Ballina

Politics

Further to T Sharples' letter (Echo, May 1) Justine Elliot has never been a good representative for her electorate – she is obviously a person of steely ambition and as a result never disagrees with official Labor policies.

This is the person who told the residents of Feros Village that she was unable to help them.

She is also an ex-cop which engenders attitudes of moral self-righteousness and authoritarianism (just look at Peter Dutton).

When are federal Labor going to realise that if Tanya Plibersek doesn't intervene in the Wallum dispute (and she has the power to do so) then Mandy Nolan is likely to be a shoe-in at the next election?

David Gilet
Mullumbimby

► More letters on next page

ENTERTAINMENT

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WITH TOMMY MEMPHIS

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BALLINA RSL

Join the 'muffment' and raise money for homeless women

'We need you to cook a muffin, decorate your muffler, pop on some ear muffs or even 'Show Us Your Muff' to raise money for women's homelessness,' says Sally Mathrick, one of the founders of the Darling Muffs of May.

The Darling Muffs of May is a movement that has started in Mullumbimby to celebrate the feminine and to support women's health, and this year they are asking you to help them raise money for homeless women.

Right now they need you to join the 'muffment' and sign up to help raise money for six organisations who work on the frontline with

women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

'Think Movember, but instead of growing your moustache you agree to show your muff (anonomuffly) in the Great Wall of Muff exhibition or cook some muffins or something else muff inspired you'd like to do and ask your friends to sponsor you to do it,' explains Sally.

Women's homelessness on the rise

There are an increasing number of women both young and old who are accessing local homeless and food services in the Northern Rivers



as the impact of the 2022 flood, the housing crisis, and increased living costs continue to be felt.

Kim Kennedy, who is a team leader at Fred's Place in Mullumbimby, said that they have seen an increase in women accessing

the service since the 2022 floods, in particular older women who have never used the service before.

Liberation Larder, which supplies free meals to homeless people in Byron Bay and supports a range of other food service providers across the Northern Rivers, agreed. President Liz Jackson said that 'Liberation Larder, was previously used by around 20 per cent women, and 80 per cent men; but we have seen a real shift over the last few years, and it is now about 50/50.'

'There has been an increase in older women who are accessing the service, as well as young women with babies.'

What can you do?

Go to www.darlingmuffs.com.au where you can join the Muffs for Change by registering to make a muffin, 'Show Us Your Muff' or decorate your muffler and get your friends to sponsor you.

'The Great Wall of Muff exhibition will take place on May 31 and we need women, men and anyone in between to get on board and register so your friends, colleagues, and families can sponsor you and we can raise money to support front line services that help women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless,' said Sally.

Coexistence

Thank you to all in the community from both sides of the conflict that have thanked me for my letter regarding coexistence and that Israelis and Palestinians have far more in common as people than not.

John Scrivener and Gareth Smith yet again responded in their usual words, ranting many fictitious claims against Israel that can be easily debunked by minimal investigation and I urge people to do that. If the claims were actually factual, that would be a good

place to start as with every war there are valid claims to make.

As I have always said, people who do not have the ability to sympathise with both the people of Israel and Gaza are not worth listening to. They simply manufacture more and more hate with their echo chambers.

We can only hope that this war will end soon and that both sides see a different way forward. Israelis are not going anywhere; the Palestinians are not going anywhere.

Hamas has stated over

and over and over again that they intend to repeat their October 7 invasion of Israel on larger and larger scales and they simply can't be given the opportunity to do that. A ceasefire where Hamas can rearm and repeat the torture, rapes and murders of Israeli families of all religions (including Muslims) is simply not enough.

Palestinian civilians don't deserve to have this war repeated and need assistance in replacing their leaders for ones who actually care about their futures and quality of life.

Peace between Israel and a Palestinian nation is the only way forward, let's all be a part of the solution.

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

Free all the people

By any account, the current ongoing humanitarian tragedy in Gaza today needs thorough analysis, to objectively understand the causes as to why this ongoing issue continues, and ordinary people suffer.

There are many perspectives and viewpoints, some valid, others not, the fact remains that most Palestinians are being horrendously treated in the war, with 30,000 women and children killed.

The scale of this conflict is disproportionate against the Palestinian people, who are the oppressed victims of historical injustices between bigger imperialist players - USA, United Kingdom, France - each of which have for geopolitical reasons aligned themselves with Israel.

The coalition Netanyahu Israeli government, made up of extreme ultraorthodox messianic Jewish and other far-right politicians, holds incredible sway over the government, to prevent the government from collapsing and Netanyahu facing criminal charges.

Internationally, university students, especially in the US, have set up encampments to highlight solidarity and protest in relation to the plight and suffering of the Palestinian people. These are reminiscent of the Vietnam war student demonstrations, building an anti-war movement.

As public opinion shifts, and critical mass builds more pressure by ordinary people on politicians to hold governments to account for their complicity in this unjust war against the Palestinian people, it only tells that soon Palestinians will be truly a free and independent people.

Boyd Kellner
Newrybar

Revised version?

Language is a living and ever-changing thing.

Israel is currently under the thumb of 'ultraorthodox' forces (usually called 'extremist fundamentalists') and these need to urgently modify the basic text on which they rely, being the Old Testament.

For example, 'a tooth for a tooth' has become '30 teeth for a tooth' while 'thou shalt not kill' should be qualified to include the words 'except in the case of Arabs'. As for not coveting thy neighbour's assets, that particular provision should clearly exclude assets owned by Palestinians, sorry Arabs, which someone called Jahweh long ago gave to Jews 'in perpetuity' i.e. forever, no ifs, no buts.

Similarly the term 'anti-semitism' should now be explicitly defined as any criticism whatsoever of Jews or the Jewish state, regardless of their actual behaviour. Sad times indeed we live in.

Fast Buck\$
Coorabell

The 13th Annual Brunswick Valley Landcare

MOTHER'S DAY TREE PLANTING

SUNDAY MAY 12TH
9AM - 12PM

POSTPONED

DUE TO WEATHER
JUNE DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED

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- The site at which this works is being undertaken is located at the address above. The proposed works include the installation of an ancillary equipment within the existing equipment shelter to activate '4G' LTE900 technology on the site. The purpose of this works is to provide enhanced network capacity.
- Optus regards the proposed works as a low-impact facility under Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018/ Telecommunications Act 1997 based on the description above.
- The proposed infrastructure will comply with the ACMA EME regulatory arrangements. An EME Report and further information can be obtained from www.rfnsa.com.au site number 2481002.
- In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal. Further information and/or comments should be directed to: CPS Technology & Infrastructure, (02) 9300 1700, planning-vic@cpstech.com.au by **5.00pm on Wednesday 22 May 2024.**

Upcoming Council election, Mullum hospital site and Wallum

Gary Opit & Carmel Daoud

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) defines corruption as an 'abuse of entrusted power for private gain'. These gains are not always monetary. They are primarily status, an essential component in the social interactions of our community.

Male competition in particular strives for recognition and throughout the animal kingdom males display and fight to gain status. Female competition is often dampened by the need to ensure the survival of their offspring and consequently their community and their environment.

This competition for status can be observed wherever one looks. It is particularly noticeable within the communication of the Byron Shire Council. Most of the people in our community have evolved above the desire for high status and understand that the survival of their offspring, their community, and their environment is paramount.

Fight for Mullum hospital site

The 2015 request by the community for facilities and services in the community-owned Mullumbimby hospital site for aged, disabled, disadvantaged, and vulnerable

people has been ignored.

Some of the Byron Shire councillors apparently find little opportunity to increase their status by agreeing with their community and prefer to gain additional approval from those above them in the status hierarchy.

Byron Shire Council has proposed that the community land will be converted to a private investment property so that the ultra-powerful and wealthy can rid themselves of the traditional owners, both original Australians and the present mix of families, by attracting wealthy potential buyers to Mullumbimby and consequently forcing up real estate and cost-of-living expenses.

The Mullumbimby hospital site must be protected by the community and kept for the community. Useful as an additional community food garden to feed poverty-stricken local families instead of an exclusive power base full of business investors buying up the locality.

Who's using who?

At the upcoming local government election remember that we have had three individuals that immersed themselves in the Greens political party winning approval to successfully run on a Greens ticket before abandoning the party to enhance their right-wing agenda to



Were calls to keep the Mullumbimby Hospital site for aged, disabled, disadvantaged, and vulnerable people ignored? Image supplied

help approve massive urban developments for the extremely wealthy and powerful on floodplains covered in critically-endangered ecological communities.

A false-Greens party councillor turned independent, Rose Wanchap, successfully worked to establish the West Byron floodplain megadevelopment and stated that surviving koalas can be exhibited in a koala enclosure on the new estate. The previous Greens Byron Shire mayor, Simon Richardson, approved the Wallum development in Brunswick Heads for the NSW Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) and the current mayor and former Greens councillor, Michael

Lyon, added his stamp of approval.

Previous success

The Byron Shire community successfully protected the last surviving sacred lands of the Bundjalung including the Arakwal National Park and the Billinudgel Nature Reserve. The latter protects the most important, and last, surviving pair of bora rings where the first Wandaral ceremony was undertaken that established our original Australian law. The Bundjalung Elders Council Aboriginal Corporation documented the beginning of the songlines law that protects the land and its people as it expands from north Byron Shire

and covers the continent.

The publication *Spirits in the rocks, trees and mountains of Bundjalung Country* records that Yarbirri travelled north, Mamoon travelled west and Birrung travelled south following Simpsons Creek through the last wetland wildflower plain at Wallum, which the previous and current mayors have approved for extermination.

The democratic Australian law was colonised by the foreign law of nobility where the rich and powerful own everything and demand respect from the commoners. The ongoing colonisation process is still in full force.

Protecting out life support systems

Ecological collapse is rapidly occurring, resulting in a planet-wide extinction event and climate catastrophe as the last of our essential planetary life support systems are exterminated by the rich and powerful. Their success means that we will always remain in extreme homeless poverty as they amass ever more power. At the election booth vote for true members of the community, Bundjalung and long-term Greens and others that will protect us from the horror of the new Gold Coast that they are establishing in north-eastern NSW.

MULTIKULCHA

FESTIVAL PROGRAM
FREE FAMILY EVENT

SUN 12 MAY
1.30 PM - 9 PM

Multikulcha Festival is thrilled to announce their lineup as one of the best multicultural programs ever in Byron. Excitement is mounting as Byron Bay prepares to come alive with captivating performances from many cultures,

celebrating our colourful diverse community at the upcoming Multikulcha Festival. This free family event will take place on Sunday, 12 May at Marvell Hall, Byron Bay.



<p>Mackellar Room</p> <p>1.30-4pm Mother's Day Afternoon Tea Fundraising for Red Heart for African Girls Monster Raffle and Door Prizes! With Kate Payne, Comedia, and Sophia Fletcher, Music</p>	<p>Multikulcha Maestros Concert</p> <p>6pm Kai-Fi Music 6.30pm Lucy Gallant 7pm Poly Varghese and Rodney Wright 7.30pm Natty Dolaiasi and Greg Sheehan 8.10pm Las Comadres</p>
<p>Main Stage - Oodgeroo Room</p> <p>2.30pm Welcome to Country 3pm Friendly Choirs 3.25pm Aloha Hula NSW 3.45pm Bollywood Sisters 4.10pm Byron Bay Mana Aloha Hula 4.40pm Veil of Dreams Belly Dance 5pm Batala Samba Reggae 5.30pm Gabriel Otu Drumming Workshop</p>	<p>Lawson Room</p> <p>1.30pm Solomon Islands Singing with Natty Dolaiasi 2.30pm Body Percussion with Greg Sheehan 3pm Talk: Climate Warriors Catch Trains 3.30pm Brazilian Dance with Fred Ramanzini 4.30pm Hawaiian Lei-making with Anna Carbonell</p>

Veranda and Garden

2-4pm Kids Craft Activities
Face-Painting
3.30pm Capoeira Angola

Foyer

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Good Taste

Eateries Guide

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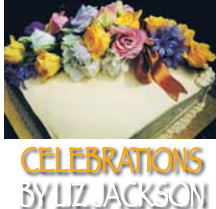
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Composting for a Better World!

