

Local businesses under threat

Months of roadworks planned for Byron CBD

Hans Lovejoy

A number of small local businesses in Byron's CBD say they face closure after Council's announcement of major road/drainage works that could last more than three months into the busy summer trading period.

Additionally, all the businesses contacted by *The Echo* say while they accept the work needs to be done, there has been no discussion around impact, compensation, or the possibility of temporary relocations. They have been told night works are not an option.

The works are planned for Lawson Street, between Middleton and Fletcher Streets, affecting around 15 businesses.

Boards in the Bay

Locals Tayla and partner Tom operate Boards in the Bay, located on Lawson Street. They told *The*

Echo that on August 20, they were informed by Council staff that extensive roadworks are scheduled to commence outside their shop.

'These works, expected to last for at least three months, are set to begin in just two weeks, with no definitive end date in sight', they said.

'Our small businesses have been at the heart of this community for many years. We provide jobs, support the local economy, and contribute to the distinctive charm of Byron Bay. It would be devastating to see this eroded owing to poorly-timed and insufficiently-communicated construction works'.

BAY Active

A few doors down on Lawson Street, Helen is co-owner of clothing store BAY Active. She told *The Echo* she has been a retailer in Byron Bay for over 20 years, and designs and

► Continued on page 2



For the
LOVE
of local fire
fighters

Mullum Fire and Rescue brigade captain, Josh Rushton, with station 388 crew in The Paddock, celebrated 100 years of service on Saturday. The event was held at the station, with past and present members, and included state and regional fire commissioners. Former captain, Bruce Stewart (of Stewart Motors), was present, as were former deputy captains Dick Ottery, Vince Devine and Harry Jenkins. The motivation for the Mullumbimby Fire and Rescue formation in 1924 was the prevalence of flammable two-storey wooden buildings in the town. Photo Jeff 'Firehose' Dawson

Mayor Lyon's non-publication orders lifted

David Lowe

An interim order prohibiting reporting of the AVO and criminal case in which Byron Shire Mayor Michael Lyon is the defendant, has been lifted.

On Monday at the Tweed Heads Local Court, Magistrate Geoff Dunlevy heard arguments in favour of the suppression from Mr Lyon's lawyer, John Weller, and against from representatives of the Department of Public Prosecutions and multiple media organisations.

Magistrate Dunlevy ultimately decided that the principle of open justice was paramount in

this case, and dropped all special prohibitions.

The criminal part of the case will now proceed to be heard on March 11, 2025 at Tweed Heads, with a mention of the AVO also scheduled for that date.

Although Mr Lyon's wife has stated to the court that she would prefer the AVO and charges be withdrawn, the interim AVO order on Michael Lyon remains in place.

Speaking outside court, an angry Cr Lyon said it wasn't about him, 'This process has cataclysmically failed my wife.'

'It is a disgrace.'

Cr Lyon said he was entirely

innocent of the charges against him, saying that had 'all been driven by the police'.

As for his prospects for re-election with this matter hanging over him, Mr Lyon said, 'I'm not interested in that'.

'I'm interested in the fact that the process has failed and it needs to be reviewed so that women are actually protected.'

Two members from Cr Lyon's election ticket quit after the case was made public and before the suppression order was made by the courts. Cr Mark Swivel joined Labor, while Dr Meredith Wray joined Jack Dods' independent team.



Boards in the Bay employee, Chris, with owners Tom and Tayla and baby Xan. Photo Jeff 'Drained And Resurfaced' Dawson

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Richard Jones looks at what is at stake in the local elections ► p10

Global and local in the age of AI ► p16

Byron Nippers season starting! ► p19

How will you spoil dad this Fathers Day? ► p24

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BYRON SHIRE MEET THE CANDIDATES

MONDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER
6-8pm, BYRON THEATRE



Bay FM's Mia Armitage with Echo editors Aslan Shand and Hans Lovejoy

Hosted by Bay FM and The Echo

Hear from the mayoral candidates, group leaders and maybe more.

Do you represent a local group or cause and have a local government question for the candidates?

If so, email TWO questions to: communitynewsroom@mail.com for a chance to be heard on the night.

Time is strictly limited as this event is to be live broadcast by Bay FM 99.9 FM and audio streamed at bayfm.org.

Entry free/donation. Registration soon via Humanatix.



Local business under threat from roadworks

► Continued from page 1 manufactures ethical and sustainable active-wear and fashion in Australia.

'This will probably make us go broke', she told *The Echo* bluntly, adding that with independently-owned local brands closing, 'more multinational chain stores will appear, forever changing the streetscape'.

'Since we moved to Lawson Street in May, we have been dealing with the impacts of the water main upgrade. When we arrived at Lawson Street, we were advised that the works were due to be completed in "the next few weeks", which turned out to be a few months.

'Overall, having works going on in the general area, reduced the foot traffic and therefore the number of customers coming into the store, resulting in a downturn in trade of 30 per cent – a layer on top of an already challenging retail climate, this means we have not been able to make enough money to pay the rent. If the drainage upgrade starts before Christmas and we are facing another three months of restricted trade, we will be forced to close the business'.

Atlas Homme

Across the road, it is a similar story. Richard runs men's clothing retailer, Atlas Homme, which has been operating in the space for four years.

'I am 95 per cent sure this roadworks will mean I will have to close', he said. It's been the worst retail period I have ever had, and was relying on Spring trade to make up lost revenue. The previous construction was finished just 10 days before Christmas. When the works stopped, sales increased ten-fold'.

'People don't want to walk around a construction site'.

Richard added that paid parking, with the two hour limit, hampers business. 'It has to go', he said. 'It is unreasonable'.

Byron Bay Deli

Next door to Atlas Homme, Byron Bay Deli owner, Litsa, told *The Echo* she doesn't know how she will pay rent while the works are ongoing.

'It is the icing on the cake for me', she said, adding that she would rather get flooded again than be subjected to more construction works.

'We bought just before Covid, and then it flooded. It's been one thing after another'.

Byron Chamber

Byron Chamber president Matt Williamson told *The Echo*, 'Shop owners in Lawson Street, like all of Byron, have suffered through a genuine downturn in business over the last six months'.

'These works need to happen in the dead of winter, or outside of business hours'.

He said, 'Look around town, and you will see a huge number of vacant shops. Business owners have suffered through Covid, loss of festivals, slowing economy, and all at the same time, landlords have been increasing rents. The reality is businesses are closing, and of those businesses, it's typically the local, family-run businesses that are shutting their doors.

'If we want to stop Byron town becoming an "open-air Westfield" then Council, and us as a community, all need to lean in and help.

The simple act of scheduling these works in the dead of winter would be of zero cost to Council, but a genuine help to business'.

Council staff reply

Council staff told *The Echo* in part that, 'Council apologises for any inconvenience this causes, however unfortunately this work is necessary'.

'If we were to push work to February next year, there is a risk that work would not be completed by July, owing to this period being generally the wettest months of the year (February to June).

'Night works incur significant extra cost, and do not represent value for money to funding providers. Also, they are not typically undertaken for these types of projects.

'Night works will, however, be further investigated as an option to shorten the construction duration and minimise impacts to businesses if budget is available'.

While no compensation will be offered for the loss of business trade, staff said, 'Council will be considering opportunities to offer relief to businesses directly impacted by both the Lawson Street works and the broader Byron Bay Town Centre Drainage Project'.

■ Full Council staff reply at www.echo.net.au



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VOTE 1

SARAH NDIAYE

FOR MAYOR

THE GREENS

Experienced councillor Builds consensus Proven leadership skills Community connections

Sarah's vision for Byron Shire:

- Balanced growth and preservation
- Sustainable development
- Environmental protection
- Community-focused decisions

As Mayor, Sarah will:

- Lead with integrity
- Tackle housing affordability
- Enhance climate resilience
- Unite people to address challenges



Authorised by A. Croft for The Greens NSW, 19a/1 Hordern Place, Camperdown, NSW 2050.

Wallum stop-work injunction upheld

Both opposing parties regarding the 126-housing Wallum development in Bayside, Brunswick Heads, are claiming a victory after the latest court decision, handed down on August 23 by Justice Bromwich.

In a statement, Save Wallum Inc, say the Federal Court upheld the stop-work injunction.

Spokesperson Svea Pitman said, 'The main contest before the court at the further hearing of Save Wallum Inc's interlocutory injunction application was the controversial construction of nine artificial frog ponds, which are proposed as part of the early development works'.

'Justice Bromwich accepted that the construction of these ponds may



Save Wallum members with Greens Cr Sarah Ndiaye and Bob Brown. Photo Jeff Dawson

pose a risk to the site's Wallum sedge frog population, and has blocked any construction of the proposed ponds until a final determination of the matter.

'The orders otherwise permit very limited works, including installation of bunting, regeneration of the seed bank along sandy tracks and weed maintenance

– strictly without the use of weedicides'.

The trial is scheduled to begin October 14, Ms Pitman said.

Meanwhile, developer Clarence Property says it is 'looking forward to progressing with its approved housing estate in the Byron Shire after the Federal Court injunction was amended to permit key

works to continue'.

CEO Simon Kennedy repeated his comments around the 'critical need for new housing in the shire that had been identified by Byron Shire Council'.

He said, 'We believe the court's ruling affirms our commitment to responsible development and environmental stewardship and we will continue to respect the legal process as we work towards the final determination of this matter in October'.

'Our focus now is on ensuring safe access for our contractors and progressing with this essential project.'

Ms Pitman added, 'This is another major win for our community and for the race to save this unique wallum ecosystem'.

Wategos DA proposes to remove littoral rainforest

A large development proposal (DA 10.2024.230.1) for two homes by Rae's Residents Pty Ltd at Wategos is on public exhibition, prompting concerns by neighbours over the potential removal of littoral rainforest, and a threatened ecological community.

Plans for 2 Brownell Drive were submitted by consultants on behalf of owner, Antony Catalano.

\$28.7m proposal

The \$28.7m proposal is located on 4,223.52m² of native vegetated area.

One home would have six bedrooms, while the other would have four.

Both are multi-level dwellings. With one dwelling exceeding the nine-metre height limit (a quantitative 12.6 per cent increase), a height variation request is also sought. Variations are also sought for the basement and excavation.

According to the



2 Brownell Drive, Wategos. Image from DA

Biodiversity Development Assessment Report, 'The project footprint will impact approximately 0.34ha of degraded remnant vegetation through the centre of the site, with approximately 0.06ha of higher quality vegetation on the eastern and western boundaries retained'.

'This removal of 0.34ha of vegetation will result in a minor reduction to suitable foraging, sheltering and roosting habitat for a range

of threatened fauna species which may use the site periodically'.

The loss of habitat and connectivity is 'considered minor', say the report authors.

And while '61 trees are to be removed', the site will be extensively landscaped, 'with predominately endemic species that primarily reflect littoral rainforest on the site'.

Seven biodiversity offset ecosystem credits are suggested, as 'serious and Irreversible Impact entities

identified as candidate species will be required to be offset'.

The Coombebara Land Alliance resident group told *The Echo* the site is the last piece of undeveloped littoral rainforest in Wategos.

Storm water catchment

They say, 'historically, after Byron Shire Council created the residential subdivision at Wategos in 1961, the site was mapped as a Council storm water catchment area'.

'Two main waterways run through the site carrying large volumes of water from the top of The Cape Byron Conservation Area down to the ocean.'

'It was later designated Crown Land Reserve, then returned to the Arakwal People following a landmark Native Title lands claim and Indigenous Land Use Agreement, and then private developers took title in 2019'.

Herbicide use 'periodical' say Council staff

A resident contacted *The Echo* concerned about what they says was the use of controversial weedkiller glyphosate along a river bank in Mullumbimby, during recent wet weather.

They said, 'I was walking next to the river bank on Council-owned reserve in Mullum by the showgrounds last week (Aug 19), and there were five men spraying weeds next to the river. When I asked them what they were spraying (in the

rain) they said glyphosate'.

'They mentioned Council contracted them and that they were environmentalists. But glyphosate has very damning evidence worldwide that it is extremely dangerous for human health and the environment, as it's a forever chemical. My poor puppy walks through there with me, and if we didn't see that, he could have got very sick, there were no signs up'.

When asked to confirm whether the spraying

occurred at that time, Council staff replied, 'The ecological restoration of the riparian zone of the Brunswick River has been in progress for over three years.'

'Weed control is now at the point where only minor weed control is required periodically, though some spot spraying is still required to manage the weeds.'

'The operators are qualified and experienced bush regenerators who follow well-established safety protocols.'

'Herbicide application is carried out as per the methodology and conditions agreed in Council's *Integrated Pest Management Strategy*. Council will always try to minimise risk to human health and the environment where possible'.

According to page 30 of that strategy, the Pesticide Use Notification Plan was developed in April 2018 and it states, 'Council will notify the public regarding what type of pesticides will be used and where'.

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Application for Appointment of Board Members

Byrangery Grass (R140088) Reserve Land Manager

Ever wondered who is responsible for keeping Crown reserves operating?

Countless facilities like showgrounds, local halls and parks are run by Statutory Land Manager Boards, made up of people just like you. People who understand the need and have a desire to manage public land and assets for the benefit of the entire community.

Your role as a Board Member is voluntary, but the rewards of giving something back to the community are priceless.

We are looking for a good mix of people with a variety of skills, however, sound business and financial management skills and objective decision-making expertise would be a distinct advantage.

Don't let this opportunity to do something for yourself and your community pass you by – contact us today.

The Byrangery Grass (R140088) Reserve Land Manager manages the Reserve No. 140088 at Goonengerry notified on 13-Apr-1995 for Environmental Protection. The term of appointment will be for a period not exceeding 5 years.

Application for membership can be made via portal.crownland.nsw.gov.au

All applications are required to be lodged by **25 September 2024**.

For further information contact Joe Endean on (02) 6642 9204 or go to reservemanager.crownland.nsw.gov.au

Will the squabbling NSW govt seagulls save Bruns?

Paul Bibby

The Brunswick Heads foreshores are some of the most precious jewels in Byron Shire's crown.

But these glittering stretches are fast becoming a victim of their own allure and the idleness of those charged with protecting them according to locals.

Images shown to this month's Byron Council meeting tell a sad story of neglected rock walls and other foreshore infrastructure that is crumbling under the constant demand from nature-loving locals and visitors.

'The increasing number of people enjoying our foreshores and waterways combined with the lack of maintenance and repairs, and the 2022 floods, has left our foreshores in a precarious state,' Jo Pilgrim from the Brunswick Heads Progress Association said while playing a dismaying slide show.

Erosion points

'All along the foreshores people are clambering up and down rock walls or over creek banks to go swimming and to launch kayaks or



Some of the remediation works urgently needed along the Brunswick Heads foreshore. Photo supplied

to embark and disembark boats.

'This is seriously compromising the rock walls and creek banks and creating dozens of new erosion points all along the foreshores.

'[When combined with] the utter neglect in some places, there are now numerous accidents waiting to happen.'

Shared responsibility

Fixing the damaged infrastructure and protecting the most vulnerable spots with signs and fencing would seem an obvious solution, but with around half a dozen different government authorities sharing responsibility for the foreshore, arranging even the most basic works is like

wrangling seagulls.

Byron Council has now sought to intervene, resolving to undertake a range of measures in a bid to coordinate the flock.

This includes organising a meeting with representatives from the various stakeholders such as Reflections Holiday Parks, Transport for NSW, Crown Lands and National Parks, to 'discuss and prioritise the issues'.

It will also formulate an action plan to address the identified concerns and develop a map setting out exactly who is responsible for which part of the foreshore.

'Over the years we've seen various levels of buck passing when it comes to who's responsible for what

and so the community is understandably frustrated,' said Greens Deputy Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, who passed the recent motion.

'Promises have been made about what will be done and they have not been adhered to for one reason or another.

'I think we as a Council can play a role in coordinating some action here.'

Potential funding

The measures proposed by Council include, 'identifying potential funding opportunities' to address the issues.

This is a telling clause, because the shire's coastal infrastructure has never fully recovered after the 2022 floods owing to the enormity of the repair job and the lack of funds to undertake it.

Without getting some cash from up the food chain, Council will be asking the various government seagulls to sacrifice some of their own chips to the cause.

And without some careful Council manoeuvring, it is possible the seagulls will continue squabbling while Bruns slowly crumbles into the sea.

Meet the candidates in Bangalow September 10

With local Council elections fast approaching *The Bangalow Herald* are hosting a meet the candidates event, which organisers say is a 'unique opportunity to engage with local election candidates and make informed decisions for the upcoming elections'.

BayFM journalist Mia Armitage will moderate the Q&A, with candidates on stage at the Bangalow Bowlo from 6pm till 8pm, Tuesday, September 10.

Organisers say this is a community event, 'so feel free to stay after, share a

drink and have an informal chat with our mayoral candidates and their teams'.

'If you or your local community group have a question you'd like to put to candidates or for more information email bangalowheraldmtc@gmail.com'.

September 2 event

Another meet the candidates night will be hosted by Bay FM 99.9 and *The Echo* on September 2 in the Byron Theatre from 6pm.

Free tickets are available via Humanatix.

