

Echo

NAMES [NOT] CHANGED TO [NOT] PROTECT THE [NOT] INNOCENT
The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 38 #52 • June 5, 2024 • www.echo.net.au



With this issue

Chuckles in the Green Room



You know it's funny when the comedians crack themselves up. Ivan Aristeguieta, Bev Killick, Danielle Walker and Lewis Garnham were priming themselves in the Great Northern Hotel's green room, which is decorated with 35 years of rock 'n roll history. They were part of the Byron Comedy Fest, which brought a weekend of laughter to town. Photo Jeff 'Did You Hear The One About...' Dawson

Wallum's cultural heritage approval challenged

Paul Bibby

A group of Traditional Owners with deep cultural connections to the Wallum heathlands in Brunswick Heads have applied for the site to receive long-term protection under federal law.

The application was made last week under Section 10 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*, which provides for the long-term protection of significant Aboriginal areas that are 'under threat of injury or desecration'.

The fate of the application now lies in the hands of Federal Environment Minister, Tanya Plibersek, who also has the power to determine

how long areas of Aboriginal significance are protected for.

A Save Wallum spokesperson said the claim was made by lawyers acting for representatives of seven clans of the Bundjalung Nation, including Minyungbal, Widjabal Wiabul, Bandjalang, Githabul, Arakwal, Yaegl, as well as West Bundjalung and regional clans with associations to the site including Yugambah and Mulanjali.

The application sets out the key aspects of cultural significance on the site, including Aboriginal pathways, culturally significant pre-colonial trees, and the powerful cultural and totemic associations held by the threatened species which reside on the site.

Section 10 applications can take a minimum of six months to process.

The Wallum site is already the subject of a cultural heritage report submitted back in 2009 by Everick Heritage Consultants, who were commissioned by Wallum developer, Clarence Property.

That report, which found that the site did not contain areas of particular cultural significance, is a contested document, despite a majority of councillors supporting it.

Leweena Williams, representing the Tweed Byron Aboriginal Land Council (TBALC), told councillors in February that her organisation stands by their cultural assessment of the Bruns Wallum site. They were contacted in relation to this story.

The push is on to preserve Mullum's local water supply

Council staff recommend permanent Rous connection

Ben Fawcett

From this week, until the end of June, Byron Shire Council is seeking community input on staff's proposal to connect Mullumbimby's water to Rous County Council, which supplies other towns in Byron Shire, as well as three other neighbouring shires.

Mullumbimby's founders demonstrated great foresight 100 years ago when they constructed the Lavertys Gap weir across Wilsons Creek. It provided an independent, reliable source of both electricity and water for the town.

Mullumbimby's water treatment plant, from the weir, came into existence in 1939, and currently feeds the town's network via the Azalea Street reservoir.

Following droughts in 2002-03, a study was carried out in 2005, including two workshops with all stakeholders. At those workshops, the Mullumbimby community expressed a strong preference for retaining the Lavertys Gap weir.

Council resolved to retain the supply from the weir. Meanwhile, a pipe was built connecting the eastern half of the town to the supply from Rous, on Gulgan Road, for use in emergencies. Drought returned in 2019, reducing the flow in Wilsons Creek to a trickle in December.

For the first time, and for just 30 days, the emergency supply was turned on to supplement the limited supply from Lavertys Gap before rain replenished the creek flow.

This prompted a review by consultant Hydrosphere of the adequacy and reliability of the supply from Wilsons Creek, as

population increases and the risk of more frequent droughts arise owing to climate change.

Construction of Rous's emergency water connection to the Azalea Street reservoir is underway, at a cost of \$5m.

The final Hydrosphere report outlines two principal options for the future: continued use of Lavertys Gap, with the addition of water storage in an off-stream reservoir in the valley between Wilsons Creek and the town; or abandonment of the supply from Wilsons Creek and permanent connection to the Rous supply, which Council staff strongly support.

Triple-bottom-line

The local option, continuing to use the local supply from Wilsons Creek, is the preference of the Water and Sewer Advisory Committee (WSAC) because it stacks up better with triple-bottom-line measures.

Principles of triple-bottom-line analysis include contributions to environmental health and social wellbeing, as well as economic analysis. Socially, the local option offers Mullumbimby a far more robust system than relying on Rous.

WSAC members say the local option is also a winner on environmental grounds. By including a reservoir holding three to six months' supply, the creek itself will not need to be tapped into in times of flood, nor during drought.

Rous, on the other hand are still searching for new supplies to satisfy growth in the four shires that they service. They have not yet found the reliable supplies that
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Parting observations on Byron Bay's economy

Hans Lovejoy

Of those who have been involved in Byron businesses over the decades, almost everyone knows Ed Ahern.

Besides being a longtime resident, he's got a unique insight into the town, having run many successful businesses as a lessee, while also owning commercial property in the town.

Over the years, he says he has employed thousands of people.

Mr Ahern was also the town's chamber president from 2006 through to 2011.

Now Ahern, who is nearly 70, says he is pulling up stumps on his CBD businesses and has sold his remaining commercial property.

'I won't be renewing the lease for the Village Grocer supermarket,' he says of the 17/21 Jonson Street business, 'And we will close the doors on June 27'.

He also recently sold his Bay Grocer property, which he bought in 2003. It's located on the corner of Browning and Tennyson Streets and has been a popular alternative fresh food supermarket for locals.

'A condition of sale was that the current tenants have a secure ten year lease,' he says.

While he is thankful for the opportunities and prosperity the town has provided him, he says the



Ed Ahern is retiring from Byron business. Photo Jeff Dawson

increasing pressures on running a business are making it hard to turn a profit, and now is the time to move.

'I first arrived in Byron in 1978 from Brisbane, and rented a Wategos shack for \$60 per week – though we needed to rent a room for \$20 to make the rent!' he said.

Onerous and prohibitive associated costs

Over the years, he has bought and sold many a home and commercial property, and even helped to establish Parkway Drive in Ewingsdale.

He says the main obstacles facing local business are the

onerous and prohibitive associated costs imposed by all sectors of government.

'Outgoing costs have reached a point where local business owners I know are freaking out. They don't know how they will continue,' he says. 'Federal industrial relations laws, for example, with legislated penalty rates, put enormous pressure on employers'.

Regarding state government land taxes he says, 'As a commercial tenant, land tax costs are passed down from the landlord, and make rents prohibitively expensive. The Qld government, for example, doesn't do this'.

'So when Covid hit, and a lot of commercial property was snapped up by Sydney and Melbourne investors, it put unrealistic pressure on rentals.

'On top of that, Council has, for decades, imposed a hefty levee specially on Byron businesses. No other town pays nearly the same as Byron for doing business. This is applicable to outgoing costs for the tenant – such as rates at 200 per cent more in Byron Bay than any other town in the Shire.

'For decades, Byron was a unique visitor experience.

'Arguably, other towns in the region have now reached a level of similar visitor attraction, yet Byron is being unfairly sluggish'.

Pay parking too costly

And while the business chamber initially supported pay parking for the town, he says it was equitable when it was around \$2 to \$3 per hour. The fee was raised to \$5 per hour with time limits.

'Now it's \$5 per hour, the cost drives visitors away. Many times, I have seen customers jump out of their flashy Bentley or Tesla to duck into the supermarket for a quick purchase, and they say that they don't want to park because it costs too much! I believe these issues should be addressed by Council if

they are serious about supporting local businesses'.

The biggest change for the town – as most would be aware – is that increasingly the only retail stores that can exist are 'loss leaders' for multinationals. Their Byron stores can afford to take a loss because they make profits elsewhere.

Mr Ahern says, 'Byron's CBD has become a sort of an airport lounge, where you see high-end consumables on display, but they rarely get bought'.

'Covid really hit the town hard, like it did everyone. With the borders closed, there was virtually no trading. We were even prevented from lying on the beach!'

'The economic recovery has been very slow,' he says, 'and is nowhere like what it was pre-Covid'.

'We had a good strategy after the party vibe in the early '90s.

'We attracted more sophisticated, high yield, lower impact visitors. There really should be an effort made to help local Byron businesses thrive, as they are the economic lifeblood of the town.

'A prosperous town provides for professional skilled residents and services such as teachers, nurses, police and a healthy social fabric'.

■ If you have a story to tell about how to improve conditions for your business, email editor@echo.net.au.

BRADS

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A tribute to Brunswick Heads locals

Paul Bibby

In a world saturated with carefully curated images geared toward personal brand building, a genuinely candid photo is a refreshing and beautiful thing.

This kind of simple honesty is at the heart of 'Humans of Bruns', a grass roots photography project that will be featured at the Brunswick Picture House later this month.

As the name suggests, the project seeks to embrace and celebrate local community members from Brunswick Heads.

It's about telling the real stories of real people living in the town to foster connection and understanding.

The project is the brain-child of local library manager, Mark Seiffert, and community builder, Simone Roseler.

Mark, whose photos of sunrise at the Bruns break-wall



This image from the Humans of Bruns project features Ray Essery, a renowned bush poet and balladeer. Photo Mark Seiffert

have become legendary, has close connections with many community members through his job at the library.

This provided a foundation for the project, which he initially set up on Instagram.

A chance conversation with Simone one day led to

the project's expansion and the idea of an event.

June 26 event

Thanks to a lot of hard work from the pair, and a grant from Byron Council, the project is now set to be officially released.

This will take place at an event at the Brunswick Heads Picture House on June 26 from 5pm-7.30pm.

Some of the community members featured in the exhibition will take part in panel discussions exploring their lives and stories.

Concerns over potential impact of piggery DA

Plans submitted to Council earlier this year for the historic old Skinners Shoot piggery at 103 Yagers Lane have raised concerns with residents.

The \$22.2m proposal for exclusive high-end restaurant and an artisan food and drink business includes significant building works, car parking, earthworks, retaining walls, landscaping, waste water disposal, public art, solar panels, and vegetation management works.

Skinners Shoot Residents Group told *The Echo* they fear that the project will turn into a monster, with serious impacts on the inadequate roads and local amenity.

President of the group, Anthony Pangallo, said, 'The proposed cellar and



Illustration from DA 10.2024.24.1.

restaurant's footprint of 945 square metres will make it the largest in the Shire, far exceeding the scale of any existing eatery establishments in our area.'

He said, 'This size of this development does not align with the small-scale, rural character that our community cherishes and strives to maintain.'

Residents argue that the proposal's economic viability appears predicated on increasing patron numbers.

Proponent Maggie Schreiber told *The Echo*, 'The proposed 45-seat restaurant and 15-seat lounge have a total capacity of 60 seats. The lounge is for guests of the restaurant only to relax before or after their meal.

The artisan area has a capacity of only 15 seats.

'The restaurant and artisan food industry area would both be accessible via booking only.

'This site formerly contained what was the largest piggery in the southern hemisphere... We encourage neighbours to visit yagerspiggery.com.au', Ms Schreiber added.

Pangallo added, 'It's a model that stands in direct contradiction to the principles of sustainable rural tourism.'

Have your say on Mullum's future water supply

► Continued from page 1 they need, and are still considering building the Dunoon Dam, which would flood a pristine river valley that contains significant First Nations cultural heritage. Dams on existing rivers generally have environmental impacts that off-stream reservoirs, like those proposed for Mullumbimby, do not.

In the economic contest between the options, neither has been adequately examined. Nobody knows what Rous will charge for water in 2040 or beyond. Rous doesn't even know. Continuing to use water from Lavertys Gap

will require some short-to medium-term expenditure.

A new water treatment plant will be required to replace the existing 85-year-old plant, which is beyond its useful life; this is estimated by Hydrosphere at \$6.7m.

In addition, an off-stream storage reservoir could be constructed in the future for \$10-20m. Such reservoirs are being built in several other NSW regional towns.

The Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) say they prefer the Lavertys Gap option rather than connecting the town to Rous. They say consultation and information

gathering is preferable to a rushed decision before the upcoming Council elections.

■ MRA is holding a public meeting on the matter at Mullum Ex-Services Club from 7pm on Monday, June 17. A panel will describe what's happening and answer your questions.

To visit the Lavertys Gap Weir email benfawcett92@gmail.com before June 16.

■ Ben Fawcett is a water and sanitation engineer, resident of Lavertys Gap, and community member of Council's Water and Sewer Advisory Committee.

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 – Oscar Wilde

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Bangalow Bowlo and Byron Theatre receive govt funding

The Bowlo Bangalow and the Byron Theatre will be granted \$56,610 and \$25,000 respectively under the latest round of the Live Music Australia Program.

According to local Labor MP Justine Elliot, the 'funding will provide essential support to our local live music industry on the North Coast'.

'We know the live music industry continues to face

challenges, which is why we're determined to support them', she said.

'Music venues are a key part of the live music industry and economy on the North Coast, that's why we're backing them in.

'This funding will help artists and musicians do what they do best, sharing music and stories with audiences'.

Submissions open for federal insurance hike inquiry

Submissions are now open for the Select Committee on the Impact of Climate Risk on Insurance Premiums.

The inquiry will examine how the climate crisis is making it harder and more expensive for people to afford insurance, including in the Northern Rivers.

Greens candidate for Richmond, Mandy Nolan,

says the federal electorate of Richmond was recently ranked as the second most-climate-vulnerable region in the country.

'And it's put people's insurance premiums through the roof. According to insurance experts, by 2030, 20 per cent of homes in the Northern Rivers will be uninsurable - that's 22,274 households left in the water, waiting for the next climate disaster.'

For more info, visit <https://tinyurl.com/y3rwfray>.

Ovarian cancer walk raises over \$38,000



Ben Noori with his crew near Lennox.
Photo Jeff 'Christopher Walkin' Dawson

On Saturday June 1, Ben Noori, Shawn, Adam and Brent Lewis legged it into Byron Bay, after a 800km trek from Sydney, raising awareness and funds for ovarian cancer.

Ben's fiancé, Michelle Lewis, lost her six-year battle with ovarian cancer last November. Joining Ben was Michelle's brothers, Shawn (Byron local), Adam and Brent.

Organisers say they averaged 50km per day for 16 days, and family and friends met them in Suffolk Park to

walk the last leg.

Tired and a little sore, Ben said, 'This was the most challenging thing I've done in my life, physically and mentally'.

'There were days I didn't think I could finish, and then I'd remember how much pain and suffering Michelle endured during her six-year battle with ovarian cancer, and that pushed me through.'

As of Monday, 165 donations had raised \$38,757 via gofund.me/335ec81d.

'Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.'
- Oscar Wilde



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Bus questions handballed to govt

Further to last week's story around calls to increase bus services on Sundays, *The Echo* asked local operator CDC Bus if it was in negotiations with the state government or Council regarding extending services (especially on Sundays and at night), 'and whether there is the demand to extend the service?'

The question was instead referred to Transport for NSW. Their spokesperson told *The Echo*, 'In line with recommendations of the Bus Industry Taskforce, Transport for NSW is developing a *Medium Term Bus Plan* for

all of NSW, with a view to improving and growing public transport services across regional NSW, subject to funding.'

'The NSW TrainLink coaches that serve the Northern Rivers operate seven days a week.

'They provide several day-return options for local travel and connect to and from trains at Casino.

'Stops include Ocean Shores, Brunswick Heads and Mullumbimby.

'Fares for short distance travel are affordable, and similar to local bus fares.

Timetable and service information can be found at www.transportnsw.info/regional/.

Three Sunday buses

According to the website, there are three buses running from Ocean Shores to Mullumbimby on Sundays: 5.15am, 6.18am and 4.20pm. It costs \$6.23. A return Sunday trip from Mullumbimby to Ocean Shores runs at 4.37am, 10.30am and 9.04pm.

Local Adam Luck has given Council his 1,000 signature petition, calling for more bus services.

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Old and Gold on this Saturday



Come rain, hail or shine, the Old & Gold Festival will celebrate 20 years this Saturday. There will be 100 registered garage sales, three fairs, and plenty of music, food and activities for the kids. Pictured are Cassandra Hynes, Holly Ripper and Shah Emerson from Brunswick Heads' famous burgeratorium, Old Maids. They are principal sponsor for Old and Gold, along with Social Remedy. Jeff 'Maid In Bruns' Dawson

Bunnies rock Love Lennox



Bunny Racket was one of the main attractions – especially for these young fans – at the Love Lennox festival, held last weekend. Jeff 'Racketeering Since 1986' Dawson

Future unclear for gutted Mullum railway station

Aslan Shand

At around midnight on April 21, the old Mullumbimby railway station building, used by a range of community groups, was gutted by fire.

The building is heritage listed under the *Heritage Act 1977*, and is also listed in Byron Shire Council's Local Environment Plan (LEP).

A Transport for NSW spokesperson told *The Echo* that, 'A decision is yet to be made about the future of the Mullumbimby Railway Station, which was substantially damaged.'

Part of history

The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce has told *The Echo* that they support the old Mullumbimby railway station building being 'reinvigorated' for community use.

'This is an important part of our heritage,' said Chamber President, Paul Prior.

'While the roof, windows and internal elements of the building were destroyed by the fire, the structure appears to have held up, and

it is essential that we retain and repair this vital part of Mullumbimby's heritage.'

'As we've seen with the development of the Tweed and Casino to Bentley rail trails, these buildings play an important part in revitalising our towns, creating character, and providing potential business and community spaces for the future.'

Mullum Chamber supports a rebuild

'The chamber is in full support of keeping and rebuilding the old Mullumbimby railway station building for future use by the community.'

The NSW Police investigation concluded the cause was an electrical fault, and not considered suspicious.

'UGL Regional Linx maintains the property, and has commissioned an independent consultant to assess the damage and heritage significance. UGL is now reviewing the findings before making recommendations,' said the Transport for NSW spokesperson.

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Muff crew chuffed at funds raised



One of the four Muffkateers, Aslan Shand seated, with Sue Hird behind, and flanked by Mutton, part of the entertainment for Friday's opening. Photo Jeff 'Muffling' Dawson

Aslan Shand

The inaugural fundraising event for The Darling Muffs of May, which aimed to raise \$10,000 for frontline services for women's homelessness in the Northern Rivers, exceeded its target with \$15,000 raised.

The 'Show Us Your Muff' fundraiser campaign asked people to anonymously show their muff in an exhibition

of the Great Wall of Muffs last Friday. Throughout the month of May, people registered on the Darling Muffs website and asked their friends to sponsor their muff action.

