

THOSE WHO USE SELFIE STICKS NEED TO HAVE A GOOD, LONG LOOK AT THEMSELVES The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 39 #01 • June 12, 2024 • www.echo.net.au

PFAS found in Mullum EPA says health risks 'not immediate'

Highly toxic perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were found in Mullumbimby groundwater last week around the town's fire station on Dalley Street.

PFAS are a large, complex group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in industrial and consumer products around the world since about the 1950s.

They are are known as 'forever chemicals' as they are extremely persistent in our environment and bodies. PFAS can lead to health problems such as liver damage, thyroid disease, obesity, fertility issues and cancer - PFAS are banned in many countries.

The NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) Director of Regulatory Operations, David Gathercole, told The Echo that the PFAS was detected as part of the NSW PFAS Investigation Program, which examines sites that have potential for PFAS contamination from the legacy use of PFAS fire-fighting foams.

The Echo asked the EPA, 'Were there no PFAS levels found in the nearby Brunswick River, or were there PFAS levels found above Australian guidelines?'

The Echo also asked if the PFAS may have spread during the 2022 floods

Mr Gathercole replied, 'There has been no PFAS detected in creeks and rivers, so it is unlikely that PFAS would have been widely distributed as a result of flooding'.

'There isn't an immediate health risk to residents, as all properties in the nearby area are connected to town water, which continues to be safe to use. As part of our

Cameron Arnold's tourism role recognised \triangleright p3

precautionary doorknock, we have been speaking to residents around the fire station, including some north of the station'.

Global expert in toxic chemicals, Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith, told The Echo that Australia has significantly lower thresholds for drinking water guidelines and standards with PFAS, compared to the US, Canada and the EU.

No safe level of exposure

She said, 'US regulators concluded there may be no safe level of exposure to PFAS, so it is important for residents to reduce exposure as far as possible - therefore it is sensible to avoid all uses of the contaminated groundwater'.

Apart from being senior advisor to the International Pollution Elimination Network, Dr Mariann Lloyd-Smith has authored UN reports and has served on UN Expert Group on Climate Change and Chemicals.

The Echo asked the EPA to supply the levels that were found, and the locations of where the soils were tested. 'Were the houses next to the fire station tested, for example?', The Echo asked.

No answer to the question was provided other than, 'The results of further precautionary sampling will guide our next steps'.

Asked whether NSW fire stations have sprayed PFAS foam on children in the past (as part of open days, etc), the EPA provided background comments: 'The use of PFAS firefighting foams was banned in 2021. Fire and Rescue NSW (FRNSW) advises it has not used PFAS since 2007'.

> **Dr Ray Moynihan** dips into the AI

Paul Bibby

Localisation event June 29

as more than 150 students from six local high schools gathered at the Byron Youth Service (BYS) for the inaugural Ocean Voices event.

Part of the solution

'They truly have an amazing capacity to want to become part of a solution,' event organiser and founder of Ocean Voices, Simone Roseler said.

'They just need to be valued, and

given an opportunity to get involved.'

Getting involved was a key theme during the event, with speakers from across the ecological spectrum talking about how to make a difference.

Among them was Mike Smith, the founder and CEO of Zero Co, a company which home-delivers personal care and home-cleaning products without any single-use plastic. Continued on page 6

A tasty scoopful of local biz ▶ p22

Old & Gold under the lens



Peta-Jane Ashford inspects her cameras at her Olympus Tripping stall during Saturday's sunny Old & Gold Festival in Brunswick Heads. While her stall featured mainly mechanical film cameras, the Olympus Pen F is a much-sought-after camera, as it is the smallest SLR ever made. Photo Jeff 'Oldie & Mouldy' Dawson

Students fired up for marine protection

future ► p14

▶ p17

There is something deeply inspiring

about a hall full of young humans

who are passionate about saving

the planet. Tired narratives about

apathy and disengagement dissolve

as those who are inheriting ecologi-

cal wounds inflicted by past genera-

was on full display last Wednesday,

That passion for problem solving

tions seek solutions and healing.

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at ..

Arnold's tourism role recognised

Paul Bibby

If tourism is the lifeblood of the Byron Shire, then Cameron Arnold is one of its key haematologists.

The local father has been a leader in the industry for over a decade, working hard to make sure Byron and the North Coast remains a viable and sustainable tourism Mecca for people across the country and beyond.

That work was recognised this week when Mr Arnold was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia as part of the King's Birthday Honours.

'It's a huge honour and one I wasn't expecting,' Mr Arnold says. 'To be the first in my lineage, my family, to have received this type of honour - that's big for me and for us. I'm hugely grateful to my wife and my kids for allowing me to do the stuff that I've done.'

That 'stuff' includes being the chair of multiple regional tourism organisations for the North Coast, including the inaugural chair of Destination North Coast, and the president of the Northern Rivers branch of the NSW Business Chamber



Cameron Arnold has recently been awarded an OAM for services to tourism. Photo Jeff 'OAM My Gawd' Dawson

Regional Advisory Council.

In these positions, he has worked hard with other leaders and stakeholders on multiple projects, including several sustainable tourism projects with local Indigenous organisations.

He also had a key role in advocating for the creation of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, which is now a thriving destination used by tens of thousands of pedestrians and bike riders.

Rail trail

'The rail trail is definitely one of the big ones,' he says. 'After 11 years, it definitely copped its fair share of criticism. It wasn't all smooth sailing. The hardest part of that project was to help people understand what we were going to create, and that from a conservation perspective a key motivation was to keep the asset in public hands'.

Mr Arnold's leadership role on this and other projects has allowed him to develop a unique perspective on the regional tourism industry, watching as local operators rode the rollercoaster of fires, floods and global pandemics.

'The Byron Shire is, at its very heart, a tourism

destination. I know that tourism has been a divisive topic at times'.

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'But I think there's a misunderstanding that tourism is all about the economy here, all about money, but it's not.

'Tourism in this area has been around for a very long time. At its core it's about connection [and] the different people and cultures coming into the area. It's social, educational, experiential as well as economic. We can sometimes lose sight of that.' While Mr Arnold is una-

shamedly pro-tourism, he is not afraid to point out times when things have gone awry.

'I think we did lose our way for a time when Covid hit,' he says. 'It needed to be pared back – the price people were asking for accommodation, food, beverage, etc'.

For Mr Arnold, his future focus is on nature, completing the rail trail, and connecting tourists with the region's outer villages.

'That way, we can disperse visitors more broadly, and offer a variety of products and a broader variety of experiences beyond just lying on the beach in Byron'.



Live music, a flea market, food, an art sale and a nonalcoholic bar will all be part of a free event, to be held at Byron's Youth Activities Centre (YAC), on Thursday, June 20, from 4pm to 8pm.

Organisers say it is part of their Friend Raiser, which is being held during June. YAC coordinator,

Stephanie Sims, told The Echo, 'We call it a Friend Raiser because we are looking to nurture all our relationships in the community, not only our financial relationships.

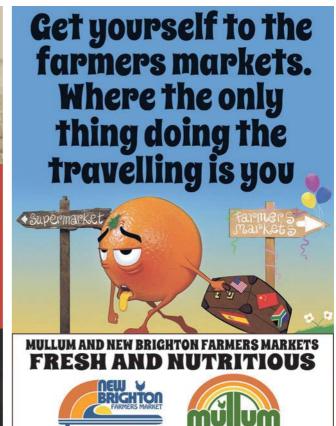
'Obviously, we need to raise significant funds, but it's really about community connections.'

'It's a free, fun and family friendly event and we hope people brave the cold to come and have a lovely time with us,' Stephie said.

The YAC has helped young people navigate adolescence in the Byron Shire for three generations, and is headquarters of Byron Youth Service (BYS).

The YAC has a barbershop,





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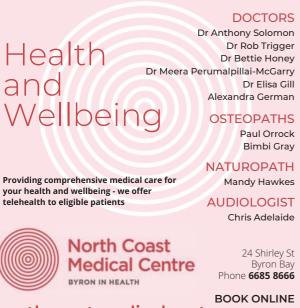
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BRADS



16-year-old Mullum boy summits Imja Tse

Lally Marshall

Back in 2017, nine-year-old local boy, Finn Marshall-Rosato, became the youngest Australian to trek to Everest Base Camp, unaided and carrying all his own gear.

Seven years on, 16-year-old Finn has just become one of the youngest Australians to summit Imja Tse, in the Nepalese Himalayas.

Imja Tse, commonly known as Island Peak, is a 6,165-metre mountain in Sagarmatha National Park in the Himalayas of eastern Nepal.

Imja Tse is located in the Khumbu Region, between Mount Lhotse and Ama Dablam, and is known as one of the training mountains for Everest summiteers.



Finn on Imja Tse. Photo supplied

Finn worked and saved for the trip for two years and at the end of April, Finn and his father, Mikey, set off for Nepal. Finn summited Imja Tse on May 11, accompanied only by mountaineering guide, Chetan Sherpa. In total, their trek lasted 23 days. On top of the four months of training before they left Australia, they summited a couple of mountains over 5,000m for additional training and to acclimatise.

The father and son duo will return home at the end of the month, and will be holding a fundraiser at Made in Mullum, 22 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby, where they will be selling prayer flags and Tibetan incense made at Boudhanath Stupa, Katmandu.

One hundred per cent of proceeds will be donated to the Mullumbimby Community Centre and Médecins San Frontières.

■ Lally Marshall is Finn's proud mum.

No public housing in Labor's \$10b housing fund

Hans Lovejoy

Federal Labor MP, Justine Elliot, has told *The Echo* she expects successful projects from the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) will be announced in the coming months.

The comments come after questions around claims by Mrs Elliot's political opponent, Greens candidate Mandy Nolan, that \$30 million has been spent 'without building a single affordable home', owing to consultant fees and executive salaries.

Mrs Elliot's 351-word reply again centred around attacking Ms Nolan over the delays by the Greens in passing the bill in federal parliament, and their delays around Labor's Help to Buy legislation.

As previously reported, the Greens negotiations provided an extra \$3 billion for the HAFF, and guaranteed a minimum annual spend of \$500 million from the HAFF, starting in 2024-25.

Despite this, Mrs Elliot does not agree that it is a benefit for the electorate, and instead says those delays were costly.

Mrs Elliot did not explain why there is no provision for public housing in the \$10 billion fund.

The Housing Australia

Future Fund (HAFF) does not explicitly include provisions for public housing, which is government-led.

Instead, it focuses on social and affordable housing, which is administered by housing providers.

The Echo asked Mrs Elliot, 'Given Australia was largely built on public housing, why was it not the centrepiece of the fund?' A reply will be published if received.



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Flood-prone land subdivision DA on exhibition

A proposal by developer Callum Sked to subdivide flood-prone land near the Mullumbimby Showground is now on public exhibition on Council's website until June 25.

30 Chinbible Ave, which is 12,340 m² in size, is bounded by the Brunswick River and houses to the north.

Seven lots are proposed, with $600m^2$ slated for six lots, and $8,740m^2$ for the other.

A DA for the dwellings would follow if approved.

As previously reported, neighbours voiced concern that the entire area was underwater in the 2022 floods. A resident told *The Echo* they were concerned the DA only refers to the lots at the front, not the entire development footprint.

As part of DA 10.2024.154.1,



The consultant to Callum Sked claims there is a one per cent Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), which means the land has a one in 100 likelihood of flooding in any given year. Image: Civil Engineer Plan from DA

a flood evacuation plan 'to manage risk to life' has been provided, which suggests sheltering in neighbours' homes. Page 23 of *The Flood* Assessment reads, 'The Mullumbimby evacuation centres may be at full capacity during a flood event. Further, evacuation routes may become cut within minutes after the beginning of a rainfall event. Therefore, for the occupants of any future buildings on proposed lots, the decision shall be taken to evacuate to the dedicated Shelter In Place...'

Despite the 2022 flood, the *Flood Risk Management Report* says on page 29, 'The site is not impacted by flooding in the one per cent Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) event, and so therefore will have no impact on one per cent AEP flood behaviour. The site is impacted by larger floods'.

■ A community meeting is planned by residents on June 15 from 10.30am under the fig trees at the Mullum Farmers Market.

Chinny Charge entries now open!

Now's the time to enter the Chinny Charge up Mullumbimby's local mountain on Saturday, September 21.

The annual run and walk is the only day that Mount Chincogan is open to the public. 'This year we are asking everyone to bring a water bottle to fill at the water stations as we continue to drive towards reducing waste and being a sustainable event,' said organiser, Jenelle Stanford, from the Mullumbimby

Chamber of Commerce.

There is the children's race as well as the adult race, and professional athletes will start first at 2pm outside the NSW Fire and Rescue Station. The children's race runs from 1.30pm and is \$15 to enter. There are a range of prizes that can be won, including the fastest man and woman (\$500). All participants must be 12 years old or over. There are no dogs allowed on the mountain. To book visit: www.eventwizards.com.au.

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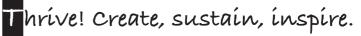


Mullumbimby's water supply – have a say

Mullumbimby's water supply needs to be upgraded to meet

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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

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

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Byron Writers Festival locals' passes on sale June 13

Byron Writers Festival and First National Byron have partnered again to offer Sunday Locals Passes.

The discounted ticket is for entry to the festival on Sunday August 11, and is exclusively available to residents of the Byron, Ballina, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed Council areas

Chris Hanley, CEO of First National Byron and Byron Writers Festival founder said, 'Sunday at the festival has always been special for the locals. Chilled, relaxed and filled with laughter on the last day, Sunday is the perfect opportunity to experience the atmosphere and get a taste of this wonderful event. Byron Writers Festival has been built and sustained by a passionate local community, so we're very proud to support the Sunday locals' tickets for residents of the Northern Rivers'

Sunday sessions

Jessica Alice, Artistic **Director Byron Writers** Festival, added, 'The Sunday Locals Passes are a great way to access some of the best of the festival, and they sell out every year.



Chris Hanley, CEO of First National Byron and Byron Writers Festival founder with Aarna Hudson, festival development manager. Photo Jeff 'Book 'Em Danno' Dawson

There will be more than 30 sessions on festival Sunday, featuring writers of all genres to choose from. As always, the festival will be an open format with sessions in marguees that ticket holders can wander between as they enjoy the day. We are so grateful to First National Byron for making these discounted tickets available to our community.'

Organisers say Sunday

Locals Passes are a limited release and will be available from 9am Thursday June 13 at byronwritersfestival.com/ festival, over the phone, or in person at Byron Writers Festival's office. Purchasers will need to present proof of address at entry to the festival and are limited to a maximum of two tickets per person.

The first round of authors announced include

international bestsellers Trent Dalton and Jane Harper; acclaimed writer and farmer Bruce Pascoe; Booker Prize winner Richard Flanagan; Irish novelist Caoilinn Hughes; PEN award-winning author and poet Nam Le; playwright and novelist Suzie Miller; investigative journalist and debut novelist Louise Milligan; and local speculative fiction writer Mykaela Saunders.

Students fired up for marine protection

Continued from page 1 Mr Smith shared how the

catalyst for Zero Co had been witnessing tonnes of rubbish being dumped in the ocean during a trip overseas.

'The speakers who were more like every day people were inspiring,' said one student from Byron High School who attended the event.

'I felt like I was listening to a person that was like me and here to share their experience...'

A number of other students said they were struck by what could be achieved relatively simply.

'It was really interesting how fast the rubbish could be cleared from the river by both Seabin and Zero Co,' another Byron High student said.

'It seemed very doable.' After the speakers, the

students were broken up into groups and invited to come up with ways of raising awareness about challenges to the marine environment. The ideas were strikingly

creative. 'We had students coming up with awareness raising posters that said things like

"pick up your line or the fish pay the fine"," Ms Roseler said.

'Others were talking about company tax, where companies are held to account publicly for their poor environmental credentials.

'Another group came up with this hip-hop piece to developer their message... another one came up with a Shakespeare-style play.

'This all happened in one hour... Imagine what they could do in a week!'

Youth's top concern

A recent survey of 19,000 young people conducted by Mission Australia found that the state of the environment was the top concern of youth in Australia, followed by mental health.