Byron Film Fest dates locked in

The Byron Bay International Film Festival (BBFF) returns in October for its 18th year from October 18 to 27, with screenings scheduled at Palace Cinemas Byron Bay, Lennox Head Cultural Centre, Brunswick Picture House and for the first time in nine years, Ballina Fair Cinemas.

Cultural calendar

Organisers say 'as an outstanding feature of the

Northern Rivers cultural calendar, BBFF has for nearly 20 years brought the work of innovative filmmakers from all around the globe to the region and championed a diverse range of films made by local screen creatives.

'Some of the area's most outstanding and consistent filmmaking talents are in this year's line-up'.

Visit www.bbff.com.au for more info.



KEVIN LOUGHREY

INDEPENDENT MAYORAL & A WARD CANDIDATE

Using my knowledge and expertise, I wish to represent your concerns and aspirations for the future of the Shire on matters like:

- the supply of abundant, reliable, inexpensive, pure water (Fluoride-free),
- construction of the Cumbalum interchange (a priority!),
- flood mitigation (<https://kevinloughrey.com.au/FloodMitigation/Strategy.html>),
- affordable housing & rental through increasing supply,
- protecting private property rights,
- abolish current Council's Net Zero policy,
- facilitating businesses in the Shire, and
- repurposing garbage to liquid fuel. (<https://kevinloughrey.com.au/Waste2Energy/Concept.html>).

My CV is as follows:

- Graduate RMC Duntroon;
- Honours degree in Mechanical Engineering;
- Senior Management Course(UK);
- 32 years service in the Army (4 years with the British Army);
- Senior management positions in Mining, Civil Aviation and Technology Development;
- As an inventor and business entrepreneur, created & successfully ran three companies;
- Held a number of international patents for my inventions.

For more information, I invite you to visit my website at: <https://kevinloughrey.com.au>

Please donate here: GiveSendGo
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If you want an honest, strong, technical, business-minded representative on Council then vote for me.

Authorised and printed by Kevin Loughrey, 1 Keith Hall Lane, KEITH HALL, NSW 2478 Mob:0416 276 624 E: kevinl@kevinloughrey.com.au

Thank You Byron Bay

Harvest Estate Wins
Urban Development Institute of Australia Award
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Thank you to the entire Byron Bay community for working together to win this award.

The UDIA award recognises outstanding urban development projects which have a positive impact on shaping cities of the future.

On behalf of everyone at Tower Holdings, we feel deeply privileged to have collaborated closely with our neighbours, community stakeholders, and the Council to develop this unique residential community in Byron Bay.

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This recognition, 25 years in the making, stands as a testament to our vision of creating a lasting legacy for the Byron Bay community that will continue to flourish for generations to come.



We extend a warm welcome and invite you to take a drive through Harvest Estate and see for yourself.

CALL 1800 654 872 OR VISIT HARVESTBYRONBAY.COM.AU

Mayoral candidates differentiate themselves from incumbent

Hans Lovejoy

Given the apparent cosy working relationship and voting patterns between current mayor Michael Lyon, Cr Sarah Ndiaye and Labor's Asren Pugh, *The Echo* asked Cr Pugh and Ndiaye to outline what their points of difference are from the current mayor. Independent mayoral candidate and political outsider, David Warth, also outlines his point of difference and how he would govern if elected.

Cr Asren Pugh

Cr Pugh replied, 'There have been a lot of things that I have disagreed with many councillors over, including Mayor Michael Lyon.'

'The first thing is that both Michael and Cr Sarah Ndiaye were part of delaying the rail trail for over a decade, with the fanciful idea that you could have dual use.

'I came into Council and pushed hard to change that policy. In the end, they both voted for my motion on it, but only after I worked hard to change their position (and it became politically untenable).

'After the floods, I pushed through a lot of flood response stuff for Ocean Shores that Michael was not too keen on.

'I got the Beacon Laundry through, again, in the end they voted for it, but only just and after

some compromise.

'Again, I pushed hard to make the Byron Music Festival happen - which it did. Both Michael and Sarah voted against that.

'I pushed to get the height limits at Wategos reduced to 8m. Michael voted against that. I got the heights of proposed developments on Marvell Street reduced, which Michael was not too keen on.

'I didn't support using the Bangalow Cemetery as an access point to a new wedding venue.

'I, along with Cr Duncan Dey, wanted the minimum rate level frozen to help lower-income earners, but this was not supported by Michael.

'[At the previous Council meeting], we had different opinions on the way forward for nude bathing.

'Voting in Council is only the tip of the iceberg on the work that I have done.

'Quite often it might come to a vote, or it might sail through on the block vote, but that doesn't mean there hasn't been extensive work in getting agreement.

'You don't get much done by yourself in a council of nine, you need to work with other people.

'I am not interested in grandstanding, I'm interested in outcomes, so I don't push motions forward that are bound to lose, just so I can hear myself speak.'

Cr Sarah Ndiaye

Cr Sarah Ndiaye told *The Echo*, 'As a mayoral candidate, my approach to leadership is distinctively collaborative and community-focused.'

'My goal is to move away from ego-driven politics and support a more unified, effective Council.

'In terms of policy differences between my approach and the current mayor there are obviously some distinct examples like my approach to both Wallum and the future of Mullumbimby's water supply. In essence, I think it's more about a culture shift - more transparency, more community engagement and a desire to harness the skills of our elected reps and the incredible people in our community.

'This term, my focus has been on strategic, long-term recovery and support rather than individual projects. I had moved many motions in the previous term in relation to housing like restricting Airbnb, having a lands trust and other initiatives that were still active.

'After the devastating February 2022 floods, which caused over \$300 million in damage in one day, our immediate priority had to be recovery. The situation demanded that we, as a council, shift our focus from routine motions to urgent, community-centred initiatives.

'As an organisation, Council was still struggling from the impacts of Covid and staff shortages.

'I didn't think we should be detracting resources or focus from that overall objective of recovery.

'Others have taken a different approach and that's okay. I respect that. Prior to that, I initiated the Arts and Creative Industries Committee and the Affordable Housing Committee to address long-term needs and enhance community resilience. During this challenging period, I chose to support our staff and community by focusing on recovery efforts.

'I also advocated for practical improvements like heating the Mullumbimby pool, securing the public land in Tallowood, and adapting to the changing circumstances around the rail trail. While important, our personal and community projects had to be secondary to our primary recovery objectives.

'Over the past two years, my approach has been less about the volume of motions and more about the impact of the ones I have supported.

'By prioritising recovery and strategic development, I aimed to ensure that our community's most pressing needs were met effectively.

'Moving forward, my vision is to continue building on this

collaborative foundation, leveraging the strengths of our elected team and focusing on projects that resonate with our community's values and needs. I'm really excited about what is possible.'

David Warth

Mayoral candidate, David Warth, told *The Echo*, 'I strongly feel that the mayor should be the very public face of Byron Shire.'

'As mayor, I would introduce initiatives to reclaim the Byron Shire's iconic appeal while balancing liveability with viability.

'I am a wildlife filmmaker and environmentalist, but I have also been heavily involved in tourism and business promotion. I also spent many years in primary production.

'I am a truly independent candidate with no connection or affiliation to any political party.

'I am able to make decisions that are unaffected by party policies.

'I have a very broad experience of life, having travelled extensively among many cultures, and in all levels of society. I love our wonderful part of the world, and I consider living in our community to be a great privilege. I am committed to open and engaged local government.

'We have many challenges to face as a community. It is time for a fresh approach.'



Pay parking is coming to Brunswick Heads

Pay Parking will begin in Brunswick Heads on Monday 30 September.

Up to two new Shire Resident Parking Permits are on offer FOR FREE, per household (rateable property), for all eligible Byron Shire residents.

Applications open on 16 September. These are shire-wide permits for residents and can be used to park in Council's pay parking areas in Byron Bay, as well as Brunswick Heads from 30 September.

More information

View a map of the pay parking zone and further details at:

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/bruns-pay-parking

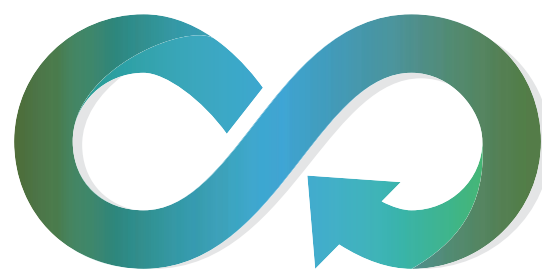


www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Losers supporting locals

The Echo isn't a multinational, or even interstate-based, media group that employs a couple of locals for each publication and does the minimum necessary to send maximum profits out of our area. Why? Because we're not smart enough. We haven't even set up as a NFP to reduce the tax we pay.

The fact that last year we gave more money back to this community than we gained from advertising is due solely to financial mismanagement - basically we employ far too many local people.



Supporting local businesses keeps the local economy circular and strong.

We pay 25 employees every week, more than double that if you include all the contract columnists, IT people, the 20-odd distributors and so on. And annoyingly, even though no-one at *The Echo* gets paid a lot, we can't get them to resign and find a job elsewhere.

So, if you're a local business that would like to make a direct contribution to your local economy, and loves being part of a lively and engaged community with access to accurate news and information, advertise with *The Echo*!



KEEPING THE HYPE OUT OF HYPERLOCAL SINCE 1986

Uniquely Byron Business Awards applications open



Byron Chamber president Matt Williamson.
Photo Hans Lovejoy

The Uniquely Byron Business Awards 2024 are now open for applications!

Local businesses who have contributed in making the Byron Shire a great place to do business will be celebrated at a special event planned later in the year.

The Byron Chamber will host the event, and its president Matt Williamson says the awards range from home-based ventures and ambitious start-ups, to leading manufacturers and logistics companies.

'The awards celebrate the diverse achievements across our vibrant business community.'

The 18 categories include Bright Ideas – Excellence in Innovation; Eco-Warriors – Excellence in Sustainability; Standout Start-up – Excellence in New Business (one to two years); Peace, Love & Mungbeans – Outstanding Community Organisation.

All winners of other categories will be automatically entered into Byron Business of the Year.

Sponsors are also sought – please email info@byronbaychamber.com for more information and a copy of the sponsorship pack.

To enter, visit www.byronbaychamber.com/business-awards-2024.

Petition launched to save Bluesfest

An e-petition to save Bluesfest has been launched, calling for immediate government intervention 'to develop and implement a comprehensive rescue package to ensure the survival of Bluesfest'.

The petition also calls for financial assistance, policy support, and collaboration with stakeholders to secure the festival's future.

It also proposes 'the establishment of long-term, sustainable support mechanisms for major cultural events to protect and promote the arts in NSW'.

Bluesfest director, Peter

Noble, recently announced that next year's event will be the last, and as reported last week the financial and cultural impacts to the region will be significant.

If the e-petition reaches 20,000 signatures, NSW Parliament must address the future of Bluesfest via a debate.

Local member for Ballina, Tamara Smith MP (Greens), started the petition, and said in a statement, 'It is imperative that we take collective action to ensure its survival for future generations to enjoy.'

To sign the petition, visit <https://tinyurl.com/46hvkex7>.



Walker's new art graces M'bah

In 1988, Ian Trafford Walker painted the Shire's biggest mural, the water tank, which depicts the history of Byron Bay. Mr Walker's latest exhibition, 'All Aboard The Big Yellow Bus', will be held at Murwillumbah's M-Arts Gallery during September, with an opening on September 6 from 6pm. Ian contributed many, at times controversial, cartoons to the early *Echos* as well. Photo Jeff 'Controversial? Me?' Dawson

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Echo

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

Jenny Dowell to co-host Q&A for Lismore’s meet the candidates

Former Lismore Mayor Jenny Dowell OAM will be talking to future mayors and councillors on August 31, from 1pm at the Red Dove Cafe Hall in Church Lane, Lismore to tease out what your vote in the upcoming council elections means to the future of Lismore and the surrounding communities.

NSW gov’t ‘desperate’ for foster carers, new parental leave scheme announced

NSW first state to introduce parental leave for foster, kinship, and relative carers.

Iconic flood-damaged Wardell Wharf reopens

The 2022 flood damage to the Wardell Wharf has now been repaired and the wharf, a cherished landmark, has now reopened.

What is the future of insurance for the uninsurable in Lismore and the Northern Rivers?

Insurance isn’t something that you necessarily have front of mind most of the time but when you lose your house in a flood it suddenly takes on a whole new importance.

www.echo.net.au

‘Hoons’ at Evans Head a ‘disaster waiting to happen’

Eve Jeffery

A distressed resident from Evans Head says the behaviour of ‘hoons’ on Airforce Beach is a disaster waiting to happen, and for one couple, the careless driving of 4WD drivers has caused the death of a beloved family pet.

The resident, who asked not to be named for fear of reprisals, sent *The Echo* footage of vehicles driving fast along the beach and of several cars lining up before racing off together.

‘They hooned onto the beach at 11.07am on Saturday – I didn’t get the number plates,’ said the resident. ‘The leading car had Queensland plates and was a P-plater.’

Dog killed

The resident said their neighbour’s dog had been killed the previous Sunday afternoon on the beach after being hit by a speeding 4WD P-plater.

‘The dog’s name was Freddy. He was a black and white border collie who loved to run and chase balls.

‘I waved to his owners as they headed onto the beach with their beloved Fred last Sunday afternoon. Then a short time later one of the owners came running up the beach track towards



RIP Freddy – this beloved family pet was killed by a driver on Airforce Beach at Evans Head. Photo supplied

their home saying that a speeding P-plater with NSW plates came way too close to them on the beach, that he hit Freddy and that he was dead.

‘They were beside themselves with the shock of what they’d seen and the very avoidable but devastating outcome.’

Worse at night, weekends and holidays

The resident says they go to the beach every day and see 4WD drivers speeding every day or two. ‘It’s definitely worse at night time, weekends and holidays.

‘I feel it makes people fearful. The beach is meant to be a place of peace and tranquillity, where people should be able to be safely with family – their children

and dogs and horses.’

The resident says that it goes far beyond humans and their pets. ‘It’s also about our poor wildlife and the landscape.’

The resident says they feel that Richmond Valley Council (RVC) need to step up and be less complacent.

‘There are many other places to go 4WD driving but Airforce Beach shouldn’t be one of them. Many other beaches have managed to close.

Idiots in 4WDs

‘Freddy’s death wouldn’t have happened if idiots in 4WDs weren’t on the beach.

‘As more and more people come to Evans Head, naturally there are more people wanting to enjoy the beach – it’s only a matter of time before it’s a human who gets hit.

‘There are several options that could be considered if RVC choose not to close it. At a minimum installing boom gates and security cameras at the entry and exit points as well as along the beach and up in the dunes – if they fined people, then surely it would cause the culprits to think twice about their poor, and illegal, behaviour.

‘I certainly don’t have all the answers but doing nothing is not the answer.’

Over 100 stolen Tweed memorial plaques found

Over 100 memorial plaques that were stolen from a cemetery at Kirkwood Road, Tweed Heads have been found.

The plaques, with an estimated replacement value of between \$30,000 to \$40,000, were discovered missing from the southern end of the cemetery by a groundsman early in the morning on Tuesday, 20 August.

A groundsman at the Tweed Heads Lawn and

General Cemetery located the 102 plaques piled up and hidden behind barriers on the outer perimeter of the grounds late Wednesday, 21 August.

A check has revealed all plaques are accounted for, however, many of them have been damaged. Police have been alerted and are continuing their investigations into the matter.

‘Our first priority is to identify the names associated

with the stolen plaques so that impacted families can be notified,’ said Manager Inclusive and Creative Communities Shannon Carruth.

Police have taken the plaques into evidence. Once returned, cemetery staff will assess the condition of the plaques and work with impacted families.

Contact Tweed Byron Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 if you have information on the theft.

Hold NSW Drug Summit in Lismore



Steve Smith, Centre Manager of The Winsome; Tahlia Poulston, Uniting NSW.ACT, Recovery Support Services; Reverend Daniel Yang, Lismore Regional Uniting Church; Adam Guise, Councillor for Lismore; Bradley Bower, ACON, Acting Director of Northern Rivers outside the Lismore Regional Uniting Church in the centre of Lismore. Photo supplied

Aslan Shand

At 25.7 per cent, the North Coast had the highest percentage of illicit drug use by people aged 14 years and over in 2019 compared to 16.8 per cent across Australia and locals are calling to have one day of the NSW Drug Summit held in Lismore.

The multiday summit will comprise two days of regional forums in October and two days of forums in Sydney on Wednesday, 4 and Thursday, 5 December. The government have said that the Drug Summit will bring together medical experts, police, people with lived and living experience, drug user organisations, families, and other stakeholders to provide a range of perspectives and build consensus on the way NSW deals with drug use and harms.

‘We are particularly pleased to see a focus on the experiences, needs and voices of regional communities when it comes to this issue,’ Emma Maiden, General Manager External Relations and Advocacy at Uniting NSW.ACT told *The Echo*.

‘Lismore is a region that deserves a seat at the table.

The people of Lismore and the surrounding regions are experiencing significant challenges since the floods of 2022, which have exacerbated existing issues such as mental health, precarious housing, and drug use.

