

Echo

FREAK ACCIDENT OF MATERIALISM SINCE 1986

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See Inside



Thumbs down for Council's plans for Mullum's main St

Hans Lovejoy

Residents have sent a clear message to Council regarding its plans for Mullum's main drag, with staff reporting over 500 submissions were received for the Burringbar Street Concept Design.

Key concerns for the majority of the submissions, says staff, were the 'proposed reduction in car parking spaces and the proposed replacement of existing palm trees with better shade trees'.

As is standard Byron Shire Council practice – which is not legally required, and unlike other councils – all submissions were confidential.

Put on the backburner

In response, councillors voted on Thursday to put the contentious plans on the backburner, and focus on 'projects relating to car parking supply, future needs and management in Mullumbimby'.

During morning access, Dr Anne Stuart from Zero Emissions Byron (ZEB) told councillors she did not fully support the plan, and referred to award-winning town designs.

'First you repair, then you clean, and then beautify and maintain,' she said.

Later in the day, all councillors (except Cr Duncan Dey) voted for Mayor Michael Lyon's motion to support staff's recommendation.

It also includes a list of 'Design Directions' to be 'used to inform the drafting of a preliminary engineering design at a later date'.

Cr Dey's alternative motion was unsupported by all councillors,

► Continued on page 3

Weigh anchor and hoist the mizzen!



An impressive array of aquatic craft took to the Bruns River on Sunday with participants taking part in the annual Mullum2Brunns Paddle. There were also a range of new free activities after the event at Banner Park. Octogenarian surf champ, Rusty Miller, knee-paddled his surfboard the entire 10km in two-and-a-half hours. The Mullum2Brunns event is a fundraiser for the Brunswick Surf Club, Marine Rescue Brunswick and the Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre. Photo Jeff 'Landlubbering' Dawson

Kambo investigation referred to DPP

David Lowe

The coronial inquest examining the death of Jarrad Antonovich was abruptly concluded last week, as the case against the key figure involved was referred to the Department of Public Prosecutions (DPP) by Coroner Teresa O'Sullivan.

As a result, the long-running inquest never heard testimony from either ayahuasca practitioner, Lore Solaris (the chief facilitator/shaman of the event where Mr Antonovich died in October 2021), or Cameron Kite, who applied the

kambo, a poison derived from an Amazonian frog.

Other witnesses who spoke during the week via video link spoke of warnings missed, and people too concerned with their own healing journeys, grief and business interests to look out adequately for the man.

Torn esophagus

Mr Antonovich died in their midst over the course of many hours, and no ambulance was called to the remote festival location, north of Kyogle, until it was far too late.

His cause of death was a torn esophagus, likely the result of ingesting kambo and ayahuasca.

Those present at Byron Bay Courthouse last Friday heard the legal reasons for, and against, referral of the case to the DPP, which were put eloquently by counsel representing each side.

Under Section 76 of the NSW Coroners Act 2009, *The Echo* is not permitted to report what was said.

Lore Solaris and Cameron Kite left the proceedings separately, and alone.

► Continued on page 2

Push to heat Mullum's pool adopted

Mullum's pool could be heated all year round within a year, after Cr Sarah Ndiaye (Greens) was successful in getting councillor support last Thursday to 'urgently explore the option of installing a heating system'.

This includes first checking to see if the electricity line could service a heat pump for the Petria Thomas Pool.

Cr Pugh and Lyon voted against.

At last Thursday's meeting, Cr Ndiaye described it as an 'interim solution'.

She told councillors that after seven years, the community were no closer to an outcome, yet she said there was no blame on Council staff for the long delay.

Other local councils had heated pools, she said, including Kyogle.

Cr Aresen Pugh said he was not against the sentiment, but wanted to wait a few weeks for staff's Pool Options Paper.

'We should wait for a broader conversation about all the pools,' he said.

Malcolm Robertson, Manager Open Space and Facilities, Infrastructure Services, said that assuming plans fell into place, it could be in operation by winter next year.

While unbudgeted, Mr Robertson wrote in his staff report that it is estimated to cost \$10.2m, with ongoing annual costs of \$80,000.

While Cr Mark Swivel jubilantly told his social media followers about finding \$200,000 for the project, he conceded, when asked by a follower, that there were no discussions around the impacts of its energy usage.

Why were jobseekers abandoned in the budget? ► p2

Byron High tops ASX schools sharemarket game ► p4

MP pushes for social housing at hospital site ► p9

Teens and screen time – the push to regulate ► p16

If it's on, it's in Seven! ► p36

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Caper wraps – Stone Fest next!



From left, Greg Cromwell, whose Goonengerry farm supplied the meats for Caper's barbecue last Friday, David Lovett, Louis Tikaram, Ross Magnaye and Jedd Rifai. Photo Jeff 'Snagging Beers On The Job' Dawson

With the conclusion of Caper Byron Bay Food and Culture Festival on May 26 – with events held across the Shire's prestigious dining and watering establishments – Stone & Wood's Festival of the Stone gears up for its big event on June 1, from 3pm till 10pm.

To be held at Stone & Wood's Byron Bay HQ in Centennial Circuit, the event will feature acts Beddy Rays, Dan Sultan, Verge Collection, The Beefs, AKA Lui and Mid Drift. Kids' activities are also planned.

The festival is also a celebration of an annual tradition – the first tapping of the keg.

Organisers say a percentage of profits from the night will be donated to local homelessness charity, the Fletcher St Cottage.

Stone & Wood's brand manager, Pat Coulson says, 'Mid Drift and Beddy Rays were both scheduled to play at Splendour, and we're stoked to have them on our line-up.'

Tickets are on sale now via www.stoneandwood.com.au.

Kambo investigation referred to DPP

► Continued from page 1

Mr Kite, police and the lawyers involved chose not to speak to *The Echo*, but the family of Mr Antonovich did share their feelings as the inquest concluded.

Reactions

Jarrad's father, Glen Antonovich, said the family had 'definitely received the result that they were hoping for', and it was a pity that Jarrad's mother Lorraine couldn't be in court to hear it firsthand.

'We just hope that these practices don't continue, and other families can learn from this, and not go through what we've gone through,' said Mr Antonovich.

The family wanted to thank Detective Sergeant Mick Martin and Senior Constable Doug Lack for their 'relentless pursuit', as well as counsel assisting the coroner, Dr Peggy Dwyer, and solicitor Maclaren Wall.

Manipulation

Glen Antonovich said the fact that the key players had continued to hold ceremonies after his son's death, involving substances which are illegal in Australia, shows that lessons haven't been learned by those involved.

'These people are basically true believers, which means there are devotees and

suplicants,' he said. 'The bottom line to me is – it's a cult. Basically, it's a manipulation of people's mindsets.'

Regarding the semi-religious and quasi-medical underpinnings of the ayahuasca/kambo community, Mr Antonovich said the key word that came to his mind was 'tawdry', saying his son had come under the influence of a hierarchy led by Solaris, who was 'holding himself out to be the messiah'.

Remembering Jarrad

Throughout the inquest, everyone who had anything to do with Jarrad Antonovich, or 'Ish' as he was known by many, spoke about him in the most positive terms.

The Echo asked Glen Antonovich how he hoped people would remember his son. He said, 'Jarrad was just a gentle soul. Never aggressive at all. Very, very gentle. He would always step away from a fight or an argument.'

He also has a message for the parents of other young people who are going down Jarrad's path.

'Please talk to them, find out what they're doing,' Mr Antonovich said. 'Don't let them get sucked in by social media.'

Jarrad's brother Chris told *The Echo* the completion of the inquest was a 'relief', with potential criminal charges now pending. 'Given what we've heard in the brief of evidence that was presented, the gentleman in question was not going to stop on his own volition.'

'Hopefully we can get a result where no one else is put in such a position; that they could lose their lives in such a terrible, tragic manner.'

Chris Antonovich remembered his brother as an absolute sweetheart.

'No one ever had a bad word to say about him. He had a heart of gold. Brilliant guitarist, devout grandson, devout son to his mother and father, and a great brother.'

'Like I stated in my eulogy, he was my hero.'

Chris Antonovich said that while the inquest process had been 'very gruelling' for the family, especially his mother, there was relief that the case was now progressing to potential criminal charges, with the chance of some kind of closure.

'It's also been cathartic, and better than just having Jarrad's story disappear in the wind and be buried.'

The Department of Public Prosecutions now has up to six months to decide whether to proceed with a case against Lore Solaris or others.

Kinship brings unity in M'bah

Belle Budden

Around 6,000 people celebrated the annual Kinship Festival in Murwillumbah's Knox Park on Sunday, with the theme of Yabulgu – together as one, unity for our children's future.

The free cultural event, now in its ninth year, was the biggest yet, and while it goes from strength to strength there is an ongoing struggle to find secure funding.

Festival co-ordinator, and Murwillumbah Community Centre Indigenous Programs Coordinator, Lara Lei said, 'I'm humbled by the massive support of our community volunteers and sponsors and supporters, without the mass swell of support, we couldn't run this event'.

Kinship's vision, Lara says, is to 'continue to offer a free festival, including a free meal together, sharing and food are



Mum and jarjum doing the Possum Dance at Knox Park on Sunday. Photo Jeff Dawson

both a big part of our culture.'

Lara said, 'There were so many highlights in 2024, including the incredible dance troupes from across the region, Aunty Robyn Beezleys heart-warming and

uplifting performance, the incredible fashion parades from Sarah Bolt, and mind-blowing performance from JK -47'.

Kinship relies on community volunteers and support

including financial support. If you want to get involved to support the 2025, ten year celebration of the Kinship Festival, please contact the Murwillumbah Community Centre on 6672 3003.

New doco highlights value of Clarence River amid mining proposal

A documentary that follows the adventurous journey of two locals as they paddle down the Clarence River near Grafton and discover mining plans for the region will be screened in Lennox and Bangalow.

The synopsis for *Rivertree* reads, 'As Hayley and Dan

navigate the river, they uncover the mining industry's risky plans to extract rare-earth minerals from the hills behind their home.'

'Along the way, they meet local communities who share their stories, concerns, and hopes for the future of the river.'

Rivertree is narrated by Yaegl Elder, Aunty Lenore Parker.

Local surf champ, David Rastovich, says, 'This place is thriving. We don't need a new industry to come in and threaten everything for the profit of a few.'

Screenings of *Rivertree*

will be held a Lennox Head Cultural Centre, on Thursday May 30 from 6.30pm, and Bangalow A&I Hall, on Thursday June 6 from 5.30pm.

For tickets, visit www.humanitix.com and search for the screening.

■ See editorial, page 12.

Council's plans for Mullum's main street rejected

► Continued from page 1 which was similar but more specific – it called for a 'formal review of the Mullumbimby Master Plan; a resolution of vehicle movement problems on the two bypass routes, especially at corners like Station Street with Tincogan and Ferns Streets; and repair, maintenance, and regular

cleaning of gutters including in Burringbar Street'.

During debate, Cr Lyon repeated Council staff talking points around the plans, emphasising that parking is planned for the rail corridor and is almost signed off on.

He claimed 100 parking spaces would be created, all within 100 metres from the CBD.

Yet it is unclear how car parking at the town's entrance aligns with the town's masterplan – on page 43, it reads, 'The gateway [of the town] is an opportunity to reflect Mullum's "green" image and to establish varied living forms and opportunities...'

Cr Lyon also said it was 'hard to make changes' when

it came to town planning, and resistance could be 'based on fear of what will happen, and not on the opportunities'.

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Ingrained announces grant recipients



The 2024 Ingrained grants committee is made up of three foundation board members, Ingrained cultural advisor, Kylie Caldwell, and Stone & Wood team members. Photo supplied

Eight local not-for-profits have received funding from Ingrained Foundation's recent round of grants, with over \$160,000 being divided between the organisations.

The philanthropic organisation's executive director, Jasmin Daly, says, 'With the flow on effects of recent years' events, including the floods, along with factors like the rising cost of living, it wasn't surprising that

the majority of applicants (49 per cent) applied under the impact area community capacity building or addressed it in some way'.

Recipients

The recipients are Country as Teacher – Bundjalung Ngalawaa Bulaan Gii Youth Leadership Initiative; The Family Support Network – Parenting Under Pressure Program; Santos Organics

– Grow the Grower Program; The Returning – Indigenous Strong, Safe and Supported Families in Postpartum Program; Women Up North – Love Bites; RizeUp – Safe Homes, Brighter Futures Initiative; Regen Northern Rivers by It Takes a Town; and Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA) – Wildskin Design Set Initiative.

For more info, visit ingrainedfoundation.com.au.

Byron Bay High tops ASX schools sharemarket game

Dale Stevenson

Byron Bay High School's achievement in winning every single one of the national cash prizes in the recently completed ASX Schools Sharemarket Game was a result never before achieved in the history of the national competition.

The game saw a total of 20 x 520 student syndicates, each with up to four students, participating from every state and territory in Australia, as well as New Zealand and internationally.

Each syndicate was given \$50,000 of virtual funds to invest in the real world Australian Securities Exchange (ASX), with 380 shares on offer for them to invest in.

Among the enormous field of keen share traders, Byron Bay High School's students put in a dominant performance, with Clay Atkins placing first overall in the competition, and winning the cash prizes for being first in the nation and first in NSW.

His achievement saw him turn \$50,000 into an impressive portfolio of \$66,803.24.

In addition, Byron High student Oscar Trisley won the second national cash prize, with a share portfolio value of \$64,784.51, while fellow student Beau Meon won the third national cash prize, with a share portfolio value of \$64,480.23.

Rounding out the game's overall top five traders was yet another Byron student, Kai Ota, with a portfolio value of \$64,386.22.

The remarkable depth of Byron Bay High School's performance in the competition was further underscored



From left to right: Clay Atkins, Dale Stevenson (teacher), Beau Meon, and Oscar Trisley. Photo supplied

by the school having six of the top ten share traders overall, as well as 20 out of the top 100 share traders in the game.

Furthermore, the school had 31 of the top 100 share traders in NSW, and 77 per cent of its students achieved a profit in their share trading compared with 49 per cent for the whole game.

Vulcan Energy shares contributed

One common share that contributed to the success of many of the school's top traders was Vulcan Energy (VUL), a company that has developed a zero carbon system for processing lithium for electric vehicles.

Many investors, motivated by the need to meet carbon reduction targets and achieve environmentally sustainable goals, saw the huge potential of this project.

The announcement of the company's financial project stages saw the share's price almost double from its low levels early in the game.

The results achieved by the students were a dream realised, after 20 years of

preparing students with the skills needed for successful trading.

The financial markets and investing in shares and other securities are a passion of mine, as a former Reserve Bank of Australia analyst and securities dealer at CommSec, prior to becoming a teacher.

Valuable skill

I believe that one of the most valuable skills I can teach my students is how to invest in the financial markets.

A number of my ex-students have told me that they have successfully invested in shares after school, and this has assisted them in saving for the deposit on their first home.

It is not all about profit though – the sharemarket game also teaches students about risk and the reality that losses are also made in the real world.

There's a clear future for financial literacy at Byron Bay High School.

■ Byron High teacher, Dale Stevenson, coordinated the ASX game at the school.

Council staff to look at limiting bulk and scale in Wategos

A motion by Cr Sarah Ndiaye (Greens) to amend the LEP to reduce the building height limits in the Wategos residential area from 9m to 8m was unsuccessful at last Thursday's Council meeting.

After the vote was tied, Mayor Lyon used his casting

vote to declare the motion lost. Instead, his motion was unanimous, which asks for a staff report on 'Existing efforts to limit excessive excavation and any additional proposals to limit excavation that Councillors could consider.' Also staff are

asked for, 'Any other measures that can be effectively enforced through a chapter of the DCP for Wategos or other measures to limit the bulk and scale of developments that impose on the character of the Wategos area'.

Confidential consultant cost report noted by councillors

Councillors noted a confidential report at last week's meeting on Council's expenditure on consultants and conflicts of interest. It follows a successful motion from Cr Duncan Dey, which asked the amounts Council spends in

the second and third quarters of the 2023-24 financial year, including 'contractors retained in-house; technical, legal and financial advice received; assistance in court or on threats of legal action and planning assessment'.

The motion also asked for opportunities to retain such capabilities in-house and, 'What measures could Council take to improve its management of consultants' potential conflicts of interest and related matters'.

Casual speeding
is the biggest
cause of trauma
on NSW roads

CASUAL SPEEDING. EVERY K COUNTS



Clothes maketh the woman

Story & photo Eve Jeffery

There are some people in domestic violence situations who feel that escaping is an insurmountable problem.

Some will go to extreme lengths to escape at almost any cost.

This is what happened to Veronica, whose name has been changed to protect her identity.

Veronica and her partner had been best friends when they were teenagers, but lost touch for almost 20 years.

When they reunited they began a relationship and for the first nine months, everything was perfect.

Then drugs entered the mix, and things turned very sour, very quickly. For the next 18 months, Veronica lived a nightmare that many women know too well.

As long as she was 'good', she could do what she wanted – she could phone her child, she could use the internet, she could have access to her phone, she could have access to her money – all if she was 'good'.

A time came when she and her partner came to a



Haus of Armour's Kate Jackson.

standoff, standing toe-to-toe and both carrying weapons.

It was when the police arrived and arrested her partner that she took the opportunity to run.

Veronica now lives in the Northern Rivers, but when she left, she had only the clothing on her back – this is where Mullum's Haus of Armour gave her a helping hand.

Free personalised styling service

Domestic violence worker at the Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre, Kate Jackson, has devoted most of her spare time in the last 18 months to offering a free

personalised styling service for women impacted by domestic violence, providing free clothes and outfits for women to wear in their everyday lives.

Kate says, 'The styling sessions and clothes help address the impact of domestic violence on survivors, and focus on the psychological impact relating to self-worth and self-esteem'.

'By April this year, 25 women died of gender-based violence, 11 more than last year. Statistics show that domestic violence deaths in NSW this year far exceed other states, with 11 women murdered.

'Styling sessions and clothes help address the impact of domestic violence on survivors' – Kate Jackson

'According to www.ourwatch.org.au, 39 per cent of women nationally have experienced violence since the age of 15, about 27 per cent have experienced violence, emotional abuse, or economic abuse by a cohabitating partner since the age of 15.

Rebuilding lives

'To date, I would have styled about 60 women survivors in the Northern Rivers. Haus of Armour is another form of their healing and recovery, helping the women feel good about themselves, move forward and rebuild their life away from violence.'

Veronica is very grateful for the Haus – and she now has a good job, a safe place to live and is starting to move forward with her life.

To contact Kate, call 0457 864 253 or email case-worker2.shlv@mdnc.org.au.

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Brad started his trade making traditional small goods, ham, bacon, jerky, salami, etc. with award winning nitrate free ham and bacon.

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Old and Gold celebrates 20 years on June 8!



Georgia the flowerista added colour to the streets of Bruns a couple of years ago for Old and Gold.

Photo Jeff 'Nothing But Florists' Dawson

The Old and Gold festival is running on the long weekend of June 8 – rain or shine.

Co-ordinator, Cherie Heale says, 'We can't believe Old and Gold is 20 years old. The festival itself is now antique and collectable!'

'This year will be a little different, as the Ye Olde Church Fair on Tweed Street will not be running. Instead, we have the new Banner Park Flea Market in and around the housie shed, opposite the Hotel Brunswick', she says.

'Come along and enjoy everything old, recycled,

regenerated and sustainable. Make sure to car pool if you can and bring your keepcups!'

Cheries says there is something for everyone, with around 80 garage sales, an antiques and collectables fair, the school's treasure trove, and stalls by CWA, Rotary and the Visitor Centre. She adds there will be live entertainment and an e-bike display at the Memorial Hall, and just one of the activities for the kids will be the National Australian Marbles Championship, to be held in Banner Park.

Petition for Sunday bus service attracts 1,000 signatures

Hugh Bishop

The local bus line is an efficient way to get from one place to another, especially for people who don't have cars, and for kids whose parents can't always drive them around.

It's a perfect way to get to other parts of the Shire, but with the buses only running two to three times a day on Saturday, and not running at all on Sunday, it is really inconvenient for those in need of transport.

Other than buses, the only way for people to get to their destinations is by hitchhiking, or by Uber/taxi.

But as Uber is expensive, for young people it's not an option.

By bringing in more buses and a bus that would run on Sunday, it would help many people get around the Shire.

Ocean Shores resident, Adam Luck, started a petition to have a bus run on Sundays in the Shire's north.

His aim was 1,000 signatures, and says in five days he got more than his goal.

Mr Luck addressed Council last Thursday, and said it was difficult for residents without transport to visit friends and family in the north of the Shire.

Told to stop complaining

He said he was told to 'stop complaining and do something about it', and said he supported all modes of public transport.

He gave the petition to councillors, who were supportive and congratulated him on getting such a response.

Cr Mark Swivel said state government and bus companies have been lobbied to increase their service from the north of the Shire to Byron Bay, and that there was no night bus services that would be of benefit for younger people.

Blanch's Bus Company was contacted for comment, but nothing was received by deadline.

■ Hugh Bishop did work experience at *The Echo*.

Another secret meeting held to sell public land

Hans Lovejoy

The sale of public land to a housing developer took another step forward at last Thursday's Council meeting, with almost all councillors voting to again go into confidential session – Cr Duncan Dey was against.

The much-used Council-owned carpark at 57 Station Street is located at Mullum's entrance, between the former Milk & Honey Pizza and the former Hoopers restaurant.

Council has been pursuing secret plans for 32 one-and two-bedroom 'affordable housing' units on the site, since the beginning of 2022, yet faced obstacles around its viability.

One main driver for selling the valuable asset is to house Council staff.

