

Major land rezoning given the conditional tick

Hans Lovejoy

Council's *Residential Land Strategy 2041* has been conditionally approved by the Department of Planning Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), says Shannon Burt, Council's Director Sustainable Environment and Economy.

The controversial planning instrument was heavily criticised by residential groups during public exhibition, owing to a myriad of issues, primarily proposing flood-prone lands, a lack of transparency and the poor process which surrounded it.

Additionally, infrastructure capacity reviews for Mullumbimby completed by Council staff in July 2023 have not been released to the public. Past Council staff reports indicate infrastructure is in a poor condition.

High Environmental Value (HEV) land was also included.

No consultation occurred

Ms Burt says two areas that were submitted by Council were rejected by the DPHI.

She said 1982 Coolamon Scenic Drive, just north of Mullumbimby, was rejected 'as agency and community consultation has not occurred'.

Described as Area 6, it contains approximately 5.4ha of developable land, and required a 'flood and stormwater management study'.

The land was deemed 'outside the North Coast Regional Plan (NCRP) urban growth area'.

The other proposed investigation of a parcel on Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay, was also rejected, 'as this area is reliant on the completion of

Residential Land Strategy 2041

- Urban development in Byron Shire is slated at 6,695 new homes over 20 years
- Development will mainly occur around Mullumbimby, Brunswick Heads and The Saddle Rd, located between Mullum and Bruns
- Up to 905 dwellings are pegged for Bangalow

Council's Coastal Hazard Study to enable an informed decision about the impact of the 100-year coastal hazard line on this site'.

Ms Burt said 'The removal of the [two] sites does not fundamentally impact or affect the overall outcomes of the strategy, or its housing numbers or delivery'.

In the lead up to adoption on December 14, 2023, Ms Burt increased the height limit to 11.5m on all proposed lands.

After residents raised concerns, councillors voted against the blanket height increase.

Flood-prone land

And during public exhibition, Cr Lyon and Ms Burt pushed to include a large area of flood-prone land to the east of Mullumbimby, which again came without public consultation.

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Fletcher St Cottage needs you!



Amanda Peters and Damien Farrell are at the Book Room in Byron, where the Big Byron Sleepout is planned. Photo Jeff 'Sleeping In Since 1986' Dawson

With Byron's Fletcher Street Cottage needing ongoing funds to continue the vital work they do with the homeless community, a sleepout fundraiser is planned on Saturday, August 17.

Co-organiser, Mandy Nolan, says, 'Just one week after national Homelessness Week, the Big Byron Sleepout gives caring community members an opportunity to experience a night on the street, address stigma and raise awareness and money for one of Byron Bay's most vital homelessness support services'.

High homeless rate

'The latest NSW Street Count data tells us that we have more rough sleepers in our community than the City of Sydney. Yet Fletcher

Street Cottage is not fully funded and has to raise most of its operational budget with fundraisers and donations.

Frontline service

'Fletcher Street Cottage is a frontline service that provides much-needed support to people experiencing and at risk of homelessness: food, showers, laundry, social work, support services and community. It's a lifeline for our community's most vulnerable.

'To stay fully operational, the service needs \$800,000 per annum to operate at four days a week, so we are committing to raising \$70,000 at the Big Byron Sleepout.

'The sleepout is an opportunity to experience what it is like for those doing it tough. It's uncomfortable,

- What: Big Byron Sleepout
- When: Saturday, August 17
- Where: Outside The Book Room, on Fletcher Street, Byron Bay
- Why: Fundraiser for homeless service provider, Fletcher St Cottage
- Register at: bigbyronsleepout.com

cold, there is no privacy, it's vulnerable and it can feel, and be, unsafe. It's hard to sleep and hard to maintain your mental health.

'The CWA has kindly offered hot soup and beverages, as sleepers are gathered and welcomed to the inaugural event', Ms Nolan added.

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Mayoral candidates – what is their point of difference? ► p7

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Byron's industrious arts precinct ► p18

Seven days of entertainment and gigs ► p20

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Inspiring the next gen of readers



Zanni Louise, host of Kids Big Day Out at Byron Writers Festival, with keen readers Scarlett, Ashton and Harper. Photo Jeff 'English is My Second And Third Language' Dawson

A stellar line-up of authors and performers will entertain the younger generation of readers and authors, with the return of the Byron Writers Festival's Kids Big Day Out.

As part of the festival on Sunday, August 11, the Lilly Pilly marquee at the Bangalow Showground will host interactive storytelling for kids and parents alike.

This year's host is the

wonderful local children's author Zanni Louise.

Organisers say, 'As well as the action onstage, kids can explore the StoryBoard space at The Coolamon, where our famous StoryBoard bus and tipi village comes alive with storytime and drop-in creative activities for little ones and aspiring young writers and illustrators.'

Byron Writers Festival Artistic Director, Jessica Alice, said, 'We're delighted to present

the much loved Kids Big Day Out at the festival once again to nurture the next generation of storytellers! We can't wait to welcome little readers and writers to the festival.

Fun-filled day

'It promises to be a wonderful, fun-filled day with something for all families to enjoy.'

For Kids Big Day Out tickets, visit www.byronwritersfestival.com/kbdo.

Federal Drive reopens

Federal Drive, located in the shire's hinterland, reopened last Friday, two-and-a-half years after it was severely damaged from a landslip during the 2022 floods.

In March, *The Echo* reported on the impacts on residents and local business after the two years of losing road access from the village of Federal to Goonengerry.

Council staff said at the time they were aiming for completion at the end of April, dependent on weather.

\$23 million project

In a media release this week by local federal Labor MP, Justine Elliot, she says the \$23 million project was jointly funded by the Australian and NSW governments through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

She said, 'I'd like to commend Council staff



Council staff, councillors and contractors. Photo supplied

and contractors who have worked tirelessly on this project through multiple challenges in securing materials and continual wet weather on this achievement.'

Byron Shire Mayor, Michael Lyon, said, 'We thank the residents for their continued patience.'

'We know it hasn't been

easy having to take detours for the last two-and-a-half years.'

NSW Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib said, 'The NSW and Australian governments are supporting the recovery effort in the Northern Rivers with significant investment in infrastructure projects across the region.'

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Petition from flood-affected residents

Just before the strategy's adoption, councillors removed those lands, after flood-affected residents in the area organised a petition and highlighted the increased dangers to their property and lives.

A large flood-prone area in Mullumbimby was conditionally approved in the strategy: 1660-1634 Coolamon Scenic Drive, opposite the town's high school and near flood-prone

Council land, Lot 22.

Lot 22 was slated for development by Council for housing, but was eventually abandoned owing to flooding concerns.

Another large parcel of land (23.35ha) included in the strategy is located along both sides of Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby, near the Tallowood Estate.

Mayor refuses to release public subs

After the public exhibition period, *The Echo* asked Cr Lyon to release the public submissions after concerns were

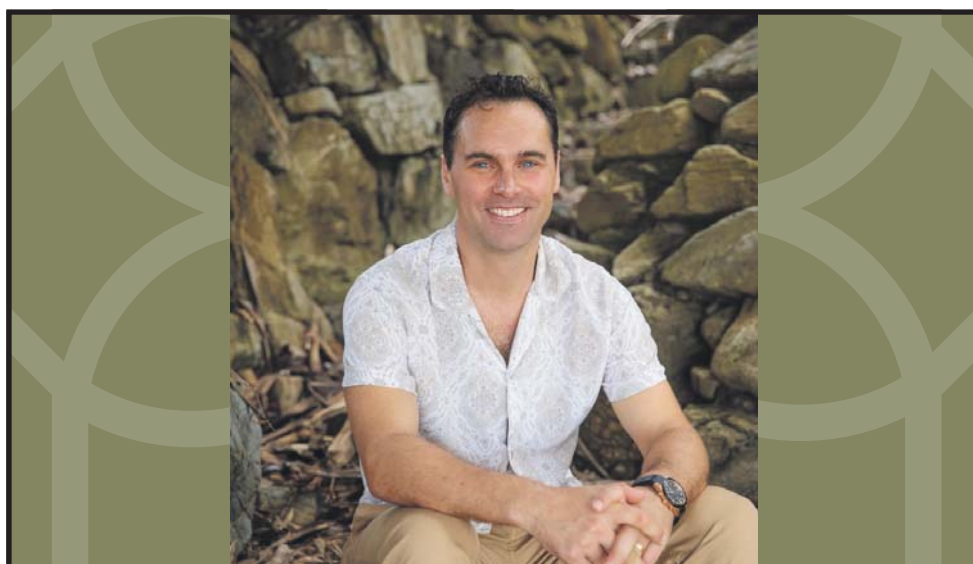
raised by resident groups around a lack of transparency.

He refused, and instead backed Council staff's claims that it was too expensive.

Surrounding shires, on the other hand, publish public submissions around such matters.

As part of his re-election campaign, Cr Lyon says the residential strategy is 'fit-for-the-future'.

At the March 15, 2024 meeting, the mayor's motion to adopt the strategy was supported by all councillors, except Cr Sama Balson.



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SAE teachers seek increased pay to match increased workload

Paul Bibby

Teachers from Byron's SAE college took part in the higher education union's National Day of Action last week, as part of their campaign for improved wages and conditions.

As the nation's higher education sector feels the pressure from declining enrolments, staff at SAE say they are being required to work harder without equivalent increases in pay.

'Morale has definitely been battered,' lecturer Kevin Hay said.

'We made it through Covid, and most of us still had jobs at the end of it. But then the business decided to go through a restructuring, and we're feeling the effects of that now.'

Mr Hay said that, as part of the restructure, many staff found themselves teaching extra subjects, but not being paid for some of the extra workload that came with it.

The amount of time the teachers spent doing tasks like preparation, answering questions, and marking

increased without a proportionate increase in pay.

'Most of us just deal with it because we don't want the students to suffer, but it is an issue,' he said.

In an effort to address this issue, and the fact that they have been getting the minimum award rate for many years, the teaching staff joined the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) and voted unanimously to negotiate an Enterprise Bargaining Agreement (EBA) with their managers.

Two years later, negotiations over the EBA are still ongoing.

'We would like to see an agreement reached,' says Mr Hay. 'We're not asking for much - a pay rise of some description, even if it's just below CPI, and some hard limits on workloads. A per day teaching limit regardless of what semester you're in is also on the list.'

'We're doing our best, we're passionate and professional teachers. But over time if you've got unhappy teachers that does bleed into the quality of teaching.'

General Manager SAE University College Australia, Luke McMillan, told *The Echo* the college is disappointed the NTEU chose to take industrial action during negotiations, 'and we hope they can return to the table to continue to bargain in good faith, in the hope of concluding these negotiations as quickly as possible.'

Recognise the team

'We recognise the valuable role all our team play in delivering a positive experience to our students. In our negotiations, we are seeking a balance in rewarding our team members fairly while managing SAE responsibly in the face of steady decline in Australia's tertiary education sector post-Covid. We have already undertaken significant reform to better meet the needs of our team and students, including positive changes to workload policies crafted through review and team feedback. We are continuing to communicate openly and transparently with our team, while prioritising our students,' Mr McMillan added.

Farewell Hannah Grace

Paul Bibby

Sometime before she passed away last month, Hannah Grace wrote the following note to *The Echo*:

'Dear Echo people, I want this picture to go across two columns of the dead people section. Thanks a lot for everything. Cheers, Hannah xx.'

'Ps: This photo's the last chance I've got to show off! Xxxx'

Accompanying the note was the beautifully irreverent and unashamedly racy photo, pictured to your right.

The request, one of Hannah's last on this planet, encapsulates some of the qualities that made her such a loved and member of the Byron community since her arrival in the Shire nearly 50 years ago.

'I think right from childhood, she was generally a bit of a rebel and a bit naughty,' her son Tom Grace says.

'She always had this rebellious streak. She was anti-establishment, hard-left, hated capitalism, and also a huge supporter of Indigenous rights and of protecting and preserving nature.'

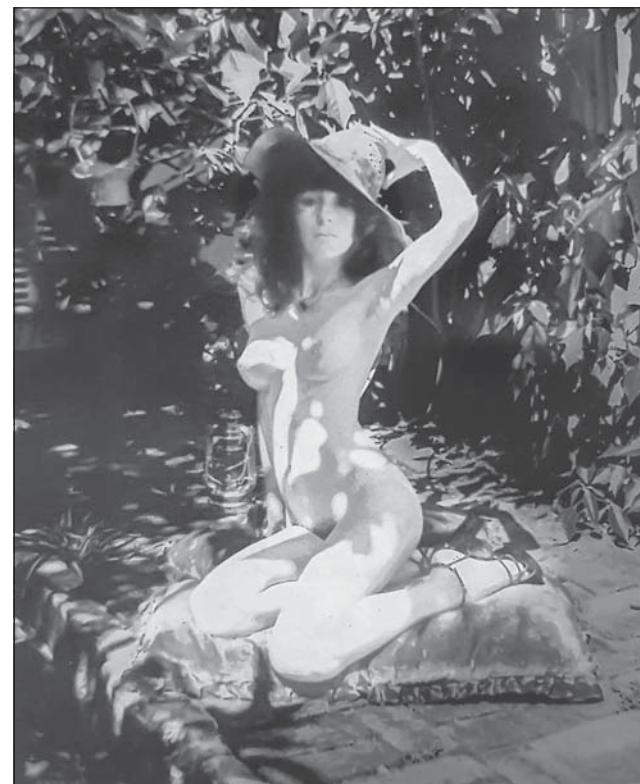
Alongside this wild spirit was a gregarious and deeply social soul.

'She loved and lived life to its fullest,' Hannah's close friend and neighbour, Brian Kiss von Soly, says.

'People surrounded her, wanting to have a glimpse of the utterly divine Hannah Grace lens.'

Life wasn't always a party, of course.

A few years after moving up to the Northern Rivers



One of then last requests of Hannah Grace was to have this photo published in *The Echo*. Photo supplied

from Sydney in 1975 as part of the Aquarius generation, she found herself raising a son in a plastic-walled shack in Huonbrook, without electricity or running water.

Cash was scarce, but love definitely wasn't.

'She would love and support me with whatever I did,' Tom says.

'Times were tough, but she did the best for me that she could, working cafe jobs to make sure there was food on the table.'

Hannah's incredible warm-heartedness was something that touched many in her family, her tribe, and the wider Byron community.

Hannah also loved and cared for many outside her

closest friends and loved ones.

She was a volunteer with the local SES and the Brunswick Heads Respite Centre, and also crocheted blankets for people in difficult circumstances across the globe.

The volunteer work, like everything else Hannah took on, was done with wonderful wit, humour, wilfulness and deep insight into the human experience.

Hannah passed away peacefully in her sleep after experiencing some health challenges. A private celebration of her life will be held on July, 28. Those who knew Hannah well and would like to attend can email Tom Grace for details tom.grace@live.com.au.

Ocean Shores man charged for drug supply

A 50-year-old Ocean Shores man has faced court with drug supply after police searched his vehicle during a random breath test on Saturday night.

According to www.police.nsw.gov.au, officers stopped his vehicle in Tandy's Lane, Brunswick Heads, at around 9.40pm. Police say they searched the vehicle

and allegedly located small amounts of MDMA, ketamine, cocaine, cannabis resin, LSD, cannabis leaf and 32 prescription pills. After he was arrested, police say they obtained a search warrant for the man's residence at Palmer Avenue, Ocean Shores. More drugs were allegedly found - in small amounts - along

with \$13,500 in cash and a sling shot. Police say, 'The man was charged with 12 offences - supply prohibited drug - indictable quantity (five counts), supply prohibited drug - small quantity, deal with proceeds of crime, possess prohibited drug (four counts) and possess prohibited weapon.'

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Tallowood garage sale returns

After the success of last year's Inaugural Tallowood community garage sale day in Mullumbimby, residents in Corella Crescent are again coordinating an event for August 10.

Organisers say, 'Last year saw kids out and about on bikes and skates, selling old toys, lemonade stands, excess garden produce, vintage clothing and all kinds of treasures.'

'Our mission is to bring the community together socially, and help create an opportunity to recycle and sell unused items in these

financially challenging times.'

They say there will be live music performances, creative art workshops and a food hub on Corella Crescent, opposite the Tallowood Park.

Organisers are calling out to the surrounding community, not just Tallowood residents, to get involved or come along and enjoy the day.

'You can find out more and register to be involved and placed on the map before July 31 by visiting 'Tallowood community garage sale day' on Facebook, or email tallowoodgaragesale-day@gmail.com.



Having fun – from last year's event. Photo supplied

Book fair raises \$23k for libraries

Last week's book fair, held by Friends of Libraries Byron Shire (FOL), was a huge success say organisers, raising more than \$23,000 for the Shire's three local libraries.

FOL's Beryl Main told *The Echo*, 'A huge thanks to the shire community for their support in coming to the book fair and buying so many books. Around 4,000

books are back in the hands of dedicated readers.'