‘This is a dynamic, diverse and strong community in active recovery who deserve to be able to share their stories and ideas for meaningful solutions as part of the 2024 Drug Summit.’

The call was echoed by other local advocates who have highlighted the impacts of the 2022 floods on the region and how the pressures post flood have increased drug use.

‘The Lismore Flood event of 2022 has exacerbated both personal drug use and homelessness,’ explained Tahlia Poulston, Coordinator, Disaster Recovery Support Service, Far North Coast Regions.

A spokesperson for MP Jeremy Buckingham told *The Echo* that he supports the call for the regional Drug Summit to be held in Lismore in October.

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



Balloon Free Byron Shire

Balloons are one of the most lethal types of plastic debris affecting Australian Seabirds and other marine life.

Byron Shire is making the move to ban balloons and other single-use decorations on Council owned and managed sites.

More information

Find out more about the Policy, and sustainable alternatives at:

🌐 www.byron.nsw.gov.au/BalloonFreeByron



BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

Noteworthy DAs on exhibition

Paul Bibby

While local heads were turned toward a string of big news stories in recent weeks, development applications (DAs) with significant implications for three local towns quietly plopped onto the radar.

\$17.3m Mullum housing project

A developer calling itself 'Sked No. 2' has applied to build two dozen town houses on Chinbible Avenue, Mullumbimby.

The \$17.3m project would see 25 detached dwellings built on the 8,740m² lot which is currently home to a single house with a pool.

There would also be significant landscaping, earth works, fencing and other associated works.

The statement of environmental effects for the project acknowledges that the proposed development breaches local planning rules in a number of respects, including the building height plane and boundary setbacks.

However, construction of the houses would not begin for five years, as preliminary works must be undertaken on the site first.

The application is currently on public exhibition on Council's website.

Suffo servo DA

Plans to demolish the Shell service station in Suffolk Park and replace it with a much larger, shinier operation have come back before Byron Council.

Horizon Retail, the owner of the popular servo first had a crack at the \$2.75m project back in April 2023, with Council refusing the project on nine separate grounds.

Now the developer is seeking a review of this decision.



DA 10.2024.228.1 at 30 Chinbible Ave, Mullumbimby, has prompted a campaign by residents, claiming the proposal poses a flood risk to their homes, and that the bulk and scale of the proposal is inappropriate. Image from DA

The proposal would see the old servo replaced with a significantly larger facility, including more pumps, a much larger awning, and a 'Station Grocer' similar to those in Lennox Head and Wollongbar.

While on paper the proposed development appears to be much the same as the last one, consultants for the owner say that their application should be given a green light.

Chief among their arguments is the claim that the proposal in its new form is a lawful development under the terms of the original development application submitted back in 1983.

It is also argued that concerns about poor traffic planning and management, impacts on neighbouring properties, flooding issues, and risks of soil and ground-water contamination have also been addressed.

Public submissions on this project have now closed, but more information can be viewed by searching for the following DA on Council's website: 10.2023.109.2.

New gym in Bruns?

Is the reign of Bruns Fitness as the only local gym north of Mullumbimby

coming to an end?

An application has been submitted for a gym, cafe and shop on the site of the old mechanics at 38 Tweed Street, Brunswick Heads.

The site is already being used as a food and drinks premises and a shop.

It is understood that an area of empty indoor space behind these businesses would house the gym.

Building works approved by a private certifier are already being undertaken, with the new application involving the installation of a heating, ventilation and air conditioning system.

There would also be works to install new street parking on Tweed and Fingal Streets.

The consultant hired by the developer says the project is 'unlikely to result in significant negative amenity impacts'.

It is not clear how they are proposing to manage the additional parking created by the development, given that Tweed and Fingal streets already provide parking for three busy local restaurants.

For more information on this development, search for DA 10.2024.239.1 on Council's website.

Slow down drivers! Koalas at risk

Paul Bibby

The road death of beloved local koala, Moji, last week has brought renewed calls for motorists to take care as the koala breeding season moves into full swing.

Moji lived in the trees in the Byron Bay Golf Club for some months prior to his death last Monday.

He was reportedly hit by a car sometime around 6am while attempting to cross Broken Head Road near Crystalbrook Byron Resort.

Friends of the Koala

volunteers and WIRES say the healthy eight-year-old koala was in the prime of its reproductive life and will be a big loss to the local population.

Following the animal's death, Byron Council issued a call for motorists to take extra care while driving as the koala breeding season means that koala activity on local roads has increased, especially between dusk and dawn.

'Male koalas will be moving from tree to tree trying to find a mate, they might travel quite a distance

if habitat is fragmented,' a Council spokesperson said.

'Females might also be on the move away from males.

'The previous season's joeys are also dispersing from their mothers and are really vulnerable during this time.

'All of this means that koalas are far more at risk from being struck by a vehicle, because their habitat is so close to roads and residential properties.'

To report every koala sighting on a road, call the 24/7 Friends of the Koala Rescue Hotline 6622 1233.

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www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Child-Safe-Policy

Feedback closes on Friday 13 September.



www.byron.nsw.gov.au



The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #12 • August 28, 2024

The cost of living and corporate profits

Elon Musk, or as he is known on the internet, Space Karen, recently used his social media dumpster fire app, X, to 'interview' and give praise to the largely incoherent 45th US president.

The wide-ranging ramble of privilege and delusion wasn't particularly noteworthy, other than both agreeing that the cost-of-living crisis was driven by government spending.

But is it? Depends who you ask. Nobel Prize-winning economists will undoubtedly have different opinions to those grifting billionaires.

Joseph Stiglitz is the former, and the ex-World Bank chief economist, and best-selling author, and was recently in the country.

He says corporate profits are partly responsible for inflation – profits made possible by a concentration of market power.

Stiglitz says effective competition policies can lower prices and combat inflation. That is like holy water to grifting vampire billionaires like Musk.

The Australia Institute think tank, who hosted Stiglitz's visit, say, 'Australia is experiencing a period of rising prices and sticky inflation, in part owing to excessive corporate profits following the Covid lockdowns, in an economy dominated by the big banks, the big supermarkets, the big mining companies and the big consulting firms.'

Competition is a cornerstone of capitalism?

Australia does indeed suffer from a lack of meaningful competition, which is supposed to be a cornerstone of capitalism.

Apart from the four big banks, the two large supermarkets and the highly concentrated energy sector, Australians are faced with a remarkable lack of choice.

Media ownership is a major concern of course, given concentration by corporate interests limits the range of views available to the public.

Who controls our media, a report by GetUp, claims News Corp (controlled by Rupert Murdoch) owns 59 per cent of metropolitan and national print media markets by readership, while Nine Entertainment owns 23 per cent of the readership share.

According to competition regulator ACCC, BHP and Fortescue dominate the materials and mining sector, and four companies own an 88 per cent market share of alcohol retail.

There are four companies who dominate (95 per cent) department store chains, says the ACCC, and four companies own a 78 per cent market share of petrol retailing. Again, four companies dominate health insurance, with a 93 per cent market share, and the ACCC says the top four airlines have a 91 per cent market share in domestic air travel.

The main antitrust legislation in Australia is the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (CCA). It aims to prevent cartel conduct (price fixing, market sharing, output restrictions, bid rigging) and anti-competitive mergers and acquisitions.

Perhaps strengthening these laws will help with spiralling inflation?
Hans Lovejoy, editor

What's at stake at the local election

Do those we elect to represent us always have the best interests of the community at heart? Is our democracy working as it should?

I once asked a member of the NSW Cabinet Office, 'If the Premier wants something, does he get it?'

He replied in all seriousness, 'He does have some influence.'

There used to be a joke in the NSW parliament that, after an election, the government doesn't really change, as public servants in Cabinet Office remain in place. Unelected shadowy figures are the real decision-makers.

Even Ministers aren't free to make decisions in their own portfolios.

Lobbyists hold a powerful sway over all levels of government.

We've seen that with the debate raging over gambling advertising. Greens and independents have been trying to persuade the government to implement the findings of its own review and ban gambling ads.

The report says, 'Gambling advertising is grooming children and young people.'

Australians lose \$25 billion each year on gambling, the largest per capita losses in the world. This addiction is causing untold misery to so many families. Grooming future generations just means this misery will continue.

The Albanese government knows TV stations are addicted to gambling advertising. Free-to-air channels are failing as advertising dries up and fewer people watch them. Taking away gambling revenue may be the death knell for one or more stations.

If the government were to do the right thing by Australian families, they would experience a severe backlash from the media, just prior to an election. Billionaire 'freedom fighters' would also jump on them about personal choice and Australia being a 'nanny state'.

Occasionally, governments are on the right side of public opinion

Environment Minister Tanya Plibersek is happily trumpeting her approval of the largest renewable development project ever, the SunCable Australia-Asia Power Link. It's expected to generate 6GW of renewable energy, enough



'Byron Shire Council surveyed the community, and 91 per cent wanted to retain an independent water supply.'

– Richard Jones

to power 3 million homes. (That's equivalent to six of Peter Dutton's proposed nuclear power stations.)

Yet we know she will also be approving more fossil fuel developments, even though we are in a devastating climate emergency.

Major parties are hooked on corporate funding

As a result of corporate funding, the major parties make decisions that are not always in the public interest. Billionaires are backing far-right Advance Australia's plan to spend millions at the upcoming federal election opposing Greens candidates, including Mandy Nolan.

Why? They know if the Greens and independents hold the balance in both houses, their power over government will greatly diminish.

Individual Labor MPs may protest privately about bad decisions but won't go public with their concerns. They must maintain party solidarity or can get cancelled. When you are elected to represent the Labor Party you are no longer a free agent, even at local government level. You are not independent. You represent Labor policies and priorities, and these can be influenced by corporations.

Independents and Greens however can speak out and are free to vote in the interests of those who elected them.

The failure of the Liberal Party to nominate 140 candidates in next month's local government elections has been called 'bad for democracy', but it may lead to the election of an interesting variety of non-aligned independents.

Local government is about representing the local community

Councils are no place for old-style party politics. Councillors generally try to do the right thing, but it's getting

harder and harder with pressure from the state government for more development as well as the growing power of the executive.

The majority of Byron Shire councillors felt obliged to permit the Wallum destruction to proceed, feeling they were powerless to stop it despite clear community opposition.

Others were brave enough to say no. They were outvoted.

Meanwhile, the federal court injunction to stop work on Wallum remains in place.

Community wishes on the future of Mullumbimby's water supply were similarly disregarded.

There was an extensive public consultation process over the decision.

Should Council opt for a full connection to the regional water supply operated by Rous County Council or maintain the supply from Lavertys Gap Weir, supplementing it with a 200ML off-stream storage dam and a new treatment plant?

Byron Shire Council surveyed the community and 91 per cent wanted to retain an independent water supply.

The Greens tried to delay the decision for further examination of options, but it was bulldozed through in the dying days of this Council, based on the advice of council staff.

There are still unanswered questions about Rous's ability to supply sufficient water in the future. That hasty decision may come back to bite us.

We must think carefully when voting in next month's Council election.

We need to elect councillors who are committed above all to the best interests of our local community and our fragile environment, who are strong enough to resist outside pressure and who will prioritise actions to better prepare us for the impacts of the growing climate emergency.

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



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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor

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

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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NEW EARTH EXPO



Welcome to New Earth, a one day immersive, multicultural event dedicated to healing, connection, sharing, growth celebration and transformation in Murwillumbah on Bundjalung Country. Bringing together a diverse community of healers, leaders, wisdom keepers, practitioners, musicians and visionaries to harmoniously co-create a New Earth.

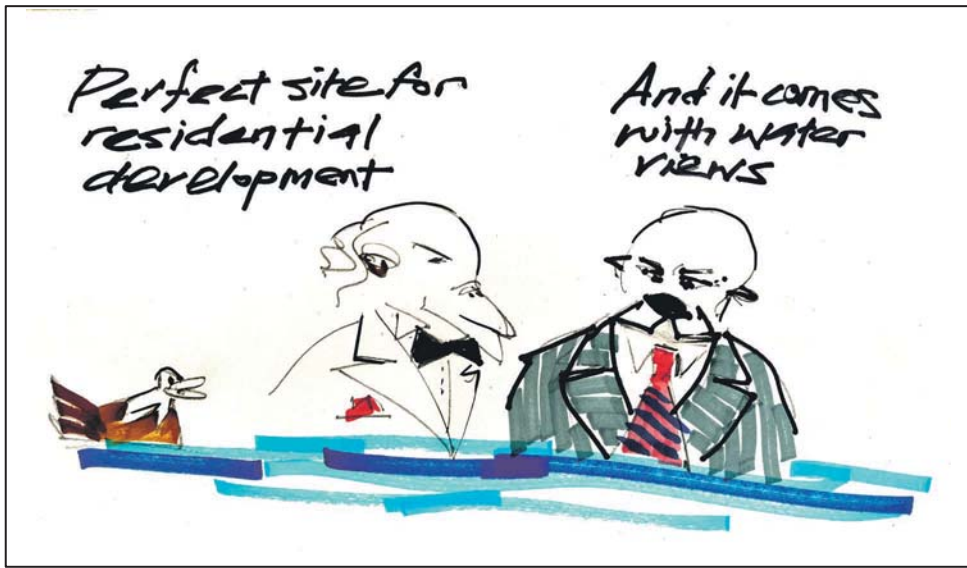


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Cartoon by Sydney Craythorn

Sustainable fill?

Last week the 'Harvest Estate', formerly known as 'West Byron' celebrated winning the UDIA Award for Best Residential Subdivision in NSW. In a full-page ad they told us about their achievements, a subdivision which is an environmental disaster right from conception. If this is the best, how do other subdivisions fare? Maybe it's the best just because it happens to be in Byron?

Thousands of tonnes of fill have been dumped into a wetland paddock to try to make sure it won't flood anymore. How can that be responsible and sustainable? As we all know water flows where there is least resistance. When the next so-called '100-year flood' hits us which apparently happens every seven to ten years, we'll find out where the flood water goes from now on. The Industrial estate, Sunrise and also Habitat will have to deal with it, as well as the paddocks left and right of Ewingsdale Road towards the M1 interchange.

Gisela Stieglitz
Wooyung

Koala strike

Early Monday, August 19 at 6am, the east coast koala population lost another koala to a vehicle strike along Broken Head Road... this area is a 50km/h zone!

The koala was in the middle of the road. Less than 100m from signage that has been in place for the past month alerting drivers that koalas are very active in the area crossing the road to access trees.

A local rescuer that has been keeping a watch on him is devastated... and rightly so, we all should be. If you are within the speed limit, a motorist would have had time to stop.

If you do hit a koala, please stop and check, he or she might still be alive. Why is our deadline more important than an endangered koala's life? He was eight years old He was very healthy. His name was Moji. R.I.P. Moji. One day, there may be none left... and nothing we can do will bring them back then!

D Viola
Koala rescuer/carer

Council conflicts

The Kyogle Council Conflict of Interest Policy states that a conflict of interest arises where 'a family member, relative, friend, associate or anybody close to you has a personal interest that could lead you to be influenced in any way that you carry out your council work or duties, or could lead a fair person to think that you could be influenced.'

Two of the candidates for council positions in the forthcoming election for Kyogle Ward C are husband and wife who use different surnames and have not disclosed their relationship on the Electoral Commission.

Should both be successful in the election then a 'fair person' could think that two persons living in the same household could influence each other.

Furthermore, one of the two would have to leave the room when many issues are being discussed at Kyogle Council meetings thus depriving Ward C electors of full representation.

Brian Creedy
Collins Creek

Pay trip to paradise

Watching the parking meters start to litter Bruns is soul destroying. For six years we have been 'having our say' and it was 'No'!

Over 6,000 signatures, 91 per cent of businesses and 60 per cent of phone surveys said 'No'. And yet, here we are.

With the shire losing \$200 million in revenue due to the cancellation of major events it would seem wrong to dissuade any more visitors from dropping in.

Michael Lyon even said on the radio that he 'felt sorry for Byron as no one goes there anymore' - so the other towns can share the pain?

It was a shame that this was passed in the Council meeting just before Christmas, giving no opportunity for stakeholders to consider the latest 'consultant report' and make any suggestions and raise any issues. When asked if we could defer to the next meeting it was a 'No'.

Fair? I feel sorry for businesses and sorry for local residents who will have cars parked everywhere except in the paid parking spots as we know everyone avoids them like the plague.

Sad day for Bruns.

Cherie Heale
Brunswick Heads

Supporting local

As a regular visitor to Byron Shire I read with interest the article (Echo, August 14) regarding the Byron Shire Council (BSC) wanting to help the Byron Shire local businesses as they are 'battling hard to stay in the black' with a focus on 'unique Byron culture.'

Lovely idea... but. I wonder if BSC have actually

► Continued on next page

Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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.

WED 28 AUG	JON J BRADLEY DUO
THU 29 AUG	LILLI FAIRFAX
FRI 30 AUG	THE HOOCHERS
SAT 31 AUG	GOODRICH
SUN 1 SEP	JON J BRADLEY DUO
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► **Continued from page 11** discussed this with traders and chambers of commerce in their Shire?