It was with this in mind that Ocean Voices came into being, grounded in the belief that young people have the power and the passion to create and deliver real change given the right environment and resources.

The project is funded through the Vincent Fairfax Family Foundation's Backing the Future program.



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The Greens keep blocking housing....

forcing more people into homelessness.



Greens Party blocked Labor's \$10 billion social and affordable housing package (HAFF)

(Greens Party voted with Peter Dutton's Liberals and Nationals)



BLOCKED

Greens Party now blocking Labor's package to help renters buy a home (Help to Buy)

(Greens Party voted with Peter Dutton's Liberals and Nationals)

On every issue, the Greens are <u>too extreme</u>.

Authorised J Elliot, ALP, Tweed Heads South

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A deeper dive into plans to abandon Mullum's local water supply

Hans Lovejoy

With Council seeking community input on its proposal to disconnect Mullumbimby's local water source and instead be reliant on water supplied by Rous County Council, local Greens candidate and water engineer, Elia Hauge, has added her concerns around the lack of meaningful consultation and process.

As reported last week in The Echo by water and sanitation engineer, Ben Fawcett, the significant decision will come before councillors on August 15, prior to caretaker mode for the September 14 elections.

Staff's preference is to disconnect the local supply at Lavertys Gap in Wilsons Creek, which has served the town since 1939.

While consultant reports underpin staff's view, when it comes to cost estimates, Fawcett and Cr Dey claim that the consultants have not provided enough detail to make an informed decision.

Cr Dey said, 'The real value is in the robustness of a locally-operated supply, with a back-up already connected to Rous. Another aspect not yet considered is whether



Lavertys Gap Weir in Wilsons Creek. Photo supplied

Lavertys Gap could also supply Brunswick Heads'.

Staff replied on the costings, 'The ongoing cost of connection to the regional supply over 30 years is less than half the cost of using a local supply with off-stream storage [reservoir]. The Net Present Value (NPV) analysis calculates capital and operating costs of each scenario over 30 years in present-day dollar terms. The NPV of connection to the regional supply (Scenario 3) is estimated at \$13.748 million, while for off-stream storage (Scenario 2) it is estimated at \$29.538 million'.

Yet Mr Fawcett says that page 165 of the consultant report states, 'The ongoing costs of a regional supply are higher than the local scenarios.'

'The future costs of Rous bulk water are not guaranteed', he says.

Cr Dey maintains WSAC members are sceptical of relying on the consultant's views. 'The analysis was not done by the community, it was the thoughts of the consultant'.

Ms Hauge told The Echo that the report that Council is presenting to the public 'has been prepared by a consulting firm that also does work for Rous Water'.

'The consultant analysis is supposedly based on factors including community acceptance and environmental protection.

'This makes no sense at all, because you haven't been asked about it before now - how does [Council] know your level of acceptance?'

She asks: 'Is presenting a consultant's report and asking the community to fill in a survey really a meaningful way [for Council] to engage on this important issue?'

Ms Hauge suggests 'the gold standard' of a citizens' assembly, where a community member panel learns about the issues, hears from experts, and then makes recommendations to Council.

'While some water system decisions are technical engineering decisions – like what size a pipe should be, or how to design a treatment plant - big decisions about where our water comes from are about our values. That's why it's so important that major decisions are led by our community', Ms Hauge says.

'Despite the fact that Council has known for years that something needs to be done about Mullum's water supply, this is the first time you have been asked about it', she adds.

A community meeting will be held on Monday, June 17 from 7pm at the Mullum RSL. You can find the submission guide and more information at waternorthernrivers.org.

Max to the Max debuts June 29



Max McAuley. Photo Jeff Dawson

Principal dancer with Sprung Dance Theatre, Max McAuley, is stepping out with his oneman show, Max to the Max, and will perform at the Brunswick Picture House on June 29 and 30. His publicist says, 'Not only is it his first work as

an independent artist, Max, who has Down syndrome, has the added challenge of it being a one-man show'.

'But it's not just all Max - he has collaborated with choreographer, performer and producer, Ché Pritchard'.

BaySounds song comp entries open

BayFM and SAE Byron Bay have teamed up for their first-ever local song writing competition that aims to showcase local artists and celebrate homegrown music.

BayFM president, Ange Kent, says, 'The competition is open to unsigned songwriters and bands who live in the Northern Rivers and who submit one original track by June 16'.

'The winner will get the chance to record one track of their choice in a state-ofthe-art studio located at the SAE Byron Bay campus. They will receive video footage of the live recording, airplay on BayFM and a chance to headline the SAE Byron Bay Open Day on August 24, which will be broadcast live by BayFM'.

To enter, visit www.sae. edu.au/baysounds.

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Wilsons Creek Public School scoops NSW Landcare award



Wilsons Creek Public School students. Photo supplied

Wilsons Creek Public School was honoured with the Woolworths Junior Landcare Award on June 3 at the NSW Landcare Awards.

Landcare organisers said in a media release the awards were for 'the improved habitat quality of Wilsons Creek, the reduced impacts of feral species, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced sustainability'.

There are 20–25 students at the small hinterland school, which has a teaching principal, two part-time teachers, an administrative manager, and a part-time general assistant. It also has an active Parents and Citizens Association.

Landcare Australia CEO, Dr Shane Norrish, said, 'The NSW Landcare Award finalists have shown an exceptional level of commitment to landcare activities by restoring and protecting the natural environment where they live and work'.

Build resilience

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Save Wallum protectors, a NSW MLC and a retired magistrate have questioned the use of police resources after those supporting efforts to save rare ecological heathland in Bruns from urban development were contacted by Tweed-Byron Police Detectives.

Avenue

North Head

In a statement by Save Wallum, they claim 'up to a dozen individuals were contacted by police last weekend relating to alleged minor infringements that occurred weeks and months earlier'. Police confirmed one

New

Brighton

arrest was made. For more than four

Police make arrest over Wallum protests

months, Clarence Property have been forced to delay their residential development plans after local protectors blockaded the Wallum site. Save Wallum are calling on Federal Environment Minister, Tanya Plibersek, to 'call the development in' owing to the environmental and cultural significance of the site. The action by police last

weekend was condemned by solicitor Sue Higginson, who is also a NSW Greens MP, and former magistrate, David Heilpern.

Mr Heilpern told The Echo, 'Police have discretion whether to investigate or institute criminal

proceedings, even for minor, fine-only offences. However, arrest is a last resort, and the courts have consistently criticised police where they arrest unnecessarily'.

Deeply perturbed

'I think the community, reeling with a property crime wave and struggling with under-policing of family violence, would be deeply perturbed at arresting people for minor offences where there are lots of different options such as just serving a court notice.

'I think the community would also be curious as to why police are doing a developer's bidding for such minor misdemeanors'. The Echo asked local

Detective Chief Inspector, Matt Kehoe, whether the arrests for trespass were a result of Clarence Property asking the police to prosecute.

Acting on complaints

DCI Kehoe told The Echo, 'Police have worked with all stakeholders regarding the Save Wallum protest, including the Save Wallum group and Clarence Property. Investigations have been initiated and [are] ongoing from complaints received from all parties and one arrest was made over the weekend regarding alleged ongoing criminal acts'.

Clarence Property was asked for comment, but none was received by deadline.

Winter fest at Byron High, June 18



Byron High band, The Maggots. Photo supplied

To celebrate the creative and artistic talents of students, Byron Bay High School is holding its annual Winter Arts Festival (a.k.a the WAF) showcase evening on Tuesday, June 18.

The school's Simone Museth says from 5pm, 'Year 12 students will offer a feast of savoury and sweet treats and hot and cold drinks for purchase'.

'A pop-up exhibition of student artwork across all years will be on display in the office block, featuring colourful, vibrant paintings, prints and sculpture as well as examples of student projects from Year 10 Industrial Technology Timber and Metal courses.

Showcase

'At 6pm, the showcase begins in the John Collins Auditorium, featuring student bands, vocalists and theatrical vignettes, as well as the 100-student-strong Year 7 choir!

'Patrons will also be

treated to a sneak peek performance excerpt from Byron Bay High's first-ever musical, which will be performed in full over three nights the following week'.

Ms Museth adds, 'Students have been warming up for the event, not only in our many rehearsal spaces in their free time, but also performing at the school cross-country event and at a recently organised gig at the Byron Bay YAC (Youth Activities Centre)'.

Orana Bridge upgrade starts 17 June 2024

Orana Road

IMPORTANT NOTICE of extended Road Closure on Strand Avenue, Ocean Shores/New Brighton

Council is replacing and improving the road surface on Orana Bridge (over Marshalls Creek) and will be closing Strand Avenue, New Brighton, to all traffic at the bridge from 17 June until 24 June, subject to weather.

Traffic management and signage will be in place throughout the project, including weekends. Please be aware that detours may add to travel times.



More information

please see Council's

webpage:

For more information and

updates about this project,

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/

orana-bridge-works



10 The Byron Shire Echo June 12, 2024

Broken Head Quarry development plan rears its head once again

Paul Bibby

Long-dormant plans to turn the former Broken Head Quarry site into a residential development have lumbered out of the bush like a bewildered dinosaur.

And much like our ancient reptilian friends, the proposal seems destined for extinction, at least in its current form.

The agenda for this week's Council meeting reveals that a group calling itself 'Crisjoy Pty Ltd as trustee for the Lighthouse Unit Trust' has submitted a planning proposal that would involve approximately 92 residential lots and a host of associated road, water and sewerage infrastructure.

Council staff have recommended that councillors vote to oppose the proposal, citting a laundry list of failings.

The recommendation came as a pleasant surprise to former state MLC and Byron Mayor, Jan Barham, who has fought long and hard to protect the fragile ecosystems around her Broken Head home.

'Any further development impact on this site is unwarranted, and it's time for nature to prevail after the devastating impacts of decades of sand and gravel extraction,' Ms Barham said of the former quarry site.

'Council's merit assessment report identifies the major constraints to the site being transformed to residential and rightly opposes the zone change ... '

Ms Barham also noted that in 2018, the Department of Planning had made an 'enforceable undertaking' whereby the former quarry site would rehabilitated, something which staff did not mention in their report.

The latest planning proposal is the first time in ten years that the owners of the land, which lies on the western side of Broken Head Road, have sought to develop it.

Last proposal in 2014

Back in 2014, they proposed a much smaller 41-lot residential development, which was refused by Byron Council on the grounds that it would impact threatened species and areas of Aboriginal cultural significance.

Now, like a Jurassic Park sequel, the plan is back and it's bigger than ever.

The latest planning proposal requests that approximately 11.8 hectares of land zoned RU1 Primary Production be rezoned to R2 Low Density Residential. It also proposes to apply



Preliminary Concept Layout Plan of the the Broken Head quarry site, which is located on Broken Head Road. Suffolk Park. Image: Council agenda

a maximum floor space ratio of 0.6:1.

The applicant has further offered a voluntary planning agreement (VPA) that includes the construction of a shared pedestrian and cycle path linking the site to Suffolk Park, and offered to dedicate 20 per cent of the lots to Council to be used for the purpose of affordable housing.

The preliminary concept plan indicates possible road and intersection locations and a lot layout indicating approximately 92 residential lots of various sizes

between 383m² and 1505m². The role of Council when it receives a planning proposal is to prepare a merit assess-

ment report and decide whether or not it supports the planning proposal. It is not the consent authority. In response to the proposal, Council engaged Mike Svikis Planning to undertake strategic and site-specific merit tests.

These tests found that the planning proposal failed to meet the relevant criteria for a successful proposal.

Threatened species

A key reason for this finding was that the proposed development would have an unavoidable impact on threatened species and threatened ecological communities. It would impact on native vegetation that occupies 56 per cent of the development site, and this did not include the impact of off-site development such as the proposed shared path and infrastructure such as road widening, pipelines and pump stations.

The assessment further found that the proposal was not adequately supported by reports or assessments of the subject land. This included reports examining whether the former quarry site was sufficiently stable to support residential development.

<u>Ccho</u>

There were also issues of erosion, soil contamination, traffic generation, and the developer's failure to in any way explore the site's Aboriginal cultural heritage.

This is despite the fact that, according to Council staff, there is likely to be at least one Aboriginal site located on or near the subject land.

Lastly, and crucially, staff found that the proposed housing was not needed and was not in keeping with any of its residential strategies.

Efforts to contact the developer, Crisjoy Pty Ltd - which has no publiclyaccessible website, phone number or email address - were unsuccessful. Similarly, efforts to contact the Winten Property Group were unsuccessful.

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Fourteen projects led by volunteer groups have been awarded \$300,000 through the Community Building Partnership Program, says local Greens MP, Tamara Smith.

Ms Smith said the funds would deliver much-needed improvements to local facilities, including replacement of fencing, and building a ramp at the Brunswick Heads branch of the Country Women's Association [\$30,748],

purchasing new equipment for Ozfish to improve the health of the Richmond River [\$44,739], a kitchen upgrade for Fripp Oval in Ballina [\$77,729], and better facilities for the disability therapy centre at Cerebral Palsy Alliance [\$13,455].

Coorabell Public School P&C will receive a canteen upgrade, including a deck replacement and internal workspace upgrade valued at \$23,466. The NSW Member for Ballina says she has assisted more than 100 community organisations and delivered more than \$3m in grants through this program since she was first elected in 2015.

'I congratulate all the organisations that were successful in their applications and look forward to seeing how these projects make a real difference for people and the environment.'





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North Coast News

Aslan Shand

Sunday.

approved, despite local

hours from 10pm, by an

Tweed Shire Council

James Owen moved that an

alternative text be added to

the staff recommendation

for approval of the tavern's

Owens highlighted support

from the Pottsville Mens

Shed while dismissing the

objections by locals as '12

know what happens, one

pro forma submissions. We

person sends them around

their friends and they send

them in. So there's probably

one person that doesn't like

it or understand it,' he said.

extension of hours. Cr

(TSC) Liberal councillor

North Coast news online **Echo.net.au**

Echo

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

Tweed council call for young tree-huggers

The Tweed Shire Council is inviting high school students in the local government area to participate in the national Speaking 4 the Planet competition on the theme: Trees: the guardians of life.

Another six months for **Kingscliff pods?**

The pods at Elrond Drive, Kingscliff were placed on a site that is a dedicated green space for the community and NSW RA has asked to extend the use of the pods at that site.

Man charged with Kye's murder

Homicide Squad detectives have charged a man for the alleged murder of Coffs Harbour local Kye Schaefer, last month.

Running a Lismore business that deserves recognition?

The 2024 Lismore Business Excellence Awards are now open for any business in the 2480 postcode.

Officer injured while making arrest, loaded

pistol seized – Bogangar Two men have been charged after a police officer was injured while making an arrest in Bogangar between Hastings Point and Casuarina.

Millions and millions for development in the Tweed

The NSW Government promised last week to help the Tweed Shire Council upgrade Tweed Coast Road and sports fields on Depot Road.

Woman airlifted to hospital, driver arrested after Nimbin crash

Greens councillor Dr Nola Firth then moved an amend-Pottsville Tavern's applicament to have the opening tion for extended hours was hours for Friday and Saturday night extended but to remain at 10pm all opposition, to extend opening other nights of the week, hour, till 11pm Monday to and to look at the best place for the rubbish bins to be placed so as not to disturb

neighbours. Cr Firth emphasised that this tavern is in a residential area.

'I am very aware that the residents there have been fighting since 2003 to keep the hours as they are,' she told the meeting.

This position was backed up by Mayor Chris Cherry who reminded the other councillors that the tavern has 'a very long history in the Pottsville community'.

Cr Cherry emphasised the tavern's success, and the

intact natural cultural land-

scapes in coastal NSW, with

the Iron Gates property being

the connection between the

south and north parts of the

Knowledge holder for

rounding Bandjalang Native

took to the stand to provide

evidence to the court about

proposed development might

impact on Aboriginal culture

including development on or

■ Read full story in *The Echo*

various cultural matters.

These related to how the

around burial sites.

the Iron Gates site and sur-

Title areas Simone Barker

landscape divided by the

Evans River.

important role the tavern plays in the community, but reminded the meeting that there had been significant local opposition to longer opening hours in the community.