She said, 'Many thanks also to the many local businesses who supported our raffle... I am overwhelmed by the support from local businesses who provide amazing prizes for our annual raffle.'

'I particularly want to thank Byron Bay Surf Club for allowing us to hold the

book fair in what must be the best location in Australia. And I thank Byron Self Storage for donating a storage shed for our use every year. I'd also like to thank the committed FOL volunteers who did fantastic work in transferring over six tonnes of books into the Surf Club, and then assist customers for the four-day sale.'

Byron venue looks to triple capacity

Paul Bibby

The immersive, digital art venue, Otherworld, has sought permission to triple its patron numbers as it seeks to become a popular night-time venue in the centre of Byron Bay.

Earlier this month, the venue applied to increase the cap on its patron numbers from 100 to 300, paving the way for a range of larger events and night-time shows at its Jonson Street premises.

The move comes around six months after Otherworld opened its doors offering an interactive space that blends art, technology and sound.

More after-dark events

'The increased numbers will allow us to hold more after-dark events,' Otherworld's co-founder and former Byron mayor, Simon Richardson said.

'Since opening, we have been inundated by those who love our space and want to bring events,' he said.

'They see a place that mixes music, creativity, dance and art as a perfect addition to Byron.'

'This increase will also allow us to hold conferences and provide a space to showcase our unique gallery for welcome night gatherings for conference visitors.'

Should Otherworld's dreams come to fruition, it would be a significant addition to Byron Bay nightlife, which has suffered as a consequence of COVID-19, the floods and the current economic downturn.

It would also increase demand for parking on Jonson Street, something which Otherworld says can be easily accommodated by street parking and the basement carpark at Mercato.

Documents accompanying the application indicate that a study of available night-time parking at Mercato was undertaken and that it found there was more than enough capacity to meet demand.

'...it is reasonable to assume that for the

remainder of the year, the Mercato basement carpark would have adequate capacity for the proposed Otherworld parking demand,' consultants hired by Otherworld said in a letter accompanying the application.

Mr Richardson said the team behind Otherworld had been 'blown away' by how much enjoyment the space was providing, with a diverse range of groups from across the region attending.

Massive risk

'We have taken a massive risk to bring art and creativity to town and would love all the support we can get, especially as we had a delayed opening after the summer season, and then hit a 30-year economic low in town,' he said.

'Thus far we've loved how much locals and visitors are enjoying it.'

Otherworld's application for permission to increase its patron numbers is now on public exhibition on the Byron Council website.

airservices australia

New flight paths into Ballina

With controlled airspace starting in 2025 around Ballina Airport, you may notice changes to flight paths in your local area.

Scan the QR code for more information.

We would like your feedback on our preliminary design.

For information on our community engagement sessions near you and to view the design, scan the QR code or visit:

engage.airservicesaustralia.com/ballina-controlled-airspace

communityengagement@airservicesaustralia.com

Connecting Gens July 28

Another Connecting Generations event will be held Sunday, July 28, at Heritage House, Bangalow, from 2pm to 4.30pm. Organisers say there will be sack races, three-legged races, dress up relays and tug-of-war for parents and children. There will also be DIY face and body painting, nature crafts, live music and decorating a cubby house.

World People's Assembly event Monday July 29 in Byron

A World People's Assembly inaugural event is planned for Monday, July 29 from 6pm at the Byron Bay Services Club. Organiser David Warth says the event was spurred by 'a real lack of true representation within our system of government'.

'Often the implementation of policies are viewed as contrary to the will of the

people, and ideology has taken over from practicality and commonsense.'

He says the night is an 'opportunity for our community to work on issues of concern and determine a course of action'.

'There is a focus on engaging with these concerns rather than just discussing them,' Mr Warth adds.



Have your say on Council's Pest Animal Management Plan

Council is reviewing the Byron Shire Pest Animal Management Plan and would like your input into the plan.

Information sessions:

- Thursday 1 August at Byron Bay Farmers Market from 8am to 11am.
- Friday 2 August at Mullumbimby Farmers Market from 8am to 11am.

Survey closes on Monday 26 August

More information

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/pest-animal-plan



www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Spring is the time to Savour the Tweed

Aslan Shand

Savour The Tweed is the newest food and drink event for the North Coast, and organisers say the five day event will delight locals and visitors alike, and is inspired by Tweed produce and agritourism.

The program, from October 30 to November 3, features over 20 events showcasing the Tweed's offerings. Featured chefs include Bundjalung chef Mindy Woods, Fins' Steve Snow, and co-curator and chef Christine Manfield.

'This is a fantastic partnership between Tweed Shire Council and



Front row: Tweed Mayor, Chris Cherry; GM The Tweed Tourism Company, Sally Scott; Peter Burr owner of Potager – A Kitchen Garden; and Rahul Dev, GM of Oaks Casuarina Santai Resort. Back row: Co-curators Christine Manfield; chef, author and Amy Colli, Straight To The Source. Photo Jeff 'Endless Platters' Dawson

the Tweed Tourism Company,' Tweed Shire Mayor Chris Cherry said as the

event was launched at Plantation House on Monday. 'It is a key investment

that showcases our incredibly strong food and beverages, and is a great opportunity to celebrate all the great food and drinks created in this region', Cr Cherry said.

'Council has been working to preserve our food bowl and this exciting food tourism and agritourism event showcases the diversity of the region.'

Ms Manfield added, 'We will be celebrating what represents this region at its best.'

You can find out more about Savour The Tweed's delicious opportunities at www.visitthetweed.com.au/savourthetweed.

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Cr Pugh backs mayor, staff, on Mullum's future water supply

Hans Lovejoy

Mayoral candidate, Cr Asren Pugh (Labor), says he supports current mayor Michael Lyon and Council staff's position around the future of Mullum's water supply.

The Echo asked if he supports the mayor's claims that 'preliminary investigations' were adequate in regards to decommissioning

the local water supply, and that Rous County should instead manage it? Cr Pugh replied with similar rhetoric to Cr Lyon and Council staff.

'Keeping Lavertys Gap running would require the building of a brand-new dam in either Wilsons Creek valley or on the Mullumbimby floodplain, as well as a brand new water treatment plant. This new infrastructure

would cost an estimated \$36 million, which staff has estimated would increase the cost of water to every single household in Mullumbimby by \$1,000 per year.'

'We are in the middle of a cost of living crisis and an extra \$1,000 per year to every household cannot be justified. 'We have been discussing this issue for two years, have had two workshops,

quality reports and endless discussion at the Water and Sewer Advisory committee.

'We have all the information we need to make an informed decision on this.'

The Echo has previously published unanswered questions that Water and Sewer Advisory committee members (whom have water engineering expertise) have asked of staff and consultants.

Don't be caught off guard in a natural disaster

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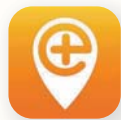
Hazards Near Me

Receive notifications when a natural disaster is approaching



Live Traffic NSW

Plan ahead and see what hazards are impacting your route



Emergency Plus

The 'what 3 words' feature gives your precise location for emergency services



BOM Weather

Check for weather forecasts and warnings



Get Ready NSW

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



Echo

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

Support Tweed's rough sleepers in Tweed Heads and join the community sleepout

Vinnies and Fred's Place are asking for the residents of the Tweed Shire to come together for a night and experience what it is like to be homeless.

Another fire ant nest at Wardell

Fire ants were located at Wardell, south of Ballina on Thursday, July 11 as part of the fire ant response to a previous detection of the fire ants in Wardell in January this year.

Oztag players enjoy Goonellabah's inaugural NAIDOC Week event

Hepburn Park in Goonellabah was transformed into a sea of young oztag players on July 11 after more than 200 young people participated in CASPA's inaugural NAIDOC Oztag Gala Day.

45 search and rescue missions in June on Northern Rivers

Marine Rescue NSW saw a drop in search and rescue missions this June compared to last year, however, it was still their second-busiest June ever.

Time to get back into the Lismore CBD as occupancy rate hits over 75 per cent

The audit of the Lismore central business district has seen occupancy rates hit 76.8 per cent.

Ten Tweed Community Clubs donate \$32,000 for sick babies

New equipment to help provide urgent medical care for sick babies and infants has arrived at the Tweed Valley Hospital, thanks to a generous donation to Our Kids from Tweed Community Clubs.

www.echo.net.au

Ballina mayor runs again

Mia Armitage

Ballina Shire's mayoral race this September looks to be a competition between two women, one progressive, the other conservative, after both candidates announced campaigns last week.

Current independent mayor Sharon Cadwallader, a former member of The Nationals, issued a media release saying she wanted a second term in the local leadership role, while Greens Councillor Kiri Dicker said she had her party's endorsement to stand for the job.

Cr Cadwallader has served on Ballina Council for the past 20 years, making her the current council's longest-serving member.

She won the mayoral role by popular vote in 2021 after twice losing to former mayor David Wright.

Cadwallader team

Cr Cadwallader last week announced changes to her running team compared to her ticket in 2021. Cr Cadwallader's seat is B Ward.

This election Cr Cadwallader is launching a larger field of candidates across the three wards, most new to local government.

Cr Rod Bruem, also a former Nationals member turned Independent, is to again run for a seat in Ballina's A Ward on Cr Cadwallader's ticket.

Three new candidates were announced for ward A: former police officer Damian Loone; Cumbalum Residents Association member and A Ward committee member Kay Oxley; and Ballina community radio Paradise FM presenter and computer technician Mark Paterson. Cr Bruem has a long history with Paradise FM. The mayor is yet to announce candidates for the other two wards.

The mayor launched her



Ballina Mayor Sharon Cadwallader with fellow team member Rod Bruem. Photo David Lowe

campaign at an in-person event at the Cherry Street Sports Cub in Ballina, featuring her listed A Ward candidates only.

The mayor's 2021 campaign could be said to have largely focused on two significant local issues: water security and housing.

Cr Cadwallader has long been in favour of the controversial proposal for a new dam near the hinterland village of Dunoon and three years ago spoke out against recycled water as 'toilet-to-tap' water and desalination as 'ridiculous'. Her language on the matters appears to have been somewhat watered down since.

As for social housing, the 2022 floods and landslides led to survivors being accommodated in temporary emergency housing pod villages in the Ballina Shire but only one of them requires local government approval and residents there were recently evicted. Plans for the council to prioritise key workers for new housing in the same area of Wollongbar have been abandoned under Cr Cadwallader.

Conservation zones

The Ballina mayor has said she'd prefer an 'opt-in' to the C2 Conservation Zones in the Ballina Shire. The regulatory zoning system is in place across most of the state, and was introduced by a former coalition government.

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

Lismore – destruction of 1.5m indigenous artefacts?

Aslan Shand

The development of Lismore's Sleeping Lizard – Banyam Biagham (the North Lismore Plateau) as a 742-residential-lot subdivision was rejected by the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) as 'not in the public interest'.

The DA is the biggest single development ever proposed in Lismore and includes massive bulk earthworks for infrastructure.

The developer, Macky-corp, is continuing to appeal the NRPP rejection of the staged development for 742 residential lots, two business lots, a future residential lot, 45 new roads, bulk earthworks and significant infrastructure following the failed Land and Environment Court (L&EC) conciliation meeting in February this year.

On July 15, 2024 Bundjalung Elder Mickey Ryan sought to join the ongoing North Lismore Plateau court appeal following the developer recently submitting to the court a cultural heritage assessment report, containing test pit results carried out earlier this year.

'This development with flaws such as traffic, flooding, stormwater, and landslides will irretrievably destroy one of the most significant Aboriginal sites in the Bundjalung country.'

'The report recommends the developer obtain a permit to allow the estimated half to 1.5 million sub-surface artefacts directly impacted by construction works, i.e. harmed, destroyed or desecrated,' explained Al Oshlack from the Indigenous Justice Advocacy Network representing Mr Ryan.

'This development with its flaws such as traffic, flooding, storm water, and landslides will irretrievably destroy one of the most significant Aboriginal sites in the Bundjalung country. It's vandalism and sacrilege to such a sacred place, this development is a toxic mix of stupidity and greed,' Mr Oshlack said.

Failure to defend Indigenous heritage

The L&EC accepted Mr Ryan's application to be a party to the appeal.

This was based on the

fact that Lismore Council had chosen not to defend the cultural heritage of the site despite this being one of the key factors in the NRPP refusing the DA, Mr Oshlack told *The Echo*.

'In the statement of facts and contentions Lismore Council was not going to defend the Aboriginal cultural heritage component. Even though it was a key basis for the rejection by the NRPP,' he said.

'The developer strenuously objected to Mickey Ryan being allowed to join the case.

'Mickey Ryan won the joinder on Monday, based both on the arguments of public interest and for justice – they were considered valid by the court thus Mickey Ryan has now been joined as second responder.'

The L&EC hearing is set down for an onsite hearing on August 12 followed by four days in Sydney.

What is the future for Wollongbar pods?

Aslan Shand

Visiting the Wollongbar pod village over the weekend, after residents were given notice to leave the pods by November, Cr Kiri Dicker said: 'It's a total waste of taxpayers' money to tear it down when the shortage of housing is so severe.'

The NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSW RA) have confirmed with *The Echo* that residents have been asked to move out of the village before November 15, 2024.

'The lease for the site at Wollongbar is due to end in 2025. There are currently 84 households living in the

village,' explained a spokesperson for NSW RA.

Cr Dicker said 'I met one mum was living with her son who was completing his HSC, several had chronic health conditions, one gentleman had recently undergone heart surgery. Most of the people I spoke to were living in caravan parks and share houses prior to the floods but have since been priced out of the private rental market. There just isn't anywhere for these people to go. Everyone I spoke to was willing to pay to continue to stay there.'

'I'd like to see Council continue to lease the land to the Department of Housing and

start charging tenants rent until the amount of social housing stock increases.'

A spokesperson for the NSW RA said, 'The NSW RA is working closely with Northern Rivers Housing, Homes NSW, and local support services to engage residents in transition planning and support them into housing that is appropriate to their needs.'

The NSW RA has asked for a two-month extension. This decision will come before the next Ballina Shire Council meeting on Thursday, July 25.

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

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Mayoral candidates – what is their point of difference?

Hans Lovejoy

So far, three mayoral candidates have nominated for the September 14 Council election – current mayor Michael Lyon (Independent), Crs Sarah Ndiaye (Greens) and Asren Pugh (Labor).

With all three candidates having voted similarly over the years, what is the point of difference between them? *The Echo* asked all three, and their answers are as follows:

Cr Asren Pugh

‘As a single councillor over our shortened two-and-a-half-year term, you never achieve anything on your own, you work with the community, stakeholders, council staff, other levels of government and other councillors to deliver.’

‘Over this time, I have demonstrated my credentials to our community to be able to put myself forward for mayor. I have delivered significant policy change to support housing for Traditional Owners on Country, ensured the Beacon Laundry



Cr Asren Pugh (Labor)

in Bangalow got built and I led the charge to change councils policy to finally support building the Rail Trail.

‘As a Labor councillor I have used my relationships with the new NSW government to ensure that the 60-day cap for short-term-holiday-letting was delivered, I worked with the housing minister to roll out an assertive outreach program for our rough sleepers and secured funding for Fletcher Street Cottage.’

‘I’m ready to step up to mayor to keep this record of delivery going. In the next term, I want to see our 20 per cent affordable housing scheme deliver real,



Mayor Michael Lyon (Independent)

affordable and social housing, working with the NSW government. I would get on with building the Rail Trail, getting the grant funding needed to finish the job. I would lead a collegiate and progressive Council that is focussed on delivery for our community.’

Mayor Michael Lyon

‘My leadership is based on the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and accountability. There are often different opinions from issue to issue on the way forward, but I always strive to explain my decision-making and allow the opportunity for full and frank discussion during the process.’



Crs Sarah Ndiaye (Greens)

‘I have had three and a half years experience in the role as mayor now, and have been elected by my mayoral peers as the Chair of the Northern Rivers Joint Organisation, because of my consultative style and advocacy for the region on critical issues. In a tight funding environment, managing key relationships in state and federal government in order to get outcomes and the delivery of infrastructure is critical. Byron Shire Council has punched well above its weight in recent times, obtaining many grants for roads, recovery funding, betterment and community facilities like the Byron Skate Park.’

‘I have also had extensive experience in my life, managing large organisations and facilitating change and reform. Problem-solving and identifying key weaknesses and opportunities within an organisation and acting at the right time is what my professional training has enabled me to undertake and Byron Shire Council and our community benefits from my skills in this regard.’

Cr Sarah Ndiaye

‘As a Byron Shire mayoral candidate, I offer leadership that embodies our community’s values. My approach is grounded in collaboration, fostering transparency, and inclusivity and ensuring diverse voices shape our decision-making.’

‘What sets me apart is my unwavering commitment to ethical governance and community trust. I have always been fiscally responsible with my decision making. I’ve consistently stood against inappropriate development, encouraged positive development and

demonstrated the courage to admit mistakes when necessary. My leadership style is characterised by active listening and bringing diverse groups together to find inclusive solutions.

