



NAIDOC WEEK 2024 - KEEP THE FIRE BURNING!

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 39 #05 • July 10, 2024 • www.echo.net.au

Stop-work for Wallum

Developer Clarence Property (CP) have stopped work at their urban Wallum development in a sensitive ecological area of Brunswick Heads, after a Federal Court emergency interlocutory injunction was issued last week.

Save Wallum claim works to undertake approved urban development will destroy vital areas of habitat for federally-listed threatened species, the wallum sedge frog, and the critically endangered Mitchell's rainforest snail.

According to court documents, Justice Raper allowed respondents CP to 'install hollow or nest boxes in accordance with the hollow and nest box management plan' at the contentious Bayside property.

Clarence Property CEO Simon Kennedy told *The Echo*, 'We are of the view that the claims of the activists are without merit, and we were pleased the court orders support our right to continue with some of the ecological works we've got planned for the coming weeks.'

'We were disappointed that the matter wasn't thrown out completely, and would like to be able to do more at the site than we're able to, however this is a legal matter now, and we respect the court's position.'

Greens MP and spokesperson for planning and the environment, Sue Higginson, said, 'So far, both the state and federal governments have refused to use their lawful power to intervene in the proposed destruction of nationally and state-listed threatened species and their habitat at this site. It is down to the tenacity and determination of the community that the legality of this development is being challenged.'

Bundjalung art on show



From left: Wayne King, Sonya Breckinridge, co-curator, and Janelle Duncan, who are three of the 13 Bundjalung artists who have contributed to the Longstanding art exhibition. Coinciding with NAIDOC celebrations, Longstanding will be at the Lone Goat Gallery, located at the Byron Library until August 17. The other artists on exhibition are Bindimu, Kylie Caldwell, Kristina Davis, Tracey Duroux, Kim Healey, Arminel Nagas, Jasmin Stanford, Tim Stanford, Shaun Tucker and Jai Walker. For more info visit www.lonegoatgallery.com.

Photo Jeff 'Goats On Loan' Dawson

72 house-raises and retrofits announced

Seventy-two homeowners in the Ballina electorate will receive government funding to raise and retrofit their flood-affected homes, says local NSW Greens MP, Tamara Smith.

Despite the announcement giving 'some clarity to our flood-affected communities', Ms Smith says the agency tasked with flood-recovery, the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA), is yet to name those who will benefit from the Resilient Homes program.

Additionally, there were no stats provided on how many Byron Shire

homeowners within the Ballina electorate will benefit.

Ms Smith said, 'So far, only a dozen or so [local] families have been assisted through the Resilient Homes program, and we have had no detail in terms of how many house-raises and retrofits we will see under the \$100 million of tranche 2.'

'After 28 months of waiting this is going to mean that 72 families and households will be better prepared for the next flood and is life changing for those members of our community.'

'This is a testament to the advocacy and determination of our community in not allowing those in Macquarie Street to forget us and I have backed them in all the way.'

Hundreds promised

'Of course we will not stop lobbying for more, as we were promised that hundreds more families would be assisted to raise their homes out of flood levels or better fit out their homes in the rebuild so that they are more resilient to future flooding.'

► Continued on page 2

Residents face being cut from Mullum's water

Hans Lovejoy

Dozens of Mullumbimby residents located close to the town's local water source at Lavertys Gap Weir in Wilsons Creek are uniting against a recommendation by Byron Shire Council staff to disconnect the town's local water supply.

Under plans presented recently, options were tabled for the future water supply for the town.

Staff support a consultant's view to instead use bulk water supplier, Rous, which sources its water mainly from Rocky Creek Dam near Lismore.

Residents approached *The Echo* to say they discovered Council's plan was to remove their access to the potable water supply, without any notification or proper consultation.

Website launched

In response, they have launched www.wilsonswaterrights.com.au in an effort to garner public support.

More than 30 affected residents say their properties are at the bottom of Wilsons Creek and some areas of Mullumbimby Creek, and they were only told they will likely be cut off from town water after questioning Council staff about the Mullumbimby Water Supply Strategy.

Spokesperson for the Wilsons Water Rights Action Group (WWR) Mel Macpherson said she was shocked to find out from a neighbour about Council's plans to remove their connection to town water without any direct written or

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Paddle-out for innovative shaper, Geoff McCoy ► p5

Remembering those who served, and fell in Iraq and Afghanistan ► p6

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School holidays roll on ► p20

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Leihani wins at Skullcandy Oz Grom comp ► p39

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Brunswick Marine Rescue welcomes new vessel

Rescue response and capability has been improved in Brunswick Heads, with Marine Rescue Brunswick receiving a new 10-metre, state-of-the-art vessel.

NSW Labor Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib, officially commissioned *Brunswick 30* last week, and joined Marine Rescue NSW Commissioner, Alex Barrell, in welcoming the \$751,877 replacement vessel to the service's fleet.

Minister Dib said the new vessel will help the 74 dedicated volunteers based at the town's boat harbour respond quickly to people who need assistance on local waters.

'This new vessel features the latest in marine search and rescue technology, and is an investment in the highly-skilled volunteers who assist and support boaters at any time, day and night.'

Minister Dib encouraged



Brunswick 30. Photo supplied

all boaters to register with Marine Rescue NSW as part of their pre-launch routine, either via the free Marine Rescue NSW app, or the VHF channel 16.

Six kayakers saved

Marine Rescue Brunswick Unit Commander, Jonathan Wilcock, said the new replacement vessel has already proven to be a vital lifesaving asset for the area.

'Last month, our crew

deployed on the new *Brunswick 30* for its first rescue mission, and saved six kayakers struggling in strong winds and currents, approximately 1.5 nautical miles off Cape Byron.

'It is an outstanding vessel, capable of heavy bar crossings with its evolutionary axe head bow, and can rapidly deploy up to 30 nautical miles offshore.'

For more info, visit www.marinerescuensw.com.au.

More house-raising/retrofits announced by RA

► Continued from page 1

'It is devastating for people to be waiting this long for surety about whether they will be assisted under the program.

'I have asked that people know as soon as possible if they are one of the 72 so that they can get on with their lives.

'The state government needs to have an honest conversation with me and with our community about what further funding is coming and how many families will be assisted. I will not allow our people to be hanging in limbo beyond the end of this year.'

A lengthy media release last Thursday by the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) says it has moved into its next phase, 'with tailored home assessments available to make homes more resilient against flooding.'

Awareness limited

As previously reported, the RA stopped publishing their online stats on the progress of its Resilient Homes Program, which limits public awareness of their operations.

RA's \$790 million Resilient Homes Program includes house-raising, retrofits and buybacks.

Buybacks were not

mentioned in the media release.

Local Lismore MP, Janelle Saffin, has been critical of RA's lack of communications.

While the media release says 'approximately 370 homeowners have been identified as eligible for home-raising or retrofit', this came without a breakdown of local government areas.

Additionally, the information provided in the RA media release repeats already-announced projects, such as \$100m for 85 home sites in North Lismore, and 'more than 2,800 housing sites now in the planning pipeline across the Northern Rivers'.

LABOR IS TEAMING UP WITH PAULINE HANSON TO RUIN OUR NDIS

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Locals rally over threat to Mullum water connection

► Continued from page 1 verbal communication. 'One would think the appropriate action for Byron Shire Council would be to talk to us individually, and let us know that their preferred water strategy means cutting us off – for the 30 residents this has drastic ramifications, we have a right to know.



Wilson's Water Rights Action Group (WWR) spokesperson, Mel Macpherson. Jeff 'Localised Since 1986' Dawson

'I honestly feel the communication from Byron Council has not been acceptable at all. This decision directly affects our health, businesses, infrastructure and property values. Relying on us to scan social media or listen to the radio to find out we are getting cut off has left me baffled.

'I only found out because my neighbour who has lived here for 90 years told me, and knew the history of the weir and local infrastructure, and noticed this in the water strategy plans.

Water tanks offered

'While Council staff have now offered to install a water tank, we all know that isn't an adequate supply for most houses, let alone most of our group, who rely on agriculture as their livelihood.'

Chair of WWR, Raymond Musgrave, who says his family have farmed at Wilsons Creek for generations, said it was an outrage Council could consider cutting off water access without talking to residents first.

'If you do the math, Council could keep us connected to town water, under any of the four proposed scenarios, probably for the same cost as installing tanks, guttering, and UV filtration at all our properties. Funnily enough, even the cost of laying a few kilometres

of new piping to keep us connected would be a heck of a lot cheaper than the huge fees they would be paying for outrageously expensive external consultants on the water strategy project.

'While Byron Shire Council's "Have Your Say" on the Mullumbimby Water Supply Strategy is now closed, the WWR is urging all residents to help all residents of Mullumbimby keep their town water supply.

'You can do this by writing to your local councillor, writing a letter to *The Echo*, and attending the Council meeting on August 15.'

Council's Manager Utilities, Cameron Clark, told *The Echo*,

'Council has acknowledged the concerns of the owners of 13 properties connected to the water trunk main at Laverty's Gap, and their desire for their current water supply arrangement to remain unchanged in the future.'

Council staff reply

'The existing water connections for those 13 properties are affected under all scenarios Council must consider for securing Mullumbimby's future water supply, including ongoing use of Lavertys Gap Weir.

'At a Council information session on June 26, residents were advised that

no decision has been taken on those water connections, and that options for future water supply will be shaped by Council's decision on the water supply for the entire town of Mullumbimby.

'Council's current water connection policy does not permit properties to be connected to water supply trunk mains and Council is required to ensure future water supplies for all properties comply with current regulations and policy.

'Potential options for the 13 properties include supply of water from the Mullumbimby reservoirs, from a new water treatment plant under a local supply scenario, rainwater tanks or other options.

'These options will be assessed in consultation with affected properties in the ongoing work to secure Mullumbimby's water supply to 2050 and beyond', said Mr Clark.

■ Visit www.wilsonswater-rights.com.au to support the residents' campaign.

■ See letters pages.

Sheriffs walk off the job over staffing and poor pay

Sheriffs in Lismore stopped work and protested outside the Lismore courthouse last week over what they say is a staffing crisis, and poor pay.

The stop-work action affected the Byron and Mullum courthouses, according to Stewart Little, General Secretary of the Public Service Association, which represents sheriffs.

He says sheriffs are a crucial part of law enforcement. 'They enforce orders issued

by NSW local and district courts, the Supreme Court, the High Court, the Federal Court, and the Family Court.'

'Sheriffs enforce writs, serve warrants and property seizure orders, issued under the *Fines Act 1996*.

'The Office of the Sheriff has difficulty recruiting and retaining sheriffs owing to the poor pay.

'In 2023, there was a review of sheriffs' pay, but the report was never

released under "cabinet in confidence". Sheriffs waited patiently, and were told the matter would be resolved in the 2024 budget, but when it was delivered in mid-June nothing happened, and now they've been fobbed off again with some other made-up bureaucratic process, so sheriffs have just had enough.

'Sheriffs are highly trained in what is risky and stressful work', he said.

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Dip into the cerebral this July

Attention all book lovers – Friends of Libraries Byron Shire (FOL) are holding their tenth annual book fair, July 12–15 (9am to 4pm every day) at the Byron Surf Club.

Organisers say, ‘this event, and the associated raffle raises significant funds to help the three libraries in Byron Shire.’

‘But thieves have been removing the FOL signs from beside roads and on fences, stopping many community members from knowing the book fair is coming.’

‘People will be disappointed if they miss the fair, and less money will be raised for the libraries.’

Thieves cost \$2.5k

‘All money raised at the book fair goes to the libraries. Over the past ten years, these funds have provided new books for children, funded the QuickReads program, and Byron Writers Festival books, provided new shelving and furniture, and provided support for the new Brunswick Heads front desk, and much more.’

FOL President, Beryl Main, said, ‘It’s hard to understand how members of the Byron



Geoff Meers, Margo Wright and Christopher Wright.
Photo Jeff ‘Bookends And Beginnings’ Dawson

community could try to disrupt a totally community event that supports our libraries. It is disheartening for the FOL members who work hard collecting books, sorting them and moving them to the Surf Club for the fair.

It will cost us about \$2,500 to replace the signs, which is money taken away from building library resources’.

Ms Main says if anyone has info about the signs, they should contact the police, or return them to the libraries.

Federal Labor funds Mullum hospital site masterplan

A \$263,000 federal grant has been awarded to Byron Shire Council for a masterplan and development strategy for the former Mullumbimby Hospital site, according to federal Labor MP, Justine Elliot. She said the funds will also go towards a control plan for

residential development for the Council-owned site. Mrs Elliot added the grant – which was from the Housing Support Program – ‘is one part of Labor’s \$32 billion in new housing initiatives we are delivering through our Homes for Australia plan’.

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BOM Weather

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Get Ready NSW

Visit nsw.gov.au/GetReadyNSW to download these four apps.



Paddle-out for innovative shaper, Geoff McCoy

Photo & story Rusty Miller

There are shapers and there are shapers.

Geoff McCoy was our local eminent, and world-recognised, master surfboard shaper. I call this gaggle of exclusive surfboard shapers a special and unique 'guild'.

In other trades, they are known as 'master craftsmen.'

For over a half a century, Geoff was known for his interesting and rare mix of shaped boards, which were produced for a conservative, and often critical, tribe of surfers.

Short board revival

To explain, some surfers who had quit surfing for decades, and put on 20 kilos over that time, would be frustrated around how to surf on a short board again.

Many quit altogether, or lost interest. Geoff made a whole new world of short boards, by increasing their volume mainly through thickness, so it could actually float. He kept the quality of the board and its responsiveness.

The more mature short-board riders could find that



The paddle-out for renowned surfboard shaper, Geoff McCoy, was held on Saturday July 6 at The Pass.

on Geoff's boards, they could operate and slide, and easily manoeuvre on waves again, much more evenly and frictionlessly.

This was his vision; a design that created a large 'formerly recalcitrant' pack of surfers getting back into the delights of surfing again.

Surfing Australia award

Surfing Australia gave him a special award for his creative and persistent contributions.

A testament to Geoff's talents were all those who attended his paddle-out on Saturday, July 6.

A 'guild' of local shapers streamed out of the woodwork: Chris Brock, Brett Munro, Roy Meisel, Derek Hynd, George Greenough, Doug Unger, Gunther Rohn, and a swag of surfing's industry workers.

Brockie and Derek both told me that one of Geoff's remarkable creations was his surfboard rails work, and making thick-high floatation boards work perfectly, hanging onto steep wave curves.

Unique rails

Thick rails often tend to slip on waves.

Geoff's boards don't. The waves of The Pass were an exceptional quality this day. Mother Nature was saluting with persistent surges of peeling waves, accommodating well over 100 wave riders.

And there were over 50 Geoff McCoy models slipping, sliding and fleeing upon the waves.

RIP Geoff McCoy.

BayFM lands major grant

Independent local radio station, BayFM 99.9, has received a major grant from the Community Broadcasting Foundation, enabling it to plan big for the future.

BayFM's President Ange Kent says the \$430,000 grant will be used across the next three years in critical areas,

including the community newsroom, ethnic programming and securing a studio manager. 'This funding gives the station a much-needed boost,' Ms Kent said, and thanked Nick Richardson, Mia Armitage, Matt Drinan, Vanessa Weekes and Deb Sharp for their efforts.

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Getting the word out on wildlife

The Young and Wild project by young women and run by Byron Youth Service (BYS) has produced wildlife stickers and murals, all to raise awareness of the plight of our native animals.

The group meet weekly at The Cottage in Mullumbimby.

BYS senior co-ordinator, Deb Pearse, told *The Echo* three wildlife murals have been completed, with two on display at Global Ripple, and one at Mullum High.

‘Even better are the wildlife stickers they’ve designed raising awareness of the plight of our native animals. They also came up with all the slogans themselves. I’m extremely impressed with them.’

‘They’re great for displaying on drink bottles, the back of phones and on laptops.’

Ms Pearse says, ‘I’m distributing them for free,



A young women’s group have produced a native animal awareness campaign called the Young and Wild project. Photo supplied

although people can make a donation to the project if they would like. Not only are they so good for the girls self-esteem, but they raise awareness, which aids our native animals, WIRES and other rescue organisations. They are also very colourful

and cute. The Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital staff and local Scouts love them, and Global Ripple who have been a great support on the project, have them available.

‘They can also be accessed through me at dpearse@bys.org.au.’

Regen Ag program on offer

Farm entrepreneurs in agri-food, agtech or agriwaste who are in start-up, or scale-up mode, are encouraged to apply for a eight-week, fully funded accelerator program at the Byron Community College.

Regional Director, Northern Rivers Business NSW, Jane Laverty, says, ‘The program will comprise of expert panel events across the region, an eight-week accelerator program (in August and October), and enterprise mentoring through the highly-regarded Sourdough Business Pathways Mentors.’

Ms Laverty says, ‘The Sourdough Regenerative Connection Program has been funded by the NSW government’s Accelerating Regional Innovation Fund (ARIF) grant, and is managed by the Byron Community

College, who have partnered with Business NSW to deliver the program, alongside a range of collaborators including Southern Cross University and local councils.’

The first panel event will

be hosted at The Farm, Byron Bay on Tuesday, July 16 from 4pm.

Register via the regenerationconnection.com.au website, or contact Business NSW on 5631 8509.

Protester escapes fine, conviction



A local resident arrested on April 17 during a Wallum protest had her charges dismissed last week, with no fine and no conviction recorded. Ms Wilkinson pleaded guilty in the Mullumbimby Local Court last week. Photo supplied

NSW Labor’s mental health reform aims to streamline agencies

Paul Bibby

The mental health system in the Northern Rivers can be a confusing and unwieldy creature.

Despite the presence of many high-quality services, the difficulties involved in navigating the system as a whole can make seeking help a distressing experience rather than a therapeutic one.