International Compost Awareness Week is here, and we asked our local organic champions Santos Organics whether there was any point in composting our organics and using compost to create a healthier soil, or whether we should just dig a huge hole somewhere in the shire and let everyone throw their stuff in. On balance, they came down in favour of composting: 'On our individual sustainability journeys, one way almost all of us can make a difference is how we handle our food scraps and waste at home,' they said. 'With a few simple changes to our habits, we can reduce our environmental footprint and contribute to a healthier planet through home composting.'

'Food waste is a significant environmental issue with far-reaching consequences. When food scraps end up in landfills, they decompose anaerobically, releasing methane, a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change. Additionally, valuable nutrients contained in food waste are lost when it is not properly recycled. Composting at home is an easy way to side-step this problem by turning organic waste into nutrient-rich soil. Composting is also carbon-negative. Healthy, microbial-rich soils sequester carbon from

the atmosphere and lock it within the soil structure as stable carbon potentially for decades. So if you are not yet an avid home composter maybe it's time to give it a go!

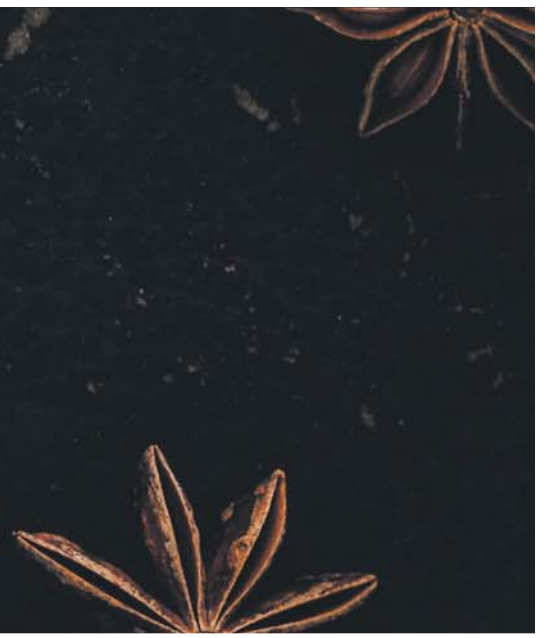
'Here are some tips for easy composting to get you started:

- Start small by collecting your food scraps
- Use vegetable scraps and avoid cooking oils and fats, meat and dairy
- Balance food scraps with dry organic matter in the compost pile at a ratio of 1:1
- Aerate regularly, at this stage additional manure can be added to turbo charge decomposition and for additional nutrients
- Keep it moist and add to your garden for soil, plant, and planetary health!

'Caring for our own food scraps and waste is a simple yet powerful way to promote sustainability and reduce our environmental impact. By composting at home, we can recycle organic waste, enrich the soil, and contribute to a healthier planet for future generations. Anyone can become a composting champion!'

For more detailed information visit:
<https://santosorganics.com.au/blogs/zero-waste/embrace-composting>.

The Good Life



LEFT: The Husk Signature rum can be enjoyed neat like a fine whisky – it's a new type of rum in which the flavour and complexity comes from the unique conditions of the Tweed region and the distillation process, not from sweeteners and flavours. RIGHT: A Tumbulgum gum reflected in the Forsyth still at Husk Distillery – it's a beautiful place to visit.

Mother's Day: farmers'-market style

Victoria Cosford

Each of us is the product of one: without them we would never have existed. If only for this fact, mothers should be celebrated – and this Mother's Day, consider serving up a three-course feast for the mother in your life, most of the ingredients springing from a visit to the farmers' market.

Start with a zucchini and basil soup; move on to a glorious chicken dish; finish up with chocolate. For the soup, soften a kilo of chopped zucchini (from Everest Farm) and two cloves of garlic in olive oil and do this slowly, so it takes around 20 minutes. Season, then add 500ml chicken stock and simmer for several minutes. Pour the lot into a food processor and reduce to a puree before returning the mix to the saucepan. Stir through 140ml cream, the chopped leaves of a small bunch of basil and one of parsley (from Gourmet Salad Hut), and 120g finely-grated parmesan. Check the seasoning and serve with a toasted chunk of Crabbes Creek Woodfired Honey and Macadamia bread rubbed with garlic and drizzled with olive oil.

For the main, roast chicken, you'll be mashing together softened butter and a round of Deb Allard's brie-style 'Claude' cheese, then folding through finely chopped garlic and parsley. Gently loosen the skin of a Misty Creek Farm chicken and insert this 'butter' all over, as far as possible. Season, and pop into a 200°C oven until the juices run clear. Alongside, serve Edens Landing potatoes you've roasted in Misty Creek's fantastic organic rendered chicken fat, till crunchy and golden, and Gourmet Salad Hut leaves.

The only possible ending after that is organic chocolate from Puremelt: your work is done, the table adorned with Ahana candles and beautiful flowers from Blue Lotus or Glenyce Creighton. Happy Mother's Day!

Everest Farm, Crabbes Creek Woodfired, Cheeses Loves You, and Glenyce Creighton are at New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday from 8 to 11am and at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am.

Gourmet Salad Hut, Misty Creek Farm, Edens Landing, Puremelt Chocolate, Ahana Candles and Byron Bay Blue Lotus are at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am.



Husk: Tweed pioneers in rum and gin

Simon Haslam

The picturesque Husk Distillery is just an enjoyable 45-minute drive north of Byron, in the Tweed Valley, and is a wonderful place to visit if you like gin – it's the home of the popular and innovative Ink Gin, and other gins made with local botanicals. Also, if you like rum and would like to try something really worthwhile, it's also the pioneering home of Australia's first farm-to-bottle rum, made entirely from sugar cane grown onsite.

Now, some people might believe that they don't like rum, or that rum is merely the ingredient in the can of rum and coke that makes you a better singer. Rum's more than that, it's a very versatile cocktail mixer (and you can sample a variety of terrific cocktails at the distillery) but it can also be sipped by itself. My favourite drink on a hot day is the Caribbean-style

Ti' Punch made with Husk's Pure Cane rum with ice, lime and sugarcane syrup. If you haven't already, try Husk's completely new style of 'juice rum', made only from the cane juice itself, rather from molasses (a by-product of the sugar industry). You can actually sip these premium-quality aged Husk rums, like sipping a fine whisky, and experience the unique terroir of the Tweed region in the rum itself.

While this style of 'agricole' or 'juice' rum is popular in the Caribbean, Husk founder, Paul Messenger, is the first person to attempt this in Australia, working with Head Distiller, Quentin Brival, from cane-growing Martinique. The rums in Australia, and even some of the lesser rums in the Caribbean, are made using various sweeteners and flavours. Hence, if you don't like rum, you might not have tried a quality product yet.

Right now, Husk have available a wonderful Husk

Signature rum, made entirely on their Tumbulgum farm. I've tried this, it's terrific. It bears the new 'ACR' mark, a standard for this new style of rum in Australia, one made with a true sense of provenance using the natural flavours derived from Australian sugar cane varieties. Yes, there are different varieties of sugar cane; for example at the distillery they are growing a variety that's over 100 years old, but is very rarely grown today.

If you are a connoisseur of rum, you'll realise the importance placed on the actual still; at Husk, Paul and Quentin use column or pot distilling methods in their beautiful Forsyth still and work together over years (two to grow the crop, two plus years to age the rum) to develop the complex flavours from the juice and yeasts that go into their signature sipping spirits.

More info at huskdistillers.com.



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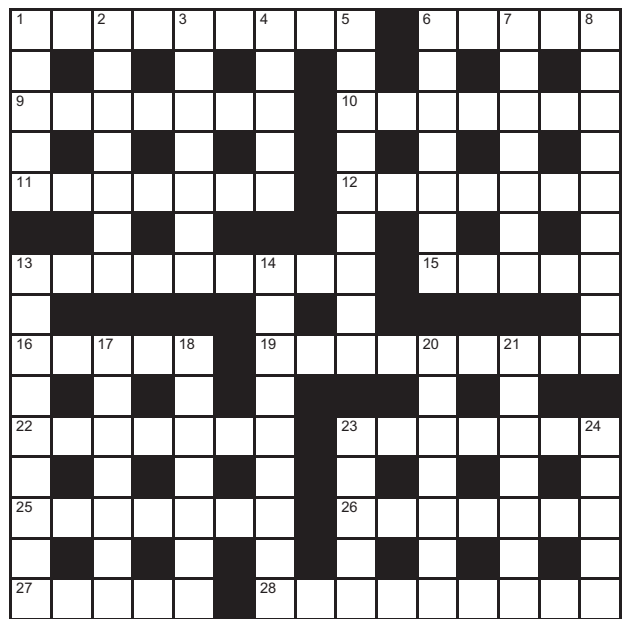
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Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Getting on train is traditional (3,6)
- Medic has waste matter put back into sink (5)
- Take off raincoats salesman brought around (7)
- Spoil royal night out in tent (7)
- Costs I'm distributing to produce TV shows (7)
- Whereabouts of commercial rig (7)
- Cleaner energy represented in a sculpture in Eastern European city (9)
- Aforementioned bandit totally trapped (5)
- Ancient philosopher is thus: almost excessively internalised (5)
- Speculations, but not in ceremonial gear (9)
- Wild asses love free range saltbush starter (7)
- Worship of spirits is a sort of mini sexual practice (7)
- Schedule I interrupted to make merry (7)
- Emerge to reveal... (4,3)
- ...captain with locks on furniture (5)
- Spartan spat at man in suit (9)

DOWN

- Sanctuary is nothing in its present condition (5)
- Very serious detectives turned up to collar star criminal (7)
- Movie maker takes soft drink infused with fizzy pop (7)
- Dog rescues trapped monsters (5)
- Condemns follower of Mary to poor seats (9)
- Legal document espousing purge is subjected to ridicule (7)
- Unfinished work on loan – that's rich! (7)
- Spooner's ovine pretence at risqué entertainment (9)
- See man on board, almost loaded (9)
- Pages left out by doctor at work on bug (9)
- Cairo, a number composed for a musical instrument (7)
- One who produces carrot managed to grab *Echo* (7)
- Australian actor with degree blowing Milan away (7)
- Bananas on air: 'B1 in the City?' (7)
- Bill starts to cruise right around African capital (5)
- Design a way to do things, right up (5)

Quick Clues

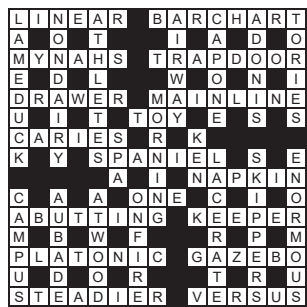
ACROSS

- Favouring conservative ideas and practices (3,6)
- Languish; sag (5)
- Run away (7)
- Canopy over theatre entrance (7)
- TV series depicting day-to-day lives of their characters (7)
- Where you live (7)
- Eastern European capital (9)
- Term used to avoid repetition (5)
- Greek school of philosophy (5)
- Garments denoting rank or authority (9)
- Equid species native to Asia (7)
- Belief that natural phenomena have consciousness and will (7)
- Engage in noisy and demonstrative revels (7)
- Make one's debut into society (4,3)
- Professorship (5)
- A person who brings a civil action in a court of law (9)

DOWN

- Fertile area in desert; refuge (5)
- Harsh; extreme (7)
- Movie director, and daughter of another of that name (7)
- Monstrous or cruel people (5)
- Severely reprimands (9)
- Scoffed at (7)
- Abundant; wealthy (7)
- Booths from which one may view live nude models (9)
- A diocese (9)
- Listen in secret to private conversations (9)
- Potato flute (7)
- One who makes or originates (7)
- He works for the postal service (7)
- East African capital city (7)
- West African capital city (5)
- Theme; ornament (5)

Last week's solution #1



A quick guide to solving Stephen Clarke's crosswords

Echo readers will notice how different Mungo's and Stephen's clueing styles are. To help with the transition between them Stephen wants to offer this guide to solving his puzzles.

Familiarity with the NATO phonetic alphabet, chess notation and two abbreviations – c and ro – from cricket terminology will all help. So, expect references to Charlie, Oscar, Mike, Romeo, Juliet, Lima, papa, golf, India, uniforms, whiskey, Zulus and of course *The Echo*. Lots of things run out and get caught. The letter O also gets a good workout, in the guises of love, rings, nothings, noughts and circles. There are references to horse racing card abbreviations: h, m, f, g and c, so horses, mares, fillies, geldings and colts all get runs. He also acknowledges his fixation on Spoonerisms.

Behind the Velvet Rope

Some people get to experience life differently to the rest of us.