‘With experience as deputy mayor and acting mayor, I bring a deep understanding of our shire’s challenges. Our exceptional team, including two First Nations women and a young local water engineer, enhances our capacity to serve effectively.’

‘I approach decisions with compassion, prioritising our community and environment. By fostering a positive council culture, we’ll address challenges innovatively. Transparency and compassion will be cornerstones of my leadership style, ensuring accountability and care. I work hard to bring out the best in people and to harness the skills they have to offer, whoever they are.’

‘My vision is to create a community where everyone feels valued, while protecting our environment.’



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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #07 • July 24, 2024

Dead celebrity holograms

Ah the promise of Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The disrupter of everything, and now the replacer of musicians.

A parliamentary inquiry into the challenges and opportunities within the Australian live music industry is currently underway.

In response, Melbourne University academics say in their submission (unimelb.me/3L170K3) that 'AI could jeopardise the livelihoods of home-grown musicians and threaten the viability of the nation's live music scene'.

For those who enjoy live music, and for those who earn their living from it, it's been a rough ride since federal and state governments savaged the industry during Covid.

Artists were among the first to get hit, and the industry still struggles.

Monash Uni reported that Covid lockdowns caused a 'Massive decline in attendance and revenue, and that live music attendance dropped by 67.5 per cent nationwide between 2019 and 2020, with only 7.7 million tickets sold in 2020, compared to over 23 million in 2019'.

Now with the emergence of AI, artists are faced with another threat to their earning capacity.

How long will it take big tech music streaming services like Spotify to change their algorithms and prioritise AI-generated music or even generate their own music?

There's already semi-convincing Frank Sinatra AI on Youtube singing popular songs he never sang.

Melbourne University's submission into live music calls for the competition regulator, the ACCC, to review artist remuneration arrangements under digital platform services, and to examine the potential impact of AI-generated music on the sector.



UK singer Amy Winehouse

Artificial Intelligence bill

Better still, the federal government could bring an AI bill before parliament.

The European Commission's AI Act is a world's first. Section 1(C) of that act requires providers of general-purpose AI models to put in place a policy to respect EU copyright law.

According to theconversation.com, that 'makes it clear that any use of copyright protected content requires the authorisation of the rights holder concerned unless relevant copyright exceptions apply'.

It's worth considering, given OpenAI (creator of ChatGPT) is facing various US court cases around how it uses copyrighted information.

Perhaps this is a significant turning point for humanity, and the relationship we have with the neat robots, software and apps that we create and consume.

Will listeners be always drawn to the stories and emotions conveyed by artists, or will humans gradually drift away from the essences that make us human?

A unique advantage humans have over AI is live performances. There is real value seeing artists perform live.

A 3-D digital hologram of Amy Winehouse was touring the world in 2019. Will that become the norm?

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Mulling over justifiable assassinations

I have a terrible confession to make. I think I have lost my moral compass in these most interesting of times.

When the news came in of the Trump shooting, my first thought was 'damn – he missed'.

Can't the gun lobby do anything constructive?

I have conducted a very large scientific quantitative research study – by asking my friends and colleagues – and almost all had the same reaction.

But hang on – aren't we peace-loving hippies at heart? Thou shall not kill and all that?

True, it is that none of us pulled the trigger, or gave the gunman a leg up onto the roof, but given that he was there and doing his thing, almost all wished that the ear shot was just a little to the right (so to speak).

We actually wanted him dead, a man loved by his family, adored by millions of voting Americans, selected by electoral processes more mysterious than our Senate preferences, (but nominated nevertheless), and yet here I am, flirting with disappointment that his brain-matter wasn't splattered over the faces of those loyal, diverse, and photogenic enough to be positioned behind him.

Shivering and shuddering and evacuating his last on national television while his wife watched on.

Moral dilemma

And so I have conducted a reading frenzy on the morals of justifiable assassination over the last 100 years or so, and some of the philosophers' musings on the same topic going back way longer.

Even when countries are at war, the rules of the Hague Convention of 1899, declare that it is 'especially prohibited' to 'kill or wound treacherously individuals belonging to the hostile nation or army.'

This rule has carried on in various forms, including the Geneva Convention of 1977.

So, if Ukraine were to send an undercover hit squad and kill Putin, that would be a war crime.



'Even when countries are at war, the rules of the Hague Convention of 1899, declare that it is "especially prohibited" to "kill or wound treacherously individuals belonging to the hostile nation or army.'

David Heilpern

It is okay for thousands of civilians and soldiers to be killed, but God forbid a political leader is taken out. But then, those who declare wars rarely fight in them.

Of course, that does not stop some countries just killing those they are sort of at war with anyway.

Murders by state actors

Internationally, political assassinations have become de rigueur, particularly in the Middle East, where Israel has been killing by targeted drone attacks and hit squads for decades.

Oops, did I mention Israel? Sorry.

The US has been joining the ranks with the killing of Osama Bin Laden, and Iranian General Soleimani. These are claimed one way or another to be self-defence, but often drift over the line to pure revenge.

Recently, US Senator Lindsey Graham called for Putin to be 'taken out', and I once declared to a group of pacifists that I would happily pull the trigger. It was late at night and they were a bit boring.

In England, in recent times, there have been two murders of politicians – Jo Cox (Labour) and David Amess (Conservative), both by political extremists.

In Australia, it is mainly the ALP who has seen the barrel of the gun, with Arthur Calwell shot in the face by Peter Kocan. (Interestingly Calwell wrote and visited Kocan in prison, and forgave him).

And then NSW Labor MP, John Newman, in 1994.

To return to last week, a few have made the justified utilitarian argument – that one death is less harmful than if he is left alive.

Trump is undoubtedly a danger to the physical and mental health of many, including young, poor,

desperate pregnant women who are suiciding and having dangerous backyard abortions.

If he is elected, well may we say God save Ukraine, because nothing will save those poor people from a Russian massacre. His attitude to climate change will no doubt cause millions of deaths in the long run, as he mines, baby, mines. I cannot see him placing any limitations on Netanyahu. (Sorry, again).

And no doubt, the Mexican border will become another killing field.

And part of my desire for Trump's death is that it really might be cutting off the head of the snake.

The cult of Trump is so one-man focused, it is hard to see the devotees quickly transferring their loyalty to any of his hapless children or clones on the extreme right. Deplorables are picky.

The classic case is Claus von Stauffenberg's failed attempt in July 1944 to assassinate Adolf Hitler.

He wanted to shorten the war which he believed was lost.

Stauffenberg was executed for treason, his brother met an even grubbier fate, and 20,000 were killed in Hitler's purge.

But I reckon his actions were morally justifiable on the grounds that it was likely to have saved squillions of lives.

But, actually, that example is a long way from shooting Trump. So, having deep-dived down the rabbit hole of morality and murder, I have concluded that my reaction was nothing short of shameful and reprehensible.

I should be, and am, disgusted with myself. I will prostrate for my sins. And yet...

■ David Heilpern is a former magistrate and is now Dean of Law at Southern Cross University.



The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #07 July 24, 2024
Established 1986 • 22,000 copies every week

www.echo.net.au

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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor

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

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

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

– Finley Peter Dunne 1867–1936

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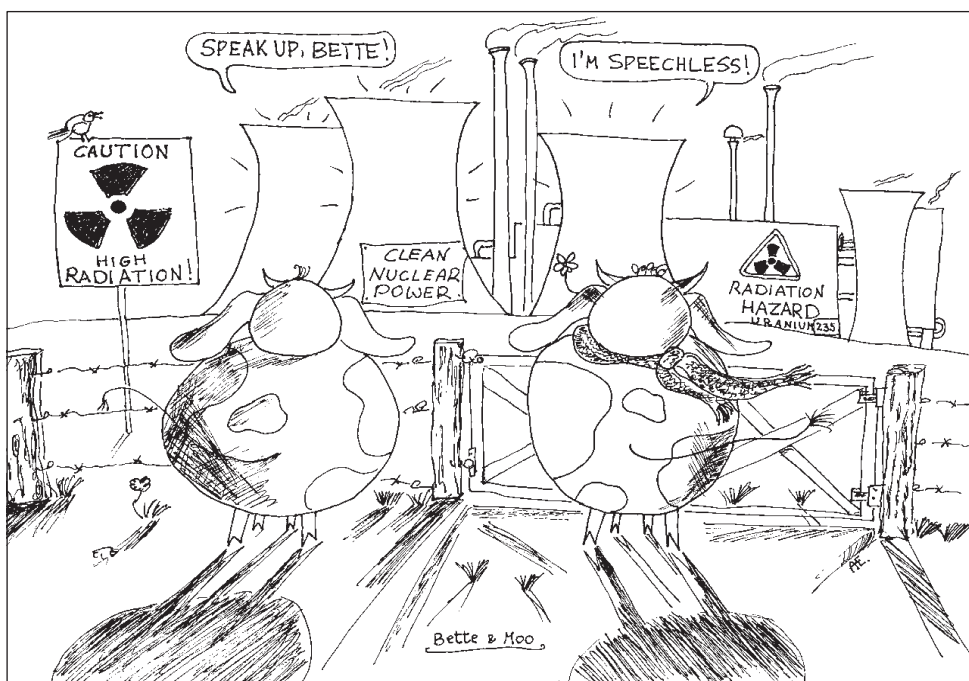
Have you seen the swimming pool at the Ocean Shores Country Club? It seems not many people have, even those who live nearby or visit the club for drinks or meals.

The crescent-shaped pool that overlooks the hinterland sunset is an absolute gem. It's ideal for all ages, with a baby pool, a 2.5+ metre depth at one end keeping older kids amused, and both sun lounges and undercover picnic tables.

Sure, the beach is nearby but on windy or blue-bottle-filled days, the pool is a haven. It's also ideal for anyone needing gentle exercise, recovering from injury or simply wanting a swim without sand. Attendee numbers have been small in recent years due to the club not having promoted this amazing facility since Covid first hit.

The club is currently reviewing the pool, as it's time for some bigger maintenance. There is some suggestion it might be decommissioned, which would be a massive loss of amenity for the north of Byron Shire, but there's also consideration of an option for a single-entry fee as well as annual memberships, which is a great idea. Let's keep and increase use of this fabulous pool!

Vivienne Pearson
Brunswick Heads



Cartoon by Antoinette Ensbeij

No assassination

Despite what my letter (July 10) says, I must clarify that I absolutely do NOT advocate assassination. I simply wanted to highlight the extreme breadth of apparently 'lawful' actions allowed by the recent US Supreme Court decision in relation to the president.

Margrette Young
Dorrroughby

Council workers

Look, I know there are more important issues in the world, and I know this one is a bit of a cliché and ongoing joke, but observing Byron Council workers constructing the footpaths down the bottom of two particular

streets in Mullum was no joke. As a self-employed carpenter I found watching them frustrating. I mean we do pay them and the more they actually work the more the community gets done so it is important.

The progress was so painfully slow and it is easy to work out why. Out of the five or six guys on the job, usually one of them will be on the tools actually doing something. Quite often no one appears to be working at all. The others are kicking a footy around, rolling smokes and on their phones.

I have talked to some retired residents on that street who watched them all day and they are amazed at how little they did. Maybe I should just get over it but I think even Council workers should be working while at work. From what I have observed the work ethic or work management is an absolute disgrace and I can only assume we aren't getting value for money.

I am going to try to take this up with Council but open to any other suggestions or feedback to calm my frazzled nerves!

Andrew Wilson
Mullumbimby

Assange freedoms

What great news on 25 July, 2024 for the release and freedom of Julian Assange. He is supposed to plead guilty to one charge by the regime in the US? I suppose this is the compromise to be free?

The US regimes have a lot to answer for. Julian was locked up for a decade. A decade wasted for him, but not wasted by his supporters who fought long and hard for Julian's freedom.

Good on you all, the people who believed Julian was innocent. He was, he showed and told the truth, and the US regime couldn't handle that so they set about to shut him up!

Paul Brecht
Maclean

► More letters on next page

Letters to the Editor

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

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What do the new coercive control laws mean?

Aslan Shand

When you think of domestic violence (DV) often the first images that come to mind are physical: black eyes, broken bones, often cowering, and sometimes dead, women and children.

The reality is that there are many forms of domestic violence that can't be easily seen by the casual observer as they are not necessarily physically abusive – but they are still used to control and harm people in intimate relationships. New laws that came into force in NSW on July 1, 2024 now criminalise 'coercive control' in domestic relationships.

What is coercive control?

Coercive control is a form of domestic abuse that includes intimidation, violence, and fear, explained former magistrate, David Heilpern.

Coercive control is a pattern of controlling and manipulative behaviours within a relationship, which can include financial control, restricting personal choices, monitoring and stalking, isolation, and physical violence. This can include things like intimidation, fear for a person's welfare, threats of removing children or bringing in social services.

'Of the 112 women who were killed between 10 March, 2008 and 30 June,

'Of the 112 women who were killed between 10 March, 2008 and 30 June, 2016 in NSW, 111 were victims of coercive control.'

2016 in NSW, 111 were victims of coercive control,' explained Mr Heilpern.

That means 99 per cent of DV homicides (a person being killed by an intimate or former intimate partner) occurred where 'the relationship was characterised by the abuser's use of coercive and controlling behaviours towards the victim' according to the coercive control discussion paper in 2020.

Not just a one-off

Coercive control is often achieved by perpetrators 'using a gradual escalation of tactics like isolating their partner from their family and friends, humiliating them and putting them down, controlling and tracking their movements, and taking away their ability to make decisions about things like what they wear and how they spend their money,' explained the Joint Select Committee on Coercive Control in 2021.

It is important to recognise that a one-off event is not coercive control.

'It is a pattern of behaviours that in itself may not be criminal, but when repeated and over a long period of time is coercive control,' explained Mr Heilpern.

'It has to be serious, repeated, and done with the intention of control. The police officer in charge of DV for Tweed Region, Sergeant Lance Stebbing, was really clear; we will have to see how the new legislation goes as there are a lot of proofs and requirements to prosecute a case and he anticipates there will be significant hurdles to get a conviction.'

However, Mr Heilpern emphasised the importance of taking action 'to stop the wave of deaths' we have seen as a result of DV.

This legislation is part of a package that is starting the discussion around coercive control and beginning to make the changes necessary to reduce the deaths that result from DV.

'This is part of a package, it is not just a legislative change there is increased funding for victims, men's anger management programs, and it refocuses attention on DV. Every frontline police officer will be doing coercive control and DV training,' said Mr Heilpern.

'They are now appointing senior officers into these roles recognising the importance of creating change.

'However, there are also a range of other actions that are proven to reduce DV that need to be considered as well and these include gun control, minimising access to gambling, alcohol restrictions and early closing.

'Coercive control is about power relationships and if there is an imbalance of power in your relationship that is a warning sign. If on reflection there is a power imbalance through money control, jealousy, paranoia, humiliation, etc. then go and see someone. Get some help, there are services available through organisations like the Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre (MDNC), there is the confidential counselling service on 1800 737 732, text 0458 737 732 or if you're in danger call 000.'

Free forum Mullum

Find out more about coercive control there is a free forum being held on August 6 at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club from 6 to 8pm. Speakers include Mr Heilpern, Sergeant Lance Stebbing from the Tweed Byron District DV unit, Abmyr Johnston manager for the Staying Home Leaving Violence program between Tweed and Ballina, who also leads the MDNC Women's Resource Centre, and Mandy Nolan.

To RSVP or for more information, visit mandy4richmond.com/events or call Fiona on 0487 003 872.

Hydrological ignorance?

Mayor Lyon has a nerve accusing the Mullumbimby Residents Association of presenting a 'one-sided' view of the Rous County Council (RCC) Lavertys Gap water supply issue.

Byron Council has two reps on RCC, being Crs Michael Lyon and Sarah Ndiaye, both of whom were invited to attend a recent meeting of the residents' association but instead sent their apologies. Cr Lyon thus had the opportunity to balance the arguments but

was apparently reluctant to expose his hydrological ignorance. His assertion that Mullumbimby water bills will be \$1,000 higher if the Lavertys Gap option is favoured sounds like standard right-wing scare tactics to me.

RCC is an association of four North Coast councils which each contribute two councillors to what might be usefully described as an octopus.

My one encounter with this organisation was in the 1980s when there was a proposal to build a dam on Wilsons Creek at Federal,

which would have flooded at least one third of my property. Curiously, I challenged a statement made by the bureaucrat in charge, only to be met with the response that that statement wasn't meant to be taken literally and was only provided 'for information', whatever that is supposed to mean.

Soon afterwards I received a suspiciously generous offer for my property from an undisclosed buyer; the real estate firm which conveyed the offer could only cite another real estate firm which was totally tight-lipped about who was behind it.

Needless to say millions of dollars of construction work were in play here, and when you get to the bottom of RCC's current proposal you'll no doubt find a pecuniary motive at its root. It always seems to be about snouts in the trough in those rural organisations.