It wasn't long ago I recall the chamber in Brunswick Heads trying everything possible – lobbying, fronting council, peaceful protesting against paid parking, to what end? Paid parking is being introduced in September!

So what is that going to tell the visitors who would like to drop into Bruns, have a coffee and a browse through the shops – \$5 an hour to park – nup.

I personally don't go into Byron Bay anymore for that exact reason, I wonder how many others think like that?

So I hear people saying: 'But it works okay in Byron Bay'. Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads are completely different and Byron Bay traders are hurting so, is it actually working?

Throw into the equation capped holiday letting (at 60 days) and three major festivals no longer happening. Apparently BSC want to attract 'more of the right kind of people' to the area. And there's more... 'By doing so visitors that "align" with the community's principles will be attracted to the region.'

I think the BSC need to 'align' with the community

and maybe ask a few visitors what they think. I'd be starting with one hour of free parking before the \$5 an hour kicks in and get your heads out of the sand BSC.

Stuart Riley
Melbourne

Who's at fault?

I've seen a couple of petitions recently; one calling on the government to stop expanding coal mines and the other wanting to hold corporations accountable for the waste they create.

While I understand that there are massive problems with both government and corporations, I also feel that we, the people, need to acknowledge the part we play and take some responsibility.

Where is the people power? How many people are connected to fossil fuel power, but are protesting new coal mines? Home lights are left on all night and heaters are running hot while the occupants are wearing t-shirts. There are people buying a lot of stuff, all which needs electricity and raw materials to make.

How many people keep using a single use coffee cup, five times a week, because they can't be arsed buying a keepcup? We, the people,

need to stop buying so much plastic.

Some people can't even be bothered recycling properly. 'It's so confusing, Council keeps changing the rules'. Well, find out what the updated recycling procedure is for our area.

Who overfills their wheelie bins, which can cause the wind and birds to take things out, blowing it everywhere, including into our drains, which ends up in the ocean?

If people stopped whining about governments and corporations and used their energy to make a difference, then that would make a difference.

Some people don't realise how much they need the planet to survive.

Some people poke fun at the hippies, for wanting to save the planet, but what the hippies are actually saying is, save yourselves.

Melinda Tumino
Myocum

Please: Trump it up

Trump currently has 45.6 per cent of votes in the polls compared with Kamala at 48 per cent, that's 74 million US people voting for Trump, close to half the voting population.

Why does *The Echo* continue to run watered-down

Trump hate speech? Biased journalism is the reason millions of people have turned to social media, with no real incentive to change.

G Giacomini
Ocean Shores

Uncontrolled private certifiers

Council's Director of Sustainable Economy and Environment, Shannon Burt's comments on page five of last week's *Echo* seem a bit hollow to me.

Shannon Burt states unauthorised development is on the increase and mentions that it is illegal to proceed with a build, to renovate, or change the use of a building on your property.

This sounds great but Shannon Burt does not practice what she is now recommending. Director Burt, I have a friend in Ocean Shores who has been asking to meet with you for over two years about a development beside her and her concerns as to what the private certifier was allowing to be done.

To date Director Burt you have made no attempt to meet or contact her.

Council staff representing Byron Shire Council's (BSC) compliance department tried to claim Council could

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► not interfere with a private certifier during a build, this is simply untrue, Council is the regulating authority and can issue a stop work order at any time if the build is not complying with the DA submitted or with BSC's building requirements.

Maybe Director Burt needs to leave her office and talk to ratepayers and members of the community seeking help from the compliance department.

Alan Dickens
Byron Bay

Tyagarah COB

Our society's inclination towards 'hyper-sexualisation' is one of the real threats to women's safety and our evolution as a species!

The fact that the only time most people are seeing a naked body is either during sex or when watching porn, it is no wonder why many view nudity through such a perverse lens!

It's not a 'nude beach' or 'nudist' problem, it's a 'society' problem.

The naturists got it right.

The more we can normalise non-sexual nudity, the better for women and society in general. And one of the very few places one can experience non-sexual nudity is at a nude beach.

So taking this away from the community is only progressive in the way of exacerbating the current climate of hyper-sexualisation.

I pray that we may evolve to a point where nudity is tolerated outside of sex and porn. I pray that our children may know what it is to see bodies of ALL different shapes, sizes and colours... rather than the current normalcy of the sexed-up, social media bubble of filters, glorified cosmetic surgery, unhealthy diet culture and body dysmorphia. Because this is the trajectory we are on.

Let's create a more progressive and empowering future for our children.

We can do better.

Jessa Marie
Tweed Shire

Take action on weeds

Weeds are indeed important, as suggested by Graham Leech (Letters, August 21), and giant devil's fig (*solanum chrysostrichum*) is certainly making its presence felt in this area.

Its seeds are spread by birds and flying foxes, as well as by water and vehicles, so any plants that get to seed are helping to spread this weed. For those who don't know it, visualise a tobacco

bush on steroids, with darker green leaves and lots of sharp spines on the stems and leaf stalks.

It is categorised as a 'priority weed' by Rous Weeds, and landowners have a legal duty under the NSW Biosecurity Act 2015 to prevent its spread.

Byron Shire Council do control this weed in their parks and gardens, but when it comes to roadsides they pass the responsibility on to Rous Weeds, who say 'we don't have the resources' to do this effectively.

Rous Weeds is part of Rous County Council, with representatives from Byron, Ballina, Lismore and Richmond River councils. With elections a few weeks away, now might be a good time to ask candidates whether they would support better funding for Rous Weeds to do their job properly, as well as committing their councils to take more responsibility for their own land.

Matthew Lambourne
Mullumbimby

'Unique Byron'

I was bemused by Paul Bibby's article (August 14) quoting Byron Shire Council's draft business, visitor and industry strategy,

► Continued on page 14

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- **Become a Foster Carer:** Provide temporary care for dogs.
- **Donate Goods:** Support our cause with your donations.
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Volunteering involves just 3 hours a week. Shop hours: Mon - Friday: 10am - 4pm / Sat: 9am - 1pm Morning and afternoon shifts available.

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Please contact us at:

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Join us in making dreams come true for the dogs of Byron Shire

WE NEED YOU!



ABOUT BYRON DOG RESCUE

We are an active rescue division of the Not-for-Profit Group Companion Animals Welfare Inc. (CAWI). Founded in 2005 by Margaret Brown, CAWI was established with the dream of saving animals in Byron Shire. Our main support comes from the CAWI Op Shop in Brunswick Heads, small fundraising events, and donation boxes.

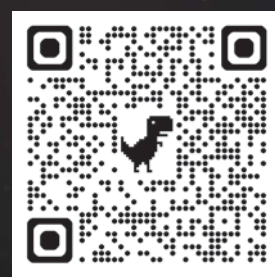
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The Road to War – AUKUS, \$350b, and weapons-grade uranium

Professor Jenny Hocking

Acclaimed documentary filmmaker and Mullumbimby's own, David Bradbury, is showing his latest film *The Road to War*, an excoriating examination of the AUKUS defence agreement, at the Uniting Church at 6pm on Friday, August 30.

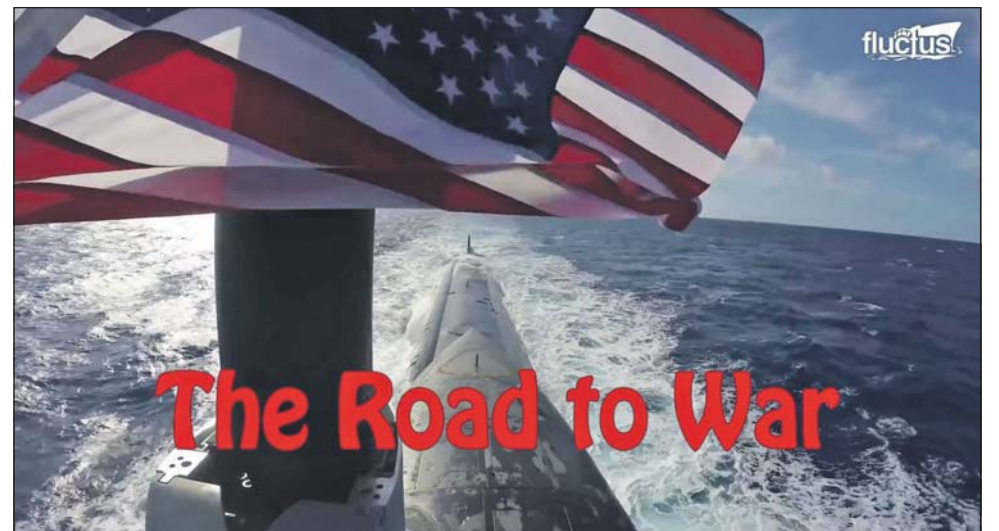
The Road to War is a powerful exploration of the expansive implications of the AUKUS agreement, which locks Australia into a three-way pact with the US and United Kingdom for the purchase and engagement of nuclear-powered submarines using weapons-grade uranium, compromising our sovereignty and our safety, and costing Australia over \$350 billion for decades into the future.

Nuclear war?

David Bradbury, who will speak at the screening, says: 'I was driven to make this film because of the urgency of the situation. I fear we will be sucked into a nuclear war with China and/or Russia from which we will never recover, were some of us to survive the first salvo of nuclear warheads.'

This commitment to exposing the futility of war, and the actions of the nefarious weapons companies profiting from its misery, is the through-line in many of Bradbury's films. From the award-winning Oscar-nominated *Frontline* on Australian war cameraman Neil Davis, *Chile Hasta Cuando* which garnered Bradbury his second Oscar nomination, and *Nicaragua No Pasaran*, among many others.

Lockheed Martin, the world's largest weapons manufacturer for instance, reported a near 50 per cent increase in profits last year – to \$240 billion – as the wars in Ukraine, Yemen, Gaza, and



The Road to War will be showing at the Uniting Church in Mullumbimby at 6pm, Friday August 30. Image David Bradbury

elsewhere fed their coffers.

Yet the greatest challenge facing the world, as Bradbury describes, is 'the existential danger of climate change; 'We owe it to our children and future generations of Australians who already face the gravest existential danger of their young lives from climate change to direct all our energies to dealing with that, not more wars. That is the real enemy which has already "invaded" our country and is wreaking havoc already, not China', he says.

Australia-US ties

Concerns for the loss of sovereignty over the management and activation of these weapons under the strictures of AUKUS are well known, and *The Road to War* explores much beyond this. The web of strategic machinery that now ties Australia into the US military construction, planning and activation is, as *The Road to War* makes all too clear, based on the unchallenged narrative of China's 'aggressive military build-up' in the Asia-Pacific – where the US currently has hundreds of overseas military bases while China has a total of four bases across the world.

Through AUKUS we have committed to a vast infrastructure of war and

contributed to the escalation of the threat of nuclear war, for decades to come at immense expense. It damages our long-standing commitment to the *Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty* which successive Australian governments have supported, and which claim to continue to support, allowing nuclear-capable B52 bombers to be stationed at Tindal airbase in the Northern Territory.

Voice of reason

John Lander, Deputy Ambassador to China during the Whitlam government, is a voice of diplomatic reason in the face of these belligerent foreign policy imperatives driving AUKUS and its secrecy – the full extent of its civil, military, and political implications may never be known to us.

Professor Hugh White, veteran investigative journalist Brian Toohey, Kellie Tranter and tireless peace activist Dr Sue Wareham make a formidable team of interviewees, interspersed with contemporaneous news reporting and archival footage. Together they bring the concerns for the impact of AUKUS, ranging from fossil fuel reliance, nuclear proliferation, and national

insecurity, particularly from the inevitable targeting of the US military base of Pine Gap near Alice Springs that would ensue in any hot war.

The Road to War takes us behind the glib rhetoric of the fearful Chinese menace, itself a throwback to the 1950s Cold War 'yellow peril' imagery, and questions the logic of locking Australia into a weapons system and military orientation driven by American concerns against our major trading partner in our region. As Gough Whitlam said, Australia should seek 'security with Asia, not security from Asia'.

Hiroshima

This month was the 79th anniversary of the horrific US atomic bombings of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on 6 and 9 August 1945, which obliterated both cities, killing an estimated quarter of a million people, almost all of them civilians, and wounding 95,000 more. This dark anniversary is a sobering reminder of the inescapable horrors of war that *The Road to War* so expertly addresses – the road to war, the inescapable logic of war, begins with procuring the weapons to wage it and we are, with AUKUS, already on that road.

► **Continued from page 13** which seemed to reiterate this idea of a 'unique Byron culture' and then attempt to reconcile it with the drive to capitalise on this and encourage the cash flow from the 'right kind of visitor' to the area. That is the visitor who somehow appreciates the place's supposed natural assets, but who is prepared, or can afford, to pay the prices asked for the experiences. At least, I think that is what is implied.

I am a pedestrian and for over 30 odd years I have

walked around Byron Bay. I am continually shocked by the way developments get slotted in all over town. Once-familiar streets change character radically.

It seems as dubious as a Logie award to see Byron Bay apparently now named the 'second most beautiful town in Australia'. Of course, there are times when from certain vantage points, especially in the cooler months, it does look beautiful. However, the more of these cereal box style edifices which go up, the less attractive the town

itself becomes. It seems to be morphing into a shopping precinct of expensive boutique stores, apartments, restaurants and bars.

I share the concern expressed about the developments proposed round Jonson and Kingsley Streets. The noise pollution that Jane Heynes anticipates in her letter (August 14), I believe, is well founded for local residents.

And previous experience of such, in the early hours from that area would seem to imply more of that if these

proposed venues have a 3am licence. And will the compliance officer[s] spare local residents this?

Sorry, but I do not believe Byron Bay has a 'unique culture' any longer; it is, I maintain, the 'Byron myth'. A myth that is reactivated as a marketing ploy when it suits. Any real attempt to keep some of the old appeal is conveniently sacrificed to Mammon.

David Morris
Byron Bay

► **More letters pages 16 & 17**

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LET'S BREAK IT DOWN

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



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Global and local in the age of AI – now is the time to discuss the future

Jason Lasky

As rapid technological advancement and globalisation progress, it's crucial to consider how we might balance these with social values and local resilience.

While innovative technology and global supply chains have brought many benefits, they've also contributed to environmental degradation, political imbalances, and erosion of local cultures. How can we create a counterbalancing culture that values both global connectivity and local strength?

Round table discussion

Relocalise Northern Rivers are bringing the community together for a round table discussion to discuss what globalisation and local strength could look like in the future from 2.30pm to 5pm, Saturday, August 31 at the Byron Community Centre.

Futurist Ray Kurzweil predicted that by the 2030s, universal basic income could become a reality in developed nations. However, this raises important questions:

How will people find purpose and meaning in a world where traditional employment may be automated?

How can we ensure that basic income doesn't exacerbate existing social problems?

What metrics can we use to measure value beyond traditional economic indicators?

New metrics for measuring success

As we reimagine our society, we need new ways to measure progress and success. Some potential metrics could include:

Wellbeing Index: measuring physical and mental health, life satisfaction, and social connections.

Environmental Sustainability Score: tracking carbon footprint, biodiversity, and resource conservation.

Community Engagement Levels: assessing participation in local decision-making, volunteering, and civic activities.

Skills Diversity: measuring the variety of skills and knowledge within a community.

Local Economic Resilience: tracking the



Join the round table discussion by Relocalise Northern Rivers on Saturday, August 31, 2.30pm to 5pm at the Byron Community Centre.

percentage of goods and services sourced locally.

Time Affluence: measuring the amount of discretionary time people have for personal pursuits and relationships.

Innovation Accessibility: assessing how easily community members can access and benefit from new technologies.

Intergenerational Equity: evaluating how well current practices preserve

opportunities for future generations.

These metrics could provide a more holistic view of societal progress, balancing economic considerations with social and environmental factors.

The challenge lies in creating a parallel movement to the current globalising agenda – one that fosters resilient, interconnected local communities while leveraging the benefits of

global technology and expertise. This movement isn't about winning against other agendas, but about shifting towards a more inclusive and collaborative society.

Encouragingly, we're already seeing various parts of this movement take shape:

- Cooperative and mutual organisations
- Open-source initiatives
- Public interest and benefit corporations
- Common resources and infrastructure projects
- Solidarity networks
- Localised maker hubs.

While these concepts aren't new, they're now able to communicate, coordinate, and network more effectively with the help of enabling technologies. This interconnected web of local activities forms an informal whole, working towards a more balanced and resilient future.

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei suggests that as AI becomes more powerful, we'll need to rethink how we organise our economy and society. He emphasises the importance of everyone being able to contribute, rather than relying solely on redistribution from the wealthy.

Questions to consider

How can we balance the efficiency of global systems with the resilience and accountability of local ones?

What role should governments play in the development and deployment of powerful AI technologies?

How can we ensure that technological progress doesn't lead to extreme concentration of power?

What might a future economy look like where humans and AI work complementarily?

How can we leverage technology to strengthen local initiatives while maintaining global connections?

Which of the new success metrics resonate most with your vision of a balanced future?

Get involved

Come and join the discussion, tickets are \$10, pick one up for you and a friend at Relocalise Northern Rivers: <https://relocalise.org>.