We go out of our way to make sure things are better for them. These people tend to be super wealthy and privileged so they probably don't need the extra curation. I wondered why we do this. I wondered what life must be like when it's made slightly better than everyone else's experience. When you belong to those eight seats at the front of the plane with champagne and clean toilets while the rest of us wait patiently for tea and water. Behind the velvet rope.

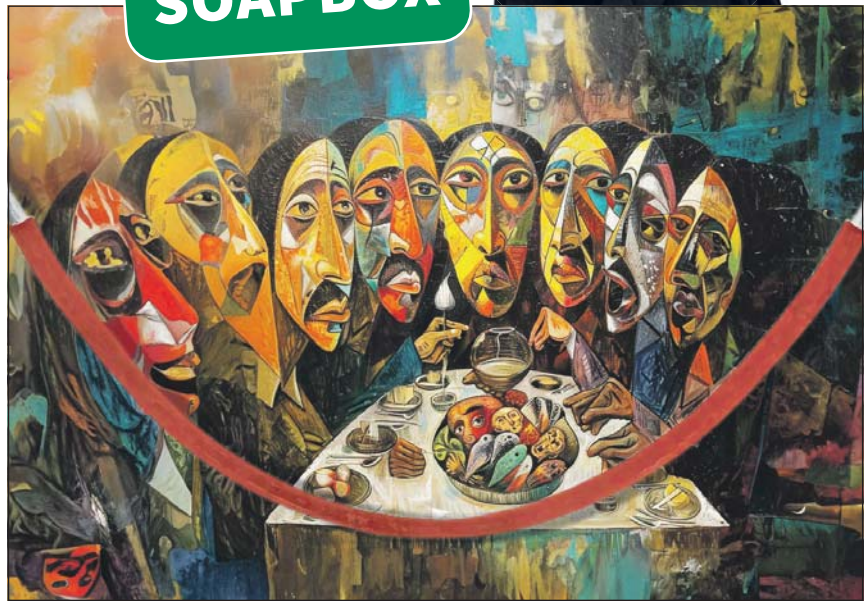
I think about equity a lot, and why only a few have so much and so many have so little. I wonder why we are okay about that. I remember walking through the poorest areas of Honolulu before the US election when Trump won the presidency (please don't let this happen again) and seeing stickers and signs for him everywhere. Trump Towers sparkled with resplendent and decadent wealth just a ten-minute drive away. Here in the shadows people lived in dire poverty. What ever happened to 'eat the rich'?

Before the rich start squirming, relax. It's not a new challenge on *MasterChef*, it's a metaphor for class conflict popularised during the French revolution. Although we are in a cost-of- living crisis... The longer quote by Jean-Jacques Rousseau should be repeated for context: 'When the people shall have nothing more to eat, they will eat the rich.'

Personally I'm not a fan of eating the rich, but redistributing wealth is actually a very good idea. But we don't dare ask. We're too busy begging for approval.



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX



When the people shall have nothing more to eat, they will eat the rich.

I wonder why it's so ingrained in us, (we who have little), to make sure those who have so much have such a gold star ride.

The other day I dropped into one of my favourite stores and bought some beautiful raw wrapping paper for a gift for my daughter. The person serving me told me she'd had someone come to buy the exact same paper because Elle McPherson had turned up and they couldn't wrap her purchases in their regular paper. I wondered why.

Is she allergic? Does she have a texture phobia? Can she only tolerate beauty?

Why do the rest of us get the regular and she gets the upgrade? It's not the shop's fault. It's what we do. It's not even Elle's fault. She probably doesn't even know. She probably thinks everyone gets the good paper. But they don't. We curate the experience of people like Elle. People who already have a pretty sweet ride are given an even sweeter one.

When you think about it, she doesn't need it. Life is sweet enough. Why don't we curate the experience of the poor? The woman scratching though her coin purse to afford the bread? The poor don't get upgrades or experience curation. They get the blame and a plastic bag.

We don't have to eat the rich, but we could at least stop sucking up.

STARS BY LILITH

Assertive Mars and Mercury in flammable Aries encountering the sun, Venus and midweek new moon in the solid sign of the bull evoke the old-time song: When an irresistible force meets an immovable object, something's gotta give...



TAURUS THE BULL

ARIES: If this week brings altered relationship or work-related issues and fiery Mars in your sign has you wanting to respond forcefully, be advised that reactive behaviour will only deepen rifts and widen divides. Step back, take a breath and focus instead on finding areas of mutual agreement.

TAURUS: Not only are the sun and Jupiter making this year's annual alignment in your sign, the annual new moon in Taurus on 8 May is bringing plenty of positive momentum to the Taurus world for making a fresh start. Forgiveness is likely to be easier this week than it may have been in the past.

GEMINI: The pioneering ideas generated by Mercury in recent weeks continue sparking interesting new connections and directions, so enjoy them while they arrive and thrive. There'll be plenty of time to assess what's viable and what's not when your guiding planet starts shifting into practical mode next week.

CANCER: The energetics of this week's Uranus/new moon alignment and how they affect you are possibly best expressed by Cancerian author Elizabeth Gilbert: 'The point is not for you to do something that's never been done before. The point is for you to do something you've never done before.'

LEO: With impatient Mars turning basic interactions into a battle of wills, let's not pretend this isn't looking like a challenging week. All the more reason to stay focused on its strengths, which are the self-control to not immediately react when triggered, and to stay calm when provoked.

VIRGO: This week Mercury's stimulating different ways of thinking, inviting you to explore beyond the borders of what you know, to investigate innovative ways of maintaining stability during the ongoing dance of change. So go ahead and experiment with new ideas – the practical reality checks will arrive next week.

LIBRA: Venus in her current transit is both indulgent and value-savvy, a combination which makes this week's Libran balancing act to find a workable compromise between must-have and sensible spending – because if anyone knows how to make budgeting look like the new black, it's you Venusians.

SCORPIO: Your natural talents of discrimination and discretion come into their own this week as Mercury and Pluto clash. Beware of temper flares, and also be selective about who you share information with, because the silicate communication planet is currently in its most unfiltered mode.

SAGITTARIUS: What does this week's yes/no, stop/go, push/pull scenario of impulsive Mars in overdrive and the celestial threesome of the sun/Venus/new moon in cautious Taurus mean for archers? A lesson in assessing when it's profitable to advance, and when it's smarter to rein in that Sagittarian horse.

CAPRICORN: This week's material-minded new moon on 8 May suggests connecting with like-minded people who share your values, to consider taking the next step in firming new possibilities into something more solid. Pro tip: in the current earthy cycle, all business meetings will proceed more agreeably over food.

AQUARIUS: An unexpected plot twist could arrive this week when the sun and radical changemaker Uranus bring the combined energy of their once-a-year alignment to your workplace and health sector. It's worthwhile being proactive by initiating any changes you already wanted to make.

PISCES: The gift of Neptune currently in your sign? Flexibility in the face of gridlocked situations. Empathy for the sensitivities of complex personalities. And the gift of tuning into Saturn in your sign? Assistance with finding the most ethical passage through this week's complicated maze.

LOVE BYRON BAY

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MILAMELI

Milameli Kids, the original locally owned and operated children's clothing and gift store has relocated...

After 18+ years under the Balcony Restaurant they have a new store at 3/6 Jonson Street.

Full of all their favourite kids products, shoes, toys, clothing, etc. they also now stock local brands: Byron Bay Candles, Mahashe Clothing, Reer Endz Organic Underwear, and Doterra Essential Oils.

3/6 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
www.milameli.com



100% PETS

100% Pets Byron Bay is your local family owned and operated pet supply store.

Come and see their friendly and knowledgeable team for all your pet needs.

The extensive range of quality products at 100% Pets enables them to become your pet care partner for the lifelong journey of your pet.

Their priority is the health and wellbeing of your pet, whether it's a dog, cat, rabbit, guinea pig, bird and/or fish.

02 6680 8121
4/55 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay



ESPRESSOHEAD

Tucked away in the heart of Byron, Espressohead Cafe has been a favourite locals' hideout for well over a decade. Their all-day menu includes fresh, locally sourced meals with vegan and gluten-free options, and of course exceptional coffee.

So pull up a chair and settle into this quaint and cosy space to experience Byron like a local.

Open daily
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SUNRISE WINDOW TINTING

Superior home, office and car tinting from a father-son team.

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Super cool films and frosts from the world's best manufacturers. Lifetime warranties available, friendly service and a local touch.

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3/21 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
www.sunrisewindowtinting.com.au



BVK SOLICITORS ATTORNEYS

Sue Rado (van Kempen) has organised BvK as the office manager since she returned to Australia in 2013.

A talented artist and photographer, Sue is also graphic & web designer and marketing manager.

Sue lived for 15 years in Budapest, where she gained experience with international businesses and became fluent in Hungarian. Sue is an integral part of the team at BvK.

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



THE SCOOP



STUDY HORTICULTURE WITH TAFE NSW

Byron Bay locals will be given skills to tap into the growing horticulture industry as part of a new Certificate II in Horticulture being offered for the first time at Byron Bay Connected Learning Centre (CLC).

TAFE NSW acting head teacher of horticulture, Robert Davies, said there's a need for horticulturists in Byron Bay.

'There are lots of job opportunities in local nurseries. Due to the year-round warmer climate, there is demand for the nursery, cut flower, floral oil, and production horticulture sectors to supply products locally and to the Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne markets,' Mr Davies said.

The course commences on Wednesday, 1 May and will be split between Byron Bay CLC and TAFE NSW Wollongbar campuses.

For more information, visit: www.tafensw.edu.au / 131 601.



ABI INTERIORS NEW SHOWROOM

ABI Interiors celebrate their new state-of-the-art Gold Coast showroom with an event-filled open day!

You're invited to ABI Interiors' state-of-the-art Carrara showroom opening from 9 am-3pm Saturday, 18 May, 45 City Link Drive, Carrara QLD. Enjoy live music and gain inspiration for your next project as you explore their high-end kitchen, bathroom, laundry and outdoor displays – thoughtfully curated to celebrate what ABI Interiors brings to every home.

Also, enjoy free gelato, gift bags, cooking demos, a moodboarding workshop, and a free coffee at the brand-new Cafe Junie. ABI Interiors' official brand ambassador and Aussie TV personality, Shelley Craft, will be in attendance for a special meet and greet.

For more information or to secure your spot in a moodboarding workshop, visit www.abiinteriors.com.au/showroom-open-day.



MY GEEK MATE

'Tech commandments of the Chief Geek' continued: The 2nd commandment is to use 'two-factor authentication' (2FA), also known as multifactor authentication (or MFA). It just means you need more than an email address and a password to access your important accounts.

To receive your 2FA one-time login code you can use an email address, a mobile phone number, an 'authenticator' app or an app associated with the service you are logging into (e.g. the Gmail app will let you log in to Google on another device).

Even better than 2FA is a 'passkey'! See www.mygeekmate.com.au for more details.

Mark - The Chief Geek, My Geek Mate, 1/53 Tamar St, Ballina 0431 122 057

'Personal tech support for bamboozled bipeds'



TRAINING THAT CHANGES LIVES, AT BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

With a focus on career development, personal growth and equipping students with invaluable skills, Byron College has a course to transform your life whilst helping those in need.

- CHC42021 Certificate IV in Community Services: create a rewarding new career and make a difference in the areas of housing and homelessness, aged-care, disability, youth work and many more. Nationally Recognised & Subsidised*

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- HLTAID011 - Provide First Aid: Be the hero in any situation! Equip yourself with life-saving first aid procedures and basic life support skills.

Head to www.byroncollege.org.au or call 6684 3374 for more details.



*For eligible students. Training is subsidised by the NSW Government. RTO 90013

RICHARDSON MURRAY

Richardson Murray is a boutique family and relationship law firm established by well-respected family lawyers Anton Richardson and Stephanie Murray.

The team at Richardson Murray are committed to achieving positive outcomes so that you can move on with the next chapter of your life.

'Over the years we have learned that clients want a family law firm they can trust, with lawyers who are best in class and committed to excellence. Clients want caring, understanding legal professionals who are sensitive to their needs,' says Anton.

'In our view Family Law is a specialised area of law that requires lawyers who practice exclusively in their field. Our firm practices only in family law and we provide our clients with an exceptional quality of legal service and client care,' says Stephanie.