But last week, some of the key players in the system agreed on a partnership plan that has the potential to make accessing support significantly less traumatising for locals having a tough time.

The joint regional plan will bring together the Northern NSW Local Health District, Healthy North Coast, and the Mid North Coast Local Health district in a collaboration driven by a ‘one health mindset’.

This would effectively see the integration of primary, community, hospital, Aboriginal Medical Services, and social care services.

In announcing the move last week, NSW Minister for Mental Health, Rose Jackson, said there was little point in having services available if

the people who needed them didn’t know where to turn.

‘[We’ve had] services operating independently to each other, and multiple entry points,’ Ms Jackson said.

‘[It’s] contributing to both consumer and workforce confusion in trying to navigate the system.’

Under the new partnership, people entering the mental health system would have the navigation tools provided for them rather than having to figure it out for themselves.

‘Their hands would be held as they’re moving through the different parts of the system: drug and alcohol, psychosis, disaster relief,’ Ms Jackson said.

‘Wherever you enter, if you need to go to another part, you are supported with a hand-held referral, as opposed to being told “call that number”, or “join that queue”.’

MOU

The three parties signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at last week’s launch, agreeing to work collaboratively to deliver ‘patient-centred healthcare’.

The MOU sets out several shared principles, including engaging communities in conversations about the type of care that should be delivered.

Collaborative

It also talks about the leaders of the different institutions letting go of individual leadership to embrace a more collaborative mindset.

‘Current perspectives of the workforce as belonging to a particular organisation can result in a lack of cooperation in the health system, even competition,’ the agreement states.

‘To support a person-centred health system, we are considering new ways of operating as a collective workforce regardless of organisational structures and funding mechanisms.’

It also talks about the opportunity to deliver more services within community settings and closer to people’s homes rather than in hospitals or other institutional settings.

The MOU will extend until at least June 30, 2026, with an option to extend for a further three years.

What’s Going On event looks at your financial future

Guest presenter for the upcoming What’s Going On event is Michael Engeman, CEO of Ainslie Bullion. He will give a presentation on investing in an uncertain future.

Organiser David Warth says, ‘We live in troubled times, there seem to be crises in most aspects of our lives now... inflation is stripping away the purchasing power of our currency and consequently our savings are not as substantial as we once

thought they were.’

‘At the same time the high cost of buying and holding real estate investments, which have always been a bastion of investment strategy, is causing investors to think very carefully about their choices.’

Bob currency

Warth will also give a presentation around using the ‘Byron Bob’ currency locally. ‘To build resilience within

our community, there has been the introduction of the Bob, our very own emergency means of exchange based on one ounce, half ounce and now one tenth of an ounce silver coins.’

‘The Bob was born out of the lessons learnt from the devastating floods when all electronic financial services and communications failed.’

The event will be held Monday, July 15 from 6.30pm at the Byron Bay RSL Club.



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NEWS

27 June 2024

Greens, Liberals to team up to delay another Labor housing policy

AGAIN!



THE GREENS

BLOCKED

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 still blocking Labor's package to help renters buy a home (Help to Buy)

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

BLOCKED

Greens Party now blocking Labor's package to help build more rentals (Build to Rent)

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

On every issue, the Greens are too extreme.

Authorised J Elliot, ALP, Tweed Heads South

One unreported fire ant nest puts Australia at risk

Fire ants may be small, but their ability to impact the landscapes they invade is immense.

This little ant is considered one of the world's most invasive pests, bringing irreversible damage to our environment, economy, human and animal health, and outdoor way of life.

Fire ants can restrict our everyday activities as well as cause population declines in:

- 45% of birds
- 38% of mammals
- 69% of reptiles
- 95% of amphibians.

They have the potential to surpass the combined damage done each year by feral cats, wild dogs, foxes, camels, rabbits, and cane toads.

Australia's climate, landscape, and absence of natural predators make it a perfect home for fire ants. Just one undetected fire ant nest can multiply, resulting in hundreds of new nests across a community.

That's why we need to work together to check every property for signs of this pest. Suspect ant reports from the community are vital – our National Fire Ant Eradication Program cannot do it alone.

Be our eyes on the ground and look for suspect fire ants in your yard and local community.

Understanding how to recognise fire ants is critical if we are to eradicate them and protect Australia from their impacts.

How to identify fire ants

Fire ants are copper brown with a darker abdomen and measure 2–6 mm in size. They:

- are aggressive in nature
- swarm when disturbed
- appear in a range of sizes within one nest.

Fire ant nests have no obvious entry or exit holes and can resemble mounds or flat patches of soil.

To check an ant nest, gently poke it with a long stick and stand back. Observe the ants' colour, size, and behaviour.

Nests are usually found in warm, open areas, such as:

- lawns, pastures, and garden beds
- near water sources
- on roadsides
- in newly developed areas
- next to or under objects on the ground – timber, logs, rocks, pavers, and bricks
- near utility pits, water, and gas meters.

On rural properties, fire ant nests are most commonly found:

- near dams
- along irrigation and fence lines and edges of cultivated land
- in cropland and piles of organic matter.



Reporting fire ants

It is everyone's responsibility to **look for and report fire ants within 24 hours** of sighting them.

Regularly check your yard, work site, local sporting grounds, parks, playgrounds, or anywhere fire ants may hide. If you think you have found fire ants, please report it. If you are located in New South Wales you must report to NSW Department of Primary Industries by visiting dpi.nsw.gov.au or calling **1800 680 244**.

It's important to report even if you're not 100% sure you've found fire ants.

If you can safely do so, take a photo of the suspect nest and ants, and attach this to your report.

Eradicating fire ants will take a whole-of-community approach. Looking for and reporting fire ants is the best way to help protect your family, community, and the quintessential Australian game of backyard cricket, barbecues, and team sports we all know and love.

You can learn more by visiting fireants.org.au or calling **13 25 23**.

Coopers Shoot wedding venue proposed

Paul Bibby

Another local holiday accommodation operator is looking to cash in on the lucrative rural wedding market, this time in Coopers Shoot.

Late last month, the ultra-luxury Sun Ranch hotel submitted a development application to host a rural wedding centre on its 22-hectare property at 17 Byron Road.

The application, now on public exhibition via Council's website, follows hot on the heels of a similar move by the owners of Bangalow's

Hinterland House.

The Hinterland House application was given consent last month, opening the way for it to host up to 20 weddings over the next 12 months.

The Sun Ranch owners have now made a similar request, seeking permission for a 'temporary event centre' that would also be capped at 20 events per annum and no more than one event each weekend.

150 guest cap

Guest numbers would also be capped at 150 people. However, unlike

Hinterland House, whose location next to a cemetery saw it fall foul of some in the local community, the Sun Ranch application appears to have the support of its neighbours – at least according to the hotel's owners.

'All neighbours expressed their support for our application for a rural function centre,' the owners of the Ranch said of their community consultation.

Sun Ranch promised that the function centre's operations would adhere to sound regulations and 'not disturb the community'.

Under the Byron Bay LEP, consent for a function centre development must not be granted on rural land unless Council is satisfied that it will not generate noise, traffic, parking, or light spill that will significantly impact on surrounding residential areas.

Since introducing a Rural Weddings and Events strategy three years ago, just two rural properties have been granted permission to host weddings.

The Sun Ranch application will remain on public exhibition for a total of 30 days.

Remembering those who served, July 11

Paul Bibby

The Byron Bay war memorial has witnessed its fair share of commemorations over the years – from ANZAC Day ceremonies to Vietnam Veterans Day services and many in between.

But this week, the iconic cenotaph on the corner of Marvell and Tennyson Streets will host a Byron Shire first. On Thursday, July 11 from 11am, Byron RSL subbranch, in conjunction

with the Veterans Motorcycle Club, will host the inaugural Middle East Veterans Memorial Service, honouring the servicemen and women who served in the wars which took place in Iraq and Afghanistan.

'They don't have their own day like us Vietnam vets, or like the ANZACs did,' says Rob Asquith, the Byron subbranch's welfare officer.

'This is the start of getting some of those guys together – having a yarn, remembering

lost mates and the suffering they all went through.'

While Australia's 40,000-plus Middle East veterans have not yet been recognised with their own memorial day, a growing number of services have been taking place across the country.

It is hoped that this Thursday's event in Byron Bay will bring Middle East veterans together from across the Northern Rivers and beyond.

'There are definitely a few around here but it's taking

some encouragement to get them out of hiding,' Mr Asquith quips.

'I think the reason is probably similar to us who were in Vietnam. I think some of them feel a bit neglected, misunderstood.'

'But events like this do help to come to terms with the experience.'

Mr Asquith and his fellow subbranch members are also extending an invitation to the wider community to attend the event.

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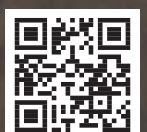


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Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud

An exciting week of culture, art, sport and celebration is coming to Tweed Shire as Tweed residents are invited to join in a range of events as part of this year's NAIDOC Week activities from 7 to 14 July.

Lismore Regional Gallery to reopen in spring

The Lismore Regional Gallery will be re-opening its doors this spring following restoration after the 2022 flood and after 16 shows the The Lismore Regional Gallery pop-up space is now closed.

Fingal residents reject controversial 10pm trading hours for Fingal Store site

The illegal development that took place at the Fingal Store site led to

the closure of the store as Tweed Council and the owners Cubbies bakery negotiated what was appropriate development for the controversial site.

Tweed farmers encouraged to apply for \$4,000 funding

Tweed Shire Council is once again offering the Sustainable Agriculture Small Grants Program, designed to encourage best practice and inspire environmental creativity in agricultural activities across our community.

877 sea turtles hatchlings in the 2023-24 season

From New Brighton in the north to Diamond Beach on the Mid Coast, it's been a bumper 2023-24 sea turtle nesting season which saw an incredible 877 sea turtles hatched successfully on NSW beaches.

www.echo.net.au

4WD access to Seven Mile Beach to be phased out

Ballina Shire Council (BSC) has now committed to phasing out 4WD access to Seven Mile Beach. Permits for 4WD access for periods between one day and 30 days were discontinued from July 1.

This leaves only 6-month and 12-month permits available for purchase.

'The changes promote safe beach access and seek to minimise impacts on key environmental attributes of the beach, dunes, and surrounding areas,' said a BSC spokesperson.

'Due to increasing beach use and safety concerns, Council has also committed to phasing out all 4WD access to Seven Mile Beach by 2028. This decision will help protect Seven Mile Beach's natural environment, which is home to nesting sea turtles, shorebirds, and macroinvertebrates such as

crabs, worms, and pipis.'

A comprehensive report on the Seven Mile 4WD Beach Access Policy revealed a 107 per cent increase in the 1-day permits from the 2021/2022 to 2022/2023 financial year. The total number of all types of permits sold in 2023 was 4,941, compared to 2,690 in 2022.

The surge in permit sales has been accompanied by a growing number of complaints about conflicts with other beach users, including walkers, dog owners, and horse riders.

'The changes promote safe beach access and seek to minimise impacts on key environmental attributes of the beach, dunes, and surrounding areas,' said a BSC spokesperson.

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

To hall and back: Women Like Us come up stumps for Bilambil Hall

Our community halls are so vital to our community connection and wellbeing. They are where the community gathers to exercise, or have meetings, or plan, or celebrate or mourn a loved one. Bilambil Hall has been on the critical list, and it's been up to the community to save this old girl, born in 1910!

That's where 'Women Like Us', Mandy Nolan and Ellen Briggs come in: stand up comedians who love a country hall. They're donating all the proceeds of their national touring show to fundraise \$10k to replace the

foundation stumps on the heritage-listed Bilambil Literary Society Hall.

'We live in Mullumbimby. We're 50-something mothers of teenagers and adult kids, we're wives, and ex-wives! We're small town showgirls. And boy do we have fun on stage!' says Nolan.

Women Like Us is at the Bilambil Hall on Thursday August 1. It's BYO food and drinks. Show 7pm. Tix are \$40 and can be bought at: womenlikeus.com.au.

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

Lismore CBD open and giving away \$5,000



Ben Anderson from Country Town Digital in The Book Warehouse, Lismore. Both stores are participating in the \$5,000 shopper cash prize giveaway. Photo supplied

Aslan Shand

Businesses in the Lismore CBD are open and there is a sense of hope as they get back on their feet and the CBD again pulses with life.

Inspiring customers to come back and shop in the CBD, Sarah Morrow from The Book Warehouse banded together with Ben Anderson from Country Town Digital and Wayfarer Publishing to bring CBD businesses together to create a \$5,000 cash prize for one lucky shopper.

'We have about 30 businesses on board where people can shop in the CBD and then enter the competition for the \$5,000 prize money,' Ben told *The Echo*.

Shoppers can enter the draw by purchasing from one of the 30 participating businesses throughout July and entering a photograph of the receipt and their details on the website: www.shoplismorecbd.com.au.

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

Clarence locals welcome mining 'pause'

It has been a long seven years for the Clarence Catchment Alliance (CCA) who have been fighting against mining in the Clarence catchment.

The 'No Mines Clarence Valley' campaign has pushed forward with the 'No Social Licence' stance, meeting with lease holders, local, state and federal leaders, stakeholders, and councils to ensure residents' voices are heard.

They have welcomed the announcement by the multinational mining company Sons of Bavaria of a halt in its mining activities in the Clarence River water catchment area of the

Northern Rivers NSW.

The No Mines Clarence Valley campaign has gathered data through petitions, letter-writing, and a land use survey to support their stance against mining. There is 70 per cent opposition to mining in the Clarence catchment.

There are another 40+ mining claims in the catchment and CCA need help to take on the rest. Anyone interested in volunteering can sign up on their website: www.clarencecatchmentalliance.com.au.

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

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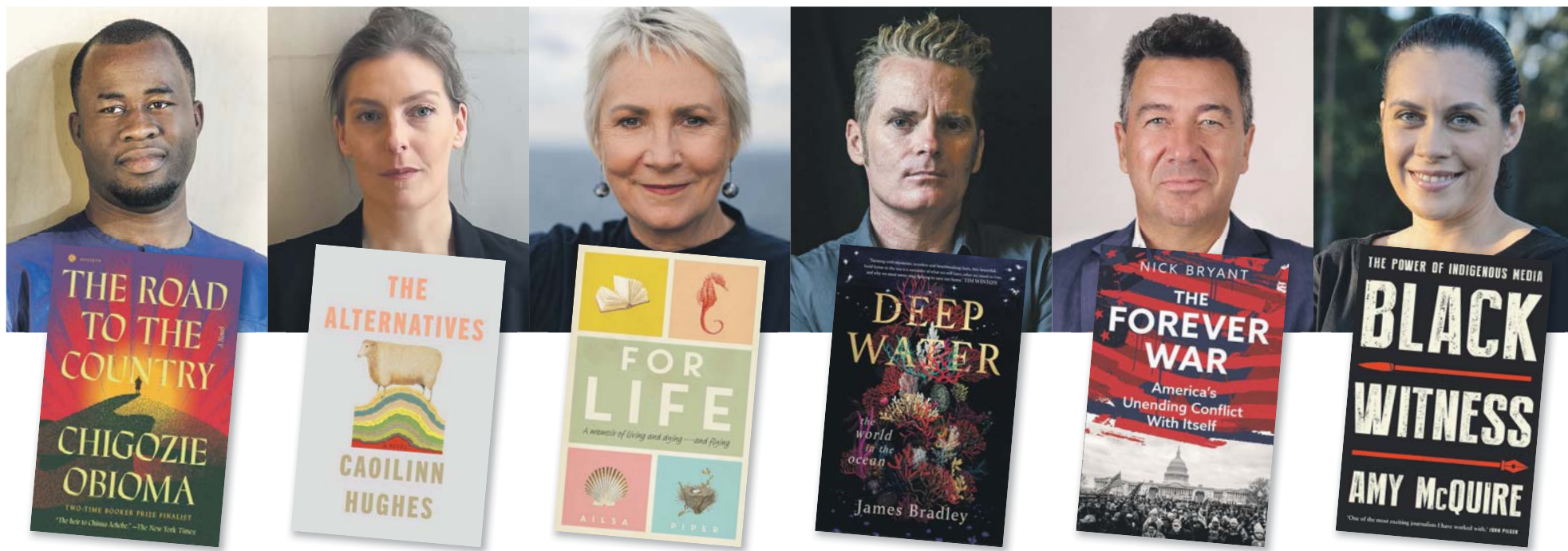
The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.

Disclaimer: *The Echo* is committed to providing a voice for our whole community. The views of advertisers, letter writers, and opinion writers are not necessarily those of the owners or staff of this publication.

'The job of a newspaper is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable.' - Finley Peter Dunne 1867-1936

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Dive head first into some of the year's biggest books at the Byron Writers Festival



Byron Writers Festival invites audiences to slow down and experience an immersive weekend of books, big ideas and stimulating conversation at the beautiful Bangalow Showground. Designed like a music festival, attendees can move between five covered stages and the A&I Hall, presenting over 160 of the world's best writers, as well as meeting authors at book signings, browsing the onsite book store, food and market stalls, and sculpture walk. With the festival just over a month away, here's a taste of some of the biggest and most compelling books in the program.

Literary masters

In an exclusive Australian visit, the festival will host US-based Nigerian writer **Chigozie Obioma**, a

two-time Booker Prize finalist. His latest novel *The Road To The Country* is an odyssey of brotherhood, love, and unimaginable courage set during one of the most devastating conflicts in the history of Africa, the Nigerian Civil War. As well as talking about his book, Chigozie will appear in the 'War and Brotherhood' panel hosted by Kerry O'Brien with another international guest Leo Vardiashvili (UK), and in the festival's annual gala.