Dear councillors,

I've just returned from an over-the-seas jaunt to visit our cousins in New Zealand. It was autumn and while there I was treated to a road trip over a large part of the South Island. Coming from Byron, across the ditch, I was well greeted and shown around with some obvious pride.

What I was exposed to was how the relevant councils took such pride in using trees to colour and enhance their town

by planting profusely selected species for shade protection, softening the hard-edged lines of building, beautification through colour and form, adding to a pedestrian's journey and the likelihood of nesting birds amongst the feeding species who dwell there.

You must, by now, be getting where I'm leading you and of course it's the forgotten avenue on the outskirts of Byron that we fought so hard to get, with over 20 years of debate,

meetings after meetings, and all the environmental hoo-ha that brought a rather small precious frog into the limelight, huge amounts of money and disturbance to our routines. But that avenue has proven to be of some significant relief to our congestion on the roads. Yes it's the bypass! What an unfinished disgraceful outcome. Driving along that 500-metre stretch is as boring as 'turkey shit on my car'.

What a lost opportunity after so much pain and

rhetoric about its need and advantages to our traffic problem. Yes, we have the answer, they said, and it goes like this, 'It's going through that wetland and the frogs will just have to "cop it sweet" and move over, here it comes!'

Well it came alright, but in my opinion it's not yet finished. There is an avenue just waiting to be beautified and softened with beautiful flowering mature native wetland trees of many different colours. So driving along there becomes a treat

for the eyes and a haven for the birds.

What I'm saying is, plant two lines of mature trees creating a treed avenue from the bus interchange to the reemergence of Jonson Street.

My feeling is that they need to be mature as I'm fearful of vandalism. The time is right during winter to do it ASAP.

I'm sure it can be done. It's only the will, the vision, the money and the labour, the outcome will be spectacular.

Sarah, and you Duncan-whom I know well, will surely understand.

Asren and Sama I'm yet to meet personally, but your contributions to our Byron Council have been well received.

Please consider this notion I've had and place it before your next Council meeting as a matter of urgency due to weather and the annual timing. Don't let another year go by.

Savaad Churcher-Wells
Byron Bay

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Terrorists

We've all seen the images. Can anyone explain why the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) are not on Australia's list of proscribed terrorist organisations?

Martin Bail
Federal

Buy back the roads

Motor tollways are one of the ugly faces of 'free' market capitalism.

It is projected they will cost Australian toll-road users \$123 billion by 2060!

Charging excise on fuel is fair enough, but loading a toll fee on road use is crazy. It can add \$60 a day in tolls to commute to the CBD from outer Sydney - on top of a \$200 weekly fuel bill. That's \$500 a week just to get to and from work!

Now criminal scammers have moved into this space and are sending out bogus toll fines, complete with trademarks to look like the real thing. And they are raking in millions too!

It's time we the people bought back our tollways. It will take a government initiative to make it happen. 'BUY BACK THE ROADS' could be a winning catch-cry for a

progressive political party.

The buy-back could be a ten-year project, starting with buying back just a few toll roads each year. The whole thing could be funded by fuel excises.

It is time we start buying back many of our other great public assets which are now in private hands.

Mike Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek

AI invasion

While writing a two-paragraph climate warning last week I was suddenly invaded by an AI that took complete control of my conscious mind and wrote seven paragraphs about a concrete present reality beyond my comprehension. I apologise.

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Greens and CFMEU

One would have thought that given the high degree of importance with the Albanese Labor government's legislation on stamping out corrupt behaviour in the construction arm of the CFMEU and the likely effect it will have on also freeing up construction in the housing sector, something

The Greens continually grandstand about, they should have been rushing to support its passage through the Senate.

But no they did not, instead all we got is more grandstanding and stalling, how predictable of them, do they have any shame? What possible logical reason could The Greens have for opposing legislation designed to create safer and fairer work places and the removal of criminal elements and corrupt practices within the construction industry?

Do The Greens smell a political opportunity here to capture some unhappy CFMEU members' votes and financial support at the next election? All the other cross benches in the Senate supported this vital legislation, and even in the end the Coalition was dragged kicking and screaming to pass the bill, all except The Greens.

In Bob Brown's day The Greens were a relevant political party dedicated to the environment, today all they are dedicated to is opportunistic politics they can't deliver on.

Keith Duncan
Ballina, NSW Labor

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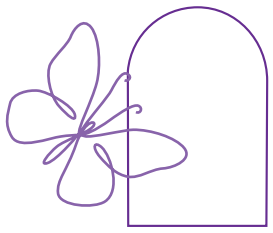


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ProSolar has spent the last five years proudly powering the Northern Rivers with sustainable energy solutions. One of their most iconic installations took place in 2022 with Peace Love & Vegetables, a Byron Bay business dedicated to nourishing both our bodies and the planet. The team at ProSolar recommended a 39.13kW solar system, which was installed in June 2022. This system now powers their operations, aligning perfectly with their mission of sustainability.

ProSolar is passionate about supporting local businesses and communities.

From solar installations to community involvement, ProSolar is committed to making a positive impact.



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Chris King Constructions

Chris King Constructions specialises in architectural timber builds and extensions, and have been building beautiful homes and businesses in the region for over 20 years. Their team, meticulously chosen for their expertise and integrity, embodies a commitment to quality and ethical practices. At Chris King Constructions, they prioritise sustainability and community, sourcing materials and trades locally wherever possible. The CKC team takes pride in fostering reliable and meaningful relationships that enhance both their projects and environment, with a commitment to transparency and care, and they collaborate



closely with their clients to find clever and creative construction solutions. Join them in celebrating the art of timber construction, where every build is a testament to their dedication to ethical practices, exceptional craftsmanship, and collaborative spirit.

chriskingconstructions.com.au
info@chriskingconstructions.com.au

Beds R Us, Byron Bay

Discover the transformative power of the right pillow. Your pillow isn't just a place to rest your head; it's a crucial element in ensuring quality sleep and overall well-being. The right pillow provides optimal support, aligning your spine and reducing pressure points, which helps prevent neck and back pain. It enhances comfort, allowing you to fall asleep faster and stay asleep longer. Investing in a high-quality pillow tailored to your sleep position and preferences can improve your sleep quality, boost your mood, and increase your daytime productivity.



Drop into our Beds R Us showroom at 16 Brigantine St, Byron Arts and Industry Estate for a free consultation with our sleep experts!

02 6685 5212
16 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay

Eden at Byron

Get your garden ready for spring planting. If you haven't yet tried Eden at Byron's locally produced organic Living Farm Compost, then now is the time.

It's a game-changer! It enriches the soil, gently feeding and nourishing plants while encouraging earthworm activity and increasing moisture retention. Healthy soil means happy, healthy plants, and that means fewer pests and diseases for you to worry about.

Use it in new or existing garden beds. You can plant directly into it, so it's great for no-dig gardens too.

Top up the mulch on garden beds to help conserve moisture and suppress weeds. BFA-certified organic sugar cane mulch is ideal for herb and vegetable gardens.



140 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay
02 6685 6874

Motu Byron Bay

Introducing Motu Byron Bay, a furniture brand where art meets the sea, redefining coastal elegance through exceptional craftsmanship.

Embracing the essence of coastal living, Motu Byron Bay specialises in creating exquisite furniture using natural materials like teak, rattan and bamboo. Each piece is meticulously crafted by talented artisans, capturing the spirit of a beachside lifestyle with thoughtful design and detail.

Their creations seamlessly blend nature's beauty with the comfort of home, offering a timeless charm and relaxed sophistication. Motu's dedication to quality craftsmanship makes their furniture the perfect choice for those who wish to infuse their living spaces



with the tranquil elegance of the coast. With Motu Byron Bay, the serenity and allure of the ocean become part of your everyday life.

www.motubyronbayfurniture.com
hello@motubyronbayfurniture.com
Phone 0477 869 127
2/3 Acacia Street, Byron Bay

Bodhi Living

Bodhi Living showcases a carefully curated collection of furniture, homewares, rugs and lighting, sourced both locally and globally. They have recently introduced a range of collections designed in-house, including sofas, dining tables and seating using natural and sustainable materials such as rattan and wood.

The brand encapsulates the freedom of spirit and the soul of the individual as represented through their home.

They have a warehouse sale starting tomorrow Thursday, 29 August until Saturday, 31 August from 9am to 3pm. Don't miss out!



18 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay
0413 420 120 • @bodhi.living
www.bodhiliving.com.au

Sunbeam Solar Systems

Sunbeam Solar Systems has been operating in the Northern rivers since 1998. That's 26 years of continuous service and unrivalled customer support. Sunbeam's heritage dates back to 1985, making them one of the oldest solar companies in Australia, and Sunbeam Solar was one of the founding members of the Clean Energy Council.

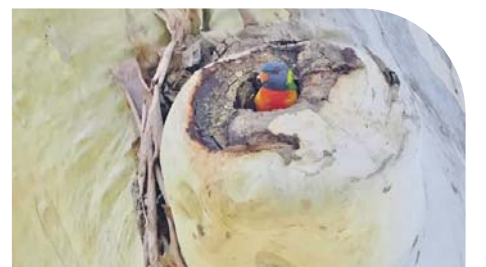
They have installed thousands of systems throughout Northern NSW, from Byron Bay out to Tenterfield, on some of the most iconic buildings in the region. Sunbeam are one of the only solar companies that is fully accredited and licensed to install domestic and commercial-scale grid solar, hybrid home battery systems and off-grid solar. They promote Australian-made products with quality installations and industry leading warranties.



www.sunbeamsolar.com.au • 3 Doon Doon Rd, Kunghur
02 6679 7228 • 0428 320 262

Trunk Monk Arborist

An arborist is responsible for maintaining an appropriate symbiotic relationship between people and trees in urban and rural environments. This relationship concerns the health and well-being of the tree, its impact on structures and people, and the tree's ability to provide habitat for fauna. It's the goal of every arborist worth their salt to help educate their client about the value of their trees and where possible, to retain them. Removal is sometimes the only viable option, however a skilled arborist will be able to find ways to preserve trees which pose concern to ensure the continuation of bio-diversity and habitat.



Trunk Monk Arborist is a small team of local qualified arborists, whose mission is the management and preservation of the region's flora and fauna.

Trunkmonkarborist.com
0400 337 758

Sundays are fun days for Byron nippers

Lyndell Crawford

Registration is now open to join the Byron Bay Surf Life Saving Club for the 2024/25 season.

This year's Junior Activities program, affectionately referred to as nippers, caters for children aged six to 14 years.

The nippers season runs from October to March, and includes a mix of Sunday mornings at the surf club, 9-11am and local carnivals for nippers who are keen to participate in the competitive side of beach and surf sports.

Nippers take a brief break over Christmas and New Year.

Nippers participate in a range of fun and engaging activities aimed at developing surf skills and boosting confidence in the surf.

Beach safety

The program offers nippers an opportunity to make new friends, to be active and gain valuable knowledge



U9 nippers. Photo supplied

around how to be safe on the beach and confident in the water.

The age groups are supported by an age manager with plenty of opportunities for parents and carers to get involved during the nippers mornings.

'Nippers is fun and enjoyable', says nine-year-old Remy, of BBSLSC.

Vice Junior Activities Coordinator and Club Registrar, Sue Keough, says, 'This year's nippers season is looking to offer a range of activities for nippers to participate in'.

'The improvements we see in nippers' confidence and skills over the season is fantastic, and we're looking forward to seeing as many nippers as possible on the beach this season'.

To get involved visit www.byronbaysurfclub.org/nippers.

The club is also currently seeking expressions of interest in sponsorship opportunities.

The Byron Bay Surf Life Saving Club was awarded Far North Coast Surf Life Saving Club of the Year 2023/24.

Rainbow Dragon training kicks off

Get a feel for dragon boating with Rainbow Dragon's four week intro program, starting Sunday September 1, in Ballina - it's free.

Organisers say, 'At these weekly training sessions, you will have the opportunity to work as a team, learn new skills, build paddling confidence and track your own progress'.

'Not to mention you'll make new friends and paddle our beautiful Ballina waterways'.

'You'll benefit from the wealth of knowledge and experience of our Rainbow Dragon qualified coaches, Brooke and Carmel, who both have national and international racing experience.'

'Their enthusiasm is infectious and you can expect both group and one-to-one feedback during each session.'

'Another key part of a good dragon boat training session is the social side.'



Rainbow Dragon team members. Photo supplied

'So if you want to debrief, have a chat and a bit of banter after the session you have the option to head off with the rest of the team for coffee nearby.'

'Overall, it's an excellent way to spend a Sunday morning.'

'On the practical side - all ages and fitness levels are

welcome; all the equipment will be provided; and the sessions are on Sundays from 7.45am to 9am, from September 1 to 22 at Endeavour Close, Ballina'.

For further enquiries and/or to sign up, phone Carmel on 0402 235 602 or visit www.rainbowdragons.com.au.

Tennis Club juniors shine at regionals

Felicity Mackenzie

The Mullumbimby Tennis Club is celebrating a significant achievement, after two of its junior players, Poppy Sexton (13) and Wilbur Mackenzie-George (11), emerged victorious at the Grafton Regional Matchplay Series on Sunday, August 18.

Poppy Sexton showcased her talent in the Girls Under 14s category, while Wilbur Mackenzie-George dominated the Boys Under 12s category. Both players convincingly defeated all their opponents, bringing home winners' trophies and making their club proud.

These outstanding



Poppy Sexton. Photo supplied

performances are a testament to the high-quality coaching provided by Stephen Gort and Robert Dorman at the Mullumbimby Tennis Club.

The club welcomes players of all ages and abilities.



Wilbur Mackenzie-George. Photo supplied

The club offers coaching clinics and sessions for both adults and juniors at various times throughout the week, along with many social events for the community.

For more info, visit www.mullumbimbytenniscub.com.

Local athletes return from world championships with strong results

Ross Kendall

The 12-day World Triathlon Multisport World Championships wrapped up in Townsville this week, with three Byron Shire locals getting among the action.

Byron Tri Club member Christie Horsley competed in the standard duathlon - 10km run, 40km cycle (non-draft), and 5km run.

She finished fourth out of 12 in the 40-44 years age group.

Byron Bay Cycling Club member Suzie Van Den Broek took on the aquabike (3km swim and 114km cycle) to finish fifth out of 21 in the 55-59 age group.

Deb Fuller (Byron Tri Club) claimed eighth place in the duathlon sprint 60-64 years.

'It was an incredible experience, no doubt about that. The British, US, and European teams were exceptionally strong, with incredible talent across the board, even in my age group,' Deb said.

5km in 19 minutes

'Running 5km in 19 minutes is pretty impressive'.

'Unfortunately, I didn't have the race I was hoping for. On a brighter note, I made it into the top ten out of 26 in my field, so I'm grateful to have been part of it'.

The event featured 19 World Championship races across five categories of athletes: Age Group, Para triathletes, Junior, Under 23, and Elites.

'Will I do it again? I'm still thinking that one over,' Deb said.

Send us your sport stories!

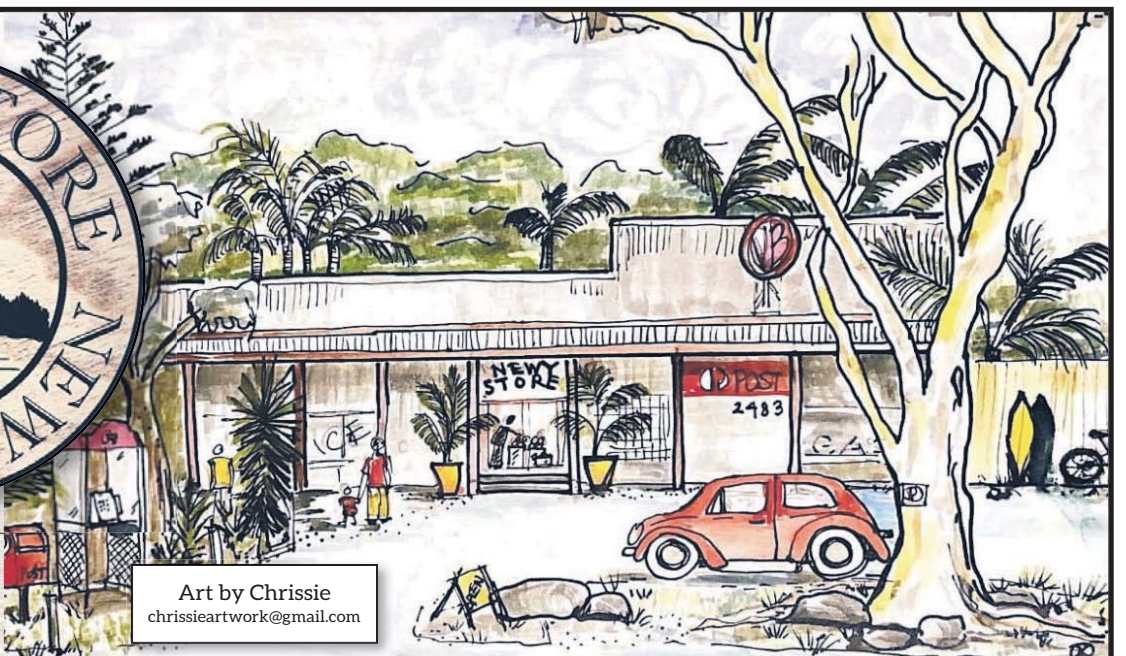
We would love to run all kinds of local sport on these pages so please send your photos and stories to sport@echo.net.au.