Mayor Michael Lyon was asked to provide information and documents around the sale, and instead outlined what little information is already publicly available.

'We are finalising the tender selection process and

the successful tenderer will be announced in due course', he said.

Given the past confidential reports suggest the sale is not viable, Cr Lyon said the Reconstruction Authority have now allocated funds 'to help the viability of the project'. He repeated that affordable housing would be in perpetuity and that parking would be relocated at the town's entrance.

Residents opposed

Mullumbimby Resident Association's Dale Emerson told *The Echo* they were 'against selling crown jewels', and there was no transparency around this decision.

Emerson says Council should instead have supplied a report to prove that the *Byron Shire Council Land Acquisition and Disposal Policy 2024* has been complied with.

Cr Lyon replied, 'A public report is not required to prove the Land Acquisition policy has been complied with, however, it has been complied with'.



**It's the safe way,
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Together say 'no way' to taking risks when working with farm machinery. Take action by always having guards in place, and ensure no part of your body or loose clothing can get caught in moving machinery.

For ways to create a safe workplace, visit safework.nsw.gov.au or search 'the safe way or no way'.



Searches continue for Gage Wilson

Aslan Shand

Local Byron Shire man, Gage Wilson, has now been missing for over ten days, and his family and friends have been organising search parties to look for him.

The 31-year-old went missing on from the Mullumbimby area at 8am Saturday, May 18.

Family and friends hold grave concerns for his wellbeing, after his partner's white ute was found crashed near Teals Lookout on Koonyum Range Road, shortly after. It is believed that Gage may have been driving the car and might be in the surrounding bushland.

'Dad has been out searching daily,' Gage's sister Niki told *The Echo*.

'He has also had a lot of



Gage Wilson. Photo supplied

friends out there searching as well. The police and SES have stopped their search, and I am yet to find out if they will resume.'

Gage is of Caucasian appearance, approximately 183cm tall and of a medium build. He has blue eyes, short brown hair, large

tattoos on both legs and small tattoos on the inside of both arms.

He was last seen wearing a purple jumper and black shorts.

Fundraising

Niki has started a GoFundMe page to raise money towards the costs of posters, the drone and dingo searchers.

To contribute, visit <https://tinyurl.com/2x8zx72p>.

Anyone with information is urged to contact Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>. Information is treated in strict confidence.

The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

Council's online DA Tracker offline for a week

Technical problems with Byron Shire Council's online DA Tracker have prompted staff to pull it offline for a week. Staff said in a media release that Cyber NSW, the state government authority for cyber security, and the developer of the DA Tracker platform, both advised

Council's IT team on Friday afternoon of concerns about the immediate security of the platform.

Staff say, 'This problem is not related to an incident at the end of April, when human error resulted in some internal documents containing personal

information being made viewable on Byron Shire Council's DA Tracker portal'.

They add there has not been a data breach.

'Development applications that are on exhibition will be re-exhibited once the DA Tracker issue has been resolved'.



Free workshops for event managers and volunteers

We're co-hosting a free series of workshops across June for local event organisers, volunteer managers and community groups.

Disability Confidence

Thursday 13 June, 1pm - 2:30pm

Community Capacity Building

Friday 14 June, 3pm - 4:30pm

Accessible Festival and Events

Monday 17 June 2024, 10am - 12:30pm

Volunteer Management

Tuesday 18 June, 2pm - 3:30pm

Anti-Racism

Monday 24 June, 9:30am - 12:30am

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More information

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Kids' clothes swap needs you!

Local citizen journalism project, PBB Media, has been running an outreach hub to support local families since the 2022 floods.

PBB Media's Sally Cusack says, 'Currently, we run a free baby and toddler clothes swap out of the CWA Hall in Mullumbimby each Friday, and we are looking for more volunteers to join the team'.

'If you like working with mums and bubs, and want to make a difference to the local community, they'd love to hear from you! Commitment is generally one Friday per month from 10am till 2pm.

'The role consists of hosting families in the hall as they come in looking for



Nina Bee and Soli Sea are looking to add to their wardrobes. Photo Jeff 'Rummaging Since 1986' Dawson

clothing and sorting out any donations into the correct boxes. It's lots of fun, and so very appreciated by everyone who uses this unique and invaluable service! To find out more, contact Sally at sally@pbbmedia.org (PBB: Pregnancy, Birth and Beyond).

Council's carbon footprint increases nearly 90%

Council's aim at reaching zero carbon by 2025 has been given a blow after staff tabled a report last week that suggests the organisation increased its carbon emissions for the 2023 financial year by 88.9 per cent, compared to the previous year.

The report in the May 23 agenda suggests the increase 'is almost entirely' owing to emissions related to the flood recovery construction

and repair activities. Staff wrote, 'There were also some minor fluctuations in emissions resulting from a new consultant using a more robust calculation and classification methodology and changes to data accuracy'.

According to page 103, LPG usage was up 31 per cent, while fuel consumption was up five per cent. As of January 1, 2022, Council achieved its goal of sourcing

100 per cent of its operational electricity from renewable energy sources (five years ahead of the 2027 target).

Construction, repair and maintenance and vehicle repairs accounted for 41.8 per cent of Council's FY23 emissions, and staff say it saw a 1,716 per cent emissions increase in the category in FY23, mostly owing to a \$17.5 million increase in expenditure on construction.

Five years since Théo's disappearance



Sand art by Craig A Gascoigne on the beach, where hundreds gathered to remember Théo Hayez. Photo Justin McMillan.

Eve Jeffery

This coming Friday evening will mark the fifth anniversary of the disappearance of Théo Hayez, an 18-year-old Belgian man who was last seen leaving Cheeky Monkey's night club in Byron Bay.

After months of searching by police and members of the community, an inquest in October 2022 determined that Théo was dead, but that State Coroner, Magistrate Teresa O'Sullivan, was unable to determine the exact date, place or manner of his death.

Hayez's family are no closer to having answers as to how and why their beloved Théo was never seen again.

The Echo recently spoke to Théo's dad, Laurent, from

his home in Belgium.

'Five years ago, on June 1 at about 1am, Théo evaporated near Cosy Corner on Tallow Beach,' said Laurent.

'It's been five cruel years of missing him – five cruel years of unanswered questions.

'Since then, many of us have mourned his passing, especially his brother, his mum, me, his family and his many friends in Belgium – and you, the beautiful community of Byron Bay, who hold Théo close to your heart and consider him a child of your village.

Birthday celebrated

'I was moved to learn recently that some of you will be meeting on Friday 31 next to the 19 eucalyptus

plants to celebrate his birthday, and I would so much like to be with you.

'I'm even more moved to learn that one of you, passing a young man on the pavement on her way home in the evening, slowed down and checked that it wasn't Théo.

'Théo is still a sunny person. Five years after his disappearance, I'm still overwhelmed and moved to discover the extent to which you have connected with his personality. In the wake of his disappearance and during the search for him, friendships have been forged and couples formed within the Byron Bay community.

'Gone, but not extinguished, his flame will continue to light our way for eternity.'

Reconstruction Authority review extended

The closing date for submissions for a statutory review into the NSW Reconstruction Authority Act 2022 has been extended until June 17.

The NSW Parliament's Joint Select Committee on the NSW Reconstruction Authority announced the extension last week.

The Reconstruction Authority and its former manifestations received criticism from community groups on the Northern Rivers for failing to meet disaster recovery housing targets announced under the former coalition government.

The Act establishes the Reconstruction Authority as NSW's 'permanent state-wide agency dedicated to disaster preparedness, recovery and reconstruction', a media release read.

To make a submission visit <https://tinyurl.com/dz8n3vhp>.

Council land sold at Skinners Shoot Road

Last Thursday, councillors supported a staff recommendation to sell approximately 524m² of Council's road reserve to the landowners

adjoining 235 Skinners Shoot Road, Skinners Shoot.

According to the meeting minutes, the landowners are asked to pay for remaining

costs, including registration costs, application fees, surveyor fees, and legal costs.

All associated documents remain confidential.

Bluesfest Green Room gets 100 days

Councillors unanimously voted last Thursday to allow the Green Room venue, located on the Bluesfest site in Ewingsdale, to hold events for 100 days a year.

Previously it was a 10-day-a-year limit.

Bluesfest director Peter Noble addressed councillors during public access and said

the venue had been holding successful events, including a wildlife fundraiser, a four-day Om Fest event and a Reconnection for Farmers Footprint event.

Mr Noble said the music industry was doing it tough, which was a result of a cost-of-living crisis. 'There is no one answer,' he said,

'and people under 30 are seriously impacted...'

When asked by Cr Asren Pugh what councillors could do to help the sector, Noble said, 'Help us when we put applications in.

'We are not asking for fast-tracked approvals, but it does take some time to get approvals'

Top tips to avoid driving tired



Get a good night's sleep.



Avoid driving after midnight.



Pull over for a break in a safe place.



Plan to take regular rest breaks.



Arrange to share the driving.



Take a nap, 20 minutes works best.

Don't trust your tired self

testyourtiredself.com.au




Local MP pushes for social housing at hospital site

Hans Lovejoy

What negotiations are happening behind closed doors with the former Mullum hospital site?

It's a question put to both Mayor Michael Lyon and local MP Tamara Smith, regarding how, and if, the valuable public asset will deliver social housing and, 'whether communication on this important decision be improved, and if so how?'

Cr Lyon responded by repeating information already published on Council's website and said, 'I don't know why you persist with this narrative in the face of all the evidence to the contrary.'

He added, 'We will be canvassing widely on this from industry and government, including discussing how we can incorporate social housing outcomes. Once we have firmed up the options available we will again consult the community.'

Tamara Smith MP told *The Echo*, 'I think that it is hard for Council to communicate progress when currently nobody is stepping up to construct the project.'

She said, 'Last week, I met with the Minister for Planning and raised the opportunity for the government to deliver significant social housing on the former Mullum hospital site, particularly because there is currently no social housing in Byron Shire at all.'

'He recommended we approach some of the Tier 1 Community Housing Providers who can deliver the size and scale of the project in terms of construction.'

'For the Greens, there are several issues with outsourcing a community housing provider to deliver genuine affordable housing. Under the current Affordable Housing SEPP and Ministerial guidelines, rents are indexed to market rates at typically 20 per cent below the market, the properties need only be rented as "affordable" for 15 years, and nobody is tracking the scheme.'

'If [affordable] rents are 80 per cent of market rates, in say Brunswick Heads for a three-bedroom house market rate is \$1,000 per week. That going down to \$800 for a small family cannot be called affordable.'

'Eighty per cent of a hyper-inflated market rent is still incredibly high, and beyond the reach of many who qualify for access to affordable housing.'

Lax affordable housing laws

'While some of our local community housing providers are amazing, and go over and above what they must deliver under the Affordable Housing Ministerial Guidelines in NSW and charge rents based on a proportion of the tenant's income, they don't have to.'

'It should not happen only at the discretion of the provider, and what's worse is that currently in NSW there is no central register of affordable housing across the state, meaning we have no clear picture of where and how much affordable housing exists and whether it meets community need. Who is monitoring when these properties are about to be rented back at the market rate? Or if

the developers who got the kickbacks to deliver affordable housing are complying with the rules?'

Ms Smith says her party just introduced new Affordable Housing legislation, 'which requires that all affordable housing projects in NSW be for the benefit of very low-, low-, and moderate-income households, are held in perpetuity, are rented out at no more than 30 per

cent of the gross household income of eligible households and will establish a statewide affordable housing register that is maintained by the Department of Planning.'

'We do not expect Labor or the coalition to support our Bill', Ms Smith said.

'Council have spent \$6m in remediating the old Mullum hospital site, so I think it is reasonable for them to want to recoup that money.'

Retain ownership

'Instead of selling off any of the blocks to do that, I think the community should retain ownership of the land and lease it through a proper tender to a good local Community Housing organisation to partner with a Tier 1 provider to construct the types of homes that support a mix of social housing and key worker affordable housing.'

Santos Organics welcomes new GM



Rob Baldwin. Photo supplied

Rob Baldwin has assumed the General Manager (GM) role at Santos Organics.

The organic health food organisation's Paula Williams told *The Echo*, 'Rob brings with him a wealth of experience and a profound commitment to the organisation's ethos of sustainability, community, and holistic health.'

'Rob succeeds Jolene Ryan, who admirably served as GM of Santos Organics over the past five years.'

Rob told *The Echo*, 'When we circle back to 1978 when Santos Organics began, it was all about community.'

'My vision for Santos Organics is to embed our role as a community hub – a place where local producers and artisans can sell their products, but also a place where local musicians, artists, and health practitioners connect, become inspired, and co-create the next evolution of our community.'

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Australian Government

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

Lismore is getting set to celebrate diversity

Pride Month will be celebrated in Lismore with Project Pride.

New Murwillumbah pump station underway

There is no denying that Murwillumbah floods, and locals are hoping that the construction of a new storm-water pump station behind the levee at Murwillumbah (Brothers) Leagues Club will help reduce the impact of flooding in the area.

Primary care nurses supported in community

Health services, particularly GP services, have been stretched over recent years and new funding will support nurses and build their capability as primary care nurses on the North Coast.

First Nations job seekers in Casino foot in the door to career

Trying to find something you might be interested in doing is always a challenge and local Casino barber Michael Day has come on board to help Aboriginal job seekers with the chance to kick start a career in the hair and beauty industry.

NSW gov't opens Tweed Valley Hospital

The NSW government is to officially open the \$723.3 million Tweed Valley Hospital today after the transferral of patients to the new facility last week.

Goonellabah Skate Park overhaul to start next week

Upgrade plans for Goonellabah's skatepark have been revealed, with works scheduled to start next week.

Cabarita Beach powers up with new EV fast charger

The future of sustainable transport is rolling into northern NSW with the opening of a new electric vehicle fast charging station at Cabarita on the weekend.

www.echo.net.au

Wardell landowners asked to support fire ant eradication

Fire ants were discovered at Wardell just south of Ballina on Friday, January 19 and were destroyed the next day. This triggered a fire ant eradication program to be run across the surrounding 2km of properties.

However, to access the nearly 900 properties that require treatment within 2km of the detection site the fire ant eradication team (FAET) requires permission from each landowner.

'Residents in Wardell, New South Wales, are encouraged to let fire ant teams onto their properties to deliver critical eradication treatment - treatment has already started in certain areas,' said a FAET spokesperson.

'The National Fire Ant Eradication Program must access 100 per cent of targeted properties to ensure eradication success in Wardell, New South Wales.'

'Eradication treatment will be conducted on nearly 900 sites within 2km of the detection site, further protecting the area and ensuring no undetected fire ants exist.'



Fire ant raft. Photo supplied

'The program will deliver fire ant treatment using aircraft, utility terrain vehicles, and ground teams with handheld spreaders. Aerial treatment proves to be one of the quickest and most cost-effective methods, enabling fire ant teams to treat large areas efficiently.'

'Fire ant treatment is safe for people, animals, and the environment and is approved by the Australian Pesticide and Veterinary Medicines Authority. The treatment contains the same active ingredient commonly

found in household and agricultural pest control products, but at a much lower concentration.

'Eradication efforts will continue for years to come. Residents can expect fire ant teams to treat their properties multiple times over several years, followed by extensive surveillance.'

Consent

The National Fire Ant Eradication Program requires the consent of landowners to access properties in New South Wales.

'If you are within the target area and have not already provided consent, it is important to do so as soon as possible,' said the spokesperson.

To provide treatment consent, please complete the property information form at: fireants.org.au/property-form.

Visit fireants.org.au or call 13 25 23 to learn more about fire ants and eradication treatment.

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

Why does Iron Gates' developer get another bite at the DA?

Aslan Shand

Locals, concerned residents and other parties were left in the dark for the first 15 minutes of the Iron Gates (Goldcoral Pty Ltd) Land & Environment Court (L&EC) hearing in Sydney on Monday (May 20) when the court failed to turn on the sound for remote access.

The case seems to have been taken over by Chief Judge Justice B Preston. This follows the previous L&EC ruling on the Iron Gates development application (DA) appeal that had ruled that the changes to the existing DA were significant and therefore could not be progressed as 'modifications' to the DA. The L&EC ruled that a new DA must be submitted. This has left locals and residents questioning why the developer is getting another go at getting the DA approved through the courts.

In early 2023, Graeme Ingles' company Goldcoral Pty Ltd was put into administration by the new financial backers of the development. The new team

then appointed alternative administrators and poured two and half million dollars into the case in both legal and consultancy fees in just one year.

The current appeal is against the refusal of the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) to approve Goldcoral's application, in September 2022, for a large controversial residential development at Evans Head. The land is at high risk for flooding and bushfire and is of major cultural significance to local Bandjalang people.

A spokesperson for Evans Head Residents For Sustainable Development, who audited the case along with others, said that 'it was very disturbing that the joint reports prepared for the Court by the "experts" from both sides for matters such as bushfire and flood were not available for scrutiny before the June 3 hearing. The public or "lay" witnesses have one arm tied behind their back.'

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

New community meeting room in Lismore

A new community meeting room, free for non-profit organisations and community groups to hire, has been launched at the Lismore Library.

The dedicated space is to be available for meetings, workshops, presentations and other gatherings.

Lismore City Mayor Steve Krieg in announcing the room via media release has said it can seat up to 50 people and is equipped with Wi-Fi, projector, screen and whiteboard.

'Importantly, it is accessible to people with disabilities and is centrally located with shops, cafes and covered parking, all conveniently located nearby,' Cr Krieg says.

Member for Lismore Janelle Saffin is quoted in the same announcement thanking Lismore librarian Michael Lewis and his team 'for always looking for ways the library can better serve the community'.

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



The inaugural Furry Friends Festival 2024

Come along and bring your pet dogs on lead for a morning of furry fun and frivolity!

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Natural burial ground plans buried by Council

After years of countless reports, community support and Council staff time spent, Byron Shire will not have a natural burial ground any time soon.

A report in the May 23 Council agenda says investigations into landowners prepared to have one on their land were unsuccessful, with not one application.

While Council-managed Vallances Road land, near Mullum, was proposed, staff said it was 'not considered appropriate owing to significant site constraints and

costs to support an inclusive and accessible cemetery'.

The report says, 'Council is facing increasing costs to maintain existing cemeteries, and is faced with limited land for future expansion of cemeteries. Based on experience of natural burials in Lismore, take up in Byron Shire is estimated at no more than three plots per annum'.

Councillors resolved last Thursday to note the 'limitations within available Council cemetery land and budgets to develop a natural burial ground'.

Walk for truth and treaty June 3

Everyone is invited to join in a celebration of Reconciliation Week, with a walk for truth and treaty.

Co-organiser Bronwyn Sindel said, 'We will gather at the Visitors Centre in Railway Park, Byron Bay from 10am on Monday June 3, for an informative two-hour truth-telling walk about the main town centre of Byron Bay, where many of the streets are named after European poets'. 'Let's learn about the past,

and what happened when the first ships arrived in the bay.

'This will be an opportunity to listen and understand our history and uphold the rights of First Nations people, strengthening our connection. The walk with our sister, Delta Kay, is sponsored by the Sisters for Reconciliation (Northern Rivers) and the Cavanbah Reconciliation Group, to celebrate Reconciliation Week, which begins May 27'.

SHIFT staying put in Byron

Story & photo Eve Jeffery

Established in 2019, Linen SHIFT is a social enterprise commercial laundry of the SHIFT Project – a learning environment where women can acquire work readiness skills by practising them on the job. It is the first of its kind in the area, but there has been some confusion in recent times which is making things tricky.

Confusion with Beacon laundry

'People think we have moved to Bangalow and are now the new Beacon laundry,' said co-founder Julie Wells.

Julie and founder, Anne Goslett, both feel this confusion is impacting the project, and after navigating Covid and the floods, it is exhausting on many levels.

'During Covid and over the flood season, we actually had to cut hours working in the laundry, and we closed on a Friday just to keep things manageable,' said Anne.

'Now we're coming out the other side – since Christmas,



SHIFT co-founders, Anne Goslett and Julie Wells.

we've been able to re-employ 16 women on the floor.'

Good news for now, but it got tough for Anne and Julie, who in recent times had used their savings to make sure the staff didn't miss out.

'Because of the accommodation coming back, we've gone from eight people on the floor last year to 16 this year,' said Julie.

'It's getting better, but over Christmas, because we were so financially strapped, both Anne and I worked on every public holiday and on

weekends (for free), because we just didn't have the money to pay overtime.'

Anne says that in the last few years, they have been able to offer a couple of women permanent contracts, which has allowed them to approach banks for a loan, but it's the extra things like food vouchers, petrol vouchers, access to a financial coach that are out-of-pocket expenses.

The women say they had a large kitty to help them over the tough times, but

now their savings are gone and winter is upon us, they will go into a slow season.

Linen hire vs wash

Anne and Julie feel that there is definitely room for the two businesses, as Beacon is a linen hire service and Linen SHIFT washes the client's own linen.

But the confusion has meant that people think there is only one laundry, and SHIFT relies on the help of financial donations to keep operating.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 38 #51 • May 29, 2024

Mining is back, baby!

Nearly ten years ago in 2015, junior coal seam gas (CSG) miner Metgasco was paid out handsomely by the state government (\$25m of your tax money) after its approval to frack Bentley, near Lismore, was fiercely fought off by thousands of well-organised protesters.

The community were passionate about protecting Country from the known harmful environmental destruction CSG causes. It could have got a lot worse, as just before the government caved, hundreds of riot squad police had been deployed to the region, ready to restore order. NSW Labor blamed the NSW coalition and the NSW coalition blamed NSW Labor for allowing it to happen. Solemn promises were made to not permit it again.