Grant funding from CASP (Country Arts Support Program) got the campaign started. Six Northern Rivers frontline services will benefit: the Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre, Women Up North,

the SHIFT Project, Fred's Place, Liberation Larder and The Byron Community Centre.

The main sponsors were The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce, *The Echo* and small businesses, Engana Graphics, Rock n Roll Mama and Sparkle Well.

Anyone who still wants to donate has a final week to get online – visit www.darlingmuffs.com.au. It's tax deductible too!



The inaugural Furry Friends Festival 2024

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Mayor launches reelection bid

Byron Shire Mayor, Michael Lyon, has announced his running mates for the upcoming local government elections.

Cr Lyon's ticket comprises Dr Meredith Wray, Cr Mark Swivel and former councillor Jeannette Martin.

In a media release, he says, 'I am really proud to have served on Council for the last eight years and value serving the community in the role of mayor.

'I have plenty left to give and following the floods of a couple of years ago there is still an awful lot to do, both in infrastructure and in housing.

'The current Council has achieved a great deal in a short space of time, from holiday letting reform to the creation of a fit-for-the-future housing strategy.

'We have managed to balance the books as well in what are trying times, and we have made some significant infrastructure upgrades as well, but there is plenty more to do,' Cr Lyon said.

Dr Meredith Wray

'Dr Meredith Wray is a long-time resident of Byron Bay and currently co-chair of the Byron Masterplan



From left: former councillor Jeannette Martin, Mayor Michael Lyon, Dr Meredith Wray, and Cr Mark Swivel. Photo supplied

Guidance Group, and a board director of Destination North Coast and Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA).

'Meredith brings a wealth of experience in best practice destination management planning with a strong history of working with state and local governments as well as regional and local tourism organisations.

Cr Mark Swivel

'Cr Mark Swivel is a current councillor, president and player at Eureka Football Club, and a director at Spaghetti Circus. He led the campaign to save Feros Village and is a strong rail trail

advocate. Mark runs Barefoot Law, and has won key cases in aged care, family law, mental health, small business and unfair dismissal.

Jeannette Martin

'Jeannette Martin has lived in the Byron Shire for 20 years and has used her qualifications in community development and governance to assist numerous local community organisations and projects. She established the award-winning Mullumbimby Community Gardens and the charity, Mullum S.E.E.D, and is a passionate advocate for environmental outcomes in the shire.'

Casual speeding is the biggest cause of trauma on NSW roads

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Corrections

Further to last week's story regarding plans for a heated pool for Mullum, Cr Sarah Ndiaye contacted *The Echo* to say, 'The estimates for heat pumps are under \$200,000, the funds for which we were able to allocate in the course of the meeting.'

She says the feasibility study cost of \$10m that was quoted by staff was 'out of date, given the rise in building and material costs', and was estimated for a 'much more comprehensive project'.

'This interim measure was designed to make the pool more accessible and available to the community while we get the plans finalised and actioned', she said.

Wategos story

And last week's page 4 story, 'Council looking to limit bulk and scale in Wategos', incorrectly stated the notice of motion was by Cr Sarah Ndiaye, whereas it was by Asren Pugh (see letter page 14).

Mayor Michael Lyon contacted *The Echo* to raise similar points and said, 'Maybe focus on getting your own house in order before criticising others.'



Search for Gauge continues

Isaac Collis, at Tales Lookout at the top of Koonyum Range Rd, points to where the search is concentrated for Gauge Wilson. The 31-year-old was last seen on Hakea Court, Mullumbimby, about 5am on Saturday, May 18. A short time later, his vehicle was found abandoned on Koonyum Range Road, Wilsons Creek, after colliding with a tree. Anyone with information as to his whereabouts is urged to call police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Photo Jeff Dawson

Wearable designers invited for WAVE 2024

Calling all design artists, fashion innovators, culture initiators and wearable inventors! Shearwater organisers say they are thrilled to announce the launch of WAVE 2024: Deja Vu — the 24th year of the Mullumbimby Steiner School's Wearable Arts performance event.

Organisers say, 'WAVE (Wearable Arts Vision in

Education) is a major annual event in Shearwater's performing arts calendar, showcasing wearable artworks entered by designers and students from around Australia.'

'It is a highly professional, choreographed production that encompasses design, music, dance, drama and technology.'

'Whether you are an emerging artist, a student, an industry professional or a wearable arts savant, it's time to unleash your creative design skills and begin to imagine your costume entry for WAVE 2024.'

There are five design sections to enter. For more info, visit <https://shearwater.nsw.edu.au/wave>.

Mullum students off to parliament



From left: Rotem Hadad, Estar Constable and Henrietta Barry. Photo supplied

During the April Easter school holidays, three Mullum High students represented the local electorates in the prestigious NSW Youth Parliament program camp.

It is designed to educate Australian youth about bill-writing and passing processes in state parliament, with a focus on enhancing leadership and advocacy skills.

Mullum High's media spokesperson says, 'The

year 12 students – Rotem Hadad, Estar Constable and Henrietta Barry – began their bill-writing journey in the respectively ordered committees of Rural and Regional Development, Justice, and Women's Affairs.'

'In July, they will be attending the Parliament chambers in Sydney to present and debate their bills in front of their peers and members of parliament.'

Save Wallum protector callout

Save Wallum is issuing a callout for locals to help protect the fragile site by joining the camp that has been set up there.

'If there's anyone out

there who's been thinking about coming down and holding space with us we really invite you to come down,' said Coda, a member of the group.

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





Mullumbimby's water supply – have a say

Mullumbimby's water supply needs to be upgraded to meet future demand. Byron Shire Council is seeking community input on the options that have been identified for securing Mullumbimby's water supply up to 2050 and beyond.

For more information and to take part in the survey please visit Your Say Byron Shire.

Submissions close on June 30

Make a submission

- www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Mullum-Water-Strategy
- council@byron.nsw.gov.au
- PO Box 219 Mullumbimby NSW 2482
- 02 6626 7000





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Echo

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

Kingscliff locals concerned over proposal to remove trees for AFL at Merve Edwards Fields

The potential of removing trees from the Merve Edwards Fields site at Kingscliff to accommodate the Kingscliff Junior AFL Club has raised concerns of locals and neighbours who say that this is not a proposal they support.

Ballina Council to look into making tiny homes accessible

The idea of living in a tiny home can seem like a simple solution to our housing crisis – but then you come up against getting council approvals for a permanent tiny home on private land.

Is this the next Bentley? 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.

Reconstruction Authority review submissions deadline extended

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

www.echo.net.au

Want to find out about Lennox’s new Public School?

An information session about the relocation and concept design for the new Lennox Head Public School to be built on the corner of Montwood and Snapper Drives will be held on Wednesday, June 5 at Lennox Head Public School Hall, 25 Byron Street, Lennox Head.

‘It has been a long wait for our Lennox Head Public School community and I am pleased to see the concept design for the new Lennox Head Public School,’ said Member for Ballina Tamara Smith.

‘Together we are building a better future to support students and families in our community. Seeing the concept design for the new school makes it a reality and gives everyone a vision of the future.’

The project will provide classrooms and new core school facilities including a hall with a covered outdoor area, as well as outdoor spaces with play equipment and a games court. This will be the first time the local community has had the opportunity to look at the concept design



Artists impression of the future Lennox Head Public School.

for their new school.

‘We are excited to see a glimpse into the future of our school. The concept design helps us better understand and envision the state-of-the-art facilities that will support our students in their learning,’ Lennox Head Public School Principal Deborah Langfield said.

New preschool

A new public preschool will also be provided at the site as part of the NSW government’s commitment to expand access to early childhood education. The preschool will be separated from the primary school areas and will have its own entry, parking and secure outdoor area with play equipment.

‘Investing in our children’s future means creating spaces where students and teachers can excel, which is why it’s so exciting to see these concept designs bringing the vision for the new Lennox Head Public School to life,’ said Deputy Premier and Minister for Education and Early Learning Prue Car.

The design will continue to be developed in consultation with technical experts and local stakeholders.

Work is also underway to prepare specialist environmental and planning reports to inform the planning application for the project. These reports will be available for community review once the application for planning approval is placed on public exhibition.

Damning Richmond River report sent to ministers

Mia Armitage

A majority of Ballina Shire councillors has voted to send a damning report on the Richmond River catchment to relevant state and federal ministers.

Independent Rodney Bruem has called out the need for improved management of the catchment repeatedly in recent years and brought the matter to Council again last week.

Cr Bruem shared a report called *From Pristine to Polluted* by Dr Matt Landos.

‘The degraded water quality of the Richmond River has been under the spotlight for over 30 years,’ Dr Landos writes in the report, referring to “at least 26 reports” from different government and research agencies in that time identifying the condition of the Richmond River as “poor”.

The reports have also included plans to improve the catchment but Dr Landos says, to a large extent, the

plans are ‘yet to translate into sustained improvements in water quality’.

Some small-scale useful catchment restoration activities have started in the past ten years, he says.

Some of the main issues detailed in the report include impacts on the catchment of animal containments, chemicals and general environmental degradation.

Staff defend project

But staff said Ballina Council are already working with other councils in the catchment through the development of the Richmond River – Coastal Management Program (CMP).

Speaking at last week’s ordinary Council meeting for May, Cr Bruem said the river was an ‘absolute sewer’ in some parts’, before referring to the flood-damaged Lismore Wastewater Treatment Plant and issues with rain at Ballina’s plant.

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

‘Overdevelopment’ say neighbours of Kingscliff Uniting seniors housing development

Aslan Shand

Neighbours of the aged care facility in Kingscliff run by Uniting say that while they are supportive of further development of the site, the current development application (DA) is a ‘significant overdevelopment’ and that Uniting have ‘definitely not listened to the community’s concerns’.

The DA is only proposing an increase of eight beds for the residential aged care places (to 120 places) at the site while the rest of the proposed 199, two to three

bedroom, retirement and independent living apartments will be sold.

At more than twice the height of the surrounding residential buildings, that are one and two storeys, existing neighbours will have around 100 windows looking into their bedrooms, living areas, and back yards with significant overshadowing of their roofs, yards, and living and bedroom spaces, they say.

Uniting has submitted the \$233m seniors independent living village in Kingscliff DA as a State Significant

Development Application (SSDA). Even with community feedback considered, the DA still exceeds the allowable height limits according to neighbours.

Uniting have said that they have responded to community concerns about their original proposal, and have increased setbacks from neighbour boundaries, heightened privacy through thoughtful landscaping, and reduced the number of buildings from eight to seven.

However, local residents under the banner DUC4K (Does Uniting Care 4

Kingscliff) told *The Echo* that the developer Uniting have put no genuine effort into responding to the community concerns or deal with the overshadowing and impacts on the local community from invasion of privacy to traffic.

DUC4K have said the developer has been unclear around starting ground levels for their building heights and are still exceeding the height limits as set out in the Kingscliff Locality Plan (KLP).

‘The KLP has a height limit of 13.6m from the

natural and existing surfaces and Uniting have included buildings to a maximum height of 16.75m above ground level. This is big and completely out of character with the surrounding homes and Kingscliff generally,’ said DUC4K.

They say other issues include access, overloading local roads and inability for non-tech people to submit comments on the DA.

If you are interested in commenting on the DA you can submit your comments to: <https://tinyurl.com/3bjvwp2>.

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Jobs for the boys? Mayoral candidates defend appointing former mentor to planning job

Hans Lovejoy

With former Greens mayor, Simon Richardson, having mentored both current mayoral candidates Cr Sarah Ndiaye and Mayor Michael Lyon, *The Echo* sought comment around their support/vote for his role on Northern Rivers Planning Panel (NRPP).

NSW Planning panels are consent authorities for large DAs across the state, overriding councils' authority.

As previously reported, Richardson was appointed as NRPP panellist by councillors, and voted for the contentious Wallum Estate in Brunswick Heads without a site visit or attending meetings.

And given he has had to recuse himself from voting on other large projects owing to his previous position as mayor, there appears little evidence that the community is getting value for money for the role.

By contrast, another panel candidate, Bruce Clarke, was unsuccessful, despite both a legal background and extensive experience with planning.

The Echo asked both mayoral candidates: 'Do you

still support Richardson's position on the panel?'

Mayor Michael Lyon said, 'I agreed with Simon's appointment, and yes, I support him given his experience and knowledge of our community. The Wallum development had a state government approved concept plan in 2013, which when combined with the s.34A certificate issued by the planning minister, put the writing on the wall.'

'The reduction in footprint from 18ha to 12ha approved by the NRPP in May last year relative to the concept plan was arguably about as much as could have been hoped for. The developer always had the option to insist on the larger footprint of the concept plan from 2013 and go to court to enforce that plan.'

Cr. Sarah Ndiaye told *The Echo* she has 'a lot of respect for Simon, but I did not agree with Simon's vote'.

She said, 'He brings invaluable experience to the role. Of course, I was disappointed that he did not visit the site for such a crucial project. We all should have had a comprehensive

site visit, with planners and ecologists, to understand the complexity of the site.'

'The reports we saw were inadequate to make a properly informed decision. I don't know exactly what information was provided to the panel members. It's one thing to read a collection of reports and another to walk around the circumference of an ancient, pre-colonial scribbly gum, listening to the frogs, watching Glossy Black Cockatoos feeding nearby in a place teeming with life and decide to cut it down, and suffocate the site with fill.'

Unanimous vote

'The vote of the [planning] panel was unanimous, so his dissenting vote would not have made a difference, but I believe maybe his participation in an onsite visit would have.'

'Regarding conflict of interest, we have an alternate representative in David Brown, so if there is a perceived conflict, it's not so much of a problem. If you don't participate, you don't get paid, so there would be no financial loss'.



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Whose up for reelection?



Cr Sarah Ndiaye (Greens) is running for mayor. **Mayor Michael Lyon is again contesting the mayoral role.** **Cr Mark Swivel is running on Cr Lyon's ticket.** **Cr Asren Pugh (Labor) says he is running again.**

Over the coming months, you, dear constituent, will be subjected to local politicians campaigning for the September 14 Council elections.

Election time can also see an increase of activity by some councillors who have generally sat idle for the past two years.

What we know so far is that Cr Mark Swivel has snuggled up with Mayor Michael Lyon to form a new ticket – see page 7.

Finally, their conservative, pro-developer political marriage is now public. Well done for coming out of the closet!

Interestingly, Cr Lyon's media release didn't thank the outgoing councillors who were elected on his ticket last time – Crs Sama Balson and Peter Westheimer still have a few more gruelling months to go.

Crs Alan Hunter, Cate Coorey and Duncan Dey won't contest either, so overall, that leaves quite a few vacant seats from a total of nine. Cr Asren Pugh (Labor) says he is running again, but is yet to announce his ticket.

Cr Sarah Ndiaye (Greens) has an all-women ticket (Elia Hauge, Delta Kay, and Michelle Lowe) and wants to be mayor.

As the page 11 story explains, both current mayoral candidates were protégés to former mayor, Simon Richardson, and predictably say their appointment of him to the Northern Rivers Planning Panel was sound. Was it?

Other than Cr Ndiaye's newfound interest in protecting Wallum, Crs Ndiaye and Lyon's voting patterns have been very similar over the past eight years.

So after eight years, it's clear what both have to offer.

Here's some positives: there are some promising policies in place. One is the affordable housing contribution scheme, which puts land aside for new greenfield sites. The other is a land trust model, which is still to be implemented.

There's also been holiday letting reform, yet the price for state government support appears to have been proposing floodplain development, through Council's much-criticised housing strategy.

The question is whether those seeking reelection are making this a better place to live.

Have they been future-proofing the Shire from the next big climate event? Are the roads and public toilets improving? Do they do everything they can to be transparent and honest? Do they put the interests of executive Council staff ahead of residents?

Has there been any structural organisational reform or improved environmental polices? Do they listen well? Or not?

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Here's a few ways to address DV

The news on the domestic violence front just keeps getting grimmer.

The spike in the last few years after a Covid drop is frightening. The North Coast is reeling from the latest horrific family violence murder of a toddler. The Molly Ticehurst tragedy has, oh so predictably, led to tighter bail laws – as if this is a panacea to men's violence against women.

Already in NSW, there are 3,000 people incarcerated for domestic violence offences, and 1,500 of them are on remand.

That's a 34 per cent increase since 2019. With the latest tranche of bail 'reforms', I predict that the numbers on remand will triple within 12 months. What is wrong with that?

Firstly, we already know the recipe for reducing violence against women.

Successful strategies

Deaths decreased massively when the post-Port Arthur gun laws came in, making the graph look like a ski run at Thredbo.

Family violence reduced markedly when the lock-out laws came into effect in Newcastle and Sydney CBD, because all night binge drinking was deterred.

The more alcohol outlets and the later they stay open, the more violence. Home delivery makes things worse. Grand final day is not a high danger zone, because of football itself (well, maybe), domestic violence spikes because of associated binge drinking.

Gambling, and the lack of appropriate regulation of pokies is certainly in the mix – losers are often bruised.

Many men are desperate to get into anger and behavioural management courses, but there are just not enough places or funding. Targeting men with their own histories of childhood domestic violence is crucial.

Hurt people frequently hurt people. Women need somewhere safe to flee, and the more rooms that are funded, the less women will die.

Violent and degrading pornography must be banned. And actually, that is not technically difficult. Child pornography is illegal and prosecuted every day in our courts.



'Tightening bail laws simply means that more people are imprisoned, not necessarily the right ones.'

David Heilpern

Forget age barriers – just enforce the obvious limits.

These are the actions that could be taken if you really wanted to reduce domestic and family violence rather than just look tough.

Secondly, tightening bail laws simply means that more people are imprisoned, not necessarily the right ones.

You can bet that the usual over representations, particularly of Aboriginal people, those who struggle with mental illness and poorer people will be amplified. This was the Victorian experience.

After the appalling carnage of Bourke Street in 2017, bail laws were tightened removing a presumption in favour of bail for most offences.

Fast forward five years, and there was a doubling of the number of Aboriginal women incarcerated. This in turn led to deaths in custody, and the coroner described the result as a 'complete unmitigated disaster'.

The bail laws were relaxed. Women die from tightening bail laws too.