Pottsville Tavern gets extended hours as Cr Owen dismisses objections

'The Pottsville Community Association was actually formed when fighting against this tavern when it was originally put into the residential development of Pottsville Waters. It has had a long history of coming [to TSC with] applications. There [have been] seven times where the hours have wanted to be extended but have been refused over that time. Back in 2002 there was a request to extend the hours till 11 o'clock, but it was refused based on the impacts on residents, and it wasn't supported by police at the time.

'The same thing happened in 2007. In 2010 there was a 12 -month trial of the extended hours to midnight of Friday and Saturday. But that trial wasn't carried out because the local office of the Office of Liquor and Gaming didn't extend the licence operating hours. In 2013 there was also another trial, but the application was refused. In 2014 as well. In 2018 there was a trial for 12 months from Wednesday to Saturday till 11 o'clock, but it reverted back to 10 o'clock after the trial.

'The community[is] kind of pushing back and saying, "No, it's going to impact on us". I appreciate that this application is accompanied by a lot of acoustic works that haven't accompanied the previous application. So I understand that there's certainly been a lot of work that's been put in to try to make it work this time.'

Cr Cherry then sought permission from Cr Firth to add into the amendment extended hours on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Cr Firth agreed to extended hours on Thursday.

However, this motion was lost with Crs Brinsmead, Owen, Polglase and Byrnes voting against.

Cr Cherry then sought to have Cr Owens add in the option to look at a relocation of the bin site to the DA, which would not stop the DA going ahead, but this was denied.

Eventually, the amendment by Owens was approved with only Cr Firth voting against.

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

Iron Gates appeal: cultural heritage contention

Aslan Shand

The Iron Gates development site in Evans Head is surrounded by Crown Lands to the north, east and south, over which native title has been recognised (Bandjalang **People Determinations** 2013 and 2021). However, at Ballina Court the question of who was entitled to give expert evidence on the cultural heritage of the site was raised.

Last intact natural cultural landscape

The landscape is said to be one of the last remaining



www.echo.net.au

Lismore Council's draft Flood Risk Management Plan out for feedback

Mia Armitage

The Lismore City Council has released its draft Flood Risk Management Plan, with public submissions due by 23 June.

Councillors at the May ordinary meeting agreed to the draft document going on public exhibition in accordance with a recommendation from the Flood Risk Management Committee.

Consultancy firm Engeny put together the plan with the committee noting it, as opposed to formally endorsing it, at their April meeting - but recommending it go on public display for feedback.

One of the most significant sections of the report is Part 4, a Flood Risk Management Implementation Plan.

Notes on the plan are brief but include: 'flood behaviour modification measures have been combined where they concern the same structural location (such as a raise to the South Lismore levee to either a five per cent or one per cent Annual Exceedance Probability flood level) and are recommended for further hydraulic investigation and feasibility studies prior to implementation'.

Measures include a community preparedness campaign, updating flood data for development control, and extending the NSW **Reconstruction Authority's Resilient Homes Program** to cover more houses in the area.

Potential climate change impacts are also reviewed in the report, using 'Representative Concentration Pathway 8.5 future climate conditions'.

'This reflects an increase in rainfall intensity of 19.7 per cent,' the report says, 'to account for a temperature increase of about 4.3℃ by 2090'.

The report says the figures are considered a 'worst-case' scenario by the Australian Rainfall and Runoff (ARR) 2019 Data Hub.

The report is available via the Lismore City Council's website (https://tinyurl.com/ yeykzrk4), with submissions on the draft Lismore Flood **Risk Management Plan able** to be made until 23 June at https://yoursay.lismore.nsw. gov.au/frmp.

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

SUPREME MASTER TV constructive Programming for a Peaceful World

Police say they arrested a 35-year-old man in Nimbin last week after he crashed a BMW several times in the rainforest village.

Preparing Lismore for future floods

In a significant step towards enhancing community resilience and emergency preparedness, Lismore City Council has created a new dedicated position of Emergency Management Coordinator to help prepare for future emergencies.

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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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Byron students showcase their music



Byron Public's intermediate band is one of three school bands that will perform from 8am on Thursday, June 20 at the Byron Bay Farmers Market. Photo supplied

Ray Moynihan

Two great local institutions come together next week to produce a morning of music, amidst the mandarins and macadamia nuts.

Byron Bay Public School's three school bands will give a special early morning performance on Thursday, June 20, from 8am, at the popular Byron Bay Farmers Market.

The bands include a very polished senior band, who have been playing for several years, an intermediate band, (pictured) and a very new beginner band, who only formed in April with students as young as eight years old.

The bands are run in collaboration with the Northern Rivers Conservatorium of Music, and led by band leader and multi-instrumentalist, Nic Campbell.

Campbell says, 'It's wonderful to be able to showcase how amazing these students are, and how quickly they have learned to play music together as a band. It's a very exciting program of songs, from nursery rhymes to Tchaikovsky.'

The Byron school bands are part of the Lismore-based Conservatorium's wider 'Music in Schools' program, which engages with schools across the region. Music and band programs in schools were decimated by the double whammy of pandemic and floods, but regeneration is now well underway.

Students can start to learn an instrument at school and join the band program from Year 3, and drum and bass tutor Neil McCann says it's incredible what they can achieve very quickly.

■ Ray Moynihan is band coordinator at Byron Bay Public School.

Labor announces its councillor ticket

Labor councillor, Asren Pugh, and South Golden Beach local, Janet Swain will head the Byron Shire Labor team to contest the Byron Shire Council elections on September 14.

In a statement, Cr Pugh says he will also be the team's candidate for mayor.

He said, 'I'm so passionate about what I have been able to achieve in my very short term on Council over the past two-and-a-half years, but there is still so much to do. I made sure Council finally supports the rail trail and stopped the years of delays', said Pugh. 'I delivered integral

support to see the amazing Beacon Laundry built in Bangalow, the Rifle Range Rd intersection upgrade and the sports fields' lights replaced.

'I worked with the NSW Housing Minister, Rose Jackson, to deliver support for Fletcher Street Cottage, and the Assertive Outreach Program for rough sleepers in our shire.'

'I am truly excited to be running with Janet Swain. A local musician who has lived in South Golden Beach for eight years and, with no current councillors from



Labor's councillor candidates Janet Swain, Peter Doherty, Cr Asren Pugh and Linda Watson. Photo supplied

Ocean Shores, New Brighton or South Golden Beach, Janet will finally make sure that the north of the Shire has direct representation on Council.

Passion for music

Janet Swain said, 'I am putting my hand up so I can bring my passion for music and the arts into the decisions of Council. We live in one of the most creative communities in Australia, and our local creative industries are in crisis.'

'As a long-time local resident of the north of Byron Shire, I want to be a strong voice on Council for my neighbours. We are constantly left out of decision making and need a focus on footpaths, bike paths and drains. We need someone who actually lives here to drive our new local masterplan.

They will be joined by local aged care worker and Bangalow Koalas founder, Peter Doherty, and early childhood teacher, Linda Watson.

The Labor team say they 'will have a strong focus on ensuring that the new housing strategy delivers more diverse, affordable housing while protecting what we all love about Byron Shire'.

'It will work with the state government to deliver a real response to the homelessness crisis, including delivering proper support services, emergency accommodation and pathways into permanent housing', they say.



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Comment



The Byron Shire Echo Volume 39 #01 • June 12, 2024

Should Mullum's water remain locally sourced?

The push by members of Council's Water and Sewer Advisory Committee (WSAC) to retain Mullum's local water supply is heating up – see page 8.

Greens Council candidate and water engineer, Elia Hauge, shares the same views with fellow WSAC members, Ben Fawcett and Greens Cr Duncan Dey, all of whom have expertise in the field.

Their view is to retain Mullum's water supply, which is at odds with the views of Council staff and consultants. They suggest disconnecting Mullum's local supply and rely solely upon Rous (and Rocky Creek Dam).

Rous also supply the shires of Ballina (excluding Wardell), Byron (excluding Mullumbimby, for now), Lismore (excluding Nimbin), Richmond Valley (excluding land west of Coraki).

Should all efforts be made to retain Mullum's local water supply for the future?

Works are now underway to connect water mains to Rous, which is ideal as a backup in droughts.

As Mr Fawcett pointed out last week on page 1, Lavertys Gap Weir in Wilsons Creek was built in 1939 to provide an independent, reliable source of both electricity and water for the town.

As many know, Rous have not given up on building the Dunoon Dam, which proposes to destroy remnant Big Scrub rainforest and Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

Presumably hitching Mullum to Rous's water supply provides additional reasons for a large new dam to be built?

On a related note, a film on localisation will be screened on June 29 from 3pm, upstairs at the Byron Community Centre – see page 17. Local Futures' newest film, *Closer to Home*, raises awareness of how the global system impacts our individual lives.

It's a very similar theme – relying on local infrastructure provides resilience. Top-down models are outdated. And they lead to less selfreliance and security.

The councillor vote on August 15 to decide the fate of Mullum's future water supply will no doubt be a significant turning point for the town.

Given the gravity of the issue, it seems more appropriate to delay such an important vote until after the September 15 elections.

Yet as we have seen over the last years, this is not how this Council majority rolls. There are already many councillors wanting to be reelected – who will they support?

Yes, there are costs in refurbishing and maintaining a local water treatment supply network. Understandably, a cash-strapped Council would prefer to outsource water.

Yet as pointed out by Mr Fawcett, there are other councils undertaking similar infrastructure builds. Government grants are available.

The question is what is the best outcome for residents faced with increased population projections and future droughts?

A community meeting on Mullum's water supply will be held on Monday, June 17 from 7pm at the Mullum RSL. For more info visit waternorthernrivers.org.

Councillors recently abandoned staff plans for a new Burringbar Street design after more than 500 residents voiced their concerns over the palm and parking removal.

Now's the time to have your say on this important matter via Council's 'Your Say' website page. Hans Lovejoy, editor

AI's invisible bystanders

In her *Echo* column last week, Mandy Nolan recommended literature for her daughter, including classics like *Catcher in the Rye* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

At risk of impertinence, I want to add to her reading list:

E.M. Forster's *The Machine Stops* describes a world where humans spend their days communicating with others via instant messaging devices, alone in tiny individual dwellings. Technology meeting their every need. Until it doesn't. The short story was published in 1909.

AI study released

Last week, a group of academics and pollsters released a fascinating study on how Australian workers are experiencing the latest wave of technology: artificial intelligence, or AI.

The five-month qualitative study involved in-depth interviews and multiple focus groups with nurses, retail employees and public servants. It found workers being treated as 'invisible bystanders' regarding AI, 'leaving organisations, employees, and the public at risk of missed opportunities and significant harms.'

Workers were generally not opposed to AI. They saw both opportunities and dangers. Nurses were worried about AI impacts on dispensing drugs and diagnoses.

Retail workers were concerned by automated checkouts and surveillance. Public servants saw threats to trust through scandals like Robodebt.

The study authors – from the University of Technology and the Essential polling company – made several recommendations. Embedding workers' voices in AI development. Limiting the use of AI for surveillance. New workplace safety rules to protect people from the dangers of the new technology.

Malicious malgorithms

The Royal Commission into the infamous Robodebt tax scandal similarly made far-reaching recommendations. After finding widespread use of secret, inaccurate, and illegal algorithms, the commissioner recommended new



'Algorithms and artificial intelligence can bring us benefits, but only if we better prevent harms' – Dr Ray Moynihan

powers to scrutinise automated decision-making, to ensure fairness and avoid bias.

Robodebt is a well-known case of AI harming many lives, but it's not the only one.

zIn the UK, more than 900 post-office workers were wrongly prosecuted for fraud and theft in one of greatest miscarriages of justice ever. Over a decade of official cover-ups and denials, many people faced bankruptcy, some went to jail, and some even died prematurely.

The reason? Flaws in an automated IT system.

In 2023, the Australian Information Commissioner made damning findings against Serco, the company which runs immigration detention centres. It found Serco's 'Security Risk Assessment Reports' produced inaccurate and incomplete information that caused harm to some detainees. As with the Robodebt and post-office scandals, a key problem with Serco's inaccurate risk assessments was the algorithm.

Of course, algorithms and artificial intelligence can bring us benefits, but only if we can much better prevent their potential harms.

In the medical world, there's much hype about what AI can deliver. But a recent review of all the relevant studies, published in *The Lancet*, is sobering. Most studies in the review reported positive findings, with many showing AI was better at picking up potential disease.

But *The Lancet* review raised concerns about the scientific quality of the studies of AI, and how applicable they were in the real world. Moreover, it found little strong evidence that AI was leading to any improvement in actual health outcomes for people.

Importantly, the studies of AI were not tending to investigate whether the enhanced 'diagnosis yield' – which arose when algorithms read X-rays for example – was identifying genuine disease, or simply finding potential problems that would never actually cause any harm.

Managing AI risks

Barely a week passes without news of AI's risks, and how we might best manage them.

Last month, leading AI scientist, Max Tegmark, reiterated calls for a pause on advanced AI research, and like other experts, he's demanding much stronger regulation to rein in out-of-control AI.

Last week, former and current employees at high-profile AI companies, including Open AI and Google, released an open letter about the technology's opportunities and dangers. Arguing AI can deliver 'unprecedented benefits' the group also warned of 'serious risks' including entrenching inequality, misinformation, and 'loss of control of autonomous AI systems potentially resulting in human extinction.'

The open letter rejected the idea that industry could govern these risks itself, and it argued for stronger government oversight and protections for whistle-blowers.

Not everyone is an invisible bystander.

The queer visionary, E.M. Forster, is best known for his classic novels, like *A Passage to India* and *A Room with a View*, both transformed into lush cinematic dramas. But one of the lesser-known themes bubbling through his work over a century ago was how to maintain vital human connection in the face of a growing technological imperialism. Forster may ultimately be better remembered for *The Machine Stops*.

Ray Moynihan is an academic working at Bond University and the University of Sydney, currently coordinating a Junior Landcare project with Brunswick Valley Landcare.



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Letters



No care at Shaws Bay

Mullet harvesting is here again and the fishermen have to access Gawandii Beach at Shaws Bay. Again, they have left their mark, at both ends this time.

The lovely shaded, grassy end, used by families for picnicking, is now even more scarred as they have decided to utilise it for parking their extra boats as well as accessing the beach to park more boats.

The other end, near the old Missingham Bridge, where a local Landcare group has been weeding and allowing flora regeneration, has been carved up by these fisherman, who are too lazy to walk 200 metres down the beach and must use their cars to exit through the fragile dunes.

They do not make any attempt to restore the damage. At the car park end, Byron's battle of the billboards.

severe erosion around native trees creates trip hazards and their pathway destroys the grass to the beach.

If they are to be allowed to access the beach, please minimise their footprint, stop them destroying the dunes at the other end and at least make them do, or pay for, the restoration of the residents' parkland.

Hoons who tear up parks are fined if caught!

Finally, why do they have to park all their cars in the few spots in that area, surely they could park most of their vehicles over the road in Park Street?

Richard White East Ballina

Cynical Swivel

I was utterly horrified to hear Cr Mark Swivel touting a 'community land trust for conservation' concept as his own in the context

of his reelection campaign on BayFM last week. This grassroots initiative has been worked on diligently by First Nations and community members, including myself, for months. It was initiated in the context of 'Saving Wallum' but with a regional vision for the protection of cultural and ecological heritage.

Now Cr Swivel, who has offered nothing to the community on this issue and has facilitated the development's progress while undermining and dismissing the community's opposition, wants to swoop in and claim the credit for the hard work of the very people he has obstructed, to prop up his joint reelection campaign with Michael Lyon?

While Swivel is correct that the idea of a land trust which maps our region's essential wetlands and habitats for conservation is a

Letters to the Editor

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

groundbreaking and valuable project, his attempt to co-opt it for the very same statutory bodies which ushered in the pending destruction of a premier candidate for such protection at Wallum is unsound and disingenuous. Byron Shire Council (BSC) would be utterly the wrong institution to lead this proposal, as demonstrated by their systemic failure at every stage of the Wallum decision - and make no mistake, they contributed decisively at several points.