It was a PR catastrophe for out of touch governments, yet a victory for those who value this beautiful part of the planet.

Well guess what? North coast mining is back!

As one example, governments have quietly approved mineral, coal and petroleum extraction licences for large parcels of land west of Lismore.

According to www.minview.geoscience.nsw.gov.au, Filipino miner Geogen had its EL9545 licence approved on March 30, 2023, on land that stretches from south of Casino to north of Kyogle.

It goes as far west as Bonalbo. There is very little online info available on this company or project.

Further west, there are large areas earmarked around Drake and Tenterfield. And when zooming out on the entire state, there are vast areas of exploration and mining titles, mainly in the west.

Proposal near Grafton

Mt Gilmore, located just 35kms

west of Grafton, is under threat from a proposed copper/cobalt mine by WA-based junior miner, Corazon.

A new doco, *Rivertree*, explores the beauty and significance of the Clarence River, which is a major tributary for the region – see page 3.

The film sheds light on the urgent need to safeguard precious water resources against mining threats.

So who is Corazon?

According to www.intelligentinvestor.com.au, the WA-based junior mining exploration company floated on the ASX on June 28, 2005 as CZN.

The largest shareholders, according to marketindex.com.au, are institutional investors Hanking Australia Investment (2.64 per cent), BNP Paribas Noms (2.28 per cent), and Willowood Corporate Services (1.95 per cent). Some of the major insider shareholders are its CEO and board members, according to www.tipranks.com.

Corazon's MD Brett Smith told *JustStocks* one month ago – available on YouTube – that they are looking at a 2km strike target at Mt Gilmore.

Smith says the surrounding areas are 'farms and cattle stations', and they will be approached first to 'talk with them and tell them what we'd like to do'.

'We will announce to the market what the outcome is', he added.

Their target commodities – nickel, copper and cobalt – are earmarked for the booming rechargeable battery sector.

Screenings of *Rivertree* will be held at Lennox Head Cultural Centre, on Thursday, May 30 from 6.30pm, and Bangalow A&I Hall, on Thursday, June 6 from 5.30pm.

For tickets visit www.humanity.com and search for the screening.

Why jobseekers were abandoned

Many were left puzzled by the recent federal budget by Labor Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, with its projected surplus of \$9.3 billion.

Why were JobSeeker recipients left trying to exist on just \$385 a week? It is \$200 below the Henderson poverty line, which is a measurement of poverty developed by Professor Ronald Henderson.

They can barely manage to pay rent as well as buy food, let alone clothes or anything else.

There are around three quarters of a million Australians on this allowance. Some have been on it for ten years.

The sad fact is very many people are simply incapable of working, whether through physical, mental or emotional disability.

The term 'jobseeker' that everybody accepts as normal now, is a prejudicial term introduced by the Morrison government four years ago.

It implies that every person on these benefits is actively seeking a job, when for a significant number of people that simply is not possible.

It goes back to the early days of the hard right Abbott Liberal-Nationals administration, when Treasurer Joe Hockey demonised people out of work. He said at the time: 'The average working Australian, be they a cleaner, a plumber or teacher, is working one month full-time each year just to pay for the welfare of another Australian'.

He added: 'We must reward the lifters and discourage the leaners'. That brutal attitude led to the catastrophic Robodebt scheme and destruction of so many lives.

This cruel division of Australians into 'us and them' has effectively continued with this latest mean budget. The budget surplus alone would more than lift all the three quarters of a million people out of work above the poverty line, with a billion to spare.

The unemployment rate is also rising, as engineered by the Reserve Bank, to keep inflation in check.



'The budget surplus alone would more than lift all the three quarters of a million people out of work above the poverty line, with a billion to spare.'

Richard Jones

Telstra has just announced plans to sack 2,800 employees, as the CEO, Vicki Brady, pockets \$5.25m in pay and bonuses.

As has been demonstrated by the former boss of QANTAS, Alan Joyce, employees of this once state-owned airline are now just dispensable pawns in the corporate game.

Profits vs wellbeing

Corporate profits always take precedence over the livelihood of employees.

Directors regard shareholders' interests as paramount, even though this is not specifically stated in the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The *Corporations Act 2001* is outdated, and needs urgent revision to give higher priority to employees, as well as responsibility of corporations towards the environment.

Currently, corporations virtually control governments of both political persuasions, assisted by multi-million dollar donations to the major parties.

Neither Labor nor Liberal will want to put that at risk, so reforms to the *Corporations Act 2001* will in reality only happen if the government of the day has to rely on support of crossbenchers in both houses of parliament to get legislation passed.

The homeless also received no joy from this budget.

There's no urgent plan of any sort to house them, even in temporary housing – and winter is coming. The number of desperate homeless people is increasing in our shire.

As we likely head into recession and the jobless rate rises inexorably, the situation will get significantly worse.

Obviously, it takes time to build community housing with the income from the \$10b social housing fund, set up by Labor, plus the extra two billion dollars added to gain Greens' support, after much argy-bargy and name calling.

Tiny homes to the rescue

There are other options in the meantime, and one is tiny homes.

They are self-contained and far cheaper and quicker than building permanent dwellings.

There are manufacturers of moveable self-contained solar powered tiny houses, including in Byron Shire. They could do with a helping hand to produce these in numbers, at a fraction of the cost of building houses.

Siting tiny homes would need to be addressed in consultation with local government and landholders.

Some countries are providing powered warm sleeping pods for up to two people to keep the homeless safe, especially in winter. These can be produced for around \$1,000 each using recycled materials.

The \$2.6b earmarked this year in the budget for the ridiculously wasteful AUKUS nuclear submarines would provide over 20,000 tiny homes to house a sixth of the homeless people in this country.

As well as the desperately poor, unemployed and homeless, Australia's public health system is in tatters. It's common for sick and injured people to wait for eight hours and more in hospital emergency waiting rooms all over Australia.

This also needs urgent funding.

There's no valid reason or excuse to leave jobseekers well below the poverty line, and not to look after the most vulnerable in our society as a top priority.

There's no actual need to have a budget surplus to try to prove the government's economic credentials to the conservative media.

The decision to do so is a political decision, not an economic one.

■ Richard Jones is a former NSW MLC and is now a ceramicist.



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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.

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– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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In the weather we have been having mushrooms have been popping up like toadstools. Photo Jeff 'Gator' Dawson

Drumming circle

Every morning I get up early and walk along the beach south of the Brunswick Surf Club. What I've started to notice is that on Monday mornings there's litter and rubbish lying about everywhere in front of, and around, the surf club building.

The litter is left by the people who use the area for drumming on Sunday afternoon/evening. Every Monday it's the same mess.

This morning (Monday) I saw some long-time local surfers picking up the rubbish and putting it in garbage bags, which is good of them but ultimately not really their job.

To the drummers and all those using the grass in front of the surf club and car park area on Sundays I say to you: 'Clean up after yourselves. Have some respect for the beach and other people who like to enjoy it.'

Clean up your mess!

Brendan Kelly
Mullumbimby

Crossword clue

I wish to take exception to the clue 'lambastes', (*Echo* crossword two weeks ago). Lambastes, spelt with an 'e' is American or Canadian English. Everywhere else, it does not have an 'e' at the end.

Apart from this, I am enjoying your crosswords, Stephen Clarke. Thank you.

Virginia White
Goonellabah

Paterson St danger

For over four years the residents of Paterson Street have campaigned for a pedestrian path on Paterson Street, one of the busiest and most dangerous thoroughfares in Byron between Bangalow Road and Massinger Street.

In 2021, 57 residents signed a petition and presented in person to Byron Council to request a pedestrian path. Subsequently Council passed a resolution to make a pathway a priority. Following this resolution residents continued to highlight the issue, with

many follow-up letters and photographic evidence of the dangers to pedestrians and cyclists presented to Council. Council staff responded by assuring residents that a path would be a priority.

Now we see the Active Transport Plan issued by Council for comment with no plan for a pedestrian path on Paterson Street. This street has no safe verge, 3,500 vehicles using the street each day, and parked cars on both sides of the road that force pedestrians (and runners, dog walkers, pram pushers) and cyclists into the path of traffic.

This street is the main route for pedestrians (local residents and visitors) and runners going to the lighthouse.

Council has approved numerous townhouse developments in Paterson Street which increase pedestrian numbers and vehicles but what care is taken for the safety of those residents in pursuing recreation on Paterson

Street? It appears *none* and once again community concerns have fallen on deaf ears.

I encourage anyone who uses Paterson Street and who has safety concerns to highlight the issue by commenting on the Active Transport Plan.

Nerida Clarke
Byron Bay

Byron mayor defends rate-rise plan

In an article that the *Echo* published in 2016 (www.echo.net.au/byron-mayor-defends-rate-rise-plan/) the mayor defended Byron Council's rate-rise plan.

Why are the roads in worse shape now after a 60 per cent (compounded) rates increase was granted per household?

Why is there no accountability by Council? Where was the additional money spent?

Should the increase be refunded as ratepayers have paid, but had no benefit from the increase? Roads are full of potholes and drains are blocked.

Where have the additional funds from paid parking in Byron Bay gone? This revenue was promised as additional funding for roads.

Byron Council now states that funding is not coming from the state and that's why our roads are not being maintained. The truth is Council has not used the funds raised and allocated the funds as committed.

There is no accountability. Council promises but doesn't deliver.

Scott Wilson
New Brighton

► More letters on next page

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

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2 Topical, Important Messages.

1. Tim Winton; *Men are beneficiaries of Patriarchy. No Question. But even though they profit from it, their lives ultimately are poorer. Women have made enormous strides in my lifetime. And that's something to celebrate. But men haven't made equivalent strides to change themselves.* Google BBC HARDtalk with Steven Sacker, 2018.
2. Prof. Carole Hooven, talking about her son, just entering puberty; in her book *Testosterone*, pg. 260. *His masculine feelings are not toxic; he's not toxic for having them. What matters are his actions, and he has control over those.*

'My Face hit a kitchen Door, Doctor'!

The Male who **Violently Sexually Assaulted** me aged 15, was valued, loved, looked up to, trusted; and living in my house. I had no lock on my bedroom door. He swore me to secrecy. After he **also stole** my personal liberty in the daytime, with steel chain, I had a powerful urge to protect myself. I slid a ridged school workbook cover into the space between my door-top and frame, putting a basket with marbles on it. The sound of 300 marbles hitting the wooden floor at 5am, must have **woken the whole house**; but THAT was the last time he came near me. I recently attended his funeral. Still keeping his secret!

All the above is filled with *eIQ*.

So often, we can find a **Positive** in a **Huge Negative!**
If ***this had not *happened to *me, U would NOT...**

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

Cosmos: turn off the water

One area that seems to be missing in the recent *Echo* online (21 May, www.echo.net.au/managing-aquifers-to-deal-with-groundwater-loss) *Cosmos* article about water resources is local storage tanks.

We allow runoff from the roof to become contaminated runoff, lost down roadside drains, mixed with contaminants on the road amongst others.

Quality drainage off roofs is a resource, not a problem.

In our house, we have turned off the town water supply and installed 30,000 litres of tanks catching all the runoff from the roof and garage. In six or more years we have not had to access the town water supply except on rare occasions – say four months in total over that time period.

We use the tank water for all household and garden usages with ultra-filtration for potable needs.

The department of health does not support the use of tanks for total supply, but farmers and other rural users have been supplying their own water for generations and as far as I know this has never caused a health risk in rural areas.

The benefit of household tanks when connected to the whole house is that the main water supply dams (such as Rocky Creek Dam) do not have to supply all the needs of those connected – leaving the water in the dam for periods when we might run low in rainfall and need to access the town water supply.

Many people who have tanks don't use them as a permanent household supply – in fact I think many hardly use them at all. The water stored in the tank 'for a dry spell', will only last a few weeks if a drought comes – better to leave the rainfall in the main storage dams ready for such circumstances.



There are many situations where tanks could be used to supplement local groups. Many large industrial buildings could easily supply a number of households. And even houses on small blocks could bury tanks under driveways, or share space with a neighbour; or, radically, be built into the house as a heat moderation element as well as water supply.

There are many opportunities for tanks. And they could be subsidised instead of spending fortunes on extra dams with the ecological problems they can cause.

Richard Swinton
Clunes

More fake gov

It's bad enough to see Labor's indifference at the ICC (International Criminal Court) requesting arrest warrants for Israeli and Hamas leaders, but when Peter Dutton comes out and berates Albanese for 'not supporting our allies'... if it wasn't so serious it would be truly laughable.

Particularly while Israel continues to obliterate the Palestinian state (which it has continued to do in one way or another since WWII) causing the death of 35,000 civilians, a third of which were children. A fact which seems to be continually overlooked under the guise of Israel's right to defend itself.

Labor voters living in fairyland will no doubt continue to spin it however they like.

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

Evidence please

Water and Recycling proposed to the Water Waste and Sewer Advisory Committee in 2018 for the committee to endorse a five-year plan to bring a company in to reline the sewerage gravity mains and reline some sewer manholes in Mullumbimby over five years to address the inflow infiltration issue occurring in Mullumbimby at a cost of \$250,000 a year.

This contract ends in 2024, to date no visible evidence has been supplied such as CCTV footage of the mains particularly in the CBD of Mullumbimby that have been successfully relined.

As far as I know, there has been no change to substantial increase to inflows into the Brunswick Valley Waste Water Treatment Plant during prolonged rain events.

I am amazed that Council's executive, responsible for monitoring this project, apparently has not asked for evidence of the relining process having been successfully completed.

Alan Dickens
Byron Bay

Optics v reform

How much head scratching, and mental contortions, were required to produce last week's editorial (Optics v reform) – about the \$300 help with electricity bills. It's at least original – who else would put their name to such a questionable, transparently anti-Labor stretch.

The \$300 is not 'to alleviate the increase in energy costs'. In fact, according to the AER, electricity prices should start to fall after the EOFY, for the first time in years. This is largely due to the accelerating mix of power in the system from renewables. Not all will be paying for fossil fuels. Those feeling guilty could even

use it to subsidise ticking that box that says they want GreenPower.

This is a simple, uncomplicated means of cost-of-living relief without handing out counterproductive lump sums. The vast majority of us get an electricity bill – solar panels or not. Those least likely to be off-grid are renters or those struggling to pay their mortgage. It's not meant to be a complex policy for structural reform. That's elsewhere.

Of course there should be incentives for those 'doing the right thing' – which is why governments of both persuasions have for years offered extremely generous subsidies via RECs. Those fortunate enough to be off-grid might be less in need of 300 bucks right now than Gina!

Liz Levy
Suffolk Park

The great flood debate

The debate about including data from the February 2022 flood event (Letters, 15 May) is missing an essential factor for consideration. The question is whether the unprecedented flood event was part of the variation due to climate change or was it due to another equally unprecedented event.

None of the commentary on this issue that I've read in *The Echo* has considered the known fact that the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apa submarine volcano erupted in the South Pacific, 3,000km east of Townsville, six weeks before the February 2022 flood event.

This eruption ejected an estimated 146 million tonnes of super-heated water vapour into the stratosphere, according to a study published in *Geophysical Research Letters*. This humongous amount of water vapour rapidly dispersed in the near vacuum of the stratosphere and took several weeks to fall back to earth.

As the water ejected by the Hunga Tonga eruption returned to earth, it significantly augmented normal rainfall patterns all across the southern hemisphere, in Australia and New Zealand, Southern Africa and South America. Given these facts, Byron Council is probably wise to exclude the February 2022 flood data from future rainfall predictions and flood planning.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

► More letters on page 16

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Australian research to assess impact of firefighting chemicals on aquatic ecosystems

Cosmos Magazine

Research is to get underway for the first time into the environmental impact of spraying firefighting chemicals (FFC) near waterways.

The researcher involved, Dr Chantal Lanctôt, says ‘surprisingly little’ is known about the ecological impact of these chemicals.

Lanctôt has been awarded an Australian Research Council (ARC) Early Career Industry Fellowship to determine the ecological impacts of FFCs used to control wildfires.

On 6 May the ARC announced 50 new early career research projects to receive a total of \$22.5 million in research funding.

Lanctôt, a Griffith University ecotoxicologist based on the Gold Coast in Queensland, is to receive almost \$500,000 to provide scientific evidence to manage the safe use of FFCs around water catchments.

‘The project will assess the ecological impact of chemicals used to fight bushfires in Australia – this will include a range of commonly used retardants, water enhancers and foams,’ Lanctôt told *Cosmos*.

‘There is currently little information on the ecological impacts of these chemicals.’

Millions of litres of retardant are dumped on fires every year. For example, in November 2019 the



Plane dropping fire retardant on fire. Photo www.rawpixel.com

NSW Rural Fire Service said its large air tanker, the Boeing 737 ‘Marie Bashir’, had flown ‘135 missions and delivered over 1.45m litres of retardant’ in its first three months.

Elvis, the Erickson air crane, carries almost 10,000l of retardant and can dump 95,000l an hour. The retardant is mixed with water.

What are firefighting chemicals?

Firefighting chemicals are typically deployed by aircraft or ground crews to suppress and slow the spread or intensity of fires.

‘There are currently around 14 fire retardants, 16 Class A foams and 11 water enhancer formulations approved for bushfire management

in Australia, with different uses, applications, ingredients, and potential environmental impacts,’ says Lanctôt.

‘New formulations are also continuously entering the market.’

Class A foams contain surfactants, solvents and other chemicals. They lower the surface tension of water, which helps with the wetting and saturation of Class A materials such as wood, paper, brush and vegetation.

Retardants are chemicals that slow the spread or intensity of a fire. According to Lanctôt, they are commonly made up of ammonium salts of sulphate and/or phosphates, thickeners, corrosion inhibitors, performance additives and dyes.

‘For example, the PHOS-CHEK® LC95W formulation we investigated in our recent studies contains [more than] 85 per cent ammonium polyphosphate, [less than] five per cent attapulugus clay and [less than] eight per cent performance additives.’

In April 2023, *Cosmos* reported on one of the studies in the journal *Aquatic Toxicology*, which found that commonly used FFCs, PHOS-CHEK, LC95W and BLAZETAMER380, can kill frogs or severely delay tadpoles’ growth and development.

BLAZETAMER380 is a polymer-based water enhancer, which consist of polymers that absorb large volumes of water. Water enhancers can be applied directly to fire or used to coat vegetation and do not evaporate readily.

The ecological impacts of FFCs are largely unknown

According to Lanctôt, climate-driven fires are becoming more frequent and severe, leading to a widespread increase in the use of FFCs to protect lives and property.

Working in partnership with government agencies and water utilities, her research will investigate the fate, persistence, and aquatic toxicity of these FFCs to assess their risk to aquatic ecosystems.

The outcomes of the project aim to ‘inform risk-based management strategies and practices for FFC deployment around water catchments’ and ‘deliver direct environmental benefits by offering a roadmap for responsible FFC use that will guide positive changes in policy and inform the development of greener alternatives’.

Impact on humans

The NSW Department of Health says fire retardants are of ‘low toxicity’.

It says testing shows these chemicals can produce minor irritant effects before they are mixed with water.

‘The concentrated powder may cause minor respiratory irritation to workers who are handling it. Gels can irritate eyes, airways and the skin. Workers are required to wear gloves, goggles and dust masks when handling the powder.’

‘Risk assessments carried out in the United States and in Victoria demonstrated that the risk of health effects was very low, even to people who are accidentally exposed to the fire retardants during their application.’

‘The health risk from drinking rain water contaminated with fire retardants is also low, but the water may taste and smell unpleasant and consumption should be avoided.’



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Teens and screen time – the push to regulate

Mish Lerner

State governments across Australia are proposing to lift the age limit of social media apps, such as Instagram, TikTok and Facebook, from 13 years to 16 years. They are looking to do this to keep kids from watching harmful content, and to stop them damaging themselves from excessive time spent on these apps.

As stated by health experts, social media use can over-stimulate the brain, and releases too much dopamine, which can lead to addiction.

But this isn't the only thing both the government and population are worried about. Overuse can lead to depression, anxiety, loneliness and more.

Catherine Steiner-Adair, a clinical psychologist, told the Child Mind

Institute, 'As a species, we are very highly attuned to reading social cues. There's no question kids are missing out on very critical social skills. In a way, texting and online communicating puts everybody in a context where body language, facial expression, and even the smallest kinds of vocal reactions are rendered invisible.'

A 2018 study showed that teenagers between the ages of 14 and 17, who were exceeding the daily average time of seven hours per day, were over two times as likely to have been diagnosed with depression.

Chris Minns, Labor NSW Premier, said last week he was unsure if he could enforce age restrictions, as the whole country should act together.

Similar talks by other state leaders have discussed how it damages the next generation.

A few premiers have also stated that their state can change the age themselves, but experts believe that in order for a serious change to happen, it has to be done on a national scale.

Many countries across the world have already started banning social media, including Iran, UAE, Cuba and China, who owns TikTok. The domestic Chinese version is called Douyin. Douyin enforces much tighter age restrictions, time limits, content filtering and e-commerce integration compared to TikTok, especially aimed at protecting and limiting usage for younger users in line with China's regulatory policies, according to www.technologyreview.com

Some countries banning social media have done so over concerns about their national security and the influence of propaganda.



Additionally, states across the US are looking into an age limit on social media. Utah's new laws and the state of Florida are cracking down on the platforms.

Last year, Utah was the first state in the US to ban all users under 18, unless given parental permission, but has since reversed the decision after legal action.

Australia's Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese told Nova FM radio on Tuesday, 'What we want is our youngest Australians spending more time outside playing sport, engaging with each other in a normal way and less time online.'

And one way to do that is through restrictions on social media.'