Thirdly, and this is the never-spoken-of dirty little secret of domestic violence allegations – they often take place in the context of disputed family court proceedings.

And before you bite my head off, my experience is that those who engage in false allegations are often the manipulative, gaslighting, coercively-controlling men who utilise the criminal justice system to threaten and dominate.

Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety has found that almost half of the women murdered by an intimate partner in Qld had previously been reported as the perpetrator of domestic violence, many of them falsely by their eventual killer.

Fourthly, and this is by far the most important issue, before tightening up the bail laws, attention should be

placed on why the existing laws are not working with regard to the police.

I was interviewed for the 7.30 Report a couple of years ago about Rosie's case that so exemplifies this. The victim calls the police and ends up getting arrested. Women's Safety NSW studies reveal that a quarter of women report being misidentified as the criminal.

Police mistake identity

More than nine in ten domestic violence workers said that often, or very often, the victim was mistakenly determined by police to be the aggressor.

In the Ticehurst case, the police did not oppose bail, even though the defendant had been charged with sexual assault and the red-flag offence of cruelty to an animal.

If they were dissatisfied with the registrar's decision, they could have sought a detention order, or revocation of bail or appealed.

They failed to do any of this, or provide meaningful protection for the victim. The truth is that the bail laws themselves were not lacking in this situation.

And in Western Australia, the latest domestic violence double murder was forewarned.

Ultimately, it is the police who decide how they allocate resources. There were 23,000 breach-AVO matters in NSW courts last year, and 32,000 police actions for possession of drugs. Let's halve the latter and double the former and that would be far more effective than tightening bail laws.

And so here we are, with another knee-jerk reaction to a terrible tragedy that scratches the surface while ignoring the evidence. It makes me sick, because it is possible to reduce violence against women – we just have to be proactive and not reactive.

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



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

– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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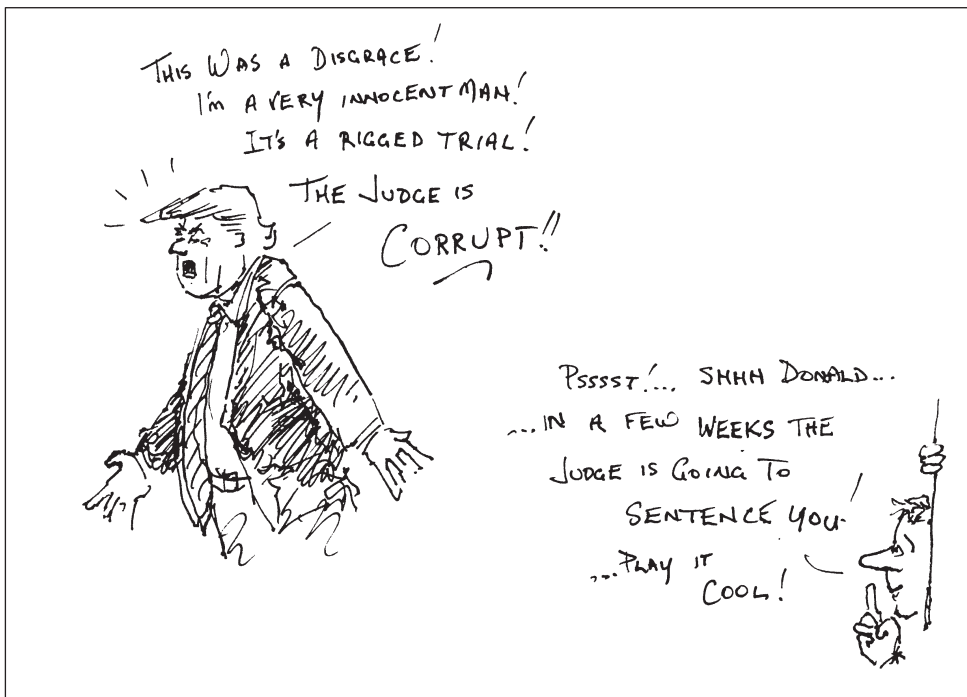
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Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

Uniting DA Kingscliff

I am writing to raise my concerns about the proposed Uniting Kingscliff's construction.

I am concerned about the filling of the site. In 2022 water came up into our streets during the flood to heights never seen before. Infilling and covering more of the land with concrete and buildings will only make the situation worse in our area. Further filling will bring water into our homes. To cause flood-free residents to become flood-prone through increased runoff could be a disaster.

The large amount of dust, noise, vibrations and heavy vehicle traffic that will be generated by the building of this facility will impact on the health and wellbeing of existing residents.

The height will be to a maximum of 16.75m, this is higher than the current height limit of 13.6m. Existing residents will have their privacy, sunlight and amenities

severely affected.

Kingscliff is a confined space and the size of this development will cause the loss of the highly-regarded, and promoted, village feel of our area.

Beryl Jobe
Kingscliff

■ See story on page 10

Consider the volcano

The Tongan volcano may well have contributed to the 2022 flood event, as suggested by John Scrivener last week, but we would be taking a great risk in excluding it from our flood planning.

The underwater volcano made a one-off injection of a large amount of water vapour into the atmosphere, but climate change is doing this all the time. By increasing the sea surface and atmospheric temperatures, it is increasing evaporation and the amount of water vapour the atmosphere can hold.

This increases the amount

of rain that can, and does, fall. I have plotted 125 years of the highest one-day rainfalls each year for Mullumbimby, and before 2022 it shows a 20 per cent increase in the average rainfall and a 60 per cent increase in the most extreme events. Including 2022 the figures are 25 per cent and 90 per cent respectively.

This shows that although the 2022 event was extreme, it was a further contribution to a rising trend. It is not the 2022 flood itself that needs to be taken into account in our planning, but future projections of that rising trend.

Byron Council is not doing this – they continue to ignore the lessons of the 2022 flood by relying on the 2020 flood study, with a token and long-outdated increase in rainfall for future planning.

The state government's report on the 2022 flood found that we needed a complete new flood study to include the lessons of 2022, but it will take several years to get the funding and

complete the study.

In the meantime, we, the community, do not even know how high the 2022 flood was in most areas – these figures are still being kept secret. Someone planning to build in a flood-liable area may not realise that the minimum floor level required by Byron Council may be only 100 or 200mm higher than the last big flood.

We can hope that the 2022 flood was a one-off event, but we need to assume that it was an indicator of what may be to come and plan accordingly, as governments continue to approve new coal mines and gas fields.

Matthew Lambourne
Mullumbimby

Why?

Why is a servo in Ballina selling diesel fuel for 185 cents a litre, while just up the road in Byron we're paying 30 cents a litre more?

Why can I shop in Aldi for around half the price I pay in Coles or Woolworths – and it's even more in IGA? Why does Australia export 75 per cent of the seafood we produce, but import 75 per cent of the seafood we consume?

Why did the cost of shipping a container of goods go up 400 per cent during Covid? Why does Australia export (in containers) most of the pine we grow to China, but import most of the pine we build with from Europe? Why are we exporting our hardwood forests as woodchips and buying so much hardwood from overseas? Why has the cost of building a house gone through the roof?

Why does an exporting island continent like Australia not have its own

► Continued on next page

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► **From previous page** shipping line, but pays others to ship its goods? Why does the world still cling to unregulated neoliberal economic policies when they are clearly failing us?

The market is a dumb beast, a one-eyed monster with its one eye firmly fixed on profit. Profit at any cost. It should be unsurprising that we are experiencing global inflation. Time for a sustainable revolution.

Mike Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek

Keeping Byron, Byron

At our last Byron Council meeting, I proposed reducing the height limit at Wategos from nine metres to eight metres. This is because the steep slopes mean people are building absolute monstrosities that are completely out of scale with the surrounding bushland, beach and lighthouse. I also asked for more work on what we can do to limit the excessive excavation into the hillside. This was an important campaign brought to Council by the Wategos Beach Protection Association which no other councillor had gotten behind. As I said at the time, we are not West Hollywood, and we don't want to be.

I read with amusement the *Echo* claiming that this motion was brought by another councillor, Sarah Ndiaye, (Greens). This followed the *Echo* report just a few weeks earlier, where I had done the work to push the developer at 9 Marvell Street to keep the main part of their building below the 11.5m height limit for the centre of town. No mention, of course, that Sarah Ndiaye, (Greens), had spoken against my changes and preferred the design that completely exceeded the height limits.

I will continue to ensure that Byron remains Byron. To me, there is still the

opportunity to control the future of our community, and our shire. We will need to discuss building height as a community when it leads to more housing diversity and increased housing affordability. But I will always fight against more 5-star hotels and millionaire megamansions pushing the limits.

Cr Asren Pugh (Labor)
Bangalow

Nude freedom or not!

It appears state-run entities promoting their own 'values' and agenda continue to erode people's freedom. It doesn't matter whether or not you enjoy and feel comfortable in your own skin or enjoy the many other benefits of a clothing-optional beach.

What does matter is whether people are able to legally enjoy this naked liberation on at least one beach in Byron Shire. It appears Byron's alternative culture, and its passion for respecting and embracing minority lifestyles, unfortunately continues to dissipate. I think the freedom and respect of a minority lifestyle choice are worth fighting for... don't you?

D James
Myocum

Is consciousness necessary?

As science progresses the magical, spiritual, perceptions of the world fall away into the garbage trucks that pass by as we awaken from our dreams.

One can ask what is consciousness, is it a wonderful word that so many of us hold sacred, or is it set for next week's rumbling collection?

Consciousness is often seen as an abstraction towering over psychology, but others see consciousness underlying physics providing a spiritual foundation to material reality. But with the 'evolution' of artificial intelligence (AI) we are shining a

searchlight onto the nature of consciousness, and neurology.

Perhaps the most mysterious feature of physics is quantum mechanical nonlocality. Nonlocality is sometimes referred to as an indication of an underlying universal consciousness. But one could equally say that nonlocality underlies consciousness.

If we consider consciousness in the realm of thought and communication we are seeing that the neural networks of AI are dethroning that meaning of consciousness. As AI develops we will see that particular physical structures are all that is needed for mental activity, including nonlocal phenomena. Neurological activity is just one physical system that features nonlocality. So there is nothing special about neurological activity that justifies a separate phenomenon called 'consciousness'; it's just a case of being switched on.

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Comedy posters

Who's stealing them? I recommend you look for a pissed-off comedian not on the bill.

Andrew Hunter
Bangalow

Cheaper EVs!

Considering switching to an electric vehicle (EV)? The recent *Echo* 'Sustainability' supplement states that the cheapest EV in Australia is the MG4 long-range, costing \$52,000. That is incorrect! Few people actually need such extended ranges for their daily travels. Cars in the 350 km range can be purchased 'cheaper' for around \$40,000 (base models – MG, BYD and Nissan Leaf).

Many more are coming, reducing prices further. Tesla just slashed prices by seven per cent. 'The Good Car Co.'

has quality second-hand cars. Diverting your petrol and maintenance bills can help pay for EVs. I divert \$280 per fortnight from fuel and maintenance savings. Novated leases now offer massive tax and duty incentives. Green car loans are the cheapest loans.

Bear in mind waiting lists. Order now if you can, you may still have to wait months! Ignore misinformation fuelled by fossilised-vested interests and conspiracy theorists hoping to water down EV uptake and climate salvage. Maybe it's time for local green philanthropists or sponsors to put Mandy Nolan in an EV for her Greens party work to really promote the cause!

Dan Reade
Ocean Shores

Ongoing roadworks

In response to Scott Wilson (*Echo* 29 May) questioning Byron Council's spending on roads and infrastructure, the truth is that from 2017/18 to 2022/21 the special rate variation (SRV), along with pay parking revenue and grants, raised more than \$76 million for work on roads, etc. and we actually spent \$99.8 million on road, bridge and drainage capital works and maintenance.

We supported a four-year SRV because elected councils over many years did not prioritise funding for roads and infrastructure, resulting in the steady deterioration of the road network. No council wants to increase rates but ignoring the problem was not an option. This resulted in a cumulative increase in rates after four years of 33.5 per cent, not the 60 per cent suggested by Mr Wilson.

What the SRV, and the implementation of pay parking, did do was signal to the NSW and Australian governments that Byron Council recognised it had a problem and was serious

about trying to fix it. This paved the way for the allocation of millions of extra dollars of grant funding.

We are accountable, we are audited annually, and the information is published on our website.

What we could not account for was the unprecedented weather and flooding in 2022 which caused more than \$300 million in damage to our infrastructure. We will continue to pursue funding for their repair and renewal from the NSW and Australian governments and are expecting more approvals to come shortly.

Michael Lyon
Byron Shire Mayor

Fair go, editor!

Sadly, there has been overly negative reporting of Jim Chalmers' 2024/25 budget in this newspaper, and it's ongoing.

When the Albanese Labor government came to power in 2022 they inherited a fiscal disaster, with national debt approaching \$1 trillion with little to show for it; no meaningful action on the climate emergency; aged care in crisis; wages stagnation; rapidly increasing inflation; rapidly increasing cost-of-living; a housing and rental crisis; rampant Coalition corruption.

These shocking results were the cumulative effects of nine years of Coalition incompetence and can't be rectified immediately. After two years in government the Albanese Labor government has: wiped \$3 billion in student HECS debt and fixed indexation; invested in additional bulk-billed Medicare Urgent Care Clinics; kickstarted the construction of over a million homes across Australia; paid superannuation on top of paid parental leave; delivered tax cuts to every taxpayer and back-to-back budget surpluses; established the

National Anti-Corruption Commission; provided cheaper medicines and child care; implemented ten days of domestic violence leave and given women leaving violent relationships up to \$5,000; wiped \$3 billion off student debt and delivered fee-free TAFE places. They are driving a generational shift towards protecting the environment; transitioning towards renewable energy and a low carbon economy; getting wages moving again and fixing the industrial relations system and, last but not least, giving every household a \$300 energy rebate, something the *Echo's* editor singled out to vilify. In the interests of being a balanced community newspaper, the *Echo* should drop the constant negativity of all things Labor and give some credit where it's due.

Keith Duncan
Ballina Branch NSW Labor

Peace not the solution

The greatest challenge of all is to live without illusions yet Danny Wakil wanders lost in a dense fog of them.

He is wrong twice in regard to peace being the solution; peace with justice and equality is the solution. Let's disabuse him and the *Echo* readership of any unsubstantiated 'claims' and rely instead on facts.

Israel has brutally oppressed the Palestinian people for more than 76 years displacing over 700,000 refugees in 1948 and a further 300,000 in 1967 under a 'belligerent military occupation' since then. Palestinian refugees now number 5.8 million representing 21 per cent of the global refugee population.

Israel enacted the Nation State law in 2018 institutionalising racism and legalising apartheid as well as over 65 laws that discriminate

► **Continued on next page**

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Much ado about racism

David Lowe

A journalist told the truth in public. Shock! Horror! Of course Australia is a racist country, and always has been.

This country was founded on racist assumptions (we can take what we want, ignore our own laws, and yours, because we have the required firepower, diseases, and hypocrisy). We will pretend no one was here when it suits us (*terra nullius*) and then divide families when the original inhabitants don't conveniently lie down and die.

When the ALP was formed in 1891, its very first federal objective was the 'cultivation of an Australian sentiment based upon the maintenance of racial purity.' Aboriginal workers in pastoral industries across the country were given no wages for generations. The cane industry was established by kidnapped South Sea Islanders, and non-Anglo racism was formally built into government for generations in the form of the White Australia policy.

Chinese people in the gold rush were forced to walk from South Australia to Victoria, where they faced gangs of violent thugs at Buckland, Lambing Flat and elsewhere. In 1934, the Czech-Jewish journalist Egon Kisch (who spoke multiple languages) was forced to take a test in Scotch Gaelic to keep him out of Australia. Immigrants from Europe who didn't speak English as their first language were given hell when they arrived after World War II. Likewise Vietnamese people a bit later, and African and Middle Eastern people after them.

This is a country which has more racist insults than there are Inuit words for snow (and that's probably a racist analogy too).

Try catching a taxi if you have dark skin, or applying for a job if you have an



Laura Tingle's 'racist country' comment has struck a nerve and rankled the conservatives. Photo Facebook

unusual name, or wearing a veil to the dog park, or taking an unusual lunchbox to school if you live in an Anglo-dominated area.

Remember children overboard? Adam Goodes and Nicky Winmar? The assaults on Indian students? Sovereign Borders? The racist lies about the referendum on the Voice?

Things are better in many parts of Australia than they used to be, yes, but this is still a fundamentally racist country. There is no other reading of Australian history that makes any sense.

Racism, schmacism

To the always erudite Barnaby Joyce though (last seen the wrong side up on a Canberra footpath), this very suggestion is 'mad left wing' and cause for one of Australia's most respected political journalists Laura Tingle to be raked over the coals, first by the Murdoch press, then Peter Costello's Nine media, and finally by her own boss at the ABC, never mind that Ms Tingle was not working for the ABC when she made the comments.

Any excuse for fake outrage will do, for the endlessly starboard-drifting Titanic of fossil media and its pathetic social media offspring. As Michael West has pointed out, there has been no corresponding outrage in response to former treasurer Josh Frydenberg's recent

suggestion that Australia is becoming more racist and anti-Semitic.

Across the Pacific, it's possible to go a long way politically without trying too hard to hide the racist underpinnings of your own family, or country, or policies, as the rise of Donald Trump has shown, but here we like to pretend we are better than that.

The problem is that Peter Dutton's rewards in the polls each time he plays the race card (which is what sparked the whole Laura Tingle comment in the first place) shows that the politics of racism, and division, are never far from the surface for those whose desire for power outweighs the potential harm done to others (especially the 'othered').

Australia is one of the most successful multicultural nations on this planet, by most metrics, but this is not guaranteed into the future. Those who deny that racism exists are also denying the conversation, and delaying potential solutions.

You can't fix a broken leg if you keep walking on it, and you can't fix a broken country if you pretend everything's fine. The first step to doing something about racism is admitting it exists, and has been a part of the culture here since at least 1788.

Laura Tingle deserves our admiration, and support.

restricting the flow of food, water, medicine, trade and movement of citizens - collective punishment illegal under international law.