Though councillors, most notably Mayor Lyon, try to hide from responsibility, the proper action for them now is a post-mortem of exactly where they went wrong, both in their pre-approval collusion and their post-approval ineffectiveness, and how to prevent a repeat.

Has either Lyon or Swivel sought meetings with state departments or state or federal representatives to advocate for Wallum and protection of wetlands and biodiversity on the site? Is there a review underway of why Council staff and consultants are not applying due diligence or Council's

Continued on next page



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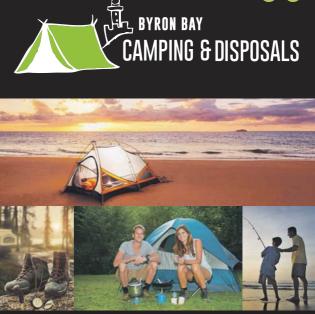
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1. The proposed 4G/5G upgrade will consist of:

OPTUS

Replacement of the existing circular headframe with a new square headframe;

- Replacement of three (3) existing Optus panel antennas with three (3) new panel antennas (each not more than 2.8m in length);
- Replacement of three (3) existing Vodafone panel antennas with three (3) new panel antennas (each not more than 2.8m in length);
- Installation of ancillary equipment including twenty-three (23) new remote radio units, antenna mounts, feeders, cabling, combiners, and other associated equipment; and
- Internal works within existing equipment shelter.

2. Optus and Vodafone regard the proposed installation as a Low-impact Facility under the Telecommunications (Low-impact Facilities) Determination 2018 based on the description above.

3. In accordance with Section 7 of C564:2020 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment Code 2020, we invite you to provide feedback about the proposal.

Further information and/or comments should be directed to: Vanessa Wan at Service Stream Limited, 0447 240 015, Zenith Tower B, Level 3, 821 Pacific Hwy, Chatswood NSW 2067 or optus.submissions@servicestream.com.au by 5pm, Thursday 27 June 2024.

Further information can be obtained at www.rfnsa.com.au/2481008

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Letters



'Since an informed citizenry is the basis for a healthy democracy, independent, non-corporate media are more crucial today than ever before.'

– Dahr Jamail



► Continued from page 15 own policies on biodiversity and climate in their rubberstamping of DAs such as Wallum?

Given their lack of engagement on the opportunities mentioned above, can either Mark Swivel or Michael Lyon point to a single genuine action to contribute to a just outcome at Wallum or fix the problems in BSC that led to this situation, beyond publishing the non-consultative amended DA concept? Without any meaningful attendant action like calling public meetings, inviting public comment, or pressing for state, federal, or legal intervention, the amended DA looks like a half-hearted attempt at image rehabilitation, as does this latest piece of opportunistic plagiarism.

Both Lyon and Swivel have demonstrated a breathtaking contempt for the community on this issue, an attitude of 'we know better'.

Our work as CLAI (Community-Led Acquisition Initiative), a regional, grassroots, First Nations, and community-led land bank or 'community land trust' is on the record in multiple forms. Ministers were briefed on the concept by First Nations leaders in successful meetings at state parliament earlier this month We look forward to Cr Swivel getting in touch to ask how he can serve the community's innovative proposal.

> Phoebe Torzillo Mullumbimby

Laura Tingle

To the Most Honourable Professor of Good Sense, David Lowe, I've just read your opinion in our beloved Byron Echo, on the Tingle

Issue - from predominantly the Murdoch press.

Thank you for dealing out the cards of actualised truth. Yes we do live in a predominantly racist country.

Your reasoning of that fact remaining in perpetuity while a 'holier than thou' attitude remains, is very true. The simple understanding of how the human brain, in general, operates is clear evidence of this. The truth of the lies we live are within.

Another piece of related interest I've noted is that one of our most respected historian writers and thinkers, on this very subject of the Australian brand of racism, is David Hill, whose recent documentation of the truths of our invasion of this continent are described accurately within the pages of his monumental research into 1788 The Brutal Truth of the First Fleet.

Under the guise of a penal colony to get rid of the huge overcrowding of jails in England, they chose a landing site on a faraway place that was thought to be very sparsely populated and up for grabs, where they could dump these worthless criminals and solve their problem.

So they thought! In fact, it only caused another problem and a huge lie.

The irony of this comment I make on David Hill's remarkable research, is that he is a previous chair of the ABC and, to my understanding, the present ABC have not been supportive of Laura Tingle and the true rationale behind her brave statement.

What is it with our ABC? That it can't stand its ground for its choice of

high-performing journalists who speak the truth and defend their level of integrity, that is unbeknownst or undervalued by the ABC, when obviously it's upholding the integrity of their service to Australia! It must be a too-hard-a-call for them to allow some truths to prevail?

Another example of this is Stan Grant, who may at times have been a loose cannon, he was turned from his respected place as a high-profile journalist and international political commentator, for speaking his mind on racial discrimination. He of all people has seen and experienced it at first hand. But to turn their backs on these bravehearts is, I think, counterproductive to the reeducation. It borders on censorship or suppression. When in fact the point has been missed. This racism I speak of is alive and well deepened in our psyche, below our conscious awareness and seeps out from most, in ordinary conversations. The trick is to listen to yourself.

We have come a long way so far since settlement in 1788, and as you've said David, we are the most successful multicultural nation, and in many respects as one moves around this country we are doing our best to respect everyone's rights and democratic freedoms of expression. Education and the practice of its learnings is crucial to the understanding of its benefits. Democracy is not an easy cake to eat and many suffer with chronic indigestion.

Thank you again David, I would appreciate reading more of your thoughts from

North Coast news online **Echo.net.au**

our Tiny Tinsel Town's Echo. The only true independent democratised newspaper in Australia, I think?

> Savaad Churcher-Wells Byron Bay

Keep funky Mullum

In response to the comments of Ed Ahern in last week's Echo. I would like to say that the last thing in the world that Mullumbimby needs is to be tarted up, in fact a 'committee to keep Mullum funky' would be a good idea.

The town of Byron was once a vibrant, friendly centre of the counterculture. Nowadays it is a soulless commercial precinct and nothing more. This is admittedly the result of commercial pressures rather than any actions by Byron Council but visitors from our main source of tourism. south-east Queensland are down because Byron town's uniqueness has been destroyed and it looks like any other resort town on the east coast.

As for the plans for Mullum – if you destroy the palms and plant shade trees these will eventually intrude under shop awnings and eventually over the awnings as far as I can see.

Also I think the people who say the lorikeets will just find somewhere else to roost are being highly optimistic about the adaptability of wildlife. It is likely that this is a cultural matter in that parent lorikeets teach their offspring where to find the best perching places, as they teach them where to find the best sources of food and water.

> **David Gilet** Mullumbimby

More letters on page 18



has played a pivitol role in my life over 3 decades. expertly guiding my \$affairs\$.

A VERY SERIOUS MESSAGE!

This ad. is *<u>NOT</u>, repeat *<u>NOT</u> suggesting readers use humour around *Suicide,*Mental *Illness and *Depression. I just *Googled *LIFELINE Toolkit for Helping someone at risk of suicide*. It's so well written/presented, only 4 clear, *easy *reading pgs. They should get an *Australia *Day *Award!

NO CLOWNING AROUND w. Suicide/Depression!

As a boy, my parents sometimes took us to the Circus. One time, in the front row, a Clown with a HUGE funny nose came past and stopped. Where did U get that nose? I asked. I went to the nose shop, and just took my pick! But don't *Clown* with *Mental *Health *UR's, or Any1 Else's!*

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16 The Byron Shire Echo June 12, 2024

Articles

Relocalising to find the life we all dream of

Sally Cusack

verywhere we look we see signs of economic downturn, current tal destruction and social breakeconomic downturn, environmendown. It's easy to wonder how we can ever improve our lives and those of our kids. However, as Helena Norberg-Hodge (Founder and Director of Local Futures) explains, we can turn these downward trends around through relocalising our economies.

Local group Relocalise Northern Rivers will be bringing these insights to Byron on 29 June when they present a screening of Local Futures' newest film Closer to Home.

One year ago, a 'Localisation Weekend' was presented at The Farm by Local Futures and Local Pegs. Those present had their eyes opened to the enormous potential of local economies by a colleague of Helena's, visiting US economist and lawyer, Michael Shuman.

They learnt that when you buy from a local business most of your spend stays in the local economy. And that when you spend in a franchise, the reverse is true. They were also surprised to see that small businesses with 20 employees and less are the most profitable and provide the most jobs when compared with large corporations.

Michael Shuman also estimates that if Byron Shire residents were to move \$90,000 out of their superannuation policies into local investment, the region stands to access a massive \$2.8 billion. Michael's decades of research also show



Relocalise Northern Rivers at their recent strategy planning afternoon. (L to R) Simon Jankelson, Mandy Hallinan, Sally Cusack, Susan Wanmer, Jason Lasky and Hansa Natola.

that these investments would do as well as, if not better than, if left on the global sharemarket.

So inspired were a number of us by all that Michael had to share, we pledged to continue exploring together how we can relocalise the economy of this region. And so Relocalise Northern Rivers was born.

We had all seen the impacts of the floods only the year before on our local food sources. With the roads blocking the semitrailers to the north and south of us, within days we saw supermarket shelves emptied. However, in spite of that, we could still continue to rely on our local growers (who weren't flooded in) to bring their produce to our weekly farmers' markets.

While this is reassuring, we are acutely aware that only a very small proportion of the food consumed here is actually grown here. We are also aware that few residents understand how vulnerable our supply chains are. As we

continue to see rising fuel costs (and the disruptions of possible future border closures and wars), it really is high time that we look seriously at the needs of this region and how we can meet them locally.

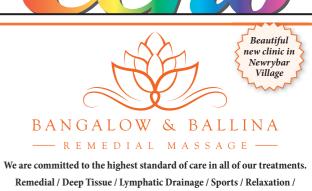
Learn more!

Our first action is to present a screening of Local Futures' newest film Closer to Home to raise awareness of how the global system impacts our individual lives. The screening is also to commemorate World Localisation Day 2024 – Local Futures' celebration of the many grassroots initiatives to rebuild local economies around the world.

The film explores how our global economic system does not produce a trickle-down effect that benefits us all, as promised. Instead it leads to an upward sponge-like effect, where the wealth of the average income earner has been extracted up to the level of the relative few.

The film will be followed by a panel discussion featuring documentary filmmaker and regenerative agriculture advocate, Damon Gameau (That Sugar Film and 2040). Henry Coleman from Local Futures and Techa Beaumont from Mullum SEED will also be on the panel and together will explore how localisation can benefit this region, and help lead us to the life we all dream of.

Closer to Home will screen at 3pm on Saturday, 29 June, upstairs at the Byron Community Centre. Tickets \$10, available at www.relocalise.org.



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Rail trails

Having ridden both local rail trails I can only say what a pleasure they bring. No cars or traffic noise (mostly), birds, beautiful plants, etc. The grass trees on the Bentley to Casino trail are fantastic.

When will Byron Council really get moving on their parts? How spectacular will the Byron to Bangalow part be to ride?

PS thanks to Byron Council workers for fixing the lighthouse walking path. Wally Hueneke Byron Bay

Can I have more?

Whooo hooo! Byron Bay business community donates \$1,360 to BayFM... 'Please Sir, can I have some more?' should have been the headline in last week's *Echo* story.

I suspected there was little enough community spirit in Byron but this is getting ridiculous. The business community would make that much profit in 30 seconds of trading on a good day, 30 minutes on a really bad day.

I can't imagine the shit-eating grin that BayFM volunteers had to spread over their justifiably gobsmacked faces after hearing that they would now be able to pay another week's bills.

Gone are the days when Tom Mooney would drop off cases of beer to the Byron Environment Centre (BEC) xmas party (natural allies we were not!), or heaven forbid that a local real estate agent (Paul McCarthy) would donate the Railway Park rotunda to home the BEC (after having been evicted from Railway Cottage), or in your wildest dreams that a local greenie troublemaker like myself should be given the Byron Chamber of Commerce Environmental Award for services to the community.

Even the Silver Fox himself, RIP, would turn in his grave if he knew how emaciated the coffers of the current chamber have become. I am deeply saddened to see nothing left of the community I once called home and do not regret for a minute the move west I made many years ago. I now belong to a community that has nowhere near the wealth of Byron, but I can guarantee that we could raise that much with a chook raffle on a rainy day.

> Stuart McConville Barkers Vale

Affordable housing I'm wondering how long

before the temporary emergency disaster relief housing project on Prince Street, Mullumbimby becomes permanent, or has that happened already? Don't get me wrong, I'm all in favour of affordable housing developments to help alleviate the accommodation crisis in Byron Shire, but I believe it can be done with some regard for environmental aesthetics and ecological sustainability.

In this day and age, with all the interest in carbon footprint and passive solar design, any council that prides itself on being 'green' should be concerned about the look, feel and function of low-cost housing. There's plenty of wonderful examples from the tiny house movement, but Byron Council has flunked dismally with this project, which looks more like a mining camp than eco-friendly housing.

Or is it just a nice little earner for some vested interests?

> John Scrivener Main Arm

Youth suicide?

ABC News reporting on youth suicide in remote communities at an alarming rate? The Elders are using Aussie Rules to keep youth occupied and safe.

The report said that this is what happens when people

live in poverty, as the Indigenous people do compared to the rest of Australians? Why?

Is it 'out of sight out of mind' by the regimes who are in control of the coffers?

This is a big problem when the regimes keep ignoring the situation that happens in these remote communities.

Wake up powers that be, start doing something about this problem. We don't want any more suicides of youth or anyone else.

> Paul Brecht Maclean

Israel/Gaza

Following certain developments over the last couple of weeks, it is starkly obvious that those at the ICC in the Hague believe that 'c' and not 'k' is the initial letter of 'kangaroo'.

> J Rose Mullumbimby

Self-defence explained

For those still confused, killing 38,000 unarmed civilians, a third of which were children, would not be self-defence, (however both sides of government want to spin it) – it would be called genocide.

> Rod Murray Ocean Shores



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Indonesian street food at the **Mullum Farmers Market**

Victoria Cosford

Rini and Ewan – should they ever find the time - don't need to add new items to their regular menu. Pretty much everything is a hit, and has been for all the years they've been running their market stall of fabulous Indonesian

street food. Or, more specifically, East Javanese food, which is where Rini comes from. The 'Indo Breaky',

spices, soy sauce, ginger, garlic, tamarind and coconut milk - but after some research I found a whole host of differing versions. The key to this sauce, however, is that it be a balance of sweet, spicy and sour. Rini – and why should she? - won't give away her secret recipe for it

but does confide that she uses kaffir lime and no tamarind for the citrus component. It takes her a couple of hours to make

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the Nasi Goreng and the Mie



L to R: Icha, Rini, Ewan, Putro serve up East Javanese food service the three fritters - all turn over so quickly at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday that Rini barely

has time to chat as she tongs spring rolls and corn batter into bubbling oil and spoons her luscious peanut sauce over golden grilled chicken skewers.

It's that sauce I'm wanting her to tell me about: I'd recently heard it described as the best one around. Generally referred to as 'satay' sauce due to its common application as a sauce for skewered meats or vegetables, or 'satay', it's traditionally made from ground roasted peanuts which are blended with

more than three litres a week, the ammount required to markets she and Ewan do.

I wanted to give the sauce a go myself. Consulting various cookbooks - Alvin Lee, Charmaine Solomon amongst others - I ended up with a hybrid which, while far from authentic, tasted absolutely gorgeous draped over grilled chicken skewers. I broke the peanut rule by using wonderful, buttery Marlyvale Farm pecans: Rini would have been horrified, but we devoured with gusto.

Indonesian Kitchen is at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7am to 11am. www.echo.net.au

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The Good Life

Brad's Butchery: Byron's new organic butcher at 130 Jonson St Byron

Brad's Butchery Byron Bay is a brand-new organic, family-owned-and-operated butcher in Byron with a great range of quality products and a dry-aged beef display room that is equal to the best in the country. Brad, who grew up a butcher, learning skills from his father, and his wife Tanya Holloway, and their newest recruit, daughter Jasmine, have been busy renovating the shop for the last three months, and now they are open for business with an expanding range.