Albanese has given support to a campaign which will ban children from using social media until the age of 16. Campaigners say too much online engagement at a young age can lead to serious mental health issues.

So should social media be banned? That's the question everyone is asking, and world leaders, along with politicians it seems, are saying yes.

■ Mish Lerner is a year ten work experience student.

Ancient Israel to the International Criminal Court – the death count mounts

■ Regarding Fast Buck\$' letter (*Echo* 22 May). In 1948 while 700,000 Arabs fled Israel, 150,000 very sensibly stayed and their 2,080,000 descendants living within the borders of Israel are citizens of Israel enjoying the freedoms and prosperity that most citizens of Arab countries can only dream of. Lesbian, gay, bisexual,

trans and intersex people live freely in Israel whether they are Jews, Muslims or neither.

There is no connection between the 'Sea Peoples Philistines' of ancient times and the Palestinians of modern times, genetically, culturally or historically. It is similar to the relationship between the Australian

Aborigines of 1788 and 'those who call themselves Australians' today. They merely live in the same localities at different times.

Fast Buck\$ is naive in his acceptance of the 'historical' sections of the Old Testament. These are not true accounts of the settlement of Israel and Judea but propaganda

written in the time of King Josiah (648 BCE – died 609) who did attempt a genocide of all non-Jewish temple worshippers from the river to the sea but failed miserably.

It is similar to the propaganda now written by Hamas and the PLO. The Israelites did not conduct a Philistine holocaust but suffered one when their elites were exiled to Babylon after conquest by Nebuchadnezzar. The Philistines suffered the same conquests by much larger, more powerful Middle Eastern empires as did the Israelites and had disappeared as a distinct ethnic group hundreds of years before Jesus.

Thomas Gubler
Murwillumbah

■ Fast Buck\$, *The Echo* was right in correcting your quote to 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free', but there are also other inaccuracies in your letter.

Firstly, the above quote is banned in many countries as it is a call for the total destruction of Israel and the murder of all of her Jews.

Re: prime ministers, you are referring to the assassination of Rabin, but you fail to mention that King Abdullah Bin Hussein of Jordan was assassinated by Arabs in 1951 for forming a 'non-belligerence pact' with Israel. Sadat the president of Egypt was assassinated in 1981 by Arabs for making peace with Israel. Hosni Mubarak the next president of Egypt was shot but survived

assassination on the same day. Other Arab Middle Eastern leaders were also assassinated by Arabs.

Nobody claims 'Palestine was a made-up name'. It was the name given by the Romans after they defeated the Jews in a long war, and took the land. Palestine was a vast region (not a country) including all of what is now Jordan and beyond, so Israel is but a small portion of the historical Palestine.

You are correct in saying that the Philistines were not at all of Arab / Muslim descent, but Jews did not start in Egypt, they lived in Cannan much further back in time, known as the 'Children of Israel'.

Over the centuries, it was the Jews who were referred to as 'Palestinians', as the Arabs thought the title beneath them, and local Arabs referred to themselves simply as Arabs or southern Syrians. Only from 1964 with their first leader Yasser Arafat (from Egypt) did the local Arabs form the identity of the Palestinians that we know today.

These are very basic historical facts, and only with facts can the current shit fest start to be resolved. Both Jews, Arabs and Christians are indigenous to the region and peace along with a separate Palestinian state alongside Israel, is achievable. Peace now.

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

■ Those who doubt the veracity of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) arrest warrants for Netanyahu and his defence minister Gallant,

should consult the following resources, all of which are written/established by 'self-hating Jews'.

Two key texts to understanding Gaza are Norman Finkelstein's *Gaza: An Inquest Into its Martyrdom* and the *Goldstone Report*. Justice Goldstone's report was such a cataclysmic shock to Israel that Finkelstein asks whether Israel may have resorted to blackmail to get him to recant. This may also explain why reports on Israel's crimes in Gaza from Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and the International Committee of the Red Cross dried up in 2009/2010. Their human rights lawyers may also have been got at.

Readers should consult, B'Tselem, the Israeli Centre for Human Rights, Breaking the Silence (Israeli non-governmental organisation founded by veterans of the IDF), Ilan Pappé's *The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine*, Jewish Voice for Peace, Yesh Gvul (supporting refuseniks and conscientious objectors), Jeff Halper's *War Against the People* (Halper is the director of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions), Antony Loewenstein's *The Palestine Laboratory and My Israel Question*. Last but by no means least is the superb 1972 magazine: *Independent Journalism from Israel-Palestine*.

We look forward to seeing Netanyahu and any fellow criminals arraigned before the ICC.

Gareth W R Smith
Byron Bay

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The Good Life

Boorabee Dorper lamb: delicious, but how can it help your arthritis?

Victoria Cosford

In a beautiful example of letting nothing go to waste, Dorper Lamb's Warren and Marina Wiggins have created a skincare range out of tallow. Kidney fat taken from the back of the lamb is melted down then allowed to solidify, a little Grumpy Grandma's olive oil and essential oils – lemon myrtle, lavender – added to it, and voila, a skin moisturiser!

Traditionally associated with candle-making and

the tin of dripping of many post-war stoves, tallow is a powerhouse of the vitamins A, D, E and K, and, Warren tells me, very good for skin eczema, acne and arthritis. 'Chefs,' he says, 'are swinging back to natural fats as opposed to seed and plant ones. The goodness out of animal fats is better for you.'

In the beginning, Warren says, he took the cream to the markets to gauge public reaction. 'People were very

open to it,' he tells me. 'Now I'm going through 24 bottles a week! It absorbs instantly,' he continues, sounding for all the world like a television commercial. 'It clears up tinea overnight and all foot fungi. It's a good natural moisturiser, both a day and a night cream.'

He himself is a walking advertisement for the moisturiser. Having long had an arthritic knee, he's now walking limp-free. In addition, he and Marina have produced a soap made out of the tallow,



soon to be available at the markets as well. 'The soap,'

Warren tells me, 'lathers up so much.' He's been using it for

the past few weeks to wash his hair and 'it's amazing! So much better than shampoo!'

So now, apart from Warren's glorious lamb – organic, hormone-free, grass-fed in a stress-free environment – you can buy the body moisturiser at his farmers' market stall along with cooking tallow – and soon the soap.

Dorper Lamb is at New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday from 8 to 11am and at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7 to 11am.

Champion Australian beer

Stone & Wood Brewing, well known for their flagship Pacific Ale, have produced another winner, with their Big Pale Ale taking out the title of Champion Australian Beer at the Melbourne Royal Australian International Beer Awards (AIBA). Big Pale Ale also took out the Best Australian Pale Ale category.

Big Pale Ale is the second instalment of Stone & Wood's All-Australian Hops series.

This limited-edition Australian pale ale showcases

the best of local ingredients, featuring a blend of Aussie Eclipse and Vic Secret hops, according to the brewers. With a low malt profile, the beer delivers light tropical notes of mandarin and pineapple, creating a full-flavoured and well-balanced brew, they say.

'Winning Champion

Australian Beer is an incredible honour for our team,' said Caolan Vaughan, Head Brewer at Stone & Wood. 'Big Pale Ale



Stone & Wood's Head Brewer, Caolan Vaughan receiving the award for their champion beer.

embodies the fantastic produce our Australian farmers grow every year, and we're so proud to showcase the hops grown by our lifelong partners in Hops Products Australia (HPA), who provided us with the hops that make this beer so special.'

None of our beers are

possible without our local community and their support so we'd like to thank them, as well as our customers who

helped get this beer out into the world. It's an even more exceptional honour as the beers we were up against are from world-class breweries, and Aussie drinkers are so fortunate to have so many great craft breweries on their doorstep. There's never been a better time to go and support Australian craft

beer,' he said.

Bangalow's small independent brewery, Common People Brewing Co also performed well at the big awards, with five of their locally-produced beers being awarded medals in their categories – more details on that next week.

Kahakai: new taste experience in Byron

Kahakai is a new restaurant in Byron on the corner of Bay Lane and Fletcher St which, with its location and choice of menu, is certainly living up to its name.

As new owner Quinton Mentoor explains, kaha means foreshore, and kai refers to ocean/food, and that ties into this beautiful, pristine Byron Bay setting, to which he has brought his passion, love and lifelong dream – 'to come to Byron Bay and create a simple but

unique menu for all locals and travellers to enjoy.'

Whether you are having a congee, or a simple granola bowl for breakfast, or green tahini, black wild rice and quinoa with charred greens, or sampling the rotating menu of ferments and pickles, you can be sure the food is made with love.

Quinton himself was born in South Africa. 'I come from humble beginnings,' he says, 'but with the passion and



Quinton Mentoor (centre) with chef Luke Hooran and just some of the unique, simple food that's available at Kahakai.

drive to make people happy with my food. I worked in hospitality as a baker and a cook in Melbourne and enjoy doing this – it's what I love most.'

Now he is channelling that passion into working with a team in his own restaurant. 'Our local chefs create the most amazing fermented

and pickled foods that are super-healthy and tasty,' he says. For example, the Kahakai

vege congee bowl is a tasty way to start the day with pickled ginger, crispy shallot, fermented radish, chilli relish, ramen egg and Kahakai special kimchi.

'We also specialise in house-cured and smoked fish and fresh seasonal seafood,' says Quinton. 'Come in and try our new taste experience. We offer

delicious breakfast and lunch, dine-in or take-away, and our opening times are from 7.30am to 1.30pm, with daily specials.'

And, they have delicious cakes, too!

Kahakai: 10/8 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay
Insta: kahakai_byronbay
kahakai.com.au

Elements of Byron's intimate winemaker dinners start on 6 June

Elements of Byron are inviting local wine lovers to join them for an unforgettable journey through the world of wine with their Winter Winemaker Series, which they describe as a unique opportunity to delve into the captivating narratives behind some of the most distinguished wineries, with an exquisite exploration of flavours, aromas, and tales straight from the vineyard.

'Throughout the winter months, we will be hosting a series of intimate winemaker dinners at Azure Bar and Grill, each curated to showcase the distinct character and craftsmanship of renowned Australian and New Zealand

wineries. Our lineup promises an exceptional experience for wine enthusiasts and curious



connoisseurs alike,' they say.

'In June, we kick off the series with Will Gilbert and

Nick Spencer, esteemed winemakers whose passion for their craft is matched only

by their dedication to quality.

Get ready to savour their exceptional creations and hear

firsthand the stories behind the bottles.

'Nick Spencer, an award-winning winemaker with a degree in Oenology from the University of Adelaide, has nearly two decades of experience. His expertise shines in wines from Gundagai, Tumburumba, and The Hilltops. Recognised by industry accolades, including the Jimmy Watson Memorial Trophy, Nick's wines are consistently celebrated for their quality and innovation.

'Will Gilbert, a sixth-generation winemaker from the renowned Gilbert family, honed his craft across Australia and Canada. Since becoming head winemaker

in 2016, Will has elevated the Gilbert label with his technical skill and passion. He also launched his own label, Underwood, and created the popular Goose Apple Cider.

'Partnering seamlessly with the wines, Azure Bar and Grill's menu, created by Executive Chef Ebony Bakers, focuses on Elements of Byron's food philosophy, which marries native, local influences with international flavours. Prepare to be tantalised by a symphony of tastes that perfectly complement the richness of the wines.

'Indulge in a sumptuous four-course meal, expertly curated to highlight the

nuances of each wine, to entice your taste buds from the very start. Throughout the evening, you'll have the opportunity to engage with the winemakers, gaining insights into their winemaking philosophies and the stories behind the labels.

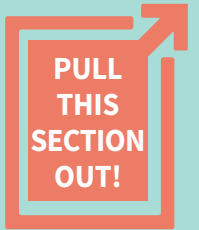
'Tickets for this extraordinary experience are priced at \$165 per person and include four courses with matched wines.'

Thursday 6 June, Nick Spencer & Will Gilbert, from 6 to 9pm at Azure Bar and Grill, Elements of Byron Resort, 144 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay.

Bookings: <https://elementsofbyron.com.au/winter-winemaker-series/>.

2024 SUSTAINABILITY

Vol 16, Winter 2024



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Some Sustainability 2024 highlights:

- ▶ To fly or not to fly? P5
- ▶ Climate change and flooding P6
- ▶ The illusion of fences P8
- ▶ Rebuilding for the future P10



There are challenges ahead, but there is still hope

In 2023, scientists from around the world said that action needs to be taken on climate change before it is too late. They made the call for action through the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), with UN secretary general, António Guterres, saying, 'This report is a clarion call to massively fast-track climate efforts by every country and every sector and on every timeframe. Our world needs climate action on all fronts: everything, everywhere, all at once.'

It was reiterated by another 12 international scientists in the journal *Bioscience* where they stated that human activity is pushing Earth into a climate crisis that could threaten the lives of up to six billion people this century. They showed that 20 of 35 identified planetary vital signs are at record extremes.

'We are afraid of the uncharted territory that we have now entered,' they said.

Yet governments fail to act and instead, like the Australian Labor Party, push a 'gas transition' taking soft actions rather than driving hard for change. The NSW Labor government is yet to rein in land clearing with the Australian east coast being the only first world country to be declared as a 'deforestation hotspot'.

This can all feel overwhelming and can often leave people struggling to find a way to make a difference; but in reality it is up to every person to choose to make a difference where and when they can.

For some people it is direct action saving forests and ecologically sensitive areas, for others it is working within the system to create policies, legislation, and actions at all levels of governments to create change. For everyone it can be the choice of energy supplier, what to drive - a fossil fuel vehicle, an electric vehicle, or to get on your bike. Will you fly, drive or train on your next holiday?

For others it is a decision to join Landcare, become a bush regenerator or join a river protection group. The Richmond Riverkeepers Association was recently launched in Ballina to bring the community together with the aim of bringing the Richmond River back to a drinkable, swimmable, fishable river for all the communities along it.

The Big Scrub Landcare group aims to restore and preserve the Big Scrub rainforest of the Northern Rivers and South-East Queensland while Rainforest Rescue is taking donations to directly buy back parts of the Daintree Rainforest.



At a local government level you could run for the upcoming council elections, and yes, you can make a difference. From directing the development of policies like the Cool Towns policy that Tweed Shire has been promoting; to making decisions on where to put housing; which local areas, koalas or other native species need protection; to how we develop and maintain our water security in the region you can have real and tangible impacts on your local environment and community.

Yes we need to take action to limit the impacts of climate change, and yes our decisions both large and small can make a difference. My next step might be as simple as tackling some of those weeds in my garden and planting a few native plants to help native species survive. Every action makes a difference, now is not the time to lose hope.

Aslan Shand, editor



the best time is now

the best time to say 'thank you' is now.

25 years ago, Rainforest Rescue had a mission to protect the under-protected rainforests of Australia. Since then, we've embarked on restoring and connecting up the damaged and fragmented parts of the irreplaceable Daintree Rainforest.

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Discover how rainforest action is climate action at: rainforestrescue.org.au/thrive



Rainforest Rescue is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ABN 61 086 885 154

Jagun Alliance – rebuilding Indigenous knowledge

Belle Budden

Sustainability is intrinsic to Aboriginal cultural frameworks, all ways of being, knowing and doing. It's about being in the right relationship with Country, and all the endemic species being in the right relationships, in the kinship Country for Country, *Jagun*.

For thousands of years Aboriginal people have been custodians of Country utilising cultural land management practices to help to keep this balance. Local Aboriginal organisation Jagun Alliance are working across the region to help to restore these cultural practices that have sustainability at their core.

Jagun Alliance are working to grow public awareness and recognition of the importance of Aboriginal custodians and land managers to care for and manage land and sea Country. They educate landowners, framers and other stakeholders about how they can be better custodians of the land they own.

Building partnerships, Jagun Alliance are promoting investment in culturally informed natural resource management across the Northern Rivers region. They are implementing innovative projects to heal country through conservation and natural resource management.

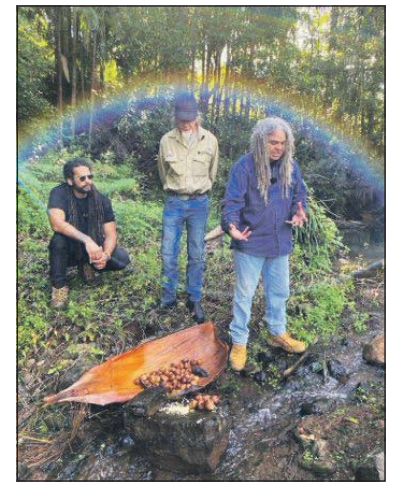
This process is informed by 60,000 years of knowledge and wisdom. Through building partnerships to benefit the care of Country, Jagun Alliance are aiming to achieve their vision for healthy Country.

Oliver Costello is the Executive Director of Jagun Alliance. Oli is a proud Bundjalung man from the Northern Rivers of NSW, and he has a diverse range of personal and professional expertise in culturally connected stewardship of Country. He is currently focused on First Nations knowledge and practice in caring for Country through regenerative cultural practices that support preparedness, recovery, and resilience in relation to fire, floods and storms. He has extensive experience working within the Indigenous land and sea management, conservation, and cultural heritage management sectors, and has been particularly interested in empowering Aboriginal perspectives on fire, threatened and culturally significant species.

'What we do is revive our cultural land management, our practices of caring for Country. We bring people together to care for Country, support people who are committed to care for Country, and to work holistically with cultural practices to make Country well again,' explained Oli.



Top: Bugam harvest of food currently in season. Right: L to R - Jagun Alliance crew Kobi Stewart, Andrew Johnston and Marcus Ferguson preparing bugam (Black Beans). Photos Michele Lockwood



'Our people cared for Country for many thousands of years. Colonisation has had a huge impact on our cultural land management and our relationship with Country. We are working to build partnerships to bring people together to maintain these cultural practices, to care for Country.'

Oli explained that there is a lot of focus on disaster response and addressing climate change and Jagun Alliance are committed to this work and more.

'It's about a holistic approach to caring for Country, to see ourselves as humans as being in relationship with Country, not separate from or bad for Country. We have to see ourselves, and other native species as being part of Country and listen to Country about what it needs.'

Jagun Alliance are working with our communities, learning from our own old people to strengthen cultural land care practices that have existed for thousands of years, such as cultural fire management, and native food cultivation and preparation across South Eastern Australia.

'There are different types of fire such as maintenance fire where Country is pretty healthy, and you burn it at the right time and then we are working with Country to burn itself.

'When Country is sick it takes a long time to get it healthy again. We want to focus on our pathways and corridors and old camp sites to reconnect to these stories of Country. This is of physical benefit to the land but it also of spiritual benefit to our people as we are

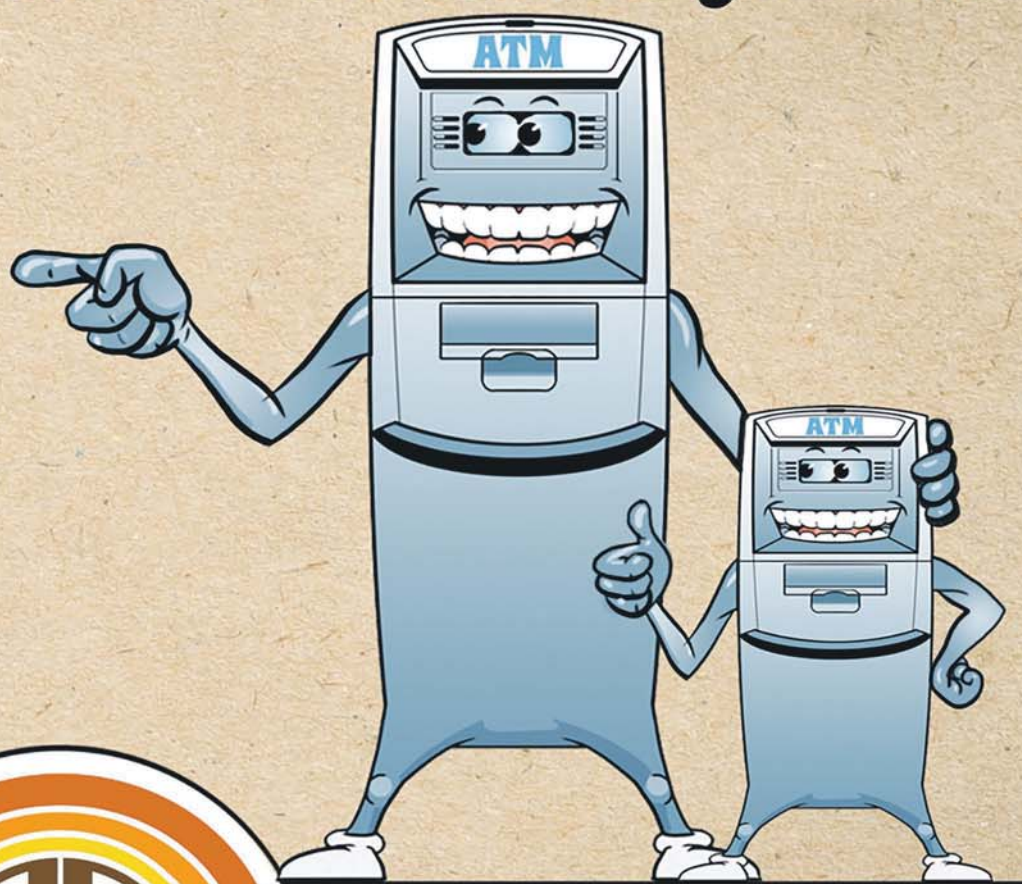
able to get back on Country and to reconnect with our stories,' Oli shared.

Oli has worked extensively with Western land management systems and is committed to working to create change for Country.

'Most mainstream land management practices have created systems that are based on a Western model of economy and land management. We are working to engage with local landholders and stakeholders in the importance of cultural land management, especially fire.