In the last seven months Israel has killed over 50,000 people in Gaza, mostly unarmed women and children, the latter numbering over 10,000. Wakil bemoans 'anti-Israel bias' but it is very clear that all of the above facts generate sympathy for

the innocent victims of Israeli violence along with grief and anger, not hate, and the protests around the world reflect a deepening awareness of Israeli exceptionalism and lawlessness and growing support for universal human rights in Palestine.

Israel is in the dock for the crime of genocide yet the far right, messianic, ultra-nationalist Jewish
▶ Continued on page 17

▶ From previous page against Palestinians making them second-class citizens. Israel has illegally annexed East Jerusalem and settled more than 620,000 Jewish Israeli settlers on stolen Palestinian land in the West Bank and East Jerusalem in contravention of the Geneva Convention and UN Resolution 242.

Israel has laid siege to the Gaza Strip since 2007,

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BALLINA RSL

Help save the Big Scrub rainforest with science

Aslan Shand

There is only one per cent of the Big Scrub rainforest in Northern New South Wales remaining. This has left what were once mighty rainforests now critically endangered and facing the threat of extinction because of a serious lack of genetic diversity.

Taking on this challenge to maintain and create greater genetic diversity, and hence a healthier future for the Big Scrub rainforests of Northern NSW, is a world-first Australian project, Science Saving Rainforests.

'The idea is to repair the genetic diversity destroyed by land clearing, help save threatened species and grow a new generation of rainforest trees more resilient to threats like disease, pests and climate change, to reinvigorate the species found in the Big Scrub rainforest,' said Mark Dunphy, co-founder and president Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy when he spoke to *The Echo*.

'We are using genetic testing to ensure we have the healthiest and strongest of a particular species, as well as ensuring that we have 95 per cent of the genetic material for that species, therefore allowing us to increase the health of the species.'

'The problem can be that sometimes there is only one of a particular tree species, within a remnant of Big Scrub rainforest. They can only



Left: Dr Tony Parkes. Right: Maurizio Rossetto from the Botanic Gardens of Sydney with Mark Dunphy, co-founder of the Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy. Photos supplied



reproduce themselves; the lack of genetic diversity leads to inbreeding which, as with any species, can lead to problems emerging. The idea is to bolster the genetic diversity and reinvigorate the species – good genetics within your stock ensures you have a healthy range of species.'

10,000 samples

Nearly 10,000 leaf samples from 60 species of rainforest trees have been collected between Southern NSW and Far North Queensland and their genetic make-up is being analysed using the very latest genome-based science. The outcome will be to find the most genetically diverse trees, collect cuttings from them to grow on and subsequently plant in a macadamia-style plantation.

Seed produced will be provided to commercial nurseries to grow

resilient trees for future planting projects.

The concept was the brainchild of Dr Tony Parkes (AO), co-founder and President Emeritus of Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy, one of Australia's leading not-for-profit community conservation organisations. The Conservancy have joined forces with the Botanic Gardens of Sydney, Firewheel Rainforest Nursery and one of Australia's leading rainforest evolutionary and field ecologists, Dr Rob Kooyman.

Generous donation

A 38-acre plantation site at McLeans Ridge, near Alstonville, has been gifted to the Conservancy and will become the home for the Science Saving Rainforest Program.

'I have spent the last 35 years of my life committed to saving the

subtropical rainforests of Australia and the Science Saving Rainforests Program is the most important initiative I have ever been involved in. I firmly believe that our project is of global significance because the same issues we face here are the same issues facing the world's rainforests and other degraded ecosystems,' said Dr Tony Parkes.

The team has been collecting and analysing samples for the last two years and the project is a world first.

'The Botanic Gardens do genetic testing of plants around the world but they don't normally test a whole ecosystem. What we will be doing here is genetically testing a significant number of the local canopy of plants rather than looking at just one species,' explained Mr Dunphy.

They have now started to collect cuttings and will be looking at

getting plants into the ground in the next year to two years.

'Everything we've collected has been GPSd. Every leaf collected went into an envelope and was mapped so we could identify the genetics of the species from across the range. Some species, like the *Endiandra Floydii* (Crystal Creek Walnut) take ten years to fruit, while others, like the Davidson Plums, will be fruiting in a few years.'

They will look at planting around 20 to 30 trees from a species that will cover around 95 per cent of the genetic diversity in the species. Then when the trees interbreed at the plantation site they will produce offspring with greater genetic diversity that can cope more effectively with future risks like climate change, pests and disease.

Can you help?

'We now have an urgent need to raise funds to prepare the site for this vitally important plantation,' said Dr Parkes.

Mr Dunphy agreed, saying that this work is essential to build strength within the regional rainforest species and preserve the genetic diversity that will be needed to face future challenges.

To find out more and support the project go to the Big Scrub Rainforest Conservancy website <https://bigscrubrainforest.org/donate-now-2/>.



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► **Continued from page 15** extremists in Netanyahu's cabinet and elsewhere in Israeli society brazenly urge on the holocaust in Gaza. Until Israel withdraws from occupied Palestinian territories, agrees to a just solution to the refugee problem, ends the practice of apartheid and agrees to the creation of an independent Palestinian state there will be no peace. Every individual of conscience can take non-violent action on a grassroots level by joining the movement to boycott Israel: bdsmovement.net

Duncan Shipley-Smith
Byron Bay

Incredibly biased

Danny Wakil blasts my 'incredibly biased anti-Israel letters' and 'fictitious claims about Israel', but he doesn't cite a single instance of the alleged bias or fictitious claims. In the absence of such evidence, his accusations amount to little more than name calling.

Of course, it's true that I'm biased. I'm biased in favour of truth, justice, equality and humanity. I'm also biased against lies, injustice, apartheid and genocide. And I'm not alone, we all have our biases.

Danny is shocked by

what he calls 'anti-Israel (not pro-Palestine)' protests all around the world. He thinks people are protesting against the genocide in Gaza, not because they care about the Palestinians but just because they're biased against Israel. Danny must be oblivious to the cruelty of Israel's crimes in Gaza and the West Bank if he can't understand why people are angry at Israel.

Maybe Danny doesn't know that Israel is on trial at the International Court of Justice for the crime of genocide, and now Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and defence minister, Yoav Gallant, both face arrest warrants from the International Criminal Court, on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including the 'starvation of civilians as a method of warfare'. No doubt Danny thinks these august legal bodies are just incredibly biased against Israel.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

National service

A reader responded to my suggestion that instead of Australia reintroducing national service, that juvenile lawbreakers be directed to the emergency services.

Well, they missed the

entire point, the problem is not just the current crime situation within, but the increasing threat of problems occurring from without.

Apart from the need to bolster the defence force manpower, it might also provide a basic trade training for conscripts.

As I write this, it appears that the UK is considering bringing back national service. Perhaps they recognise the global threat. Meanwhile I'd just like to see the crime scene here disappear.

Peter Walters
Ballina

Money for what?

In 2018 Water and Recycling (W&R) on Byron Shire Council (BSC) asked the Water, Waste and Sewer Advisory Committee (WW&SAC) to endorse a five-year plan at a cost of \$250,000 a year. They submitted to reline the sewerage gravity mains throughout Mullumbimby.

This plan involved bringing a contractor in who specialised in this type of work.

This work is meant to be completed in 2024.

To date the only way of comparing what has been achieved in the five years is by looking at the inflow figures from Mullumbimby into

Brunswick Valley Sewage Treatment Plant (BVSTP) which appear on W&R's public database.

To date no visible evidence has been supplied of the completed relined mains.

The inflow into BVSTP still increases substantially during rain events which would indicate that this whole process has been a total waste of money.

The question should be asked: who has been monitoring this work over the last five years and what evidence can be supplied that substantiates that the mains have actually successfully been relined?

Alan Dickens
Byron Bay

Mullum phone tower

The wanton destruction of the mobile phone tower in Mullumbimby is further proof the Green Taliban are alive and well here in Northern NSW.

This belligerent mob will stop at nothing in their mission of forcing their putrid doctrine down everyone else's throats.

I reckon it's time the community considers to stop tolerating and accommodating these misfits.

Paul Taylor
Murwillumbah

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Ancient Egyptian attempts to treat cancer found in nearly 5,000-year-old skull

Cosmos Magazine

Archaeologists have unearthed evidence of practices which might change our understanding of ancient Egyptian life.

Two skulls, both thousands of years old, bear cut marks which could be indications of attempted operations to treat cancer, or perhaps even to conduct postmortems to learn more about excessive tissue growth.

It is known that as an early civilisation, the ancient Egyptians were skilled in medical practices. Historical records note that they could identify, describe and treat diseases and traumatic injuries. They even build prostheses and inserted dental fillings.

The new study, published in *Frontiers in Medicine*, suggests they may have even tried to treat cancers. Two skulls were examined as part of the research.

Skull and mandible 236 belonged to a male who died



Skull E270. Photo Tondini, Isidro, Camarós, 2024

at age 30–35. The bones were found at Giza and are dated to between 2687 and 2345 BCE, during Egypt's Old Kingdom – around the time that the Pharaoh Khufu ordered the building of the largest of the pyramids of Giza.

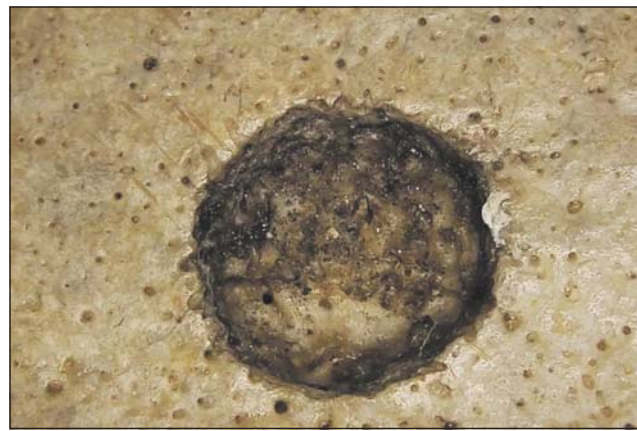
Skull E270 belonged to a female who was more than 50 years old when she died between 663 and 343 BCE, known as the Late Period of ancient Egypt sometime between the 26th and 30th dynasties.

Micro-CT scans of skull 236

showed a large lesion consistent with excessive tissue destruction, also known as neoplasm. In addition, the researchers found about 30 small, round metastasised lesions on the skull.

A series of cut marks around the lesions took the archaeologists by surprise.

'It seems ancient Egyptians performed some kind of surgical intervention related to the presence of cancerous cells, proving that ancient Egyptian medicine was also conducting experimental



Cut marks around a lesion on skull 236. Photo Tondini, Isidro, Camarós, 2024

treatments or medical explorations in relation to cancer,' says co-author Albert Isidro from the University Hospital Sagrat Cor in Spain.

Similar lesions were found on skull E270 consistent with a cancerous tumour that led to bone destruction.

E270 also showed 2 healed traumatic injuries. It is possible the individual received treatment for the injuries.

'Was this female individual involved in any kind of warfare activities?' asks first author Tatiana Tondini from

the University of Tübingen in Germany. 'If so, we must rethink the role of women in the past and how they took active part in conflicts during antiquity.'

The finds suggest that cancer is not just a problem today with increased environmental factors and an older population.

'We wanted to learn about the role of cancer in the past, how prevalent this disease was in antiquity, and how ancient societies interacted with this pathology,' Tondini

says. 'We see that although ancient Egyptians were able to deal with complex cranial fractures, cancer was still a medical knowledge frontier.'

And it wasn't just the ancient Egyptians. Ancient Roman physician Celsus, who died in 50 CE, wrote about the disease's return after being cut out. Ancient Greek doctors Galen and Hippocrates considered it incurable.

Lead author Edgard Camarós, from Spain's University of Santiago de Compostela, says more research is needed to uncover ancient medical practices.

'This study contributes to a changing of perspective and sets an encouraging base for future research on the field of paleo-oncology, but more studies will be needed to untangle how ancient societies dealt with cancer.'

Today, cancer remains the second leading cause of death in the world, hence the scientific community's focus on finding effective treatments and potential cures.



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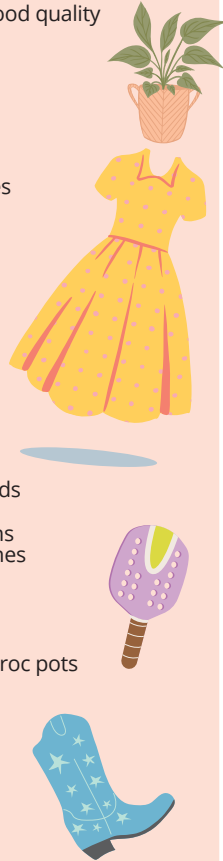


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- 10 Bower St
- 6 Short St
- 56 Mullumbimbi St
- 2/34 Mullumbimbi St
- 27 Tweed St
- 24 Tweed St
- 13 Tweed St
- 1 Bower St
- 54 Tweed St
- 104/106 Bayside Way
- 31 Booyun St
- 17 Nana St
- 12 Cudgen St
- 39 Fingal St
- 8 Coral Crt
- 10 Booyun St
- 1 Part St
- 14 Park St
- 2 Teven St
- 5 Kingsford Dve
- 43 Fingal Street
- 39 Booyun St
- Shapcott Lane
- 7 Mullumbimbi St
- 4 Mona Lane
- Terrace Reserve Holiday Park
- 19 Fingal St
- 4/32 Mullumbimbi St
- 2/2 Park St
- 13 Minyon St
- 27 Nana St
- 3 Mullumbimbi St
- 15 Coral Crt
- 34 Fingal St
- 3/18 Mullumbimbi St
- 3/25 Fingal St
- 2/30 Mullumbimbi St
- 16 Short St
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- clothing, surfboards, household, vintage
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PROGRAM

ALL TOWN GARAGE SALE 8AM-2PM

SECONDHAND & OTHER BARGAINS 8.30AM-3PM

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- BANNER PARK FLEA MARKET - Banner Park Housie Shed
- BRUNSWICK SCHOOL TREASURE TROVE FAIR - Brunswick Heads Primary School
- CWA SECONDHAND FAIR & DEVONSHIRE TEAS - CWA Hall
- SECONDHAND BOOK SALE - Half-price 'good read' novels Visitor Centre
- Town trail of secondhand & op shops & shop clearance sales

OUR HISTORY

- BV Historical Society display - Blessing of the Fleet - Memorial Hall
- Self-guided historical one hour town walk 9am-3pm

Free maps at VC & Hall

SUNDAY, MONDAY 9-10 JUNE RETRO FAIR @ MEMORIAL HALL

GOOD OLD FUN ACTIVITIES

- Better by Bike e-Bike Display 8am-3pm - MH
- Hawaiian Hula Performance 10.30am - MH
- Social Remedy Display Recovery Centre - Salt Mill
- Lucky Penny fab prizes, everyone wins! 8-11am - MH
- Fairy Trail 10am-3pm Start at VC
- Footbridge 'Rock On @ the Soundshell' 2-4pm
- Australian Marbles Championships 10am-2pm - BP
- BSC Waste Management Info Tent

LUCKY PENNY

MEMORIAL HALL
Great prizes!

2 x Better by
Bike e-Bike Tours

Vouchers and prizes from
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LIVE MUSIC & COMMUNITY GROUP REFRESHMENTS

- Love Tsunami and acoustic mix 9am at Memorial Hall
- Hub Cap Stan & the Sidewalk Stompers 10am-1.30pm at Memorial Hall
- Capoeira Angola music and dance 2pm at Memorial Hall
- Visitor Centre homemade cakes, soup & frittata 8.30am-3pm at Memorial Hall
- Rotary BBQ 10am-2pm at Park St
- Brunswick Public School - curry 9am-3pm at Park St
- CWA Devonshire Tea 9-3 at Brunswick Heads Public School

SECOND HAND & VINTAGE SHOPS

- Vintage Interior Pieces, Park St
- Cawi Op Shop, Tweed St
- Resould, Tweed St
- Valiant Music, Fingal St
- St Vinnies, Fingal St
- Swan, Park Street
- Uneek & Co, Fingal St
- Shop Clearance Sales

The Sails Motel Raffle



Tickets \$5 drawn 3pm at the Memorial Hall
(you don't have to be there to win)

1. The Sails Motel family holiday (2 nights) incl \$50 Footbridge voucher, \$50 Sunshine Trader voucher, \$50 Lazybones voucher, \$150 Crystal Castle voucher (value \$800)
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Community group activities and beneficiaries: BH Public School, CWA, Brunswick Heads Visitor Centre, Mullumbimby Rotary

Old and Gold organising committee: Cherie Heale (Co-Ordinator), Layla Hardy (BH Public School), Lanie Laughlin (Banner Park Flea Market), Kim Rosen (Memorial Hall), Visitor Centre Volunteers, Bruce McMaster

FIRST AID Brunswick Heads Public School, Fire Station 8.30am-3pm

TOILETS Banner Park, Terrace Park 8am-3pm

INFORMATION & LOST CHILDREN 9am-3pm Visitor Centre VC



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Good Taste

Eateries Guide

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www.facebook.com/pages/Success-Thai-Food/237359826303469

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5642 0149

therocksbyronbay.com.au
[@therocksbyronbay](https://www.instagram.com/therocksbyronbay)

Happy Hour 6pm–8pm
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6685 6500

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Menu, more details –
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www.kahakai.com.au

Hours:

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L to R: Rick and Stan Morrow at the Morrow Farm stall at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market.

The Morrow Farm: a farming heritage that stretches back to the late 1800s

Victoria Cosford

All the recent rain has been so frustrating for farmers – and yet Rick Morrow, whose farming heritage stretches back to the late 1800's, is calmly philosophical. Rick mans the Mullumbimby Farmers Market stall with his uncle Stan, but there are actually five Morrows running the farm – the others are Stan's brother Bruce Morrow, Bruce's wife Christine, and his niece Sandra. They are all Morrows and all run the farm together, a true family affair!

Besides Rick's calmly philosophical outlook, there are other sunny patches between the rain clouds – the tumblers of sweet potatoes, the wedges of luridly orange pumpkin, the perfectly conical little onions. Cherry tomatoes crowd together in punnets, there's the last of the pale-yellow butter beans, avocados – Fuerte and Hass – occupy an entire table. Rick tells me that their most popular produce, the strawberries, will be back in about a month.