Brad and Tanya have three other stores in Lismore, Ballina and Goonellabah, which have all supported local farmers since 2011, sourcing and supplying grass-fed yearling beef, local pork and free-range chickens.

While this has worked well for Brad and Tanya for the last 13 years, they are now keen to supply Byron Bay through their new store which sells solely organic beef, lamb and chicken. Brad says he saw the move as an exciting opportunity to fill a gap in the market for organic meats in Byron Bay, where everyone is so passionate about organic products.

This opportunity has meant Brad has had to create a new network of organic suppliers – Brad and Tanya source their organic fresh chickens from Inglewood organic poultry twice a week, and fresh beef and lamb from Shane Elliot's organic agribusiness. Elliott Premium organic beef and lamb is from specially-selected Angus grass-fed cattle, and cross-bred lambs free-ranging on natural grass



pastures, and finished to a premium quality.

Over the last three weeks Brad has been busy creating new products for the Byron store. Brad says his customers are asking for products with no additives, which is why he now has a wide range of sausages, burger patties and gourmet chicken products that are preservative-free, with no added meals, or salt and pepper, added to them.

Brad also makes his own award-winning nitrate-free ham and bacon the old-fashioned way. 'I started in a small shop 40 years ago, learning the traditional skills to make ham and bacon. This experience has stood me in good stead over the years, but especially



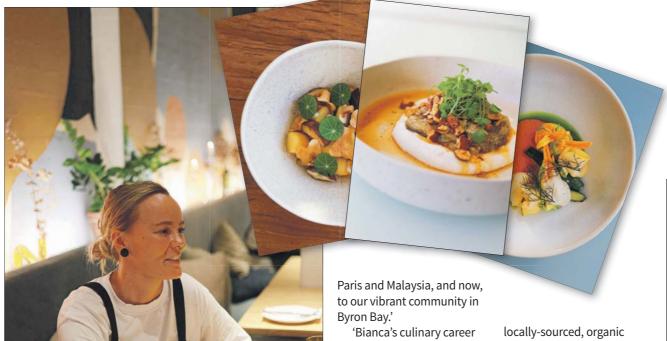
Brad, wife Tanya and daughter Jasmine in the new Byron shop.

recently, as there are fewer people with the old-time skills around in retail butcher shops these days,' he says.

However, there is one innovation that Brad has embraced enthusiastically – Brad's new Byron store features a dry-aged meat display room that is worthy of the finest butcher shops anywhere in Australia. So, if you are a diehard steak lover, or you just want to surprise one by purchasing one of the softest steaks available, please come and see the amazing display.

Brad's Butchery Byron Bay is open at 130 Jonson St, near Byron RSL, Monday to Friday 7am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 6am to 3pm.

Byron's No Bones welcomes new head chef Bianca Palmer



the use of local produce. Her new menu is a reflection of this philosophy, promising an extraordinary dining experience that honours both flavour and the environment. 'We invite you to join us at No Bones to experience the culinary delights crafted by head chef Bianca Palmer and to be part of this exciting new chapter in our journey towards exceptional plant-based dining. Come and discover how Bianca's expertise and creativity are transforming our menu and elevating our commitment to sustainability.'

@nobonesrestaurants





New head chef Bianca Palmer and some of the delicious new plant-based dishes she is bringing to the menu at No Bones.

No Bones Byron Bay is excited to announce the arrival of their new head chef, Bianca Palmer, saying her 'extensive culinary background and passion for plant-based cuisine

are set to bring a fresh wave of innovation to our restaurant. Bianca's journey has taken her from the lush landscapes of the Hunter Valley to the prestigious kitchens of

began in the Hunter Valley NSW, where she developed a deep appreciation for local, seasonal produce. She has worked in esteemed establishments like Bistro Molines and Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, and most recently, she honed her skills with Michelinstarred Chef Andrew Walsh in Malaysia. Her diverse experiences have enriched her culinary style, emphasising sustainability and creativity.' 'At No Bones, Bianca is launching an exciting new menu that celebrates the flavours and quality of

ingredients. Some of the standout dishes include Zucchini Blossom with cashew and dill ricotta, Smoked Eggplant with confit garlic yoghurt, and Gnocchi featuring local Shroom Brothers shimeji mushrooms. These new offerings reflect Bianca's commitment to sustainability and her innovative approach to plant-based cuisine. 'Bianca's vision for No Bones goes beyond creating delicious dishes. She aims to foster a deeper connection with our community through sustainable practices and

JOIN US IN CELBRATING OUR NEW HEAD CHEF BIANCA PALMER, AND HER AMAZING NEW MENU

25% DISCOUNT FOR JUNE ONLY DOWNLOAD LOCAL PEGS

NO BONES

LOCALPEGS.COM.AU

www.echo.net.au



MR MAC SERVING BYRON BAY & BEYOND (BASED IN BRUNS)

Got issues with your Mac or Apple device? Mr Mac specialises in upgrades, battery replacements, system maintenance, backup solutions and all things Mac computer related in a dedicated workshop. Mr Mac offers in-home or in-office visits to help with tuition / problem solving.

Often the solution involves software updates, application upgrades or tweaking the iCloud settings. Devices needing more specific attention or repair can be dropped in to the Brunswick Heads workshop (by appointment). NB. Mr Mac is not a 'retailer' but more a 'support service'.

Send a message via 'contact' at Make a booking on 0418 408 869 www.mrmacintosh.com.au Facebook: Mr Macintosh Mr Mac: serving the Byron Shire since 2001



HINTERLAND CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Throughout Hinterland Christian College's Deep Learning learners select and frame complex problems, questions, wonderings that open up more questions, thinking, possibilities. Learners express themselves authentically with the impact of transformational power, improving a condition greater than themselves or enriching understanding of others. Interested in this approach for your child?

Book a tour now. 02 66841559 114 Main Arm Rd, Mullumbimby www.hinterland.nsw.edu.au

GLOBAL RIPPLE CHARITY SHOP

Thrift your heart out at the newly expanded Global Ripple Opshop! With eclectic treasures for everyone, a great atmosphere, and now even more space full of treasures galore, it's the perfect place to spend a few hours and find some amazing bargains while supporting local charities. You can shop knowing that every penny spent is directly supporting people in need.

If you would like to support Global Ripple, drop off your preloved items, donate furniture and spread the word.

Open Monday-Saturday 9am-4:30pm. 2 Grevillea St, Byron Bay (behind Bunnings)

IN THE NEW LOCATION!

REDISCOVER RED GINGER ASIAN STORE



NEA ALEXANDRA BOOKKEEPING

Nea embodies a deep passion for her craft as a Certified Bookkeeper and Registered BAS Agent, having amassed over 30 years of invaluable experience in the industry. As a fixture in Byron Bay's community, she has nurtured her brainchild, Nea Alexandra Bookkeeping, into a flourishing business. With renowned clients like Wandering Folk, Pack Gallery, Sahana Byron and Sneaky Sound System, Nea's reputation speaks for itself.

Nea and her adept team specialise in simplifying processes and alleviating the burdens of bookkeeping, freeing you to focus on your core strengths. Their down-to-earth approach ensures services are customised to your specific business needs, devoid of corporate jargon. With Nea's support, you'll feel empowered to propel your business forward confidently.

0417 660 793 bookkeeping@neaalexandra.com

www.neaalexandrabookkeeping.com

MY GEEK MATE

It's time for another Tech Commandment courtesy of Mark, Chief Geek of My Geek Mate. 'Don't use an ISP email address (Internet Service Provider). ISP's have been giving their customers email addresses since they first came into being in the 1990s, before there were any decent free email providers (such as Microsoft, Google, Apple). ISPs really don't care about email these days. An example of an ISP email address is @bigpond.com. Reasons: 1. You may one day switch ISP and thus lose your address; 2. They often require manual entry of the email server settings; 3. They're usually insecure and don't have the option of multi-factor authentication; 4. Read more at mygeekmate.com.au. Mark is also available for personal tech support in a shire nearby with less potholes'.

Exciting news for Red Ginger customers! Red Ginger Asian Store in Byron Bay has moved next door from its original location on Jonson Street, where they've served the community for over 20 years. While the address



Japanese ceramics, a full range of Asian groceries, fine teas and teapots, and exquisite homewares. Come and enjoy a serene experience in the new outside courtyard. Indulge in delicious dumplings and sip on refreshing green tea as you soak in the tranquil ambiance

has slightly changed, the charm and

beauty of the old Chinese-style decor remain the same. Discover beautiful

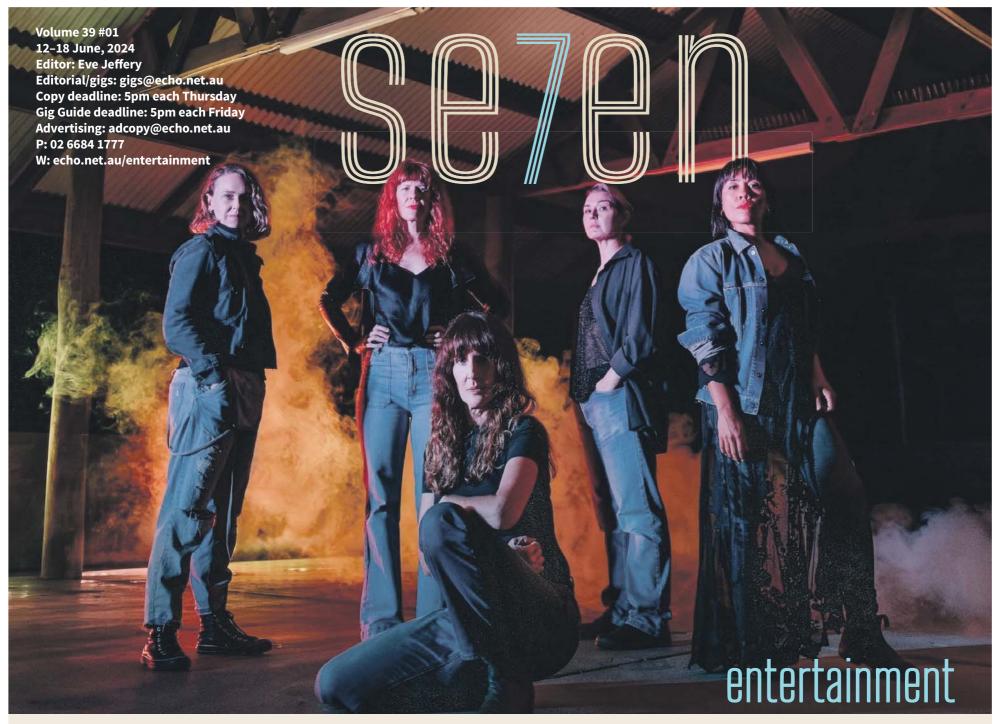
Visit the new location today and experience the same Red Ginger magic you love! Visit Red Ginger in Byron Bay and Bangalow 7 days a week.

02 6680 9779 5/109 Jonson St, Byron Bay 02 6687 2808 38 Byron St, Bangalow

22 The Byron Shire Echo June 12, 2024

0431 122 057 1/53 Tamar Street, Ballina mygeekmate.com.au





WILDLY TALENTED PERFORMERS

NORPA has announced the cast who will light up the company's muchanticipated show *Wildskin*, set to take audiences on a thrilling ride at Lismore Showground in September.

Five wildly-talented performers: **Cass Duell, Melia Naughton, Kate Foster, Jade Dewi Tyas Tunggal**, and **Sara Browne** make up the all-Northern Rivers cast along with a local creative team and crew. A destination theatre event, *Wildskin* will transform a warehouse space at Lismore Showground into an outrageous and unpredictable world that's part bush-thriller, part road-trip and a whole lot of NORPA's signature theatrical style.

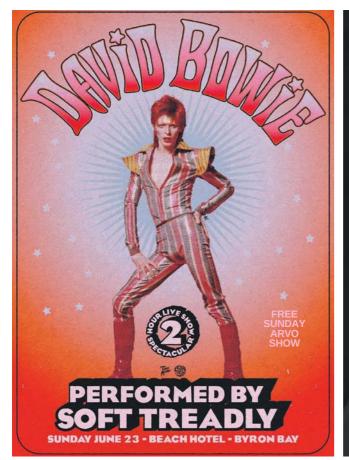
The cast was finally selected following an extensive audition process that attracted forty local applicants, twenty of whom were invited to the first round of auditions in March.

Wildskin director and NORPA's Artistic Director, **Julian Louis**, says together this

multi-talented cast will help create and embody the story of Eva, who believes the only way to mend her broken life is to go on the road, solo. 'Along the way she encounters wild characters and finds herself in all sorts of confronting situations, sometimes absurd and sometimes dangerous.'

'The work is very physical, and shifts quickly, and requires a skilled ensemble cast who play multiple roles. Each member of the cast and the creative team brings different skills and ideas to the work. I'm so excited to revisit this work with this group, and translate *Wildskin* into an edgy warehouse setting.'

From the director who brought you Love for One Night at the Eltham Hotel, NORPA's Wildskin at Lismore Showground is a thrilling night of daring and joyous theatre. Wildskin roars into the Lismore Showground from 12-28 September for a limited season only, with tickets selling fast through norpa.org.au.





A NORPA PRODUCTION



From the makers of *Love* For One Night, Wildskin is another sensory-smashing, destination theatre experience.

FROM 12 SEPTEMBER LISMORE SHOWGROUNDS Buses from Byron & Ballina – see website

воок Now norpa.org.au

June 12, 2024 The Byron Shire Echo 23

Se7en

NICKI PARROTT IS FEELIN' GROOVY

After three decades of touring and performing in the US, Europe and Japan, acclaimed jazz musician **Nicki Parrott** is making a triumphant return to her homeland, bringing with her a new album *Feelin' Groovy* – that pays homage to the iconic sounds of the sixties and draws inspiration from the carefree lifestyle of her new home in the Byron Shire. *Feelin' Groovy* is a homecoming for Parrott featuring an all-Australian ensemble.

Seven caught up with Nicki on the long weekend.

You have been playing music since you were four. Have you done anything else for work?

I worked in fashion when I first arrived in NYC early in 1994 for eight months. I used to run new sample swatches to the big brands – it was fun... just not as much fun as playing music!

Some may wonder why you left the glamour of New York to come back to Australia – what is it that we have that they don't?

Australia is my home and about a dozen years ago, my husband and I started thinking and planning about our future and the lifestyle we wanted. It took us a while for everything to align but here we are in the beautiful Byron Shire. There are many creative people here and of course, lots of great musicians as well.

The tracklist for *Feelin' Groovy* is bloody awesome – is there a danger that Boomers' nostalgia for songs gets in the way of appreciation of a new take?

Not at all – boomers can adjust to anything! My audience has always allowed me to explore and express myself through the musical choices I've presented. With *Feelin' Groovy*, it's not just about the Boomers but about reaching an entirely new audience with a classic repertoire played with jazzy / funky arrangements.

The dress on the album cover is awesome - is it retro?

The dress was commissioned by my husband – he's also the album and show's producer and creative director. He found a dressmaker in Spain. It's influenced by a Catherine Deneuve photo from the '60s. For the album packaging and the video, he used all vintage lenses to capture the vibe of the project. I love this dress too!



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.



When arranging and performing these songs, is there a sense that the original artists/writers are looking over your shoulder and nodding? (or frowning?)

Hopefully not frowning... When I arrange songs for an album I discover an entirely new appreciation for their craft and I'm careful not to represent their work if I feel they wouldn't appreciate what I've done. It's a delicate balance but to me it's always about honouring the composer and finding a good groove.

Was there a song on the record that you just had to include because of your own nostalgia?

My husband and I chose the songs from a list we've been curating for many years now. My last release, *If You Could Read My Mind*, used songs from the '70s. With *Feeling Groovy*, we dug a little deeper and found the tunes with a great lyric and melody, and tunes that I could have fun arranging. Truth be told, I insisted on 'Pure Imagination', and 'Catch the Wind'.

What song from the record do you enjoy playing the most?