**richardson-murray.law
42 Parkes Ave, Byron Bay
2016/89-91 Surf Parade, Broadbeach**



Volume 38 #48
 8-14 May, 2024
 Editor: Eve Jeffery
 Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
 Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday
 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
 P: 02 6684 1777
 W: echo.net.au/entertainment

seven



BAYSOUNDS COMPETITION LAUNCH

SAE Creative Media Institute and BayFM are proud to announce the launch of 'BaySounds', a new song-writing competition aimed at showcasing the talents of emerging musicians in the Northern Rivers region.

Open to musicians aged 16 and over, the competition invites musos to submit their original composition on the SAE website by **Sunday, 16 June**.

The winning artist will have their song professionally recorded, mixed, and mastered at the world-class recording studios at SAE Byron Bay by an SAE audio lecturer and final-year students, while receiving rotational airplay on BayFM. Additionally, the winner will have the unique chance to **perform at SAE's Open Day event on Saturday 17 August - which will be played live simultaneously on BayFM**.

The competition is being judged by: SAE Senior Lecturer, Dirk Terrill; BayFM President and broadcaster, Ange Kent; and BayFM broadcaster and musician, Nathan Kaye.

SAE General Manager, Dr Luke McMillan, says this collaboration is important, 'as leaders in creative media education, SAE is proud to have produced graduates who have made a name for themselves in the music industry like Sampa The Great, and studio experts who have won Grammy awards while working alongside iconic artists like Drake, Justin Bieber, and Hans Zimmer.'

'BaySounds represents a shared commitment by SAE and BayFM to foster local talent and support the growth of the music industry in our community.'

Dirk Terrill is enthusiastic about the upcoming competition: 'it is exciting as it provides young up-and-coming artists exposure to community radio and a local university college like SAE, while giving artists an insight into a career in the music industry. It's also an opportunity for our final-year students to work with a real-world client, and for the winning artist to obtain a quality recording from our talented student body who will utilise SAE's world-class facilities.'

Ange Kent said BayFM is supporting local music throughout the competition period: 'BayFM and SAE are both passionate about the music industry and our local community, and helping it grow. Throughout the competition we will be playing song submissions from local artists, with the top ten songs played on a special show once the competition period is over. There is nothing better than live radio, so for the winner to have the opportunity to perform at SAE's Open Day, and be broadcast live on BayFM, is very exciting.'

Nathan Kaye said that he anticipates entries from incredible artists during the competition: 'I'm looking forward to hearing the plethora of talent that exists in our region. The BaySounds application process will guide artists with what they have to do in relation to festival and grant applications. Being able to communicate what you do to music industry professionals, media, and the wider community is an important skill to have at your disposal,' he said.

Entries for BaySounds are now open until Sunday, 16 June 2024. To enter visit: sae.edu.au/baysounds.

TALES OF HOPE AND SURVIVAL FROM MYANMAR'S INSEIN PRISON

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

Sean Turnell spent almost two years in Myanmar's most terrifying prison, accused of being a spy. Ma Thida was also incarcerated there, denied medical treatment and came very close to dying. We spoke to Turnell and Thida about their upcoming conversation.

Can you explain the situation in Myanmar?

Sean: The country is in a desperate situation following a military coup in February 2021. Opposition to the new regime quickly followed the takeover, but this was met with extreme violence by the ruling junta. Tens of thousands have been killed, at least two million displaced (internally and externally), and the country has become once more a byword for atrocity. The economy is in a state of near collapse, and functions little more than as an exploitable resource for the ruling junta to provide for its wars. Most of the reforms of the last decade or so have been reversed, and Myanmar's youth now have few prospects. International attention on the country is minimal. Yet, the people of Myanmar remain unbowed, and the junta is increasingly on the back foot. Terrible things will continue, but Myanmar's military are surely sliding towards defeat of some kind.

Thida: Myanmar continues to struggle with political instability following the attempted military coup in February 2021, which led to the ousting of the civilian government led by Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy (NLD). The military, known as the State Administration Council (SAC), has since maintained control, despite widespread protests and resistance, known as the Spring Revolution, from the public including ethnic minority groups. Later the Committee Representative of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH) and the National Unity Government (NUG) were formed as legislative and executive bodies of resistance.

The SAC has implemented violent measures to suppress dissents and protesters, including arrests, internet shutdowns, extra-judicial killings, arsons and bombing. Myanmar is experiencing a humanitarian crisis, including arbitrary arrests, torture, and killings by security forces. Despite that, public opposition to the SAC remains very strong.

The People's Defence Forces (PDF) emerged in response to the National Unity Government's declaration, affirming the people's right to self-defence. The armed resistance has garnered significant support from the general public within Myanmar as well as from the Myanmar diaspora worldwide. This support has grown as peaceful protests and international initiatives, such as the ASEAN's five-point consensus, were all disregarded by the SAC.

The PDF consists of armed civilian groups and defected soldiers who can pose a significant threat to the SAC's authority. It has also engaged in guerilla warfare and launched attacks on military installations, disrupting the SAC's operations and now controlling more than 60 per cent of the country.

What impact do you hope your book will have?

Sean: I don't pretend it will have earth-shattering consequences, but I do hope it will draw attention to the suffering of the Myanmar people.

Thida: My book highlights that the decade-long quasi-civilian administration period (2011-2020) didn't bring Myanmar closer to reaching its way toward democracy, instead getting the country lost in a tortuous maze crafted by the military leaders. My hope is that readers will understand more details about my country's situation, especially foreign audiences.

Join Sean Turnell and Ma Thida with Mick O'Regan at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall on Thursday, 30 May, from 5.30pm. Tickets are limited, book now via byronwritersfestival.com/whats-on.

READ MORE ON PAGE 6.

CHE PRITCHARD PRESENTS

Birds OF Paradise

A COMEDY BIRDLESQUE!

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FRIDAY 10 MAY
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BYRON PREMIERE!

Uki Moon Theatre

Summer of Harold

Fri & Sat May 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 & 25

Cabaret Seating
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 Show starts 7pm

BOOKINGS: at the door or via www.trybooking.com/CQEVF

Uki Town Hall

Hilary Bell's three comedic plays



SUMMER OF HAROLD

In a change of pace, the **Uki Moon Theatre** are excited to announce their first production for 2024 – the comedic trio of plays, **Summer of Harold**, by award-winning playwright **Hilary Bell** and directed by **Penny Irving**.

World-premiering at the Ensemble Theatre in Sydney in 2023, *Summer of Harold* explores the poignancy of the mundane life through the transformative power of everyday objects in a trio of plays about the adventurous, passionate and hopeful nature of life.

Summer of Harold recreates a memory of Janet from 1984 when she and fellow backpacking friend, Alison, score summer jobs as housekeepers for the 20th century's foremost British playwright, Harold Pinter. Within the tightly controlled Pinter household, will these Aussie girls flop or triumph?

In *Enfant Terrible*, Gareth, who is returning from an awards ceremony, which has whipped him into an obsessive jealousy of a rival ceramicist, is forced to reconsider his brash actions on the night.

In *Lookout*, Joan and Rae are ascending to a picturesque Blue Mountains lookout – they take a moment to reflect on the past before making some life-changing decisions.

Performance are **Fridays and Saturdays, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 and 25 May at the Uki Town Hall at 7pm. Tickets are available now at: www.trybooking.com/CQEVF.**



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.



IT'S THE BYRON CAPER!

Like your entertainment served up with delicious food and booze? Then this one's for you! **Caper Byron Bay Food & Culture Festival** is thrilled to announce the return of the 'Dinner & Show' at **Brunswick Picture House** for two nights only on **Saturday, 18 May and Sunday, 19 May**.

After sell-out shows for the inaugural festival, Caper has this year teamed up with the creators of 'Cheeky Cabaret' and the new Byron restaurant **The Smoking Camel**, to bring you 'Rock the Casbah'. This bespoke collaboration is sending the Brunswick Picture House into souk-like hustle and song, as guests take their seats amongst rugs and riches fit for princes and princesses.

Arabian inspired frivolity will descend with multiple acts and The Smoking Camel dishing out their signature Middle Eastern menu, full of rips, dips and glorious sharing-style mains and sweets. Beloved local distillery, **Brookie's** is also in on the action, and will be serving all guests an in-themed cocktail to kickstart the party.

Tables can be booked in full, as tables of four or six, or for those that are in the mood to get sociable, book a spot or two on a table of future friends.

Never far from the action, Caper Festival 'Presenting Partner', **North Byron Hotel**, is providing a shuttle service to and from the pub for just \$10. The hotel is set to be a hub of creativity and community over the ten-day festival stint, as it acts as the perfect bolthole, full of activities to entertain the whole family.

We also recommend checking out the **Yakitori Party at Wandana Brewing Co**, as **Trouble San** (Brunswick Heads) and **Moonlight** (Byron Bay) are serving up snacks on sticks and sides as guests receive a complimentary sundowner in style with Trouble San DJs throughout the night.

All info and tickets can be found at caperbyronbay.com – with a limited amount left, we urge you to run, not walk.

CONVERSATIONS WITH MARK SWIVEL

Byron Community College is thrilled to announcement their new series, 'Conversations with Mark Swivel'. Mark is a well-known man-about-town owing to his dedication to community-building, activism and all the stellar work he does in raising awareness on important topics that affect us all.

He's a lawyer (founder of Barefoot Law), an independent councillor on Byron Shire Council, a performer and a writer. He's a bit of a bloody legend!

In this eight-week series, Mark will be joined each week by an equally special guest as they discuss important topics and hold open conversations on matters that impact us individually and as a community.

Kicking off the first week is filmmaker, storyteller and planet protector **Damon Gameau** – they'll discuss how to respond to the emergencies we face in climate, inequality and governance.

The rest of the series will be featuring some true treasures in the shire.

Money Matters: Wednesday, 15 May. Why economics is key to democracy – a

light speed survey of economic theory and policy from Smith to Mazzucato, with **Colleen Ryan**.

Consent Withheld: Wednesday, 22 May. The myths of sovereign citizenship – how the legal system really works in abstract theory and everyday practice, with **David Heilpern**.

Green Futures: Wednesday, 29 May. How will we live in 2099? – what policy, law and funding do we need for land use, energy and transport of the future, with **Belinda Kinhead**.

Freeing the Mind: Wednesday, 5 June. How do the law, new therapies, and drug reform fit together – from the war on drugs to better wellbeing, with **Micha Lerner**.

The Yartz: Wednesday, 12 June. Making art makes sense, makes money, makes us happy – how do we improve arts policy and the law for artists, with **Lindy Lee**.

Fair Go: Wednesday, 19 June. Social Democracy and Housing – the role of government in housing through history and how the past can guide the future, with **Brandon Saul and Tracey Mackie**.



Too Soon?: Wednesday, 26 June. The Contested History of Australia – colonisation, our constitution and catching up with our past, with **Julianne Schultz and Belle Budden**.

Bookings are essential. Full fee: \$30 per session, concession: \$20. Sessions run from 6.30pm to 8pm in Mullumbimby – either at the Byron Community College or the Drill Hall.

Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start and light refreshments will be available for purchase on the night.

GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL

Palace Cinemas are delighted to present the 2024 HSBC **German Film Festival** in collaboration with German Films. The 2024 line-up features many superb offerings including six films direct from the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale), a selection of the best new German cinema and exciting new films for budding cinephiles in the Kino for Kids side bar, presented by the Goethe-Institut.

The festival is excited to announce that the opening night selection is **From Hilde, With Love (In Liebe, Eure Hilde)** directed by renowned filmmaker **Andreas Dresen**, which premiered to widespread acclaim at the recent Berlinale. Featuring an extraordinary performance from **Liv Lisa Fries** as a young woman drawn into the anti-Nazi resistance movement during World War II, the film is a compelling historical drama and a remarkable true story.

Also direct from Berlinale is festival centrepiece **Foreign Language (Langue Étrangère)**, starring **Nina Hoss** and **Chiara Mastroianni**. This impeccable, heartfelt drama follows two teenagers in Leipzig and Strasbourg who forge a friendship through letters and language exchange. Their bittersweet and boundary-testing friendship is strained as they grapple with how to understand themselves and the world around them.

Closing the 2024 HSBC German Film Festival is **Treasure**, direct from its premiere at Berlinale. This touching drama starring **Lena Dunham** and **Stephen Fry**, follows a music journalist and her Polish father, a Holocaust survivor, who set out on a tour of their family homeland.