'Supporting farmers to learn better practices so that they have better outcomes for Country. We want to see the rivers and the soils healthy which will benefit farmers and all the stakeholders.'

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Electric vehicles and the way of the dinosaur

Mandy Nolan

Right now there are more than 180,000 electric vehicles (EVs) on Australian roads.

New EV purchases more than doubled last year with a growth trend of doubling the EV market, every year since 2020.

By 2035 it is expected that all light vehicles sold in Australia will be electric. That petrol car you are driving is a dinosaur.

We still have a long way to go. As at January 2023 we had 21 million registered vehicles. Our poor public transport infrastructure and the long distances to travel in remote and regional Australia has meant that 91 per cent of households own a car. When it comes to emission reduction, transitioning from carbon emitting vehicles powered by fossil fuels is a no brainer.

Forty per cent of Australians have said they want their next car to be an electric vehicle. And why wouldn't you? They're quiet. They're clean. They're fast. Yep, even a small electric car has impressive power. I accidentally dragged-off and beat a lowered, hotted up Commodore in a little Nissan Leaf at a traffic light. The accelerator response is immediate



Image: Ewan Willis

'I accidentally dragged-off and beat a lowered, hotted up Commodore in a little Nissan Leaf at a traffic light.'

- Mandy Nolan

Charging stations

Right now the challenge is to create reliability and dependence in the regional market. EV owners have access to apps such as PlugShare and ChargeFox that give details of current EV charging stations around the country.

The ultimate goal for regional energy use is to be able to use solar to run your home, to charge your car and even use your car battery as a storage device for solar energy. This kind of energy efficiency will transform regional Australia.

The MG4 is currently the cheapest ev available in Australia. With a range of 530k available for \$52,990. With regional wages and earnings significantly less compared to urban areas, and with regional areas requiring higher range, therefore more expensive vehicles, some sort of regional subsidy may be the way to encourage regional EV growth.



and surprising.

So performance isn't a barrier to purchase.

Range and cost

The barriers currently are price, range and availability of fast charging stations. Urban drivers are most likely to transition to an EV as they travel shorter distances and have access to charging stations. I asked an Uber driver in a brand new EV how often he had to charge

his car. He had a range of 450 kilometres. As a regionally based person who travels for work, I can cover that distance in an afternoon, and need to do it again that evening to return home. But for my Uber driver, who drives every day, he only needs to charge every three days.

Right now in Australia people with EVs fit the early adopter profile that has been seen globally. They are predominantly male, 45-54 years of age, living in houses, working full-time or retired, and have a high household income. So

right now the target market for EV uptake seems to be young, urban, tech-savvy customers who value convenience, sustainability, and innovation.

Right now the affordable entry point to the EV market has been electric motorcycles. With bikes available under \$5,000 and \$10,000 it is clear that electric motorbikes are transforming the way we travel. Although limited charging infrastructure and length of time for charging is still one of the major barriers to uptake.



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To fly or not to fly? What are the costs?

David Lowe

It's only 116 years since the first passenger flew in a plane. Now flights are so cheap that many people regard flying as a birthright, and any threat to this as something existential. The problem is that the real costs of flying aren't represented in your airline ticket, even if you click the carbon offsets box.

Because jets burn their fuel so high in the atmosphere, choosing to fly is the most warming choice most humans can make. In terms of CO₂ and passenger kilometres, flying in economy class is worse than driving a typical petrol car (first class is twice as bad).

Because the average distances are so much greater, orders of magnitude are involved, with a single return flight from Sydney to London generating more CO₂ per average passenger than driving a car for a year, which is itself much worse than greener alternatives.

Most of these long haul flights aren't to visit dying relatives, or to do something that could be done on Zoom (like attend a climate emergency meeting), but are for holidays.

Since the brief hiatus of Covid,



Above: FlightRadar live tracker 9 May, 2024. Right: Gossamer Albatross II in flight



passenger flight numbers have exploded across the world, with an additional 44 million litres of jet fuel being burned each day (four times faster than the previous rate of increase), generating 915 million tonnes of CO₂ in 2020. That exceeded the combined yearly emissions of 135 nations.

Only ten per cent of the global population currently take regular flights, but passenger numbers are steadily increasing. Airline fuel efficiency improvements aren't remotely keeping up, with almost two gigatonnes of CO₂ expected to be generated by aviation in 2050 if current trends continue.

Beyond carbon dioxide

Other emissions from passenger jets include nitrogen oxides,

water vapour, hydrocarbons, sulphur oxides and black carbon. Research has shown that these gases and particles interact in the upper stratosphere and lower stratosphere to further contribute to global warming, either in the short or long term.

Intergovernmental Panel on CLimate Change (IPCC) reports have assessed total aviation-caused global heating effects to be three times what they would be considering CO₂ alone. The overall warming trend from all this atmospheric pollution is accelerating, with 3.5 per cent of global heating caused by aviation from 1940 until 2018, up to 5.9 per cent in 2018 alone.

The aviation industry has responded to environmental concerns by talking up offsets, alternative fuels and 'net zero flying'. Sustainable Aviation

Fuel (SAF) is an alternative to conventional fossil fuel, produced from things like cooking and plant oils (competing with food needs), algae, agricultural/forestry residues and waste gases.

However, to be truly sustainable, it can't be created by turning large areas of agricultural or forested land over to fuel production.

Unlike carbon capture, SAF is a real thing, and is already being used by the aviation industry, mostly in the form of blends, although there have been successful test flights using 100 per cent SAF. Unfortunately it's expensive (currently four times the price of kerosene), and there's nowhere near enough of it. 100 million litres of the stuff was used globally in 2021. 450 billion litres a year of SAF would be needed by 2050 for the aviation industry to reach net zero.

What about?

Small electric planes exist, but massive advances in battery technology will be required before electrification can be a realistic option for large-scale passenger transport.

One of the many ironies of air travel is that global warming is damaging many of the places tourists are flying to visit. Carbon offsets might give you a warm inner glow, but many of the forests which that money planted have since been burned in bushfires.

Sadly for those who enjoy the magical experience of flight, unless airships return, or you're that guy flying over the English Channel on a pedal powered plane, air travel is simply not sustainable.

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Climate change and flooding in the Northern Rivers: what can we expect? Much worse to come!

Dr Willow Hallgren

There is significant scientific evidence that our weather is getting more extreme; extremely hot days are toppling old records and creating new heat records almost yearly, heatwaves are getting hotter and lasting longer, and 'flash' droughts and 'unprecedented' flooding rains are wreaking havoc across the country and beyond, with alarming regularity. One could be forgiven for thinking we are in uncharted territory, except the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been giving us guidebooks to this unfolding devastation for decades now...

Of particular concern for the Northern Rivers region is the unprecedented flooding which occurred when the February 2022 floods obliterated previous records. Although there are many factors that contribute to the risk of flooding, the most important weather-related factors include how extreme a rainfall event is and how wet catchments are prior to the rain event. The 2022 flood was due to extreme rainfall from a combination of severe

thunderstorms interacting with an east coast low, falling on an already La Nina-sodden catchment.

Indeed, extreme rainfall events are known to have increased in both frequency and intensity since the 1950s, with human-induced global warming the main culprit. Since 1910, Australia's climate has warmed by 1.47 degrees, and it is often cited that for every degree of heating, the atmosphere is able to hold about seven per cent more water vapour. This would be bad enough, however, when that water vapour condenses in the atmosphere into raindrops, it gives off heat, which fuels stronger convection that 'supercharges' thunderstorms.

In a review of the latest climate science to guide flood preparedness, Australian scientists have shown that for each degree of global warming, the increase in the intensity of rainfall was about 7-28 per cent for hourly or shorter duration rainfall, and 2-15 per cent for daily or longer rainfall. This is remarkable, since not only is this far more than the seven per cent per one degree increase, but unfortunately also far more



An aerial image of Chinderah, looking north to Tweed Heads and Coolangatta, during the 2022 flood. Photo supplied

than the five per cent increase per degree warming that is currently cited in existing flood planning standards.

This means that infrastructure that is being built to these standards is probably woefully inadequate for the rainfall extremes and megafloods of a planet which many climate scientists now think will experience 2.5 degrees of heating. There's surely some terrifying maths right there!

As depressing as this is, spare a thought for people who are not living in what will likely remain

essentially a high-rainfall area* as the climate cookie crumbles over the next few decades. A new study *Climate change isn't producing increase in atmospheric moisture over dry regions* has found that this relationship between increasing temperatures and atmospheric moisture only holds in humid areas. In arid and semi-arid areas, water vapour in the atmosphere has generally remained constant, even as temperatures rise, which in effect dries out the air. Combined with extreme heat, strong winds, and high fuel loads, we have a recipe for increased fire

risk. Besides the increased risk of bushfires, an increase in aridity is concerning for large swathes of Australia, which could face even higher-than-previously-predicted risks of extreme heat and water shortages.

*According to the NSW government our beautiful North Coast region will likely experience an increase in autumn and spring rainfall in both the near and far future and a decrease in winter rainfall in both the near and far future (there is not much consensus on how summer rainfall will change).

Further reading:

- <https://tinyurl.com/mpr6ryh9>
- Wasko, C., Westra, S., Nathan, R., Pepler, A., Raupach, T., Dowdy, A., ... & Fowler, H. (2023). A systematic review of climate change science relevant to Australian design flood estimation. *Hydrology and Earth System Sciences Discussions*, 2023, 1-48.
- <https://tinyurl.com/3y5ht7e5>
- <https://tinyurl.com/5677z7p6>



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The Social Alibi	Brunswick Heads
Joia Hair Studio	Lennox Head
Craft Hair and Beauty	Pottsville
Curl up and dye	Uki
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Cut Sick	North Lismore
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The illusion of fences – just no respect from some species

Aletha Zylstra

Driving along lush corridors of filtered sunlight on my way to study bush regeneration at TAFE, the scenery around me gradually took on a different character. Tree-lined tunnels were recast as dementor-like dank shadows of once vivacious ecosystems. Elegant arching forests, once their legions were named, 'camphor' and 'privet', became sinister foes. They were everywhere I looked; creeping along fence lines, choking creek banks, dominating neglected paddocks, taking every advantage across this fractured landscape, and ushering in an ominous paucity of species – plant and animal.

If all that seems overly emotive, see how these statistics sit with you:

Australia has 19 ecosystems on the brink of collapse. Of their many pressures, weeds are a major threat for about 90 per cent of endangered ecological communities and affect more than 40 per cent of the threatened species (mostly plants) within those communities.

We're ranked #1 in the world for mammal extinctions – 34 at last count – and we've held that shameful ranking since colonisation.



Preserving and building on remaining old growth forests is essential for managing climate change impacts. Photo supplied



Deforestation

We are the only developed, wealthy country to be listed as a global deforestation hotspot. What does that translate to? In the last 22 years Australia has lost 9.03 million hectares of forest to fires, logging, agriculture and other drivers of deforestation such as 'development'. To put that into some local perspective, the Big Scrub rainforest once covered 75,000ha. It took 60 years to clear it: 9.03Mha in 22 years is about 120 Big Scrubs gone in just a third of the time.

Add to this picture the knowledge that the satellite imagery used to map canopy cover, to determine how much forest has been lost, doesn't distinguish between 95 per cent and 20 per cent cover... so the real figures of loss are potentially *much* larger.

You can do the maths on that, I'm tapping out to go plant some trees!

In half the time it took to clear it, Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy has restored 'just' 300ha of lowland subtropical rainforest and planted more than 1.5 million trees. Knowing what I do now about the time and skill it takes to collect, process and germinate native seed (an art in itself); the dedicated effort that goes into growing the plants to a size ready for planting; the coordination it takes to secure funding for a site; the research, planning and preparation that goes into a site; the time and labour to transport and plant the seedlings; the time and labour to maintain the area planted (keep control of the weeds) while the little trees get established, well crikey – 1.5m trees is a staggering tally and a statement of emphatic and radical hope. Likewise, the efforts of Rainforest Rescue in conserving

170ha of the Daintree in far north Queensland, and edging up toward 400k trees planted, is an awesome achievement.

It is heartening to know, according to the Australian National Greenhouse Accounts 2 4.19Mha of forests were 'regrown' from 2010-18, but – and I want you to read that like a big splintered stump of a 200+ year-old hardwood – the offset accounting in that figure treats knee-high saplings in a plantation as equivalent to trees that are 30+ years old! That's just bloody nonsense. Quantity of trees planted and the quality of established ecosystems are not equivalent. Global Forests Watch puts tree cover gain in Australia (from 2000-20) at 1.6Mha, and net loss from a variety of causes at 2.52Mha. It's easy to see how that's going to play out if nothing changes.

We're trying! Bush regeneration is a growing industry, but compared to the mechanical advantages and economic imperatives of bushland destruction, it is a slow and labour-intensive process. Plants (with the exception of vines) do not appear to share our sense of urgency about the whole thing. Bush regeneration must also contend with the weeds; all 340 listed on the DPI NSW

Weedwise website, which have zero respect for anybody's fences or our busy lives.

Weeds, weeds

Almost ten years ago, a 2015 report by the ISC detailed weed management as being one of the biggest gaps in NSW environmental laws and policies and highlighted the urgent need for government intervention. While we're waiting, if everyone learned to identify a handful of weeds and how to manage them appropriately (which doesn't include throwing them over the fence or dumping them on the roadside) and also practised a little bush regeneration in their own backyard by planting suitable endemic species, or volunteering time with their local Landcare group, it would really help the bigger picture for our native biodiversity.

Facing a climate change future we know that globally, mitigation efforts lie in finding 'common ground'. Maybe it's one of those 'can't see the wood for the trees moments' but as a bush regenerator I can't help feeling it's not complicated; the common ground we need to find is right here, under our feet. Fences are an illusion.

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Jindi – 3D printed home by Studio Kite

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Instead of take-make-waste, ReCirculator is looking at a take-make-recreate model and how local businesses can profit.

Now they are working with Northern Rivers business Studio Kite to divert plastic from our local landfills into 3D-printed housing. It's circular economy thinking for an out-of-the-box solution to two of our most pressing local problems.



Find out more
scu.edu.au/recirculator

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Rebuilding for the future – Summerland Bank leads

Aslan Shand

The 2022 flood devastated the Northern Rivers. Central Lismore was without electricity for six weeks following the flood that had risen 2.3m higher than any previous recorded flood, topping in at 14.4m. So, deciding to rebuild back in Lismore’s central business district (CBD), when there is no flood insurance, was a big decision for Summerland Bank.

The question they had to ask themselves was ‘is it a wise decision to rebuild back in the CBD when you don’t have flood insurance and with the full expectation that it would flood again?’ said John Williams, Summerland Bank CEO.

‘Should we relocate or do something else, something different? In the end, it came back to our strategic purpose as a business, which is better banking, stronger communities. That’s our purpose for our business. We didn’t think we would be living that purpose if we made any decision other than rebuilding back into the Lismore CBD.’

Summerland Bank have only fully returned to their head office in the Lismore CBD in the last month.



Above left: Damage sustained in the 2022 flood at the Lismore CBD Summerland Bank. Above right: The hard finishes and absence of softer sound materials additional acoustic treatment was achieved through a kinetic design feature consisting of hanging baffles that move in the air conditioning. Photo supplied



The building had around three metres of floodwater through it that took several days to drain away. In deciding to return they realised they needed to build back differently so that they could be back in the building as quickly as possibly providing services to the community.

The importance of getting services back up and running was highlighted following the 2022 flood when they established a branch six days after the flood at Southern Cross University.

‘We opened and traded on a Sunday to get cash back out into the hands of our customers. But we also managed to service a number of non-customers as well,’ said John.

They brought on local architects Barker Architects to assist Summerland to determine how they could build back resiliently. To rebuild in a way that will allow a return to operations in the shortest possible time after a flood event meant that they had to ensure they built back resiliently with building materials and designs that could withstand being flooded.

Luke Barker, Principal at Barker Architects, said it was important to ensure there were ‘no cavities for flood water to penetrate. That the materials used are waterproof and can stay submerged for several days and not harbour or encourage the growth of bacteria and other microbial contaminants that cause

long term-health issues for the staff and building.’

They had to ensure that surfaces used were dense, waterproof, and easy to clean (resistant to pressure washing). That services that are exposed are easy to access, repair and or replace as well as using modular furniture that is easily cleaned or able to be moved to higher ground.

‘For non-moveable furniture, for example customer desks, they are made from outdoor grade compact laminate that can stay submerged for days and be easily pressure washed,’ explained Luke.

For the building, Summerland have installed drains in the floors

that allow floodwater in and to escape so that there is not pressure from the water on the buildings structure explained John.

‘The main aims are a quick turnaround for reopening (days in lieu of weeks) and the minimisation of damage and waste,’ said Luke.

‘The volume of building waste that came out of the 2022 floods was extraordinary. Investing in the higher quality materials not only means the cost of reopening will be significantly less after the next flood, but the cost on the environment is significantly reduced as well.’

Mr Williams agreed, saying that the modelling for the costs of a future flood event following a sustainable and resilient rebuild will be less than ten per cent of the loss they experienced in 2022.

‘We would expect to be back in the building within two to three days depending upon the scale of the flood,’ said Mr Williams.

‘In 2022, they lost the electricity substations in the Lismore CBD and it took six weeks to get the substations operating again. We could operate at this site with a generator probably within three days following this rebuild.’

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LET'S BREAK IT DOWN

Maxine and Daniel are considering a 5.28KW solar system, supplied and installed by ProSolar for \$6,937. The federal government discount for this system is \$1,938 (at time of publishing). This brings their system cost down to \$4999 saving them \$1,850 per year enabling them to pay back their investment in 2.98 years!

Alternatively, the same system can be financed for \$27 per week. This can be an attractive way to reduce your bill and put the money you would normally pay your power company into your very own power system on your rooftop.

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- **Total cost after discount = \$7,999 or \$39 per week.**



10.56KW SOLAR SYSTEM

- 24 x JA 440W N-Type BiFacial Panels with a 25-year product and 30-year warranty
- 1 x GoodWe 10kW inverter with a 10-year premium warranty
- Cost \$13,367
- Less federal government discount of \$3875
- **Total cost after discount = \$9,490 or \$49 per week.**

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

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What is your council doing when it comes to

Eve Jeffery

Every year *The Echo* asks the five local councils what they are currently working on to be sustainable and this year the response has been phenomenal – too much to put on the page. Keep your eye on our website for the full stories in the coming weeks.

Tweed

Tweed Shire Council is committed to a sustainable future and working with the community to protect the region’s internationally significant environment.

To achieve this, Council is focused on reducing the environmental footprint of its operations – it reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by 19 per cent last financial year compared to the previous year.

This positive result can be attributed to reduced electricity use – particularly in water and wastewater pumps and treatment – and a return to pre-flood patterns of vehicle use.

Supporting Council to achieve its emissions target is the Tweed’s largest solar array, which became operational in August 2023.



Tweed Council installed this osprey cradle at Hastings Point.

Covering the size of a football field, the array powers one of Council’s most power-hungry facilities, the Banora Point Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Significant work was also undertaken to stabilise the banks of the Tweed River near Uki following the devastating 2022 flood. Aiming to protect the Tweed River from future flood impacts, the project restored 700 metres of damaged riverbank by installing rock revetment along unprotected sections of riverbank and driving around 1,700 hardwood logs into the riverbed. Works were designed to capture natural sand and gravel

to rebuild riverbed levels and prevent ongoing widening and straightening of the Tweed River. Riparian vegetation will be restored over time to improve river health.

Byron

Byron Shire Council is kicking goals as they move closer to achieving their sustainability and greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. They’re taking action to reduce corporate carbon emissions through sustainable procurement, incorporating energy storage into buildings and developing an electric vehicle transition plan for the staff vehicle fleet. Council is



Byron Council supports recycling and reuse through the mending group.

working to increase the number of electric vehicle charging stations in the Shire, including through grant funding opportunities and business case analysis, and considering an expansion of the available car share bays. Staff are also looking to explore options for supporting community gardens to increase their membership.

Soon Council will release a Single-use Packaging and Materials Policy. Council plans to support the community to transition away from single-use, throwaway packaging at events on Council land and in Council facilities. By reducing this problematic packaging, they hope to achieve their zero waste to

landfill goals and reduce emissions – this is all part of an ongoing commitment to waste avoidance, litter reduction and environmental protection. The next step to protect the local wildlife and precious marine animals will be eliminating balloons and plastic decorations in our public spaces.

Council also has a very exciting partnership with Speaking 4 the Planet, where youth aged 12-18 in the shire can participate in the 2024 Speaking 4 the Planet competition – an arts-based approach to youth advocacy for a sustainable world. In 2024 the topic is ‘Trees, the Guardians of Life’. Submissions are due Friday, 26 July 2024.



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recycling, sustainability and innovation?



Tweed and Byron Councils have been working to preserve the bush stone curlew. Photo Theo Spykers



Ballina Council's Alstonville WWTP solar panels.

services and capital works, and investigating carbon sequestration and offsetting strategies.

One of the most exciting aspects of Ballina Council's approach is its embrace of innovative solar technologies. Council has already made significant strides in this area, generating 10 per cent of its electricity needs from on-site solar installations.

Richmond Valley

Richmond Valley Council adopted its first Sustainable Communities Strategy in March 2023, marking a pivotal moment in Council's commitment to environmental stewardship.

This strategy focuses on key areas such as environmental services, rivers and waterways, biodiversity and bushland, and resilient communities and highlights Council's dedication to building a sustainable future for its community.