Is it wrong to say I love playing all of them? I'm really looking forward to the show at the Byron Theatre just to share the joy of performing the *Feelin' Groovy* playlist and a few other favourites. I think you'll see the entire band having fun – even singing and dancing along.

What is your current earworm?

I tutor both privately and at Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School. At the school, the young students are always introducing me to what's on their playlists, and I share what's on mine. I look for a happy medium so that the structure and classic elements aren't lost in the study of music. So right now I'm listening to a wide variety of music from Alicia Keys to Billie Eilish to Monty Alexander!

Are you having enough fun?

Absolutely!

You can feel the groove with Nicki Parrott at the CD release show on Friday, July 5, at 7.30 at the Byron Theatre. For tix and info, visit: byroncentre.com.au.



entertainment



THE MUSIC OF BOWIE

Byron Bay – step into the world of iconic rock legend David Bowie as Brisbane's very own **Soft Treadly** (formerly known as **The Jensens**) take the stage for an unforgettable twohour live show at the **Beach Hotel**.

From the haunting 'Space Oddity' to the party-starting 'Let's Dance', all the way to the timeless anthems of 'Heroes' and 'Changes'.

Don't miss the chance to relive Bowie's musical legacy with Soft Treadly at the Beach Hotel on Sunday, 23 June – a free show from 4.30pm.



BRINGING THE 'FUNKY BUS' TO TOWN

Louey Howell and the Funkatu Collective are an original psychedelic, bush funk band who combine an eclectic fusion of reggae, soul, ska and hip-hop into a delightfully delicious explosion of funky goodness guaranteed to get your booty shakin'.

Much loved Bellingen band Funkatu will be travelling up to the Northern Rivers to spread their funk and good vibes and to promote the launch of their debut single 'Funky Bus' – a song inspired by Macy Gray's *Live at Las Vegas* and Michael Franti (all the freaky people make the beauty in the world). The track and video clip dropped on March 29 on all the usual platforms except Spotify (who, Funkatu are boycotting for ethical reasons). It's their first official release and tour. Funkatu are super excited to get more feet stompin' and heads bopping.

This is a fresh movement with an original groove that is representing Bellingen and a unique Mid North Coast sound.

'Funky Bus' is a song about letting go of our inhibitions and having a good time. This first official release by Funkatu has a tight, rocking vibe. It features the soaring vocals of **Georgie Chorley** and the bodacious guitars of **Bret Divola**, **Matt Robson** and **Mic Thomas**. The release also has an accompanying music video which was filmed at the Water Closet surf shop at a forest protest fundraiser. It's something that's close to home for band leader Louey who is a dedicated and deadly surfer.

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.

SCICE CREATIVE MEDIA INSTITUTE



All free shows! JUNE 14th The Rails - Byron Bay 15th Sheoak Shack - Fingal Head 16th Uki Markets 21st Metropole - Lismore 23rd Music Mountain Cafe - Mt Burrell WWW.linktr.ee/funkatu

They are touring this single until the wheels fall off.

The 'Funky Bus' single tour will feature the unmistakable Aussie songwriting of lyricist Louey Howell on drums and didgeridoo, **Dan McCosker** on de funky bass, **Hannah Harlen** on sweet vocals and electric guitar and **Ahva Dub** lifting the vibes on vox, synths and a jazzy bamboo flute.

The Funkatu Collective will be playing at The Rails on Friday, The Sheoak Shack on Saturday, the Uki Buttery Bazaar Market on Sunday, and the Metropole Lismore on Friday, June 21.

24 The Byron Shire Echo June 12, 2024





THE WAY, MY WAY

This is the charming and captivating true story of a stubborn, self-centred Australian man who decides to walk the 800-kilometre-long Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route through Spain. He doesn't know why he's doing it... but one step at a time, it will change him and his outlook on life forever.

The film is based on filmmaker Bill Bennett's best-selling memoir of the same name.

He sets off, not sure why he is doing it, and not feeling comfortable. His discomfort increases markedly a few days later when his knee gives out - so the rest of the walk was a 'pain management pilgrimage,' Bill says.

'I'd never done anything crazy like this before - a pilgrimage walk. I was not a hiker, and I wasn't a Catholic. In fact, I wasn't even sure I was a Christian. On the last government census when I had to state my religion, I'd said I was a Buddhist, mainly because they've had such a hard time in Tibet I felt they needed my statistical support. I was also not an adventure traveller. For me, adventure travel was flying coach. All this backpacking and wearing of heavy boots and flying off to walk ancient pilgrimage routes was a new experience, and not one that made me feel entirely comfortable.

Now showing at Palace Cinema, Byron Bay.

Session Times PALACE CINEMAS Thurs, June 13 - Wed, June 19 108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

GIG GUIDE

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**

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
- MAIN STREET BURGER BAR. BYRON BAY, 8PM MOJO **JACKET + VISCOSITY**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

THURSDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAMIEN COOPER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM BEN WHITING + REGURGITATOR
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **GRIGORYAN BROTHERS -**AMISTAD
- THE ROCKS, BYRON BAY, WILL HENDERSON
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM DAN HANNAFORD
- LENNOX HOTEL HOTEL STAGE 8PM THURSDAY JAM NIGHT
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **BLACK TRAIN**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM THE SUPPER CLUB
- CIVIC HOTEL, LISMORE, 7PM **COMEDY OPEN MIC**
- FINS AT PLANTATION HOUSE, DURANBAH, 6PM WINTER WARMER HOMELESSNESS RELIEF **FUNDRAISING CABARET:** FEAT. MANDY NOLAN, THE SPACE COWBOY, CC THE CAT, ANDIA CALLY **ART, KINSHIP DOOBAI** DANCERS

FRIDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, LOUEY HOWELL & FUNKATU
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM DEVU + WET WHISTLES

- BYRON THEATRE 8PM THE **COMEDIAN AND THE** COWBOY
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM OLE FALCOR, 9PM HEARTBEAT, 10PM KANE MUIR
- MAIN STREET BURGER BAR, BYRON BAY, 7PM LACHLAN **JACQUES + VAN BROOKES,** 10.30PM DJ SKYWALKER
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM PUFF WITH LIMINAL
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ PAPA BITCHO
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 8PM CONRAD SEWELL
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM LUKE YEAMAN LENNOX HOTEL 8.30PM
- **PISTOL WHIP** BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE
- **10AM MORNING MELODIES** WITH DEAN DOYLE CHERRY STREET SPORTS
- CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM BEN & VIC
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **DJ NAT WHITE** THE CHANNON TAVERN
- 7.30PM DJ OVALS MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES
- CLUB 6.30PM GLENN **SHIELD**S KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS
- 5PM TIM STOKES SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM
- **TAHLIA MATHESON** TWIN TOWNS, TWEED
- HEADS, THE SHOWROOM **8PM AUSTRALIAN ROCK** COLLECTIVE

SATURDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OWLS OF NEPTUNE**
 - BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY. 3PM TIM STOKES 3PM + **IZAEAH MARSH BAND**
 - BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM ILSE DE ZIAH & IAN DATE -LIVING THE TRADITION
 - THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM MATTHEW ARMITAGE, 10PM KANE MUIR

WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ **XUJA**

- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7.30PM BOOMBOX **80S SHOW**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM NATHAN KAYE
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM PINK ZINC
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM LUKE YEAMAN
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM CATH **SIMES BAND**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 6.30PM KARAOKE
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM STOCKADE
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM LEIGH JAMES SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM
- **BEN WALSH**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 7.30PM MADE IN THE 80S
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM THE AUSTRALIAN **EAGLES SHOW**
- LENNOX HEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE 10.30AM LITE NOR'EASTER 2024
- ST AUGUSTINE'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, COOLANGATTA, 2.30PM COOLAMON **SINGERS PRESENT -ROSSINI'S PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE**

SUNDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, MARSHALL OKELL DUO
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM GOODRICH
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM JORDAN MAC
- MIDDI F PUB. MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM OPEN **MIC WITH THE SWAMP** CATS
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM DJ DARLAN
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM SUNDAY BLUES **CLUB SESSIONS FEAT.** SOREN CARLBERGG **QUARTET, LEVEL ONE 3PM COLIN LANE & DAVID HOBSON - IN TAILS**

- SHAWS BAY HOTEL. BALLINA, 3PM SHAWS BAY SUNDAY SESSIONS FT EPIC
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **MOSES PARKER JAZZ TRIO**
- LISMORE TURF CLUB 10AM LISMORE FRIENDSHIP **FESTIVAL**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 2PM JORDAN SMITH
- UKI MARKETS FROM 8AM LOUEY HOWELL & THE FUNKATU COLLECTIVE, **OCTAGON, HANNAH** HARLAN
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 6.30PM KEVIN BLOODY WILSON

MONDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM ADAM HARPAZ

TUESDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OLE FALCOR**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM MARK CROTTI
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM MARSHALL OKELL
- LENNOX HEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE 7.30PM SCREENING - MIDNIGHT TRAVELLER - FUNDRAISING FOR **BALLINA REGION FOR** REFUGEES
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM BACK TO THE TIVOLI

WEDNESDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, TRILLAH
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM MATTHEW ARMITAGE DUO
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM INO PIO
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

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Session Times

Ballina Fair Cinema

SPECIAL SCREENINGS THE THREE MUSKETEERS DOUBLE FEATURE M Sun: 1:45PM FAMILY FILMS IF IPRO Daily: 10:30AM, 12:45PM, 4:00PM INSIDE OUT 2IPRI NET Daily: 11:00AM, 12:45PM, 7:30PM, 5:15PM, 6:15PM, 7:30PM, 5:15PM, 6:15PM, 3:00PM, 5:15PM	ALL FILMS BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE WMISHINT Daily: 10:30AM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA (MAISH) Daily: 1:00PM, 3:10PM, 7:00PM HIGH & LOW - JOHN GALLIANO MU Daily except Sun: 1:45PM. No screening Sunday KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APPES (MU Daily: 10:50AM, 6:45PM THE EXORCISM (CIO NHT Daily: 1:50PM, 6:20PM, 8:30PM THE FALL GUY MU Daily: 11:15AM, 3:00PM, 8:20PM	THE SITTING Daily: 10:45AM S:45PM THE THREE N D'ARTAGNAM Dially: 8:00PM THE THREE N MILADY ^{M0} Daily except Su 4:15PM, 6:10PM Sun: 11:15AM, 6 THE WATCHE Daily: 12:45PM, 8:30PM THE WATCHE Daily: 10:30AM	
Please check online for ALL films screening. Mercato Complex 3hrs FREE parking Validation for all Palace Cinemas customer <u>Session times subject to change - check web for most up to date sessions.</u> NFT - No Free Treckets. Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au			

BAD BOYS: RIDE OR DIE THE GARFIELD MOVIE . 4:00PM. Daily: 12:45PM, 6:50PM Daily: 10:10AM, 2:30PM MUSKETEERS: FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA THE THREE MUSKETEERS: MILADY (M) Daily: 10:20AM MUSKETEERS: Daily: 3:15PM, 6:15PM THE WATCHERS (M) NFT un: 11:15AM IF (PG) .. Daily: 12:20PM Daily: 4:40PM 6:10PM INSIDE OUT 2 (PG) NFT IERS (M) NFT 4, 6:15PM, Daily: 10:00AM, 12:10PM, 2:20PM, 4:30PM, 6:40PM Y WAY (PO

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Palace Cinemas is proud to be preserving Ballina's herished community cinema, where we'll continue bringing exceptional movie experiences to the vibrant Ballina audience!

PALACE CINEMAS



Submit your event to the Echo's free Gig Guide. Running in *The Echo* and online at echo.net.au.

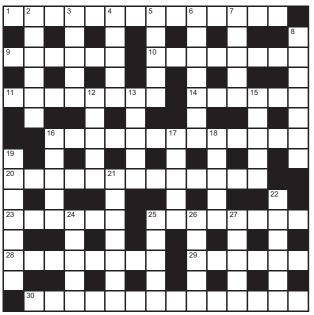
HAVE YOU SENT

gigs@echo.net.au

US YOUR

June 12, 2024 The Byron Shire Echo 25

Crossword by Stephen Clarke



Quick Clues

(5, 2, 3, 4)

9. Blackguards (6)

11. Fish traps (4,4)

knees (7,6)

10. A state capital (8)

14. Nevertheless (4,2)

29. All in one piece (6)

DOWN

2. Foul (6)

3. New (5)

4. Matter (5)

5. Trolley cars (5)

7. Wrathful (5)

6. Cricket teams (7)

8. Compunction (7)

15. Inadequacies (5)

anaesthetic (5)

16. Correspond (5)

19. Conceal (7)

21. Lavatories (7)

25. Article of faith (5)

12. Political family of Bharat (5)

17. Colourless liquid used as an

especially insects (5)

22. Dealer in foodstuffs (6)

18. A large moving mass of animals,

24. City on the Moselle River and an

early centre of Christianity (5)

13. Gene Pitney was only twenty-four hours from this southern US city (5)

30. Applying in all cases (6,3,5)

16. Vulnerable points (8,5)

20. Close fitting pants that reach the

23. Resident of Minos's kingdom (6)

25. Large tropical plant with trunk-like

stem and fronds at its top (4.4)

28. Worship of supernatural powers (8)

1. Involvement in numerous activities

ACROSS

Cryptic Clues ACROSS

- 1. Options available in burning clubs? (5,2,3,4)9. Base characters heard in parts of
- churches (6) 10. Pop star secures backing in Australian city (8)
- 11. Frenzied selling around bar and traps (4,4)
- 14. Service doesn't stretch to night golf - still! (4.2)
- 16. Legendary weaknesses! (8,5) 20. Mother's absurd tailored casual
- wear (7,6)
- 23. Greek islander with scarves, regularly a shade of brown (6)
- 25. Spooner's wild change of direction at plant (4,4)
- 28. Belief system, in part mostly fiction (8) 29. Old queen escapes from get-
- together undefiled! (6) 30. Universal range of game men? (6,3,5)
- DOWN
- 2. Dashed detectives are on the nose (6)
- 3. Different story (5)
- 4. Problem child (5)
- 5. Clever send-up of public transport! (5) 6. Echo initially licensed with seven
- random sporting teams (7) 7. Plagiarist, robbed of piano, gets really angry (5)
- 8. Period of sleep Rose disrupted in sorrow (7)
- 12. Four henchmen turned up to seize old Indian leader (5)
- 13. Criminal assault as fleeing Oklahoma city (5)
- 15. Wants beginners to never engage enemies, despite shelling (5)
- 16. Lunatic eager to say yes (5)
- 17. Three changes of atmosphere (5) 18. Fish or dessert? It's engaging many people! (5)
- 19. Mysterious gangs Mike left to fix (7) 21. Nuns die horribly in outdoor
- facilities (7) 22. Merchant when on radio is more indelicate (6)
- 24. German city on the level about republican origin (5)
- 25. Whichever way you look at it, it's a principle! (5)
- 26. End of the lo-cal cream (5)

STARS

27. From out of renovated staffroom comes an offensively labelled obese person (5)

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#7

A Spoonful of Sugar Really Does Help The Medicine Go Down

Making people fat is big business. Just ask the sugar industry.

Making people not fat is potentially even bigger.

Just ask Novo Nordisk the manufacturers of Ozempic and Wegovy. the new once-weekly semaglutide injectables prescribed for type 2 diabetes and weight loss. As of October last year, this pharmaceutical company has quadrupled its share cap, making it currently the biggest company in Europe, on track to become the biggest company in the world.

Big sugar makes us fat and sick and then big pharma makes us thin and well again. Does anyone else find this troubling? Wouldn't the perfect solution be to get rid of big sugar? That would be degrowth and let's face it we're addicted. It's the ultimate sticky corporate web, spun by capitalist spiders. It's overconsumption in overdrive. We pay to eat. We pay to not eat. Brilliant!

Obesity has become recognised as a chronic illness and the underlying cause of type 2 diabetes. More than 95% of people in the world with diabetes have type 2 - what was previously called 'adult onset' or non-insulin-dependent. The body becomes resistant to insulin or doesn't make enough, causing elevated levels of blood glucose (or blood sugar), which leads over time to serious damage to the heart, blood vessels, eyes, kidneys and nerves. Over 422 million people worldwide have diabetes. To halt the rise of diabetes, you need to address obesity. And that's where Ozempic and similar weight-loss drugs turned up. And for people with type 2 diabetes or in stages of onset, they have potentially been a lifesaver, although this is a long-term, possibly lifelong, medication.