J Anderson (AKA Fast Buck\$)
Coorabell

Lyon's Scott Morrison moment

On the morning of June 26 at 4.30am I witnessed and documented around 50 security guards descending on the peaceful protest camp at Wallum in Bayside Brunswick Heads. In what can best be described as the actions of a private militia. What ensued was the coercion and intimidation of mostly women, many of them seniors, the tearing down of the Indigenous flag and the destruction of property by balaclava-clad standover men.

Subsequently I emailed Byron Shire's Mayor Michael Lyon expressing my concerns, particularly in regards to the intimidation of women, along with the graphic footage I had recorded. With no response forthcoming I emailed Michael Lyon three times, rang him twice and sent him a text message over the course of six days, inviting

► **Continued on page 12**

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■ I want to share my experience as an Israeli Aussie. While visiting Israel, my husband became very sick. We spent more than a half a year in hospital. During that time, I was so surprised more than two-thirds of the doctors were Arab Israelis. The nurses were Jewish, Russian, or Ethiopian. Carers and maintenance workers were Russian, Arab, Ethiopian. They all worked together with respect. They cared for my husband with professionalism. While there, I saw that in supermarkets, pharmacies, in schools, on transport, in cafes, mixed neighbourhoods, people of every ethnicity were living, eating and commuting in harmony as Israeli citizens, regardless of their role as owner, or worker. Jewish Israelis working for Arab

Israelis, and vice versa. Whether Thai, or from South Sudan, there is mutual respect. So, when I hear Israel described as 'apartheid', I think it is laughable. So please, before spouting off quotes and memes you learn online, or hear chanted at rallies, bother to learn the facts. The truth of what the lived experience is in a tiny, amazing, multicultural, multi-religious country. And to those who want to occupy Israel, 'from the river to the sea', realise, you're taking over your own cousins, your brothers and sisters. My husband received the best healthcare in the world. Caring and generous interactions, without discrimination.

N Feinstein
Mullumbimby

■ Israeli Professor Neve Gordon, an expert on international law, claims that Israel is seeking to rewrite the laws of war. The concept of proportionality, based on customary practice, means that it is tolerable to kill innocent civilians if the goal leads to the 'concrete and direct' advantage that the attacker expects to gain and the killings are not 'excessive'. He claims that now 'we are light years away' from the outcry that attended the 2002 assassination of Salah Shehade, head of Hamas' Al-Qassam Brigades, which resulted in 27 civilian deaths. In contrast, the July 13 attack on the Al-Mawasi 'safe zone' refugee camp which houses 80,000 displaced Palestinians living in densely-populated tents, killed 90 and wounded

300 in an attempt to assassinate Hamas commander, Muhammed Deif. Netanyahu admitted he did not know if the fighter jets and drones had killed their target but no regret was expressed for the mass murder. Professor Devi Sridhar, chair of global health at the University of Edinburgh estimates that 500,000 Gazans will die in 2024 if current toxic conditions do not dramatically change! And while Israel's bloody spree accelerates we all continue with our lives as usual and our government is tongue-tied!

Gareth Smith
Byron Bay

■ Esther Berkon of the Facebook group 'Jews for Palestine Northern Rivers' spoke at the Byron Council meeting in favour of the

motion for action re Israel and the Gaza war. At this point, this Facebook group does not have even one member aside from the two admin. They could not convince even one member of the Jewish community to join their Facebook group, and that is because almost 100 per cent of the 2,000 Jews that live in this region are pro-Israel and pro-peace with Palestinians, and do not agree with her opinions. Like all wars, the war in Gaza against Hamas is creating suffering for good people on both sides. Palestinians and Israelis are being killed and displaced. Everyone in the Jewish community that I have met feels immense pain for Palestinian civilians as well as for the people of Israel. The war could have ended months ago if Hamas returned all of the Israeli

hostages and surrendered, but they refused to do either one so this bloody war continues. Council should be putting their energy into fixing potholes and other local issues. Councils have no business playing with international politics. Several local families that I know have been savagely harassed and verbally abused in our local streets and markets, just because they were Jewish, leaving the parents and children completely traumatised. 13-year-olds are literally getting death threats and being physically assaulted in local schools, just because they are Jewish. Byron Council should be putting energy into bringing us together as a community, not this.

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

► Continued from page 10 him to respond and/or meet with us to discuss how something of this nature could occur in a small town in the shire which he leads, for the people he represents, and that a strong voice of leadership was appropriate.

Lo and behold on the sixth day, God was created in his image, and Michael Lyon responded informing me he 'wasn't across the events of Wallum' and in any case he was busy in Canberra at a local government conference. Welcome to the Scott

Morrison in Hawaii club Mayor Michael Lyon. The mayor then completely ignored the concerns raised in my correspondence, instead launching into a disingenuous, opportunistic and irrelevant diatribe politicising the situation.

He opined that what I had witnessed on the morning of June 26, in fact the whole Wallum campaign, was a direct result of misinformation spread by the Greens party at both local and federal level. A cause he stated which had 'dim prospects of success'.

and sexism written in such a triumphal tone. Biden and Trump may both be too old and incompetent puppets in a pantomime election, but the 'old white men' slur along with blaming patriarchy is tired and helps no one. The concept has been bannered by feminism for over 50 years, and it hasn't helped change much except entrench division and rivalry between men and women because it is flawed. It blames men as if they were all part of a secretive system, with an insulting conflation of good or skilled men with bad men in power. It also helps people ignore the larger problems of, for example, capitalism out of anyone's control, governments that seek to control us all, and the ongoing war between regulated productivity and consumption, favoured by most large institutions, and creativity and spirit.

Breaching the political divide
Domestic violence has become more than a scourge, it seems the daily accounts of suspected cases make 'plague' a more appropriate term. It is therefore pleasing to see advertised forums raising vital community awareness. Well done to the organisers, and I hope the events are a genuine attempt at solutions and greater knowledge of the implications of a newly-passed bill that criminalises coercive control. I question though whether they are being organised with a genuine community spirit or are more about a Greens promotional tour. I write this because an obvious speaker and participant would be someone heavily involved in the consultation, research and drafting of this groundbreaking new legislation – our federal representative who also happens to be the Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence – Justine Elliot MP. Is there too much fear of some recognition going to the initiating government and its local representative? The same government that has also instigated, after months of hold-up in the Senate, the Safe Places Emergency Accommodation Program? Isn't it worth breaching the political divide for the best outcomes? Some issues are just too important.

Elizabeth Levy
Suffolk Park



BYRON WRITERS FESTIVAL 2024

TRAFFIC NOTICE

Schools Days 7 & 8 August, Bangalow Showground
Festival 9 – 11 August, Bangalow Showground

With approval from Byron Shire Council, a traffic management plan has been implemented to manage and minimise potential traffic impacts in proximity to the Byron Writers Festival site and Bangalow township. We apologise for any inconvenience to local residents and workers and thank you for your support and patience.

- Byron Writers Festival traffic will enter site via Market Street and utilise the onsite festival carpark. Patrons are encouraged to prebook parking for \$5 per day.
- Both sides of Market Street will be no stopping areas for the duration of the festival. Pedestrian access to the site will be via Station Lane.
- A temporary bus bay will be set up on Byron Street, between Station Lane and Market Street for the duration of the festival. The bus bay will also serve as a drop-off area.
- A free shuttle bus will operate between Byron Bay Interchange, Cavanbah Centre and the festival site between 7.30am - 6.30pm.
- Existing 50km/hr speed limit will be reduced to 40km/hr in Byron St.
- The intersection of Byron Street and Market Street will be managed by traffic controllers.
- Signs will be used to inform road users of the presence of traffic controllers and changed traffic conditions.
- We strongly encourage festival patrons to use the shuttle bus or carpool to assist with sustainability and reduce traffic.

For further information, visit byronwritersfestival.com or contact the Festival Hotline 02 6685 5115.

I subsequently reminded Michael of his role in creating the 'Wallum situation' and noted that the peaceful campaign was not centred around party lines and indeed featured men, women and children of all political persuasions from all walks of life, voicing their displeasure at the sanctioned destruction of an extant ecosystem. As is their right. Some divine justice then surfaced that evening with the high court injunction issued to Clarence Property to cease works at Wallum until a further hearing in August in the High Court of Australia. In a time which cries out for strong leadership, and for the men of this world especially, to step up, Mayor Michael Lyon's inactions and protestations are a woeful example of a lack of said leadership, are a complete misreading of the room, and ignore a community fed up with the ongoing coercion and intimidation of women.

Tom Nursey
Brunswick Heads

'Grandpa Wars'
Mandy Nolan's article, 'The Grandpa Wars', had some great lines, but it was surprising to read ageism, racism,

and sexism written in such a triumphal tone. Biden and Trump may both be too old and incompetent puppets in a pantomime election, but the 'old white men' slur along with blaming patriarchy is tired and helps no one. The concept has been bannered by feminism for over 50 years, and it hasn't helped change much except entrench division and rivalry between men and women because it is flawed. It blames men as if they were all part of a secretive system, with an insulting conflation of good or skilled men with bad men in power. It also helps people ignore the larger problems of, for example, capitalism out of anyone's control, governments that seek to control us all, and the ongoing war between regulated productivity and consumption, favoured by most large institutions, and creativity and spirit. To mirror Nolan's argument, should we talk about 'old white women' as a slur, or about older women in power as corrupt representations of matriarchy or femocracy? And if we did, would that help?

A Freeman
Brunswick Heads

BackFlash
Well there you go: Backlash is still cooking with gas while the rest of us are singing 'Jumping Jack Arc, it's a Spark Spark Spark!'

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Hot button issues explored at Byron Writers Festival

This year's festival features the authors of topical new books on politics in America, India, and the Middle East, as well as feminism, land rights, inequality, law and media. Book your festival passes at www.byronwritersfestival.com.



Nick Bryant

Amy McQuire

Louise Milligan

Bob Brown

Ali Cobby Eckermann

Richard Flanagan

Meena Kandasamy

Polarisation in America

Following the attempted assassination of former president Donald Trump, foreign correspondent Nick Bryant's new non-fiction title could not be more timely. In *The Forever War: America's Unending Conflict With Itself*, Bryant tells the story of America's extreme polarisation and how the roots of its modern-day malaise are found in its troubled past. He will be joined in conversation by festival founder Chris Hanley.

Mungo MacCallum Panel

Nick Bryant joins Indigenous author Amy McQuire (*Black Witness*) and ABC Four Corners' Louise Milligan (*Pheasants Nest*) for the annual journalism panel in honour of the late Mungo MacCallum. Focused on press freedom, the panel discusses emerging threats and what needs to be done to ensure a robust and independent media in Australia and abroad, chaired by Julianne Schultz.

Environment in focus

In what is set to be a festival highlight, Bob Brown leads a conversation about the urgent need to care for the natural world, alongside literary writers, scientists and environmentalists, including poet Ali Cobby Eckermann (*She is the Earth*), Booker Prize-winner Richard Flanagan (*Question 7*), ecologist David Lindenmayer (*Forest Wars*) and Greens MLC Sue Higginson.

Resistance and solidarity

International guest Meena Kandasamy comes to Australia from India with her latest poetry collection *Tomorrow Someone Will Arrest You*, cementing her as one of the most exciting, radical thinkers at work today. As an activist and academic documenting India's 2024 election, Kandasamy will speak on politics, poetry, caste issues and feminism, as well as performing at the evening feature event 'Electric Poetics'.

Interview with Irish novelist Caoilinn Hughes

The Alternatives is made up of layer upon layer of life, some sedimentary, some fleeting. Are human layers harder to excavate than geological?

When you're writing about people, you're inevitably writing about place. You can't really separate humans from their environment.

For example, it is possible to write a story without characters, without plot, dialogue, even action ... but it's impossible to write a story without a setting.

Beckett tried it in his play *Not I*, which blacks out the whole stage except for one tightly spot-lit mouth ... but the effect is to make the setting absolutely electric! The background becomes foregrounded. The mouth inside it is eight feet from the ground! How? How deep does the darkness go?

The mouth is speaking English, so already we know something about the shadow, the context.

I definitely write character-driven fiction, but I'm always interested in the rock they're standing on!

The Alternatives is a tale of four sisters and their razor-sharp



banter. Are you from a clutch of sisters?

I have two sisters and two brothers, and I became aware when writing this novel that having more than one sibling is increasingly unusual in Europe.

The fertility rate in the Republic of Ireland (which was the highest in the EU for most of the period between 1998–2011) is now just above the EU average, at around 1.5 (way below the 2.1 required to maintain population levels, without immigration).

The Alternatives is chronicling

the last generation of larger families in Ireland, and in Europe on the whole. Australia, too, is experiencing near record-low fertility rates, steadily falling since the 1960s – now at 1.6.

The family saga as a genre will adapt with the times. In this novel, some of the sisters are already conceiving of alternative family arrangements.

Climate crisis, The Troubles, grief, addiction, class. Has writing *The Alternatives* changed your views on any of these big hairy realities?

Yes, very much so. Writing novels is a way of processing life – and in the case of this novel, what it's like to be alive right now, given that it's set as close to now as I could make it!

The world is changing so rapidly that it felt urgent to set the story as close as possible to when the book would be published (I missed by nine or ten months, but it's close enough!).

This meant that I had to anticipate what the coming years would be like, as I was writing, while also trying to understand and capture the present. And this process

reflected what the novel is about: the attempt to lurch forward in the story – to adapt – as the rug is pulled from beneath our feet.

There are no Flattery sisters without Ireland and its humour and its soil. Where might your next work draw you?

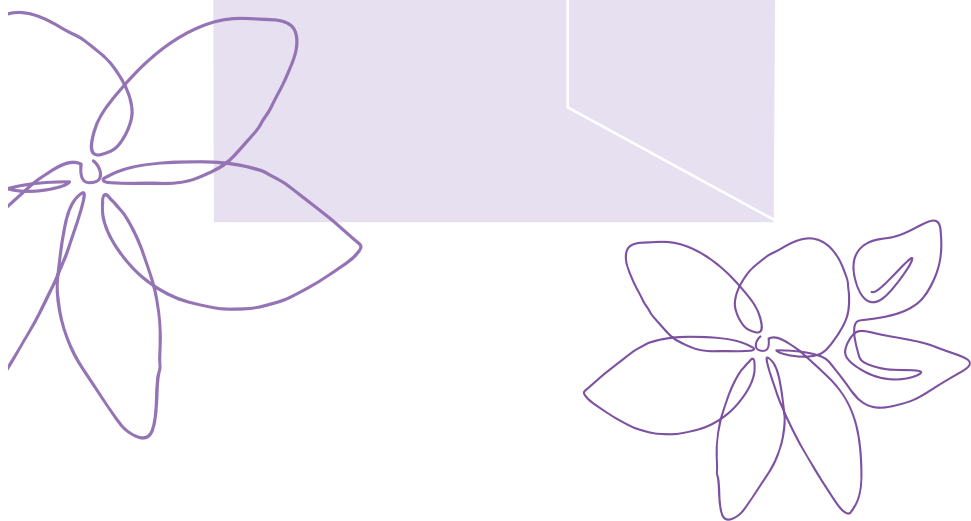
I can't talk about a work-in-progress unless I'm very, very close to the end, which – alas – I'm not! It's true that *The Alternatives* is an Irish book, in the sensibility of the characters, in the particular way people have of doing things (or not doing them!) and in the landscapes depicted ... but it's also Irish in that two of the four sisters live and work overseas.

As someone who has spent almost as much time away from Ireland as I have in it, I'm reflecting upon that aspect of Irishness and of contemporary life. I suspect that no matter how far from the island future books will take me, my Irish pathologies will follow!

■ See Caoilinn Hughes at Byron Writers Festival in conversation with Bri Lee, and Nam Le as well as the sessions 'Sisters' and 'Feminist Literatures'.



making SPACES



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A journey through iconic solar installations in the Northern Rivers

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Stay tuned over the coming months as ProSolar reflects on their favourite moments. Follow them on Instagram at @prosolar.australia and Facebook to discover their most iconic installations.



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14 The Byron Shire Echo July 24, 2024

Beds R Us, Byron Bay

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Everyone loves stone fruit, and you can grow your own here on the North Coast. You just need to make sure that you choose a variety that is 'low-chill' or 'tropical', because these are the ones that will fruit here. There are several varieties of peaches, plum and nectarines that are suitable. There are low-chill apple trees too.

All produce cherry-blossom style flowers in winter/spring, and then fruit from September to December. They usually only grow to about 3-4 metres tall, so are a great choice for a small garden or a large pot.

Peaches, nectarines and apples are all self-pollinating so you only need one tree. They will become highly productive in 2-3 years.



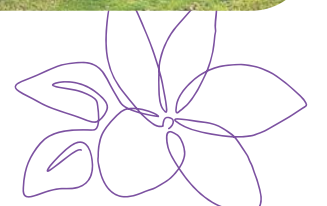
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Curlews victors in round three of Emerging Greys cricket Cup



The Bush Stone-Curlews and the Forest Dragons. Photo supplied

Ross Kendall

Crisp powerful stroke play was matched by top-flight bowling when the Bush Stone-Curlews met the Forest Dragons in the delayed round three of the Far North Coast's O/45s Emerging Greys Cup.