In one of many plans and projects from the strategy, Richmond Valley Council and Brunswick

Valley Landcare have produced the updated edition of the *Climate Resilient Landscapes* booklet. This invaluable resource is a planting guide that helps communities adapt their gardens to a changing climate.

Sustainable Communities Officer Justine Clarke said the resource guides the community in creating beautiful, thriving gardens and educates them on the benefits of planting native, climate-resilient plants.

'By doing so, we support local biodiversity and contribute to a whole ecosystem approach,' said Ms Clarke.

The booklet will be available to download via Richmond Valley Council's website in June.

Richmond Valley Council has launched its Community Greening Program, which addresses the pressing issue of urban heat, and is committed to planting 15,000 trees over the next two decades.

Ballina

At the forefront of Ballina Shire Council's sustainability efforts is its Climate Change Policy which sets organisational emissions reduction targets, and provides a framework for progressing climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resilience strategies for Council and the community.

Council's corporate targets are more ambitious than the NSW and Australian governments and

aim to: reduce its operational greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero emissions by 2030 and use 100 per cent renewable electricity for its operations by 2030.

This bold vision is underpinned by the recent adoption of the Council's Corporate Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) in May 2024. The CERP sets out the pathway to achieve the targets through short-, medium-, and long-term actions.

The key areas of emissions reduction opportunity in the short term are on-site solar and continued energy efficiency initiatives. New areas of focus include adding supply chain emissions to their emissions scope, for example, emissions for purchasing of products and

Lismore

Lismore Council's Environmental Strategies team works to improve nature and protect animals in their area. They do this by following the Biodiversity Management Strategy, which is funded by the Special Rate Variation.

The team works on projects with local groups to restore land and protect animals. They also help rural landowners improve the environment and educate the public about nature. The team also gives advice to other parts of Council on how to protect the environment.

They restore land in the city through the Urban Green Corridors Plan and help koalas by monitoring their habitats according to the Comprehensive Koala Plan of Management.

ballina climate ACTION
Leading change together

Ballina Shire Council's **Climate Change Policy** sets more ambitious targets than the NSW and Australian Governments to achieve rapid emissions reduction by:

- reducing our operational greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero emissions by 2030
- using 100% renewable electricity for our operations by 2030

see what Council has achieved so far at ballina.nsw.gov.au/climate-change-action

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THE GREENS



Research partnerships to transform waste are win-win the for local environment and the economy

Southern Cross University

Is it possible to turn trash into treasure? Researchers at Southern Cross University are doing just that by partnering with local industries to find new value in their waste streams and transform rubbish into revenue.

The university is harnessing its team of experts in environmental engineering and circular economies to keep waste out of our environment and landfill.

'The idea is that there's no waste, just different materials with different purposes. By unlocking the value of a material from one phase of use to another, it enables a model for commercially sustainable and regenerative resource use and reuse,' says the university's Professor Andrew Rose, an environmental engineer.

Southern Cross University is implementing these circular economy principles at a local scale through its Northern Rivers Regional Circular Economy Accelerator, or ReCirculator for short, a \$2-million federally-funded research program that is working with local businesses to find new



Dr Sydur Rahman – Technical Officer. Photo supplied

value in their waste streams, benefiting both industry and the environment.

One of these businesses is Studio Kite, a professional prop and model-making company based at The Pocket, which is looking to employ its giant 3D-printer named CADzilla to produce houses made of recycled plastic.

Studio Kite has a prototype house well underway that is easily transported and constructed. The ReCirculator team is facilitating the structural testing of the printed components.



To feed CADzilla, the university is working to divert locally-produced plastic waste from landfill.

'We have access to lots of different plastic material that's currently waste. And if that can instead be used to create these 3D-printed houses with a minimal carbon

footprint, then that's a real win for the environment and the regional circular economy,' says Professor Rose, who is also the Academic Director of ReCirculator.

The University is also looking at other uses for plastic waste, such as construction. In partnership with building materials company CRDC Global, researchers are developing and testing the structural integrity of concrete made with plastic aggregate instead of gravel, with the aim of developing a lighter concrete that is more cost-effective to transport.

Plastic is not the only waste stream that researchers are tackling. Wastewater from the dairy industry poses disposal challenges, as the nutrient-rich water cannot be released into the environment. Through a partnership with Southern Cross University, Richmond Dairies at Casino is testing ways of extracting nutrients from its wastewater to produce a nutrient-rich fertiliser.

'Those nutrients are what we're trying to recapture, and if we can extract the nutrients then the water is of good enough quality to discharge to the local wetland

and provide environmental benefits,' says Professor Dirk Erler, environmental engineer and Chief Investigator for ReCirculator.

Professor Erler says ReCirculator aims to apply the university's research and expertise in order to reduce waste streams and create profit for Northern Rivers' businesses.

'We are working with industry to develop and test technologies that are profitable and scalable. This is a big picture,' he says.

Southern Cross University has recently jumped 70 places to rank 100th in the *Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2024* (world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger).

The University is also ranked in the top 400 universities for *Earth Sciences in the Global Rankings of Academic Subjects* (Shanghai Rankings) 2023 as well as top 450 for Environmental Sciences in the *QS World University Rankings by Subject 2023*.

• Learn more: scu.edu.au/recirculator.

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Towards Zero Together



Byron Shire Council is committed to supporting the local community and make meaningful changes to reach zero waste and zero emissions.

BYRON
SHIRE
COUNCIL

1 - Who will you nominate for this year's In Business for Good Award?

Byron Shire Community Awards have introduced a new category: the In Business for Good Award. This award acknowledges businesses that employ locals, adopt sustainable and inclusive principles, or step up in times of hardship to support community. Nominate an outstanding business that has given back to the community or environment by 1 June 2024 at:



Business for Good

Speaking 4 the Planet



2 - Speaking 4 the Planet: arts-based competition for youth

S4P is an online arts-based sustainability competition for youth aged 12-18. The 2024 competition topic is Trees, the Guardians of Life.

Participants can create submissions in one of four categories: • Speaking • Writing • Visual Arts • Performance poetry.

Prizes will be awarded for first and second place. Deadline is Friday 26 July. For more information visit:



4 - The Single-use Packaging and Materials Policy

Byron Shire Council is leading the way with the Single-use Packaging and Materials Policy adopted in 2023. Through the policy, Council will support the community to transition away from single-use, throwaway packaging at events on Council land and in Council facilities.

REUSE

Bring it Back

FOOD SCRAPS



BALLOON FREE

BYRON SHIRE

5

5 - Balloon Free Byron

The move to make Byron Shire Balloon Free is part of the adoption of a new Single-Use Materials and Packaging Policy, to phase out unnecessary single-use waste from Council operations, facilities, and open spaces.

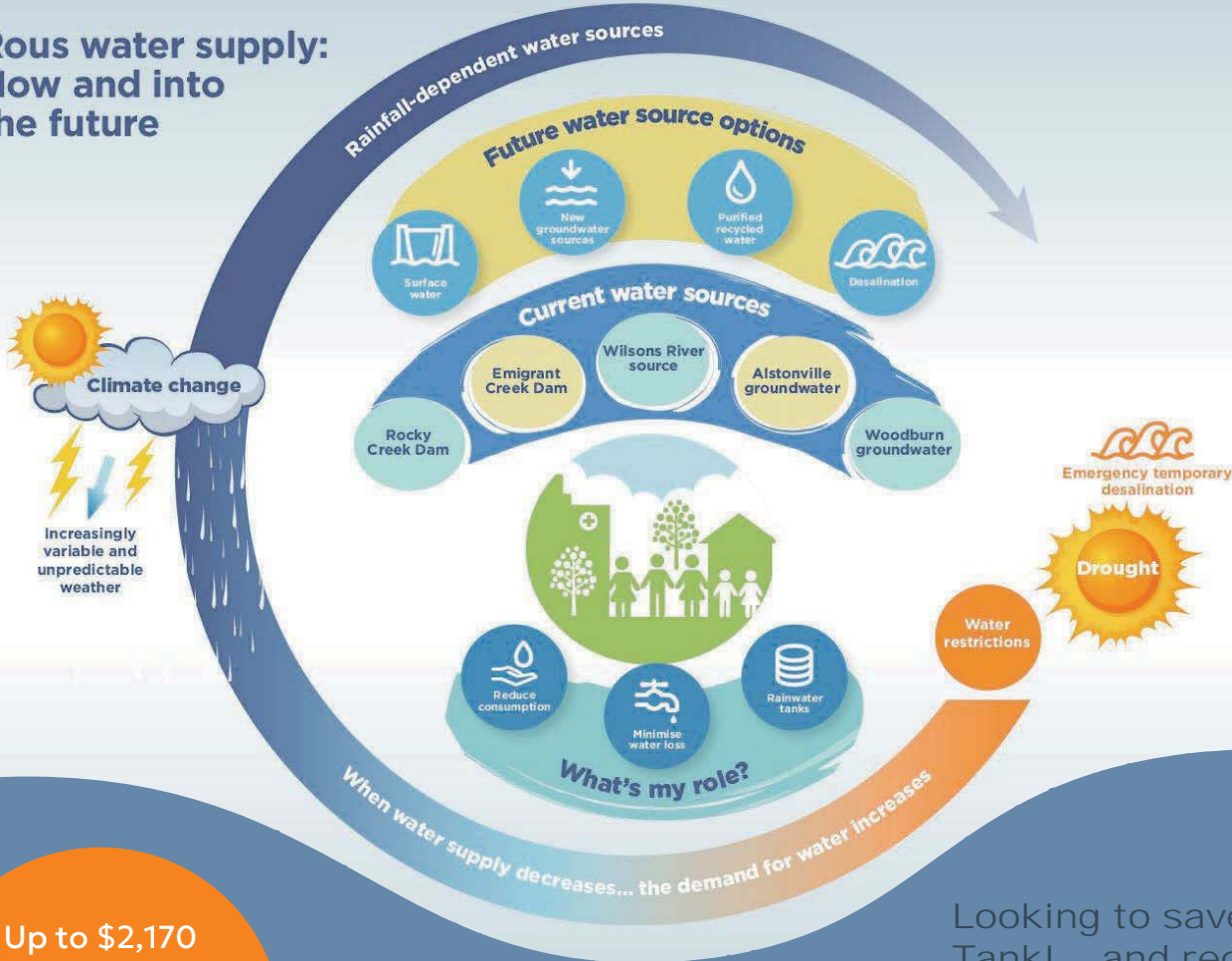
3- NSW Government Electric Vehicle Destination Charging Grants

Businesses across regional NSW can have up to 75% of the cost of EV chargers covered under the Drive Electric NSW EV destination charging grants. For more info visit:



For more information on these projects and more Sustainability and Resource Recovery initiatives visit the Council website or email waste@byron.nsw.gov.au

Rous water supply: Now and into the future



Water efficiency will always be a core focus at Rous, yet with more people wanting to call the Northern Rivers home and with an increasingly unpredictable climate, it's important we plan now to secure new water sources for the future. We're working to ensure the region has a safe and resilient water supply to meet the community's needs through our **Future Water Project 2060**.

Use the QR code to find out more.



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Join the thousands of environmentally conscious locals in our region who have installed a rainwater tank and saved money through Rous County Council's rainwater tank rebate program. Rebates of up to \$2,170* are available for installing a rainwater tank as well as connecting your rainwater tank to internal fixtures like toilets and washing machines. Installing a tank to harvest rainwater is a great way of saving money on water bills and it also helps to reduce the demand on our drinking water supply.



Available to residents connected to the town water supply in council areas of Ballina, Byron, Lismore and Richmond Valley (*exclusions apply) scan QR code for further details and terms and conditions.

Local businesses partner with Rous County Council to reduce their water use

Local businesses across a variety of industries are taking action to reduce their water use by partnering with the regional water supply authority, Rous County Council through the Sustainable Water Partner Program. These projects have co-benefits for business operations and water sustainability by reducing demand on our limited drinking water supply.

The Sustainable Water Partner Program can support your business to optimise its water use and reduce your environmental footprint. By focusing on how your business can most efficiently use water, your business can improve water savings and save money by reducing your water, sewage, liquid trade waste and energy bills.

This year participating businesses received rebates totalling \$30,000 with annual cost savings of \$10,000 by implementing water efficiency projects. We offer financial assistance to help your business to implement a range of water efficiency projects. Rebate(s) up to \$15,000 per business are available in any one financial year.

Terms and conditions apply.

To find out how your business can save water and save money contact our Water Sustainability Officer on (02) 6623 3800 or demand@rous.nsw.gov.au



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The Cancer Raffle



'This is Radiology, we are following up on one of your tests. Please contact our office.'

That's not the message you want after you've had a mammogram. I'm 56, my best friend just went through a year-long ordeal with breast cancer and now is in the clear. I have had many friends get mastectomies. Other beautiful women I know and have loved, have died. Breast cancer is something one in seven women or people with breasts will be diagnosed with. It's a raffle we all have tickets in but none of us want to win. But one in seven will.

Am I one in seven? I eye my breasts with suspicion. I have no family history. So that's a bonus. I breast fed for 11 years. Breast feeding can lower the risk of pre- and post-menopausal breast cancer. And the longer you do it, the more protection you have. They should tell women that more. Maybe I should have put in another few years. Waited at the parent pick up with a boob out.

I do the self-check. The strange self-molestation that feels a bit like a teenage boy discovering a breast for the first time. I don't ever really know what I am looking for. I hope I never know. Last time I went to the doctor they told me I had 'dense' breasts. How rude. I said, 'Well, your penis is stupid.' He said, 'No, it's fibroglandular tissue.' Oh, great. So it's not just my tits. I'm dense too.

I don't love mammograms. The clinical laying of one's breast on the mammomat. The flattening of the 3-D breast into a 2-D form. I have often thought if women designed a mammogram it would be a tissue-seeking velvet glove. The compression vice is ouchy. They'd never do that to a scrotum. And it's scary. I'm hypertuned to the radiographer. Any change in their vocal tone, any 'we might do this again' is a red flag.

So the message is troubling. I check my phone. I've missed two other calls. They're keen to get in touch.

Last time I went to the doctor they told me I had 'dense' breasts. How rude. I said, 'Well, your penis is stupid.' He said, 'No, it's fibroglandular tissue.' Oh, great. So it's not just my tits. I'm dense too.

I don't think they're calling back to tell me I have great tits. Why would they want to call? Did they see something? Am I one in seven? Is this my call up for the cancer raffle?

I phone back. I'm trembling. In my head I've told myself that if it is cancer, it's early detection. So better survival rates. I can do this. If I had to I would get a mastectomy. I probably would remove the second breast just to be sure. Would I get reconstruction? I don't know. Maybe. How do they make nipples now? Maybe I'd just get nipples tattooed on. I hope I don't lose my hair. I'm weirdly more worried about my hair than my boobs. Is that normal? Am I being shallow? Do other women feel like this?

The receptionist can't find my notes. They tell me someone will call back once they ascertain who and why I was called. So now I wait. I'm in a meeting when I see the call. It's now

been two days that they've been trying to get in touch. They have something they obviously need to tell me urgently. I leave the meeting to take the call.

'Amanda?'

'Yes'

'This is Jodie from Radiology, I'm calling about one of your tests. The mammogram.'

'Yes'

'There was a problem. We accidentally bulk billed you and we should have charged you.'

OMFG. I've just spent two days preparing myself for a cancer diagnosis.

And it's a billing issue?

'Can you pay over the phone?'

I've just been cold called by Radiology.

'Send me the bill via email,' I say, 'I am in a meeting.'

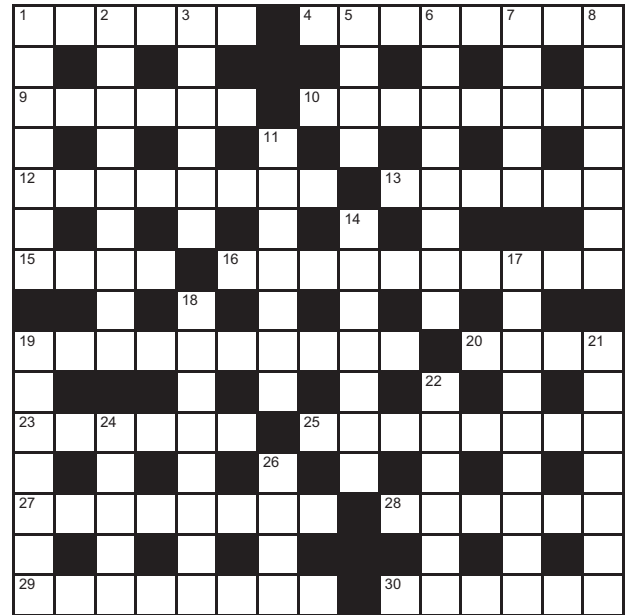
Me and my dense breasts are happy and furious at the same time.

Here's some advice to anyone in the medical industry, particularly those in the cancer-detection business. Don't call people and say, 'there was an issue with one of your tests,' if it's just a billing issue. Say, 'we have a billing issue,' in the message!

Anyway, as far as I am concerned, this one's on Medicare.

Crossword by Stephen Clarke

#5



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Echo*, one that's faintly announced (6)
- Spoooner's thinking compère is last (8)
- Former students of Milan University going crazy (6)
- Philosopher therefore boxes (8)
- Further investigation is on track to get youth who bumped off Pence! (6-2)
- Medical officer in Siam mixed a cocktail (6)
- Lady at jumble sale! (4)
- Writer is a journalist - that's permitted (10)
- Wild lad in shelter gets tough punishment (4,6)
- This clue is a big success overnight! (4)
- Time to lower broken garden tool (6)
- Woven Hellenic material for bedspreads, perhaps (8)
- Table at outdoor dining venue outside hotel (3,5)
- Conception of Joan of Arc? (6)
- Soon pâté may be cooked with a small kitchen implement (8)
- Terminate link with *Echo* - that's harsh! (6)

DOWN

- Dock worker in conflict about hotel fire in which Roger vanished (7)
- One is accepted by peers and old queen - that'll level things up! (9)
- Capital endlessly extended to teacher (6)
- Camera not the first to produce an image (4)
- Behind bungling rider, Queen Elizabeth the First (8)
- Better reveal at party (5)
- She depicted celebs as promiscuous studs going around Australia (7)
- Two buses right out of control in most postcodes (7)
- It's what counts as an idea! (7)
- Work of art could be a photo followed by a long sentence (5,4)
- Pornographic hardware is a secure investment (4,4)
- Sexual desire leads dope to popular venue (3,4)
- Young person is precious and nice, but not initially charming (7)
- Urge to be seen, as it's said (6)
- Musical work going on a long time (5)
- PM starts to alter rules voters obey (4)

Quick Clues

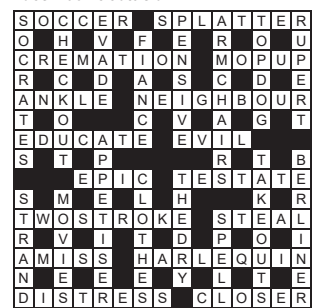
ACROSS

- Every seven days (6)
- Farthest behind (8)
- A one-time pupil (6)
- Plato's teacher (8)
- Close pursuit of advantage (6-2)
- One part champagne to two parts orange juice (6)
- Frozen princess* (4)
- Signed and sealed (10)
- Additional punishment to imprisonment (4,6)
- A pointer (4)
- Brickie's implement (6)
- Thick velvety cord or yarn of silk or wool (8)
- Circle cut by radii into segments to show relative quantities (3,5)
- Screen images (6)
- Five ml, give or take (8)
- Serious or stern in appearance or manner (6)

DOWN

- Stevodore (7)
- A goal that evens the score (9)
- Western Europe's largest city (6)
- In the Eastern Churches a figure representing Christ, the Virgin Mary or a saint (4)
- Bottom (8)
- Beat (5)
- Sculptor of famous people (7)
- Outskirts of town (7)
- Consideration (7)
- Pictures of inanimate objects (5,4)
- Of high value or standing (4,4)
- An area of potential trouble, especially political or military (3,4)
- Child aged 9 to 12 (7)
- Spur (6)
- Don Giovanni*, for example (5)
- Time for tea, perhaps (4)

Last week's solution #4



STARS BY LILITH

As this week's trio of sun, Venus and Jupiter in effervescent Gemini triple the amount of incoming information with multiple choices, keep decision-making as simple as possible...



GEMINI THE TWINS

ARIES: It mightn't be easy, but try to steer clear of this week's time-wasting small talk, idle chitchat and opiated gossip. Aim for a meeting of minds on more important topics and compelling matters. Invite dialogue, but don't contribute until you're sure of what you really want to say.

TAURUS: Your planet mentor Venus is in friendly, outgoing mode this week: frisky and flirty, but she won't want to be pinned down. It's an excellent time for self-promotion while charismatic Mercury's giving your words wings - just know that mixed messages tend to be plentiful during this speak-first, think-later transit.

GEMINI: With Jupiter, Venus and the sun glamorising your social sign, you're this week's hub for a lively buzz of connection and interaction in your local community, with friends and colleagues. Chatterbox Mercury approaching his media-savviest transit lends a trendy edge to your personal and professional messaging.

CANCER: Plans can sizzle then fizzle during this busy, multitasking week, so do your best to avoid cerebral overload. This week's mantra? Don't overthink it. So much activity in your celestial sector of endings offers an astrological assist to gradually step away from the past into creating a new future.

LEO: Despite plentiful planetary discords over the next few weeks, the upside of June's occasionally flaky behaviour offers your majesty ample opportunities for a starring role as credible authority and person of your word: so be impeccable with following through on promises and walking your talk.

VIRGO: Best not expect too much reliability from this week's inconstant citizens, rushing in a dozen different directions, multitasking and overcommitting. Don't be one of them. Do the world a favour and set a better example by giving yourself a break, and giving others a break as well.