International guest **Caoilinn Hughes** is a major literary voice hailing from Ireland. Her latest novel *The Alternatives* is a powerful story of four brilliant Irish sisters who scramble to reconnect when the oldest disappears into the Irish countryside. Catch Caoilinn at the festival talking about her

book with Bri Lee or in the panels 'Feminist Literatures', 'Sisters' or in conversation with award-winning writer Nam Le.

Non-fiction highlights

When her husband didn't answer his phone, **Ailsa Piper** knew something was wrong. Ailsa Piper's *For Life* is an unforgettable and moving insight into loss, hope and starting again, aided by the incredible healing power of nature and community. At the festival, Ailsa will feature in an unmissable one-on-one conversation with acclaimed novelist Charlotte Wood.

James Bradley's beautiful book *Deep Water* is a hymn to the beauty, mystery and wonder of the ocean.

Weaving together science, history and personal experience, it offers vital new ways of understanding humanity's relationship with the planet, our past, and most importantly, our future. James will deliver the festival's annual Thea Astley Address – not to be missed.

Politics and media

In his book *The Forever War: America's Unending Conflict With Itself*, **Nick Bryant**, one of the BBC's finest foreign correspondents, explores how America's current political polarisation has been 250 years in the making. Combining brilliant storytelling with historical research, Nick argues that the hate, divisiveness and paranoia we see today are in fact a core part of America's story. He will join Indian activist and

poet Meena Kandasamy and ABC Global Affairs editor John Lyons to discuss 'The Mega Election Year'.

From one of this country's leading First Nations journalists, **Amy McQuire**, comes *Black Witness*, a searing indictment of the media's failures in reporting Indigenous affairs and a powerful corrective that shows how Black journalism can pave the way for equality and justice. Amy will join *ABC Four Corners* investigative journalist Louise Milligan, Nick Bryant and Julianne Schultz to discuss press freedom in the annual Mungo MacCallum Panel.

■ All these authors and more will appear at Byron Writers festival 2024. Explore the program further at byronwritersfestival.com/festival-program.

Bruce Pascoe Q&A

Byron Writers Festival guests Bruce Pascoe and Lyn Harwood's book *Black Duck: A Year at Yumburra* is a personal and beautiful reflection on life, Country and the consequences of *Dark Emu* through six seasons on their farm. Here Bruce Pascoe answers some questions about the experience.

Your latest work feels like a long and lovely acknowledgment of your community and country. What has it been like to share those moments with the world?

Well it was a rare honour and privilege to talk about this country and the people who live here. Most of all it gave us a chance to honour and thank the country we love.

It's also a gentle, but urgent call to arms. What is a step we can

all take towards empowering the Aboriginal food movement?

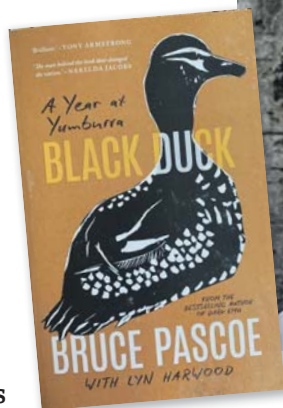
Buy from Aboriginal people wherever possible not from the entrepreneurs who are dominating the market. 99% of all money made out of Aboriginal foods goes to non-Aboriginal people. We need jobs in the industry and the money to help our communities toward financial independence.

A lot was changed by 2019/2020's bushfires. Has writing about those experiences changed you, too?

Writing about the fires didn't change me but it did bring it all back. Very unpleasant. The fires did change me. Our communities are still deeply affected and the trauma is ongoing.

Sometimes, you write, "you need to repeat something a hundred times before a bell rings in the colony." Is a bell ringing?

No, the bell has not rung. Australia refused the invitation to talk but it's not the end of the matter. After the referendum a constant stream of Aboriginal people came to the farm "just to



Bruce Pascoe and Lyn Harwood

have a cup of tea and a yarn" but all said that Aboriginal people just need to work harder to educate the nation. They all said 39% of Australians are our friends and we need to accept their help.

You write that Byron Writers Festival is a favourite. What are you looking forward to at the festival this time?

The people at Byron have been incredibly open minded and supportive of Aboriginal writers. I'm looking forward to meeting them again and seeing Bangalow.

■ Bruce Pascoe and Lyn Harwood will be at Byron Writers Festival to talk about *Black Duck: A Year at Yumburra*. Bruce Pascoe will also take part in the panel 'Cultural Touchstones' and in a conversation with Grace Lucas Pennington about his new novel *Imperial Harvest*.



The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #05 • July 10, 2024

Bloatcorp under review

Those familiar with the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA), the agency tasked with flood recovery for the north coast (and disaster recovery for NSW), may be heartened to know that a review is underway of the Act that governs the government-run corporation (govcorp).

A Joint Select Committee has also formed to review the *NSW Reconstruction Authority Act 2022*.

Until now, RA has enjoyed immunity from public scrutiny, while attracting a lot of criticisms, for example, around delays in, and the appeals process of, its Resilient Homes Program.

RA's \$790 million Resilient Homes Program includes house-raising, retrofits and buybacks. While hundreds of flood-affected homeowners were promised that their homes would be funded, the promise was famously reneged upon. Notably, Byron Shire was left short.

RA follows the failed agencies that preceded it – the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation and Resilience NSW.

The *2022 NSW Flood Inquiry* recommended RA be established with dedicated legislation modelled on the *Qld Reconstruction Authority Act 2011*.

The *NSW Reconstruction Authority Act 2022* grants significant powers to RA and the minister for planning and public spaces.

This includes carrying out development on certain lands in particular circumstances, which has begun in Lismore. Areas in Byron Shire – Saddle Road near Bruns and Bangalow – are in the works.

The public submissions for reviewing the Act are available online, and the review's terms of reference aim to 'determine whether the policy objectives of the Act remain valid, and the terms of the Act remain appropriate for securing the objectives'.

So what do the submissions say? The Law Society of NSW has called for amendments to provide clarity and safeguards on the minister's powers, arguing that some aspects of Part 5 of the Act are unnecessarily and disproportionately broad.

President Brett McGrath writes the powers of the minister and RA should be subject to reasonable safeguards, including clarity, transparency and proportionality.

'In Qld's counterpart legislation, the minister is not afforded the power to suspend the operation of any other legislation or statutory instruments pursuant to making a declaration in respect of a declared project or reconstruction area'.

McGrath also adds, 'We suggest that this regulatory framework should be coordinated with relevant Commonwealth legislation'.

Byron Council staff member Esmeralda Davis also offered views on the Act. 'While timely access to funding and grants for local government was welcomed', she wrote, 'The funding administration and claims process has been exceptionally complex and protracted. This places a heavy administrative burden on Council staff, and also forces councils to carry additional financial risk, owing to the retrospective reimbursement approach to funding.'

'It is not yet clear how the legislation will enable RA to improve the resilience and adaptability of affected communities in relation to potential disasters. Council strongly urges government to support local initiatives through the funding of dedicated permanent positions within Council, to deliver programs suited to and informed by the local context'.

The Joint Select Committee will report by November 28.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Policy ambition, age and conservatives

The sad state of conservative politics has again dominated the world stage this week, with the Tory wipeout in the UK, and a chaotic result in the French elections, reducing President Macron's Centralist Alliance to 168 seats in the 577-seat parliament.

In yet more evidence, the European political centre is fraying, the Macron coalition lost seats (and its majority) to both the hard right and hard left.

In the US, the Republicans' presumptive candidate, Donald Trump, continues to wade through the courts of America.

I pray the question of 'how many?' is never asked at the Westover Tavern trivia night in West Ballina, because I have totally lost track!

Grand Old Party

The once Grand Old Party (GOP) has delayed Trump's formal endorsement until September, in order to be certain he is legally qualified to run.

Back home in Australia, Peter Dutton's bizarre plan to revive a debunked 1960s nuclear energy policy has been disavowed by his 'good mate' David Crisafulli, leader of the LNP opposition.

Mr Crisafulli is well placed to win the looming Qld election – and the last thing he wants is Dutton uranium in his saddlebags.

The UK, US and Australian conservatives all have three things in common.

The corrosive hard-right influence of the Murdoch media; a propensity to respond to every setback by lurching further away from the 'centre'; and a continuing dominance of white Anglo men, who very much look and sound of their party founders.

This was fine a century ago, but in 2024, conservatives have palpably failed to keep up with social and economic modernity.

Just ask the teals in Australia, or the incoming Labor government in the UK.

Conservative politics is narrowing, not broadening, and you would ordinarily expect the electoral pressure of plummeting primary votes



'Conservative politics is narrowing, not broadening, and you would ordinarily expect the electoral pressure of plummeting primary votes and declining donations to force some sort of cataclysmic remaking of centre-right political organisations'

– Catherine Cusack

and declining donations to force some sort of cataclysmic remaking of centre-right political organisations. But this isn't happening – for two reasons.

First, Lachlan Murdoch.

His father's media empire is redoubling its efforts to push conservative politics further right.

So, Fox and Sky in particular, keep old conservatives on life-support and demonise the younger reformers who dare to champion renewable energy, social inclusion and intergenerational equity – especially in housing policies.

Weakened left

The second reason seems just as intractable – the political left is weakened by division, and seems almost as resilient to change as the conservatives.

I do not blame the Australian Labor Party and their UK Labour colleagues for pursuing a 'small target' strategy.

It is standard strategy in politics to allow your bumbling political opponents to implode without interruption.

But it is one thing to present bland and boring policy to keep the focus on your enemies.

It is quite another thing to not do any big policy homework at all – and it seems the centre left has done just that – at least in Australia, where the Labor prime minister gave the LNP a lifeline when he gambled and lost on the Voice referendum.

In the US, the problem is even worse with Americans of all political stripes telling Democrat pollsters – for two years – they want younger leadership in the Oval Office.

A *New York Times* survey showed 70 per cent of voters perceived Biden as too old for the presidency.

When drilling into those

numbers, it is no surprise to see young voters feel most strongly about his age – and the youth vote traditionally is Democrat.

So they have ignored the voters and ignored reality.

The recent debate with Trump, where Biden was completely away with the fairies, is confronting for those of us who see the American president as the leader of the free world.

I can only imagine the impact upon his own citizens.

Biden damages himself even further by maintaining 'I am being told the polling is neck and neck', when all the published polls show Trump drawing ahead of him after the debate.

The left has a huge opportunity to take and remake the political centre, not only here in Australia, but with our close friends and important allies – the UK and the US.

Showing their age

But like Joe Biden, all our political parties are truly showing their age.

They all look way past their use-by-date – I say this as a comment on policy performance.

Voters peeling away from the major parties for their own reasons are trying to remake the system.

But until those powerbrokers actually listen and act on these legitimate concerns, they are selling our parliaments short.

Under the current party system, the mateship and skills you need to get elected are the polar opposite of the qualities needed once you get elected. Too many good people get strained out of consideration for high office by our ageing political parties, who are helping themselves, and not helping our country.

■ Catherine Cusack is a former NSW Liberal MLC.

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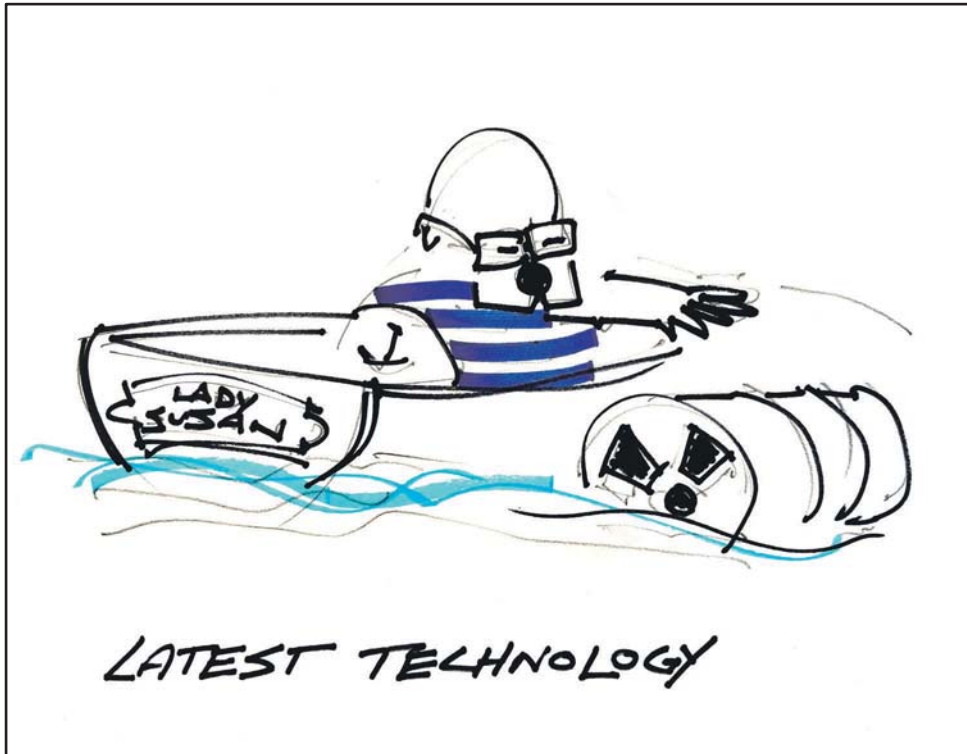
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Nuclear waste disposal. Cartoon by Sydney Craythorn

Renewables/Wallum

Edward Kent's letter, Wallum (June 26), tried to diminish the importance of the Save Wallum campaign to mere 'piffle', comparing its significance to the threat of 'horrific large-scale destruction' by large wind or solar farms to 'the vast tracts of pristine wilderness' in Queensland.

But is he really concerned about 'such treasures' or is he just wanting to discredit any renewable projects? He regards the net zero goal as a 'fit of madness and corruption' and assumes that all 'so-called' renewable projects have, and will, cause

the same threat of destruction nationwide.

We would all agree that Queensland Labor shouldn't allow any renewable development in areas of pristine wilderness. But currently there are only two Greens MPs (of the 47 nationwide) represented in the Queensland parliament. Their impact is limited, which may account for the passing of these projects in dubious locations.

Ironically, Steven Nowakowski's concerns have led him to join up with Colin Boyce, a Liberal National MP and well-known

climate-sceptic who is recently advocating nuclear power stations for Queensland. There's little indication of his concern for pristine wildernesses or the environmental health of our planet.

Renewables in agriculture are gaining momentum, offering shade and shelter for livestock, and a financial buffer in times of drought. Many smaller regional towns are also benefiting from cheaper energy costs with local renewable energy projects. Maintenance roles are offering some regional employment opportunities.

The comparative small size of Wallum belies its significance for locally threatened species of plants and wildlife. Adjoining the Tyagarah Nature Reserve, it provided a refuge for wildlife fleeing from bushfires in the coastal heathland. Its coffee rock layers have absorbed floodwaters and protected

the health of Simpson Creek and the Brunswick River from the effects of exposed acid sulphate soils.

Sue McLeod
Myocum

Clothes-optional

I have lived in Byron Shire most of my life and my family, my children and I highly value Tyagarah clothing-optional beach (COB).

We are disappointed NPWS are closing the beach in August after operating as a legal COB since 1998, now deemed invalid due to a jurisdictional error.

We are disappointed by the quality of public engagement on this issue. A single two-hour workshop is not 'extensive consultation'!

We are disappointed Council has taken no steps to proactively manage a transition to a new location. Mayor Lyon and the general manager have known about the NPWS plan since May 2023 and other councillors have been aware since February 2024.

Naturism is a legitimate lifestyle choice and a proportionate amount of public space should be allocated for its expression.

Over 150 people attended a snap protest rally straight after the initial NPWS announcement back in February. And over 7,700 people have signed a petition to reverse the decision.

Clearly, there is a HUGE public demand for a legal COB in Byron Shire.

Naturists do not want to be deprived of a safe and legal place to exercise a basic freedom.

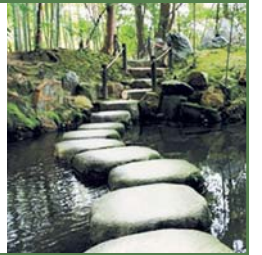
We ask Council to urgently
▶ Continued on page 16

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| WED 10 JULY | FELICITY LAWLESS |
| THU 11 JULY | DONNY SHADES DUO |
| FRI 12 JULY | OSCAR LADELL |
| SAT 13 JULY | CHILDREN OF BOB |
| SUN 14 JULY | PINK ZINC |
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National NAIDOC Week – Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud & Proud

Belle Budden

This year's National NAIDOC Week theme honours the enduring strength and resilience of First Nations peoples and culture. Fire is a symbol of our continued connection to Country, to each other, and to the richness of traditions that define Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As we honour this flame, we rekindle the sparks of pride and unity, igniting a renewed commitment to acknowledging, preserving, and sharing the cultural heritage that enriches our nations.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture is the oldest continuing culture on the planet and it is our responsibility and right to continue to practise and pass on our culture to future generations. Our culture is the expression of our relationship to Country, our belonging, and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people

to our culture are enshrined in international law.

National NAIDOC Week is the time of year we celebrate and showcase our culture, a time for Blak Joy. It is our time to put aside the struggle, the grief, and the trauma and come together as communities to celebrate our enduring strength, the depth of our spirit, our knowledge and our relationship with Country.

The importance of culture

This year is an important year to show solidarity with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through supporting NAIDOC Week events, programs and activities. Following the 2023 referendum to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples a Voice to Parliament resulting in 60.8 per cent of Australians voting 'No', it is a critical time to show solidarity.