At the end of the day, the Curlews backed up their second-round win, and collected the points, after being sent into bat.

On a crisp, clear morning, the top three for the Curlews, Ross Kendall (20no off 40 balls), Geoff Tunks (9 off 20) and Bruce Young (28no off 40) were able to lay a platform to take the side to 1/50-odd in 15 overs.

From there, the shot-makers came into their own, and pushed the score to an above-par 5/248 that included numerous fluent innings including three score-retirees. Leigh Simpson

scored 43no off 33, including nine 4s, to start a fantastic day of cricket that was to earn him another bottle of wine.

Luke Grainger got the score card flowing coming in at number 5 with 42no off 19 balls (largely through boundaries including three 6s and five 4s). Jason Trisley (40no off 31) found his touch in the final overs, supported by Shaun Greening (13no off 5).

Forest Dragon's opening bowler, Ben Hills (2/47 off 8 overs), led from the front, along with Ben Redden (who had the best economy rate of 3.75). They kept things tight early, but wickets were hard to come by.

Mark Vallette returned 1/35, including two of the inning's three maiden overs. Damian Senz chipped in with 1/17 off his four overs.

In reply, Forest Dragons' openers Brett McPhail and Mark Valette scored 13 by the end of the first over, including three 4s.

But it didn't last, as Leigh continued his day snaring Mark (9 from 6) at the end of his first over, the second of the innings.

Still, the Curlews had their work cut out when Mal Hancock came to the crease and wasted no time with

an innings that could have turned the game.

He finished with the top score of the day, a quickfire 57 off 33 that included six 4s and four 6s.

But wickets fell too regularly around his innings for the Dragons to build momentum.

All out for 110

With the score at 8/82 when Mal returned to the crease after a temporary retirement, he had much to do. After adding eight runs Levi Shouldice had him caught behind in a relatively short stay at the crease. The Dragons were all out for 110.

But the innings belonged to Leigh (5/33 off 8 overs) who conjured up the competition's first five-wicket haul. It was a spell where he landed it on a dime, was supported in the field, and seemingly could do no wrong.

Mal also took home a bottle of wine for his stroke play. Next week, the Forest Dragons head south to take on the Clarence Coast Emus at Harwood Oval. With both teams eyeing their first win of the competition there will be plenty to play for.

The Curlews will take on the Red-Necked Pandemelons, and one of these sides will endure their first loss.

Canning and Dinh clean up at karate tournament

Richard Light

Two members of the Byron Bay Jin Wu Koon Karate club came home from the Australian Martial Arts Championships (AMAC) round two tournament, held in Nerang, with an impressive haul of medals and trophies.

After recently being graded to Shodan (first Dan black belt), Sam Canning took the gold medal for the veterans' freestyle sparring, coming third in the veterans kata. In the intermediate division, Anthony Dinh won gold in freestyle sparring, 1st in kata, 2nd in points sparring and 3rd in points contact sparring.



Anthony Dinh and Sam Canning. Photo supplied

Sam and Anthony have qualified for the 2024 Queensland Championships, October 13 and will go in with confidence.

Byron Football Club smash Lennox, 5-0

John McKay

It was an auspicious Tuesday night last week for Byron Bay Football Club (BBFC), as, for the first time since the resurrection of women's football 11 years ago, a mother (Violet Innes) and her daughter (Sofia Kirkpatrick, U15s), played in the same open women's team.

After making her entrance in the first half, Sofia scored a goal in Byron Prems' emphatic 5-0 win over their fierce archrival, Lennox Head, while her mother, a stalwart of the recent Prems teams, helped keep them to zero.



Sofia Kirkpatrick and Violet Innes. Photo supplied

Women's closed circuit race this Sunday

Ross Kendall

The Byron Bay Cycling Club (BBCC) is offering a womens-only criterium race, and a separate training course, as part of its winter race day this Sunday, July 28 at the Cavanbah Centre circuit.

An experienced club member will ride alongside the novices giving advice, or motivation, for the duration of the training session.

A criterium (crit for short) is a closed-circuit, lap-style race that is generally run on a course of about 1,000 metres.

It's usually a timed race that can have mid-point sprints, or other variations.

D grade, juniors, ungraded women and veterans start at 8am and A, B and C grades will get underway from 8.30am.

For registration: www.byronbaycyclingclub.org.au.

Send us your sport stories!

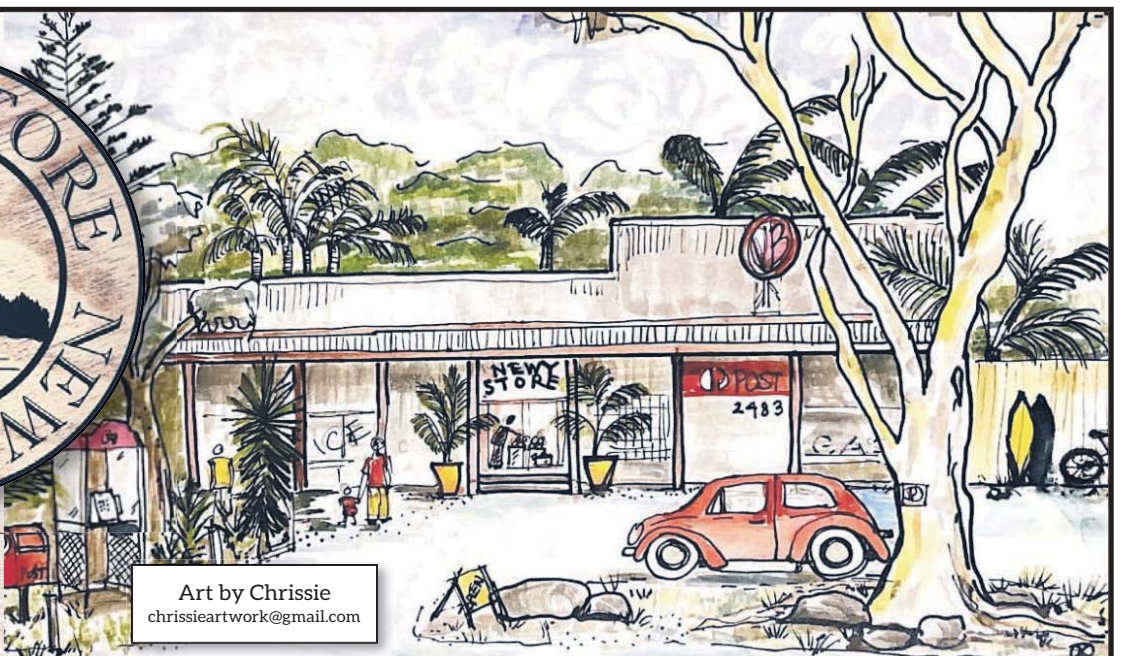
We would love to run all kinds of local sport on these pages so please send your photos and stories to sport@echo.net.au.

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Good Taste

Eateries Guide

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GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR.

Local wins Chef of the Year

Ebony Baker, executive chef at Elements of Byron, has won the coveted Chef of the Year category at the NSW Accommodation Australia Awards for Excellence 2024 last week.

Ebony said her team worked tirelessly to create exceptional guest dining experiences, for example using foraging skills. Her philosophy includes being honest to the perfection of every ingredient, not an easy task with the diverse restaurant

offering at the resort ranging from pool-side dining to one of the finest restaurants in Byron, marrying native, local and international flavours.

The judges seemed to think she was nailing the difficult task though, singling out 'her ability to elevate regional produce to new heights,' and adding, 'her innovative use of local ingredients made her the clear choice for this year's winner'.





Popular 'shrooms from Stokers Siding

Victoria Cosford

They can weigh up to 800 grams. They look for all the world like snowy white cauliflower. And they are enjoying a big blast of popularity at the moment.

They are Lion's Mane mushrooms, one of the various exotic fungi grown by the Stokers Siding-based Shroom Brothers. I'm at the stall chatting to Julia, who's manning it, who tells me how they are the most popular mushroom at the moment, a fact confirmed by the majority of the customers.

The first thing I want to know is what to do with them. A beautiful girl with a nose-ring tells me she slices them, then pan-fries them with butter and herbs. 'They're really satisfying', she says. 'They're meaty, like a steak.' Julia chips in to say that she herself cooks them as schnitzels, tossing them in egg and breadcrumbs then frying them. Another purchaser is buying some for her friend, who has cancer. She tells me that Lion's Mane is very good for the brain and for memory. Then there's the customer who has heard you can dry the mushroom out, turn it

into a powder and drink it – and while it's not available at the stall yet, it's only a matter of time.

Andrew Mohanu, co-owner of Shroom, tells me that in response to lots of requests from customers for this medicinal powder, they have created Mala Wellness, a company committed to selling Australian-grown and certified organic mushroom powder. He says that Lion's Mane has two compounds unique to it. 'It's shown to improve memory', he says, 'and it reduces the chances of Alzheimer's, dementia, depression and anxiety.'

It's the funniest mushroom I've ever seen but if it has all those virtues – as well as being a meat substitute and, like tofu, a wonderful absorber of flavourings – I can quite understand that it's a big seller. As I'm sure the Mala Wellness powder will be too.

Shroom Brothers are at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7am to 11am and New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday from 8am to 11am.

Andrew Mohanu from Shroom Brothers pictured with the Lion's Mane.



A Seat at My Table: Philoxenia, by Kon Karapanagiotidis

Sandra Davey

This is a beautiful cookbook rich in colour, flavours, history, culture and heart. Who better to document Greek recipes than Greek-Australian Kon Karapanagiotidis, someone who feeds people daily, and his kitchen mentor since childhood, his Greek mum Sia Karapanagiotidis. Philoxenia is a Greek cultural value that is about warm, caring and true hospitality towards others, including strangers. Cooking is a perfect medium for expressing philoxenia, it engenders connecting, sharing, culture and food as well as expressing friendliness.

Kon's desire is to express and celebrate his culture – he says 'my wish is to challenge people's ideas of Greek food and show how healthy, sustainable and inclusive it can be. Greek food is far more than kebabs, calamari and lamb on the spit.' There are mini prologues to recipes that add cultural depth to the dish such as, the time of day the dish is traditionally eaten, where it originated, history of ingredients and what is important in the cooking method to bring out the best tastes.

The recipes sing with flavour and just reading them sparks the inner cooking fire. There are colourful mezzes including soutzoukakia – a vegetarian version of a dish that is usually made with beef, as well as domatokeftedes – tomato fritters, the recipe is from Santorini and Kon describes a heavenly scene overlooking the Aegean sipping drinks and eating domatokeftedes there. There is a selection of salads which have perfect combinations of flavours – the benefit of traditional recipes is that they have been tried and tested for generations.

The real deal

The spanakorizo – spinach and dill rice – a Greek pilaf which is a favourite made in every Greek home, was delicious and easy to



A Seat at My Table: Philoxenia author Kon Karapanagiotidis cooking with his mum, Sia. Photo Sarah Pannell

make. There are also soups, pastries and breads, including zucchini pie; pomegranate, tzatziki and artichoke flatbread; and the well-known spanakopita. No matter what recipe you're cooking from this book, you know that you are getting the real deal not an anglicised, uploaded, shadow of itself.

The sweets chapter is exciting; the galaktoboureko – custard pie – was road-tested by Nigella Lawson and she raved about it. There are also Greek pancakes that include feta and honey in the ingredients as well as melomakarona – honey cookies, and pasteli – sesame bars. There are many recipes in this book that are marked to try because they look so good!

A Seat at My Table: Philoxenia is also about benefiting others, 100 per cent of proceeds from the book go to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre with publishers Hardie Grant also donating \$1 from each book sold. Karapanagiotidis founded the

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre over 20 years ago, prompted by his discovery that asylum seekers in his community were going hungry due to being unable to access income, health care and the right to work. With help from students, family and friends Kon set up a food bank and community kitchen which provides meals daily.

This has now grown to include a broad range of support services and political lobbying for refugees – the true expression of philoxenia.

Another altruistic aspect of the book is that all of the recipes are vegetarian or vegan, but before omnivores dismiss this as something not for them, there are no lentils floating in watery broth here! The recipes are rich, abounding in every element that you want in a dish so that the muscle really isn't missed. Vegetarianism was a well-known practice in Ancient Greece, Kon explains: 'Vegetables rather than meat are at the heart of

any Greek table and the Greeks were some of the earliest vegetarians and vegans in recorded human history... the Ancient Greeks called strict vegetarianism "abstinence from beings with a soul". Kon also throws light on the fact that as well as humanitarian reasons for plant-based cooking the practice also augments environmental recovery.

Food: personal and political

Kon wants to invite people into deeper conversation around food because food is personal and political. On a personal level it can sustain and share culture and identity as well as connect, salve and satisfy individuals and communities. How is food political? It is when basic human rights aren't met due to bureaucratic cowardice because politicians don't fully commit to a stance, leaving people like refugees

See Kon at Byron Writers Festival

Kon Karapanagiotidis will appearing twice on Friday, 9 August in the A&I Hall: firstly from 10.15am-11.15am discussing kin and community with chair Rosemary Milsom; and secondly in conversation with Nell Schofield from 12.45pm-1.45pm. See byronwritersfestival.com for more info.

literally going hungry. Kon writes: 'We do not need tougher borders or higher walls, we need longer tables where everyone can have a seat.' Combining both the personal and political conversations is plant-based eating, a step some do 100% and others are leaning towards a bit more – both are helpful and made easier with a cookbook like this.

A Seat at My Table: Philoxenia is filled with passionate enthusiasm about the joys of food, the connection to others, the sharing it can bring, the deep historical and cultural roots of Greek cuisine and the stirring plight of asylum seekers. This is a superb cookbook for many reasons. It has over 100 recipes that are immediately appealing, doable and delectable. Every recipe has instructions on how to make it gluten-free or vegan with ingredient substitutes as well. The best part of this publication is that it is a gift; Kon shares his personal journey and culture, Sia lets us into her kitchen, the heart of the home and is mitera (mother) to us, imparting wisdom and allowing the photographs for the book to be shot in her home rather than a studio. The images are beautiful, some are pure culinary art and others are gentle and personal. This book is a warm welcome into a rich and generous culture, one which in turn encourages a culture of depth and generosity in all of us.

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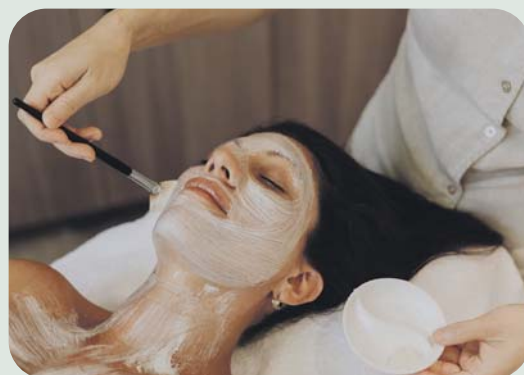
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Elements of Byron, 144 Bayshore Drive
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Habitat Precinct



A cleverly designed village where people live, work and play, all in one place, combining old-school Byron (community, creativity) with new thinking (live+work spaces, car sharing) and good times (food, shops) to create a little oasis for locals and visitors alike.



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Habitat, Byron Bay

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Practicing exclusively in family law, Richardson Murray offers legal advice and guidance in matters of separation, divorce, parenting arrangements and property settlements. With considerable experience in all matters of relationship breakdown, including domestic and family violence, Richardson Murray are known for their compassionate approach and commitment to clients. Their dedicated team aims to deliver the best possible outcomes for clients.