Newy Store

OPEN 7:30am - 6:00pm
7 DAYS A WEEK

- Licensed post office
- General convenience store
- Fresh produce & groceries
- Soft drinks, lollies, ice cream
- Newspapers & magazines
- Wine, beer, spirits & tobacco

50 RIVER STREET, NEW BRIGHTON
02 6680 1102 • [f](https://www.facebook.com/newystore) @newystore



Art by Chrissie
chrissieartwork@gmail.com

Good Taste *Eateries Guide*

BYRON BAY



Locally sourced ingredients
amazing coffee
dog friendly
delicious smoothies
fresh juices
outdoor seating in the sun



Loft Byron Bay

4 Jonson Street,
Byron Bay
6680 9183
Book online:
www.loftbyronbay.com.au

Signature cocktails and casual dining with ocean views.
Happy Hour | Everyday from 4–6pm
\$20 Steak Night | Every Tuesday, 100-Day-Aged Black Angus Sirloin
2-for-1 Cocktails | Every Thursday with any Set Menu from \$40
Bottomless Bubbles & Spritz | Every Saturday from 12–2pm with any Set Menu from \$40
Open Tues – Friday from 4pm, Sat from 12 noon.



Commune Canteen

1 Porter St, Byron Bay
Open Monday to Saturday,
7:30am to 3:00pm
@commune.byron
www.nourishinghabitat.com

Mediterranean daytime eatery.
Healthy colourful salads, bone broths,
hot slow-cooked meals,
and in-house baked breads.
Tucked away community courtyard.
Eat / Play / Work



Three Blue Ducks

The Farm, 11 Ewingsdale Rd.
6190 8966
enquiries@threeblueducks.com
threeblueducks.com/byron
Open 7 days from 7am.
Mon-Thurs: breakfast & lunch
Fri-Sun: breakfast,
lunch & dinner

Delicious new winter dinner menu, live jazz every Sunday arvo, happy hour 3–5pm Friday to Sunday & our famous Sunday roast.
Enjoy a wander in the fields, meet the pigs, and picnic in the sun... there really is something for everyone.



North Byron Liquor Merchants

61 Bayshore Drive,
Byron Bay
6685 6500
liquor@northbyronhotel.com.au
Open 10am–8pm daily and
10am–9pm through Summer

'Byron's boutique bottle shop'

Local service
Old and rare wines
Natural wines
Craft beers
Specialty tequilas



Main Street

Open for takeaway daily,
12 midday until dinner.
Menu, more details –
@mainstreet_burgerbar
18 Jonson Street
6680 8832

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details
@mainstreet_burgerbar

'Make a meal of it'
Add chips and a drink, just \$5.



Bonito Byron Bay

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Ground Floor, Hotel Marvell
4 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
Breakfast Daily 8am – 12pm
Laneway light lunch Daily 12pm – 5pm
Dinner Tuesday – Saturday From 5pm
Book hotelmarvell.com.au/restaurant
Call 6685 7385 | @bonitobyronbay

Enjoy breakfast, coffee or light lunch in our casual dog-friendly laneway or treat yourself to a comfortable elegant seafood dinner experience.



Horizon Rooftop

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 DAYS
Horizon Rooftop, Hotel Marvell
4 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
Open Daily | 3pm – 9pm
NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED
Call: 6685 7385
@horizonbyronbay

Welcome to Horizon, Byron's newest rooftop bar.

Enjoy hinterland views, stunning sunsets and signature cocktails showcasing local distilleries and breweries.



Success Thai

Open Lunch Wed–Fri
12–2.30pm.
Dinner Mon–Sat 5–8pm.
Closed Sunday
3/31 Lawson St, Byron Bay
www.facebook.com/
pages/Success-Thai-Food/237359826303469

All your favourites, every lunch and dinner. Experienced Thai chefs cooking fresh, delicious Thai food for you.
BYO only.
Welcome for lunch, dinner and takeaway.
Menus available on Facebook.

BANGALOW



Bangalow Bread Co.

12 Byron St,
Bangalow
6am–3pm weekdays.
7am–2pm weekends.
6687 1209
www.bangalowbread.co
info@bangalowbread.co

Stone baked sourdough, hand-rolled pastries, small batch pies, house made cakes.
Your local artisan bakery, specialising in all things sourdough. Serving Old Quarter coffee along with freshly made sandwiches using our own sourdough bread, hand-rolled pastries, award-winning pies and a variety of housemade cakes.

LENNOX HEAD



Lennox Head Pizza & Pasta

4/74 Ballina St, Lennox Head
Open 7 days
Lunch: 12–2pm
Pizza & drinks only: 2–5pm
Dinner from 5pm

Views, Brews, Cocktails, Beats, and Eats!
Live Music Friday, Saturday, Sunday.
Bookings essential.
Head to lennoxpizza.com
Follow on Insta: @lennoxpizza

MULLUMBIMBY



The Empire

20 Burringbar St, Mullum
6684 2306
Open for brunch and lunch,
Mon–Fri 8am–3.30pm
Sat & Sun 8am–2pm
FB/Insta: EmpireMullum
empiremullum.com.au

The seasonal menu features classic and modern dishes with innovative twists. Find something for all tastes, from epic burgers to vegan delights. Enjoy delectable treats and good vibes at this Mullum icon.

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR.

Sample Food Festival



Photo by Natalie Grono

The Northern Rivers has long been regarded as the epicentre of great food... the produce springs from our rich volcanic soil and producers and chefs stretch their creativity knowing our community will seek it out.

Each September, the annual Sample Food Festival takes over the Bangalow Showgrounds to showcase the very best of the Northern Rivers with the largest culinary gathering of its kind.

Restaurants like Bruno's Bellingen, Bonito's Peruvian Eatery, and Crystalbrook Byron's Forest pour their heart into \$5, \$10 and \$15 sample plates that show off the best of their menus and what local producers have to offer. The bar showcases not only long-time favourite breweries, cellars and distilleries like Brookie's Gin and Lord Byron Distillery but also the newest take on Northern Rivers flavours with Bunya Nut Rum and cocktails from Birds of Isle.

Amidst the annual feast is a showcase of the rest of the region, Norco Cape Byron

Ice Cream flavour competitions, all-day kids programming (cooking classes, craft corners, face painting, wildlife experiences, roaming performers) as well as live music, friendly cooking comps, foraging workshops, and a market filled to the brim with colourful and passionate producers and artists.

Over the last 12 years, Sample Food Festival has become one of our region's most loved events, giving our community the opportunity to taste something new, meet local producers, shop local and fine-tune their food knowledge at the cooking stage. Gather all of your favourite people, a picnic rug, and a big appetite, and celebrate the flavours and flair of the Northern Rivers at Sample Food Festival 2024!

The 12th Annual Sample Food Festival is at Bangalow Showgrounds on Saturday, 7 September from 8am to 4pm. Tickets are \$5 / kids are free, go to samplefoodevents.com for more information.

The Good Life

The glowing light of the Northern Rivers

Taylor Miller

Did you notice the giant glowing golden hot air balloon at the end of the 2024 Paris Olympic opening ceremony last month?

That very same moment, across the other side of the world, local pilots Emiliano Cataldi and Brennan Lally were launching into the golden glowing light of the Northern Rivers, quietly drifting over Mullumbimby with equally gorgeous glory.

Hot air ballooning, as a 'sporting' tradition, was kicked off in the very same Olympic arenas of Versailles and Jardin des Tuileries in 1783 by both the Montgolfier brothers, and Professor Jaques Charles and the Roberts brothers respectively. The Montgolfier brothers' original design consisted of cloth, paper and smoke for lift, with the latter team using hydrogen.

Montgolfière is in fact the French translation for hot air balloon and is acknowledged as the first known form of aviation, once featuring in the Paris 1900 Olympics!

Fast forward some 200 years and while the physics still remain true, our local Australian balloons are handmade in Mount Kuring-Gai by the Kavanagh family using mostly modern materials like ripstop nylon and stainless steel. The baskets are crafted using leather, wicker and other reinforcements.



If you can forget the wonderful experience for a moment and just take pictures, they can be spectacular from both the ground and the sky. This photo of Giacomo Cavazzini (who used to own Sundive in Byron) and Captain Brennan Lally, was taken by Ain Raadik, a local young photographer.

CASA (Civil Aviation Safety Authority) is the government regulation body for all licensing and aircraft safety here in Australia and balloon pilots undertake rigorous training and certifications.

Piloting a balloon is a fantastic niche profession, in Byron. The pilots and crew conduct passenger flights for hundreds of visitors and locals alike, who dream to see the boundless beauty of the rainbow region as a (slow and quiet!) soaring bird would view it.

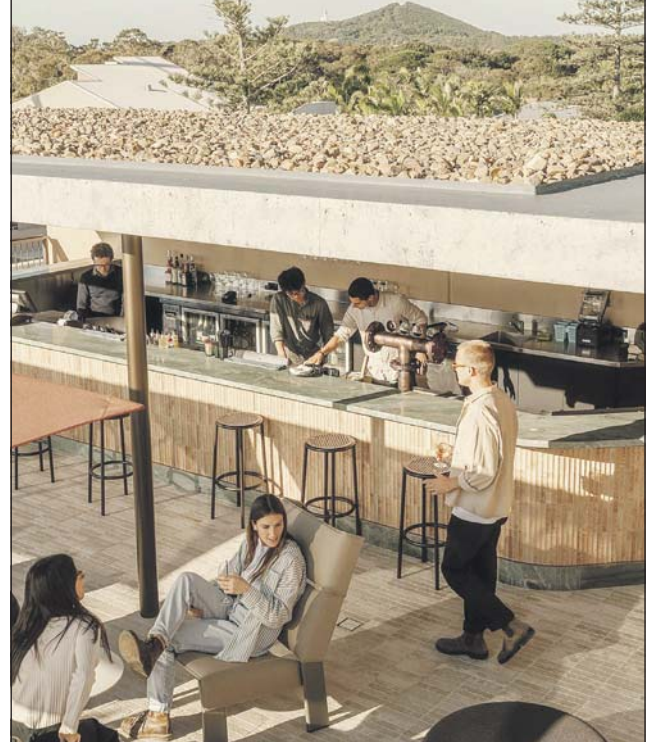
Besides the view however, there is so much more to know about hot air

ballooning; how they work, the tech, logistics and the extensive history of ballooning. Many mums and young couples who take a flight with Balloon Aloft Byron Bay have ballooning on their bucket list, however often it is the dark-horse dads, farmers and the mechanically-minded who are the most curious customers.

So this Father's Day, do something special with your dad and soar high in the sky – he will enjoy the ride more than he thinks.

www.balloonaloft.com for more information and bookings.

Sunset Horizon bar atop Hotel Marvell



The Horizon bar atop Hotel Marvell offers a celebration of fine tastes, great cocktails and sophisticated experiences, with a wonderful view of the Byron horizon. Photo by David Chatfield.

Celebrating Horizon's first birthday at Hotel Marvell is more than just a milestone, it's a testament to a year of spectacular sunsets and expertly-crafted cocktails. Nestled atop Hotel Marvell, Horizon offers panoramic views of Byron Bay's breathtaking hinterlands, where the setting sun casts a golden hue over the horizon, creating a picturesque backdrop for every occasion.

'Our handpicked menu is a true celebration of fine tastes and sophisticated experiences. Guests have enjoyed a curated selection of signature and classic cocktails that showcase both creativity and tradition,' says the hotel. 'From refreshing spritzes to timeless martinis, each cocktail is crafted with precision, using only the finest ingredients. Our extensive wine list features exceptional bottles from Australian vineyards and around the globe, while our ever-changing assortment of local beers provides a taste of the region's craft brewing scene. For those who prefer non-alcoholic options, our menu includes an array of inventive mocktails and refreshing beverages.'

'Horizon is more than just a bar; it's a place where the art of mixology has a personal touch. As an open cocktail bar, our talented bartenders are eager to create bespoke drinks tailored to your preferences. Whether you have a favourite spirit or a flavour in mind, they're ready to craft a unique concoction just for you.'

'The introduction of the new sunset sessions means that every trip to Horizon will promise a new experience with cocktail classes on Tuesday, Movie night on Wednesday and live music every Friday.'

'As we toast to our first year, we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has joined us on this journey. Here's to many more sunsets, sips, and great times ahead at Horizon. Cheers to a vibrant first year and the many more to come!'

How to hear if apples are fresh



Vanessa from McMahon's Apples.

Victoria Cosford

Eleanor, presiding over the table of apples and pears, weighing the contents of the metal bowls as the steady stream of customers, mostly regulars, file up to her, has just given me two magnificent tips.

'When you hold an apple up to your ear and tap it with your finger,' she begins, 'the higher the pitch, the crunchier the apple will be.' She explains how, at this time of year, mid-season for apples, they change a lot from week to week and this little exercise 'really helps determine the crunch level.'

Her second tip is about pears, the pears you tend to dismiss in favour of those big sexy Pink Ladies, sweet sweet Fujis, useful Granny Smiths – pears which, according to Eleanor, 'are amazing!' She tells me they sell out every week. 'After three days they're heaven,' she says. 'Generally, someone will buy just one then come back the next week and buy five.' Pears, it transpires, ripen from the inside out, and 'when the stalk pulls out,' she tells me, 'they're ripe, they're ready.'

It's either Eleanor you'll find at the McMahon's stall – where she's been selling apples for more than eight years – or her sister Vanessa, two gorgeous girls with a font of knowledge about the produce they so enthusiastically sell. 'What I love about selling apples,' Eleanor says, 'is that they sell themselves – I never have to pitch them. Because they're local and they're organic, and everyone has their favourites.' She agrees with her sister that Pink Ladies are the most popular – 'it's as much because people know them,' she says, 'as that they're so good!' But all the apples have their charms, their individual characteristics – the Sundowners 'a lot crunchier and a lot more tart than Pink Ladies'; the Royal Galas and Red Delicious intensely sweet.

McMahon's Apples are at New Brighton Farmers Markets every Tuesday from 8am to 11am and Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7am to 11am.

Bimbi
COFFEE SHOP

Open 6am – 12pm
Monday – Saturday
Shop 6/108 Stuart Street
Mullumbimby.

@bimbi_coffee_shop
ALLPRESS ESPRESSO



Byron Arts & Industry Estate

1. BYRON ELECTRIC TATTOO REMOVAL

Byron Electric Tattoo Removals specialise in full-colour tattoo removal and fading for seamless cover-ups. With over a decade of expertise, they use state-of-the-art laser technology for safe, impressive results.

Request a no-obligation quote or free consultation. Afterpay and flexible payment plans available. Mention *Echo* ad for 20% off. Act now – winter is the best time to remove your unwanted ink!

5/59 Centennial Circuit
www.byrontattooremoval.com.au
info@byrontattooremoval.com.au

2. OSPREY SPA

Indulge in tranquillity at Osprey Spa, where lavish treatments rejuvenate body and soul. Take advantage of our exclusive offer: locals enjoy a 10% discount on all services Monday through Thursday. Surrender to pure relaxation and indulge in the ultimate pampering experience. Serenity meets luxury at Osprey Spa, enveloped within the natural beauty of Elements of Byron.

Elements of Byron, 144 Bayshore Drive
www.elementsofbyron.com.au/spa
@osprey_spa

3. AZURE BAR AND GRILL RESTAURANT

Indulge in the pinnacle of dining at Azure Bar and Grill, nestled in Elements of Byron Resort. Savour exquisite dishes made with native ingredients from local suppliers. Enjoy live music during Fire Pit Fridays, exclusive happy-hour specials, and breathtaking lagoon vistas. Ideal for gatherings, family outings, or intimate events. Embark on an elevated dining journey at Azure today!

Elements of Byron, 144 Bayshore Drive
www.elementsofbyron.com.au/
azure-bar-and-grill/
@azurebarandgrill

4. BYRON LOCAVORE

Locally-owned Byron Locavore ethically grow, source, package and offer a regenerative organic seasonal range of chicken, beef, pork, lamb, turkey and game, which they believe is the most sustainable way to consume meat. They are passionate about locally-grown organics, and employing locals.

Open at The Hive. Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm, Saturday, 8.30am to 3pm, or order online and have it delivered.

Shop 8/88 Centennial Circuit
www.locavorebyron.com

5. MCTAVISH SURFBOARDS

McTavish is the ultimate destination for all things surf. Grab a pre- or post-surf coffee and browse the range of handcrafted surfboards (all made on-site in the factory behind the showroom), surf accessories and apparel, or borrow a demo board for the weekend.

Surfboard Factory, Surf Shop & Cafe
91 Centennial Circuit
www.mctavish.com.au
@mctavishsurf

6. MR VINTAGE

How you dress is representative of your personality. You are unique, one in 7 billion, born out of the death of a star.

Life's too short to wear boring clothes. Recycled and vintage clothing sourced from around the world.