Festival favourite **Frederick Lau** delivers an outstanding performance in **One For The Road**, a deeply touching and distinctly authentic story set between Berlin's famous bars and sober therapy rooms. Temptations lurk everywhere in this amusing tragicomedy from director **Markus Goller (25km/h GFF19)** that dives into the highs and lows of drinking and the meaning of true friendship.

Featuring an all-star cast including **Nastassja Kinski** and **Albrecht Schuch** is **Dark Satellites (Die stillen Trabanten)**, a moving ensemble drama set in night-time Leipzig, it tells three stories about the impossibility of love in poetic vignettes, and, from Austria, **Andrea Gets A Divorce (Andrea lässt sich scheiden)** is a nuanced tragicomedy starring **Birgit Minichmayr** as a rural policewoman who wants a divorce and longs to become a detective inspector in the city but faces unforeseen challenges along the way.

These films are just the tip of the 'eisberg' – three weeks of great movies are waiting for you in Byron.

The 2024 HSBC German Film Festival will take place from 16 May to 5 June at Palace Cinemas Byron Bay. For more information, please visit www.germanfilmfestival.com.au.

A little more CINEMA



GIG GUIDE

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



TRILOGY: NEW WAVE

More than a decade has passed since the original *Trilogy* (2007), a classic surf film directed by one-time Suffolk Park resident and legendary surf filmmaker **Taylor Steele** was released. Since then, surfing has transitioned from a countercultural pastime to a mainstream sport. *Trilogy: New Wave* examines this evolution with a new lens, offering an unexpected perspective of surfing's present.

Trilogy: New Wave stars **Griffin Colapinto**, **Ethan Ewing** and **Seth Moniz** on a dream quest across the globe for pristine waves in Indonesia, Peru, South Africa and Tahiti. As the pressures of head-to-head competition for a championship crown weigh heavy, the three put fierce rivalries aside and discover how the power of friendship can unlock even greater success in and out of the water.

Taylor Steele also worked as an executive producer on the new *Trilogy* overseeing its aesthetic and flow.

The film's stars are three of surfing's top performers on the current World Surf League Tour. Colapinto, from Southern California, is presently ranked number one on the World Championship Tour (WCT) with Australia's Ewing number four. Ewing won the Rip Curl Pro Bells Beach 2023, following in the footsteps of his mum Helen, who rang the bell in 1983, finishing last season in second spot on the WCT. Both Ewing and Colapinto have secured spots to compete for their country at the 2024 Olympic Summer Games.

Director of *Trilogy: New Wave*, **Andrew Mackenzie**, says *Trilogy: New Wave* is really a coming-of-age story. 'We see the guys mature into the top surf talent in the world. Their genuine friendship helps to unlock success, but don't be fooled, there's also a real rivalry between the three.'

'As they say "iron sharpens iron", and you see the guys push each other to new heights with each surfing longer, and progressing more quickly than they would alone.'

Mackenzie and Aether Films positioned up to six cameras with a wide variety of angles on a single scene including an FPV racing drone angle that is new to surfing. This allowed Mackenzie to take more chances, cut some camera angles closer and create a completely fresh take on how the world sees surfing.

Trilogy: New Wave has its Byron premiere at Byron Theatre on **Saturday, May 18 at 6.30pm**. Seats are limited, and every show in Australia has sold out so make sure you book ahead to ensure your spot!

For tickets and more info, visit: byroncentre.com.au/theatre-events/trilogy-new-wave.

WEDNESDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TRILLA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCOR**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **NT LIVE: MACBETH**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM **STILL HERE BY DAVE & THE DAVES**

THURSDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JULIAN JAMES & THE MOONSHINE STATE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- THE LEEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **ROD MURRAY**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**

FRIDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FAT ALBERT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DEAR SUNDAY + THE COLLIFLOWERS**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **STILL HERE BY DAVE & THE DAVES**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCOR + SAM BUCKLEY BAND**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 7PM **BABE RAINBOW + VERY NICE PERSON & SINGLE CELL ORGANISM**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **YAZMINDI**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BIRDS OF PARADISE: A COMEDY BIRDLESQUE**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ PAPA BITCHO**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**

- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8.30PM **BULLETPROOF**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 10AM **TOMMY MEMPHIS**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **ADAM GARDINER DUO, THE DETECTIVES**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 4PM **BABE RAINBOW,**
- SEESPACE, LISMORE, 7PM **SCATTERED ORDER, TRALALA BLIP & CLOUDBEARD**
- THE LEEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **DJ NAT WHITE**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 7PM **TWO TEARS IN A BUCKET**
- UKI HALL 7PM **UKI MOON THEATRE - SUMMER OF HAROLD**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **MARTIN WAY**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM **CLAIRE ANNE TAYLOR BAND + JIMMY DOWLING**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **TAHLIA MATHESON**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **COUNTDOWN LIVE**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7PM **GOONS OF DOOM + DJ EDDIE**

SATURDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PAPER LANE TRIO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **ANNA STANTON, ISAAC FRANKHAM + WOLFMOTHER**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM **THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA ENCORE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN + DONNY SHADES TRIO, 8PM SUB UNITY**
- KULCHA JAM, BYRON BAY, 7PM **HOTMESS IN THE FLESH**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **PUSH**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **TOM BALLARD - GOOD POINT WELL MADE**
- MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY GARDENS 10AM **GROWFEST**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ CORQUI**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 7PM **TIN PARLOUR**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **PINK ZINC**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **CHILDREN OF BOB**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **BEN WHITING, LEVEL ONE 6PM MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY ROADSHOW**
- UKI HALL 7PM **UKI MOON THEATRE - SUMMER OF HAROLD**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 4PM **POETRY OUT LOUD SUPER SLAM WITH SARAH TEMPORAL**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MR TROY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **ROO MACKERRAS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE KILLER QUEEN EXPERIENCE**

SUNDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MAJESTIC KNIGHTS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **LIVIN' IN THE 70S**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **PAUL A GEORGE**
- MARVELL HALL,, BYRON BAY, 1.30PM **MULTIKULCHA FESTIVAL FEAT. NATTY DOLAIASI, GREG SHEEHAN, POLY VARGHESE, RODNEY WRIGHT, BATALA, KAI-FI, BOLLYWOOD SISTERS, ALOHA HULA AND GABRIEL OTU**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OOZ + DJS**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 12.30PM **UPBEAT**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ ABEL TORO**

- SHARA MUSIC TEMPLE, OCEAN SHORES, 5PM **SHELLY BROWN AND PAM FREEMAN**
- TINTENBAR HALL 3.30PM **GREG SHEEHAN + NATTY DOLAIASI**
- LENNOX HOTEL 1PM **INO PIO**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 9.30AM **GUY KACHEL, 2.30PM BALLINA BLUES CLUB WITH HARRY NICHOLS BLUES BAND**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA, 3PM **ANIMAL VENTURA, 3PM POLY & CO**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SHAW'S BAY SUNDAY SESSIONS FT RAGGA JUMP**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 4PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **AZO BELL & THE NEIGHBOURS**
- TWO MATES BREWING, LISMORE, 3PM **JULIAN JAMES DUO**
- THE LEEVEE, LISMORE, 4PM **M.E. BAIRD**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 2PM **ZAC CRACKALAKA**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 1PM **JON J BRADLEY**

MONDAY 13

- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARK USHER**

TUESDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OLE FALCOR**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KARUAH**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**

WEDNESDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX BOWEN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 5.30PM **AMATEUR CLASSICAL MUSIC EVE**

Session Times

Thurs, May 9 - Wed, May 15

PALACE CINEMAS

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS LES MISÉRABLES: REMASTERED (M) Sat, Sun: 1:00PM	KUNG FU PANDA 4 (PG) Daily: 11:00AM, 2:00PM	GOLDA (PGI/NFT) Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:40PM, 3:50PM. Sat, Sun: 10:50AM, 4:00PM	THE FALL GUY (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 1:10PM, 4:10PM, 6:45PM, 8:30PM. Sat: 11:00AM, 1:10PM, 3:50PM, 6:45PM, 8:30PM. Sun: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 3:50PM, 6:45PM, 8:30PM
ALL FILMS BACK TO BLACK (MA15+) Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:20PM, 6:00PM. Sat, Sun: 1:20PM, 6:10PM	CHALLENGERS (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 3:45PM, 5:45PM, 8:20PM. Sat: 10:45AM, 5:45PM, 8:20PM. Sun: 1:15PM, 5:45PM, 8:20PM	KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (ICTI/NFT) Daily: 11:00AM, 12:00PM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:15PM	THE TASTE OF THINGS (PGI/NFT) Daily: 10:45AM, 3:50PM, 6:50PM
PARIS OPERA BALLET: DON QUIXOTE (ICTI) Sun: 1:00PM. Wed: 11:00AM	THE WAY, MY WAY (PGI SNEAK PREVIEW) Sat: 4:20PM. Sun: 3:30PM	LA CHIMERA (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 3:10PM	WICKED LITTLE LETTERS (MA15+) Daily except Sat, Wed: 10:50AM, 4:00PM, 6:20PM. Sat: 4:00PM, 6:20PM. Wed: 10:50AM, 4:00PM
THE THREE MUSKETEERS: D'ARTAGNAN (M) SNEAK PREVIEW Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:30PM	CIVIL WAR (MA15+) Daily except Wed: 8:30PM	MONSTER (M) NFT Daily except Sun: 10:45AM, 1:40PM, 6:00PM. Sun: 10:45AM, 6:00PM	PERFECT DAYS (PGI) Daily: 5:00PM
FAMILY FILMS GHOSTBUSTERS: FROZEN EMPIRE (PG) Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 11:10AM. Sat: 10:45AM	DUNE: PART TWO (M) Daily: 1:40PM, 7:30PM	TAROT (M) NFT Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 1:30PM, 8:30PM. Sat: 1:30PM, 8:40PM. Sun: 8:40PM. Wed: 8:30PM	
IF (ICTI) SNEAK PREVIEW Sun: 10:50AM	FREMONT (PGI/NFT) Daily except Sun: 3:45PM, 6:15PM. Sun: 3:50PM, 6:15PM		

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

Session Times

Thurs, May 9 - Wed, May 15

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

CHALLENGERS (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:20PM. Fri: 1:15PM	THE FALL GUY (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:30AM, 1:10PM, 4:00PM, 6:40PM. Fri: 10:30AM, 1:10PM, 6:40PM. Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 12:50PM, 6:40PM	To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!
GODZILLA X KONG: THE NEW EMPIRE (M) Thurs, Tues: 6:30PM. Fri: 6:45PM. Sat, Sun: 6:00PM	THE TASTE OF THINGS (PGI/NFT) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:30AM, 3:20PM. Fri: 10:20AM, 3:50PM. Sat: 10:00AM, 12:40PM. Sun: 12:40PM	
IF (ICTI) SNEAK PREVIEW Sun: 10:15AM	THE THREE MUSKETEERS: D'ARTAGNAN (M) SNEAK PREVIEW Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:15PM	SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE
KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (ICTI/NFT) Daily except Mon: 12:20PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM. Mon: 12:20PM, 3:45PM, 6:40PM	THE WAY, MY WAY (PGI) SNEAK PREVIEW Sat, Sun: 3:30PM. Mon: 6:30PM O&A SCREENING	
KUNG FU PANDA 4 (PG) Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:20AM, Sat: 10:15AM. Sun: 10:30AM		

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5/111 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow	\$4,720,000	37 Coogera Circuit, Suffolk Park	\$2,250,000
20 Burns Street, Byron Bay	\$4,000,000	6 Mott Street, Byron Bay	\$1,900,000
8/174 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow	\$3,060,000	18 Blueberry Court, Byron Bay	\$1,625,000
51 Cowper Street, Byron Bay	\$2,950,000	38 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park	\$1,300,000
45 Childe Street, Byron Bay	\$2,700,000	26/5-7 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay	\$1,050,000