So how does it work? Semaglutide makes you feel full. It does this by mimicking GLP-1, a natural hormone that tells your body you have eaten. It basically gives you disordered eating. And thanks to mismanagement of prescribing and the availability on the internet through illegal dispensers, eating disorders are on the rise. A psychiatrist who specialises in eating disorders told me recently that weightloss drugs were causing an increase



Big sugar makes us fat and sick and then big pharma makes us thin and well again. **Does anyone else find** this troubling? Wouldn't the perfect solution be to get rid of big sugar?

in morbidity with patients of his who were 45 kilos obtaining the drugs and dropping to 35 kilos. That's when you die.

If you need to lose large amounts of weight and nothing else has worked, then maybe it is the answer. But its worldwide shortages indicate that it is being wildly overprescribed. Some people may just need a lifestyle change to manage their weight. Not a pill that can cause nausea and vomiting, this weird thing from fat loss called 'Ozempic Face', and the fact that if you don't stay on it, the fat comes back on. Oh, and it's not proven in humans, but apparently Ozempic and medicines that work like Ozempic, caused thyroid tumours in rodents. Not all, some. Maybe those rats had other underlying conditions. Maybe they also smoked.

Ozempic is a bit like vaping. It was introduced as a medical intervention for smoking cessation and then it leapt into the broader market and went gangbusters. It's clear the demand for

> LIBRA: Gemini time is high season for shopping, and this week's planetary quartet suggests retail therapy for your home zone could be therapeutic not enjoy spending this weekend's Libra moon revamping your entertainment area with a new plant, soft cushion, plushy throw rug or warm lighting?

weight-loss drugs that mimic GLP-1 is off the charts. A recent shortage here in Australia saw some compounding pharmacists having a crack and making their own. This caused some of their patients to vomit blood. Frankly, I'd rather be a bit fat.

A friend of mine went to the doctor the other day for a consult unrelated to weight. She's within a healthy weight range. Like most women I know she'd love to lose five kilos. The doctor asked her if she'd considered losing weight and then offered her a weight-loss drug. She was offended and surprised that a health professional would jump straight to a lifelong drug designed for people with type 2 diabetes. She had just been considering cutting back on her calories and upping her exercise. How quaint!

Maybe before we jump to medicating the world for obesity, we should address the underlying causes that make us obese?

Sugar. Poverty. Sugar. Unhappiness. Sugar. Addiction. Sugar.

Overconsumption.

Ironically, to stop our obesity from overconsumption we are overconsuming weight-loss drugs.

It's the ultimate wicked problem for humanity.

When we solve the riddle of how to manage overconsumption, we solve obesity. But we also solve climate change.

Imagine if we could inject some sort of planetary peptide into our equator?

CAPRICORN: Been trying to solve a problem and keep ending up at the same place? Whether a frustrating argument or a business that's just not getting anywhere, this week's planetary face-offs suggest pressing pause to assess, and asking the necessary questions: Is this really worth continuing, and if so, why?



ARIES: With planetary motivator Mars moving into slow and sensible mode, you can finally tackle your to-do list without roakingt ie snee l limit Though if Mars still ratchets up stress levels, these are best soothed by savouring sensual pleasures and practical indulgences: luscious food, beautiful bedding, a holiday away in nature.

BY LILITH

One of Gemini's jobs is connecting people, and this week's Jupiter, Venus, Mercury and the sun in the sign of the twins activates a magnificent melange of mixing and mingling...



TAURUS: This week's red flag to Taurus bulls arrives with headstrong Mars charging into your stubborn sign and provoking standoffs where no one wants to back down. Focus on staying flexible and negotiable until the approaching Mercury/Venus alignment sets a more sympathetic stage for heartfelt discussions on touchy subjects.

GEMINI: With the loquacious combination of the expressive sun, articulate Mercury, chatty Venus and expansive Jupiter in your communicative sign, you're at your most compelling and charismatic, but beware of oversharing. Avoid the complexity of too much information. Simplicity is this week's mantra.

fluctuating moods and resp. affecting others. And also worthwhile investigating JOMO: the Joy Of Missing Out, that feeling of being happy and content with just staying in and not engaging.

CANCER: There are some tricky

planetary aspects this week, so it's

advisable to be aware of how your

LEO: Although you might have dramatic reactions to this week's avalanche of information, what it calls for is a measured and responsible response. In this rapidly changing world, the most effective way of meeting altered circumstances is an open, questioning attitude. So relax and look for the hidden opportunity.

VIRGO: Last week's new moon brought an influx of ideas and opportunities. This week's waxing moon in your own discerning sign is perfect (favourite Virgo word) for sorting and assessing what might be viable, also for checking if there's anything important you may have missed or overlooked.

SCORPIO: Staying curious could shift your perspective in a good way this week. But with everyone trading information. ideas and opinions, all talking up a storm and too much happening at once, honour your Scorpion instincts to withdraw and process, to filter and discriminate, to accept or reject.

SAGITTARIUS: There's no shortage of satisfying, enlightening and inspiring sharing with others as this week makes interpersonal connection inescapable. Though be advised that an uneasy Mercury/Neptune alignment carries the strong recommendation to be extremely careful about disclosing sensitive or confidential information.

AQUARIUS: This week's active planetary agenda is set to open up all sorts of interesting and stimulating possibilities. But there's no question it's also likely be mentally exhausting. Note to self? Slow down and get the balance of rest while your body takes on board all this new information.

PISCES: Venus and Neptune. both in dual signs and an odd alignment, may cause some confusion this week. But don't get discouraged if a project or relationship hits a plateau or glitch. Instead, think about what kind of small change you could make that might have a ripple effect.





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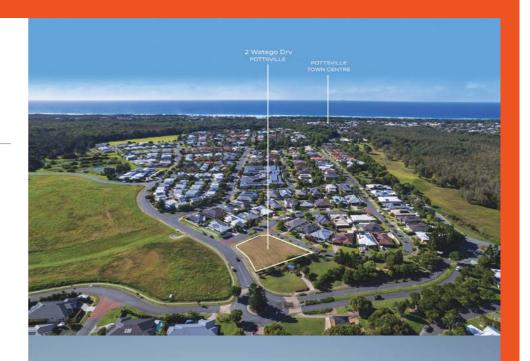
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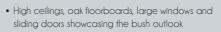


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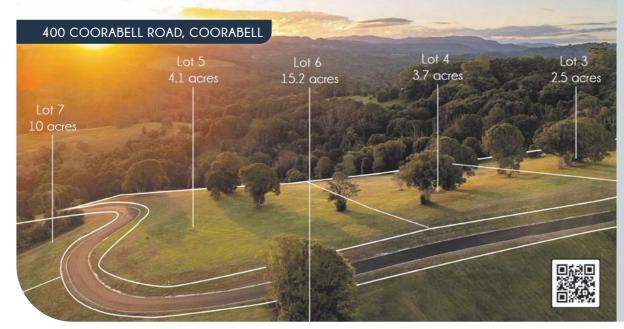
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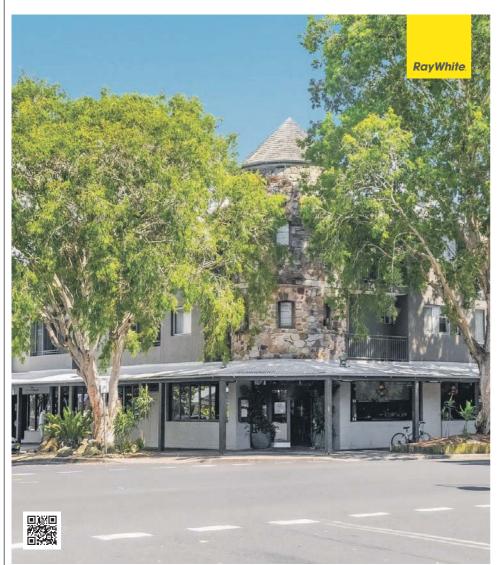
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- 35 Bencluna Lane, Eureka. Thurs 3-3.30pm
- 3/7 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 4.30-5pm
- 41 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Fri 3–3.30pm
- 1/118 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 7/11-19 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 34 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 9–9.30am
- 58 Butler Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1 Driftwood Avenue, Byron Bay. Sat 9.15–9.45am
- 26K Coomburra Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.30-10am
- 6 Victor Place, Lennox Head. Sat 9.30-10am
- 22 Karalauren Court, Lennox Head. Sat 9.30-10am
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Sat 10-10.30am
- 11/18 Mahogany Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/2-6 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 10 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 30/24 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30–11am
- 36 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10.30-11am

Mana Real Estate

- 28 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 39A Granuaille Road, Bangalow. Wed 1.30-2pm
- 28 Harwood Street, Murwillumbah. Wed 3-3.30pm
- 9 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Wed 3.30-4pm
- 28 Harwood Street, Murwillumbah. Thurs 3.30-4pm
- 237 Tweed Valley Way, South Murwillumbah. Sat 9–9.30am
- 5 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 2/5 Canowindra Court, South Golden Beach. Sat 10-10.30am
- 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 10–10.30am
- 28 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 6 Central Park Lane, Casuarina. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 9 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 39A Granuaille Road, Bangalow. Sat 1.30–2pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 5 Murumba Close, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 20 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10–10.30am
- 503 The Pocket Road, The Pocket. Sat 10-10.45am
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• 56 Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 10.30–11am

- 19 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 10.30–11am
- 69 Tooheys Mill Road, Nashua. Sat 11–11.30am
- 13 Coral Court, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 13 Cavvanbah Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 783 Fernleigh Road, Brooklet. Sat 11.30amV12pm
- 1 Lychee Drive, Rosebank. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 1/1-2 Cape Court, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 371 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 326 Booyong Road, Nashua. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 11 Dalmacia Drive, Wollongbar. Sat 1.30–2pm
- 50 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 2–2.30pm

Helene Adams Property

- 7/99 Broken Head Rd, Suffolk Park. Thur 11–11.30am
- 7/99 Broken Head Rd, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1.06/139 Jonson St, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am

- 53 Hunter Street, Burringbar, Sat 12–12.30pm
- 185 Kielys Road, Mooball. Sat 1–1.30pm

Real Estate of Distinction

- 81 Harwood Road, Burringbar. Fri 10-10.30am
- 79 Bayview Drive, East Ballina. Sat 9.30–10am
- 1 Canowindra, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am

Ruth Russell Realty

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

Scott Harvey Real Estate

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

Tim Miller Real Estate

• 20 Byron Creek Road, Coopers Shoot. Sat 9.45–10.15am • 20 Federation Drive, Eltham. Sat 11.30am–12pm

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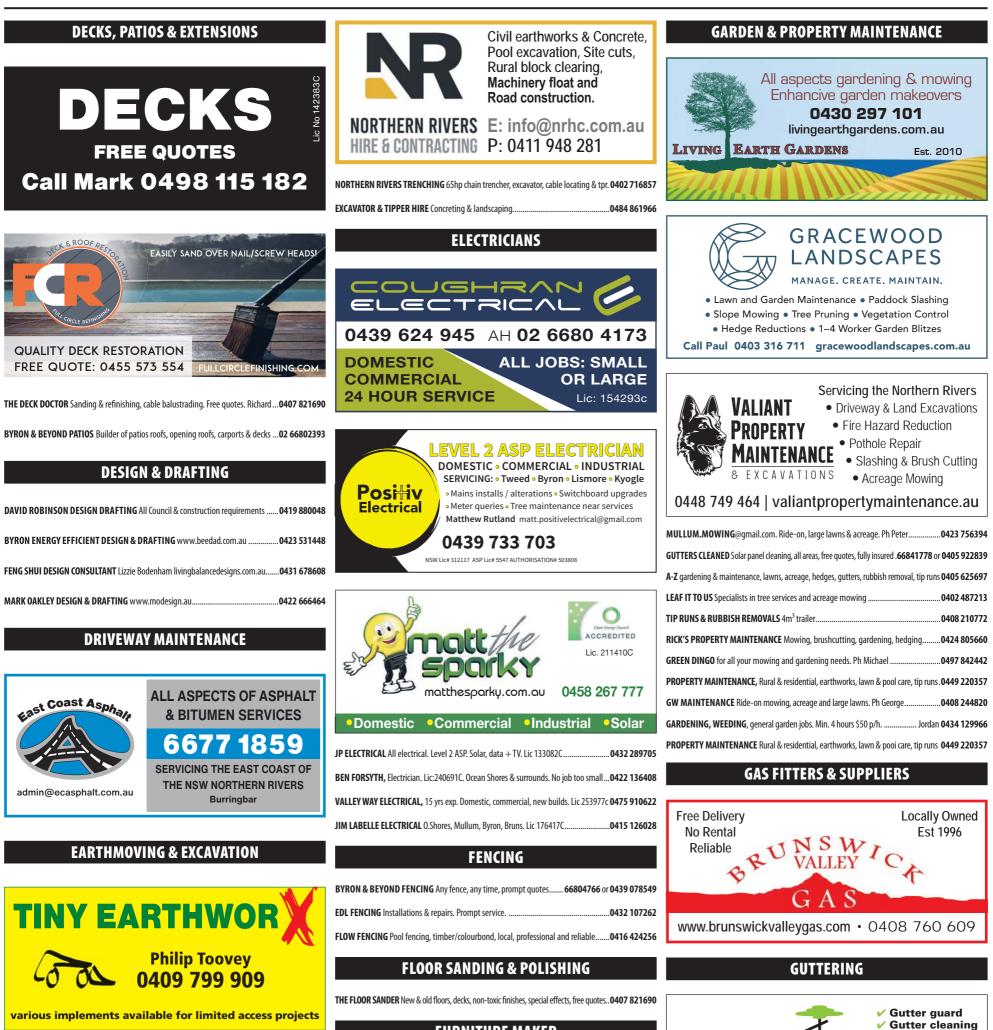
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June 12, 2024 The Byron Shire Echo 33

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34 The Byron Shire Echo June 12, 2024

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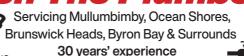
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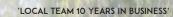
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Classifieds

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CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

Ads may be taken by phone on 6684 1777

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

Ads can be lodged in person at the Mullum Echo office: Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

INDEX

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17^{.00} for the first two lines \$5^{.00} for each extra line \$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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MUSICAL NOTES

GUITAR STRINGS, REPAIRS Brunswick Heads 66851005

SEEKING DRUMMER for established reggae band 0434 438706

LIFE CELEBRATIONS

GARY KENWAY

In loving memory of our dear Gary who passed away peacefully on 06/06/2024.

Much loved by his sister Lyn, brothers Tony and Michael, nephews, nieces, cousins, extended family, Tango community and close friends all over the world.

There will be a service and celebration of Gary's life on Friday 14 Jun at 10:30am. Text 0401 058 898 if you wish to attend.

SUN, MOON & TIDES

- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS DAY, SUN MOON MOON RISE / RISE / PHASE SET SET I HIGH TIDES, height (m) LOW TIDES, height (m DATE 6:35 16:56 11:02 22:16 0002 1.63 1234 1.10 0652 0.54 1757 0.64 W 12 6:36 11:31 16:56 23:09 0735 0.56 1858 0.71 0045 1.54 13 TH 1336 1.12 (\mathbf{F}) 6:36 11:58 16:56 0131 1.46 1443 1.18 0820 0.55 2008 0.76 14 6:36 12:24 0223 1.39 1545 1.26 0906 0.53 15 SA 16:56 0:01 2123 0.77 6:37 16:56 12:51 0:53 0318 1.33 1640 1.36 0949 0.50 2235 0.74 16 SU 6:37 16:56 13:19 1:46 0414 1.28 1727 1.48 1030 0.46 2337 0.69 17 М 6:37 16:56 13:49 2:41 0506 1.25 1810 1.58 18 ΤU 1108 0.42 6:37 16:57 14:25 3:39 0555 1.23 1851 1.68 0030 0.62 1146 0.39 19 W 6:38 16:57 0642 1.21 **1932 1.76** 0117 0.56 1224 0.36 15:07 4:40 TΗ 6:38 15:56 0728 1.20 F 0202 0.49 16:57 5:43 2015 1.82 1304 0.33 16:54 0813 1.20 6:45 **2058 1.86** 6:38 16:54 0246 0.44 1345 0.31 (SA) 16:57

20 21 22 6:38 16:57 17:58 7:44 0900 1.20 2143 1.89 0330.0.41 23 SU 1430 0.30 6:38 16:58 19:06 8:36 0948 1.20 2227 1.88 0416 0.38 1517 0.31 24 М 6:39 20:14 1039 1.21 16:58 9:22 **2313 1.85** 0504 0.37 1607 0.35 25 TU 6:39 21:21 0552 0.37 1701 0.40 26 W 1132 1.23 16:58 10:02 Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology. Times adjusted for Daylight Savings when applicable.