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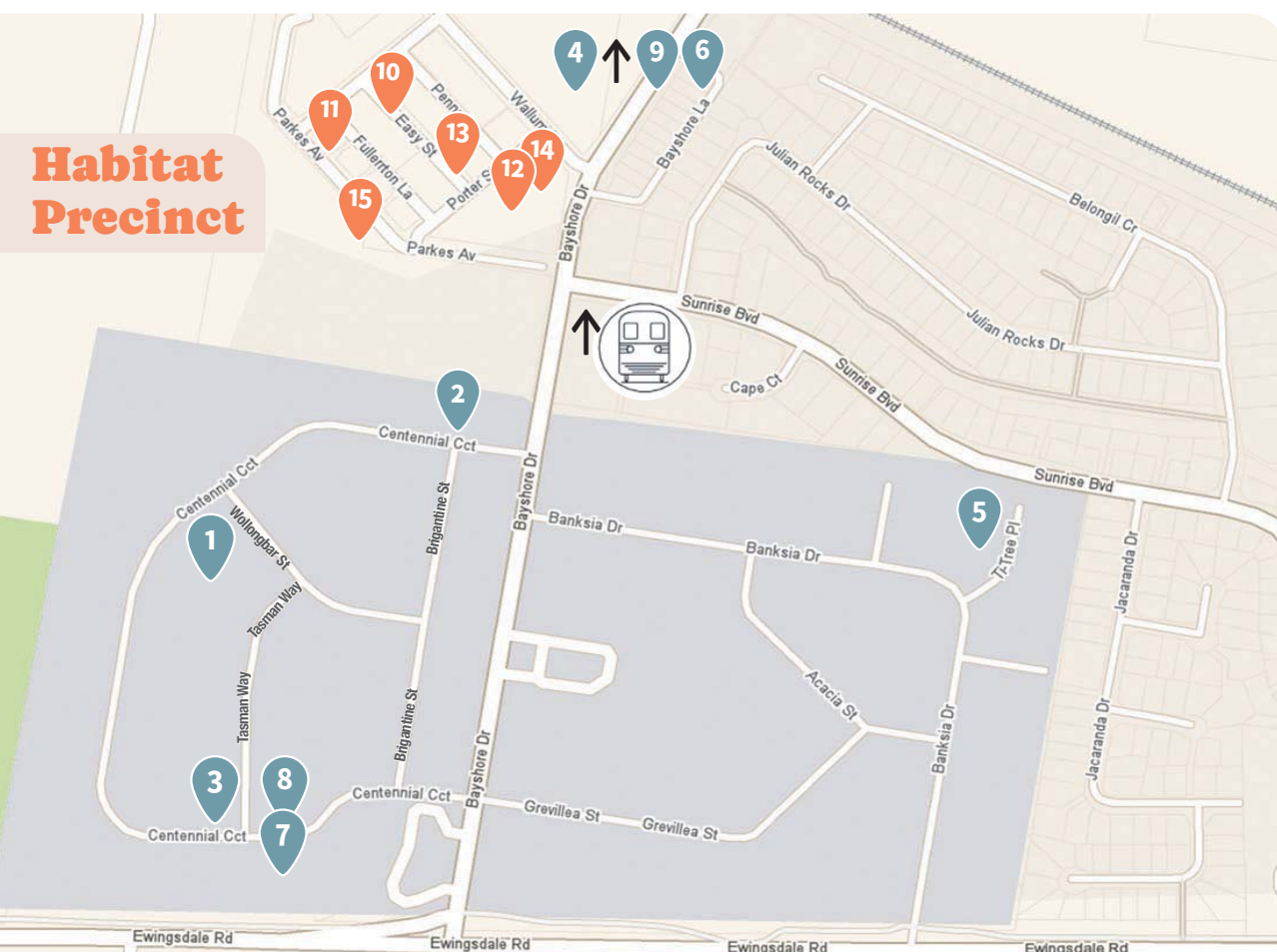
15. BYRON FAMILY LAW

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02 6687 2774
18 Parkes Ave
www.byronfamilylaw.com.au

Byron Arts & Industry Estate

Habitat Precinct



Volume 39 #07
 24–30 July, 2024
 Editor: Eve Jeffery
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 Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday
 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
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SEVEN



Interview
**LEAVE YOUR
 HATS ON
 FOR JOE**

Joe Cocker – what a bloody awesome talent and what an incredible legacy he left behind when he died almost ten years ago – and, what an impact his music made and is making on local singer Chev Wilson, someone who both looks and feels (sounds like) Cocker.

Leading up to the Ballina performance of **The Joe Cocker Express**, an unforgettable night of music and nostalgia, paying tribute to the iconic artist, last week *Seven* spoke to the man embodying the memory of Joe, in a show that promises to transport you back in time with spot-on renditions of Cocker's greatest hits.

The Joe Cocker Express would touch the hearts of a multinational audience, but where are you based?

I just moved down here to Ballina a couple of months ago – before that I was up on the border.

When did you first discover Joe Cocker?

Well, I've known who Joe Cocker was for a long time – I grew up playing music with my dad who was a muso. As my voice started to develop, he noticed that I sounded like Joe. He taught me a couple of Cocker songs and I used to perform them with his band.

But, I was not familiar with his life story or all of his catalogue. Since joining the band I have become pretty familiar – I have read his autobiography and gotten to know a bit more about his journey.

You look a bit like Joe – have you let your looks become like him or are you naturally a scruffy sort of guy (haha)?

I have had various different looks over the years. By the time I joined the band my hair had gone wild. I have sort of let the beard go wild a little bit too (haha).

Do you get the air mandolin going when you are singing as well?

At the start of the show I tell people that I'm not an impersonator – nor do I think that someone like Joe should be impersonated. He's a one-of-a-kind guy. It just happens that I have the right tools for the job. I'm a high-energy person. I do rock out the air guitar a bit on stage but by no means do I try to impersonate him, I just turn a few things up a few levels. I just get into it, and try to perform with my whole body, like he did.

It must be great to be on stage with the nine-piece band – how long have you guys all been together?

It's been about two-and-a-half years that we've been working on the show. A year of that was probably just behind the scenes, getting the show ready, learning the songs and getting everything really tight and ready to rock.

Do you have a 'day job'?

I am a full-time musician. I have been for about eight years. I used to be an arborist. In the end, though, it was actually funny – my boss found out I was a singer and he came to a gig one weekend. He watched me play and he sacked me. He said, 'mate, I can't have you come into work, doing what we do for minimum wage when you have so much talent'. He was one of the people who really pushed me to leave the trades and go all the way with my singing.

A hard question, but I'm going to ask – do you have a favourite song to perform?

Well, I have a favourite part of the show. Without giving too much away, we go from 'A Little Help From My Friends' into playing another great hit – it's a beautiful transition – you'll see it on the night!

Hats on, or off, The Joe Cocker Express is your chance to relive the magic, and experience the timeless songs that have touched the hearts of generations.

**Ballina RSL, on Saturday, 10 August at 8pm.
 ballinarsl.com.au.**

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Where the charm of Alstonville meets the vibrant pulse of Australian music, The **Federal Hotel** has long been a supporter of local arts and music.

This commitment to fostering creativity and community shines brightly through their upcoming event series, beginning with a special afternoon on Sunday when The Federal Hotel proudly presents **Kate Monroe**, a prominent figure in the Australian dance music scene for over three decades.

Monroe's collaborations with renowned brands like Home Nightclub, Ministry of Sound, and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras have solidified her status in Australian house music history.

As the sun sets, guests are invited to immerse themselves in the music that has been a driving force throughout Kate's career.

Join the fun on **Sunday from 2pm at The Federal Hotel, Alstonville** for an afternoon of music, good times and the unmistakable energy of Kate Monroe. **Admission is FREE.**

IT'S A SLEEPY OLD TOWN

Hailing from the south coast of England, **Phil Howell** spent his early adult life wandering the globe with his hometown musical duo **Phil & Tilley**. After now calling the Northern Rivers home for some time, Phil presents us with his debut solo release 'Sleepy Old Town', singing tales of love, life and loss. Phil's songs possess a depth and maturity that goes well beyond his years.

With an easy-listening singer/songwriter sound, Phil combines elements of folk, blues, and roots music with an intimacy that is captured by his warm husky vocals.

Heartfelt lyrics are accompanied by his well-crafted guitar playing that draws from influences such as John Martyn, Harry Manx and Jeff Lang. Incorporating acoustic, electric and lap steel guitar, Phil showcases touching ballads as well as groovy blues numbers that will take you on an intimate but dynamic journey, and he's sure not afraid to rock out with a tasty lap steel guitar solo! Phil will be joined on stage by various musical guests throughout the evening, showcasing live the collaborative efforts of the new recordings – his support for the night is another long time North Coast local, **Karuah**.

Be sure to get your tickets now for a special evening of music at one of the finest live music venues in the Northern Rivers – Friday, from 7pm at The Citadel, Murwillumbah.

Tickets from events.humanitix.com/philhowell.

CONNECT, COLLABORATE – RELOCALISE!

It may feel like COVID-19, floods and fires are behind us, but the impacts of all of these events persist and could happen again. However, communities can take back their power from the vagaries of global forces by bringing their economy back home.

On Saturday **Relocalise Northern Rivers (RNR)** will bring the community together again to explore practical local solutions.

The event will start with a new Local Futures film, *The Power of Local*, which showcases 30 local initiatives from around the world.

The RNR team will then facilitate discussions on issues such as food security, local business, inter-town transport and affordable housing with the aim of building the life we all dream of.

The Local Futures Event, including a screening of *The Power of Local*, will be on at 2.30pm to 5pm on Saturday at the Byron Theatre. Tickets are \$10, including yummy afternoon tea, available at www.relocalise.org.



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ANNOUNCING SPROUTS!

Sprouts is a fun-filled program for queer or questioning kids and their families.

Queer Family is thrilled to launch this exciting new program designed especially for kids aged 8-12 who are queer or questioning, along with their parents and guardians.

Sprouts is a unique and vibrant space where LGBTQIA+ kidlets and their families can come together, connect, and celebrate their identities in a supportive and affirming environment.

Sprouts is the only program of its kind in our region specifically catering to younger queer and questioning kids and their families. It's a groundbreaking initiative that fills a significant gap in local community services, providing a much-needed haven for children to explore their identities and for families to find solidarity and support.

Sprouts is a monthly meetup full of fun and engaging activities, specifically designed to foster connections. Facilitated by qualified youth-workers from the queer community, Sprouts is a space where supportive friendships can be made and identities, however they may shift and change, are celebrated. At Sprouts, you will meet other families who understand and celebrate the diverse experiences of queer and questioning kids.

Whether you're looking to find community for your child, find support, or just have an opportunity for safe and affirming fun, Sprouts is the place to be. Come along and sprout some new connections.

There will be a meeting on Saturday from 10am to 12pm, and on Saturday, 24 August from 10am to 12pm.

It's important to note that this is not a drop-and-run event – it's time for families to spend together.

For more information and to register, reach out at sethqueerfamily@gmail.com.

Sprouts is made possible through the Social Futures Resilient Kids program.

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MIKEY ON THE MAGIC

The *Magic of the Mundane* is a unique two-act indie rock musical showcasing **Mikey Bee** on guitar, **Elodie Crowe** on Wurlitzer, both also adding their vocals, and the acclaimed cellist **Tara Lee Byrne** anchoring the performance. The show breathes life into the heartfelt lyrics and soulful melodies of the uplifting albums *Tender [A]* and *Hooks [B]* by **MT Warning**.

Seven spoke to Mikey a year ago just before the musical's sold-out debut, crafted in, and for, the Byron Theatre. We spoke again last week about the show's progress.

I think it was about a year ago that we spoke last time...

Yes. It's been exactly a year.

Wasn't it really at the beginning of the performances?

Yeah, I hadn't even tried the show before. I literally, then wrote the ending. And then we put it on.

How is it progressing?

Well, we did a little experiment at the Citadel in Murwillumbah a few weeks ago to see where the material was, and it was amazing. It's kind of grown by itself – the show there was incredible. It's got a whole new feel to it.

Does it still have that theatre vibe to it?

Definitely. We designed it in, and for, the Byron Theatre, essentially, because we live here. So to take it to a different space gave it a bit more of a rock and roll edge, which is where both Elodie and I come from touring bands, so there's definitely a comfort with the material that's made it, I think, more accessible for people.

Have you changed it much since its birth to where it is now?

We were able to bring in a few new ideas we didn't have at the time – some extra flourishes and a bit of extra colour, and because we've known it now for a year, we've got more time for everything. So everything's slowed down – it's slowed down as we were packing more into it.

What are you enjoying most about the process?

Before, it was conjuring, building up something from nothing, this time it's getting familiar with something you know that works – but it's still new. My favourite part is having an old script land in a new way. That's pretty exciting to watch.

What are you enjoying least about the process?

Trying to let as many people know as possible! The marketing in these rising cost-of-living times is tricky, because it's hard – everyone's feeling it.

When I asked you these two questions last year, what you enjoyed the most was creating something out of nothing, and what you enjoyed the least was your mind telling you that it was a terrible idea. Has your mind stopped telling you it was a terrible idea?

It has, it has – well, I don't know if it has stopped, but the volume's definitely been turned down on that one. It didn't have a victory.

You must have had a lot of feedback by now, what are the audiences telling you?

I'm getting a lot of feedback that people are going home to create, which was the goal. I get a lot of messages from people who've started 'morning pages', from Julia Cameron's *The Artist's Way*, because there's a lot of, sort of poking fun at that in the show. So I get a myriad of messages from people who have begun that again or started painting again – I get sent pictures and poems. It's so cool. And, I have managed to write a book between now and then to go with the show. It's called *Mistakes for Comfort*, and it's definitely like a sequel to the show if you want to live with the characters a bit longer – it's available on our website themagicofthemundane.com.

You can see this great show on Friday 2 August at the Byron Theatre at 7.30pm.

Tickets: www.byroncentre.com.au.

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28 JULY 2PM - 5PM

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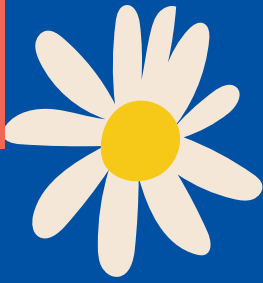
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CINEMA



MOON LANDING OR FAKE NEWS?

Did they or didn't they? One of the 20th century's biggest conspiracy theories is that they didn't.

Fly Me to the Moon is a romantic comedy/drama film directed by **Greg Berlanti** from a screenplay by **Rose Gilroy**, and based on a story by **Bill Kirstein** and **Keenan Flynn**.

Starring **Scarlett Johansson** and **Channing Tatum**, *Fly Me to the Moon* is a sharp, stylish film set against the high-stakes backdrop of NASA's historic Apollo 11 moon landing – or was that backroom landing?

During the 1960s Space Race between the United States and the Soviet Union, sparks fly in all directions as marketing maven Kelly Jones (Johansson), who is brought in to fix NASA's public image, wreaks havoc on launch director Cole Davis's (Tatum) already difficult task. When The White House deems the mission too important to fail, Jones is directed to stage a fake moon landing as back-up and the countdown truly begins...

Could this story possibly be one closer to the truth?

Jim Rash, Anna Garcia, Donald Elise Watkins, Noah Robbins, Colin Woodell, Christian Zuber, Nick Dillenburg, Ray Romano, and Woody Harrelson also star in this question-stirring scenario of what may have really happened between 16 and 24 July 1969.

Fly Me To The Moon is on at **Palace Cinemas**.
www.palacecinemas.com.au

SAXO
SCANDINAVIAN
FILM FESTIVAL

GO NORTH. 26 JUL - 14 AUG

OPENING NIGHT



THE RIOT

CENTREPIECE



STORMSKERRY MAJA

ScandiFilmFest ScandinavianFilmFestival.com Opens Friday - Palace Byron Bay

WEDNESDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAMIEN COOPER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX BOWEN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 12PM **CHRISTMAS IN JULY FEAT SANTA, THE WILDLIFE TWINS, TAHLIA MATHERSON, LUKE MORRIS AND THE HEAVY HITTERS, SALT AND STEEL AND THE COLLIFLOWERS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 8.30PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **BEATDUSTA**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **JOCK BARNES**
- ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, BALLINA, 7.30PM **LISMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **SOUNDTRAP**
- THE LEEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **FLAMENCO NIGHT**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 3PM **BASS INVADERS 5 + DJS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **DR BAZ**
- AMBROSE BROWN PARK, POTTSVILLE, 2PM **TUNES IN THE PARK POTTSVILLE - MARY MAX AND THE TWEED SET + TRIANGLE PEOPLE + LUKE BENNETT + THE GROOVE AGENTS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BLAKBOI**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **TIM STOKES**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 2PM **BILL JACOBI**

THURSDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SARAH GRANT DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LUKE BENNETT DUO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD + DJS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **TRILLAH**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **JAM NIGHT**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6PM **BLUEGRASS JAM**
- THE LEEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **ROD MURRAY, 7.30PM ALPHABET POETS**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**
- CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 6.30PM **SCREENING - THE LAST VIOLIN DOCUMENTARY AND PERFORMANCE**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE LIFE AND MUSIC OF GEORGE MICHAEL**
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **TV MISERY + O & SHEA + CHARLIE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **BENNY O'DWYER**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ XUJA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **SARAH GRANT TRIO, 7PM NATHAN KAYE**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **EPIC**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 6PM **THE WOLFE BROTHERS + MAX JACKSON**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **PINK ZINC DUO**
- THE LEEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **DJ NAT WHITE**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 7PM **THE IMPERIAL BLUES REVIEW**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **MERLIN**
- CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **PHIL HOWELL 'SLEEPY OLD TOWN' EP LAUNCH**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BILL JACOBI**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **ALLY PALMER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **JAMES REYNE CRAWL FILE**

FRIDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MOJO RISING**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **B'S BLUES BREAKERS + PHAT SAUCE**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **FOOTLOOSE 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENT**
- PLAYGROUND, BYRON BAY, 3PM **EARTH, JAM & FIRE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4PM **DJ SHANE COLLINS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **HAYLEY GRACE**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **KARUAH + SUNNY LUWE**
- BYRON THEATRE 2.30PM **RELOCALISE NORTHERN RIVERS SCREENING - THE POWER OF LOCAL, 6.30PM THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA ENCORE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DJ NAT WHITE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN + DJS**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 2PM **GEORGE SMILOVICI**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ LAINIE GODIVA**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **BROADFOOT**

SATURDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **KARUAH + SUNNY LUWE**
- BYRON THEATRE 2.30PM **RELOCALISE NORTHERN RIVERS SCREENING - THE POWER OF LOCAL, 6.30PM THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA ENCORE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DJ NAT WHITE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN + DJS**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 2PM **GEORGE SMILOVICI**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ LAINIE GODIVA**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **BROADFOOT**

SUNDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM **YULLI'S OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 2PM **GARETH ED LINDSAY**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **BULLHORN + JOHN FOGGON**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**

- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ AFRODESIA**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT MATT DAY TRIO**
- SHAWS BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **SHAWS BAY SUNDAY SESSIONS FT LEGLESS LIZARDS**
- ST MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, BALLINA, 3PM **LISMORE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**
- FEDERAL HOTEL, ALSTONVILLE, 2PM **KATE MONROE**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 2PM **OPEN MIC**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2PM **PINK ZINC**

MONDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **FINTAN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TIAGO FREITAS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARK USHER**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **THE MAGIC OF THE MUNDANE**

TUESDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL + DJS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **SONGS OF THE SEVENTIES**

WEDNESDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JOCK BARNES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALLY PALMER**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY - FEAT KATRINA DAVIDSON**

Session Times

Thurs, July 25 - Wed, July 31

PALACE CINEMAS

108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

THE RIOT (C13) SCANDINAVIAN FF OPENING NIGHT
Fri: 6:15PM drink on arrival
6:30PM screening

BLACKPINK WORLD TOUR [BORN PINK] IN CINEMAS (PG)
Wed: 6:15PM

FAMILY FILMS

DESPICABLE ME 4 (PG)
Daily except Fri, Wed:
10:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:00PM,
6:15PM,
Fri, Wed: 10:30AM, 1:00PM,
3:00PM

INSIDE OUT 2 (PG)
Daily: 10:45AM, 12:45PM,
3:15PM, 5:30PM

THE SLOTH LANE (PG) NFT
Daily: 10:45AM, 2:00PM

ALL FILMS

A QUIET PLACE: DAY ONE (M)
Daily: 1:00PM, 8:30PM

DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE (M15+) NFT
Daily: 10:45AM, 11:45AM,
12:45PM, 1:30PM, 2:30PM,
4:15PM, 5:15PM, 6:00PM,
7:00PM, 8:00PM

FLY ME TO THE MOON (M)
Daily: 3:15PM, 7:40PM

KINDS OF KINDNESS (M15+) NFT
Daily except Thurs, Fri:
7:30PM,
Thurs, Fri: 11:00AM, 7:15PM

LONGLEGS (M15+) NFT
Daily except Thurs, Fri:
4:00PM, 5:15PM, 8:30PM,
Thurs, Fri: 4:00PM, 5:15PM,
7:30PM, 8:30PM

MR BLAKE AT YOUR SERVICE (PG)
Daily except Thurs, Fri:
10:40AM,
Thurs, Fri: 10:40AM, 2:20PM,
4:45PM

THE BIKERIDERS (M)
Daily: 8:30PM

THE TEACHER WHO PROMISED THE SEA (M) NFT
Daily except Fri: 10:50AM,
1:20PM, 3:50PM, 6:15PM,
8:20PM,
Fri: 10:50AM, 1:20PM, 3:50PM,
6:15PM

TWISTERS (M)
Daily: 11:20AM, 3:15PM,
6:00PM

For All sessions to the Scandi 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 25 - Wed, July 31

Ballina Fair Cinema

47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE (M15+) NFT
Thurs, Fri: 10:30AM, 1:00PM,
3:40PM, 6:15PM, 7:30PM,
Sat, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:30AM,
1:00PM, 3:40PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM,
Sun: 10:30AM, 1:00PM,
3:40PM, 6:15PM, 7:45PM

DESPICABLE ME 4 (PG)
Daily except Sat, Sun:
10:20AM, 12:20PM,
Sat: 10:20AM, 12:30PM, 2:45PM,
Sun: 10:20AM, 1:00PM, 3:10PM

FLY ME TO THE MOON (M)
FINAL SESSIONS
Thurs, Fri: 2:30PM

INSIDE OUT 2 (PG)
Thurs, Fri: 10:15AM, 3:00PM,
5:15PM,
Sat, Sun: 10:15AM, 3:00PM,
5:10PM.

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

Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:15AM,
2:30PM

TWISTERS (M)
Thurs, Fri: 12:30PM, 5:15PM,
7:45PM,
Sat: 12:30PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM,
Sun: 12:30PM, 5:15PM, 7:30PM,
Mon, Tues, Wed: 12:30PM,
4:40PM, 7:00PM

Scandinavian Film Festival
BOUNDLESS (C13)
Mon: 3:30PM

STORMSKERRY MAJA (C13)
Wed: 3:00PM

TOUCH (M)
Tues: 3:30PM

To receive the absolute lowest ticket price and special offers, be sure to join our Free Movie Club!

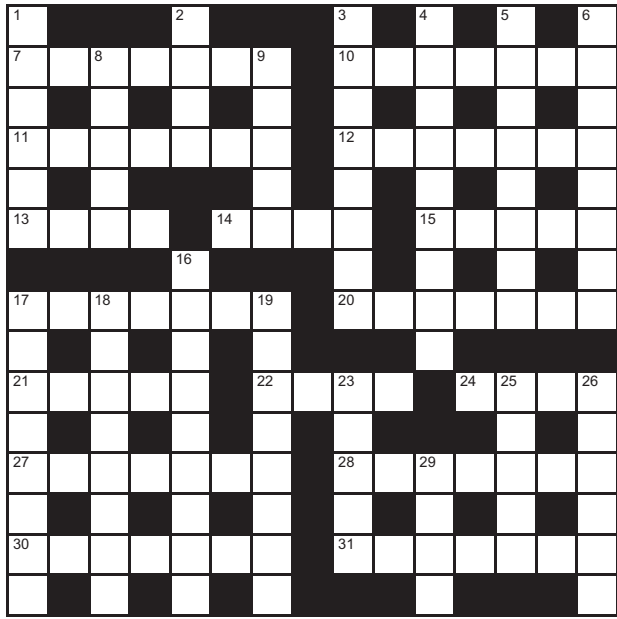
SCAN TO JOIN FOR FREE



Ballina Fair Shopping Centre FREE parking
*NFT = No Free Tickets

Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au

PALACE CINEMAS



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- 7. A monk has one, in theory (1,6)
- 10. Deeply embarrassed, Romeo flees monastery with erectile dysfunction (7)
- 11. Could revised edition be *Misty?* (7)
- 12. Motivated to take out son in briefs (7)
- 13. An exclamation that's tossed around in ad agencies (4)
- 14. Character turning corner (4)
- 15. Hospital placed in pleasant hollow (5)
- 17. Bandit has gear pinched by gang (7)
- 20. Elements of eye strain becoming complicated: dangerous drug involved (7)
- 21. Old bug brought back by person living abroad (5)
- 22. Front of cafe renovated (4)
- 24. Wrong ending avoided by English writer (4)
- 27. Enormous bird – can one be trained? (7)
- 28. I fled in disarray with heretic (7)
- 30. Creole goes crazy over good old Spanish painter (2,5)
- 31. Legal test to stop old lover coming before a minute (3,4)

DOWN

- 1. Clumsy South American cowboy needs energy after losing zip (6)
- 2, 25, 29. Old English writer cross – really cross – with university (4,5,4)
- 3. Post rage about article (8)
- 4. Two Hindus contrived to produce mysteries (9)
- 5. Symbol in doctored notice about medical officer (8)
- 6. Legendary hero whose headless corpse is found seconds before Sue turns up (8)
- 8. Wine and orange juice served in a reflective manner (5)
- 9. Haines' seat a part of the sub-continent (5)
- 16. Server exhibits painting, perhaps, in heavy drinking session (9)
- 17. Rest of lung? (8)
- 18. Skin disorder needs rogue goitre treated, then cut right out (8)
- 19. Traitor displays weakness before other ranks (8)
- 23. Caught on part of tree during ascent (5)
- 25. See 2 down
- 26. I'm sadly over sausage (6)
- 29. See 2 down

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- 7. Method of reasoning from cause to effect (1,6)
- 10. Overcome with remorse (7)
- 11. Dulled; darkened (7)
- 12. Brings up to speed (7)
- 13. Mild oath or expression of surprise (archaic) (4)
- 14. Fragment; role (4)
- 15. Specialised target group in the market (5)
- 17. Raider (7)
- 20. Tissues lining the back layer of the eyeball (7)
- 21. Exile (5)
- 22. Outer form or appearance (4)
- 24. Author of *Lucky Jim* (4)
- 27. Huge (7)
- 28. One outside the faith (7)
- 30. Renaissance artist born in Greece who lived most of his life in Italy (2,5)
- 31. Procedure for admission as a barrister (3,4)

DOWN

- 1. Awkward; tactless (6)
- 2, 25, 29. Author of *The Good Soldier* (4,5,4)
- 3. Small pillar supporting stair rail (8)
- 4. Crime fictions (9)
- 5. Combination of characters used to express feelings online (8)
- 6. In Greek legend the ruler of Ithaka (8)
- 8. A wine-making region of Spain (5)
- 9. Home of the world's largest number of active mosques (5)
- 16. Worker in pub (9)
- 17. Period of respite (8)
- 18. Contagious bacterial skin infection (8)
- 19. Tergiversator; rat (8)
- 23. Scale (5)
- 25. See 2 down
- 26. Seasoned cured meat product (6)
- 29. See 2 down

Last week's solution #12



The Wicked Truth



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX



I have this joke I do on stage. It's a throwaway line that always gets a laugh: 'I breastfed all my kids, except my stepdaughter. Her mum got a bit weird about it.' It's funny because it's true.

Being a stepmother is not something any of us plans. To be honest, until I had my first baby I'd never given much thought to becoming a mother to my own biological kids, let alone someone else's. But loving a man with a daughter means to love that man, you also love his daughter. It's a package. You just have to hope that the daughter is prepared to love you. Or at the very least, tolerate you.

I first met Rachel as a school friend of my daughter's. She would have been six years old. A smiling child with long brown plaits and a perfect fringe. She was the girl I'd suggest my daughter played with at school. She was kind and easy-going. My daughter had a 'separated' family, and so did she. I thought they might understand each other in the way only six-year-olds can. Years later I fell in love with her dad and the child who'd come for play-dates and sleepovers, the kid I'd taken to Brisbane to see Avril Lavigne, was my stepdaughter. Just like that. No long pregnancy, no stretch marks, no waking in the night. I had a perfectly formed, perfectly wonderful 12-year-old daughter.

There are no cards that say 'It's a girl! Congratulations on your new stepdaughter'. There should be. Children are not a burden. They're a gift. And being loving, and being loved by someone not in your biological shadow is a privilege.

The stepmother trope is beset with danger. In fairy tales, the stuff kids read before they meet you, the stepmother represents evil – she is rage, envy, resentment, greed and self-absorption. She is wicked. She mistreats the naive innocent girl, and eventually the girl triumphs and the stepmother ends up being banished to a bird cage, turns into a puff of smoke, or she dies some hideous death. This was not an outcome I was relishing. I'm a big personality but I'm not a psychopath. I don't have a crow on my shoulder or a magic mirror.

Having kids myself, I realised that the idea of a stepmother is not to replace the mother, but to augment. To create an alternate maternal role built on deep care and friendship.

At worst, I'm embarrassing. At best, I'm your protector, your champion, and the mum who nothing shocks. I've never been great on boundaries and discipline, or baking. My mum superpowers have always been more towards acceptance and love. I'm a vault. You can tell me anything. I'm a safe place.

That's how I approached the role. Having kids myself, I realised that the idea of a stepmother is not to replace the mother, but to augment. To create an alternate maternal role built on deep care and friendship. The trick was to realise that there are times to step forward, and times when you step back. It was generally easy, but at times it was hard. There's no template for how you do it. You have to work it out.

Stepparenting means you have someone else's child in your house. Yes my husband's. But another mother's child too. The story of their relationship – the one that precedes you, where she was made – the joy, the hope and the

heartbreak, lives in her origin story. It is a fragile, important part of her, and you cannot break it. That is what evil stepmothers do. Good stepmothers allow the stories of their husband and their stepdaughter's past to live alongside untouched, as one of many concurrent narratives of how you all got there.

And when she left after her weekend, or week with us, she'd step into her other story. The bit that we weren't in. Loving her meant constantly embracing her hello, then waving goodbye.

Rachel accepted me from day one. She was open and loving and excited to be part of a new big family. She was soft, and caring, and had a capacity for wisdom beyond her years. I never called her my stepdaughter. It's a word that creates separation and I worried it would make her feel weird. It was important to me that she never felt different to the other kids. Having five kids, with a parentage of three fathers and two mums, kind of made it easier. You're not really the odd one out when everyone else is a bit odd too. I just refer to her as my daughter. But she is someone else's daughter first. I came later.

She's 28 now. In a few weeks she will get married. And then she becomes part of an even wider family and possibly has her own. It made me reflect on being a stepmother.

On what it is to love a child. And what it is to let go.

Maybe it's time we rewrote those fairy tales. About stepmums who are wicked good.

STARS BY LILITH

As the sun struts into the fiery sign of drama queens, this week responds to a show of confidence. Time to trust yourself, blow the dust off those neglected talents and take a chance ...



LEO THE LION

ARIES: Transformative Chiron entering its annual retrograde, this year in Aries, provides support for introspection into issues that may be standing in the way of your authentic self-expression. It's also an excellent time to practice active listening, where the goal is to understand rather than respond.

TAURUS: Yes it's still midwinter, but look! The zodiac's Leo season has arrived with its annual lift to add flash and dash to your personal styling. Have a product to promote? Then dress for success and jazz up your presentation with some kind of eye-catching flourish.

GEMINI: With Mars blazing into your persuasive sign, you could sell anyone anything, but do take care not to overcommit or underservice. And why let the obsessive red planet in your gadget-loving sign waste your life scrolling when there are so many real people to meet in the fascinating flesh?

CANCER: Mouthy Mars in its chattiest placement is quick-witted, but can also be caustic and sarcastic, so edit any urges to crab nip this week. Mercury in health mode suggests focusing on offsetting recent weeks of Cancerian comfort food before the Leo season's feasting gets under way. Good luck with that.

LEO: As the radiant sun takes this week's stage for its annual four-week extravaganza, and the celestial fanfare announces this year's solar cycle for all things glamorous, romantic and creative, the world's your catwalk, majesties. It's show time, so like Leo Madonna recommends: 'Express Yourself'.

VIRGO: With Mars in social media overdrive, it's a good idea this week to selectively limit the digital deluge of texts, alerts and electronic info eating into your free time. Mercury entering your health-conscious sign suggests monitoring screen time for less mental overload and increased well-being.

LIBRA: This week's glamorous sun joining extrovert Venus in its favourite sign comes with a certain degree of magical uplift. It's the easiest time of year for embodying the radiant qualities of confidence, courage, warmth and generosity, not to mention splashing out on a wild style upgrade.

SCORPIO: An excellent week for being proactive, as Mars opens the door to new strategies and has the audacity to make a big ask, while shrewd Pluto reveals different points of entry. Woo your audience or market with original ideas and clever presentation that makes them lean-in for more.

SAGITTARIUS: This week's communication and information downloads could be a little on the manic side, with scattered energetics calling for concentration, focus and follow-through. Mercury's recommendations? Don't engage in gossip. Do slow down, learn and discern. Conserve your energy, don't overdo it.

CAPRICORN: This week's red flags? Charismatic fast-talkers with an attractive line of hype overpromising and underdelivering. A lot of talk, less follow-through. The gift? Invigorating, stimulating, energetics. Advice? Be prepared to take a calculated risk, but don't commit to anything without a background check.

AQUARIUS: With energetic Mars in quantum-leaping mode, expect the unexpected. Sometimes good fortune is waiting in the most ordinary guise, one you might overlook as boring, so be alert for synchronicities and coincidences. A mistake could take a spontaneous turn into a much better outcome than you planned.

PISCES: This week's bold sun and spiritual Neptune are urging you to speak up about what you want, so it can start to manifest. Stay open to the possibility of miracles, and if you're requesting help, remember to ask for it to come with ease and grace.