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Open For Inspection

First National Byron Bay

- 584 The Pocket Road, The Pocket. Wed 12–12.30pm
- 8 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park. Thurs 10–10.30am
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11–11.30am
- 2B/107 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 12–12.30pm
- 13 Cavanbah Lane, Byron Bay. Thurs 12–12.30pm
- 30 Kennedys Lane, Ewingsdale. Thurs 2–2.30pm
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Fri 10–10.30am
- 41 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 11–11.30am
- 12/18 Mahogany Drive, Byron Bay. Fri 12–12.30pm
- 11 Dalmacia Drive, Wollongbar. Sat 9–9.30am
- 24 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.30–10am
- 69 Tooheys Mill Road, Nashua. Sat 9.30–10am
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Sat 10–10.30am
- 240 The Manse Road, Myocum. Sat 10–10.30am
- 44 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.30–11am
- 59 Taylors Road, Eureka. Sat 10.30–11am
- 12/10 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 419 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby Creek. Sat 11–11.30am
- 41 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.45am
- 27 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 25 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 47 Teak Circuit, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 58 Butler Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 1/122 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 3 Sunrise Crescent, Lennox Head. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 13 Coral Court, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 4 Azolla Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 3/7 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 45 Corkwood Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 371 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 146 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 1.30–2pm
- 50 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 2–2.30pm
- 1/49 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 2.30–3pm
- 22 Karalauren Court, Lennox Head. Sat 2.30–3pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick

- 20 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Saturday 11–11.30am
- 284 The Pocket Road, The Pocket. Saturday 12–12.30pm

Harcourts Northern

- 2 Barnwall Street, Cumbalum. Sat 9–9.30am
- 6 Ecology Avenue, Cumbalum. Sat 9.45–10.15am
- 15 Plumeria Court, Goonellabah. Sat 10–10.30am
- 4/84-86 Mellis Circuit, Alstonville. Sat 10–10.30am
- 65 Lindsay Avenue, Cumbalum. Sat 10.45–11.15am
- 337 Hermans Lane, Pimlico. Sat 11.15–11.45am
- 19 Hickey Street, Ballina. Sat 11.45am–12.15pm
- 26 Bridge Drive, Wardell. Sat 12.15–12.45pm

Mana Re

- 5 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores. Wed 12–12.30pm
- 17 Yengarie Way, Ocean Shores. Wed 12–12.30pm
- 48 Orana Road, Ocean Shores. Wed 1–1.30pm
- 9 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Sat 9–9.30am
- 5 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30–10am
- 2/1 Durroon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 48 Orana Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 16 Eloura Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 4 Brunswick Street, New Brighton. Sat 11–11.30am
- 162 Nolans Road, Stokers Siding. Sat 11–11.30am
- 17 Yengarie Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 7 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 1.30–2pm
- 9 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 2.30–3pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 69 Brushbox Drive, Mullumbimby Creek. Sat 10–10.30am
- 79 Robinsons Road, Wilsons Creek. Sat 11–11.45am
- 62 Possum Creek Road, Bangalow. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 3 Raftons Road, Bangalow. Sat 12.30–1pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick

- 20 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Saturday 11–11.30am
- 284 The Pocket Road, The Pocket. Saturday 12–12.30pm

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- 81 Harwood Road, Burringbar. Sat 9–9.30pm
- 35-37 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 10.30–11am
- House 1 No. 1 Canowindra, South Golden Beach. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 6153 Tweed Valley Way, Burringbar. Sat 2–2.30pm

Ray White Byron Bay

- 1/33 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Wed 2–2.30pm
- 20/11 Constellation Close, Byron Bay. Thurs 2–2.30pm
- 20 Ribbonwood Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
- 4 Old Byron Bay Road, Newrybar Sat. 11–11.30am
- 11 Greenview Place, Skennars Head. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 75 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 23 & 23A Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 20/11 Constellation Close, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 109-111 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 898 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 346 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Sat 2–2.30pm
- 1/33 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 2–2.30pm
- 11 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Sat 2.30–3pm

Ray White Rural Bangalow

- 677 Cowlong Road, Eltham. Wed 2–2.30pm
- 677 Cowlong Road, Eltham. Sat 10–10.30am

Ruth Russell Realty

- 41 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.45am

Scott Harvey Real Estate

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

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 25 Smith Street, Clunes. Sat 9.30–10am
- 4 Coachwood Court, Federal. Sat 10.45–11.15am
- 20 Byron Creek Road, Coopers Shoot. Sat 12–12.30pm

New Listings

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Mullumbimby

- 3 Rosewood Court, Mullumbimby. \$1,100,000
- 1239 Main Arm Road, Main Arm. \$1,265,000

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick

- 503 The Pocket Road, The Pocket. \$1,850,000



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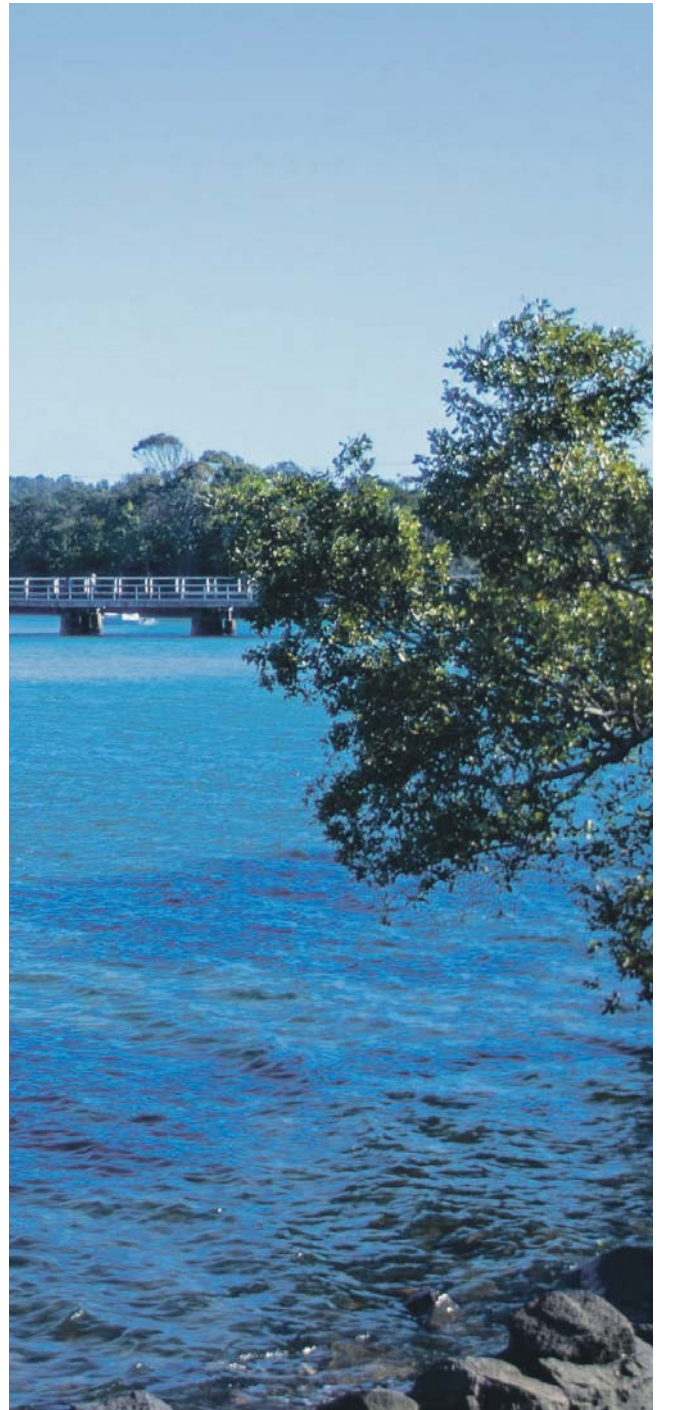
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AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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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.

PUBLIC NOTICES



Osho Meditation Day 11th May

8am Osho Silent Dynamic
10am Osho Discourse
12noon Osho Dance Meditation
2pm Osho Humming Meditation
4pm Osho shaking meditation
6pm Osho Evening Meditation

Call Shahido 6688 2494

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FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- Sausage sizzle • Hot dogs • Sandwiches
- Coffee & tea • Fruit Salad

EVERYONE WELCOME

Come one come all and join us in a meal or just a chat. Takeaway most welcome: COVID safe rules apply. Frozen takeaway meals now available.

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall



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

WOMEN CHESS

players needed. Josie 0401020293

WHERE TO GET THE ECHO

If you live in Lennox Head or Ballina, but outside our current home delivery area, you can pick up an Echo from many locations, including:
Richies IGA Ballina, Ballina RSL, One Stop Shop Ballina, Ballina Golf Club East Ballina, Brighton St Takeaway near the Shawsy, Seagrass Lennox, Lennox pub drive-through, Station St Grocer Lennox

AGMs

BANGALOW A&I HALL AGM
12 June 2024, 5pm at A&I Hall, Station St, Bangalow. All welcome.
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LP RECORDS: good condition, no op shop crap! Matt 0401955052

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POSITIONS VACANT



TRANSFORMING FUTURES: PROPEL BCPS FORWARD AS OUR BUSINESS MANAGER!

The role of Business Manager at Byron Community Primary School (BCPS) presents an amazing opportunity to contribute to the growth and development of an institution deeply embedded in its community. BCPS is not just a school but a vital part of Byron Bay's identity and future.

We are striving to develop a school that will be recognised locally, nationally, and globally for its educational offerings and learning environment/spaces.

As the Business Manager, you would play a crucial role in shaping the school's strategic direction, particularly in terms of infrastructure development and generating new revenue streams. This entails ensuring the efficient operation of the school's financial and administrative functions and actively seeking opportunities for growth and innovation. Given the emphasis on community connection, environmental stewardship, and holistic education, the ideal candidate for this role is business-savvy and shares the school's values and vision.

They would be passionate about creating a supportive and enriching learning environment for every student and dedicated to fostering partnerships and collaborations within the community. This presents an exciting challenge to be part of a dynamic team, and the right candidate will have the opportunity to make a significant impact.

How to Apply:

If you are passionate about contributing to the success of a vibrant school community, please submit your resume and a cover letter detailing your relevant experience to admin@bcps.org.au

Application Deadline: Tuesday 21 May

FULL TIME OP SHOP MANAGER

Companion Animals Welfare Inc. (CAWI) is looking for a full time Op Shop Manager to run it's two Op Shops in Brunswick Heads (next to the IGA Supermarket).

Hours: Approximately 38 hours per week.

Remuneration: General Retail Award, Level 5, full-time.

Reports to: CAWI Committee.

You will need to:

- have retail experience
- be conversant with, or be willing to learn Centrelink "Work for the Dole" requirements
- have good people skills
- be conversant with EFTPOS, banking, etc
- be physically fit
- have a current Working With Children Check number.

A job description and more information can be sought from cawidogs2483@gmail.com.

Please send your resume to susancallaghan123@gmail.com.

SCT LOGISTICS HC OR MC DRIVERS

National Transport & Logistics company looking for experienced HC or MC drivers at Condong Broadwater or Harwood Sugar Mill sites.

Competitive pay rates.

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DEATH NOTICES

DONALD KNIGHT 30.7.1940-2.5.2024



Donald Knight passed away peacefully on Thursday 2.5.24. He has left behind his beloved wife Gina Knight, three daughters, three step-daughters, 18 grandchildren and one great-grandson. Don was a well-liked 'coffee' person, with vast knowledge, who was always there for a laugh or footy advice.

He will be missed.

Please send any donations in Don's name to 'Our House' ourhouse.org.au



Henderson Raymond Leslie 14/1/43 - 5/5/24

Ray passed away peacefully at Feros Village Bangalow.

Loved brother and brother in law of Alan, Noel (deceased), Colin and Glenda.

Much loved uncle of his nieces and nephews. Dear friend of Michael and Tilly.

Devoted uncle of Jodie.

Ray will be sadly missed.

At Rays request a Private Cremation has taken place.

IN MEMORIAM

Tilemachos (Archie) KORIALOS

(14 April, 1912 - 4 May, 1997)

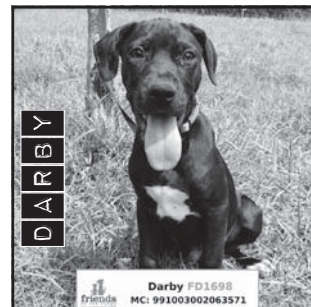


A lovely, quiet man, hardworking, patient and honest. Surviving many challenges and hardships.

We remember you with pride.

Love always,
Your family.

PETS



Darby FD1698 MC: 991003002063571

Darby is a 5 month old, Shar Pei X. Darby has gone from being a half-dead pup to a healthy and thriving dog. Darby is friendly and sociable and would make a great family dog. He is ready to form strong bonds with his future adopters. #991003002063571

Location: Murwillumbah
For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128.

Please complete our online adoption expression of interest.

friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/

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

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



ROCKY

9-month-old desexed male Border Collie Kelpie Cattle Dog 'Rocky' is a lovely natured boy who is bright, inquisitive and affectionate.