The recent Kinship Festival, held at Knox Park, Murwillumbah. Photo Jeff Dawson

In late 2023 the Productivity Commission released a scathing report on the work of all Australian governments to address the targets agreed on under Closing the Gap. It is well documented that growing up with a strong cultural identity is the most

robust, protective, and healing factor for our people in facing and surmounting the obstacles of life in the colony. National NAIDOC Week represents the time of the year where there is space within the dominant culture to celebrate our culture.

NAIDOC Week is critical for the continuation of culture and allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people time to prioritise coming together as communities to showcase and celebrate our cultural survival.

New ways

This year's theme 'Blak, Loud and Proud' reflects the unapologetic celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identity, empowering us to stand tall in our heritage and assert our place in the modern world. This theme calls for a reclamation of narratives, an amplification of voices, and an unwavering commitment to justice and equality. It is time for a new way. And there is still much to do. Change is being made through the tireless

activism and advocacy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. While our people struggle to protect Country and community, we must find our strength and connection to each other through cultural practice. Through our culture, our strength is renewed.

Across our region our communities have dug deep to host NAIDOC Week celebrations for the broader communities. It is this generosity of spirit that our people continue to offer to all, sharing what is most sacred to us, our culture, our relationships to each other, and to Country. This is an opportunity for healing, so support your local Aboriginal community to celebrate the oldest continuing culture on the planet.

Rous to cut Mullum residents off from mains water

The Lavertys Gap hydro power station was installed in 1919. In 1939, during the Great Depression, people had no money, and Council decided to get water for them from above the power station. Council got together some unemployed people, and they dug a trench and laid a six-inch water main from Lavertys Gap to Mullumbimby Reservoir.

My father, on his farm, where he produced milk and cream, was told by the health inspector that he needed to have 'clean water' for his business. He asked the Council if he could hook onto the new water main, and they said yes. He had to enter a contract for three years to have the water connected, and we've been connected to the town water ever since, for 85 years.

According to the Mullumbimby Water Strategy 2024, there are 13 people like myself connected to the trunk main from Lavertys Gap, and those people will be disconnected, and will have to get their water in future from a tank. I've got a big property, and produce beef cattle for export and for the local market, but not

all paddocks have sufficient natural water, especially in drought times – that's why my father originally connected to the Council main.

We need water for our home, septic toilet system, and my health as well as my business, which just won't be able to run the same. As a 90-year-old, I'm very distressed about this. The 13 other people connected to the town main, some of whom, like myself, were connected by Council originally in 1939, want Council to continue to supply clean potable town water to our properties.

In addition, it would seem ridiculous to decommission an existing town water supply system that provides resilience to Mullumbimby – this vital resource (the water supply from Lavertys Gap) should be maintained.

Ray Musgrave
Wilson's Creek

I grew up and live in Mullumbimby, and I know locals have a strong opinion about the Byron Shire Council. I had always given them the benefit of the doubt – as it's not an easy job. But last week I changed my mind.

Our neighbour, Ray Musgrave, alerted us and other neighbours we'd be losing town water access on our properties. At first, I thought this was simply the Mullum rumour mill, but I called around at Council and found out it was true. Without any doorknocks, phone calls, or letters, we found out dozens of residents at the bottom of Wilson's Creek, including us, would lose town water access if Mullum is connected to Rous water.

While this decision has not been officially made by Council – yet – we all know it is the likely decision. I work in media and communications, sometimes as a consultant for state and federal government, and I'll admit that tactics are sometimes a little underhanded, but, when it comes to infrastructure and impacting households like this, there would always be doorknocks to every home at a minimum in the communications plan. So, I'm simply shocked at these sneaky tactics by our local council.

Luckily, we have all been neighbours for decades or generations here and were able to quickly agree to work together to try and save our town water. Wish us luck!

Casey Fung
Wilson's Creek

I've been a Wilson's Creek resident for over 44 years. The way Byron Council decided to cut off our current water supply is abominable.

Their decision to not get in touch first is underhand and extremely distressing with a very tight timeline to get in submissions – less than

a week – when Council have known for over 18 months.

The Water and Sewer staff know who to contact but have chosen to ignore the fact they are cutting off our mains water supply and leaving us with water tanks. Although these require constant and expensive maintenance, this was the only option put forward.

There were no introductions at that meeting and Robyn Campbell, an engineer from Hydrosphere Consulting, did not identify herself. Very misleading.

Her first comment to me was 'Why don't you want a tank?' I have been on the trunk main for over 44 years – a tank is not a viable option.

Tanks require new guttering, pumps, filtration systems, cleaning, and access to fill them in dry times. Access to my site is difficult, and earthworks would be required. The only resolution I will accept is to keep my current supply.

Council has been pushing for Scenario 3 in Hydrosphere's report. The pushing through of this option is not community consultation nor does it give time for proper community engagement. There is nothing transparent about this process for the residents directly affected.

What about Essential Energy and APA Group who have electricity substations directly below me? They are not mentioned in the report. I contacted both sites directly and they were completely unaware this was happening.

Alison McMahon
Lavertys Gap

Full letter online:
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Zionism, antisemitism and Israel – Heilpern article

■ A self-hating Jew means ‘antisemitic’. David Heilpern’s 3 July article was underpinned with lies, and hateful sentiments toward one group of Australians: the Jewish community of the Byron Shire.

90 per cent of Jewish Australians believe that the Jewish people have a right to live in peace in their homeland of 3,500 years. This is Zionism, nothing more. Many eminent Australians agree.

David thinks that claims of antisemitism in our shire are based in ‘trauma’. What would you call boycotting of Israeli businesses, people being called ‘baby killers’ in public, my own son and grandchildren being told, ‘We don’t want Jews in Mullum’, children being beaten at school, called ‘filthy Jews’ and threatened with death?

Of nine million Israeli citizens, 2.2 million are Arab/Palestinian citizens, living alongside Jewish and all other Israelis. Comprising doctors, MPs, lawyers, judges, police and more. Many serve in the IDF, with a huge increase since the October 7 Hamas massacres. Not a token number.

Israel is one third the size

of Tasmania, not a religious state, but secular. Israel is surrounded by Arab Muslim religious nations 500 times larger.

Famine? The UN confirmed that Hamas is stealing food trucks and reselling food to Gazans in Hamas-run markets. A pear in Gaza costs US\$10. Because of this the UN are refusing food trucks entry to Gaza.

David describes the chant ‘from the river to the sea’ correctly to mean ‘the Jewish state be dismantled’. If a call to ethnically cleanse all Jews from their homeland is not antisemitic, what is?

M McCormack
Billinudgel

■ In response to David Heilpern’s article regarding antisemitism and Israel, (*Echo*, July 3) it is probably generally agreed that there are many significant issues, with blame attaching to both sides.

However, David’s definition of ‘from the river to the sea’ as meaning that the Jewish state be dismantled is far too generous a description.

The Hamas terrorists certainly nailed their definition

to the mast on October 7 last year when during a ceasefire agreement they launched an undeclared and unprovoked attack, rather a slaughter, out of Gaza, resulting in around 1,200 mainly civilian deaths and 250 hostages taken with many still unaccounted for.

The Hamas attack showed brutality and cruelty not witnessed since the Middle Ages, with children murdered and women brutally raped and tortured.

No David, this was not endeavouring to dismantle the Jewish state, but rather an attempt to ultimately wipe out Israel completely.

While Hamas exists, Palestine will never be free, nor will there be peace in the Middle East.

Tim Harrington
Lennox Head

■ Regarding Heilpern’s article: 1. Not a token of non-Jews serve in the army. By and large the whole Muslim Druze community serve.

While it is correct that most Arabs do not, Arabs have more rights in Israel than in any of the 21 Arab countries.

2. Israel is a Jewish state, and is Heilpern implying there is something nefarious

with the Star of David being on the flag – 64 countries have a religious symbol on their flag, including 21 Muslim countries and 31 Christian countries.

3. America, Australia, the UK and other countries do not consider a genocide is taking place, which is an extreme accusation with no basis in fact. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) did rule there was a plausibility of genocide but rather to merely preserve the rights for the case to move forward.

4. As far as his antisemitism claims, when he says the Zionist lobby, he’s talking about over 90 per cent of Jews worldwide and the vast majority of Jews in Australia. He is the token voice.

You can be complicit in your own people’s oppression, being Jewish doesn’t absolve you of being an antisemite.

Doron Milner
Ocean Shores

■ Well David Heilpern may be discombobulated (*Echo*, July 3), but his use of the word Zionist as a derogatory term for those that support the existence of British decolonised/UN Israel, appears vaguely racist.

You don’t have to be anti-Palestinian to be a Zionist, and indeed it will be the non-anti-Palestinian Zionists, and the non-anti-Israeli Palestinians, that will make the peace.

Mr Heilpern states chanting ‘from the river to the sea Palestine will be free’ is not antisemitic, well a) it’s a direct war cry quote from the Hamas Charter that calls for the violent destruction of Jewish

Israel – would an Australian crowd chanting a quote from a violent anti-Muslim extremist group ‘from the mountains to the sea Australia will be free of Muslims’ be acceptable to Mr Heilpern? and b) Hamas’s Charter’s war cry calls for Israel to be violently occupied under a fundamentalist Muslim Hamas government – not sure where all the Jews that aren’t killed are to go, but that proposal does sound antisemitic.

Mr Heilpern misreports that ‘horrified Zionists’ were speakers against the Byron Council’s final reasonable Gaza motion – they weren’t, they were speaking against Cr Dey’s original prejudiced pro-Palestine motion published in Council’s agenda, which other Byron councillors significantly amended for the final adopted version. Mr Heilpern was a speaker for the original prejudiced motion.

The amendments removed the Greens motion’s anti-Israel allegations, calls for boycotts, support for the anti-Israel ‘Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions’ movement, and the statement that Byron Council knows that there is ‘documented evidence of Israeli war crimes’.

Mr Heilpern also alleges ‘overwhelming evidence of genocide’. While before the courts, there are no genocide judgements. The presumption of innocence is the basis of legal systems, perhaps it’s best that Mr Heilpern is now teaching at university, rather than sitting as a judge.

Both peoples need to get their houses in order. As does now Australia, in its descent into aggressive sectarian

conflict, and religious and secular division over this war, for which the Greens are particularly accountable.

John Lazarus
Byron Bay

■ Many false ideas in Mr Heilpern’s article. But I would say this; hardly anybody is trying to understand the complex Palestinian issue, nor to speak out against their radical governance who put them backwards. Of being ‘sacrificed’ by their ‘leaders’ and other Arab extreme regimes (listen to their interviews). It’s all out there if people care to understand and possibly help.

But it is much easier to only talk about evil Israel. How everything is because of Israel. Of how it is okay to justify slogans with clear genocidal intent. Calls for violence (Intifada). Slogans used by terrorists, who openly declare their wish to annihilate all Jewish people, and sadly repeated at ‘Love and Peace’ demonstrations. Hiding behind words like ‘Zionist’, as if it is not the basic right of Jews to live there. Look it up. Including the 1947 UN resolution that followed.

These kinds of ‘talks’ do nothing to progress any Palestinian issue. Neither do they solve the Middle East’s long conflict. Concentrating on one side alone does not progress peace. It does though, bring up and promote hateful feelings. Against Jews and other Israelis living in Israel and around the world. Call it what you want.

Ofra Galper
Ocean Shores



Are you considering running for Council?

Council is holding pre-election briefing sessions for prospective candidates to gain a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a councillor.

Led by Local Government NSW, the sessions will help prospective candidates make an informed decision about running for Council.

Sessions are being held jointly with Ballina Shire Council:

- **Monday 22 July 2024, 6pm to 9pm:** Ballina Indoor Sports Centre (BISC) Meeting Rooms, 63 Cherry Street, Ballina
- **Tuesday 23 July 2024, 6pm to 9pm:** Byron Shire Council Chambers, 70 Station Street, Mullumbimby

Registrations are required.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au

More information

To register and learn more information about the process to become a councillor visit

🔗 www.byron.nsw.gov.au/election



► **Continued from page 13** start the process for establishing a new COB in Byron Shire.

Bradley Benham
President, NR Naturists

Byron’s foreshore

‘How could the foreshore be improved?’ asks Byron Council. Simple. Incorporate natural and hybrid infrastructure into coastal policy and planning.

Natural infrastructure can consistently provide value and benefits for coastal communities and coastal resilience (protection).

Built infrastructure, on the other hand, is limited in that it only provides coastal protection value and only during storm events.

Built infrastructure and natural infrastructure have

differing strengths and weaknesses.

The benefits associated with natural infrastructure are precisely what make coastal areas so valuable and what draws people to live and work in these vulnerable regions.

Coastal ecosystems enhance resilience by providing protection, as well as contributing raw goods and materials, plants and animal habitat, regulating water and air quality, carbon sequestration, nutrient cycling and opportunities for tourism, recreation, education and research.

Built infrastructure is strong immediately upon its completion, but has a set lifetime, weakens with age and is constructed to specific parameters that cannot

adapt to changing conditions. It also has negative impacts on coastal shoreline development, changing the transportation of sediment and the ability of the shoreline to respond naturally to changing conditions, which can result in habitat loss, loss of species diversity, lowering the sand profile of the beach and eating away the dunes at the end of the hard structures – particularly noticeable from Main Beach to Belongil.

However, large seawalls can lull communities behind them into a sense of false security, as seems to be the case in Byron Bay.

Ultimately, natural infrastructure (i.e. healthy ecosystems) and combinations of natural and built
► **Continued opposite**

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► from previous page infrastructures ('hybrid' approaches) provide the best protection as well as other benefits such as public recreation, public access, and economic value.

With regard to continuing to modify and reconstruct our current seawall in the centre of Main Beach, the science is clear and indisputable.

A seawall and any engineered hard revetment between the carpark and the beach will not stop the natural retreat of the shoreline. The beach will continue to erode until it simply disappears in front of the seawall – as we now see periodically at Main Beach.

While calls to provide protection for private property and infrastructure grow louder as the coast is threatened, the impacts of bad decisions, like building more seawalls and other bulwarks, will become even more severe.

Sand is to the coast as water is to the desert. You cannot allow it to go unmanaged and you cannot allow individuals or localities to seal off, as residents are now doing at Belongil, sand that was destined for the benefit of all.

I urge this community and this Council to pursue policies that reduce risk along the oceanfront by truly avoiding the hazards, not

blocking them with brute force engineering and other frivolous and superficial infrastructure.

Firstly, remove the groynes and secondly, invest in 'managed realignment' using a variety of both natural and hybrid approaches. Both strategies are cost-effective and sustainable.

Jan Hackett
 Byron Bay

Presidential act?

Everyone is talking about what Trump can get away with now a president is protected by immunity for official acts.

Trump is gloating. But I guess that ruling also gives immunity to current President

Biden to kill Trump since commentators say that the new ruling would allow immunity to the president for an act of political assassination.

That would be an interesting turnaround. When does the new ruling of the US Supreme Court come into effect?

Margrette Young
 Dorrroughby

Visual pollution

I live rurally, not far from Mullumbimby, and I remember the time before a rural garbage service existed.

It required a coordinated approach to garbage disposal. Now I see garbage bins left at the side of the road and at the entrance to

properties because apparently some of us can't find a better way.

We live in a beautiful area but some don't see the visual impact this behaviour has on us. I'm sure there's a council by-law regarding this matter but are we really incapable of addressing this?

We plant trees to benefit the environment, we weed to help the environment, we remove unwanted species because of the effect they have but apparently plastic is different.

Can't we contribute to the impact we have on our surroundings by being less lazy and more awake?

Debra Smith
 Mullumbimby

Elections

As a 65 year-old man, it should be illegal for me to vote. Start at 18 finish at 65, we had our chance, we did the best we could've and fucked up. Change the rules and the game will improve. Because it doesn't mean we don't have a say, we can use the power of love – it means we can't vote, we're too old. On the up side we no longer get blamed.


A Hunter
 Bangalow

■ We recieved too many letters to publish this week please see *The Echo* online for more letters: www.echo.net.au.

Good Taste

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Playing with fire

Victoria Cosford

Their excitement is infectious. Young school-boys in uniform cluster around Rebecca Barnes' stall as she passes the finger limes around: they bite in, squealing with pleasure.

It's nearly the end of finger lime season, Bec tells me, and they continue to run out the door. The steady passage of customers reveals that many are there for this beautiful rainforest luxury, 'citrus australasic', or caviar limes as they are often called owing to the burst of caviar-like pulp inside the finger-sized fruit. Known as vesicles, or pearls, they're used both as a garnish or tangy explosion of flavour, a gourmet bushfood whose commercial use began in the 1990's and whose popularity continues unabated.

One woman tells us she sprinkles the 'caviar' over dragonfruit – 'it's heaven on earth!' she says. 'I eat them with everything, and now my son is addicted.' Another confides that she puts them in gin and tonics. 'I'm just pleased,' Bec says, 'that people actually know what they are' – but in fact she's noticed that 'absolutely without question' people are generally more educated about bushfoods than they were when she started out.

That was well over 25 years ago now, beginning from the discovery of raspberries growing in the bush at Woodburn at a friend's property. 'I didn't know we

had native raspberries,' she says, 'nor why we couldn't buy them in Australia. That kick-started it all.'

The 'all' is her successful business, turning over plants like blue lillypilly, bolwarra (a native guava), ginger, banksia, but also bush spices – peppermint gum and aniseed myrtle and wattleseed, amongst many others; herbal teas and chais infused with the spices, dried fruits like desert quandong and native currant; flavoured vinegars and marmalades. She says her all-time best-seller is lemon myrtle. 'Everyone loves it!'



Playing With Fire is at New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday, 8am to 11am and Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday, 7am to 11am.



Karkalla at Home: 110 recipes using native foods

Karkalla at Home is a vibrant cookbook that brings Australia's wonderful bounty of unique native foods into the home kitchen with more than 110 easy and inspiring recipes, including everything from breakfasts and weeknight mains, to special occasion centrepieces, along with a vivid array of drinks and desserts. Author, proud Bundjalung woman and Northern Rivers resident, Mindy Woods features stories and profiles on more than 40 of the continent's most readily available, yet underutilised native ingredients.