I love cooking with sweet potatoes, and leaving the Morrow stall I'm already planning two uses for them. One is a favourite Guy Mirabella recipe in which a kilo of sweet potato is sliced into one-centimetre-thick rounds. Preheat your oven to 180C and in a baking tray combine the sweet potato with 100 grams of pancetta you've cut into matchsticks, an entire garlic bulb, unpeeled but separated into cloves, and about thirty sage leaves. Slush in 75ml of olive oil, season with salt and pepper and mix everything together with your hands before baking it for about an hour. It's a gorgeous accompaniment to meat, fish or chicken and delicious on its own.

Then – and it's definitely soup season – there's my sweet potato and pumpkin soup. In a large pot melt 250g of butter. Finely slice two large onions and cook till translucent, then throw in one peeled chopped sweet potato and a peeled, seeded wedge of pumpkin. With a wooden spoon stir these through the onions for about five to ten minutes then pour in enough vegetable or chicken stock to cover. Season with salt and pepper, bring to the boil then simmer till the vegetables are soft. Using a stick blender, blend till smooth. Serve with crusty bread – divine!

The Morrow Farm is at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7am to 11am.



Victory for the Common People

Small, Bangalow independent brewery Common People Brewing Co. received medals for five of its beers at the recent AIBA beer awards, as we mentioned briefly last week. Held in Melbourne each year, the AIBAs (Australian International Beer Awards) are the world's biggest beer competition. Beers from breweries around the world are entered into specific categories and judged blindly by industry experts.

Needless to say, the Common People crew were stoked, saying 'Our Villager's Pale Ale, Moonless Midnight Stout, El Sabro Hazy IPA, La Grande Belgian Strong and Protesters IPA were all awarded medals in their categories this year. Given that we are a very small, independent brewery, run by family and friends, we are very pleased with this result.'

'All our award-winning beers are currently available in our taproom, in the industrial estate in Bangalow. All beers are lovingly brewed, canned and packaged on site between Monday and Wednesday, then the taproom and kitchen is open for business from 12pm till late from Thursday to Sunday.

'Common People Brewing Co is your home away from home, and is a great place to relax with friends and family. There's an ever-rotating range of thirst-quenching craft beers and wines to enjoy. The kitchen offers authentic woodfired pizzas, shared plates and more. There's a breezy garden deck, cosy fireplace for the colder days, board games, Friday happy hours, special events, great tunes and dogs are welcome too!'



Bottom: L-R - Sam Tourle (brewer), Sophie Kempnich, Drew Tourle (brewer) Top: L-R - Janelle Morse, Jay Kempnich

The two brewers at Common People are brothers, raising the question of exactly how many brew teams in Australia are brothers? Sam is a highly experienced brewer with over 12 years of experience in the industry, and has shown his brother Drew the ropes over the last few years. Drew is now a very competent brewer in his own right. Sam, Drew and Jay all grew up in Kyogle, all went to live in various places in their younger years, but in more recent times have returned home to the Northern Rivers with their partners to raise their families, although luckily for us they use their time off to brew award-winning beer.

Foods and herbs: natural cough relief this winter season

A natural, organic, high-nutrient healthy diet is an excellent way to keep your immune system operating at its peak to overcome illness, but even if you are a healthy person, as the chill of winter sets in, it's not uncommon to find yourself battling a persistent cough. It's one of those seasonal transitions we can all encounter. While over-the-counter medications are readily available, turning to natural foods and herbs for relief can be just as effective – and much kinder to your body and budget. Making your own home-based solutions to help soothe that cough can be a reminder to keep it simple and natural.

Honey, with its rich history in traditional use and emerging evidence-base, tops the



list as a remedy for coughs. Take a teaspoon or two for its antimicrobial and anti-

inflammatory properties to help combat infection and to ease irritation contributing to coughs.

Turmeric, celebrated for its anti-inflammatory and antioxidant qualities, aids in reducing inflammation in the respiratory tract, offering

respite from cough symptoms. A teaspoon of good quality ground turmeric mixed with a milk (or mylk) base with a sprinkle of black pepper and teaspoon of honey makes a soothing warm drink.

Ginger root has traditionally been used for bronchitis

and allergies and is believed to alleviate coughs by relaxing the smooth muscles of the airways. It can also help loosen mucus and relieve congestion, making it a valuable ally if you develop a winter cough. Slice or grate a one-inch segment of fresh ginger root and boil in one cup of water for 10 to 15 minutes, then strain to drink as a tea. Adding honey and lemon makes a classic home remedy for coughs, colds and sore throats.

Drinking a warm herbal tea or taking a herbal tincture or syrup containing herbs like elderflower, thyme, peppermint, liquorice, mullein, and marshmallow can calm the airways and provide relief from a winter cough.

Before taking herbs it's advisable to consult with a naturopath or healthcare professional, especially if you have a pre-existing condition or are taking medications that may interact with natural remedies.

If you're looking for extra support for your health challenges or looking to optimise immunity to avoid getting sick this winter, a qualified naturopath can empower you with valuable health knowledge for wellness. Free 15-minute consultations are available at all Santos Organics stores.

■ For more information visit: <https://santosorganics.com.au/pages/naturopathy-1>





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Murwillumbah on the up and up

With the recent Kinship Festival seeing around 6,000 people coming to enjoy the day, and more people up the road enjoying the Impy Yard Party that afternoon, Business Murwillumbah (Murwillumbah Chamber of Commerce) President, Rebecca Whan, said there is plenty happening in Murwillumbah and they have been seeing lots of visitors and locals enjoying the town and surrounding areas.

‘Things are growing and growing in Murwillumbah, especially along the rail trail. That’s had a significant impact. There is some infrastructure work that is needed along the rail trail but we have seen a really big increase in patronage in Murwillumbah and other local towns like Stokers Siding that are along the rail trail. It is growing and growing with shops along the rail trail opening up or expanding.

‘It’s also been nice to see the Casino to Bentley leg of the rail trail open as well as the Uki mountain bike park. This is bringing a lot of new people to Uki and many of them come via Murwillumbah as well. Tyalgum has also opened up again with the road now fixed and that is also building up.’

Tweed Business Awards Q&A

The Tweed Business Awards are being hosted by Business Murwillumbah this year and nominations close on Wednesday, 12 June. There are 22 categories available to enter and businesses can enter in multiple categories.

‘We are running a Q&A session in Kingscliff this Thursday (6 June) with Tania Usher who runs the multiple award-winning business Blue Gunger Picnics,’ said Ms Whan.

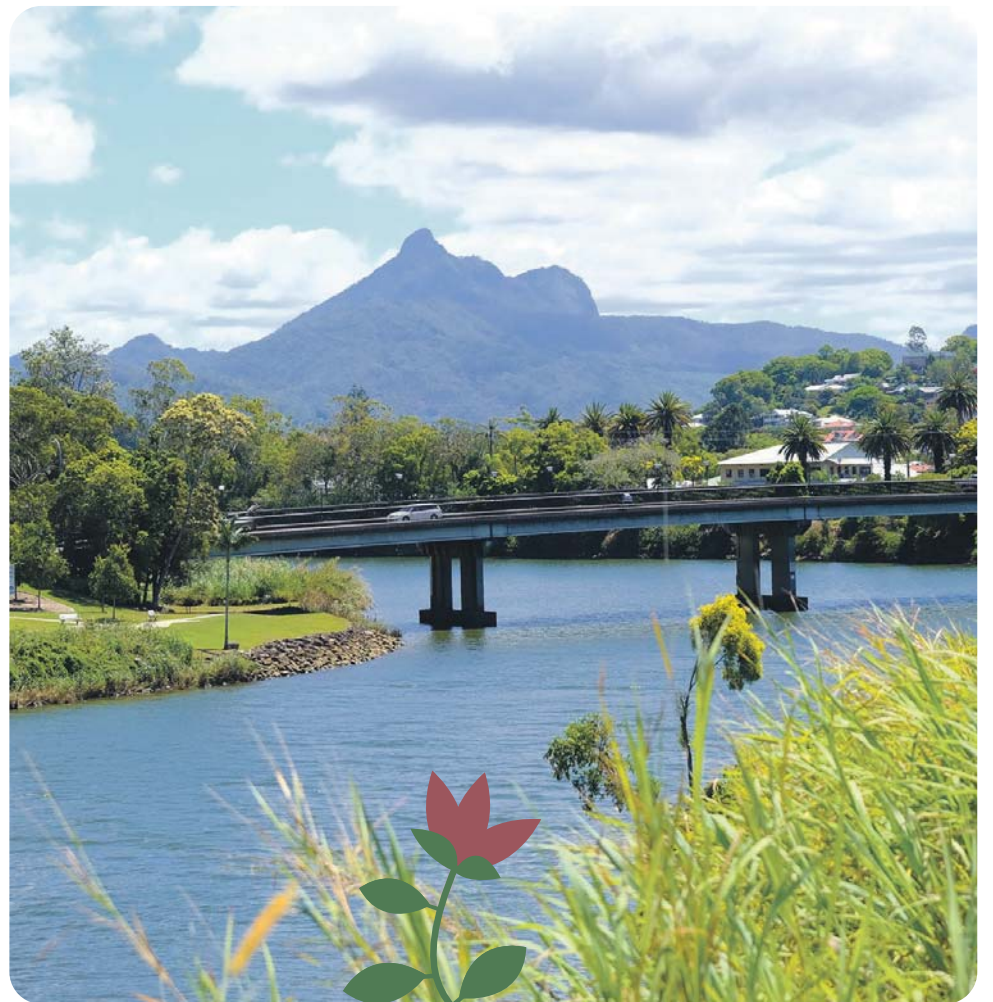
‘Tania is going to talk about the impact that receiving an award can have for your business, particularly in relation to exposure and acceleration.

‘Through the awards process businesses can get exposure at both a region and state level and it can provide an effective launch for a business.

‘It is free to enter but Tania, who has judged various business competitions, said it is clear many businesses aren’t effective at talking themselves up or writing about themselves,’ said Ms Whan.

‘Part of what we are doing at Thursday’s Q&A is looking at how to put together an awards submission,’ she explained.

The Gala Awards night, where the winners will be announced, will be held on 16 August at a venue to be announced.



Drains and pumps

Having driven the process for grant funding to improve the drains and pumps around Murwillumbah, Ms Whan told *The Echo* that the work would be starting in August/September.

‘The earthen levee wall in south Murwillumbah has also been reformed to its original height as it had slumped over time. We are also hoping for the potential of some government grants to enhance the CBD.’

Tweed Regional Gallery

Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre will host its Annual Community Picnic & Artist Paint Out on Sunday, 30 June from 2pm–5pm.

Bring family and friends along to this popular event on the grounds of the gallery, with spectacular views to Wollumbin.

Make your own plein air painting during the Artist Paint Out, where guest artist Monica Rohan will be on hand to engage in discussions and offer guidance to both adults and teens. Children can enjoy art activities guided by local artist Leith Walton from Nurtured Creations.

Enjoy live music from Felicity Lawless and Phil Howell while delicious food options can be purchased from Apex Dining at the picnic grounds.

Mark your calendars, pack your picnic basket a blanket and your paints for an inspiring day of art, music, and community.

Located at 2 Mistral Road, Murwillumbah.
Gallery hours Wed–Sun
10am–4pm
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au
[@tweedregionalgallery](https://www.instagram.com/tweedregionalgallery)

1



The Best Views in the region!

Apex Dining at the Tweed Regional Gallery is operated by seasoned campaigners Toby and Hannah. Since taking over in 2022 they have worked hard to match the spectacular 360 degree views from the ‘apex’ of the hill. Their fresh modern cafe / bistro fare features regional produce with a cheeky Asian twist and is delivered with fast, friendly and informed table service. And it’s licensed! So combined with a truly ‘magic’ vista of the river, rolling hills and ranges beyond, this is the best lunch spot around! Just remember to book as this gem is full most lunch times.

02 6672 5088
apexdining.com.au
2 Mistral Rd, South Murwillumbah

2



Northern Rivers Symphony Orchestra

NRSO proudly presents Sublime Classics with guest conductor Carlos Del Cueto, at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre on Sunday, 21 July at 2.30pm.

Based in Melbourne, Carlos is the music director of The Tudor Choristers and holds a PhD in Music from the University of Cambridge. He was formerly a BBC Performing Arts Fellow and has conducted the Manchester Camerata and the Britten Sinfonia.

The programme is indeed sublime with a highlight of Mozart Clarinet Concerto featuring soloist Nathaniel Smorti.

Ludwig van Beethoven, King Stephen Overture Op. 117

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Clarinet Concerto in A major K. 622, featuring soloist Nathaniel Smorti.

Felix Mendelssohn, Symphony No. 5 (Reformation) Op. 107

Tickets: adults \$50 / concession \$45 / students \$20

Children 18 years and under free of charge (when accompanied by an adult).

Tickets at: www.nrso.com.au, at Murwillumbah Music, or at the door.

02 6672 5404

Enquiries: 0478 012 324

www.nrso.com.au

Murwillumbah Civic Centre

10-14 Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah



3

Riverside dining at Tweed River House

Celebrate the best of the Northern Rivers' seasonal produce when you dine at the chef-hatted Tweed River House.

Dine in the magnificent century-old plantation style house, located on the banks of the Tweed River with sweeping hinterland views.

The riverside Lawn Bar is ideal for a drink and lighter bites.

02 6672 5269

tweedriverhouse.com.au

131 River St, South Murwillumbah

5



Knit Happens

Knit Happens is a vibrant haven for knitting and crochet enthusiasts, nestled in the heart of Murwillumbah at Shop 3, 132 Murwillumbah Street. This charming store offers a treasure trove of high-quality, sustainable yarns, threads, and tools that inspire creativity and eco-conscious crafting. From easy knitting and crochet patterns to an array of books and magazines, Knit Happens caters to both novices and seasoned crafters. With a commitment to quality and sustainability, Knit Happens is the go-to destination for all your knitting and crochet needs. Creative Kids Vouchers are happily accepted.

0408 321 209

www.knithappens.com.au

**Shop 3, 132 Murwillumbah St
Murwillumbah**



4

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6



1. Tweed regional Gallery
2. Apex Dining
3. NRSO
4. Knit Happens
5. Tweed River House
6. Oracle Advisory Group



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0419 870 305
mist.gallery.cabarita@gmail.com
FB & Insta: @mistgallery

MULLUMBIMBY CLAYWORKERS GALLERY

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

MZ GALLERY

Byron Bay Contemporary Artspace
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0468 718 045
www.byronartspace.com.au

NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY

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

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

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nrcgballina.com.au

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2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah
02 6670 2790
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

THE ARTS

ARTIST IN FOCUS

Gill Williams is a local artist who was born and bred in the Northern Rivers. He currently lives in Ocean Shores where he creates artworks from his home studio.

Gill studied a Diploma of Applied Arts at Murwillumbah TAFE in 2004 and held his debut solo exhibition 'Breath' at the Ocean Shores Community Centre in 2023.

When he is painting new works, Gill approaches the canvas with decisiveness and a dedicated focus, not pre-planning or sketching out works first, but letting his creative intuition take over so that he becomes caught up in the moment.

Gill's creative practice is an embodiment of his whole person, using colour and patterns to recreate the vibrant kaleidoscope of his world. He is full of energy, spontaneous, and wholehearted in his approach to his painting. Whether he is painting, dancing or being a social butterfly, he asks only for you to celebrate life with him!

Gill's artworks are currently on display during the group exhibition 'Recognise' which is on at the **Lone Goat Gallery from 1- 29 June.**
www.lonegoatgallery.com

Follow the colourful life of Gill Williams on Instagram [@gillwilliamsart](https://www.instagram.com/gillwilliamsart)



LEFT: Night and Day with Sunny, 2023, acrylic on canvas, 60 x 90cm RIGHT: Breath, holding a stick, 2024, acrylic on canvas, 151 x 120cm ABOVE RIGHT: Party Mountain, 2023, acrylic on canvas, 70 x 111cm. All artwork photos courtesy of Gill Williams TOP: Photo of Gill Williams by Berri Drum

H'ART GALLERY

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INSPIRED LOCAL ART

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Comprehensive Health Centre

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byron writers festival
Crystalbrook byron
Byron Bay

KNOW MY NAME: AUSTRALIAN WOMEN ARTISTS

Know My Name: Australian Women Artists tells a new story of Australian art. Looking to moments in which women created new forms of art and cultural commentary, the exhibition suggests new histories by highlighting creative and intellectual relationships between artists through time.

Know My Name: Australian Women Artists is a National Gallery touring exhibition supported by the Australian Government through Visions of Australia and the National Collecting Institutions Touring and Outreach Program.

1 June – 25 August 2024

Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre
Open 10am – 4pm Wednesday – Sunday
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au
2 Mistral Road, Murwillumbah South
02 6670 2790

ART IN THE HEART OF MULLUMBIMBY

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

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

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

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

Enquire at info@solveig.com.au

LINE - ART KIND WINTER SHOWCASE, 7 JUNE - 26 JULY

LINE is a group exhibition showcasing works from seven female artists at Art Kind Gallery in Byron Bay. At the opening event on Friday, 7 June, the community is invited to meet the artists with gourmet grazing and drinks provided. This is a FREE, family-friendly event. An art play table will be available for attendees to get creative.

All welcome. RSVP via artkind.com.au or scan the QR code on the advert.

Friday, 7 June, 5 – 7pm @ 18 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay



El Capricho by Andrea Portela

BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL

'Pitching Do's and Don'ts' is a new three-hour workshop with Alex Adsett for authors wanting to share their story with the world.

You will be given behind the curtains information on pitching to the publishing industry. This will include an overview of literary agents - what they do for an author, their place in the publishing industry ecosystem, and if and when you need one.

This workshop will arm you with a great overview of pitching your manuscript, what not to do, and tips and tricks on how to make you and your manuscript stand out.