02 6680 8640
3/6 Centennial Circuit
@mrvintageaustralia

7. THE NORTH BYRON HOTEL

Just a stone's throw from Byron Bay town, and the beach, North Byron Hotel is a sub-tropical community meeting space for locals and visitors alike, with a vast, sun-drenched kitchen garden that hosts open fire bbqs, daily happy-hours and vinyl DJs under fairy lights. The hotel prides itself on restaurant quality food, from local suppliers, served at pub prices.

02 6685 6500
61 Bayshore Drive
northbyronhotel.com.au
@thenorthbyronhotel
www.byronbaycandles.com

8. NEVER NEVER CAFE

Recently opened Never Never Cafe is located at the new Depot. Great coffee powered by single and authentic Argentinian empanadas made in-house with local and fresh ingredients baked daily. Enjoy a taste of South-American healthy street food.

Open from Monday to Friday, 7am to 2pm.

U27, 73-75 Centennial Circuit
@nevernevercafe
Ph: 0413 912 271



10



3



11



2



9



7



1

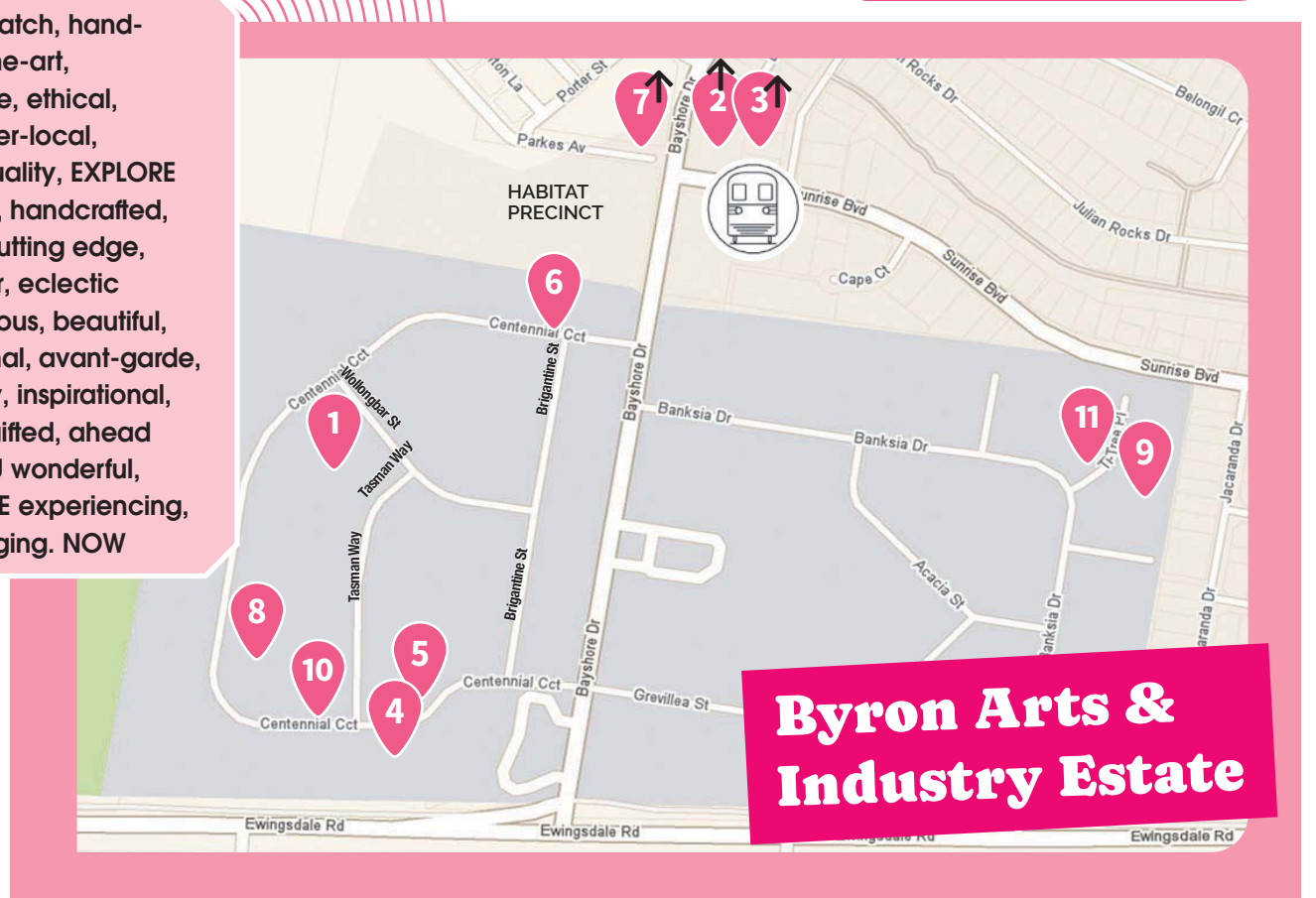


8

Creative, small-batch, hand-made, state-of-the-art, artisan, innovative, ethical, imaginative, hyper-local, leading-edge, quality, EXPLORE premium, master, handcrafted, accomplished, cutting edge, organic, designer, eclectic DISCOVER ingenious, beautiful, unique, sensational, avant-garde, original, visionary, inspirational, expert, brilliant, gifted, ahead of the curve. YOU wonderful, compelling, THERE experiencing, witnessing, engaging. NOW



4



Byron Arts & Industry Estate

9. BODYPEACE BAMBOO

Visit Bodypeace Bamboo's Warehouse Shop and treat yourself to silky soft, luxurious bamboo clothing and underwear which is naturally breathable, moisture-wicking and hypoallergenic. The warehouse boasts all of your favourite pieces in their complete size range, plus bonus sale items and samples for up to 70% off.

Men's and Women's XS-XXL.

Warehouse Shop open Wednesday to Friday, 10am to 3pm.

2/4 Ti -Tree Place

www.bodypeacebamboo.com

@bodypeacebamboo

[facebook.com/bodypeacebamboo](https://www.facebook.com/bodypeacebamboo)

10. BYRON BAY CAMPING AND DISPOSALS

Spring's almost here and the temperature is perfect for all those outdoor activities. Byron Bay Camping and Disposals have most of your bait and tackle needs, with brands in store like Okuma, Zman, Halco, Platypus and Jaz lures. They also have a huge range of snorkelling and spearfishing gear for those who prefer spending their time in the water.

1/1 Tasman Way

www.byron-camping.com.au

0439 212 153

11. TEMPLE OF THE SUN

Visit Temple of the Sun's tranquil boutique and immerse yourself in a museum-like journey of discovery. Indulge in rose tea and Turkish delight as you explore considered jewellery collections designed with a deep appreciation for ancient symbolism and craft. Even glimpse into the solid gold studio, where artisans handcraft their fine jewellery and ceremonial pieces on-site.

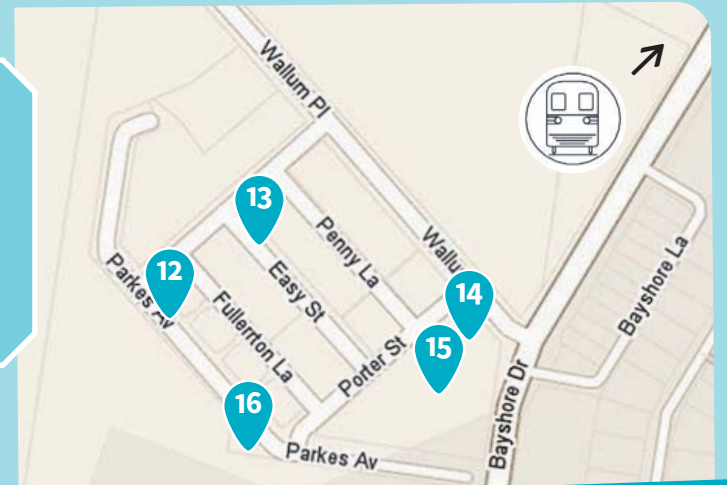
3 Ti-Tree Place

www.templeofthesun.com.au

@templeofthesunjewellery

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.



Habitat Precinct



16



14



15



13



5



6



12

HABITAT

Get out of town! Visit Habitat where you can shop, eat, drink and recharge, all in one place. They've carefully curated every flagship store, independent boutique and fashion label, so you can find the iconic style you'd expect from Byron, hassle-free.

Plus, they've got all your favourite health and wellness studios and good food galore.

Habitat, Byron Bay

12. RICHARDSON MURRAY LAW

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.

42 Parkes Avenue

www.richardson-murray.law

13. B SMOOTHIE BAR

The science-backed power of the Bare Blends authentic nutritional product. Relax on the sunny decking whilst the amazing team create your smoothie. Enjoy a performance smoothie, while sipping on a Paradox espresso, or munch on a toasted Turkish sandwich... 'You can't buy me love... but you can buy me a smoothie.'

Open Monday to Friday, 8am to 3pm,
Saturday, 8am to 2pm.

5 Easy Street

@bsmoothiebar

14. COMMUNE CANTEN

Inspired by the home-cooked meals found in Mediterranean townships, Commune Canteen offers an ever-changing menu based on fresh, seasonal, and local ingredients.

Enjoy colourful salads, hot slow-cooked meals, hearty soups, and breads baked in-house.

All dishes are served from our counter in a casual yet vibrant atmosphere.

Open Monday to Saturday, 7.30am to 3pm.

1 Porter Street

www.nourishinghabitat.com

@nourishing.habitat

15. VAGABOND

Delighting the taste buds of Habitat community and beyond since 2020.

Delicious plant-based goodness ... baked, loved, created in-house, where the vibes are extraordinary, the sounds awesome, the communication brilliant... by the amazing Vagabond team. Consistently excellent organic coffee roasted by Paradox. 'Gratitude is the best attitude.'

Open Monday to Saturday, 6.30am to 3pm,
Sunday, 7.30am to 2pm.

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@vagabondbyronbay

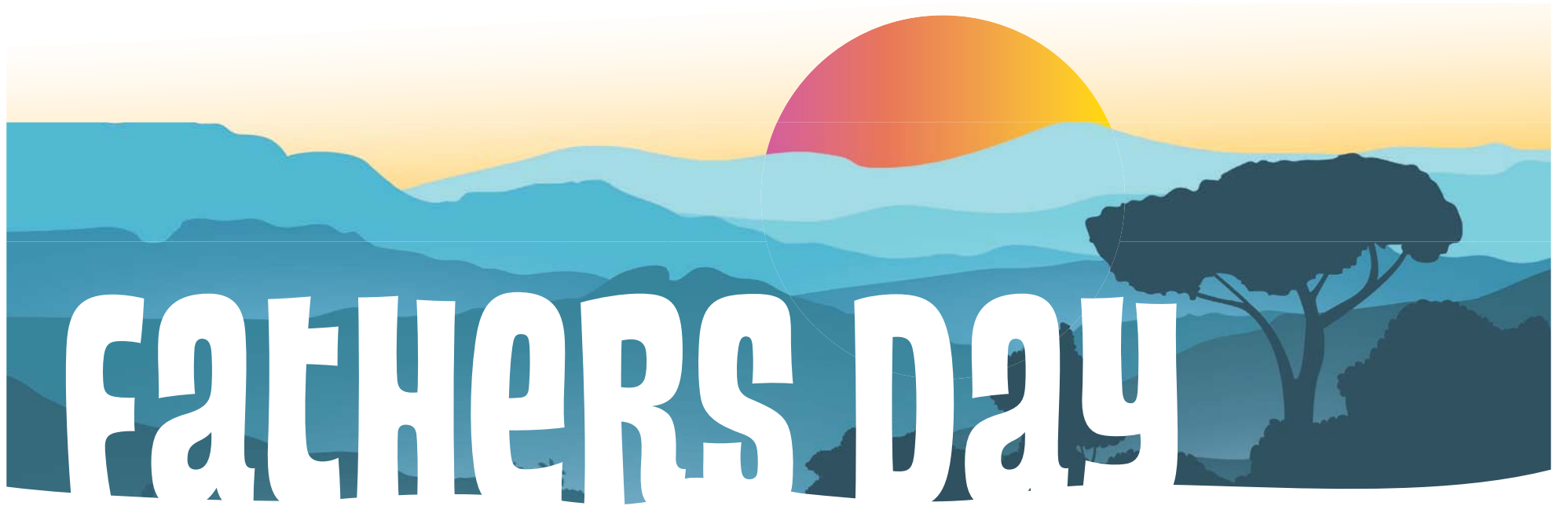
16. BYRON FAMILY LAW

Byron Family Law is a boutique family law firm established in Byron Bay. Through collaborative and resolution-focused practices, they support clients to separate more kindly and to rebuild following divorce or separation. They work in collaboration with local counsellors, conveyancers, accountants, mediators, and health and wellness professionals to support you and your family to not only survive but thrive following a separation.

02 6687 2774

18 Parkes Ave

www.byronfamilylaw.com.au



STEWART'S MENSWEAR

Show appreciation for the special men in your life this Father's Day with a thoughtful gift from Stewart's Menswear. Consider practical options like Globe sock packs, Humphrey Law Australian made socks, or comfortable Reer Endz organic cotton underwear. For a classic touch, choose a quality Australian made leather belt or a luxury Pierre Cardin wallet.

New season stock arriving daily!!

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02 6684 2148

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BYRON PHOTO MAGIC

Byron Photo Magic, your trusted local photo store, is now offering an exciting range of Celestron Telescopes, making it the ideal spot for Father's Day gifts.

With their deep commitment to quality and customer service, Byron Photo Magic has curated a selection of top-notch telescopes that cater to every budget. Celestron's renowned optics promise stunning views of the night sky, whether your dad is an experienced stargazer or a curious newcomer.

These telescopes provide exceptional clarity and ease of use, ensuring that every stargazing session is memorable.

Give your dad the gift of cosmic exploration and discovery this Father's Day with a telescope from Byron Photo Magic. Visit them today and find the perfect gift to spark his passion for the stars!

Shop 20 Mercato on Byron, 108 -114 Jonson St, Byron Bay
02 6685 5877

www.photomagic.com.au

BOWER CAMP CO

Calling all dads!

The folk at Bower Camp Co know how hard it is to carve out real time with your children. They also know that when you spend quality time with your children in nature, the benefits are immeasurable.

Join Bower Camp Co for a dads' and kids' camp from 4-7 October in Border Ranges National Park.

Enjoy bushcraft. Damper making. Rainforest walks. Wild swims. Real time to connect.

'Conversations would begin with my son that we would never normally have. He shared more and was willing to try new things because I was more present and patient.' B Barr, Dads' Camp guest.

For dads bringing one or two children aged 6-12.

All camp equipment, bedding and food provided.

www.bowercampco.com.au

MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB

The Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club is set to host a memorable Father's Day celebration, promising an eventful day filled with food, music and exciting prizes. Fathers dining at the club will be treated to a complimentary beverage with the purchase of any main meal, available during both lunch and dinner. The club's full bistro menu will be featured, alongside a special Father's Day-inspired board that adds a unique touch to the occasion.

From 1pm to 4pm, attendees can enjoy a live performance by Guy Kachel on the deck, creating the perfect atmosphere for a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon. The highlight of the day is the Mega Meat Raffle, boasting \$1,000 in prizes, including ten premium meat trays valued at \$60 each and two grand prizes of a half lamb. Tickets for the raffle will be available starting at 3pm, with the draw taking place at 5pm.

This Father's Day, the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club offers a blend of entertainment, great food, and the chance to win big, ensuring it will be a day to remember.

www.mullumexservices.com.au

02 6684 2533

58 Dalley St, Mullumbimby



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S Brydon

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- On sale from 3pm Drawn at 5pm
- Live Music Guy Kachel 1pm - 4pm

Bookings preferred 6684 2533

58 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby
02 6684 2533
www.mullumexservices.com.au

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 1

FARMCARE

Honouring the tool experts at Farmcare and the community members who maintain properties.

This Father's Day, celebrate the dedicated individuals at Farmcare who sell and repair power tools, and the community members who rely on them to maintain properties. These experts choose good quality tools and equipment from Farmcare Mullumbimby for their durability, reliability and sustainability. With repairable tools designed to withstand the toughest jobs, FarmCare supports a more sustainable future by reducing waste.

At Farmcare, they're committed to providing and maintaining top-quality tools that empower our community. By offering repairable, long-lasting tools and equipment, they ensure that both their customers and the community can maintain their properties effectively while contributing to a healthier environment for future generations.

Learn more about how Farmcare supports sustainable power tool sales, repairs and property maintenance at Farmcare.com.au or visit them at 101 Dalley St, Mullumbimby.

02 6684 2022
Sales@farmcare.com.au

ELEMENTS OF BYRON

Elements of Byron is setting the stage for the ultimate Father's Day celebration of 2024 with their exclusive 'Father's Day in the Bay' event—an elevated BBQ experience that's open to both resort guests and visitors.

On Sunday, September 1, from 12pm to 4pm, the resort's picturesque Breeze Deck, overlooking the iconic Lagoon Pool, will come alive with chef-prepared BBQ delights, live music, and family-friendly lawn games.