Annual General Meetings.. 37 Caravans 37 For Sale 37 Garage Sales 37 Health Notices 37 Life Celebrations 37 Motorvehicles 37 Musical Notes 37 Only Adults 38 Professional Services...... 37 Shared Accommodation 37 Short Term Accommodation 37 Tree Services 37 Wanted 37 Work Wanted 37

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PUBLIC NOTICES

SENIORS AFRICAN DANCE CLASSES Mondays,10.30am. Byron Community Theatre 0417546382

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

AGMs **BANGALOW A&I HALL AGM** 12 June 2024, 5pm at 10 Gumtree Place, Bangalow. All welcome Eng 0418781576 **PROF. SERVICES** DENTURES

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AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE 000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay
131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads 6629 7510
Mullumbimby 6629 7570
Byron Bay
Bangalow
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
Storm & tempest damage, flooding
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE
Primary rescue
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER
6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY
AFTER HOURS
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
(Mullumbimby)
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
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LIFELINE131 114
MENSLINE1300 789 978
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NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
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and is responding well to training efforts. She would be best as the only pet and would thrive in an environment where she can receive undivided attention #991003002698950 Location: Murwillumbah For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128. Interested? Please complete our online adoption expression of interest. friendsofthepound.com/adoption

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On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Lismore Rainforest walk Community Pickleball

Guided walk in Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens through the uncommon or rare and threatened plants garden on Sunday, June 30 at 10am. Peter will show you the plants which are now very difficult to see in the wild. Bookings essential at publicity@friendslrbg.com.au. \$5 per person, children free. Cash only. Join us for morning tea in the Visitor's Centre.

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society

The next monthly meeting of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society is on Saturday, July 6, 2–4pm, at Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina. Topic 'Connecting with Family Online' presented by Rosemary Kopittke. For enquiries ring Victoria (Vicki) Evans on: 0467 573 282 or email: presidentrtfhs1@yahoo.com.

Climate Justice Alliance

The Climate Justice Alliance will host Newcastle coal port blockers 'Rising Tide' on Saturday, June 22 from 11am until 3pm as they tour Australia building momentum for their next blockade this November. This Community Climate Convergence will be a fun, family day of music, stalls, speakers and workshops. Mandy Nolan will MC, and speakers include Sue Higginson and a First Nations panel. To get involved email: northernrivers@risingtide.org.au.

open day being hosted by Byron Bay Pickleball on Saturday, June 22 between 9am and 12pm on the outdoor courts at Cavanbah Centre. If the weather looks uncertain contact Kylie on 0412 534 148. EmergencyRedi

Workshop

Come along to find out more at an

Join us for an exciting EmergencyRedi Workshop at The Park Hotel Motel in Suffolk Park Saturday June 15, 2pm -4.30pm. Register via email to etaylorperkin@redcross.org.au. As our Suffolk Park community faces ongoing risk to emergencies it is important that we are connected with each other and thinking about preparedness! This workshop will be delivered by the Red Cross Emergency Services. The EmergencyRedi workshop will give you an introduction to 'all hazards' household preparedness; help you start your own 4-step emergency RediPlan; talk you through a household emergency kit; and provide you with tools to continue preparing yourself and the people (and pets!) around you for emergencies.

Bangalow Historical Society

If your interested in making new friends, supporting your local Museum and Historical Society through volunteering, think about joining Heritage House team. We

are open Wednesday to Saturday so come along anytime and meet the volunteers, there is lots to do from cataloging, exhibits, meet and greet visitors and if you have a particular skill that you think will be used here then please call in or phone Trisha on 0429 882 525. Find us on Facebook or contact us bangalowhistorical2479@gmail.com.

GCAT

The Green and Clean Awareness Team's monthly Dunecare Day is on Sunday, June 16 from 9am to 12 noon, meeting in front of Beach cafe at Clarkes Beach. From 12 noon to 1pm, enjoy a delicious free BBQ and be in the draw to win one of four excellent prizes. Inquiries to Veda 6685 7991 or Miles 0403 206 190.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary euthanasia end-of-life choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina, South Tweed and Ballina. Attendees must be Exit members. For further Information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina & South Tweed) or Peter 0429 950 352 (Ballina).

Byron seniors program

Connect with your community at Byron Community Centre through the Byron Community Centre Seniors Program. It now offers African dance, drama and a computer club. Find out more by calling: 6685 6807 or l.ook at: www.byroncommunitycentre. com.au.

BCA general meeting

The next general meeting for the Bangalow Community

cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. The Hub Baptist Church in Ocean Shores has food relief available for anyone doing it tough, please contact us on 0434 677747 if you find yourself doing it tough. No ID or Concession Card required. NILs referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details. Liberation Larder Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre.

Respite Service

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

Community at Work

Tough Guys book club

The Tough Guy 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/.

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 – 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.



group meets in Lismore every Friday 10–11.30am, Red Dove Centre, 80 Keen Street. Byron meetings are on Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom - meeting ID 554 974 582 password byronbay.

Drug support groups

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

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

Regular As Clockwork

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Flood recovery support service: Cottage services are open personalised, long-term support Tuesday-Friday. Breakfast: for those impacted by the floods. Community support: Tuesday–Friday, 7–9am. Showers food parcels, meals, showers, and laundry: Tuesday-Friday, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders. Listening Space: free counselling. More Than A Meal: free community lunch Tuesday-Thursday 12.30-1.30pm. Financial counselling **Staying Home, Leaving Violence** program: Information, referral, and advocacy. Gulganii affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane. Orange Sky: free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon. To enquire about accessing any Phone: 6685 6807. of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdnc.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @ mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community The Byron Community Centre provides community services advocacy and counselling for locals in need. Fletcher Street

and programs including meals, Cottage: A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to get practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. Fletcher Street

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415	5th SUN		0475 135 764
1st SUN Byron Bay	02 6685 6807	5th SUN	Lennox Head	02 6685 6807
2nd SUN The Channon	02 6688 6433	FARM	ERS/WEEKLY N	IARKETS
2nd SUN Lennox Head 2nd SUN Chillingham 2nd SUN Coolangatta	02 6685 6807 0428 793 141		New Brighton Organic Lismore	0424 168 672
2nd SUN Tabulam			Murwillumbah 7-11 Nimbin 3-6pm	0415 328 672 0418 940 653
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370		Newrybar Hall 4-7p	om
3rd SAT Murwillumbah 3rd SAT Salt Village Marke	0415 328 672 t, Casuarina		Byron 8-11am Lismore 2.30-6.30pm	0414 595 169 0459 309 223
3rd SUN Federal 3rd SUN Uki 3rd SUN Ballina	0433 002 757 0487 329 150 0422 094 338	Each FRI Each FRI	Mullum 7-11am Evans Head 2.30-6.30	0424 168 672 0428 291 068
4th SAT Evans Head 4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar kyog	0432 275 765	Each SAT	Bangalow 8-11am Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tr Uki 8am-1pm	0414 595 169 ropical Fruit World) 02 6679 5438
4th SUN Bangalow 4th SUN Nimbin 4th SUN Murwillumbah	02 6687 1911 0475 135 764 0415 328 672	Each SAT Each SAT	Lismore 8.30-11am Wadeville 8am-12pr Byron Twilight Marke	
4th SUN Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month) Each SUN Ballina 7-11am				
The Echo updates this guide regularly, however sometimes markets change their routine without letting us know. Please get in touch if you want to advise us of a change.				

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7am-12pm. Office support: Tuesday-Friday, 9am-12pm. Support appointments: Individual support appointments with community workers or specialist services. For bookings please call 6685 6807. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www. fletcherstreetcottage.com.au. **Bvron Community Cabin:** Seniors Computer Club (school term only), 9–11am, Friday, Carlyle Steet. More info: www.bvroncentre.com.au

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays

9.30-11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You may purchase com.au.

Alateen meeting

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

ACA

Adult Children of Alcoholic Parents and/or Dysfunctional Families (ACA) help & recovery

Support after suicide

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

Sport



Caroline Bailey (Coach, **Byron Bay Runners)**

Byron Bay Runners are producing some of the best track runners in the country, with five of our senior squad athletes finishing in the top ten in their events at Athletics Australia's recent national championships held in Adelaide, back in April.

A total of eight athletes (six senior squad members and two squad affiliates) qualified for state teams, and will compete regularly at the national level.

Results from Adelaide

Amy Bailey: 14th in the U/20 400m hurdles. Jett Beck: sixth in the U/17 2,000m steeplechase. Alex Dogan: 14th in the U/14 1,500m.

Skye Dogan: seventh in the U/16 2,000m steeplechase and 22nd in the U/16 3.000m.



Daniel with his gold medal in the 1500m. Photo supplied

Wyana Pietramale-Sewell: tenth in the U/20 3,000m steeplechase.

Connor McGreevy: tenth in the U/16 2,000m steeplechase.

Affiliates

Byron Bay Runners club affiliates were equally impressive as triple jumper Alexander Crimmins finished in 11th place with a season's best jump of 13.47m.

Daniel Williams (coached by Andrew Rawlings, Coffs

Harbour) produced incredible performances in both the 800m and 1,500m. For the third year in a row Daniel came away as the Australian national champion over 1,500m in both the U/18 and U/20 age categories, breaking the national championship record along the way.

Daniel's outstanding performances have earned him a berth in the U/20 Australian team, which involves competing in the junior world championships in August.

Interschool Australian Surfing Championships launched on the Gold Coast last month

Palm Beach Currumbin State High School has taken home the overall School Winners trophy at the inaugural Australian Interschools Surfing Championships held at Miami on the Gold Coast last month.

Local participating schools included: the Living School (Lennox Head), Xavier College (Skennars Head), Ballina Coast High, and Lindisfarne Anglican Grammar School (Terranora, NSW).

'The team events were so popular. Everyone loves the tag team format,' Surfing Australia's Natalie Schenken said.

In the Year 7,8,9 girls tag, Sunshine Beach State High School utilised the conditions and made the best wave choices to bank a huge win over locals Palm Beach Currumbin Dolphins, while in the Year 10,11,12 girls tag, they went one better, taking the aggregate win over the three heats ahead of Lindisfarne in second and Bulli State High in third.

Players of all skill levels and

ages have the opportunity to

The newly-formed Byron

experience the world's fast-

est growing racquet sport,

Bay Pickleball (BBP) are

hosting an open day on

Saturday, June 22 between

9am and 12am on the out-

door courts at Byron Bay's

pickleball.



Samuel Lowe (Thirroul) was a rare visitor on the winners podium at the Interschool Championships. Photo Andy Morris/Surfing Australia

The Cooee senior boys tag team from Elanora High School (21.63 points) just pipped Sunshine Beach State School (21.26 points) to be crowned Australia's best Year 10,11,12 boys tag team.

St Andrew's Anglican College proved too strong for the competition in the Year 7,8,9 Boys tag team final,

Byron Bay Pickleball offers an open day

posting a huge 20.74 point total to take out local school Palm Beach Currumbin Dolphins (18. 43 points).

Local surfers from Currumbin, Kingscliff, Palm Beach, Coolangatta, and Lennox Head dominated the individual surfing finals, with winners also from the Sunshine Coast.

New Australian Marbles Champion

After a five-year hiatus the battle for the title of Australian Marbles Champion again took place as part of the Old & Gold Festival held in Brunswick Heads last Saturday.

Defending senior champion Damian Farrell helped organise the event after the founder Mary Ashton retired.

'We had a few years break due to fire, flood and Covid,' he said.

But this year the competition was as fierce as it has ever been.

Winners

Official winners of the 2024 Australian Marbles Championship included: Open champion, Santiago Villanueva (14-year-old from Redcliffe, Brisbane), runner up, Ray Leonard (from



Santiago Villanueva, centre, won the much-coveted marbles championship at the Old & Gold Festival last Saturday. In support were brother Gabriel (R), and Elija Williams (L). Photo Jeff 'Marbled Surfaces Since '86' Dawson

Queensland); runner up

Oliver Bailey (South Golden

Beach); equal third, were

Tallow Wilkes and Allegra

Cuadra (both from Ocean

Shores).

Kalgoorlie, WA); equal third were Martin Wilks (Ocean Shores) and Damian Farrell (South Golden Beach).

The junior champion was Micah Williams (Bundaberg,

Cavanbah Centre. This is an 'opportunity to watch people play, learn the basics or improve your game in an all-inclusive format. No person is too young or too old. No skill level is

not enough or too much,' according to organiser Kylie Fleming.

'Pickleball is the best bits



Pickleball is gaining momentum in the Northern Rivers. Photo supplied

of tennis, table tennis and badminton all in one.

'BBP is an initiative of our mother ship, Northern Rivers Pickleball who caught the bug early and have been growing the sport in our area since 2020' she said.

If the weather is ominous contact Kylie (0412 534 148).

CCTV camera and locators

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Dr Clare McLennan, Dr Natasha Stark and Dr Jemma Buultjens.

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The Health Lodge



The spelling Gods have been unkind to *The Echo* of late, with a few more poofing mistakes last week. Missing man, Gage Wilson is not Gauge (page 8), and 'Whose up for reelection' (comment, page 12) should have been spelled with an apostrophe: Who's, as in 'Who is'.

Chris Braat is organising gigs at the Main Street Burger Bar in Byron – see the gig guide for Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. He says The Back Door will 'showcase a diverse range of live music from artists across the Northern Rivers region. Mention *The Echo* and we will give you a free beer with any burger purchase'. For more information, visit www.mainstreetburgerbar. com.au.

Marine Rescue NSW volunteers assisted six kayakers in waters off Cape Byron around 12pm on Saturday. Marine Rescue NSW Inspector John Murray said in a statement, 'A group of six people on board three double kayaks were reported to be struggling against strong winds and currents. We ask all boaters and paddlers to check conditions before heading out and monitor for changes during their journey'.

Software behemoth, Adobe, which is used to produce *The Echo*, is getting flack for its new licence terms, which when agreed upon give them a 'worldwide royaltyfree licence to reproduce, display, distribute' any content a user produces using their software. Sounds like they have big plans with Al?

BOOKKEEPING SIMPLIFIED

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"I've worked with Nea for over 15 years. She's the best. I couldn't recommend her any higher!" – Jack Glass, Bag Raiders



Luxury *Echo* photographer, Jeff Dawson, has found his perfect company car. He says, 'We bought this in the hopes I will get to my assignments on time'. Dawson added that it drives quite well, 'but the air-con sucks'. Photo from Cooly Rocks On, held in Coolangatta last weekend. Photo Jeff 'Mad Max In Trackie Dax' Dawson

Psst *The Guardian* reports that the biggest fracking proposal ever in the NT has been waved through with no environmental impact assessment. Nice one, Labor.

Good riddance Peter Costello, who quit his cushy job at *Nine* after knocking over a pesky journo. Having a former Liberal MP in charge of a large media organisation is never a good look.

A youth empowerment workshop will be held June 29, 30 at Federal Hall until 4pm, both days. It's aimed at 14-to 24-year-olds. The free event hosted by Council aims 'to help inspire and support wellbeing, strengthen interpersonal skills and build the tools for greater resilience and leadership'. For more visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au/ youth-empowerment-wshop.



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