He is great with other dogs, chickens and cows. Also good with kids except for his boisterousness (knock-over hazard).

Looking for a running, cycling, hiking, beach companion or farm assistant/buddy? **Check out Rocky by contacting Shell on 0458 461 935.**

MC: 991003002408138



SANDY

We still have lots of kittens, all different ages and colours - all adorable of course. If you'd like to view them please ring 0403533589. Adoption fee includes desexing and microchip.

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped. No: 900164002253838. **PETS FOR LIFE**

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Goya & his twin brother Dali, are the most precious, pale ginger kittens. They are fearless purring machines that are bursting with playfulness & love. They may be small but they both have the purr of a tiger! Bring your earplugs if you come to meet them & be prepared to be devoured by their love.



GOYA AND DALI

To meet Goya & Dali, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm, Thurs 3-5pm Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 0436 845 542
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Niyati Hutchins

19th April 1972-20th January 2024



Niyati will be remembered by so many for the love and generosity of heart and spirit, that she shared within the Community of Mullumbimby and in fact, far and wide throughout Australia; on the Far South Coast of NSW, Narrandera (where she was born), and so many friends overseas, particularly in India where she travelled many, many times.

Niyati had a very close association with Main Arm School, where both her children attended for all their primary school years. She was involved in many of the school activities and loved being with all the children for Craft Days in particular.

In recent years, she will be remembered for the wonderfully, unique shop, Tinker Tailor Dancer Trader, that she created over 10 years, from a tiny pocket shop to a small emporium, in the main street of Mullumbimby, which attracts people to the town from many places in Australia.

After a brave battle with cancer Niyati has come to rest. She is survived by her partner Nicolai, her children, Naira and Tohru, her sister Brooke, her father Graham, and her mother Sangito. She will be greatly missed and forever in our hearts.

The wishes of the family were for her to be privately cremated.

FUNERAL NOTICES



Peter John McDonald

of Main Arm, Mullumbimby passed away peacefully on the 2nd May 2024 aged 65. Peter was born on the 9th April 1959 and raised in Riverwood, Sydney and eventually happily settled in Main Arm, Mullumbimby for the best part of 20 years with his long-term partner Meriel.

A loved son of Noeline and Terry (dec).

A cherished partner of Meriel who was his rock.

A caring brother to Mark, Lisa, Catherine and Anthony (dec).

A funny, mysterious uncle to Alysha, Aidan, Rhys, Ciara, Samuel and Charlotte.

A quirky brother-in-law to Barbara, Ashley and Gordon

A friend to all who had the pleasure of meeting him. A spiritual wandering soul.

Will be sorely missed by all.

In peace now and forever.

A celebration of life to be held at Kohinur Hall, Saturday 18th May at 2pm.



FARRUGIA, Colleen

08.01.1939 - 26.04.2024

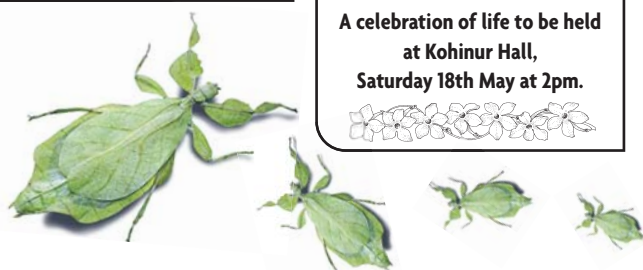
In loving memory of Colleen Farrugia (née Dingli). Late of East Lismore. Formerly of Federal and Rooty Hill. Passed away peacefully aged 85 years.

Former wife of Joseph Michael Farrugia. Much loved mother and mother-in-law of Louise, Joseph(dec), Jeffery & Kate, Anthony and Greg & Peta. Cherished grandmother of Jake, Grace, Brooke and Samuel. Loved sister of Paul, Mary, George, Charlie, Tony, Carmen and John, and all their families.

A very special thank you to the wonderful staff at St Joseph's Nursing Home, East Lismore. Forever in our hearts.

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend Colleen's funeral service to be held at The Wilson Chapel - Parkview Funeral Home, Goonellabah on Friday 10th May, commencing at 11:30am. After the service, the cortege will leave for the Lismore Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Authorised by Lisa Barnes
Parkview Funeral Home, Goonellabah.
1800 809 336



Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

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

Flood recovery support service: personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods.

Community support: food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.

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

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

Gulgani affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.

Orange Sky: free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon. To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdnc.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community

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

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30-11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **The Hub**

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (May)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
8	W	6:17 / 17:07	6:05 / 16:58	0809 1.48 2048 1.92	0212 0.34 1400 0.21
9	TH	6:18 / 17:07	7:15 / 17:44	0854 1.37 2133 1.93	0306 0.36 1437 0.25
10	F	6:18 / 17:06	8:24 / 18:36	0939 1.26 2218 1.89	0400 0.40 1515 0.32
11	SA	6:19 / 17:05	9:28 / 19:33	1025 1.16 2303 1.81	0457 0.45 1555 0.41
12	SU	6:19 / 17:05	10:26 / 20:34	1114 1.08 2350 1.71	0553 0.51 1638 0.50
13	M	6:20 / 17:04	11:15 / 21:35	1211 1.04	0649 0.57 1728 0.60
14	TU	6:21 / 17:03	11:57 / 22:34	0040 1.61 1320 1.03	0745 0.60 1831 0.68
15	W	6:21 / 17:03	12:32 / 23:31	0135 1.53 1438 1.06	0841 0.61 1947 0.73
16	TH	6:22 / 17:02	13:03 / 24:02	0234 1.47 1546 1.14	0932 0.59 2106 0.75
17	F	6:22 / 17:02	13:31 / 02:25	0332 1.44 1642 1.24	1018 0.55 2216 0.72
18	SA	6:23 / 17:01	13:57 / 1:18	0425 1.42 1728 1.35	1057 0.50 2315 0.68
19	SU	6:23 / 17:01	14:23 / 2:10	0513 1.41 1807 1.46	1131 0.45
20	M	6:24 / 17:00	14:50 / 3:02	0555 1.40 1844 1.57	0004 0.63 1201 0.41
21	TU	6:25 / 17:00	15:19 / 3:56	0634 1.37 1920 1.66	0049 0.58 1231 0.37
22	W	6:25 / 16:59	15:52 / 4:53	0713 1.34 1956 1.73	0131 0.54 1301 0.35

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

Baptist Church in Ocean Shores has food relief available for anyone doing it tough, please contact us on 0434 677 747 if you find yourself doing it tough. No ID or Concession Card required. NILs referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details. **Liberation Larder** Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre.

Respite Service

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

Alateen meeting

Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5-6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8-16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert's Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au.

ACA

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

Drug support groups

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

Support after suicide

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415	5th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764
1st SUN	Byron Bay	02 6685 6807	5th SUN	Lennox Head	02 6685 6807
1st SUN	Lismore Car Boot	02 6628 7333	FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS		
2nd SUN	The Channon	02 6688 6433	Each TUE	New Brighton	0424 168 672
2nd SUN	Lennox Head	02 6685 6807	Each TUE	Organic Lismore	02 6636 4307
2nd SUN	Chillingham	0428 793 141	Each WED	Murwillumbah 7-11	0415 328 672
2nd SUN	Coolangatta		Each WED	Nimbin 3-6pm	0418 940 653
2nd SUN	Tabulam		Each WED	Newrybar Hall 4-7pm	
3rd SAT	Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370	Each THU	Byron 8-11am	0414 595 169
3rd SAT	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672	Each THU	Lismore 2.30-6.30pm	0459 309 223
3rd SAT	Salt Village Market, Casuarina		Each FRI	Mullum 7-11am	0424 168 672
3rd SUN	Federal	0433 002 757	Each SAT	Bangalow 8-11am	0414 595 169
3rd SUN	Uki	0487 329 150	Each SAT	Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)	
3rd SUN	Ballina	0422 094 338	Each SAT	Uki 8am-1pm	02 6679 5438
4th SAT	Evans Head	0432 275 765	Each SAT	Lismore 8.30-11am	
4th SAT	Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglebazaar.com.au	Each SAT	Wadeville 8.30am-12pm	
4th SUN	Bangalow	02 6687 1911	Each SAT	Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr	
4th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764	Each SUN	Ballina 7-11am	
4th SUN	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672	<i>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.</i>		
4th SUN	Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)				

Volunteer call out

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

Carers' support

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

Rainbow Dragons

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

Older adult exercise

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

\$5 pilates classes

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

Pottsville Community Association

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

Language exchange

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

Brunswick Valley Historical Society

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

Library fun

Baby Bounce and Storytime for toddlers and pre-school children

are at: **Brunswick Heads Library**, Monday - Story Time 10.30 till 11.30am; Friday - Baby Time 10.30 till 11am. **Mullumbimby Library**, Monday - Story Time 10-11am; Tuesday - Baby Time 10-10.30 am.

Byron Bay Cancer Support Group

The Byron Bay General Cancer Support Group has been running for six years and welcomes new participants. The aim of the group is to provide a safe, supportive and friendly environment for people with cancer to discuss how they are feeling and connect with other people with cancer. Meetings are held every four weeks on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am. For more information contact the Cancer Council on 13 11 20.

Toastmasters

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

Meditation

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

Brunswick Heads CWA

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

Byron Gem Club

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

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Tilda is Visible

Friends of Libraries Byron Shire are holding another great book event. Jane Tara discusses her new release 'Tilda is Visible' with local author Naima Brown, a highly entertaining, hilarious, and insightful book. The theme of the novel, the invisibility of women as they age. Thursday, May 23, at 5.30 for 6pm start, at the Lone Goat gallery Byron Library, 28 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Tickets are free for FOL members and \$5 non-members. Bookings are essential www.byronbayfol.com. Enjoy a glass of wine and cheese on arrival.

Date change

Mullumbimby CWA

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Mullumbimby CWA meeting is changed to May 15 at 10am. A light lunch follows the meeting. New members are always

Lions Club

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

Craft group

The Uniting Craft & Social Group meets every Monday 9.30am-2.30pm at the Uniting Church in Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Bring lunch and whatever else you need. Small cost. All welcome. Do you prefer patchwork and quilting? Come along on Monday evening same place at 6pm. Enquiries Tilly 6685 5985.

Op shops

Uniting Church Op Shop, Dalley St, Mullumbimby - open each Saturday 9am-12 noon. **Byron Bay Anglican Op Shop** opens Tuesday to Saturday 9am-1pm. Volunteers needed. Enq Cathy 0432 606 849. **Mullumbimby Anglican Op Shop** opens Monday to Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-12noon. Volunteers needed, enq to shop 6684 4718. **Mullumbimby Seventh-Day Adventist Op Shop** opens Tuesday to Friday 11am-3pm. **Companion Animals Welfare Inc (CAWI) op shop** Brunswick Heads (next to supermarket) open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 9am-1pm, Sun closed.

Mullumbimby potters & sculptors

Mullumbimby Clayworkers Gallery in the Drill Hill complex is open every Thursday to Saturday 10am-2pm with pottery and sculpture from community members for sale. Applications for studio membership open in January. All details at www.mullumclayworkers.com.

CWA Bangalow

If you are interested in making new friends by supporting the Byron Shire community through fundraising and lobbying, pursuing craft interests and learning new skills, think about joining Bangalow CWA. Come along to our rooms, 31 Byron St, Bangalow between 10am & 2pm Monday to Friday to find out more. We are open Monday to Friday 10 to 2 and Saturdays 9 to 12. Our popular cake stalls are on the last Saturday of the month 8 to 12. Find us on Facebook or contact cwasecbangalow@gmail.com

Toy Library

The Byron Shire Toy Library is open Mondays and Thursdays 9am-12 noon, at the Children's Centre, Coogera Cct, Suffolk Park. Come and see the large range of preschoolers toys available for loan.

Up your skills

Come to Upskill in Mullumbimby, a free introductory building and carpentry workshop. Workshops are held every Saturday, 9am to 1pm at Shedding Community Workshop.

Bookings essential via shedding.com.au. Contact Sophie Wilksch via email at shedding.communityworkshop@gmail.com.

Muslim prayer

Friday Muslim prayer. Jumu'ah service held weekly at the Cavanbah Centre at 1.30 pm. Come to the remembrance of Allah.

Landcare

Bangalow Land and Rivercare working bee every Saturday 8.30-10.30am. Email: bangalowlandcare@gmail.com. Noelene 0431200638.