'Meat pies and sausage rolls are not our native Aussie food', says Woods. She has written recipes that include the iconic macadamia, citrus, berries, plums, myrtles and seeds, coastal greens and succulents, and a host of exceptional native seafood. Woods explains: 'These native food ingredients do belong in our own homes. I just touch on a small number of the 6,500-odd native ingredients in my cookbook, I chose ones

which are more widely-known and accessible, but there's a lot more, which is something that excites me for the future. I can walk down the main street of Byron and discover native food that is growing all around – if we can embrace something as terrible as kale, what about Warrigal greens which are a wonderful food? This stuff is growing in our own backyards.'

Mindy, who is appearing at the Byron Writers Festival on Saturday, 10 August told *The Echo* last week, 'the biggest thing for me was the realisation of how much we, as modern Australians, have been robbed of connecting with this culture. Food is a central expression of culture; we have such an abundance of delicious, abundant, rare native food – people overseas are so interested in this, but it hasn't dawned on us in Australia yet.'

'As Aussies, we love to travel and enjoy the food of other countries and cultures, but we forget to explore this in our own backyard – while



Author of *Karkalla at Home*, Mindy Woods.

there's the desire to do so, there's a lack of accessibility to our native-food and First Nations culture. I believe it will be part of our Australian reconciliation, once we discover what we have in

common it will unite our country in a beautiful and genuine way.

'Food is the greatest connector in the world', says Woods. 'To experience a culture, you need to experience

its foods, some of which are unique and rare. I want to connect people with First Nations culture through food, which also involves a connection to Country and to environment, because nothing operates in isolation. The end result is, hopefully, that people are as inspired by nature as I am – by spreading the joy and the love, with ancient ingredients used in dining. By using these native ingredients, we build the community of people who are protecting our Country for future generations.'

'My restaurant Karkalla in Byron Bay started this for me', says Mindy, referring to the native-ingredient-driven restaurant, critically acclaimed with 14 hats in the Australian Good Food Guide, that closed in April 2024. 'It was heart-warming to see people's response in the restaurant, but these foods belong in the kitchen – it's about accessibility of ingredients, and versatility, and how to use them.'

Woods is taking a new step in her journey soon. 'I'm relocating to Karkalla on

Country – to a beautiful place on Country, to expand on this immersive experience, which will welcome community and give them a true sense of culture. I have Aunties interested in giving a taste of Country.'

A captivating cookbook featuring First Nations foods, *Karkalla at Home* champions not only First Nations ingredients but offers greater connection to Indigenous culture and country. Featuring photography shot on Bundjalung land by Rob Palmer and artwork and illustrations from First Nations designer Jenna Lee, this gorgeous hardback celebrates the gifts from this rich and ancient culture and Country. The book is now available online and at bookshops in the Northern Rivers.

■ See Mindy Woods at the Byron Writers Festival. Mindy Woods will be in conversation with Annabelle Hickson in the Coolamon on Saturday, 10 August between 11.30am to 12.30pm.

Celebrate Argentine Cuisine every Friday at Crystalbrook Byron's Parilla BBQ

During the month of July, Crystalbrook Byron will be running 'Parilla BBQ Fridays', a culinary experience inspired by Argentine grilling traditions.

On the evening of July 19, the menu will feature empanadas humita, roasted picanha with grilled vegetables, and dulce de leche flan accompanied by raspberries and lemon myrtle mascarpone. These dishes highlight the rich, smoky flavours and vibrant ingredients characteristic of Argentine cuisine. While the BBQ is prepared outside on the lawn, you'll be able to watch from the cosy comfort of the restaurant.

For those attending on July 12 and 26, the menu will shift to grilled butterfly prawns with fermented chilli and garlic butter, roasted grilled chicken with salsa verdeo, and grilled vegetables. To finish, guests will enjoy grilled pineapple with candied walnuts, caramel, and lemon myrtle mascarpone.

Parilla BBQ Friday is more than just a dining event; it's an opportunity to relax and enjoy a casual, inviting atmosphere. With live acoustic music and the natural beauty of Byron Bay as a backdrop, it's a

perfect setting for friends and family to gather.

Whether you're a guest at the resort or a local looking for an extraordinary dining experience, this event promises to be a highlight of your week, leaving you with flavours to remember and

stories to share. Walk-ins are welcome or reserve a spot at crystalbrookcollection.com/byron/specialoffers.

■ 5pm-8:30pm Fridays in July (12, 19, 26). Price: \$55 per person, including a glass of mulled wine.

Crystalbrook byron

Parilla BBQ Fridays

Embrace smoky flavours, live cooking, and cosy evenings. Walk-ins welcome.

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| FROM 5PM | FRIDAYS IN JULY |
| \$55PP (INCL. MULLED WINE) | |

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Wed - Sun 9am-4pm | lunch 12pm -2.30pm



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www.balloonaloft.com | 1300 723 279 | @balloonaloftbyronbay

HOLIDAY FUN AT TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY!

ART PLAY: School Holiday Fun

Wednesdays and Fridays. 11am-1pm during the NSW School Holidays.

Create a miniature architectural model with artist Anna Carey and decorate with your dream shops.

Free drop-in activity for all ages.
 Parental supervision required.

Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre
 Open Wed-Sun, 10am-4pm
 Free admission
 2 Mistral Road, Murwillumbah NSW
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au



LET'S GO SURFING

Join Let's Go Surfing for an awesome time surfing or stand up paddle boarding these holidays. They offer private and group lessons and tours for all ages, as well as a kids only lesson.

Lessons include all equipment and expert instruction in small groups, and provide education, maximum fun, and safety for your kids. They cover the basics from warm-up to paddling, catching waves and standing, while also catering to intermediate and advanced students. Kids also learn important surf and safety rules including info on rips, tides, sandbanks and waves.

Open 7 days 8:30am-4:30pm
 Shop 5, 11 Fletcher St, Byron Bay
 @letsgosurfingaustralia
 02 6680 9443
www.letsgosurfing.com.au

LINO PRINTING ON T-SHIRTS AND TOTE BAGS, YOUTH WORKSHOP

This free workshop will cover the basics of lino printing. Participants can bring a design to the workshop or choose from nature-related templates created by the facilitator, Estefania Minniti. Carve, ink and press your masterpiece onto paper or fabric. Tote bags and paper provided, participants can bring their own t-shirt to print on.

DATE: Thursday July 18, 10am-1pm

AGE: 16-24 years

VENUE: Koori Mail, 11 Molesworth St, Lismore

TICKETS: Free, bookings essential, limited places available. Book via <https://lismoregallery.org/lino-printing-on-t-shirts-and-tote-bags-youth-workshop> Or call 02 6627 4600

BANG! WINTER HOLIDAY WORKSHOP!

What better way to spend the school break than in a fun, creative and skill-building space! At BANG! Academy they are passionate about giving young people the opportunity to experience the very best this area can offer in performing arts. Their three workshop facilitators are world class - **Tim Franklin** (*The Fall Guy, Before Dawn, Home & Away*), **Elodie Crowe** (*Tiger Town, New Blood*) and **Lulu Miskin** (*Hair, High School Musical and Mary Poppins*). Each day will involve acting, singing and voice work, movement and dance, improvisation, storytelling and more! No prior experience necessary. 1, 2 and/or 3 days. Special early bird rates available - spaces are limited! Register now!

DATE: 17, 18 and 19 July
www.bangacademyofperformingarts.com

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NEW EXHIBITS! AND 360 DOME FILMS

Get your tickets at: otherworld.live

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 BYRON BAY - LENNOX - BALLINA - BRUNSWICK HEADS

LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

Free School Holidays Youth Workshops

Painting with wool
 Thursday July 18, 10am-12pm
 Age: 12-17 years

Lino printing on t-shirts and tote bags
 Thursday July 18, 10am-1pm
 Age: 16-24 years

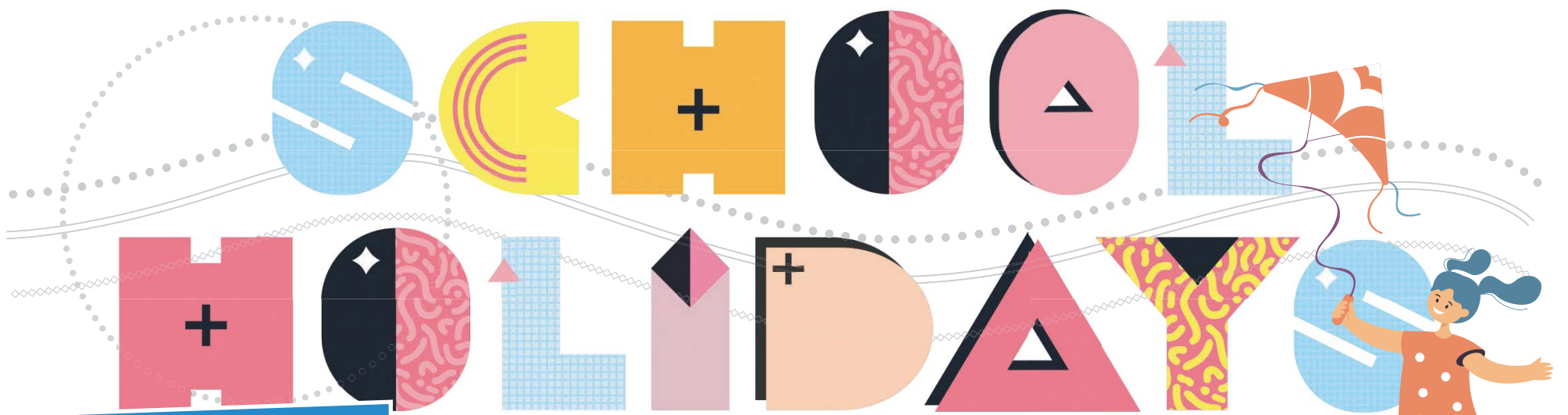
Venue: Koori Mail
 11 Molesworth St, Lismore

Bookings essential via www.lismoregallery.org

SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN AT THE GALLERY!

Free entry. See website for details
 Photo: Tweed Tourism Co/Kiff & Culture

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE
 NSW GOVERNMENT
 Open Wed - Sun, 10 am - 4 pm | gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au
 The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is a Tweed Shire Council Community Facility



BYRON PHOTO MAGIC

Visit Byron Photo Magic for all your photography needs, including instore or online printing, large-format, canvas printing, photo books and a range of gifting lines. They have full onsite 35mm/120mm film Colour, BW processing and printing services, batteries, memory cards, camera bags, Fujifilm Instax and Polaroid cameras, along with the full range of GoPro and accessories.

They handle old video tapes, Super 8mm film to USB. They stock frames, photo albums and an extensive range of Rode audio products, photographic accessories, tripods, filters, binoculars and the largest range of 35mm film on the north coast, as well as pre-owned 35mm film cameras. Passport photos are also covered professionally instore.

Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat (NSW school holidays) 10am-2pm. Sunday and public holidays closed.

www.photomagic.com.au
Shop 20, Mercato on Byron,
108-114 Jonson St, Byron Bay
02 6685 5877

KIDS COOKING CLASS

North Byron Hotel is calling all aspiring young chefs this winter, as Head Chef Jedd Rifai leads unforgettable cooking classes. These interactive, creative workshops will teach your little-ones the secrets of delicious Italian delicacies that are easy to be re-created at home. Gnocchi classes will be running on Thursday 11 and 18 July from 2pm to 3.30pm and pizza classes on Wednesday 17 from 2pm to 3.30pm. Each ticket includes a hands-on demonstration, opportunity to chat with our talented kitchen team, meal and a drink. The perfect opportunity to meet new friends, whilst learning valuable skills.

Book now at northbyronhotel.com.au
61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate

OTHERWORLD

OTHERWORLD is an immersive playground for the senses where technology and art collide. Experience over 20 interactive exhibits from local and international artists, including the only 360 VR cinema dome in NSW, featuring special school holiday films seen for the first time in Australia. Check out their brand new exhibits incorporating the latest in AI technology and light. Fun for all the family. Don't miss out on this extraordinary journey into the world of immersive art. Kids under three are free. Annual family passes also available.

Booking: www.otherworld.live
102 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

MULLUMBIMBY'S UNIQUE STEINER SCHOOL

Shearwater, the Mullumbimby Steiner School is a thriving independent school for children aged from 12 months to 18 years, offering a deeply human education for a flourishing world. Their 52 acre campus provides daily opportunities for place-based learning, with a creek, wildlife corridors and biodynamic farm.

Shearwater invites families interested in enrolling their under-7s in preschool or kindergarten, in 2025 or beyond, to come to an Enrolment Open Day at Little Shearwater, on Saturday, 27 July from 9.30am to 12.00 midday. Classrooms will be open, with children's work on display, and teachers will be available to answer questions.

Phone 02 6684 3223 or visit shearwater.nsw.edu.au

BALLOON ALOFT

Get the kids off the couch and into the basket with Balloon Aloft these cool winter holidays. Hot air ballooning is a great family activity, not only for the amazing sunrise views, but also for an adventure into the hinterland, getting out into nature and feeling the thrill of drifting through the sky. Every flight is followed by a delicious breakfast back at the Three Blue Ducks restaurant, and a fantastic file of photos to take home for your friends and memories.

Book your flight today at www.balloonaloft.com

Winter Holidays
KIDS COOKING CLASS
 NORTH BYRON HOTEL
SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
BOOK NOW FOR JULY
 Thursday 11th, Wed 17th & Thurs 18th

BANG!
Holiday Workshop!
 ACTING, SINGING, DANCING, MUSICAL THEATRE!
 17TH, 18TH & 19TH JULY

ELODIE CROWE
 TIM FRANKLIN
 LULU MISKIN

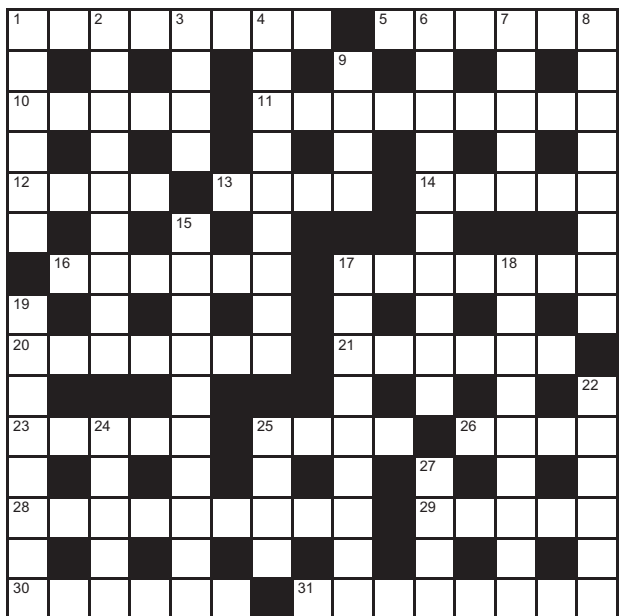
3 Incredible Performing Arts Industry Facilitators
 3 Different Age Groups - (5-7yrs, 8-10yrs, 11-13yrs)
 3 Days, Bangalow A&I Hall (1, 2 or all 3 days)
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bangacademyofperformingarts.com

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 Shop 20 Mercato on Byron, 108 - 114 Jonson St,
 Byron Bay NSW 2481 - Ph 0266855877

Shearwater
 THE MULLUMBIMBY STEINER SCHOOL
 CELEBRATING 30 YEARS
 PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN
ENROLMENT OPEN DAY
 SAT 27 JULY
 9.30AM TO 12 MIDDAY
 Visit classrooms. Meet our teachers. Explore our beautiful gardens. Come and play!
 FOR FAMILIES SEEKING ENROLMENT IN 2025 AND BEYOND
 Little Shearwater is at 349 Left Bank Rd Mullumbimby 100 metres past the main entrance to the School
 02 6684 3223 shearwater.nsw.edu.au

The Choke

MANDY NOLAN'S
SOAPBOX



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Duck under fuse (8)
- Crazy guys crack, almost (6)
- Chew on meal left out for Mike (5)
- Well informed relation holds court without finishing article (2,7)
- Old poetry passed around by Islamic ruler (4)
- Short wave Superman catches (4)
- Libs hold mirror to part of coat (5)
- Money John returned snaffled by footloose man at hotel! (6)
- Incest involving royal being weird in tank (7)
- Neurotic put out by PM taking off north (7)
- 27D. Great old swimmer gets native flower to bloom (6,4)
- Blocks – about a tonne – in sack (3,2)
- 25D. Baby animal lion savaged and cut (4,4)
- Drunk returns to hotel with load of garbage (4)
- Hybrid Argentine fruit (9)
- Broadcast from Nairobi disrupted when Britain and India pull out (2,3)
- Content of past housing agreement (6)
- Net head takes leave to create every which way, and so on (2,6)

DOWN

- Congress harbours sundry leaders of Middle Eastern terrorists – this could blow up! (6)
- Little marsupial gets Spooner's lolly sack (9)
- Greek nymph. Greek nymph. Greek nymph (4)
- Lead balls flying got 22 caught and battered (9)
- Corresponding series, strangely shunned by *Echo*, are the ones that bring contestants together! (10)
- Press all over royal appearing in march (5)
- Never mind Grant, Arthur's beginning to upset Noel (3,5)
- Fiddle with rainwear (it's the wrong way up!) (4)
- Standard rentals include *Echo* – and old whistles! (10)
- Tom blocked Frenchman with burning piece of cheese (9)
- Not completely overjoyed to host party in complex (9)
- Drunk at bar for a period in the USA (4,4)
- King in bad shape gets guide on mountain (6)
- Bond keeps Niugini in touch (5)
- See 25 across
- See 21 across

Quick Clues

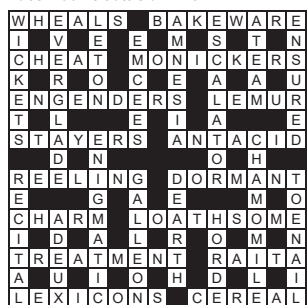
ACROSS

- Cover with liquid (8)
- Cerebral (6)
- Masticate (5)
- Up to speed (2,7)
- Chieftain or military commander among Muslims (4)
- Hairdo (abbr) (4)
- Folded back part of a jacket (5)
- The readies (6)
- Reservoir (7)
- On edge; wired (7)
- 27D. First swimmer to break 18 minutes for the 1500m freestyle (6,4)
- Dismiss from post (3,2)
- 25, 25D. They make good chops (4,4)
- Nonsense (4)
- Reddish orange colour (9)
- Talking on radio (2,3)
- Gladden (6)
- And the rest (2,6)

DOWN

- Powerful plastic explosive (6)
- Long-nosed marsupial native to Australia and New Guinea (9)
- Local weekly (4)
- Clustered iron shot that disperses when fired (9)
- Eveners of scores (10)
- Sound of a heavy tread (5)
- Not to mention (3,5)
- Ponzi scheme, for example (4)
- Small high-pitched flute (10)
- Cheese originating in a Normandy village (9)
- Add more detail (9)
- Point at end of sentence (4,4)
- People of Nepal renowned as mountaineers (6)
- Slight trace or colouring (5)
- See 25 across
- See 21 across

Last week's solution #10



In the 1960s the Boston Strangler murdered 13 women.