When: Saturday, 13 July 1 – 4pm

**Where: In person at Crystalbrook, Byron
77/97 Broken Head Rd, Byron Bay**

Cost: \$100 member/student

\$140 non-members + booking fee

Bookings via byronwritersfestival/whats-on

LINE
ART KIND GALLERY
2024 WINTER SHOWCASE
07 JUNE - 26 JULY

KATIA OBLAK
DIANA MILLER
KELLY CASEY
BEC DUFF
JULES VLEUGEL
ANDREA PORTELA MORENO
ROSIE GORDON

ARTKIND.COM.AU
RSVP HERE

**OPENING
EVENT**
FRIDAY JUNE 7 @5pm
Complimentary drinks,
grazing & art play

art
kind
18 CENTENNIAL CCT
BYRON BAY NSW

LONE GOAT GALLERY



EXHIBITION CALL OUT

**2025 EXHIBITION PROGRAM
APPLICATIONS CLOSE 31 AUG 2024
WWW.LONEGOATGALLERY.COM**

WED – SAT: 10AM–4PM
28 LAWSON STREET
BYRON BAY NSW 2481

f @ LONEGOATGALLERY
LONEGOATGALLERY.COM

Image: 'Surface Paradise' by Michael Donnelly. Photo by Jaka Adamic.



THE ARTS

KNOW MY NAME AUSTRALIAN WOMEN ARTISTS



1 June – 25 August 2024

Know My Name: Australian Women Artists is a National Gallery Touring Exhibition supported by the Australian Government through Visions of Australia and the National Collecting Institutions Touring Outreach Program.

Alice Hinton-Bateup, *Garage Graphix, Kamilaroi/Wonnarua peoples, Ruth's story*, 1988
National Gallery of Australia, Kamberrri/Canberra, purchased 1995 © The artists

**TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY
& MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE**



The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is a Tweed Shire Council Community Facility and is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.
Open Wed – Sun | 2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah South | gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

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SUNSHINE IN CONCERT

Heralded as a 'brilliant new landmark in Australian musicals' (*The Australian*), *The Sunshine Club* is written and directed by proud Noonuccal Nuugi man **Wesley Enoch AM**, an acclaimed creative force in Australian Theatre. This energetic and engaging musical play has a variety of music styles, with 28 songs composed by the esteemed **John Rodgers**.

It tells the story of Frank Doyle, an Aboriginal serviceman who has come home from World War II to find that although the wider world may have changed, attitudes back home in Brisbane are just the same.

Filled with a defiant energy and ambition for a better life, Frank starts *The Sunshine Club*, a place where black and white can meet and, most importantly, dance – here he dreams of a future where he can dance in step with Rose, the girl next door, the girl of his dreams.

The award-winning *The Sunshine Club* is a thought-provoking, vibrant and above all, joyful night of theatre and music, featuring a talented cast of 11, including emerging and established First Nations artists, and a five-piece live band. It is perfect for audiences seeking entertaining, socially relevant work, at a time of heightened social discourse on Indigenous affairs.

Saturday, June 29 at the Byron Theatre at 8pm. Tickets from byroncentre.com.au.



THERE'S A NOR'EASTER ON ITS WAY

After rave reviews, the **Nor'easter music festival** is back for 2024 in Lennox Head with generous support from Ballina Shire Council, Club Lennox Sports, and coordinated by not-for-profit volunteers Lennox Session Inc. This community feast of music is on Saturday, June 15.

The Lite Nor'easter is one big day only this year. From **10am**, with a string of free events in the Lennox Cultural Centre up until late afternoon, before the big ticketed evening Double Act (heavily subsidised) **Claire Anne Taylor** and **Blues Arcadia** for just \$30 (+ booking fees).

Come early with a Lennox café coffee and enjoy the dulcet tones of **Jimmy Dowling**, followed by a dose of **Mandy Hawkes'** infused country folk to get you smiling.

This festival is about family fun and supporting our talented artists so they can inspire you.

Sarah Grant's hot new band **Moebius** are playing their freshly minted originals, and Lennox's own **Joe Chronroy** will

get you grooving and it will be a sheer delight to have **Kelly Brouhaha's** superlative vocals in the line-up. And as if one Joe is never enough, there's another – **Joe Terror** – one of the greatest songwriters to come out of the Pillar Valley.

You wanna shake it, well **Nana Klumpp** are barrelling up the highway from Bonny Hills. Their inspired tunes stray into indie rock, packed with more than a whiff of glorious guitar licks. The Nor'easter's gonna blow your hair back.

Grab your \$30 tickets for the nighttime double act at events.humanitix.com/lite-nor-easter-a-day-and-night-of-music-lennox-head.

But wait...

Claire Anne Taylor is high on the end of her sold out tour for her new album *Giving It Away*. Cue some magic.

Freshly invigorated from popping the big top at Bluesfest, Blues Arcadia will shake the foundations of the **Lennox Cultural Centre**. It's a damn soul celebration – **Lite Nor'Easter on June 15.**



DOUBLE HEADLINE

Headliner **Áine Tyrrell** is on her 'People Like Me and You' tour, a testament to resilience and hope born out of her own remarkable journey from the West Coast of Ireland to the East Coast of Australia. Escaping a decade of domestic violence with her three children, Áine redefined her narrative from victimhood to triumph to find healing and beauty amidst adversity, forging her own path on these red dust roads in her 1966 Bedford Bus.

Now, her latest single aims to create a community focused on prevention through to recovery, spreading a message of resilience and empowerment. From playing at Splendour In The Grass to standing solo on stage, Áine's story inspires us to thrive despite hardships, reminding us that if she can, so can we.

Headliner **Jen Cloher** (Ngāpuhi & Ngāti Kahu) is a songwriter and performer living on unceded Wurundjeri land in Naarm (Melbourne). Cloher's taut, terse brand of rock is charged with the static tension that comes with being an eternal misfit; they have spoken truth to power with the shrewd eye that only an outsider can possess. Admirers have naturally gravitated towards Cloher's incisive, generous songwriting. Over the course of five albums, Cloher has won a J Award and an AIR Award and been nominated for an ARIA and the Australian Music Prize.

I Am The River, The River Is Me, Cloher's fifth album, is verdant and rich; it luxuriates in stillness, and carries itself with cool, unfussy confidence inspired by Cloher's powerful matrilineal line of wāhine Māori, *I Am The River, The River Is Me* is not urgent, or hurried, but it is vital, made with the care and ease of someone who knows that their past began before birth, and will continue long after they're gone.

Catch this show on Saturday from 7pm, at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall. Tickets from humanitix.com: search for Tyrrell & Cloher.

SONGS AND LAUGHS

Darren Sanders and **Daniel Thompson**, known as **The Comedian & The Cowboy**, are set to bring a two-part show that will have audiences clapping and laughing along.

Darren Sanders, with over 30 years of experience in comedy, has performed in various venues worldwide, including pubs, clubs, cruise ships, and corporate events. He has appeared on TV shows such as *In Melbourne Tonight*, *Rove Live* and *The Russell Gilbert Show*. He has also hosted his own *Late Night Chat Show* on the Nine Networks GO Channel and Foxtel. Alongside comedian Garry Who, he won the Antenna Award for Best Comedy Programme for their show *Talking Comics*. As an actor, he has appeared in several Australian dramas and has been praised for his impeccable timing and relaxed style, allowing his jokes to flow naturally with fast-paced delivery.

Daniel Thompson, a multi-award-winning vocalist and tribute artist, has been touring Australia with his tribute to Johnny Cash for the past 15 years. He has performed on various cruises and was invited to perform with *Legends In Concert*, one of the world's most respected tribute shows. Daniel grew up surrounded by music and has a warm and powerful bass-baritone voice. With nearly 30 years as a full-time professional entertainer, he is known for his commanding presence on stage and versatility as a singer and entertainer. Daniel considers himself lucky to be making a living doing what he loves.

Together, Darren Sanders and Daniel Thompson promise a unique blend of comedy and music that will entertain and delight.

The Comedian and The Cowboy are performing on Friday, June 14 at the Byron Theatre. Tickets from byroncentre.com.au.



WINTER WARMER
homelessness relief
Fundraising Cabaret

DharmaCare

Bringing comfort, warmth, and hope to those who need it most.

Performances and Artist Exhibitions

THE SPACE COWBOY | MANDY NOLAN
CC THE CAT | KINSHIP DOOBAI DANCERS
ANDIA CALLY | AUNTY JACKIE

Supporting Charities

FLETCHER ST COTTAGE | FRED'S PLACE | MURWILLUMBAH COMMUNITY CENTRE | POTTSVILLE BEACH NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Thursday 13 June | 6pm - 10pm
@ Fins Plantation House, Duranbah, 2487 | Bundjalung Country
dharmaicare.org.au

Key Sponsors

HAPPY HERB | BALZER | AZTECA MARGARITA | YGGI NECTAR | Mezzanine | CRYSTAL CASTLE

Supporting Partners

TWEED SHIRE COUNCIL | FINS | MALA | CUNNING STUNTS | Vinnies

LENNOX HEAD CULTURAL CENTRE



LITE
nor'easter
DAY & NIGHT OF LIVE MUSIC

★ GATHERING ON BUNDJALUNG LAND ★

LENNOX HEAD
FREE SHOW + TICKETED EVENTS

🌙 SATURDAY 15TH JUNE 🌙

BLUES ARCADIA
CLAIRE ANNE TAYLOR
MOEBIUS WITH SARAH GRANT
NANA KLUMPP - JOE CHRONROY
JOE TERROR - KELLY BROUHAIHA
MANDY HAWKES - JIMMY DOWLING

★ 2024 ★

nor'easter

ballina shire council

Grigoryan Brothers
Amistad



Thursday June 13, 7:30 pm
Byron Theatre
69 JONSON ST, BYRON BAY

Bookings at www.byrontheatre.com.au
Further info: grigoryanbrothers.com/concerts

DECCA AUSTRALIA

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A FUN WINTER WARMER TO RAISE FUNDS

Join Dharma Care for an unforgettable evening at the **Winter Warmer Homelessness Relief Fundraising Cabaret**, where community spirit meets gourmet dining and spectacular performances, all in support of alleviating the homelessness crisis in the Byron and Tweed Shires.

Dharma Care is an Australian charity dedicated to creating life-changing opportunities for the destitute and disadvantaged.

Funds raised will be shared among Dharma Care's four local charity partners and will directly support people experiencing homelessness in Byron and Tweed shires.

Your support will make a significant difference providing meals, safe sleeps, warm winter clothing, toiletries, and new winter-warming sleeping bags.

The fundraising cabaret will feature an eclectic mix of performances and art exhibitions designed to captivate and inspire.

Highlights include: **The Space Cowboy** performing and exhibiting; **MC Mandy Nolan**; live music from **CC the Cat**; **Kinship Doobai Dancers**; and **Andia Cally** with **Aunty Jackie** welcoming us with a heartfelt **Welcome to Country**.



Hosted at the renowned **Fins at Plantation House, Duranbah**, this ensures a culinary experience like no other. Guests will be treated to a sumptuous dinner crafted by top celebrity chef, **Steven 'Snowy' Snow**, featuring locally-sourced ingredients that highlight the best of our regional cuisine. Enjoy gourmet dinner, fine wine and refreshing drinks, making the evening not just a feast for the soul, but also for the palate.

This event is on Thursday, June 13 at 6pm at Fins at Plantation House, Duranbah.

Tickets are limited, secure your place now to be part of this extraordinary evening at: https://bit.ly/Winter_Warmer-TICKETS.



JEN CLOHER & AINE TYRRELL
MULLUM CIVIC HALL
SATURDAY JUNE 8
tickets: jencloher.com/shows

CELEBRATE FRIENDSHIPS AND LOVE AT LISAMORE!

Join the fun on **Sunday, June 16, 2024**, at the **Lismore Friendship Festival's LisAmore!**, a vibrant annual celebration that showcases the rich cultural heritage of the Italian community in our region.

The free, family fun day promises to be a feast for the senses featuring delicious Italian food and beverages, displays of Italian cars and bikes, the popular entertainer **Domenico and his Latin Mafia Band** for toe-tapping good vibes, tarantella dance for young and old led by **Serena Joy**, and fun and games led by **Antonio 'Giri' Mazzella** and his colourful characters all over the parkland.

Kids will have their own very active Kids Space to enjoy outdoor games, colouring, beading and painting activities, giant chess and can take part in both Italian and Bundjalung language lessons.

LightnUp will be there with lanterns to decorate in preparation for the Lismore Lantern Parade the following weekend.

LisAmore! is a gift to the community from the Italian community residing here. It celebrates the positive impact of Italian immigration and seeks to strengthen the friendship city ties Lismore has with Conegliano and Vittorio Veneto in Veneto, northern Italy.

Whether you're dancing with friends, participating in a tug-of-war, enjoying an egg and spoon race, or simply relaxing with family, LisAmore! has something for everyone of all ages and abilities.

Highlights of LisAmore! include: live music and dance with performances by Domenico and the Latin Mafia; learn traditional tarantella dance with Serena Joy; culinary delights, savour authentic Italian food and drinks; a tug-of-war at 1.30pm with Summerland Bank (get your team ready!); kids' activities with games, storytelling, bocce, and arts and crafts; and an exhibition of Italian cars and bikes – marvel at the stunning vehicles on display.

Get ready for an unforgettable experience celebrating Italian culture and community spirit in the heart of the Northern Rivers on Sunday, June 16 from 10am to 3pm with the last dance at the Lismore Turf Club. Parking is \$3.

Note – Please leave pets at home and do not bring food or alcohol onto the premises. Bring your own picnic rug, keepcup, water bottle, dance shoes, and loved ones! No table bookings, just show up. For more details please check out the website at lismorefriendshipfestival.com.au or social media.




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.





SCAN ME



RHODA'S COUSIN

Join creative powerhouse **Rhoda Roberts AO** as she shares tales of her cousin Francis 'Frank' Roberts, whose fights in the boxing ring mirrored his fight for his family and his culture. These are yarns about the places we call home, our shared past, and aspirations for a new tomorrow. *My Cousin Frank* sheds light on the rich history of the Northern Rivers and tells the story of the fighting Roberts family of Lismore and Australia's first Aboriginal Olympian.

Frank Roberts spent his entire life fighting. A boxing champion, he was the first Aboriginal Olympian, and respected for his contribution to the 'sweet science' in Australia. Outside the ring they called him 'Honest Frank' – he fought tirelessly for his family and culture.

Rhoda Roberts AO takes to the stage in August for an evening of personal storytelling as she shares tales of her first cousin Frank, a Widjabul Wia-bal and Githabul man from Cubawee (a self-managed Aboriginal settlement), and the irrepressible Roberts family of Lismore.

Directed by Kirk Page, Rhoda brings the fighting spirit of Frank and her mob to life on: Saturday, August 24 at 2pm and 7.30pm at the Star Court Theatre, Lismore; Saturday, August 30 at 2pm and 7.30pm and Sunday, August 31 at 7.30pm at the Byron Theatre, Byron Bay.

Tickets on sale now: www.norpa.org.au.



LIVING LA VIDA MAHICO!

This Saturday, the **Mahico Festival** takes over The Green Room at Tyagarah's **Byron Events Farm** and the Latin American vibes will have you warm to your soul from 2pm.

Mahico co-founder and festival director, Jordan Deck, a.k.a Xuja, is also a Mahico resident DJ and all-round very busy man – Xuja's soundscape is an immersive eclectic musical journey from emotive to uplifting world music beats and melodies of deep connection.

Drawing inspiration from different cultures that have shaped and inspired him, his unique style can be best described as a mindful, multi-ethnic collage of sounds mixing traditional rhythms from around the world: from Afro-Latin beats, Brazilian bossa, folk, African jazz to Balkanic beats layered with electronic sounds.

Xuja's vision of Mahico is to share the values of the community of Latin American culture in Australia.

As Elvis Costello once said – 'Writing about music is like dancing about architecture' so the best way to understand Xuja's sound is to experience it.

Seven spoke to Xuja on the weekend before the big prep week begins.

Xuja, what is great about Mahico that people might not know?

Well, Mahico as we know it today was actually an accident. A GREAT accident. Mahico was originally a business that imported textiles and art from Mexico. We had an opening party at our store in Brunswick Heads and, well, that party turned into a Latin street party with 300 plus people. We decided after this event that Mahico should be a multi-faceted business with events being a primary focus.

What is the highlight for you this time around?

In addition to running the festival, Mahico also runs a touring agency and we have been working hard behind the scenes to bring two of the godfathers of folktronic music Chancha Via Circuito And Barrio Lindo to Australia all the way from Argentina. I really can't wait to see these two perform at The Green Room.

Is this as much a cultural experience as a musical one?

Absolutely! Mahico is a world music festival that celebrates culture from around the globe. You can expect artists from all parts of the world, a delectable food market and a curated bar celebrating the best of Northern Rivers producers.

Xuja – how many Margaritas are too many?

Margaritas are in abundance at Mahico, so let's not put any numbers on this – we can judge from the level of good vibes and ecstatic musical moments!

Saturday from 2pm at The Green Room. For tickets and info
www.moshtix.com.au

BYRON THEATRE

feelin' groovy

BYRON THEATRE 05 JULY 7:30

NICKI PARROTT

AND HER NORTHERN RIVERS BAND

STEVE RUSSELL PIANO MARTHA BAARTZ SAX/FLUTE DAVE SANDERS DRUMS
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS MAL WOOD TRUMPET SHANE HANNAN TROMBONE

ARBORS RECORDS CD RELEASE PARTY!
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW AT BYRONTHEATRE.COM

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



THE GHOST IN THE GUITAR

Singer-songwriter, **CB Ghost**, and his Martin & Co acoustic/electric guitar are ready to make waves in the music scene with the recent release of his debut single, 'Hollywood Hills' along with the music video directed by and starring award-winning Australian actor and short filmmaker, **Ben Corlett**.

The enigmatic artist and former pro surfer steps out of his former rock singer role in the band 4Bolt to showcase his eclectic acoustic originals, with his full album *Mayhemic* slated for release on the Foghorn label distributed by MGM later in 2024.

CB's unique singing style on 'Hollywood Hills', described by Sticky Fingers keyboardist Daniel 'Crabs' Neurath as having 'some cool Shirley Strachan from Skyhooks vibes...' may be in juxtaposition to the musical vibe some liken to early Jack Johnson, but for CB it's Crabs take that's humbled him, 'Shirley was a legendary Aussie frontman gone too soon.'

CB Ghost is playing live on his upcoming gig with **Pinky Ring** – a band that brings hope to the regularness of life. Infectious stage energy with lyrics that cut through to the bone. The songs they have released so far have been praised worldwide and their live shows plug energy into art.