Soap Aid saving lives

Soap Aid is a not-for-profit organisation recycling and sending critical soap to communities facing major hygiene challenges. Please drop in your partly used household or holiday rental soap for recycling to Kim at Raine & Horne Byron Bay 39 Fletcher Street 0499 839 566. Small and large quantities welcome. <https://soapaid.org>.

Sex & Love Addicts Anon

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is peer-support group of men and women for whom sex and/or romance have become a problem. For details of weekly meetings, phone 0452 074 974 or visit www.slaa.org.au.

Bridge Club

Brunswick Valley Bridge Club meets every Monday, seated at 12.15 to commence play at 12.30. Visitors welcome. See bridgewebs.com/brunswickvalley/home.html or for partner ring Lesley 0468 807 306. Facebook Brunswick Valley Bridge Club.

BV scrabble club

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

Bosom Buddies

Ballina Bosom Buddies Support Group meets the third Thursday each month 10am-12pm at the Ballina Kentwell Community Centre. Contact Sonia 0439 438 576 for further information.

Emerge Australia

Emerge Australia Inc is a not-for-profit charity supporting those with myalgic encephalomyelitis, also known as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. For more information see the Emerge Australia Website at <http://emerge.org.au/>.

Play and sing playgroup

Meet at The Hub Baptist Church Ocean Shores (next to Target) 9.30am-11.30am Fridays during school term. For families with children 0-5 years. More info facebook or ph.Katie 0438 531 011.

Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina & South Tweed) or Peter 0429 950 352 (Ballina).

Law Week at Byron

Law Week is on 16-22 May and at Byron Bay Library we have Services NSW drop in sessions. Find information on low cost or free Power of Attorney, Enduring Guardianship and Wills. Find out where savings can be found with the Services NSW savings finder. Drop in between 10am and 4 pm on Tuesday 21 May.

NR Fellowship of First Fleeters

Anyone interested in their convict family history from any of the many fleets who journeyed to Australia are very welcome to come along to our group the Northern Rivers Fellowship of First Fleeters. This includes spouses and friends of any descendants interested in history. We meet every two months and our next meeting will be held on Sunday, May 26 at the Cherry Street Sports Club, Ballina at 10.30am. If you are interested please contact Roddy Jordan on 6687 5339 or via email hollisbuddy1@bigpond.com.

Newrybar local takes third in Australia's Greatest Horsewomen competition

Kristal Byron

Local equestrian Leah Van Ewijk has secured third place in the highly competitive Australian's Greatest Horsewoman competition (AGHW), despite not having reliable access to an arena and making a 3,000-kilometre return trip to Victoria.

Without standard facilities to train her horse and lacking cattle for practice, Leah had to think outside the box to prepare for the competition.

She transported her horses to different areas each day, seeking borrowed and hired arenas, local showgrounds, and even training on the beach.

Despite these challenges, Leah's fundamental training and the strong bond with her horse, Oakie, laid the foundation for success.

She was placed fourth leading into the finals and, with sheer determination, secured an impressive third place overall.

Leah last competed at AGHW in 2022, days after volunteering at the Bangalow Temporary Equine Hospital during the floods, and nearly didn't make the drive down because of flooded-road



Leah and Oakie herding cattle to show as part of the contest held at Tatura Park in Victoria. Photo: Capturedby Rhi

closures. That year she finished in seventh place.

The journey to the contest in late April took approximately two weeks.

One of the major challenges was finding suitable showgrounds for her horses and allowing them time to eat and rest every two hours, as extended travel could make the horses unwell.

But the AGHW competition is just the beginning for Leah and Oakie.

Leah plans to showcase her skills and compete in future events, including the Tropicana Classic competition at Caboolture Equestrian Centre in July and the Australian Reined Cow Horse Association National Finals 2024 at White Park, Scone.

901 swimmers join the annual Ocean Classic

The annual Byron Bay Ocean Classic beach swim organised by the Winet Whales was held last Sunday and attracted 901 competitors.

The event has been run since 1983 to raise money for various local charities, and after this year's event the Winet Whales will have donated in excess of \$1.1 million over that time, according to club president Phil Jarvis.

'This year we are hoping to raise \$50,000,' he said.

The event caters for different age groups and skill levels and is open to children as young as nine-years-old.

Swimmers entered the water at Wategos Beach using a staggered start-based on age with the over 65s hitting the water first around 10 am.

'By about 10.30 we had over 900 swimmers in the Bay, it was a beautiful sight,' Phil said.

From there the



A good field enjoyed great conditions for the 37th running of the Ocean Classic. Photo supplied.

competitors swim the 2.2 kilometre course back to the Surf Club on Main Beach.

This year's charity recipients include: Northern Rivers Prostate Day Support, Marine Rescue Cape Byron, Marine Rescue Brunswick Heads, Camp Quality and Bay FM.

Winners

Classic (men): Jack

French, Lachlan Trease and Finn Casper.

Classic (women): Mikayla Bird, Ashleigh Allred and Allegra Anderson

Mini (girls): Alex Mair, Willow Stephenson and Hannah Prior.

Mini (boys): Aaron Boersma, Tommy Trehitt and Gabriel Cuic.

Glen Lawrence was first home in the 60-64 age group.

Graham and Pearce crowned pairs champions

Tracie Graham and Sherril Pearce have won the 2024 Brunswick Heads Women's Bowling Club pairs final.

They beat Judy Smith and Blossom McCormick 19-15.

'It was pretty much neck and neck throughout the entire game. No-one was willing to relinquish the chance to be the champion,' publicity officer Kris Pryor said.

'But there can only be one winning side. It was truly a great game to watch'.



Too good: Pairs champions Tracie and Sherril claimed the Brunswick Heads pairs trophy for 2024. Photo supplied

Thalison wins third major BJJ title in 2024

Thalison Soares has won his third major tournament in a row after taking gold at the 2024 Brazilian National championships.

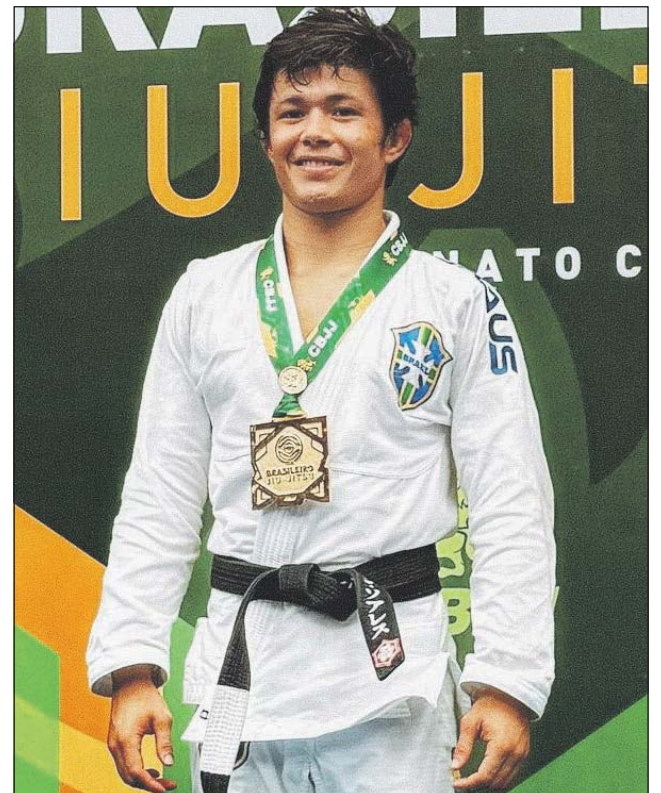
Held in Sao Paulo, the Brazilian National Championship is the third major BJJ event of the year, following the European and the Pan American Championships, both of which Thalison has already won this year.

He is now headed to the final major tournament for 2024, the World Championship, held California in May.

If he wins, it will be his second world title in the black belt rank.

As well, it could be his first Grand Slam title (winning all four majors in one season) – only a handful of Jiu Jitsu athletes have done so.

Thalison is head coach at the BJJ Academy, Byron Bay.



Thalison has another major tournament gold for 2024, and is looking for the Grand Slam in California. Photo supplied

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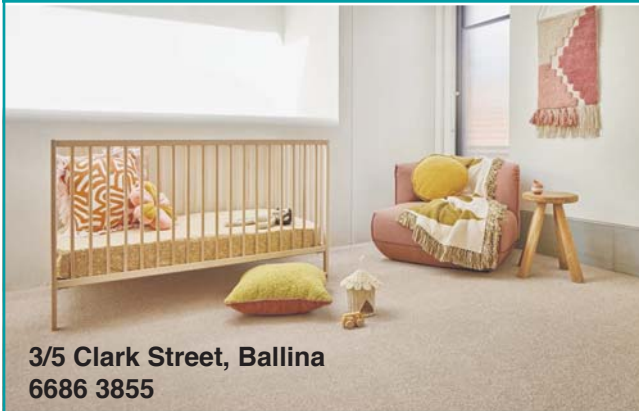
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If you ever get the feeling the wrong people are in charge, T S Elliot (1888–1965) had thought it through: ‘Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people who want to be important’.

FYI the Mother’s Day tree planting planned for May 12 has been cancelled owing to the inclement weather.

Psst: A state-wide recruitment drive is underway to support delivery of the 2024 NSW local government elections on September 14 this year. Duties on the day include providing information and assistance to voters, and sorting and counting ballot papers. For more info visit elections.nsw.gov.au.

With Labor’s federal budget night on May 14, The Australia Institute think tank reminds us that, ‘in Australia, we force our unemployed to live off just 28 per cent of average earnings, the lowest in the OECD, as a per cent of average earnings’.

World Press Freedom Day was last week, the same week as the US White House Correspondents Dinner. The dinner aims to highlight the importance of journalism, yet going by that event, it’s journalism that doesn’t ask too many questions. Imprisoned Aussie whistleblower, Julian Assange, was not mentioned. But he will be the centre of attention when his father comes to Mullum on May 8 – see page 4.

The annual Lennox Head Community Tree Planting Day is on again, Friday, May 10. Ballina Shire Council say, ‘Everyone is invited to join at



Congrats Lennox Head surfer, Mikey McDonagh, who claimed the biggest win of his surfing career at the Bonsoy Gold Coast Pro, held at Snapper Rocks last Saturday.

Photo ‘Snaps & Crackles’ Dawson

the top of Lennox headland from 9am to 12 noon. Council will supply trees, mulch, water, and some tools. The Lennox Head business community and volunteer groups have generously donated a barbecue and refreshments’.

Remember: doing your own research has never meant looking things up and familiarising yourself with the topic. That is called literature review, and is only a small part of research. Perhaps we are in the modern age of literature reviews?

China has launched the world’s largest electric container ship, according to thedriven.io, with a 50 MWh battery. ‘It is the world’s first 10,000-tonne pure electric container ship and boasts a top speed of 19.4km/h’.

May 8 marks three months since Save Wallum protectors embarked on their peaceful vigil at the site of the contentious Wallum housing development in Bruns.

Main Arm residents have been invited to a ‘community infrastructure recovery meeting’ by Council staff this Thursday from 5.30pm

at Kohinur Hall. Staff say, ‘The purpose is to provide an update, explain process and predicted timelines for road works in Main Arm’.



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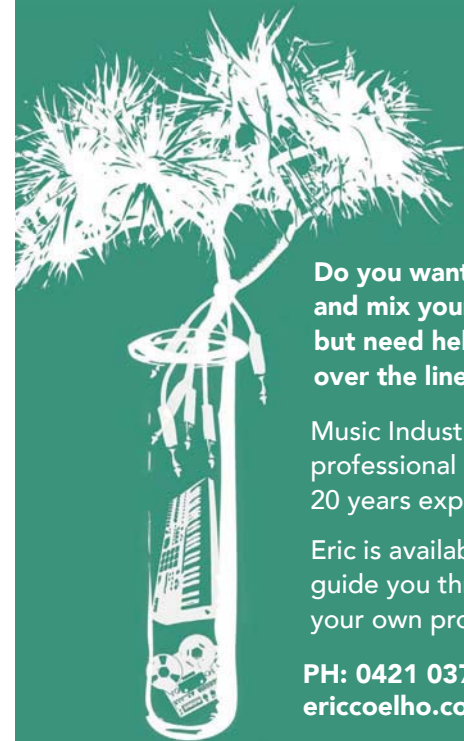
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