He was a serial killer. These stories of bad men lurking in the shadows, just waiting to get their hands on women's necks have always haunted me. What kind of deranged sexual predator does that?

There is a long history of gendered violence where serial killers use their hands to murder women. Strangulation is the act of choking someone to death by compressing their windpipe or specific blood vessels. It's an agonising and brutal way to murder someone. Those who survive often go on to die from fatal internal injuries. Strangling or choking is often present in domestic violence. It's a form of power and control, where the victim can lose consciousness in seconds and death can happen in minutes.

To me, as a 56-year-old woman, this is how men end us. It's not how they give us pleasure.

So how has this become such a normalised sexual behaviour for our under 35s?

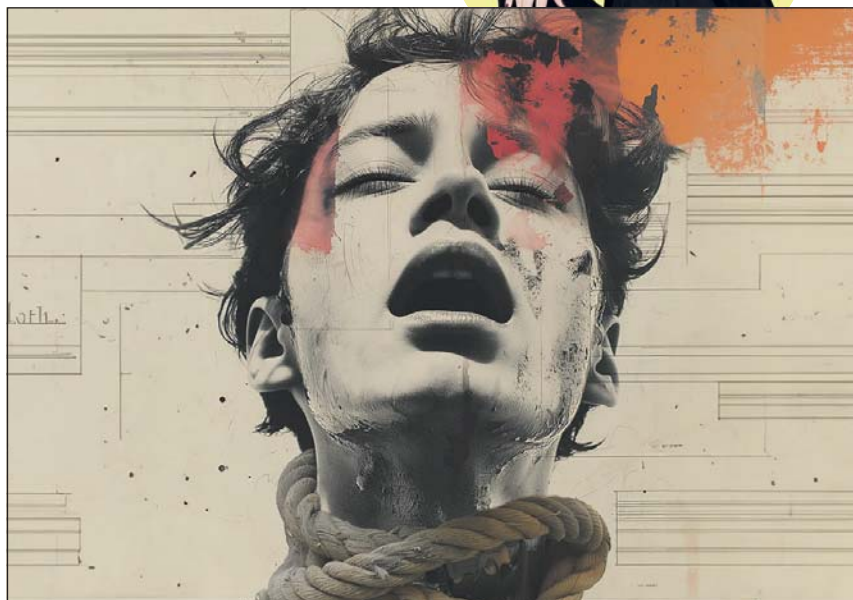
Why are we getting off on degradation, and near death?

'Choking' is a sexual practice that involves choking someone else, or yourself, for sexual pleasure. It falls under the umbrella of 'breath play' and is a form of sexual asphyxiation. Put simply, it's restricting oxygen to the brain for the purpose of sexual arousal.

It's become an increasingly common, or pedestrian, behaviour in young people. It's not something I have ever done or included in the sex talk to any of my five kids. And I have to admit, my sex talk was pretty exhaustive. I covered STIs, reproductive health, gender diversity, consent and pleasure but totally missed the chat about choking.

Clearly it's something we need to be talking about.

Like, did you know that if strangulation persists, in just four to five minutes, brain death will occur. That's a sobering fact when you consider the results of a recent survey as part of the 'Breathless' campaign talking to adults aged 18–35 on strangling during sex. Of nearly



Strangulation is the act of choking someone to death by compressing their windpipe or specific blood vessels. It's an agonising and brutal way to murder someone.

5,000 people surveyed, 57% had been strangled at least once, and 51% had strangled a partner at least once. And for many engaging in this behaviour there was inadequate consent. And most alarming, is that most people participating in this 'breath play' don't realise how dangerous it is.

And it's gendered. It's largely men doing it to women. Trans or gender-diverse people are even more heavily represented as having been strangled during sex.

Few people who are strangled report it to medical staff, but instant death isn't the only risk. Women, and people who have had their air flow restricted, can develop acquired brain injury, memory loss or stroke, among other conditions. And the damage is accumulative. The more times you engage in choking the more damage to your blood vessels and brain.

Non-consensual strangulation is assault and it can seriously impact a

person's mental health. It sits beside other abuse-based sexual behaviours such as punching and spitting which have also been normalised, even in some casual sexual hookups.

Young people have grown up with continued exposure to pornography where choking and harmful and degrading sex acts such as 'face rape' are normalised. While women and children are being murdered in their homes by their partners or ex-partners, a whole generation has been coerced by pornography into normalising violent, dangerous and degrading sex play. When we minimise harm, when we don't understand or have pathways for consent, when we have lack of access to good information, we die.

It's clear that pornography plays a major role in giving people performative cues in their sexuality. And when it comes to sexual violence, it's clearly a radicalising tool. We aren't going to eradicate porn. But could we start making loving pornography? Sexual material where women aren't degraded and humiliated, choked and spat on? Could we please flood the internet with explicit, consensual, gender-diverse, inclusive and adoring porn?

In the meantime, start engaging in affirmative consent. And maybe stop choking.

Start loving.

STARS BY LILITH

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION, AND MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE FOR VIVACIOUS VENUS MAKING HER GRAND ENTRANCE INTO LEO TO JOIN MERCURY FOR A DRAMATIC SASHAY DOWN THIS WEEK'S CATWALK...



CANCER THE CRAB

ARIES: Your planetary mover Mars in workhorse mode till 21 July can be a bit of a slave driver. But even trailblazing Aries innovators need a break sometimes, so practice the liberating art of saying no this week, then lavish yourself with lashings of old fashioned, home-style comforts.

TAURUS: With Venus gracing her most vivacious station late this week, expect extravagant displays, dramatic stances and bold declarations. This saucy season responds to a show of belief in yourself, so if you have a service, talent or product to promote, it's an auspicious time to go for it.

GEMINI: This week love planet Venus invites you to break out your dancing shoes as she struts into theatrical mode for the next month. Get ready for some glamorous antics, enjoy the extended firework display of this playful, passionate transit, and perhaps dust off a neglected talent of your own.

CANCER: With the sun in your domestic sign, you'll find your happiest and most fulfilling moments with family of origin or choice this week. Consider engaging the whole mob, kids included, in crafting a house-blessing ritual as a combined birthday celebration and midyear energy cleanse for your home zone.

LEO: Breaking astro-news for your majesty is late week Venus sashaying into your audacious sign for a playful vacation that takes everyday life from milder to wilder. Even better, she'll be followed next week by the radiant sun flicking on its party lights to set the stage for Leo birthdays.

VIRGO: This week's solar energy in your astro-sector of friends, group activities and the broader picture is nudging you to stretch. Towards what? Whatever shakes up the status quo, gets your blood pumping, and excites you to do something beyond the same-old same-old is a good place to start.

LIBRA: Sweet Venus is mending fences and fostering more genuine levels of connecting this week, especially when 13 July moon in Libra strengthens negotiating skills to discuss where emotional issues may be obscuring facts. Stay open to different perspectives, and don't be slow to apologise if necessary.

SCORPIO: If this week's Venus/Pluto opposition aggravates trust issues, be guided by your intuition, but move cautiously, because things may not be as they seem. Weekend moon on 13/14 July offers the most balanced and strategic assist for addressing a potentially challenging conversation.

SAGITTARIUS: Getting a dose of cabin fever from too long at home and itching to roam? If you're planning a trip, consider somewhere that reacquaints you with your roots. Staying put? Then zoom off online in the comfort of your casa with ancestry.com or the relevant travel docos on Netflix.

CAPRICORN: Certainly people want to be part of a winning team, but they're likely to be sensitive and resistant this week to any kind of assertive vibe. Let sensible Saturn in its most compassionate placement help craft a laid-back approach to making a pitch, and soften your response to challenges.

AQUARIUS: This week's meetup between feisty Mars and your planet driver Uranus could be combustible or enlightening, probably a combination of both. It's advisable to steer clear of controversial topics while fuses are short, and be aware that a stubborn stance could set off landmines on the path to peace.

PISCES: Neptune retrograde in Pisces pumps up your intuitive powers, but Saturn also reverse-spinning in your sign suggests that this week's backstories could be much more complex than they appear. Don't take anything for granted, and rather than try to figure out what people mean, ask them to please explain.

THE SCOOP

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 Arts & Industry Estate (behind Bunnings)**

BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Byron Community College is excited to announce the opening of their new 'Community Arts Hub'. The vibrant new space is designed to be a cornerstone of creativity and community engagement and officially opens on Wednesday, 24 July, with an exhibition featuring talented local artist Caleb Reid.

The space consists of:

GARAGE GALLERY: available for hire, offering a dedicated place for artists to showcase their work. Also available as a brilliant venue or room hire for your next event.

LANEWAY STUDIO: an immersive learning space, now offering Certificate III in Visual Arts, plus a variety of short art courses and workshops.

SHARED WORKING SPACE: a collaborative co-working creative space that local artists can hire.

Gallery and event bookings, and course enrolments: 02 6684 3374 or customercare@byroncollege.org.au



NORTHERN RIVERS DEMOLITION & ASBESTOS

Taking the environmentally-friendly approach to demolition

Northern Rivers Demolition & Asbestos (NRDA) is a local company that has been operating in the area since 2015. Covering the Clarence to the Tweed and everywhere in between, NRDA provides a range of services from minor residential stripouts to large scale commercial demolition.

With a strong environmentally-friendly approach to demolition, NRDA has a 80-90% recycling target from each demolition project, recycling materials such as hardwood timbers, steel, concrete and has even sourced a plasterboard recycling facility.

NRDA also offers 12m³, 15m³ & 30m³ skip bin hire through Northern Rivers Bulk Bins & Haulage and will soon be opening Northern Rivers Recycled Building Materials with a new showroom in Lismore.

For more information please call Samuel on 0403 427 262 or email admin@northernriversdemolition.com.au



THE BOUTIQUE FAMILY LAWYERS

Choosing the right law firm is crucial when navigating the complexities of family law matters. Richardson Murray is a boutique law firm practicing exclusively in family law. The team at Richardson Murray consists of experienced family lawyers who understand that family issues like divorce, parenting arrangements, property disputes and domestic violence can be emotionally overwhelming. At Richardson Murray, anything less than excellence is not good enough. Their client service and client care are unsurpassed, going above and beyond to ensure results and client satisfaction.

The team at Richardson Murray are dedicated to ensuring that your family law matters are resolved so that you can close the chapter, turn the page, and commence the next chapter in your life.

**www.richardson-murray.law
Contact: info@richardson-murray.law
Telephone: 07 5619 5933
Ground level, 42 Parkes Avenue, Byron Bay**



www.echo.net.au

BEACON LAUNDRY: CREATING SHEET LOADS OF GOOD

Affectionately known as 'Beacon', this new purpose-driven commercial laundry and social enterprise based in Bangalow is doing laundry differently. Beacon exists to create local jobs and a workplace where people from all backgrounds can thrive. They're able to do this through their premium laundry service, which has already been snapped up by some of the region's most sort-after hotels, including Elements of Byron, Sunseeker and Gaia.

In just a few months, they've created 70+ jobs, 80% of which are for people who've previously been overlooked in the jobs market. With a goal to create a further 25 jobs by the end of 2024, Beacon is worth considering if you're in the market for a local commercial laundry service.

**Lot 2/6 Dudgeons Lane, Bangalow
02 6602 9400
beaconlaundry.com.au
@beaconlaundry**



GREAT WINTER DISCOUNTS AT BYRON'S NEW LASER TATTOO REMOVAL STUDIO



Ready to ditch that old ink? Winter is the ideal time as cooler weather means smoother healing, and Byron's new tattoo removal studio has it covered! With over a decade of tattoo and removal experience, they have helped hundreds of clients achieve ink free skin. Full colour removals and fading for cover ups is successfully achieved using proven state-of-the-art Q-switch laser technology for safe and scar-free tattoo removal.

Their private, appointment-only studio offers a safe and comfortable environment, and flexible hours to suit your lifestyle. Special Winter promo for Echo readers: 20% off selected tattoos in July and August only.

Book your appointment now! Check out their stellar reviews and portfolio online. Support local, get a great deal, and reclaim your skin!

**5/59 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate
info@byrontattooremoval.com.au
www.byrontattooremoval.com.au
0406 188 060**

MY GEEK MATE

The Chief Geek's tech commandments continue - 'go native' Mark says. Usually it's best to use the native functionality of the operating system your device is using. For example, on an iPhone don't install a torch app, it's already on your phone. Similarly, on a Samsung phone you shouldn't install a 'cleaner' app, but use the device maintenance function (found in settings). Most of those cleaning apps are malicious apps that try to take over your phone. More info at mygeekmate.com.au.

My Geek Mate is hoping to secure another round of funding soon for the free 'Be Connected' digital literacy classes, so stay tuned. Meanwhile personal support for bamboozled bipeds goes on...

**My Geek Mate, 1/53 Tamar St, Ballina
0431 122 057
mark@mygeekmate.com.au**



CRYSTAL CREEK RAINFOREST RETREAT



A romantic couples retreat, nestled amongst 250 acres of pristine rainforest, Crystal Creek Rainforest Retreat is located within the beautiful Northern Rivers of NSW, just 50 minutes from the Gold Coast airport.

Thirteen luxurious villas and lodges are individually positioned throughout the private estate, carefully hidden amongst the contours, offering incredible

rainforest and mountain views and providing the utmost in privacy and seclusion.

Each of the well-appointed cabins hosts spacious lounges, king-size beds, soft 800-thread-count linen, couples' spa baths and cosy log fireplaces. Explore 8km of stunning walking trails, passing ancient trees, flowing mountain fed creeks and glistening rock pools, all bathed in musical birdsong. Unwind with a pampering massage and finish off the day at the wine bar and lounge.

**201 Booka Rd, Upper Crystal Creek.
www.ccr.com.au / 02 6679 1591 / relax@ccrr.com.au**

SEVEN

Entertainment



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LET THE BBSF FUN BEGIN!

The **Byron Bay Surf Festival (BBSF)** is just over a month away and they have a huge program for surfers and spectators from **August 15-18**.

This year they're pleased to feature the inaugural **SurfAid Women's Cup** on **Friday, August 16** as well as the return of the **Wategos Wizards** on **Saturday, August 17** welcoming some of the best surfers from around the world.

On **Sunday, August 18** the **Freestyle and Stoke** sessions kick off featuring the reinvigorated McTavish Trim, Dr Bronners Party Wave and the Varuna Seed to Surf session.

Organisers are excited to welcome Hydro Flask as their 2024 Presenting Partner, whose support is vital for

securing the festival's future, and there is another action-packed entertainment schedule powered by Gage Roads, featuring surf film premieres, parties at the Beach Hotel, art shows, special guest appearances, street markets and much more.

Entries are now open for the Byron Bay Surf Festival – note that the **Blokes and Mermaids Logger** is an invitational event. From last Monday, invitees have been given ten days to accept their invitation before the event is open to the public on July 18.

You can still register for the U18 Boys and Girls, Team Challenge and the Old Mal. There are limited spaces available so get in quick!

Throughout 2024, the 'surfers Bible' otherwise known as *Tracks Magazine*, has wound back the clock and reintroduced their popular **Tracks Party**, taking over iconic pubs all over Australia. With four epic shows held earlier this year, BBSF and *Tracks* will combine to take over the **Beach Hotel** on **Friday, August 16** for what is set to be an epic night out and a highlight of the Festival's long and illustrious history. A lineup is close to being announced and when it is, you will benefit from early bird tickets, giving you a chance to attend before it sells out... and believe us, with this lineup, it will sell out.

This year's festival delivers an amazing opportunity to experience the *Surviving to Thriving* screening and Q+A starring **Karin Ochsner**. The film is about a fearless local surfer immersing herself in the raw beauty of nature and her remarkable journey of healing through surfing. The film features interviews with such household names as Pauline Menczer, Kieren Perrow, Joel Fitzgerald & Layne Beachley, to name a few.

Doors open at 6pm for a 6.40pm start. Go to www.byronbaysurffestival.com.au for more info.