LIBRA: Vixen Venus lavishes you with added magnetism this week, while cautionary Saturn suggests getting to know those shiny new people a little better before inviting them into your inner circle. With mind-changing Venus and variable Neptune both in dual signs, it might be difficult balancing the ideal with the real.

SCORPIO: With this week's lively, fast-moving astrology sending mental stimulus into overdrive, you'll need to keep your wits about you. Now we've entered the celestial season of indiscretion, you might want to update your privacy policies, strengthen passwords and keep sensitive personal intel in the vault.

SAGITTARIUS: Every six or so years, expansive Jupiter and alchemical Pluto meet in a particularly galvanising angle, which happens as they connect in air signs this week. If you've got an important message to share, a brilliant idea or innovative approach to an old challenge, don't keep it to yourself.

CAPRICORN: The current astrological climate makes this week more about who you know than what you know. It's accelerated socialising and online interactions offer plenty of opportunities for strategic, Capricorn-style cruising and schmoozing, networking and connecting. A good time for investigating viewpoints different from your own.

AQUARIUS: What to expect from this week's powerful alignment of Jupiter and Pluto in your sign, which won't happen again for another six years? Lightbulb moments or sudden epiphanies downloading surprising new solutions to perennial problems, even a breakthrough from the biographical ballast of the past into a clearer way forward.

PISCES: Taskmaster Saturn in your sign challenging easy-going Venus could stir up discussion about unequal relationship roles. In which case, keep your boundaries strong, because slipping into the Piscean default role of understanding and sympathetic saviour could embroil you in needless rescue missions.

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SEVEN

entertainment

THE JOY OF NEW TALENT

Discovering new talent is one of the joys of any comedy festival. Every year the **Byron Comedy Festival** cherry-picks the brightest and boldest of emerging new talent to present at their annual event. This year they are presenting two of Melbourne International Comedy Festival's most loved newcomers and stars of their roadshow, **Lewis Garnham** and **Scout Boxall**.



LEWIS GARNHAM: CHOOSING THE WRONG STORY TO TELL

Captivating audiences with a style that is a potent combination of laconic, intelligent and introspective, there are few voices as distinctive and exciting as Lewis Garnham. His unique insights and thoughtful opinions have resonated with millions of followers on his social channels, making him one of the most sought-after new comics on the block.

After bursting onto the scene in 2016 as the comedy voice for South Australia at the RAW Comedy National Final, Lewis was nominated for Best Emerging Artist at the Adelaide Fringe in 2017, Best Comedy at Perth Fringe, and the prestigious Best Newcomer Award at the Melbourne International Comedy Festival in 2018.

Lewis is also a regular on Triple J, Triple M and ABC Radio, and a popular guest on Australian podcasts.

In 2024, he released his first stand-up special, a recording of his smash-hit show, Lewis Garnham Hit A Pigeon With

His Bike. The special has resonated with audiences all over the world, exposing new fans to his brilliant and unique perspectives.

In his spare time Lewis enjoys birdwatching, swimming in the ocean and sitting in backyards with friends having passionate, pissed-off conversations about the state of the world.

Lewis Garnham performs 'Choosing the Wrong Story to Tell' at The Hotel Great Northern on Thursday at 7pm. Tix \$25.

SCOUT BOXALL: GOD'S FAVOURITE

Scout Boxall is an observational genius. Their work swings between pithy insightful stand up and manic, chaotic powerpoint comedy all peppered with a devastatingly sharp political awareness.

Winner of Best Emerging Artist (Melbourne Fringe 2019), nominee for Best Newcomer (MICF 2021), the Moosehead Award (MICF 2022) and Best Comedy (Adelaide Fringe

2023) Scout has been absolutely smashing it on the scene with appearances on The Gala, Up Late, Upfront, the Sydney Myer Music Bowl and Splendour In The Grass.

Their unique blend of stand-up, song, solo sketch and storytelling has been dubbed 'genius' (*The Music*), 'sheer perfection' (*Scenestr*), 'outrageous' (*The Herald Sun*), 'thrilling' (*The Saturday Paper*) and 'a must-see' (*The Age*).

Within a couple of months of starting solo comedy, Scout had made it to the National Finals of Raw Comedy, attended the gruelling Ecole Phillippe Gaulier (never again) and gigged at the Edinburgh Fringe. These days you can find Scout performing regularly around the country, writing for ABC's *The Weekly* and watching the McLaren team attempt to dominate the Formula 1 midfield. Because that's their secret passion!

Scout Boxall performs 'God's Favourite' at The Hotel Great Northern on Saturday at 6.30pm. Tix \$35. Byron Comedy Festival runs 30, 31 May and 1 June – for more ticket and program info go to byroncomedyfest.com.

DARREN SANDERS DANIEL THOMPSON

THE COMEDIAN & THE COWBOY

A COMEDY & MUSIC SHOW

Two Shows in One!

"Hilarious"
★★★★★
"Impeccable Timing"

Playing Hits from
Cash, Campbell, Dr Hook
Rogers, Denver & more!

FRIDAY
14th JUNE 8pm
 Book: byroncentre.com.au

BYRON THEATRE

THE TOAD THE WHALE AND THE SUN

THE EPIC JOURNEY OF A QUANTUM SHIFT

WORLD PREMIERE

Screening of Dean Jefferys' epic 2-hour documentary, 8 years in the making.

The Psychedelic Toads the Whales and the Sun are offering insights to assist humanity during these critical times of a quantum shift in consciousness.

Byron Community Centre ~ 31st May
Nimbin Bush Theatre ~ 8th June

To watch the trailer and get tickets see:
www.toadwhalesun.com

'Conversations with Mark Swivel'

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL!

TONIGHT!

Green Futures - Wed 29th May with Belinda Kinkead.
 How will we live in 2099? What policy, law and funding do we need for land use, energy & transport of the future?

'Freeing the Mind' Wed 5 June with Micha Lerner.

'The Yartz' Wed 12 June with Lindy Lee.

'Fair Go' - Wed 19 June with Brandon Saul & Tracey Mackie.

'Too Soon?' Wed 26 June Julianne Schultz & Belle Budden

Byron Community College
byroncollege.org.au



AUSTRALIA'S FINEST CLASSICAL GUITARISTS

With a repertoire spanning centuries, continents, and genres, displaying amazing telepathy and the ability to evoke emotion from every note, Slava and Leonard Grigoryan are justifiably regarded as Australia's finest classical guitarists.

Amistad is the new album from this acclaimed guitar duo. **The Grigoryan Brothers** are taking this new project to audiences across Australia starting with an east-coast tour in May and June.

Throughout their musical journey spanning over two decades, Slava and Leonard have forged connections with like-minded souls worldwide. Each track on *Amistad*, released by Decca, is a gift from composers met during their travels, some tailored specifically for the brothers, while others find new life through their unique interpretations.

Contributions have come from such diverse composers as Cuban guitarist **Leo Brouwer**, legendary jazz guitarist **Ralph Towner**, Sting's guitarist **Dominic Miller**, guitarist **Gus Isidore** (Seal, Peter Gabriel), Australian neo-classical pianists **Luke Howard** and **Nat Bartsch**, and more.

Crafted with love, respect, and a profound understanding, these compositions symbolise the reciprocal appreciation between the composers and the Grigoryan Brothers. *Amistad*, meaning 'friendship' in Spanish, is a celebration of camaraderie – a project resonating with respect and connection, a heartfelt tribute from the brothers.

You can see this awesome show on Thursday, June 13, at the Byron Theatre. Tickets: www.byroncentre.com.au.

BYRON COMEDY FESTIVAL • 30 MAY – 1 JUNE 2024

Lewis Garnham
Thursday 7:00 - 8:00pm



Bev Killick
Friday 7:30 - 8:30pm



Ivan Aristeguieta
Friday 9:00 - 10:00pm



Comedy Showcase
Friday 6:00pm - 7:00pm



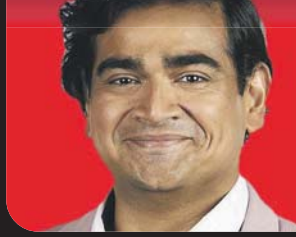
Best of British
Saturday 5:00 - 6:00pm



Scout Boxall
Saturday 6:30 - 7:30pm



Dilruk Jayasinha
Saturday 8:00 - 9:00pm



John Cruikshank
Saturday 9:15 - 10:15pm



Friday Night Pass
3 big shows
\$85 (valued at \$110)
Saturday Night Pass
4 super shows
\$125 (valued at \$145)

Detour Sold Out Shows with a Nightly Pass

Tix on sale now – byroncomedyfest.com
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THE SUNSHINE CLUB

BYRON THEATRE
JUNE 29



MAHICO FESTIVAL

SATURDAY JUNE 8TH

JUNE LONG WEEKEND



CHANCHA VIA CIRCUITO DJ SET (ARG)
BARRIO LINDO (LIVE) (ARG)

MOONTIDE (LIVE) ↓ MIA KOBER (NZ)
XUJA ↓ OTORONGO ↓ BATUKANUM

THE GREEN ROOM - BLUESFEST SITE - TYAGARAH





GREENER FUTURES IN MULLUM

Byron Community College's series of events with **Mark Swivel** continues to bring in a full house each week!

Mark – lawyer and founder of Barefoot Law, an independent councillor on Byron Shire Council, and a performer and writer – has been hosting some very interesting and thought-provoking discussions and the next session 'Greener Futures' with **Belinda Kinkead** is sure to be a good one, **especially for the younger generation out there.**

Born and bred Northern Rivers local, Belinda is now a globe-trotting environmental engineer who has worked in carbon offsetting, renewable energy, and climate change response around the world.

Having just returned home from Paraguay where she manages a reforestation project, Head of Carbon at Dutch-based SilviCarbon, and currently heading up an innovative project in Laos, her current projects combined have created 10 million tonnes of CO2 removal over their lifetimes.

Belinda is an inspiring professional with huge knowledge and great stories to share, especially for young people considering their careers in today's amazing but crazy world.

The 'Greener Futures' discussion will be a riveting and interactive deep dive of what life will be like in 2099 or even 2050. It's an exploration into what biodiversity, work, culture, love and energy could look like for all in the decades to come!

Conversations with Mark: Green Futures – 6.30pm on Wednesday, 29 May at the Byron College. Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start and light refreshments will be available for purchase on the night.

Bookings are essential. Full fee: \$30 per session, concession: \$20 per session. Special promo for teens and adults 25 years and younger – the ones who'll actually still be alive in 2099 – get your tickets for only \$10.

www.byroncollege.org.au/course-category/conversations-with-mark-swivel/

<https://events.humanitix.com/conversations-with-mark-green-futures>



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.



LAST NUDE FOR THE SEASON

It's the last Nude of Season 8, and 1 June is the date!

It's wrapping up with a grand finale line-up of DJs and performance talent, and they can't wait!

Get yourself ready for the party of the year as Billinudgel Hotel lights up one last time before Season 9 is back in the Nude shed on 7 September.

Join **Nudge Nudge Wink Wink: The Ultimate Party with a Conscience**, an award-winning community event renowned for its extraordinary, carefully curated musical line-up. This event is more than just a party – it's a fundraiser for the Winter Warmer homelessness relief campaign, dedicated to providing extra warmth and support to those sleeping rough in Byron and Tweed shires this winter.

Be ready to ignite the senses, as two fantastic guest DJs **Rob Sydney** and **Whitti**, join the Cunning Stunts resident DJs **Lord Sut** and **Dale Stephen**, with live performances by **The Hoodlum Ballet**, all set to scintillate in the shed at this June's Nudge Nudge Wink Wink!

DJ Rob Sydney, originally from the UK, is a champion of sound. Playing diverse sets throughout the Northern Rivers at regular gigs and residencies across the region, Rob is a talented mix-master of deep melodic house and techno. Poised to take you on a tune trip, sharing his deep-held passion for music and dance. This is Rob's second time playing in the shed of Nude, and we can't wait to see your prance.

Making his shed debut is DJ Whitti. Captivated by the sounds of the Chicago and New York masters of house, simplicity, vocals, and a sexy baseline are what Whitti's all about. Originally from Canada, Whitti has been mixing for the last five years, diving headfirst into the scene with gigs in Central America, Japan, and Canada, and is now based in the Northern Rivers. Whitti plays regularly at venues around Byron.

The Hoodlum Ballet, the fierce, passionate, and irresistible dance crew of renegade ballerinas and circus freaks is back to captivate and elevate. Inspiring others to find healing through movement, they share their gift of dance with the world. Each performance is crafted with love and intention, weaving magic into every space they transform. The Hoodlum Ballet performances will transform the band stage.

Co-captains of auditory communication, Cunning Stunts resident DJs Lord Sut and Dale Stephen are known to curate selections fuelled with house, Balearic, and disco, always guaranteed to make you gyrate, this is one event you won't want to miss!

This event is on this Saturday at 4pm at the Billinudgel Hotel. www.eventbrite.com.au



A HUGE CELEBRATION IN BYRON

Stone & Wood's 10th instalment of the Festival of the Stone is a celebration of music, community and ancient brewing tradition, to welcome winter to Byron Bay on Saturday. Byron locals and visitors will gather to take in a major line-up of music, tantalising tastes and the annual unveiling of the 2024 batch of Stone Beer, while raising much-needed funds for local homeless hub, Fletcher Street Cottage.

This event features singer-songwriter **Dan Sultan** whose trophy shelf holds an incredible seven ARIA Awards, alongside NIMA Awards, Top 5 ARIA-charting albums, and an ARIA-certified gold record. With countless sold-out headline shows in his wake, he's also toured with the likes of Bruce Springsteen, Midnight Oil and Vance Joy, and played Australia's biggest festivals including Splendour in the Grass, BluesFest and Falls to name a few.

The Beddy Rays set is a carefully curated recipe involving all the right ingredients: heartfelt lyrics, huge hooks, mosh-worthy riffs and a lingering sense of comradery and good vibes that underpins everything they create. It's seen them land plays on Triple J's Hottest 100 and Hottest 100 Like a Versions of all time, an ARIA nomination for Breakthrough Artist and spots on festivals around the country.

Ultimate purveyors of 'pub-pop' goodness, **The Beefs** founded their musical haven in 2018 when frontman Sammy Smith decided to round up some talented mates and cook up a musical feast for the ages. In the kitchen of their tunes, you'll find a dash of infectious pop melodies and a sprinkle of rock 'n' roll charm. With catchy hooks and relatable lyrics, voilà – you've got the signature sound of The Beefs.

Verge Collection balance classic pop sensibilities with working class poetry to channel the collective conscious of suburban Australian millennials. Ben Arnold's songs have the ability to hoist you high to the point of chills and a stupid grin, before making you plummet just as quickly into an existential nosedive.

AKA Lui seamlessly fuses disco and psychedelia to create a sound that is uniquely his own. His debut single catapulted him into the spotlight, earning critical acclaim and over 2 million streams on Spotify alone.

Bursting with sun-soaked melodies and an electric live set it's no surprise that Brisbane (Meanjin) indie-pop 5-piece **Mid Drift** have quickly become a crowd favourite in their hometown and are gaining a loyal fan base interstate.

Such a great line-up – this event kicks off on Saturday from 3pm to 10pm at Stone & Wood Brewery, 100 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate. Tickets are now on sale from <http://stoneandwood.com.au/> and Eventbrite via the Stone & Wood website: eventbrite.com.au/e/festival-of-the-stone-2024-tickets-894987019267.

nudge nudge Wink wink
PARTY WITH A CONSCIENCE

FEATURING DJs
ROB SYDNEY
WHITTI
DALE STEPHEN
LORD SUT

+ LIVE PERFORMANCE / THE HOODLUM BALLET

SATURDAY JUNE 1 / 4-11PM / The Billinudgel Hotel

BUY TICKETS / www.cunningstunts.com.au

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

CINEMA



FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA

Years after a global catastrophe, Australia is a radioactive wasteland. The Green Place of Many Mothers is one of the last remaining areas with fresh water and agriculture. Raiders discover the Green Place while a young Furiosa Jabassa and Valkyrie are picking peaches. Furiosa attempts to sabotage their motorbikes, but the raiders capture her as a prize for their leader, warlord Dr. Dementus of the Biker Horde. Furiosa's mother Mary pursues them to the Horde's camp. Although Furiosa mortally wounds the last raider before he can divulge the location of the Green Place, Mary is unable to stop him from delivering Furiosa to Dementus.

Later that night, Mary sneaks into the camp and rescues Furiosa; the Biker Horde gives chase. Mary stays back to buy Furiosa time to escape, but Furiosa returns to her mother instead. Dementus captures them both and forces Furiosa to watch her mother's crucifixion. He adopts Furiosa as his daughter, revealing that he is still haunted by the deaths of his family during the catastrophe. He also hopes that she will eventually lead him to the Green Place. During her captivity, Furiosa tattoos a star chart to the Green Place on her left arm so that she can find her way home...

Anya Taylor-Joy and Chris Hemsworth star in Academy Award-winning mastermind George Miller's *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga*, the much-anticipated return to the iconic dystopian world he created more than 30 years ago with the seminal Mad Max films. Miller now turns the page again with an all-new original, standalone action adventure that will reveal the origins of the powerhouse character from the multiple Oscar-winning global smash *Mad Max: Fury Road*.

You can expect dust and sweat – *Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga* screens at Palace Cinemas this week.

WEDNESDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ALLY PALMER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BEN WHITING**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY – FEAT JACQUES BARRETT**

THURSDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **INO PIO DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATT ARMITAGE DUO**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **PRINIE STEVENS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **SECRET BRIDESMAIDS' BUSINESS**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB WITH MOJO WEBB BAND, LEVEL ONE 7PM THE BIG GIG COMEDY NIGHT – MC MANDY NOLAN FEAT. JACQUES BARRETT + MATTY B**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **ROO MACKERRAS, 7.30PM ALPHABET POETS**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF 6PM **PINK ZINC**

FRIDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE DETECTIVES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **TAHLIA BRAIN + DJ ZAC EWING + THE GROGANS + SEASIDE & LOVE BANANA**
- BYRON THEATRE 5PM & 8PM **THE TOAD THE WHALE AND THE SUN**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM **BEV KILLICK, 9PM LOST IN PRONUNCIATION: AN EVENING WITH IVAN ARISTEGUIETA**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **MATT BUGGY**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BEN LEE**
- GRAND GALA OPENING, GREAT WALL OF MUFFS 6.30PM BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE, MULLUMBIMBY
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ OREN SELECTA**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **SECRET BRIDESMAIDS' BUSINESS**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 8PM **KARISE EDEN + SARAH GRANT**
- TINTENBAR HALL 7.30PM **KARL S WILLIAMS AND SALLY WIGGINS**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8.30PM **THE SWAMP CATS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **TIM STOKES**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **JOCK BARNES**
- FEDERAL HOTEL, ALSTONVILLE, 7PM **THE BREDDA BROTHERS**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 7PM **COOL CODA**
- MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE 7.30PM **MURWILLUMBAH THEATRE CO – COSI**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **MR TROY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM **DJ NIGHT RIDER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **TROY CASSAR-DALEY**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 8PM **WOLFMOTHER**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **REPUTATION: THE ULTIMATE TAYLOR SWIFT SHOW**

SATURDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PINK ZINC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ANIMAL VENTURA + IZAEAH MARSH BAND + DJ TONY VELVET**
- BYRON THEATRE 8.30PM **KYLE LIONHART**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- STONE & WOOD BREWERY, BYRON BAY, 3PM **FESTIVAL OF THE STONE**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **RUSTY TUNES + LOST CATHEDRALS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **RAGGA JUMP**

- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ LOST BOY LUDO**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **SECRET BRIDESMAIDS' BUSINESS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 4PM **NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK FEAT. DJS ROB SYDNEY, WHITTI, DALE STEPHEN AND LORD SUT. + THE HOODLUM BALLETT**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **JABIRU**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **TURTLE BOY DUO**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **FAT ALBERT BAND**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **DAVE GRANEY & CLARE MOORE**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MARK AITKEN**
- MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE 7.30PM **MURWILLUMBAH THEATRE CO – COSI**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM **WENDY RULE**
- CHILLINGHAM STORE 3PM **BASSIX**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **INO PIO**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **DROP IT LIKE IT'S HOT**

SUNDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DONNY SHADES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **RAGGA JUMP + SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DJ**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **THE LONESOME BOATMAN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **WILD MARMALADE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ MONSIEUR DIOP**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **SECRET BRIDESMAIDS' BUSINESS**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **KEVIN BLOODY WILSON + JENNY TALIA**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 10.45AM **BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB, 2.30PM SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT. HUBCAP STAN AND THE SIDEWALK STOMPERS + SLIM PICKENS**

- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SHAW'S BAY SUNDAY SESSIONS FT DOC ROC**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 2PM **KWASI BRUNI AFRO CUBAN ENSEMBLE**
- MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE 2PM **MURWILLUMBAH THEATRE CO – COSI**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **ADAM BROWN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2PM **COLIN LANE & DAVID HOBSON – IN TAILS**

MONDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JORDAN MAC**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**

TUESDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FINTAN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- BYRON THEATRE 10.30AM & 1PM **LABORATORY OF LIGHT,**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM **FAR NORTH COAST DANCE FESTIVAL**

WEDNESDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ANDY JANS-BROWN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- BYRON THEATRE 10.30AM **LABORATORY OF LIGHT, 7PM TORREN MARTYN & SIMON JONES – THE UGLY DUCKLING**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **GERMAN FILM FESTIVAL**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **NAHKO**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 6PM **ART EXHIBITION 'FEMME'**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM **FAR NORTH COAST DANCE FESTIVAL**