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5 EWANDALE CLOSE, CLUNES



Price Guide: \$1,150,000 - \$1,250,000
Open: Sat 27 July 1:15pm - 1:45pm

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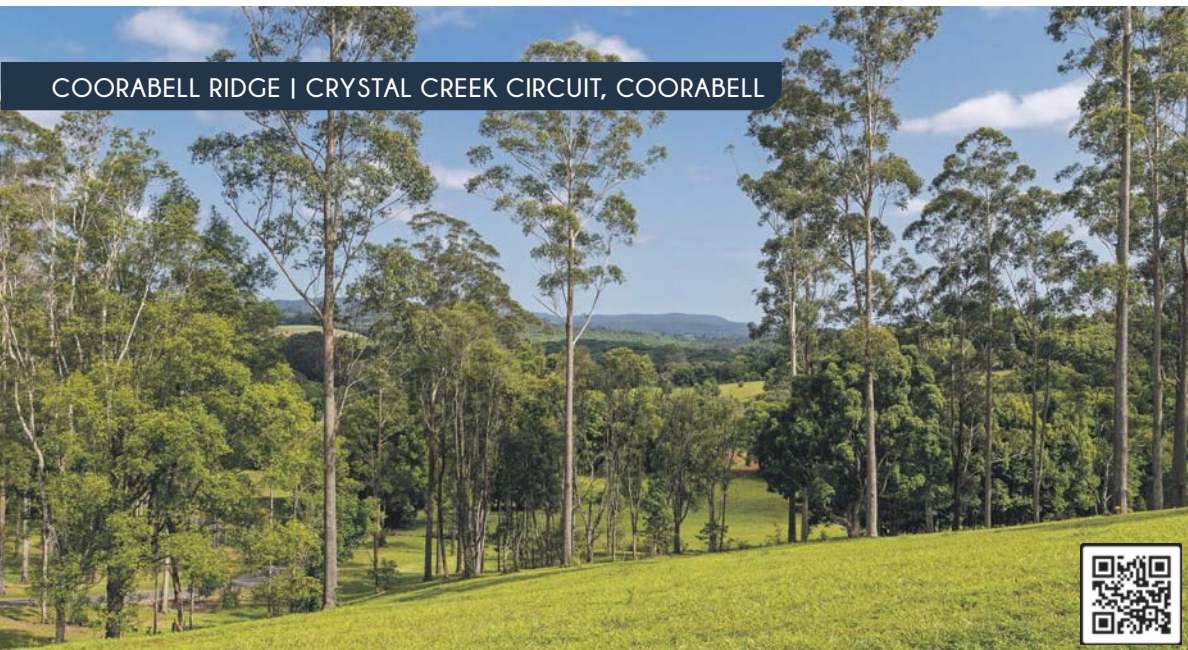


Price Guide: \$1,650,000
Auction: Sat 3 August 12:00pm on site
Open: Sat 27 July 12:15pm - 12:45pm

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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

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- 6/33-35 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Fri 11-11.30am
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 797 Fernleigh Road, Brooklet. Fri 1-1.30pm
- 1/6 Firewheel Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 34 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 9-9.30am
- 3/7 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 6 Victor Place, Lennox Head. Sat 9-9.30am
- 5/18 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7 Saligna Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 10 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 12 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 15/24 Scott Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 36 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10.30-11am
- 39 Bilin Road, Myocum. Sat 10.30-11am
- 146 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7/1-2 Cape Court, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1363 Main Arm Road, Upper Main Arm. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7/19 Teak Road, Federal. Sat 11-11.30am
- 51 Granuaille Road, Bangalow. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 69 Tooheys Mill Road, Nashua. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 35 Bencluna Lane, Eureka. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 30 Avocado Crescent, Ewingsdale. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 6/51 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 50 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 62 Possum Creek Road, Bangalow. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 326 Booyong Road, Nashua. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 1 Settlement Road, Main Arm. Sat 2.30-3pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 8 Barnwall Street, Cumbalum. Sat 9.30-10am
- 6/6 Pine Avenue, East Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 10 Eider Quadrant, Ballina. Sat 10.30-11am
- 4/5 Marge Porter Place, West Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am

32 Justelius Road, Meerschaum Vale.

- Sat 11am-12pm
- 11 Bayview Drive, Cumbalum. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 337 Hermans Lane, Pimlico. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 6 Princess Avenue, Ballina. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 96 Emigrant Point Road, Pimlico. Sat 12.45-1.15pm
- 26 Clavan Street, Ballina. Sat 1.30-2pm
- 26 Bridge Drive, Wardell. Sat 1.30-2pm
- 73 Lagoon Drive, Myocum. Sat 2.45-3.15pm

Mana Re

- 39A Granuaille Rd, Bangalow. Wed 11.30am-12pm
- 9 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Wed 12.30-1pm
- 67 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 9-9.30am
- 16 Eloura Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 46 Orana Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 10-10.30am
- 142 Bakers Road, Dunbible. Sat 11-11.30am
- 26 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 28 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 261 Tunnel Road, Stokers Siding. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 10 Palmer Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 39A Granuaille Road, Bangalow. Sat 2.15-2.45pm
- 9 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Sat 3-3.30pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 2/14-16 Old Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Thu 4.30-5pm
- 195 Old Byron Bay Road, Newrybar. Sat 9-9.30am
- 4 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 788 Friday Hut Road, Binna Burra. Sat 9.30-10am
- 118 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 21 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/31 Carlyle Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/59 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am

39 Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am

- 71 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 774 Friday Hut Road, Binna Burra. Sat 11-11.30am
- 69 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30 am
- 3 Midgenberry Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 31 Bottlebrush Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 16A & 16B Rosewood Avenue, Bangalow. Sat 11.30am-12pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 59 Tuckeroo Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am

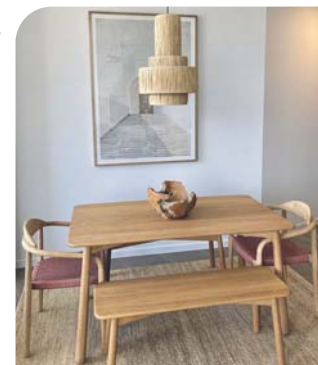
Ray White Byron Bay

- 3/68-70 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 12-12.30pm
- 13/183-205 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Thurs 1-1.30pm
- 109-111 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 346 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Sat 10-10.30am
- 13/183-205 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 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
- 3/68-70 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 101 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 12.15-12.45pm

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- 15 Ivory Curl Place, Bangalow. Sat 9-9.30am
- 14 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1271 Lismore Road, Clunes. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 20 Federation Drive, Eltham. Sat 12.15-12.45pm
- 5 Ewandale Close, Clunes. Sat 1.15-1.45pm

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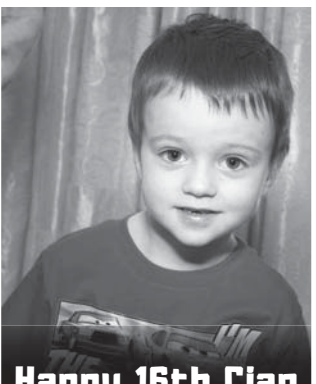
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UCC Ref. 2024-137-4377-6

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Late of Mullumbimby



Passed away suddenly on Monday the 15th of July 2024.

Aged 67 Years.

Dearly loved Husband of Noreen Scott.

Loved Father and Father-in-Law of Nathan and Cecile, Sarah and Sean, Aimee and Corey.

Cherished Poppy of Harrison, Karney, Quinten, Leo- Paul and Lola.

Loved Brother of Warren, Ian and Stephen.

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend Jeffrey's funeral service to be held on Friday 26th July at 11am at St Johns Catholic Church Mullumbimby, followed by a graveside burial.

Please join the family to celebrate Jeffrey's life at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club afterwards.

In lieu of flowers, donations to the Main Arm Rural Fire Service are immensely appreciated.



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SARI

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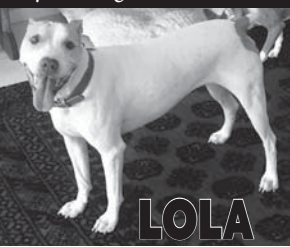


To meet Sari & our other cats & kittens, please visit the **Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.**
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 MC: 953010001248784

DEATH NOTICES



SPEARS, Valerie Mary.

Late of Brunswick Heads.
 Beloved mother of Therese, Craig and Anne (dec) and treasured Nan to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Passed away peacefully, aged 95, on Sunday 21st July 2024.
 God called you home and you are at peace. You will be forever remembered and carried in our hearts.

Brian John Campbell

27/12/1948 - 20/07/2024



Survived by his partner Suzy and brother Donny.
 Beloved Dad to Asha, Reid and Honor.
 Much loved Pop to Bronte, Sophia, Emelia, James, Audrey, Nash, Izzy, Vinny, Penelope and Aarna.
 Treasured family member of Doris Crimson, Leah Wright, Joanne Wright, Sid Crimson, Jill Campbell, Sharmila Campbell, Jay O'Harae and Tim Wilson.
 In lieu of flowers please make a donation to The Smith Family

IN MEMORIAM



YANN SPYROU
 26/8/1997 - 25/7/2011

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24	W	6:33 / 17:11	20:16 / 8:37	1025 1.33 2252 1.86	0437 0.24 1600 0.23
25	TH	6:33 / 17:11	21:22 / 9:11	1115 1.36 2335 1.75	0519 0.24 1652 0.31
26	F	6:32 / 17:12	22:26 / 9:44	1209 1.39	0602 0.27 1749 0.43
27	SA	6:32 / 17:13	23:31 / 10:17	0019 1.59 1017 1.42	0646 0.30 1856 0.55
28	SU	6:31 / 17:13	10:52 / 10:52	0108 1.41 1416 1.45	0733 0.34 2019 0.64
29	M	6:30 / 17:14	11:30 / 11:30	0205 1.24 1529 1.51	0825 0.38 2155 0.66
30	TU	6:30 / 17:14	12:13 / 12:13	1640 1.58	0922 0.40 2323 0.60
31	W	6:29 / 17:15	2:49 / 13:02	0438 1.05 1742 1.66	1024 0.40
1	TH	6:29 / 17:15	3:52 / 13:56	0548 1.06 1835 1.72	0029 0.52 1123 0.38
2	F	6:28 / 17:16	4:49 / 14:56	0645 1.09 1921 1.76	0117 0.44 1216 0.34
3	SA	6:27 / 17:16	5:40 / 15:57	0730 1.13 2003 1.77	0158 0.39 1304 0.31
4	SU	6:26 / 17:17	6:23 / 16:57	0812 1.17 2040 1.77	0233 0.36 1345 0.29
5	M	6:26 / 17:18	7:00 / 17:56	0848 1.21 2114 1.74	0306 0.35 1424 0.29
6	TU	6:25 / 17:18	7:32 / 18:52	0924 1.23 2145 1.70	0337 0.35 1500 0.31
7	W	6:24 / 17:19	8:00 / 19:45	0958 1.25 2215 1.64	0406 0.35 1535 0.35

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Please stick this by your phone

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415	5th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764
1st SUN Byron Bay	02 6685 6807	5th SUN Lennox Head	02 6685 6807
2nd SUN The Channon	02 6688 6433	FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS	
2nd SUN Lennox Head	02 6685 6807	Each TUE New Brighton	0424 168 672
2nd SUN Chillingham	0428 793 141	Each TUE Organic Lismore	
2nd SUN Coolangatta		Each WED Murwillumbah 7-11	0415 328 672
2nd SUN Tabulam		Each WED Nimbin 3-6pm	0418 940 653
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370	Each WED Newrybar Hall 4-7pm	
3rd SAT Murwillumbah	0415 328 672	Each THU Byron 8-11am	0414 595 169
3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina		Each THU Lismore 2.30-6.30pm	0459 309 223
3rd SUN Federal	0433 002 757	Each FRI Mullum 7-11am	0424 168 672
3rd SUN Uki	0487 329 150	Each FRI Evans Head 2.30-6.30	0428 291 068
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338	Each SAT Bangalow 8-11am	0414 595 169
4th SAT Evans Head	0432 275 765	Each SAT Durabah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)	
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglebazaar.com.au	Each SAT Uki 8am-1pm	02 6679 5438
4th SUN Bangalow		Each SAT Lismore 8.30-11am	
4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764	Each SAT Wadeville 8am-12pm	
4th SUN Murwillumbah		Each SAT Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr	
4th SUN Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)		Each SUN Ballina 7-11am	

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

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Dying at home

Last Aid, care for the dying at home will be presented by Amitayus Home Hospice Service
 August 1, September 12 and 21,
 6.30-8.30pm info@amitayus.org.au or register with Byron Community College.

ABC Friends Northern Rivers

On Saturday, 3 August from 12.30pm till 3pm, the ABC Friends Northern Rivers branch will meet for lunch at the Bangalow Bowling Club and then have a meeting starting at 1.30pm. Neville Jennings the founding President of the Northern Rivers branch back in 2001 and Life Member of ABC Friends has kindly agreed to address the meeting by: tracing the challenges facing the ABC over the past 23 years, examining the actions taken by our branch in support of the ABC, looking at ongoing actions that branch members may choose to take in the years ahead. You are welcome to attend and to invite others that may be interested. As we need to advise the Bowling Club of numbers attending RSVP to the Secretary Jennie Hicks by Friday, 26 July 26 via email: hicksanddickson@gmail.com.

Astronomy night

You are invited to come to our Astronomy Night on Saturday, August 10, at the Corndale Hall to fundraise for the hall. This family event starts at 5.30pm with a barbecue dinner and drinks. Cash only, no eftpos, no dogs please. What's to see? The moon is a waxing crescent 28.3 per cent illuminated, the moon will set at 10.23pm and Saturn rises at 7.31pm, viewing after 8.30 pm. Live streaming of galaxies and nebulae. Large telescopes on site up to 16" diameter. For more info call Dave 0407 237 985 or Richard 6688 2052.

Mullumbimby CWA

The next meeting of Mullumbimby CWA is August 14 at 10am at the CWA Rooms. Bring a plate for a light lunch to follow the meeting. New members are always welcome. Date claimer: September 14 is the branch

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

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

Some of our services include:
Flood recovery support service: personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods.
Community support: food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.
Listening Space: free counselling.
More Than A Meal: free community lunch Tuesday-Thursday 12.30-1.30pm.
Financial counselling
Staying Home, Leaving Violence program: Information, referral, and advocacy.
Gulgani affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.
Orange Sky: free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon.
 To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website

Land Cookery contest. For more information, call Jenny on 6684 7282.

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).

Connecting Generations

The Connecting Generations free winter event is on Sunday, July 28 at Bangalow Heritage House 2-4.30pm. The afternoon will be full of live music, dancing, a mini-winter olympics, tug-of-war, body painting, nature-inspired art and craft, and decorating a cubby house. People of all ages are welcome to come and enjoy the afternoon.

Richmond-Tweed family history meeting

The next meeting of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society is on Saturday, August 3, 2-4pm, at Players Theatre 24 Swift Street, Ballina. The AGM will be held followed by a presentation called 'The Ships we came on'. Enquiries ring Victoria (Vicki) Evans on: 0467 573 282 or email: presidenttrfhs1@yahoo.com.

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/.

Brun 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: brunswa@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.

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, at 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.

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.

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.

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Psst: Nominations to be a council/mayoral candidate open on Monday August 5, and close 12pm, Wednesday August 14. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yypv6kvvc>.

One would think that cybersecurity redundancy and resilience would be a key focus of big corporations, but apparently not. An unsuccessful software upgrade by US cybersecurity company CrowdStrike sent the globe into cyber-meltdown last week, which is a reminder that we are only three meals away from chaos.

New LED lights have been installed at Bangalow Sports Fields, say Council staff, which will save around \$35,000 a year on electricity. The \$795,000 upgrade was funded by the NSW government's Essential Community Sports Assets program.

Former NSW Liberal leader Dominic Perrottet quit NSW parliament last week to spend more time with mining giant, BHP. His relocation to Washington, D.C. as BHP's US head of corporate and external affairs makes a strong case for reform around political conflict of interest and dodgy jobs with your mining mates.

Last week, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that Israel's settlement policies in the occupied Palestinian territories are in breach of international law. Aussie Investigative journalist Michael West pointed out on Twitter the story did not seem to have appeared - 'after eight hours' - on the ABC, the Murdoch media or Nine's SMH and Age.



A splash of colour now adorns The Paddock Project's 'Big LOVE' installation. It was recently repainted by the Queer Family crew for NAIDOC week. Pictured from left to right: Kouch Pereiaslov, Lauchlan the Legend, Ellie Berry, Alan Ramsay, Jye Payne and Bella Cogle. Photo Jeff 'Wrapped In Rainbows Since 1986' Dawson

'[Last week], five people were imprisoned under the draconian new Tory laws for between four and five years, for entirely peaceful protest. Longer than many offenders get for major violent crimes' - UK journalist George Monbiot.

The Real Estate Institute of NSW representatives were in Kingscliff on Tuesday to speak about industry reforms - they warned the entrenched housing crisis is set to worsen.

Journalist Ronni Salt asks, 'Did you know the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) operates on approximately \$65m a year, and in its first 12 months, has managed to detect only a dodgy airport worker at Western Sydney? Oh, and it conducted 124 presentations across Australia, and even overseas. Which is... nice to know.'

The US election is now down to just one senile old privileged male, after Biden wisely

quit. The best thing Biden did was to release Julian Assange, yet he will also be remembered for keeping the

US in the war/killing business and enacting draconian drug laws which unfairly targeted black Americans.

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