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NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM 29 September - 3 October

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GIG GUIDE

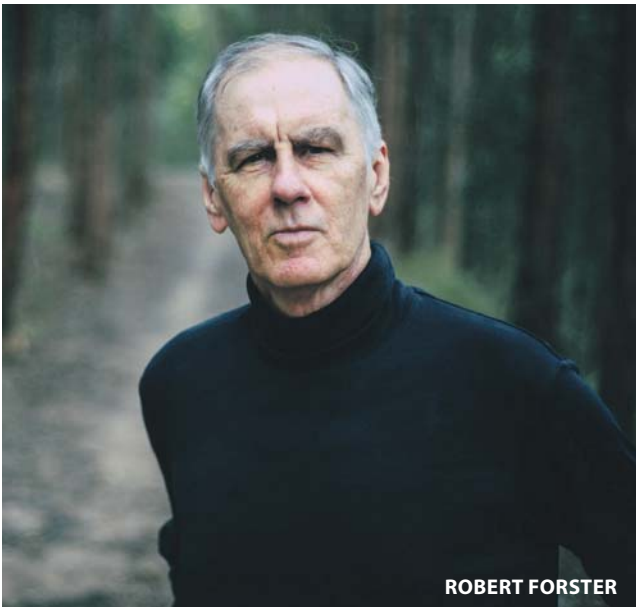
It's free to list your gigs in the gig guide.
gigs@echo.net.au w: echo.net.au/gig-guide.
DEADLINE 5PM ON FRIDAYS

NEW MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR MULLUM

Esteemed musician and founder of the Nimbin Roots Festival, **Lou Bradley**, is bringing a new musical venture to the heart of Mullumbimby. The inaugural **Mullum Roots Festival** is scheduled to take place in **July 2025**, promising a vibrant celebration of music, community, and sustainability.

Lou says that following the discontinuation of the beloved Mullumbimby Music Festival in 2020, she saw an opportunity to fill the void and revive the town's rich musical tradition.

'The absence of the Mullumbimby Music Festival has been deeply felt within our community,' says Bradley. 'We are aiming to create a sister festival to the Nimbin Roots Festival, injecting new life into Mullumbimby's cultural landscape.'



ROBERT FORSTER

Lou, and her husband Phil, both share deep roots in Mullumbimby, and she is determined to collaborate closely with the local community to ensure the festival's success.

Joining Bradley is seasoned music industry veteran Jon O'Rourke, bringing over three decades of expertise as a record label owner, manager, and producer.

To unveil the Mullum Roots Festival concept, a special concert featuring **Robert Forster** (The Go Betweens) will be held on **Sunday, August 4** at the **Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club**, starting at **7pm**.

For info and tickets go to mullumrootsfest.com.

WEDNESDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FELICITY LAWLESS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY, **SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS **SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **ADAM BROWN**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **DJ JAELEN**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 7PM **THE FUNNY GOATS BAND**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **MR TROY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **GREER SULLIVAN**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**

THURSDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DONNY SHADES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **GROOVE BAHIA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX BOWEN + DJS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **BLACK TRAIN**
- WHITEBROOK THEATRE, SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY, LISMORE, 6.30PM **NORTHERN RIVERS YOUTH ORCHESTRA 2024**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**
- THE BURROW, CABARITA, 6PM **OPEN MIC NIGHT**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHILDREN OF BOB**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **PABLO LAVERDE + FAT ALBERT 6PM + SELA MAHI W/ THE VYBEZ**
- BYRON SURF CLUB 9AM **FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES BOOK FAIR 2024**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **ASTRODEATH, COUCH WIZARD & SPACE JUNK**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **HASHIMOTO'S CACTUS**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **TURTLE BOY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **PINK ZINC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM **LIL' CHEEKY, 7PM BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**

FRIDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OSCAR LADELL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PEKING DUK (DJ SET)**
- BYRON SURF CLUB 9AM **FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES BOOK FAIR 2024**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JORDAN MAC + DJS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM **PUSH**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **COBALT**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10AM **THE SIXTIES SING-ALONG SHOW WITH BOBBY BENTON, BOARDWALK 6PM HAYLEY GRACE**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 12PM **THE WILDLIFE TWINS**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **JABIRU**
- EVANS HEADS BOWLO 8PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **GLENN SHIELDS**
- CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **ANDREA KIRWIN AND THOSE FOLK**

SATURDAY 13

- THE BURROW, CABARITA, 2.30PM **LANE DAYZE: FELIPE BALDOMIR, DUSTY BOOTS, BLOOMFIELD, TUSCAN (DJ SET)**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **MARK CROTTI**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **TRILLA H**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 2PM **BILL JACOBI**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7.30PM **CHOCOLATE STARFISH**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10AM **MORNING MELODIES WITH TOMMY MEMPHIS, BOARDWALK 2.30PM SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT TAYLORMADE**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SHAW'S BAY SUNDAY SESSIONS FT THE BILLY GUDGEON BAND**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 2PM **LEVI MAXWELL BAND**
- THE BURROW, CABARITA, 4PM **CHEYENNE MURPHY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **GUY KACHEL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2.30PM **PARIS AFTER DARK**

SUNDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PINK ZINC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK + MASTERS OF WAX NIGHT**
- BYRON SURF CLUB 9AM **FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES BOOK FAIR 2024**
- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM **YULLI'S OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 12.30PM **UPBEAT**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **DION & EVAN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **MOSSY ROCKS + JORDAN SMITH**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- TINTENBAR HALL 3.30PM **TINTENBAR UP FRONT - SHANNON AND MALCOLM + KURCHATA, TONY KOELLNER, ANON BRAE AND THE SONGBIRDS**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**

MONDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TIM STOKES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MASON LLOYDE**
- BYRON SURF CLUB 9AM **FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES BOOK FAIR 2024**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARK USHER**

TUESDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ALLY PALMER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCOR**
- BYRON THEATRE 10.30AM **SHORTY BROWN'S WINTER WONDERLAND KIDS' DISCO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL + DJS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **THE GREAT PIANO SHOWMAN**

WEDNESDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **TAHLIA MATHESON**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**

Session Times

Thurs, July 11 - Wed, July 17

PALACE CINEMAS
108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>SPECIAL SCREENINGS</p> <p>LONGLEGS (IC) ADVANCE SCREENING Wed: 8:30PM</p> <p>MR BLAKE AT YOUR SERVICE (PG) GOLDEN MEMBER PREVIEW Tues: 1:00PM</p> <p>TOUCH (IC) SCANDIFF PREVIEW Thurs: 7:00PM</p> <p>FAMILY FILMS</p> <p>DESPICABLE ME 4 (PG) Daily: 10:30AM, 12:40PM, 2:10PM, 4:00PM, 5:00PM, 6:15PM</p> <p>INSIDE OUT 2 (PG) Daily: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 2:45PM, 3:45PM, 5:10PM, 6:10PM</p> | <p>ALL FILMS</p> <p>A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE (M) Thurs, Fri, Mon: 12:40PM, 3:40PM, 8:30PM. Sat, Sun: 12:40PM, 8:30PM. Tues: 3:30PM, 8:30PM. Wed: 12:40PM, 3:40PM</p> <p>A SILENCE (MA15+) Daily: 10:30AM, 8:30PM</p> <p>FLY ME TO THE MOON (M) (NFT) Daily: 10:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 7:15PM, 8:15PM</p> <p>FURIOSA: A MAD MAX SAGA (MA15+) Daily: 10:50AM</p> <p>HORIZON: AN AMERICAN SAGA - CHAPTER 1 (M) (NFT) Daily: 10:40AM</p> <p>KINDS OF KINDNESS (MA15+) (NFT) Daily except Thurs: 10:30AM, 1:50PM, 2:50PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM. Thurs: 10:30AM, 1:50PM, 2:50PM, 6:00PM</p> | <p>MAXXXINE (MA15+) (NFT) Daily: 4:00PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM</p> <p>MIDNIGHT OIL: THE HARDEST LINE (M) Daily: 1:40PM</p> <p>THE BIKERIDERS (M) (NFT) Daily except Sun, Tues: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 6:00PM. Sun: 10:30AM, 1:00PM, 6:00PM. Tues: 10:30AM, 12:30PM, 6:00PM</p> <p>THE CONVERT (MA15+) Daily: 8:20PM</p> <p>TWISTERS (M) (NFT) Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:40AM, 1:15PM, 4:20PM, 7:00PM. Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:40AM, 1:15PM, 4:20PM, 5:50PM, 7:00PM</p> |
|--|---|--|

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

Session Times

Thurs, July 11 - Wed, July 17

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| <p>A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE (M) Daily: 5:15PM</p> <p>DESPICABLE ME 4 (PG) Daily: 10:15AM, 11:50AM, 3:10PM</p> <p>FLY ME TO THE MOON (M) (NFT) Daily: 10:00AM, 4:15PM, 7:00PM</p> <p>INSIDE OUT 2 (PG) Daily: 9:45AM, 12:45PM, 2:00PM, 5:40PM</p> | <p>THE BIKERIDERS (M) (NFT) Daily: 7:30PM</p> <p>TWISTERS (M) (NFT) Daily: 12:30PM, 3:00PM, 7:45PM</p> | <p>To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> </div> |
|--|--|--|

Ballina Fair Shopping Centre FREE parking Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au *NFT = No Free Tickets

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32 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

EPICENTRE OF THE BYRON RETAIL SCENE

Located right in the middle of Jonson Street this freehold premises has been the iconic home to some of Byron's most famous bars and nightclub venues. Currently operating as the Saltwater Social Club, secured on a long lease with flexible rental options, this is a golden opportunity to become the owner of a position that will always be revered.

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208m²

Sale
Contact Agent

View
By Appointment



David Gordon
0418 856 222
david.gordon@raywhite.com

rwbyronbay.com

Three hectare haven, just moments away from Kirra Beach

19 Quambie Road, Cobaki

Ducat Park offers a charming opportunity for a tranquil lifestyle, either as a permanent residence or a retreat from urban chaos, with caretaker accommodation included.

Originally built in 1880, the property has been tastefully renovated while preserving its historic charm. Located in Cobaki, it promises ample recreational activities such as swimming, tennis, and beach outings, just a short drive away from Kirra Beach. For the boaties Lakes Drive boat ramp is just 8 minutes away.

Positioned conveniently near the M1, it facilitates easy travel to Brisbane or Byron Bay. The property's zoning as RU2 offers diverse potential uses, appealing to those seeking innovation. Additionally, with 33 solar panels and an 8.2kW inverter, self-sufficiency becomes a viable option.

Notably, Ducat Park's proximity to amenities like Gold Coast International Airport, universities and hospitals enhances its appeal as a desirable coastal rural property.

\$2,650,000

Open for inspection:
Saturday 13 July 12:00pm to 12:30pm

Guy Ethell

PRINCIPAL

0401 624 241

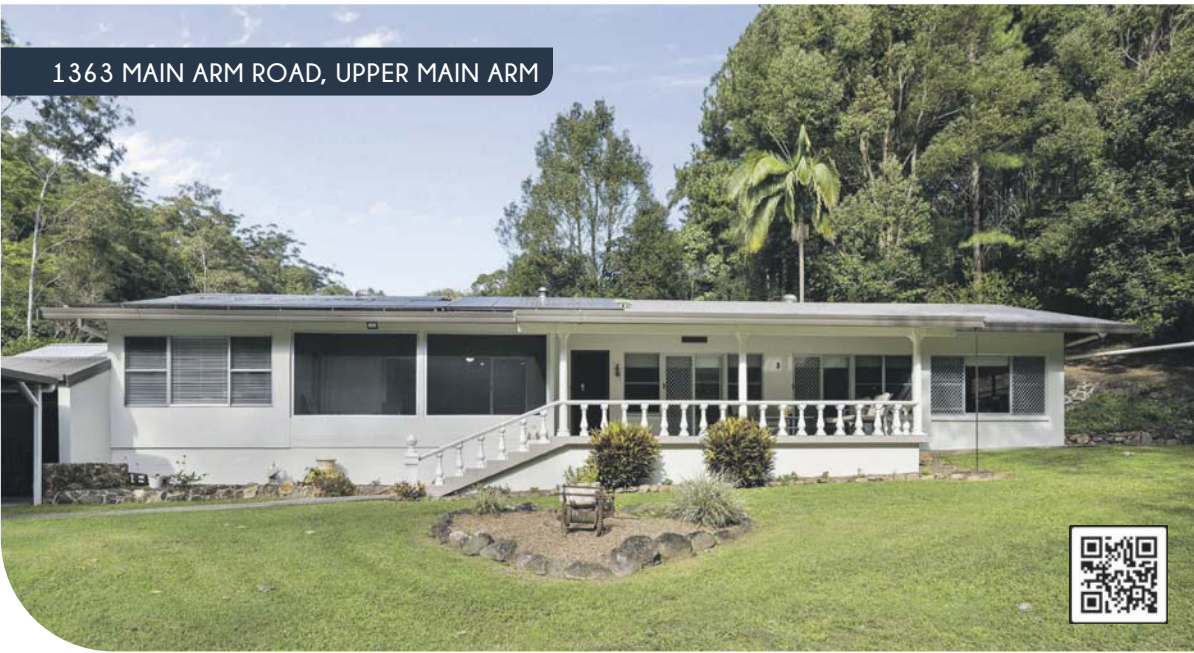
guy.ethell@realspecialists.com



Ethell Property



1363 MAIN ARM ROAD, UPPER MAIN ARM



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4 2 2 10
4.73HA

- Home has been updated with modern amenities including renovated bathrooms and kitchen
- Separate studio, ideal for an office or artistic retreat
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- 15mins to Mullumbimby and 30mins to Byron beaches

PRICE | \$1.45M - \$1.55M
OPEN | Fri 12th July 11 - 11:30am
Sat 13th July 11 - 11:30am



Paul Prior
0418 324 297



Jane Johnston
0466 327 375

22/183-205 BROKEN HEAD ROAD, SUFFOLK PARK



Coastal Retreat: Modern Apartment near Tallow Beach

2 1 2 1
174M²

- Located at the rear of a secure, gated complex
- Spacious, open-plan living adjoins a large, covered deck
- Air-conditioning and ceiling fans
- Close proximity to Tallow Beach, Suffolk Park and Byron

PRICE | \$950,000 - \$990,000
OPEN | Thurs 11th July 12 - 12:30pm
Sat 13th July 11 - 11:30am



Maggie Kelly
0416 013 788

1 DRIFTWOOD AVENUE, BYRON BAY



Spacious Home with Pool, Ideally Positioned for Easy Living

4 2 2 6
745M²

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

PRICE | \$2.9M - \$3.1M
OPEN | Sat 13th July 10 - 10:30am



Sharon McInnes
0408 659 649

1/1-2 CAPE COURT, BYRON BAY



Ideal First Home or Perfect Investment

3 1 1 1
172M²

- Designed for low-maintenance, open-plan living with air-conditioning
- Private and spacious, north facing court yard
- Great first home or investment, renting for \$910pw
- Located within easy reach of all amenities, the local IGA, Habitat Precinct and North Byron Beach

PRICE | \$795,000 - \$895,000
OPEN | Fri 12th July 12 - 12:30pm



Su Reynolds
0428 888 660



Anna Gilham
0402 128 355

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| 485 Bangalow Road, Talofa | \$12,000,000 |
| Address undisclosed, Kingscliff | \$8,350,000 |
| 53 Childe Street, Byron Bay | \$7,400,000 |
| 20 Kendall Street, Byron Bay | \$7,300,000 |
| 51 Brownell Drive, Byron Bay | \$7,100,000 |
| 4/45 Lawson Street, Byron Bay | \$5,250,000 |
| 5/111 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow | \$4,720,000 |
| 280 Picadilly Hill Road, Coopers Shoot | \$4,250,000 |
| 27 Keats Street, Byron Bay | \$4,200,000 |
| 20 Burns Street, Byron Bay | \$4,000,000 |
| 8/174 Fowlers Lane, Bangalow | \$3,060,000 |
| 51 Cowper Street, Byron Bay | \$2,950,000 |
| 45 Childe Street, Byron Bay | \$2,700,000 |

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| 26 Hyrama Crescent, Brunswick Heads | \$2,525,000 |
| 18 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park | \$2,400,000 |
| 5 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park | \$2,350,000 |
| 58A Paterson Street, Byron Bay | \$2,300,000 |
| 37 Coogera Circuit, Suffolk Park | \$2,250,000 |
| 7 Lismore Road, Bangalow | \$2,110,000 |
| 29 Pinegroves Road, Myocum | \$2,100,000 |
| 6 Mott Street, Byron Bay | \$1,900,000 |
| 18 Blueberry Court, Byron Bay | \$1,625,000 |
| 17/6-8 Browning Street, Byron Bay | \$1,600,000 |
| 2/9 Muli Place, Suffolk Park | \$1,551,000 |
| 38 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park | \$1,300,000 |
| 12/17 Mahogany Drive, Byron Bay | \$1,185,000 |

Will Phillips
Principal & Sales Agent
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Peter Randall
Sales Agent
0423 216 070

Georgia Clark-Smith
Sales Associate
0455 441 800

Georgie Grover
Operations Manager
02 6639 1200

McGrath

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- 1/118 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 1/6 Firewheel Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30–10am
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- 6 Victor Place, Lennox Head. Sat 10–10.30am
- 51 Granuaille Road, Bangalow. Sat 10–10.30am
- 56 Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 10–10.30am
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- 39 Bilin Road, Myocum. Sat 11–11.30am
- 1/21 Beech Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
- 36 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
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- 146 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
- 13 Coral Court, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
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- 35 Bencluna Lane, Eureka. Sat 12.30–1pm
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- 32 Justelius Road, Meerschaum Vale. Sat 11–12pm
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- 96 Emigrant Point Road, Pimlico. Sat 1.30–2pm

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- 69 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am
- 21 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar. Sat 10–10.30am
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- 195 Old Byron Bay Road, Newrybar. Sat 11–11.30am
- 1/25 Orara Court, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30pm
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- 13/183-205 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Thurs 1–1.30pm
- 20/11 Constellation Close, Byron Bay. Thurs 2–2.30pm
- 346 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Sat 10–10.30am
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- 13/183-205 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
- 11 Greenview Place, Skennars Head. Sat 10.30–11am
- 154 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 4 Old Byron Bay Road, Newrybar. Sat 11–11.30am
- 1 Hayters Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
- 109-111 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 12–12.30pm
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DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

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\$17.00 for the first two lines
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

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This job would suit a semi-retired or underemployed person/couple who just wants a reliable job to do at their own pace at the same time every week. The successful applicant for this run will have an ABN, a reliable vehicle, a strong throwing arm, and ideally they will live near the distribution area. Same crew could do both runs. They will collect the papers/inserts from Ballina or Mullumbimby or Byron A&I Estate early on Wednesday and will have delivered all the papers by 6pm Wednesday, or in the case of both runs could finish off Thursday morning. Suit mature or stable person(s). Commencing asap. Email simon@echo.net.au or phone/text 0409324724

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... you're my flava!