Session Times

Thurs, May 30 – Wed, June 5

PALACE CINEMAS

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	ALL FILMS	RADICAL (M) NPT
IN RESTLESS DREAMS: THE MUSIC OF PAUL SIMON (PG) Sat, Sun: 2:00PM	BACK TO BLACK (M) NPT Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 4:30PM, 8:20PM. Sat, Sun: 1:20PM, 8:20PM. Wed: 1:20PM, 8:40PM	Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 10:45AM, 2:15PM, 8:30PM. Sat, Sun, Wed: 10:45AM, 8:30PM
ROYAL OPERA: CARMEN (12C) Sun: 1:00PM. Wed: 11:00AM	CHALLENGERS (M) Daily except Sun: 1:20PM, 8:20PM. Sun: 8:20PM	THE FALL GUY (M) Daily except Sun, Wed: 1:50PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM. Sun: 3:30PM, 7:15PM. Wed: 3:40PM, 7:15PM
JOKES & CIGARETTES (12C) SPANISH PREVIEW Wed: 6:00PM	FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA (M) NPT Daily: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 3:15PM, 4:15PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM	THE TASTE OF THINGS (PG) Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 1:30PM. Sat, Sun, Wed: 2:10PM
THE THREE MUSKETEERS: MILADY (M) Sun: 1:00PM. Wed: 6:15PM	HIGH & LOW - JOHN GALLIANO (M) NPT Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 11:00AM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM. Sat: 11:00AM, 3:50PM, 6:10PM. Sun: 10:50AM, 3:50PM, 6:10PM. Wed: 10:45AM, 4:00PM, 6:10PM	THE THREE MUSKETEERS: D'ARTAGNAN (M) Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:15AM, 7:20PM. Sun: 11:15AM, 7:20PM. Wed: 1:10PM, 8:20PM
FAMILY FILMS	KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (M) Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 11:15AM, 7:10PM. Sat, Sun: 11:15AM, 6:00PM. Wed: 11:15AM	THE WAY, MY WAY (PG) Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:10AM, 4:00PM, 6:10PM. Sun: 10:45AM, 5:10PM, 6:10PM. Wed: 11:10AM, 3:50PM
IF (PG) Daily except Sun: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 5:00PM. Sun: 10:50AM, 1:40PM, 5:00PM	THE GARFIELD MOVIE (PG) NPT Daily: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:10PM	WICKED LITTLE LETTERS (M) NPT Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 1:20PM

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Session Times

Thurs, May 30 – Wed, June 5

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA (M) NPT Daily: 10:10AM, 1:10PM, 7:15PM	THE GARFIELD MOVIE (PG) NPT Daily: 10:20AM, 12:30PM, 7:00PM	To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club! SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE 
IF (PG) Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 5:00PM. Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 2:45PM, 5:00PM	THE THREE MUSKETEERS: D'ARTAGNAN (M) Daily except Sun: 2:20PM	
KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (M) Daily: 4:00PM, 7:20PM	THE THREE MUSKETEERS: MILADY (M) PREVIEW Sun: 2:20PM	
THE FALL GUY (M) Daily: 4:45PM	THE WAY, MY WAY (PG) Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:10PM, 2:45PM. Sat, Sun: 12:10PM	

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PALACE CINEMAS

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474M²

- Beautifully preserved original features like hardwood floors, exposed brick, and period detailing
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- Saltwater plunge pool and entertaining deck
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703M²

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- Short drive to Brunswick Heads and beaches

PRICE | \$1.6M - \$1.7M
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- Alfresco dining courtyard - 35m² (space shared with Gallery)
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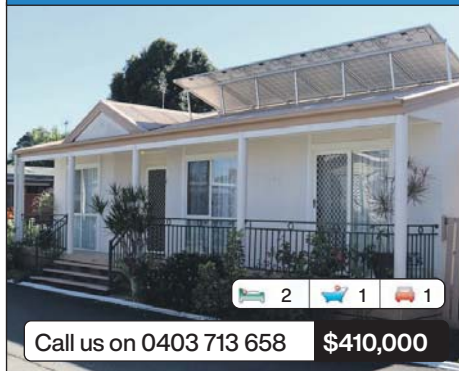
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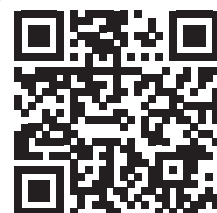


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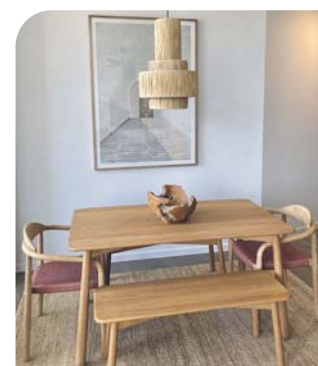


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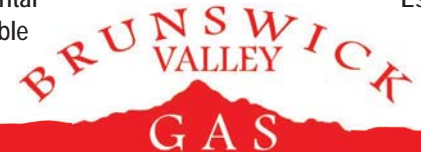
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ON SALE AT THE MULLUM ECHO OFFICE \$12
Also available SF story *Yellowstone Butterfly* \$13
Gods and Heroes Greek myths revisited \$10

TREE SERVICES

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White Horses and Dark Knights

Could poetry ever be a matter for calculation? Could chess be inspired by a Muse? In this story two very different worlds collide.

David Lovejoy's book is available at *The Echo* office \$20

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20 years local experience

- 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding
- Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat

Fully insured • Free quotes

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- 43sqm across two rooms side-by-side with adjoining door
- High ceilings, trendy spot, new carpet/paint, reverse aircon, lots of natural light
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enquiry@creativeroad.com.au

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MUSICAL NOTES

GUITAR STRINGS, REPAIRS
Brunswick Heads 66851005

SEEKING DRUMMER
for established reggae band
0434 438706



BIRTHDAYS



Happiest Birthday Bebe

POSITIONS VACANT

WAREHOUSE POSITION, BILLINUDGEL
2-3 days, locals preferred for long-term work. goodstuff@greenpack.com.au

LADIES WANTED, MUST BE 18+ Work available in busy adult parlour. Travellers welcome. 66816038 for details.

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Competitive pay rates.

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

PETS

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



SOOTY
Sooty is an 11 year old Australian Kelpie X. He is a ball of energy for his age. He enjoys his daily walks, a dip in the river and chasing balls. He loves children and all dogs. Microchip: # 956000008948899
Please fill out an expression of interest: www.friendsofthepound.com/adoptions-expression-of-interest/
Or email Tracy: johnsontracy832@gmail.com for more information.

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



BEAR
Bear is a 2 year old chilled, laid back cat who gets on with everyone - other cats included - likes affection and is very responsive. A very cool cat indeed. He has beautiful black and grey marking on his predominantly white fur.

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.
No: 9530101000332220. **PETS FOR LIFE**

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

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SUN, MOON & TIDES

- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (May/June)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
29	W	6:29 16:57	22:23 11:24	0017 1.73 1246 1.14	0711 0.49 1809 0.55
30	TH	6:30 16:57	23:28 12:02	0115 1.69 1359 1.19	0808 0.47 1923 0.59
31	F	6:30 16:57	12:36	0215 1.65 1510 1.29	0902 0.43 2042 0.61
1	SA	6:31 16:56	0:32 13:08	0315 1.60 1615 1.42	0953 0.38 2159 0.59
2	SU	6:31 16:56	1:36 13:41	0415 1.55 1714 1.57	1039 0.33 2310 0.55
3	M	6:31 16:56	2:41 14:15	0513 1.49 1808 1.71	1123 0.29
4	TU	6:32 16:56	3:47 14:52	0607 1.41 1858 1.82	0015 0.50 1205 0.26
5	W	6:32 16:56	4:55 15:34	0659 1.34 1945 1.90	0115 0.45 1246 0.25
6	TH	6:33 16:56	6:04 16:23	0748 1.27 2032 1.93	0212 0.42 1329 0.27
7	F	6:33 16:56	7:10 17:18	0836 1.22 2116 1.92	0303 0.40 1410 0.30
8	SA	6:34 16:56	8:12 18:18	0923 1.17 2200 1.87	0353 0.41 1452 0.35
9	SU	6:34 16:56	9:05 19:20	1008 1.14 2242 1.80	0441 0.44 1534 0.41
10	M	6:35 16:56	9:51 20:21	1053 1.11 2322 1.72	0526 0.48 1617 0.49
11	TU	6:35 16:56	10:29 21:20	1141 1.10	0609 0.52 1704 0.56
12	W	6:35 16:56	11:02 22:16	0002 1.63 1234 1.10	0652 0.54 1757 0.64
13	TH	6:36 16:56	11:31 23:09	0045 1.54 1336 1.12	0735 0.56 1858 0.71
14	F	6:36 16:56	11:58	0131 1.46 1443 1.18	0820 0.55 2008 0.76
15	SA	6:36 16:56	12:24 0:01	0223 1.39 1545 1.26	0906 0.53 2123 0.77
16	SU	6:37 16:56	12:51 0:53	0318 1.33 1640 1.36	0949 0.50 2235 0.74
17	M	6:37 16:56	13:19 1:46	0414 1.28 1727 1.48	1030 0.46 2337 0.69
18	TU	6:37 16:56	13:49 2:41	0506 1.25 1810 1.58	1108 0.42
19	W	6:37 16:57	14:25 3:39	0555 1.23 1851 1.68	0030 0.62 1146 0.39

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



Echo

VIGILANT SINCE 1986

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 Durabah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)	02 6679 5438
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		
4th SUN Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)			

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Please stick this by your phone

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE	.....000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay	.....131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads	.....6629 7510
Mullumbimby	.....6629 7570
Byron Bay	.....6685 9499
Bangalow	.....6629 7500
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding	...132 500
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue	.....6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER	.....6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL	.....6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS	.....6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby)	.....6684 1286
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line	.....1800 656 463
LIFELINE	.....131 114
MENSLINE	.....1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours	.....1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics	.....1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily	.....6680 7280
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE	.....6687 2520
HIV/AIDS - ACON Confidential testing & information	.....6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)	.....6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS	.....6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service	...6628 1898

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Servicing Byron Shire & surrounds
Call Tina on 0400 015 939



DEATH NOTICES

In loving Memory of **Hannah Grace**



Who lived a full and colourful life.
She will be sadly missed by all who knew her.

FUNERAL NOTICES

Diane Lesley HART



31.5.1950 - 19.5.2024
Aged: 73

In loving memory of our adored Diane who died peacefully at home, looking out at her gorgeous garden, surrounded by her loved ones.

Precious mum to Francesca, Nicholas and Edwina. Beautiful Nanma to Bronte, Leila, Alessia, Lohwana, Mahara, Taj, Rocco and Beau. Much loved mother-in-law to Brian and Blake. Loving daughter, sister, auntie and cousin. A life long plant and earth lover and protector. A strength, inspiration and friend to many.

Diane will be laid to rest next to her great love Michael at Mullumbimby Cemetery on Friday 31st May at 1pm. Friends and family are invited to attend. Followed by a wake in her beautiful garden. Please RSVP to edwinahart8@gmail.com.



GREEN BIN STANDARDS HAVE CHANGED

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

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

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

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



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

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.

Gulgarnii affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.

Orange Sky: free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon.

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

Byron Community

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

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30–11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **The Hub Baptist Church** in Ocean Shores has food relief available for anyone doing it tough, please contact us on 0434 677747 if you find yourself doing it tough. No ID or Concession Card required. NILs referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details. **Liberation Larder** Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre.

Respite Service

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

Alateen meeting

Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5–6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8–16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert's Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street,

corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au.

ACA

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

Drug support groups

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

Support after suicide

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

Volunteer call out

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

End-of-Life Choices

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

Carers' support

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

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, mazzerati2010@gmail.com.

Older adult exercise

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

\$5 pilates classes

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

Pottsville Community Association

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

Language exchange

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

Brunswick Valley Historical Society

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

Library fun

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

Byron Bay Cancer Support Group

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

Social sporting groups

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

Toastmasters

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

Meditation

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

Brunswick Heads CWA

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

Byron Gem Club

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

Lions Club

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

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**

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Biggest Morning Tea

Zentveld Everyone is welcome to join Zentveld's Coffe's Biggest Morning Tea being held at 193 Broken Head Road, Newrybar on Tuesday, 4 May, 9.30–11.30am. There will be coffee, cake and raffle prizes. **Mullumbimby CWA** Mullumbimby CWA branch was pleased to host a Biggest Morning Tea with proceeds to the Cancer Council. Our thanks to all who helped make it a very successful event. Special thanks to local businesses for donating raffle prizes. All raffle winners have been notified. Next CWA meeting is 12 June at 10am at the CWA Rooms. Info: Jenny 6684 7282.

BCA general meeting

The next general meeting for the Bangalow Community Association (BCA) will be held at 6pm on Tuesday, 18 June at Bangalow Men's Shed, off Station Street carpark. All 2479 postcode dwellers are invited to attend our next BCA general meeting to discuss current Bangalow

(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 Hall 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 cwasecbanalow@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.

Free ESL

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

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.

Volunteers sought

Volunteers sought for Northern Rivers Volunteering, representing more than 100 community organisations. Info: 6621 7397.

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.

Hearing Voices?

Hearing Voices Peer Support Group in Brunswick Heads. Anyone with present or past experience of voice hearing (or visions) is welcome. Offer your experience, gain support, knowledge and explore meaning in a safe, accepting space. First Thursday of the

Please note: This section is intended for the benefit of non-profit community groups.



development and infrastructure matters that will benefit from constructive community feedback.

BV Probus Club

The Brunswick Valley Probuc Club meeting is on Tuesday, 4 June at 10am at the Ocean Shores Country Club. Guest speaker is Jan from Byron Bird Buddies. Visitors welcome. Inquires: Margaret on 6680 3316. Money is also due for Christmas in July Luncheon at \$30 each.

Old and Gold

The Old and Gold CWA Market Day is running on Saturday, 8 June from 8am till 1pm. There will be craft work, cakes, biscuits, jams and pickles, plants and devonshire teas available at the corner of Park and Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads. Cash only please.

Bruns crafty women

The CWA Brunswick Heads crafty women meet each Friday between 10am – 2pm, corner of Park and Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads. Join

Former Mullum local heading to Las Vegas for BJJ world championships

A 25-year-old former Mullumbimby woman is set to compete in one of the biggest grappling events in the world, the ADCC (Abu Dhabi Combat Club) World Championships, in Las Vegas in August.

Sula Mae Loewenthal attended Mullum's Shearwater Steiner School, and has been competing and training overseas in jiu jitsu for seven years.

Sula earned her spot at the world championships after winning her weight division in Brazilian jiu jitsu at a qualifying event, the ADCC Asia and Oceania trials, earlier this month.

Sula shocked the crowd when she submitted three out of her four opponents to win the women's under 65kg division.

'I won a ticket to compete in the 65kg bracket at the



Sula with her ADCC Asia-Pacific gold medal. Photo supplied

ADCC World Championships, where there will be about 14,000 people viewing,' Sula said.

'I've only been training for seven years and I'm just a brown belt so it's quite a big achievement for someone with my level of experience.

'You have to consider

there are girls in my bracket at the ADCC Worlds like Bia Mesquita, who have been competing at black belt for many more years than I've even been training.'

Sula now lives in London but her mother is still a local.

The Asia and Oceania Trials took place on May 11.

'Mono' wins Hawaiian adaptive surfing title

Byron Bay surfer Mark 'Mono' Stewart won his division at the Hawaii Adaptive Surfing Championships two weeks ago.

The event is the second leg of the Adaptive Surfing World Tour that included competitors from 17 nations.

The first leg of the World Tour was held in Byron Bay in March.

'This win keeps me at the top of the world rankings and keeps the "old blokes rule" mantra alive,' Mark posted after his win.

In the final, his top rides scored 8.83 and 6 for a total of 14.83, well ahead of second-placed Chilean Altair Olivares (4.83, 2.83: 7.66).

The Hawaii Adaptive Surfing Championships were held at Queen's Surf Break, Waikiki, from May 13-16.



Mark kicking back at his Waikiki hotel with his first place trophy. Photo supplied

The event included 100 adaptive athletes competing across 17 qualifying divisions.

Mark is currently in Japan for the Japan Open Adaptive Surfing Championships taking place in a wave pool

called the Shizunami Surf Stadium.

At the time of print Mark was laid up resting a medial ligament, but had already done enough at the event to qualify for the semi-finals.

Ballina snooker tournament packed with quality competitors



Action from the 2023 Southern Cross Classic. Photo supplied

The Southern Cross Classic 2024 annual snooker tournament will be held over the long weekend in June and it has attracted a full house of 48 entrants.

'It is a handicap event welcoming men, women and juniors and attracts healthy spectator interest also,' Alyssa Paton, Vice President of the Ballina RSL Billiards and Snooker Club said.

The total prize pool is worth \$6,500.

'We have entrants from Gympie, Redcliffe,

Southport, Gold Coast, Banora, Cowra, Batemans Bay, Port Macquarie, Tamworth and quite a few local players too,' she said.

'Amongst this year's entrants, we have five junior players entered and seven women including Jessica Woods and Lilly Meldrum (junior) both of whom feature in the World Women's Snooker Association.

Lilly is ranked in the world's top 25 female players and was a finalist in the World Women's Under-21

Championship in 2022, while Jessica is fresh from winning the NZ Women's Open Snooker Championship, and is ranked in the world's top 20 players.

Last year's men's winner, Paul Norris, is back to defend his title, while Jessica Woods was runner-up last year so will be hoping to do one better this year.

The event runs over three days with rounds over the first two days, and the finals taking place on Monday (June 10), at the Ballina RSL Club.

Mullumbimby Moonshiners on the charge at home this weekend

The Mullumbimby Moonshiners Rugby Club is looking to get back into the winner's circle when they play a string of home games starting with a fixture against Wollongbar Alstonville Rugby (WAR).

Alby Lofts Oval in Brunswick Heads will host two games this Saturday, June 1, starting with the Moonshiners versus WAR in second grade at 1.50pm, followed by a first-grade encounter between WAR and Southern Cross University, kicking off at 3.15pm.

Coach Sati Siamao says that wet weather cancellations and a draw heavy with byes means the side has had

trouble building momentum.

With round six looming the side has had just three games, and has come away with one win in their first run of the season against Kyogle back in April.

'The motivation can drop when you're not playing week in and week out,' he said.

Home advantage

The side is keen for a home game and while player numbers 'haven't been too bad' so far this season, the side is 'very strong' at home, Sati said.

Their last encounter, two weeks ago, was a tough away game against Byron

Shire Rebels who won 53-0, and are undefeated for the season.

'We got touched up,' Sati said.

Saturday's task will be similar as they face WAR who are also undefeated so far in 2024.

'We just have to stick with what we know,' Sati said. 'Stick with the patterns we work through at training.'

The side is also hoping to be buoyed by a strong local crowd.

After this week the Mullumbimby Moonshiners have another bye before two more home games in a row.

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There were way more confidential documents and closed door sessions at last week's Council meeting than usual, with a flurry of big decisions again being made, quite unnecessarily away from the public eye. 'Trust us, we want you to re-elected us in September!'

A Winter Warmer Homelessness Relief fundraising cabaret will be held June 13 at Plantation House, Duranbah, and will feature Mandy Nolan, The Space Cowboy, CC the Cat, Andia Cally Art, Kinship Doobai Dancers. Tickets are limited - visit dharmacare.org.au for more info.

The world's largest battery company and a leading manufacturer of lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles (EVs) is Chinese corporation, Contemporary Amperex Technology Co., Limited (CATL). Its CEO, Robin Zeng Yuqun, recently told the World Economic Forum that while there will be material constraints with mass EV adoption in coming years, his company's recycling capabilities are already at 99.6 per cent for nickel and cobalt. He claims China will reach a point when it doesn't need to mine minerals anymore.

Lefties rejoice! David Marr will replace the ancient Phillip Adams as host of ABC radio's *Late Night Live*.

Nine small island states have won a historic climate change case at the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), reports www.aljazeera.com. The court ruled that all signatories to a United Nations treaty on



'What you are looking for is already inside you'. Photo: internets

marine activities must do more to protect the world's oceans from climate change. 'The island states had asked the court to clarify what was considered marine pollution under the convention, amid rising oceans, soaring ocean temperatures and ocean acidification caused by fossil fuels and other greenhouse gas emissions'. FYI Australia is the world's fifth-largest fossil fuel producer, ranking behind only China, the United States, Russia, and Saudi Arabia.

FYI: A million seconds ago was May 17. A billion seconds ago was 1993. A trillion seconds ago was 30,000 B.C.

The Byron Yoga Centre is running a women's yoga retreat on June 14, and men's yoga retreat on June 21. Organisers say the retreats are designed for participants to seek a deeper understanding of ourselves, our relationships with others, and with the environment in which we live. 'Together, we practice valuable tools to shed emotional armour, embrace vulnerability, and share openly in a confidential and supportive environment'. For more visit www.byronyoga.com.

of equity issues impacting women, financially disadvantaged people, and the environment.

A special film screening and live performance by acclaimed musicians, Ilse De Ziah and Ian Date, will be held June 15 from 7.30pm at the Byron Theatre. *Living the Tradition* is the journey of cello player and composer Ilse de Ziah. The film is about her travels in Ireland searching for undiscovered secrets of ancient Irish airs. Ilse De Ziah is known for her 'daring and emotionally charged performances which connect at deep levels with people from all walks of life'. Ian Date is 'regarded as one of Australia's great guitarists'. Tickets are available via www.byroncentre.com.au.

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