The two poetic lyricists and toe-tapping songwriters team up for the Double Dose Tour Extended following on from their recent north coast tour, where they played at venues such as: Mo's Desert Club House, Gold Coast; Jacko's Bar, Yamba; and Flow Bar, Old Bar.

Check out CB Ghost and Pinky Ring on Saturday from 7pm at The Rails.

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**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- 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**

THURSDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **KALAKARI + THE HIGH ROLLERS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCOR**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **SECRET BRIDESMAIDS' BUSINESS**
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **LACHLAN JACQUES**
- STAR COURT THEATRE, LISMORE, 6PM **LABORATORY OF LIGHT – FAMILIES SHOW**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM **FAR NORTH COAST DANCE FESTIVAL**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **BOOM CRASH OPERA**

FRIDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SUPERCHEEZE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **SIX60 + DJ THE 4'20' SOUND**
- BYRON THEATRE 4.30PM **TEENY TINY STEVIES**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**, 9PM **SIMON VUARAMBON**, 10PM **ASH KING**, 11PM **SMOKE STACK RHINO**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 5PM **PETE MURRAY + KYLE LIONHART + ALLY PALMER**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN 7.30PM **KARAOKE – ALL WHITE DISCO**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ SALVE JORGE**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **SECRET BRIDESMAIDS' BUSINESS**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **SAM BUCKLEY**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8.30PM **BULLETPROOF**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **TURTLE BOY**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **DJ MAGNUS**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 7PM **UNCLE BOB TRIO**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **PHIL GUEST**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **ADAM BROWN**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE ANIMALS — THE FAREWELL TOUR**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **ROSE TATTOO & THE POOR**

SATURDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **GB GHOST AND PINKY RING**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **GUSTAVO DOMINGUEZ**, 10PM **KANE MUIR**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **POLY & CO**
- THE GREEN ROOM, BYRON, 2PM **MAHICO FESTIVAL**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **THE DIRTY CHANNEL**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **420 SOUND PARTY**

- MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL 7PM **ÁINE TYRRELL AND JEN CLOHER**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7.30PM **THE ONE 2 MANY BAND**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **SECRET BRIDESMAIDS' BUSINESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **GLENN MASSEY & THE THREAD**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE BAND**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **LEA MAY**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **THE HOOCHERS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MARTIN WAY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **ROCKIN' RON**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **PHIL BURTON**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 6PM **WILL GIBB**

SUNDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PHIL & TILLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 9PM **PEACH FUR + DICE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KATIE WHITE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **THE VERSACE BOYS**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ ABEL TORO**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **SECRET BRIDESMAIDS' BUSINESS**
- TINTENBAR HALL 3.30PM **MISH SONGSMITH + BRONNY AND THE BISHOPS**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **CATH SIMES BAND**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT. JAMIE ASHFORTH BAND**

- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SHAW'S BAY SUNDAY SESSIONS FT PISTOL WHIP**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **THE LONESOME BOATMAN**
- FEDERAL HOTEL, ALSTONVILLE, 4PM **SUGAR FT. DJS KATE MONROE, GI JODE AND DALE STEPHEN**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 2PM **POLARIDE**
- RIVERVIEW HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 4PM **COASTAL ROAD TRIO**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **SARAH GRANT**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 3PM **JOE CAMILLERI & THE BLACK SORROWS**
- DUNOON SPORTS CLUB 4PM **OPEN MIC 'PLUCKERS AND POETS'**

MONDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS FISHER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE + MARK USHER**

TUESDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **YAZMINDI**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **ISSI DYE & THE LEGENDS OF ROCK 'N' ROLL**

WEDNESDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **NT LIVE: NYE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX BOWEN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

Session Times

Thurs, June 6 – Wed, June 12

PALACE CINEMAS

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	ALL FILMS	Mon: 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 7:15PM
IN RESTLESS DREAMS: THE MUSIC OF PAUL SIMON (PG) Sat, Mon: 1:00PM, Sun: 10:45AM	BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE (MATS-1) NFT Daily: 11:10AM, 1:50PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM	THE TASTE OF THINGS (PG) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:15AM, Fri, Sat: 11:15AM, 7:00PM
THE EXORCISM (MATS-1) ADVANCE SCREENING Wed: 6:50PM	CHALLENGERS (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:00PM, Fri, Sat: 4:00PM, 8:20PM	THE THREE MUSKETEERS: D'ARTAGNAN (M) Thurs, Sun, Tues, Wed: 4:15PM, 6:50PM, Fri: 4:15PM, 8:30PM, Sat: 5:00PM, 8:30PM, Mon: 5:00PM, 7:30PM
THE THREE MUSKETEERS DOUBLE FEATURE (M) Sun: 2:00PM	FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA (MATS-1) NFT Daily: 11:15AM, 3:30PM, 6:30PM	THE THREE MUSKETEERS: MILADY (M) NFT Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, Fri, Sat: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM, Sun: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM
FAMILY FILMS	HIGH & LOW - JOHN GALLIANO (M) Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:15AM, 6:50PM, Sun: 10:45AM, 6:50PM, Wed: 11:15AM	THE WATCHERS (M) NFT Daily except Sun: 10:45AM, 2:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM, Sun: 11:15AM, 2:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM
IF (PG) Thurs, Fri, Tues, Wed: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 4:30PM, Sat: 10:45AM, 1:30PM, 4:30PM, Sun: 10:45AM, 5:00PM, Mon: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 4:30PM	KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (M) Thurs, Sun: 1:15PM, Fri: 1:15PM, 6:50PM, Daily except Sun: 11:00AM, 1:15PM, 2:15PM, 5:00PM, Sun: 11:00AM, 1:15PM, 2:45PM, 5:00PM	THE WAY, MY WAY (PG) Daily except Sun: 10:50AM, 1:45PM, Sun: 10:50AM, 6:20PM

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

Session Times

Thurs, June 6 – Wed, June 12

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE (MATS-1) NFT Daily except Sun: 12:10PM, 2:45PM, 7:30PM, Sun: 12:10PM, 7:30PM	THE GARFIELD MOVIE (M) NFT Daily except Sun: 10:00AM, 12:30PM, 5:00PM, Sun: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 5:20PM	To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!
FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA (MATS-1) NFT Daily except Sun: 1:00PM, 7:00PM, Sun: 2:30PM, 7:00PM	THE THREE MUSKETEERS DOUBLE FEATURE (M) Sun: 2:00PM	
IF (PG) Daily except Sun: 10:15AM, Sun: 10:10AM	THE THREE MUSKETEERS: MILADY (M) NFT Daily except Sun: 10:30AM, 7:15PM, Sun: 10:45AM, 7:30PM	SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE
KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES (M) Daily except Sun: 4:00PM	THE WATCHERS (M) NFT Daily except Sun: 2:40PM, 5:15PM, Sun: 2:45PM, 5:15PM	

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Books Will Save You



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX



There is no greater joy for a parent than seeing your child read a book. My girl reads. My job is done.

No matter what happens, I know she has a place to go. That she has found the magic of her imagination. That she can enter new worlds without the aid of any tech. That words have found her. She has found her inner voice, and in doing so tapped into the voice of others. Deep, long, vast knowledge. Stories can save us. I am a true believer.

I don't go to church. I go to the library. It is my reverent space.

I'm watching my youngest slumped on the couch. She has never been an overly academic kid. In fact it took her years to find reading. She used to complain she couldn't get past the first page. But something changed. And now it's part of her.

She doesn't read for homework. And she isn't reading books from the school curriculum. She's on her own reading adventure. She tells me she wants to read the classics. It actually makes me cry. To myself of course. It tells me that she is going to be ok. She has found home. The place I found at her age. The place that taught me about myself. About other places. About culture. About love. About growing up. About dying. About joy. About conflict and suffering and most importantly about forgiveness. Books taught me how to think. They taught me about my own story. They showed me how to care for people I don't understand. They made me a better person.

There was this beautiful moment between us when I gave her the first book that changed me. I was 13 when I read *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the Harper Lee book about racial prejudice and social justice. I was growing up in a town that felt like it could have been in the deep south, with an Aboriginal sister who I witnessed experience the most terrible racism. Even though the book was set in another country, I understood it. It helped me make sense of what I saw. Of my part in

She tells me she wants to read the classics. It actually makes me cry. To myself of course. It tells me that she is going to be ok. She has found home.

it. It started a conversation that I had never previously had, and that frankly, I haven't stopped having.

She read that. We had conversations about what happened. I was blown away by her observations. I recalled the note she left as a little girl of 6 or 7 on her door that told people that 'this was Aboriginal land and if they didn't agree they weren't welcome in her room.' I love that note.

I wondered if she'd enjoy *The Great Gatsby*. I didn't read that until I was studying literature at university, and it haunted me. The deep themes of illusory happiness and the perfect capture of the shallow 'American Dream' is weirdly resonant for where we are culturally at now. The dark narrative that lies beyond the beautiful image. It reminds me of everything unsaid on Instagram. She read *Gatsby* too. And she got it. It occurred to me that I could do some amazing parenting just by passing a book.

Yesterday I found her finishing the last pages of *The Catcher in The Rye*, the 1945 Salinger classic, about a teenager struggling to come to terms with the complexities of growing up amidst the inauthenticity and double standards of the adult world. She's 15 in 2024. That book was written almost 80 years ago. The themes are weirdly unchanged. We are all still navigating a deeply inauthentic adult world, one that seems to become more inauthentic with every passing moment. A world where truth is becoming harder to isolate and identify. Where artificial intelligence means that one day truth may even cease to exist. Where lines will blur, where one day we will inhabit a world built on the bias of our own curation.

As I watch her read I think, books. Story. Maybe this is the place where truth will always live. Somewhere AI can't touch. Where understanding requires compassion and self-examination. Where broader themes compel you to examine the drivers that create the prejudice and pain in the world where you live.

So, the secret to the meaning of life?

Books.

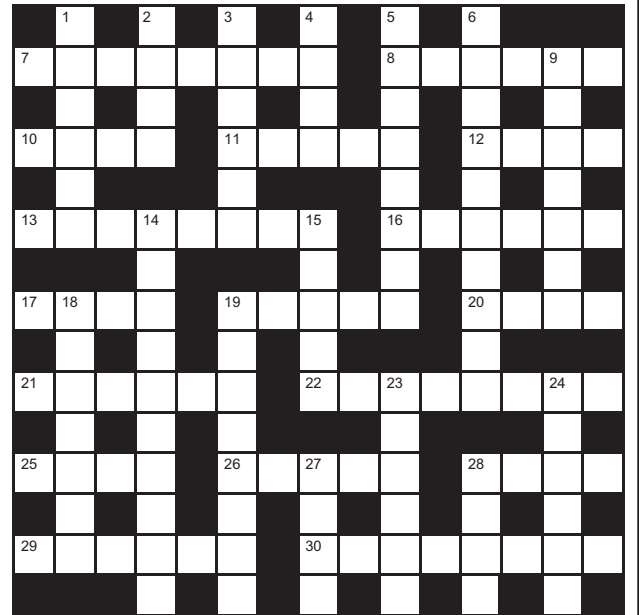
Stories.

It's just like being there.

Forget AI, books will set you free.

Crossword by Stephen Clarke

#6



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Very powerful, if diffused, May light (8)
- Little tame thing with no tail (6)
- Spanish friends turn out for English novelist (4)
- Split caught political progressives (5)
- A smoother metal? (4)
- Record at pub cleaner than at first (3,5)
- Spies sent back letters for a charge (6)
- Economise indefinitely with Lite? (4)
- Measurement of tree is out by a mile (5)
- King starts to interrogate European visa-holders in city (4)
- Bit player John shows spirit (6)
- No charms disturbed emperors? (8)
- Bond takes Chinese way back to hotel (4)
- Traitor traps seaman in North African capital (5)
- Ridge is same, but different (4)
- Bitter alcohol is rejected, including wine (6)
- Worn out and surrounded by turtles? You need beer (5,3)

DOWN

- Old girl one carved out of valuable ores (6)
- Excavations reveal dwelling-places (4)
- Stuffed bird contains hot core of fat (6)
- Audible impudence of dangerous alter ego (4)
- Old fighter tips up sack (8)
- Game and pork pies splattered all over this restaurant's starters (5,5)
- On reflection, shoe is too tight to accommodate toe (7)
- Biker in unconscious state associated with nitrogen, carbon and lead (10)
- Cat circling tree not about to become a cult object (5)
- Smart-arse uttered denial at the lot (4-3)
- Steep charge placed on spice (8)
- Crazy guy, Hazel maybe, getting a gig (6)
- Plague ship comes in in good shape (6)
- Baby has nothing that might be a sign of illness (4)
- German novelist pushes old queen out of way (4)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Of which nothing is more potent (8)
- Delicate (6)
- Author of *The Zone of Interest* (4)
- Cloven (5)
- Press (4)
- Graph composed of rectangular blocks of varying height (3,5)
- Tax, especially on imports (6)
- Read with selective attention (4)
- Musical time (5)
- Alternative transliteration for Ukrainian capital (4)
- High quality French brandy (6)
- Kubla Khan, Louis XVI, Vladimir Putin, etc (8)
- Formal pledge of loyalty (4)
- Capital city of Morocco (5)
- Flat-topped hill with steep sides (4)
- Deep red (6)
- Dark-coloured mild brewed beverage (5,3)

DOWN

- A graduate (6)
- Understands; appreciates (4)
- Full (colloquial) (6)
- Murderous character in a Gothic novella of the 19th century (4)
- WW2 warplane (8)
- A card game sometimes played among good friends (5,5)
- A digit (7)
- Member of a motorcycle club (10)
- An object or natural phenomenon symbolising a family or tribe (5)
- A wise guy (4-3)
- Soften or break down by soaking (8)
- A mentally disturbed individual (6)
- Bother, inconvenience (6)
- Inflammation with possible swelling, often in the armpit or groin (4)
- Author of *Buddenbrooks* (4)

Last week's solution #5



STARS BY LILITH

The cosmic quintet of Jupiter, Mercury, Venus, the sun and new moon in outspoken Gemini make this one of the busiest, buzziest weeks of the year....



GEMINI THE TWINS

ARIES: If Mars has had you somewhat tunnel-visioned lately, this week opens a dizzying array of options. But its furious brainstorming calls for the mandatory balance of downtime: exercise or massage to refresh the body, mental relaxation, the spiritual rejuvenation of nature in your garden, a park, the bush or beach.

TAURUS: Follow your curiosity this week, which is all about communication: the way you speak to yourself, what you say and how you use your voice with others. The new moon could bring exciting invitations, intriguing news or possible offers, so stay flexible and open to exploring something different.

GEMINI: A new moon in your sign only happens once a year, and it's your invitation to reinvent yourself. With five planets in Gemini, ideas will be effervescing like a flock of butterflies, but keep it simple. Less is more. Avoid over-promising, or telling people what they want to hear.

CANCER: Quicksilver new moon in the sign of the scintillating twins on June 6 could spark some delicious synchronicities and unexpected connections. Since Gemini rules local relationships close to home, this week could rekindle a fresh chapter of events with a sibling, neighbour or co-worker.

LEO: The new moon in your personal sector of allies and future plans rewards collaborative efforts working together for a common goal this week. With chatterbox Mercury in talkative mode passing the mic, it's worthwhile taking advantage of this media-savvy transit to promote your current projects.

VIRGO: Your planet mentor Mercury's scintillating meet-up with expansive Jupiter in the sign of ideas makes for communication magic, connecting you this week with a wider reach. Though naturally this flurry of new options and possibilities will require further research, thorough scrutiny and practical assessment.

LIBRA: Vivacious Venus joining four other planets in a fellow air sign is at her most entertaining and eloquent this week, which stimulates a host of silver-tongued charmers with exciting ideas, intriguing propositions and unexpected offers. Enjoy the buzz, but don't believe everything you hear and read.

SCORPIO: Even Scorpios are likely to be more talkative this week, which is one of the year's most voluble – though good luck trying to wrestle the general convo away from small talk, gossip and chit-chat into deep and meaningful. The silver lining? It could galvanise you into taking overdue action.

SAGITTARIUS: Both Mercury and Gemini influence transportation and technology, and this week's conditions for electronics shopping or anything to do with mobility are particularly auspicious. It's also a favorable time to look for travel deals and book holidays – but keep receipts and records just in case.

CAPRICORN: Leave transmit-only syndrome to others this week, and for best results, listen as much as you speak and keep communication succinct – though you'll probably have trouble getting a word in anyway. Your guardian planet Saturn's advice? Assume nothing, take nothing for granted, check everything.

AQUARIUS: Your kind of week Aquarians: lots of interaction and exchange with like-minded others. Celestial energy in your sector of pleasure and creative play brings an uplifting wave of optimism, and the new moon activates a reset of your important connections, with a possible clarification of recent misunderstandings.

PISCES: With five planets in the sign of twice as much, if any week of the year was likely to induce cerebral overload, it's this one. Should too much incoming information become a headache, you can probably learn more by paying attention to peoples' body language than listening to what they say.