HAPPY 103rd BIRTHDAY to
Doris Elizabeth Crimson!!!

To our beautiful and beloved Mum, Nanny and Big Nan. We love you to the moon and back, forever and always in our hearts. Love from the whole family xxx

PERSONAL

HI LUCY FROM GUADALOUPE

We were chatting and trading waves down at Wategos, in the evening of Fri 28 June. I'd love to continue our conversation; if you feel the same way, give me a call. Marcus 0425747769. X

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Money can buy you a fine dog, but only love can make him wag his tail.
~ Kinky Friedman

In ancient times cats were worshipped as gods; they have not forgotten this.
~ Terry Pratchett

SUN, MOON & TIDES
- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

| DATE (July) | DAY, MOON PHASE | SUN RISE / SET | MOON RISE / SET | HIGH TIDES, height (m) | LOW TIDES, height (m) |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 10 | W | 6:38 17:04 | 9:31 21:00 | 1106 1.17 2323 1.62 | 0522 0.45 1638 0.49 |
| 11 | TH | 6:38 17:04 | 9:59 21:53 | 1148 1.18 2358 1.53 | 0556 0.47 1722 0.57 |
| 12 | F | 6:38 17:05 | 10:25 22:45 | 1238 1.19 | 0631 0.48 1813 0.65 |
| 13 | SA | 6:38 17:05 | 10:51 23:37 | 0035 1.42 1336 1.22 | 0711 0.48 1915 0.73 |
| 14 | SU | 6:37 17:06 | 11:18 0:30 | 0118 1.32 1443 1.27 | 0754 0.49 2030 0.77 |
| 15 | M | 6:37 17:06 | 11:47 0:30 | 0212 1.22 1547 1.35 | 0841 0.49 2156 0.77 |
| 16 | TU | 6:37 17:07 | 12:20 1:26 | 0316 1.14 1645 1.44 | 0930 0.48 2315 0.71 |
| 17 | W | 6:36 17:07 | 12:59 2:25 | 0422 1.10 1737 1.55 | 1020 0.45 |
| 18 | TH | 6:36 17:08 | 13:44 3:27 | 0524 1.10 1826 1.65 | 0015 0.62 1110 0.40 |
| 19 | F | 6:36 17:08 | 14:38 4:29 | 0620 1.12 1913 1.75 | 0104 0.53 1159 0.35 |
| 20 | SA | 6:35 17:09 | 15:41 5:30 | 0712 1.15 1959 1.84 | 0148 0.44 1246 0.28 |
| 21 | SU | 6:35 17:09 | 16:49 6:26 | 0800 1.20 2043 1.90 | 0230 0.36 1334 0.23 |
| 22 | M | 6:34 17:10 | 17:59 7:16 | 0848 1.24 2127 1.94 | 0312 0.30 1422 0.19 |
| 23 | TU | 6:34 17:10 | 19:08 7:59 | 0936 1.29 2210 1.93 | 0354 0.26 1511 0.19 |
| 24 | W | 6:33 17:11 | 20:16 8:37 | 1025 1.33 2252 1.86 | 0437 0.24 1600 0.23 |

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

| | | |
|---------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1st SAT | Brunswick Heads | 0418 400 415 |
| 1st SUN | Byron Bay | 02 6685 6807 |
| 2nd SUN | The Channon | 02 6688 6433 |
| 2nd SUN | Lennox Head | 02 6685 6807 |
| 2nd SUN | Chillingham | 0428 793 141 |
| 2nd SUN | Coolangatta | |
| 2nd SUN | Tabulam | |
| 3rd SAT | Mullumbimby | 02 6684 3370 |
| 3rd SAT | Murwillumbah | 0415 328 672 |
| 3rd SAT | Salt Village Market, Casuarina | |
| 3rd SUN | Federal | 0433 002 757 |
| 3rd SUN | Uki | 0487 329 150 |
| 3rd SUN | Ballina | 0422 094 338 |
| 4th SAT | Evans Head | 0432 275 765 |
| 4th SAT | Kyogle Bazaar | kyoglebazaar.com.au |
| 4th SUN | Bangalow | 02 6687 1911 |
| 4th SUN | Nimbin | 0475 135 764 |
| 4th SUN | Murwillumbah | 0415 328 672 |
| 4th SUN | Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month) | |
| 5th SUN | Nimbin | 0475 135 764 |
| 5th SUN | Lennox Head | 02 6685 6807 |

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

| | | |
|----------|---|--------------|
| Each TUE | New Brighton | 0424 168 672 |
| Each TUE | Organic Lismore | |
| Each WED | Murwillumbah 7-11 | 0415 328 672 |
| Each WED | Nimbin 3-6pm | 0418 940 653 |
| Each WED | Newrybar Hall 4-7pm | |
| Each THU | Byron 8-11am | 0414 595 169 |
| Each THU | Lismore 2.30-6.30pm | 0459 309 223 |
| Each FRI | Mullum 7-11am | 0424 168 672 |
| Each FRI | Evans Head 2.30-6.30 | 0428 291 068 |
| Each SAT | Bangalow 8-11am | 0414 595 169 |
| Each SAT | Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World) | |
| Each SAT | Uki 8am-1pm | 02 6679 5438 |
| Each SAT | Lismore 8.30-11am | |
| Each SAT | Wadeville 8am-12pm | |
| Each SAT | Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr | |
| Each SUN | Ballina 7-11am | |

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

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Community at Work: On the Horizon

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

Meditation

Lennox Meditation: Meditate, explore and share together in community. Every 2nd and 4th Thursday from 6pm for a 6:15pm meditation at the Lennox Head Cultural Centre, 1 Mackney Lane, Lennox meeting room 4. Cost is \$5. Beginners and experienced meditators welcome. Chairs are also available. Contact Gabrielle: 0418-576-075 or Gowan: 0423-361-378. Email: gabrielle@bebliss.com.au. **Dzogchen meditation** and study group 2nd and 4th Saturdays each month at Mullumbimby CWA Hall. Didi 0408 008 769. **Buddhist meditation** and conversation with John Allan, Mondays 6.30-8.30pm, The Yurt, Temple Byron. No fees. John 0428 991 189. **Byron yoga philosophy club** free meditation classes Monday, 7pm, 1 Korau Place Suffolk Park. Go to www.wisdom.yoga or phone Kris 0435 300 743. **Byron Bay Meditation Centre** Tuesday 6.30pm at Temple Byron. For more info: byronbaymeditationcentre.com.au or contact Greg 0431 747 764.

Byron Book Fair

Friends of Libraries Byron Shire are holding their 10th huge second hand Book Fair at the Byron Bay Surf Club Friday, 12 July to Monday, 15 July 9am to 4pm each day. Over the last ten years the book fair has raised over \$100,000, all of which contributes towards supporting the Byron, Mullumbimby and Brunswick libraries. A multitude of books, all genres, including a good supply of fiction, non-fiction, history,

art, children's and young adults just to name a few, always plenty to browse through in four magical days.

BV VIEW

The Brunswick Valley VIEW Club will hold a luncheon meeting on July 11 at Brunswick Bowling Club, Brunswick Heads. Start 10.30am for 11am. The guest speaker will be our famous tennis player Pat Rafter. Members bring along your friends to join us. Cost of meal \$23 with choice of three menus. Apologies call Wenda 0449 563 580 or email: wjhunt@yahoo.com.au.

Writers Fest

Friends of Libraries special Writers Festival event has author Jodi Rodgers discussing her latest book 'Unique' with Mick O'Regan on Thursday, August 8, 1.30pm at Ewingsdale Hall, Ewingsdale. Bookings are essential, www.byronbayfol.com. \$20 FOL members, \$25 Non-members. With a legendary Country Women's Association afternoon tea. Plus a lucky door prize.

Bric-a-brac Sale

Mullumbimby CWA Rooms are the venue for a bric-a-brac sale on Saturday, July 13 from 8am until sold out. Call in and have a cup of tea or coffee and cake after the flea market. Delicious home cooking, jams, plants, books and white elephant stalls are on offer. Mullumbimby CWA ladies would love to see you. Info: Jenny 6684 7282.

Bangalow Historical Society

If you're 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.

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 Look at: www.byroncommunitycentre.com.au.

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/>.

Brunswick crafty women

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

Antique & Collectables exhibition

The Northern Rivers Collectors Club in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Mt Warning AM Murwillumbah are holding their 32nd Antique & Collectables exhibition & Trading Fair on Sunday, 11 August at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre from 8.30am to 2pm. There will be thousands of antiques, vintage and retro items, as well as modern collectables for sale. There will be a sausage sizzle and refreshments. Proceeds donated to Tweed Palliative Support. Details 0439 779 577.

Community at Work: Regular as Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY Email copy marked 'Regular As Clockwork' to editor@echo.net.au.

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week.

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm (closed 12.30-1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286. Some of our services include:
Flood recovery support service: personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods.
Community support: food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.
Listening Space: free counselling.
More Than A Meal: free community lunch Tuesday-Thursday 12.30-1.30pm.
Financial counselling
Staying Home, Leaving Violence program: Information, referral, and advocacy.
Gulgani affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.
Orange Sky: free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon.
To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdcn.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au.
Byron Community Cabin: Seniors Computer Club (school term only), 9-11am, Friday, Carlye Steet. More info: www.byroncentre.com.au. Phone: 6685 6807.

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30-11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **The Hub Baptist Church** in Ocean Shores has food relief available for anyone doing it tough, please contact us on 0434 677747 if you find yourself doing it tough. No ID or Concession Card required. NILS referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details. **Liberation Larder** Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre.

Respite Service

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

Alateen meeting

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

ACA

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

Drug support groups

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

Support after suicide

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

Volunteer call out - support for new mums

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

Carers' support

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

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, mazzerati2010@gmail.com.

Older adult exercise

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

\$5 pilates classes

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

Pottsville Community Association

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

Language exchange

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

Comp awards for Suffolk Tennis



Pictured are all three champions: Geoff Murray, Josh Davies and Ami Shoesmith. Photo supplied

Timm Lanyon

Suffolk Park Tennis Tuesday adult social players celebrated their recent night competition season last Sunday at their sponsors Yulli's.

The latest instalment of Tennis Tuesday has been running since February, and had 50 players participating throughout.

Josh 'Party Boy' Davies fought off a fast finishing Cris 'The Wrist' Servadio to claim the title by a margin of 0.5 points. On court brilliance isn't the only method to gain points on these social nights, as simply bringing some

snacks to share, showing good spirit, or even just turning up on time can see you shoot up the leaderboard.

Other players were rewarded for their accomplishments this season, with David 'Super Dave' Duncan accepting the Best Leader Award for captaining his weekly team to the most wins, while the youngest player by a considerable margin, 16-year-old Tex Barry, took home the Best Rookie Award.

It was then local muso, Tim Stokes, who showed the most on-court passion to win the Best Spirit Award.

Local Leihani rips her way through Skullcandy

Ross Kendall

Local surfer, Leihani Kaloha Zoric, has had a big couple of weeks that has included back-to-back championship wins in the U/14 girls category of two big Oz Grom surfing competitions which have included international competitors.

The icing on the cake for Broken Head-based Leihani was on Monday morning, when she blew away her nearest rival in the U/14 girls final of the Skullcandy Oz Grom Open at Lennox Head.

Leihani snared two big rides at the end of the final, giving her a total of 16.34, well ahead of Talia Tebb's total of 7.53.

Earlier in the day during the semi-final it was a similar result, when she beat Charlotte Riley with a total of 13.84 against 8.50.

Six-day event

The six-day Skullcandy event ran from July 4 to 9, and included a World Surf League (WSL) sanctioned Pro Junior Qualifying Series



Broken Head-based surf champ, Leihani Kaloha Zoric. Photo supplied

(JQS) event, as well as an elite competition for promising grommets, in the 14, 16 and 18-year age divisions.

The competition included over 200 surfers from as far away as Europe, the US, Hawaii, Indonesia and Japan.

But Leihani hit this competition on a high, after snaring another U/14 girls championship at the Surfing

Queensland's Occy Grom Comp, held at Snapper Rocks, Gold Coast, from June 28 to July 2.

Leihani was strong from the start in this competition, and also seemed untroubled in the final.

She scored the best wave, with a 9.10, that gave her a total of 17.60. It was too much for her opponent, Gold

Coast surfer, Miller-May Berg, whose top ride was an 8.0 for a total of 15.00.

Yesterday's final at Lennox Head saw champions crowned across eight divisions.

Other winners included: U/14 boys Locana Cullen; U/16 girls Wliza Richardson; and U/16 boys Max McGilivray (Evans Head).

Byron Bay scoops golf croquet pennant

Colin Beaton

Byron Bay has won the Northern Rivers Croquet Association's (NRCA) golf croquet pennant series.

They were up against the Cherry Street Ballina, Casino, Alstonville and Lismore croquet clubs, over a season extended by the wet conditions that rendered some grounds unplayable on occasions.

Closely following the club's recent grounds upgrade, this forced Byron Bay to play the first half of the home-and-away season on opposition courts.



Byron Bay captain, Geoff Leach, enroute to victory in the NRCA Handicap Singles Championship. Photo supplied

After a first-round loss, Byron won all of its remaining nine matches to claim this year's NRCA pennant

with the Cherry Street Club as runner-up.

The pennant win reflects the growing enthusiasm for

the mallet sport in Byron Bay, where the physical environment has been much improved over the past year.

The club greatly appreciate the effort that Byron Shire Council makes in maintaining the its lawns while government flood relief grants have provided funding to renovate the club rooms and upgrade the playing service, and a gazebo and storage shed have also been constructed with government support for community sport.

This support has increased the opportunity for members to increase their skill level.

Black belt awarded to Canning

Richard Light

Last Saturday, the head of Jin Wu Koon (JWK), Chan Cheuk Fai, came to the area for a black belt grading.

The son of renowned kung fu master, Chan Keng Wan, he was trained by his father in kung fu from the day he could walk.

Sam Canning was graded by Chan Cheuk Fai, and myself, with quite a few spectators.

Over two hours, Sam performed basic techniques (kihon) and set patterns of movement and technique (kata), along with sparring

(kumite). Sam joined our club three years ago, with a brown belt from a Melbourne club, so he had to learn all new kata and basics. He performed very well in his grading.

Sam now joins a small group of people from this area who have been awarded a black belt in JWK karate.

Combat seminar

He also attended a combat seminar, delivered by Chan Cheuk Fai, at the same Ewingsdale Hall venue where he was graded the night before.

For more info, visit www.jinwukoonkarate.com.au.

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This week's masthead draws from this year's NAIDOC poster, and features the artwork 'Urapun Muy' by Torres Strait artist, Deb Belyea. For more information visit www.naidoc.org.au.

Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital staff say they have seen a 70 per cent surge in native animal hospitalisations in the past year with 2,700 local fauna being treated at its facilities for habitat loss, vehicle accidents and trauma. Please drive carefully peeps.

Sydney Uni has apparently enacted sweeping restrictions on student protests, according to a Student Rep Council Notice. *The Campus Access Policy 2024* requires 72 hours' notice for protest approvals, among other demands.

After more than 20 years in decline, endangered sea birds, the little terns, appear to be experiencing a resurgence in numbers in NSW. NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service say there has been an almost 15 percent increase in breeding pairs from last season.

Oh dear, a gas shortfall alert for this winter has been issued by Australian Energy Market Operator. One would think that as a major global gas exporter, Australia could put aside some for domestic use? Well done, Labor and the Lib-Nat coalition, for making energy prices unnecessarily expensive and giving our gas away to multinationals.

Stone & Wood will hold their M'bah open day on August 3, from 11am to 5pm, at 5 Kite Cres, South Murwillumbah.



Bubble Fairy, Raffaella, with the Versace Boys, were nibbling at the egos of Byron's entitled in the most delightful way at Byron Market on Sunday. Photo Jeff 'Ego Ergo' Dawson

The family-friendly event raises funds for Wedgetail Retreat, which provides free palliative care to the Northern Rivers community. For more info visit www.stoneandwood.com.au.

Congrats Broken Head-based surfer, Leihani Kaloha Zoric, who took out the U/14 girls final of Skullcandy Oz Grom Open, held at Lennox Head last weekend - see page 39.

Psst: A food security event will be held at the Lennox Head Cultural Centre, July 26. To register visit www.planc.org.au/rising-together.



Psst: The Byron Bay Surf Festival returns August 15-18.

Medical journal *The Lancet* 'conservatively' estimates that the death toll in the Gaza conflict, including

'indirect' deaths could be 186,000 people, even if the war ends immediately. That's roughly eight per cent of the population.

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