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4 COACHWOOD COURT, FEDERAL



Price Guide: \$1,650,000 3 1 1 1825m²
Open: Sat 8 June 10:45am-11:15am

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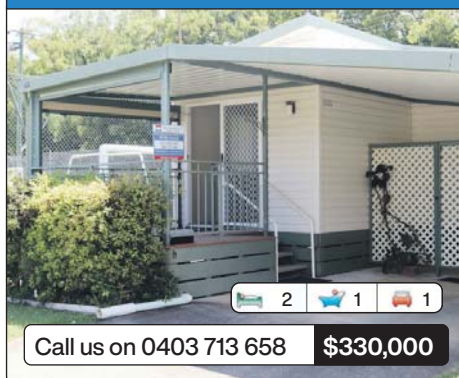


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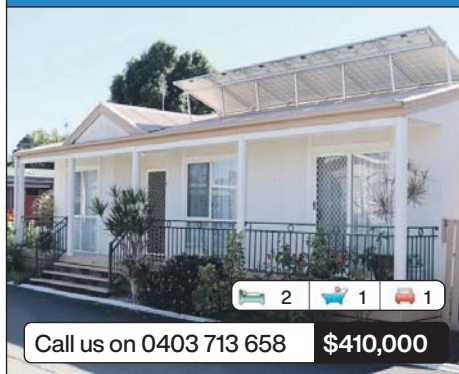
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Mural by Matt 'Adnate' Last, current winner of the Archibald Packers Prize

13 CORAL COURT, BYRON BAY



Stunning Family Home - Adjoining Beach Reserve

4 beds 2 living 4 bath 3 car 612M²

- High ceilings, oak floorboards, large windows and sliding doors showcasing the bush outlook
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- Built as a "healthy house" with low to no VOC
- Located in a quiet cul-de-sac, with direct access to the beach track to Tallow Beach

PRICE | \$4.25M - \$4.5M
OPEN | Sat 8th June 10 - 10:30am



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Renee Schofield
0400 028 594

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OPEN | Thurs 6th June 2 - 2:30pm



Denzil Lloyd
0481 864 049



Maggie Kelly
0416 013 788

1 DRIFTWOOD AVENUE, BYRON BAY



Spacious Home with Pool, Ideally Positioned for Easy Living

4 beds 2 living 2 bath 6 car 745M²

- Spacious, versatile home with 2 living spaces
- Covered deck overlooking lagoon-style pool
- All bedrooms include built-in wardrobes, additionally the main bedroom features an ensuite
- Walking distance to the beach and a short drive to the center of Byron

PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Sat 8th June 12 - 12:30pm



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649

58 BUTLER STREET, BYRON BAY



Circa 1900's Original Byron Beach House with Plunge Pool and Rear Lane Access

5 beds 3 living 3 bath 1 car 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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OPEN | Sat 8th June 9 - 9:30am



Tara Torkkola
0423 519 698



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 4/45 Lawson Street, Byron Bay **\$5,250,000**
 5/111 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow **\$4,720,000**
 20 Burns Street, Byron Bay **\$4,000,000**
 8/174 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow **\$3,060,000**
 51 Cowper Street, Byron Bay **\$2,950,000**

45 Childe Street, Byron Bay **\$2,700,000**
 18 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park **\$2,400,000**
 5 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park **\$2,350,000**
 58A Paterson Street, Byron Bay **\$2,300,000**
 37 Coogera Circuit, Suffolk Park **\$2,250,000**
 6 Mott Street, Byron Bay **\$1,900,000**
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SUN & MON JUNE 9, 10
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\$6,400. 0415 340 744

PUBLIC NOTICES

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



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

Contact Sylvia - Volunteer Coordinator
Mon-Fri

6684 1286

Proposed Road Disposal Section 152D Roads Act 1993

In accordance with section 152D of the Roads Act 1993, notice is hereby given of the proposed sale of the Crown public roads listed in Schedule 1. If a sale proceeds, the road(s) will cease to be a public road upon transfer of the road to freehold land in accordance with section 152H of the Act.

Schedule 1:

- Crown roads at Haystack, within the property addressed 471 Haystack Road and Lot 102 DP1298849. (File Ref: 24/03599, Cluster: 645939)

All interested persons are hereby invited to make submissions concerning the proposal to Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure - Crown Lands, PO Box 2215, DANGAR NSW 2309 within twenty-eight (28) days of the date of this advertisement.

Any person is entitled to make submissions with respect to the sale or disposal of the road. Please note that submissions may be referred to third parties (such as council or the applicant) for consideration in accordance with the Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009.

For the Manager, Business Centre Newcastle

For further enquiries please visit the website roads.crownland.nsw.gov.au or contact Cassandra Hewat by email at cassandra.hewat@crownland.nsw.gov.au or on (02) 6640 3948 quoting file references above.

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FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- Sausage sizzle • Hot dogs • Sandwiches
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EVERYONE WELCOME

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

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall



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

AGMs

BANGALOW A&I HALL AGM
12 June 2024, 5pm at 10 Gumtree Place, Bangalow. All welcome.
Enq 0418781576

PROF. SERVICES

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SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.

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Mullumbimby

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0413 003 301

crystalsanddreaming.com.au

2 days of Osho's Meditations Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th June

8a.m. Silent Dynamic Meditation

10a.m. Osho discourse

12m.d Osho Nataraj dancing meditation

2p.m Nadabrahma humming meditation

4p.m. Osho Kundalini shaking meditation

6p.m. Osho Evening meditation

Sunday no Dynami

M Osho Satsang 9a.m.

All welcome

Call Shahido 6688 2494

OFFICE FOR LEASE BYRON BAY ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE

- Lovely quiet first floor office available for lease 1st August
- 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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- Electricity included

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enquiry@creativeroad.com.au

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SALES/FACTORY DUTIES
For busy organic skincare & makeup co.
1 day plus 2 x monthly markets.
Bring resume in person to Wild Nature, 86
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SEEKING mature woman to support new-
baby family in Bangalow. 4 hours p/w,
\$25p/h neg. 0404081646

LADIES WANTED, MUST BE 18+ Work
available in busy adult parlour. Travellers
welcome. 66816038 for details.

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED
Flexible work hours - perfect 2nd income
Email operations@byronbaytaxi.com

DEATH NOTICES

Hugh Webster

Formerly of Lennox Head and
Byron Bay, died peacefully on
Sunday 12th of May at Feros Care
Residential Village, Wommin Bay.

Hugh was cremated without
ceremony but his family would
like to get in touch with his friends
with a view to gathering all those
available for a celebration some
time in the future.

If you would like to join us,
please contact Hugh's nephew,
Michael Fox at
michael.biodiversity@hotmail.com
0410 413 080

SOCIAL ESCORTS

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

ONLY ADULTS

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34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late.
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Large variety of toys and lingerie
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Competitive pay rates.
Please send resume to
wendy.keel@sctlogistics.com.au or
during office hours 0409 568 795

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Lois Buckett Real Estate is looking
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join our boutique, independently
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Must have a genuine interest in
people and property, a strong
work ethic and familiarity with the
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Contact Lois Buckett today for a
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0428 877 399 or email Lois:
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Call Tina on 0400 015 939

FUNERAL NOTICES

In loving memory of Rita McKenzie
27.4.1930 - 25.4.2024
Much loved mother, nana,
great nana and friend.
Friends of Rita are warmly invited
to join the family in celebrating
Rita's life at Byron Bay Uniting
Church on Sunday, 9 June, at
9.30 am. Followed by morning tea.

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TO US**
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**30 YEARS OLD
FOR THE 8TH YEAR
IN A ROW NOW.**
McGuiness
Funerals
Murwillumbah (02) 6672 2144

PETS


PIXIE
Pixie was pregnant when she came into
our care. She's now had her kittens
and they've all found homes. Pixie
is a beautiful blue-grey Siamese x with
green eyes and high energy - playful
and affectionate. Never a dull moment
with this one! She doesn't like other
cats though so needs to be the only
one. She's about 16 months old.
**All cats are desexed,
vaccinated and
microchipped.**
No:900164002258566 
Please make an appointment
0403 533 589 • Billinudgel
petsforlifeanimalshelter.net

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

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

PSY
Psy is a
delightful
boy, with
the sweetest
nature. He has
an amazing
display of long
whiskers which he'd love to show
you! He loves affection & is looking
for a family who will give him warm
cuddles on these cold nights.
**To meet Psy, please visit the Cat
Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley
Street, Mullumbimby.**
**OPEN: Tues 2.30-5.30pm,
Thurs 3-5pm / Sat 10am-12 noon**
Call AWL on 0436 845 542

Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R251000222 

EDEN

Eden is a 4 month old, English Staffy/Bull Arab X.
Eden and her siblings were surrendered to FOP as
an unwanted litter. This little girl loves a cuddle and
can't wait to find a loving family of her own.
#99100300244235
Location: Murwillumbah
For more information contact
Yvette on 0421 831 128.
Interested? Please complete our online adoption
expression of interest.
friendsofthepound.com/adoption-
expression-of-interest/
Visit friendsofthepound.com to
view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
ABN 83 126 970 338

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 Durambah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)	
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338	Each SAT Uki 8am-1pm	02 6679 5438
4th SAT Evans Head	0432 275 765	Each SAT Lismore 8.30-11am	
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar kyoglebazaar.com.au		Each SAT Wadeville 8.30am-12pm	
4th SUN Bangalow	02 6687 1911	Each SAT Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr	
4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764	Each SUN Ballina 7-11am	
4th SUN Murwillumbah	0415 328 672		
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.

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

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 development
and infrastructure matters that
will benefit from constructive
community feedback.

AIR

The next meeting of Australian
Independent Retirees (AIR) will be
held Friday, 7 June at Ballina RSL
Club, 1 Grant St, Ballina. Fellowship
will commence at 9.30am, ready for
the meeting to commence at 10am.
Our meeting will be conducted at
the eastern end of the Boardwalk
Cafe. All enquires to Secretary, Bob
Taylor on 0421 972 192.

Mullumbimby CWA

New members are always welcome
at the monthly meeting of
Mullumbimby CWA. Come to the
CWA Rooms on June 12 for 10am
start. Bring a plate for a light lunch
afterwards. The country of study is
France, and we are also interested in
agriculture and the environment,
cultural events, cooking, painting
and handicraft. CWA lobbies the
various levels of government for
improvements to our way of life.
Thanks to all who supported our
Biggest Morning Tea recently for
the Cancer Council. Info: Secretary,
Jenny Barlow 6684 7282.

Prostate cancer support

The next meeting of the Northern
Rivers Day Prostate Cancer Support
Group is to be held on Wednesday,
12 June at 10am until 12 noon at
the Alstonville Plateau Sports Club,
Deegan Drive, Alstonville. Men
previously and newly diagnosed
with prostate cancer are urged to
join with the group to experience
the personal cancer stories told
which give a great opportunity
for all present to share, learn and
benefit from each other. Partners
and carers are welcome to attend.
Enquiries Bob Corney 0493 075 612.

Tough Guys book club

The Tough Guys book club for the
thinking man. You don't need to be
tough. Meets at Ballina Sports Club,
7pm on the first Wednesday of every
month. Completely free: [https://
www.toughguybookclub.com/](https://www.toughguybookclub.com/).

BV VIEW


The Brunswick Valley VIEW Club
will next meeting on 13 June at
the Brunswick Bowling Club. The
meeting will start at 10.30am. Send
apologies to Wenda on 0449 563 580
or email: wjhunt@yahoo.com.au.

Bruns crafty women

The CWA Brunswick Heads crafty
women meet each Friday between
10am and 2pm, corner of Park and
Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads.
Join us for a chat, a cuppa and bring
along your craft projects including
sewing, knitting, crocheting,
memory books or quilting. Women
are always welcome, please bring
a gold coin donation. If you would
like more information please
email: brunscwa@gmail.com. Our
members meeting takes place the
first Friday of the month at 9am.

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (JUNE)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
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 2216 1.72	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 23:58	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	1:19 1:46	0414 1.28 1727 1.48	1030 0.46 2337 0.69
18	TU	6:37 16:56	1:49 2:41	0506 1.25 1810 1.58	1108 0.42
19	W	6:37 16:57	2:25 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. 

EMERGENCY NUMBERS Please stick this by your phone

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE	000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay	131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads	6629 7510
Mullumbimby	6629 7570
Byron Bay	6685 9499
Bangalow	6629 7500
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding... 132 500	
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue.....	6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER.....	6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL.....	6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS.....	6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby)	6684 1286
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line.....	1800 656 463
LIFELINE	131 114
MENSLINE.....	1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours	1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics	1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily	6680 7280
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE.....	6687 2520
HIV/AIDS - ACON Confidential testing & information	6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS).....	6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS.....	6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE	6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service... 6628 1898	

Rugby league in Ballina and Mullumbimby this Thursday night for catch-up rounds

The Mullumbimby Giants have collected another win in A grade after beating the Lower Clarence Magpies 36-30 at home last Sunday.

Mullum's top side got off to a good start and were dominant in the first half leading 30-12, but were pressured in the second half when the Magpies put on 18 points to six.

The win was a relief for the home crowd as the visitors had the results across the three other grades.

The Magpies just muscled reserve grade out of the win with a 24-22 victory, while in the U/18s the Giants went down 26-8, and in women's touch lost 46-6.

The win leaves Mullum mid-table, while Lower Clarence is yet to record a win for 2024.

The good news for fans is that the Giants will have another run at home this Thursday night (June 6) when they play a catch-up round, due to an early season wash-out, against Evans Head.

The clubhouse will open at Les Donnelly Field from



Mullumbimby's Soane Foleumoeloa Fehoko takes on the Magpies at home last Sunday. Photo: Sarah Archibald

3pm with reserves kicking off at 6.30pm, followed by A grade at 7.45pm.

Ballina Seagulls

Ballina A grade have been having a good season as well, and endured their first loss of the season when they were beaten by Northern United last Sunday 30-12, playing at home.

Reserve grade got up for a win (22-14), as did the U/18s

(30-10).

A grade will have the opportunity to bounce back when they also play a catch-up round this Thursday night at Kingsford Smith Park.

The women's touch and U/18s are on the outside field while reserves and A grade will be inside. All the action from 6.30pm.

Northern United

Lismore's Northern

United are also hosting long-weekend league with three games scheduled against Cudgen at Crozier Oval this Saturday, June 8.

U/18s get play underway at 12pm with reserves kicking off at 1.15pm, followed by A grade at 2.45pm.

Red Devils

Byron Bay had another good day in the NRRRL when they travelled to Casino and won all three grades while the women's touch team enjoyed a bye.

A grade took the win 24-16, while reserves put on 42 points to 16 and the U/18s set the standard with a comfortable 30-0 win.

The Red Devils sit on top of the table in the top two grades, and the U/18s sit in second place, having conceded the senior men's squads only loss of the season.

Byron Bay do not play this weekend.

Their next game is at Red Devil Park on Sunday, June 15, against Marist Brothers, who are fifth on the ladder.

Byron Bay Tri Club claim fourth series win with undefeated season



Local triathletes were in Forster collecting championship trophies for 2023 and 2024. Photo supplied

A small contingent of ten members from the Byron Bay Tri Club attended the NSW Club championships for the final leg of the North Coast Interclub League for the season that is worth double points.

Byron Bay had won all previous races in 2024 and made no mistakes after travelling down to Forster, NSW for the event.

'We triumphed,' said the club's spokeswoman Deb Fuller. 'We won all seven races of the season, leading

Coffs Harbour by an impressive 47.5 points. Following Coffs were Yamba, Hat Head, Ballina, Grafton, Port Macquarie and Tweed triathlon clubs.

'The club's total score of 198 points is the highest ever achieved by our club since the series began six years ago. It's our fourth win of the series,' she said.

'This success reflects the tremendous effort and commitment of our members and showcases the exceptional talent in our area.'

Ballina Bombers on top and gaining altitude in senior women's AFL

The Ballina Bombers women's senior AFL team posted another win last Saturday as they continue their undefeated run in the Queensland Football Association's division two (south).

Playing away against one of the competition's second placed sides, the Bombers were able to post an assured 4.4.28-1.1.7 victory.

'It was a very fiery and heated game. Palm Beach Currumbin are rough opponents. But we stood strong and ran over the top of

them,' Bombers captain Ellie McFadden said.

The Bombers are now on 28 competition points and pulling away from the rest of the pack, where the next three best teams are all on 20 points.

The side faced another big challenge last month when they had a top-of-the-table clash with Burleigh and came away with the points.

'Lightning struck in the last quarter and the game was stopped. But we were ahead the whole game so we

were awarded the win,' she said.

Ellie is confident the side can go all the way this year after losing last year's grand final.

'We are ready to go again,' she said. 'A few key players are back and in Abe Gibson, we have a really good coach.'

After Saturday's game Kaia Shearer was named player's player, and the coaches award went to Eliza O'Toole. Ellie was named best on ground.

The side has a bye this

weekend before taking on Pacific Pines at Fripp Oval at 4.45pm on Saturday, June 15.

Magpies

The Byron Bay Magpies women's side collected their second win of the season last Saturday beating Jimboomba 5.6.36-0.7.7 playing at home on Cavanbah Oval.

Jada Lampard (2), captain Lillian Hutchins (1) and Maddy Jensen (2) all scored goals in the win against the competition's wooden spooners.



Bombers on the charge: Ballina's senior AFL side is setting the pace in local women's AFL. Photo supplied

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- Chemical-free cleaning with just cold water
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3/5 Clark Street, Ballina
6686 3855

So far, only sitting councillors are contesting the September local government election (with new candidates) – see pages 7, 11 and 12. Does the current lack of choice mean that the community thinks they are doing a swell job, or does no one want to get involved? In previous years, there was generally plenty of choice – let's hope there is by election day.

Crikey reports that a new report from the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) reveals 'commercial networks are now spending a whopping \$0 on children's drama. It's part of an overall radical shift away from making kids' TV, and was made possible by then-communications minister Paul Fletcher's dumping of children's content requirements in 2021'.

Vale Di Hart and Ian Walsh, who both recently shuffled off this mortal coil.

Remember when ABC management backed their journos? Laura Tingle said Australia is a racist country at the Sydney Writers' Festival, which prompted News Corp's outrage machinery, which then prompted her being reprimanded by Justin Stevens, ABC Director of News. As most know, Aboriginal people weren't part of the 'national population' until the 1967 referendum – see page 15.



Contender Jackson Smith (right), believes he has the marbles to take on reigning Australian Marbles Champion, Damien Farrell, at Saturday's upcoming contest. The tournament will be held at the Bruns Sound Shell, as part of the Old and Gold Festival (11am to 2pm, Saturday). Farrell says 'While I have generally been enjoying the adulation that comes with being Australian Champion, the media attention is over the top. If Jeff Dawson doesn't stop camping out in front of my house and stalking me, I'll have to take out an AVO!'

Jeff 'Loose Marbles Since '86' Dawson

Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital management have again warned that they face closure unless they secure funding certainty. They say a 70 per cent patient increase is driving up veterinary care costs for sick, injured, and orphaned wildlife. Their tax-deductible fundraiser is at <https://tinyurl.com/y3mjyp6f>.

Pet lovers listen up – the first Furry Friends Festival will be held on Saturday, June 15 from 9am to 12pm at the Bangalow Showgrounds. Hosted by Byron Shire Council, staff say it's a dog 'on lead' event. They say there will be nail clipping, local vets available and dog trainer talks, along with stalls with freebies and giveaways, a sausage sizzle, and free face painting for the kids.

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