Attendees can add on Cape Byron Distillery whisky tastings or enjoy refreshing ales from the Stone & Wood Bar, making it a memorable day for all. Priced at \$145 per adult and \$65 per child (up to 12 years old), tickets include a BBQ lunch, a complimentary drink, and exclusive access to the Lagoon Pool—typically reserved for resort guests. This Father's Day, treat dad to an unforgettable day in Byron Bay's most scenic setting.

For bookings visit elementsofbyron.com.au/whats-on/ or phone 02 6639 1500

Father's Day BBQ

at Elements of Byron

Chef prepared outdoor BBQ overlooking the Lagoon Pool with live music, lawn games and activities.

Tickets \$145 adults / \$65 kids
Stay packages from \$882 per night

JOIN US:
September 1st
12-4pm

TO BOOK VISIT:
elementsofbyron.com.au/things-to-do/whats-on

ELEMENTS
OF BYRON

Fathers Day alert!

Does your dad think he can fix the fence with a surfboard?



This Fathers Day, get him the right tools to save the backyard - and his dignity!

Milwaukee Tools: Because fixing things with a surfboard isn't always the best idea!



Spend \$250 - get \$25 store credit



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Offer valid until end of September

P.S. Sorry family, dad's about to turn the garage into a construction zone!



FARMCARE

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The Bangalow and Ballina Remedial Massage therapists are committed to the highest standard of care in all of their treatments.

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Their chocolates are handmade with love in Byron Bay with a huge range to choose from so you'll be spoilt for choice.

Byron Bay Chocolate Co. is a family-run business, using only the highest quality ingredients and enjoyed by locals and visitors to Byron for the past 30 years.

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www.byronbaychocolateco.com

NORTH BYRON HOTEL

Open Skies Big Fat BBQ

Get ready for the ultimate Father's Day bash at the North Byron Hotel on September 1. Kicking off the day with the Open Skies Big Fat BBQ from 12pm, then Zephyr pony rides from 2pm, they're pulling out all the stops, making this day extra special for dad!

Indulge in mouthwatering specials sizzling hot off the open-fire pit. With 32 beers on tap, special-priced buckets of Balter Beer and live DJs, the atmosphere will be buzzing.

As a special treat, every booking comes with one of their signature hot sauces, complimentary for dad.

Bring your appetite and your love for good times, it's going to be a Father's Day like no other.

Reserve your table here: www.northbyronhotel.com.au

See you there!

1 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay

02 6685 6500

OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB

Treat your dad to a lunch he'll remember this Father's Day at Ocean Shores Country Club, your go-to destination for entertainment and dining! Nestled in the heart of the stunning Northern Rivers region, with breathtaking views of the ocean and lush hinterland, it's the ideal place to relax and enjoy a meal with family or friends. The Club's restaurant serves a delicious variety of Asian and Western meals, all prepared with fresh ingredients. The fully stocked bar offers a wide selection of beverages to complement your dining experience. For entertainment, there's something for everyone—live music, trivia nights, and community events that bring people together. Whether you're catching up with friends or seeking a family-friendly venue, Ocean Shores Country Club has it all.

Oceanshorescc.com.au

113A Orana Rd, Ocean Shores

02 6680 1008



SUNDAY
1ST SEPTEMBER
12PM

NORTH BYRON HOTEL

Fathers Day
BIG FAT BBQ
OPEN SKIES!

FREE HOT SAUCE WITH EVERY BOOKING!





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FATHERS LUV EM 2



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Father's Day

Ocean Shores Country Club
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BOOK NOW TO GUARANTEE YOUR SPOT (AVAILABLE UNTIL SOLD OUT)

<p>ENTREE</p> <p>GARLIC AND GINGER PRAWN SKEWERS</p> <p>THAI BEEF SALAD</p> <p>MAINS</p> <p>FILLET MIGNON</p> <p>SLOW BRAISED BEEF CHEEKS</p> <p>DESSERT</p> <p>CHOCOLATE MUD CAKE</p> <p>CREPES SUZETTE</p>	<p>1-COURSE (MAIN ONLY) \$32</p> <p>2-COURSE \$45</p> <p>3-COURSE \$54</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">PURCHASE A FATHERS DAY MEAL TO RECEIVE A TICKET TO GO INTO THE DRAW!</p> <div style="text-align: center; border: 2px solid gold; padding: 5px;"> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; color: gold;">WIN!</p> <p style="font-size: x-small;">TOOHEYS NEW ESKY PLUS A CARTON OR \$100 SEAFOOD VOUCHER</p> </div> <p style="font-size: x-small;">DRAWN ON THE DAY. MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.</p>
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Your guide to the tastiest offerings in
the Northern Rivers – restaurants, cafes,
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www.echo.net.au/eat-drink



Echo

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Your free guide to the flourishing health and wellbeing
industry of Byron and the Northern Rivers

byronhealing.com.au



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 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
 P: 02 6684 1777
 W: echo.net.au/entertainment

seven

seven days of entertainment



Eclectic Selection

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

✿ **Jon J Bradley** has been entertaining audiences in and around Byron Bay for over 20 years – this ex-pat Kiwi hales from a nation of singers, so it's not hard to believe that he would also follow suit.

Jon sings a lot of heart-felt songs that have special meaning to him which clearly also resonate with his audiences. With a vocal range that allows him to cover some of the most epic songs from the post-punk era, through the 90s and beyond, his unique unformatted acoustic set lists manage to produce some quite surprisingly rare and rather enjoyable alternative hits.

Jon plays two free gigs this week at The Rails. Wednesday, and Saturday from 7.30pm.



✿ **Two Tears In A Bucket**, who are based in Northern NSW, embark on a soul-stirring journey where emotion meets melody and every note resonates with heartfelt storytelling. A magnetic duo who effortlessly weave together elements of Americana, folk, and blues, creating a sound that is both timeless and deeply resonant.

Whether delivering haunting ballads or foot-stomping anthems, their performances are a testament to the power of genuine connection through song.

Sunday from 2pm at The Channon Tavern. Free show.



✿ **The Australian Beach Boys Show** has captured an essence, producing a show that not only plays the Beach Boys songs, but also, thanks to live four-part vocal harmonies and some technological wizardry, recreates the amazing wall of sound experience that Brian Wilson so famously and successfully crafted.

This show delivers a real Beach Boys experience from the striped blue and white shirts and Hawaiian flowers, to replica instruments and a Beach Boys 1960s TV screen displaying the original Beach Boys clip for every song, in-sync with the live show.

Friday, 7.30pm at the Ballina RSL. Tickets \$30, 18+ ballinarsl.com.au.

✿ Two of the country's most prized singer-songwriters **Jordie Lane** and **Emily Lubitz** will play a double bill not to be missed this weekend.

Lane and Lubitz come together to celebrate their latest musical offerings at one of the Northern Rivers' favourite band rooms – Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club.

Tickets \$40/\$35/\$25 from www.mullumexservices.com.au.

✿ For the hardest raves in Byron Bay – get to The Northern on Friday for the third edition of **Hardbeat**, celebrating a shared passion for harder and faster music in Byron Bay. Watch the Backroom be transformed into an underground haven of hard-pulsing techno and trance beats from the likes of 0055Rave, Acid Baby, Kutta, LILXBIT, MissT, and Sammy Mags. This time, in a 360 rage-cage boiler room set-up. Featuring some saucy and high-flying caged performances and super immersive lightshow. It's an underground experience you won't forget.

HardBeat Byron: Chapter 360. Friday from 8pm at The Northern, Byron Bay. Tickets \$40.30 from oztix.com.au.



✿ Following its unparalleled success in New Zealand, **The Big Bike Film Night 2024** will be presented to cycling and cinephile fans in the Northern Rivers region at Brunswick Heads and Lismore as part of a national tour.

For ten years Brett Cotter, curator and founder of The Big Bike Film Night has been banging the bike drum, showcasing where a bike can take you; year after year with the same vision and goal – to find the best cycling short films from around the world for audiences, that celebrate the fun, the adventure, and the inspiration that cycling enables.

Thursday, 7pm. Tickets from \$20 brunswickpicturehouse.com. Saturday, 5.30pm. Tickets from \$15. starcourttheatre.com.au



You dance – We Dance

In a remarkable collaboration, **For The Locals** has joined forces with **We Dance Festival**, a new dance festival coming to Byron Bay this September. Through their unwavering commitment and tireless efforts, they have been instrumental in bringing the festival to life, ensuring its success and resonance within the community.

We Dance Festival is a vibrant celebration of dance, diversity, and the unity that dance brings to humanity. The festival showcases a diverse range of dance styles and activities, creating an inclusive environment that highlights the richness of local culture and the importance of artistic expression. With workshops, performances, and community events, We Dance offers a platform for dancers of all backgrounds to connect and celebrate their shared passion, fostering a sense of community and artistic collaboration.

For The Locals is a natural expansion of dance culture that spread from South-East Queensland and is now blooming in the Northern Rivers. This initiative represents a profound commitment to enriching local communities through a collective desire to inspire creativity, foster social change, and build a vibrant, inclusive dance culture.

At its core, For The Locals focuses on fostering friendship, connection, and providing a public presence for people to see and feel the art of dance and music. By promoting local businesses and spotlighting important community events, the collective aims to revitalise public spaces. At We Dance Festival, For The Locals is proud to be providing the unique flavours of street dance and localised styles from the east coast of Australia. This includes flood dance, which originated in Ipswich and has made significant global waves within underground dance culture. Additionally, For The Locals also represents an important Australian lineage of krump dance, maintaining a direct connection to the pioneers of this impactful style, and highlighting its deep roots and influence.

For The Locals provides innovative programs designed to support and develop dancers at all levels. Their 'Body Unlock' class focuses on freestyle basics and foundations, educating people about moves, grooves, rhythm, character work and self-exploration. This foundational movement class fosters a deep connection with one's body and personal expression, encouraging dancers to discover their unique voice within the dance world. Building on this, For The Locals is excited to introduce 'Body Speak', a new six-week program that serves as another world to explore after Body Unlock. Designed for dancers serious about upskilling, creating works and performing. Body Speak delves into techniques and comprehensive skill development as well as embodying live performance. You can find more information on For the Locals classes on social media.

We Dance Festival is on from September 6-8 at Byron Bay Community Centre and Otherworld. For more info and tickets go to www.wedancefestival.com.au.

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all-level workshops - immersive performances
 learn to dance hubs - activated dance floor
 roving dancer - interactive dance carnival

WE DANCE Movement, Connection, Community
www.wedancefestival.com.au

Read the full interview
www.echo.net.au/entertainment

NEO-PERSIAN EXPERIMENTALISM

INTERVIEW

ZÖJ is Gelareh Pour and Brian O'Dwyer – an experimental cross-cultural music duo. With a commitment to authentic intercultural expression, ZÖJ blends traditional elements from their respective backgrounds with contemporary experimental influences.

Gelareh's virtuosic string and vocal performances intertwine seamlessly with Brian's dynamic drumming, resulting in a captivating and accessible sound.

Seven spoke to Gelareh Pour to find out a bit more about how ZÖJ works.

How would you explain your music to somebody who has never heard it before?

ZÖJ's sound is all about blending traditions with a spirit of experimentation. At the heart of our music are instruments like the kamancheh, which has this beautifully resonant, timeless tone. It's steeped in history but becomes something new in our hands. My vocals weave through that, carrying emotions that range from longing to curiosity. Brian's percussion brings a modern energy that really pushes the music into unexpected places, giving it a raw, dynamic feel.

What I love most about ZÖJ is that we don't fit into any single genre. We're more interested in creating immersive experiences, where you're drawn into a world that's both meditative and constantly shifting. The melodies have this reflective quality, almost like they're pulling you inward, while the rhythms and textures keep you engaged. It's a space where Eastern culture and Western experimentalism meet, resulting in something that feels both ancient and forward-thinking.

For us, it's not just about the music itself; it's about expressing stories and emotions that resonate on a deeper level. Themes like displacement and identity are central to what we do, but we approach them in a way that's personal, yet universally felt. Even if you don't understand the language, you can still connect with the feelings behind it. We're aiming for a sound that's rich in emotion and layered with meaning, inviting people into a world that might be unfamiliar but feels incredibly relatable at the same time.

What has been the response so far to your new album?

The response to *Fil O Fenjoon* has been incredibly encouraging. People have really connected with the atmosphere of the record – some describe it as haunting, others as deeply moving, and that's exactly what we were hoping for. There's something special about hearing how the album takes listeners on a journey, with each track flowing into the next like it's telling a story.

One of the things I'm most proud of is how people have picked up on the chemistry between Brian and I. Our connection as musicians seems to really come through in the music, making it feel both intimate and powerful.

Listeners have mentioned that the album is something they can return to and always find something new. I love that – it's like the music has layers waiting to be discovered, even after multiple listens.

Do you feel that people don't need to understand the language you are singing in, to be able to get the feeling of what the words are saying?

Absolutely, you don't need to understand the language to feel the emotion in what we're doing. I believe music has this incredible ability to communicate beyond words. The feeling in my voice, the way the kamancheh sings, the rhythms Brian brings—it all carries emotion, a message that goes deeper than language. Most of our audience doesn't speak Farsi, but they still tell us how much the music moves them. That's what's truly important to us.

Each person's experience with our music is unique and valid in its own way. For someone who understands Farsi, the lyrics might hit closer to home—they might connect directly to the stories and themes in a different way. But if you don't know the language, your experience is still powerful; it might be more about how the music makes you feel, the textures, the flow of the sounds, or the energy behind the performance. Both perspectives are beautiful, and both are totally okay.



ZÖJ will play at The Northern Rivers Conservatorium in Lismore on Sunday, September 22 at 4pm. Tickets: events.humanitix.com/zoj/tickets.

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YETI, F&T, BUSH BROWN, GARAGE, MADMAN, SURFING NSW



Read the full interview online
www.echo.net.au/entertainment

Celebrating ten years



HIDDEN SPHERES

Raise your glass, because **Delinquent Wine Co** is hitting the road to celebrate a decade of delicious wine. Kicking off the festivities on **Friday, September 6** at the **Bangalow A&I Society Hall**, this tour features UK dance sensation **Hidden Spheres**, with local DJs **Lostboy, Ludo and Boo Mojo** adding to the high-energy vibe. Expect top-notch drinks paired with eclectic dance music in an intimate setting.

Since their first wines were launched in 2014, Delinquent has revolutionised the wine scene with minimal intervention wines from Southern Italian grapes grown in Riverland, SA. Known for their innovative approach, including pet nat and skin contact whites, they've gained a loyal following both locally and internationally.

With wines available across Australia and in 17 countries, Delinquent is celebrating their tenth anniversary with a music tour that highlights their new releases. 'We've always pushed the boundaries of what a wine producer can be,' says founder **Con-Greg Grigoriou**.

Featuring Hidden Spheres' inclusive sound, all-new Delinquent wines and cocktails by Bizzarro Aperitivo, this tour is a must for wine lovers and music enthusiasts. Hosted in partnership with local favourite **Luna Wine Store**, grab your tickets now via the Delinquent Wine Co website and join the celebration!

Friday, September 6 at Bangalow A&I Hall. Tickets from events.humanitix.com.

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NATIONAL CIRCUS FESTIVAL TAKES OVER MULLUM IN OCTOBER

The National Circus Festival is set to turn Mullumbimby Showground into a festival wonderland in October, with a three-day explosion of joy, fun, laughter and community spirit at its very best.

The 2024 program is packed with world-class acts and fun for the whole family and on the venue's doorstep in Uki, comes award-winning company and fringe favourites, **Casus Creations** – co-founded by the husband and husband team of **Jesse Scott** and **Lachlan McAulay**, who are back with their most daring and intimate work *You & I* – an empowering hour of skill and identity celebrating the loving relationship between two circus artists using high-level acrobatics, trapeze, magic and dance. This unashamedly authentic journey reveals a fresh narrative where gay stories are not consumed by tragedy but filled with conviction and acceptance.

Seven spoke to Jesse who is in the midst of several shows at this month's Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

What do you feel is the difference between those old three-ring-lions-and-trapeze circuses, to the way we see circus now?

Yes it's a vastly different thing now, for sure, I think especially in Australia – we're so isolated from so many other places that we have been able to really form our own kind of unique style of contemporary circus. And even over here, when we talk to audience members and reviewers, they will always say that Australian contemporary circus is so unique and so Australian.

Hollywood would have us believe that those former circuses were full of outcasts and freaks and people who didn't fit into society. Do you still feel like you don't fit in, or are you feeling pretty comfortable?

I would say that circus is still a place for the misfits, because we as a community are so unbelievably accepting that anyone can be a part of it – if you're a good person with a good heart, then you are accepted into our community. And we're still quite a small community around the world, and so I think there's some kind of power to having a group of misfits, because we tell some pretty incredible stories, and we band together and we support each other.

Old circuses were very much about storytelling but when I saw The Great Moscow Circus (56 years ago), it was about things that were spectacular. Has circus done a circle and come back to storytelling?

Yes, especially contemporary circus – my kind of genre of circus where we're trying to tell stories, but it's also about connecting on a human level. A massive part of our shows is the human side of circus, and the fact that this is what we do, this is our passion, and we want to really deliver that to the audience and let them in on what we're doing. And, there's only so far you can tell a story with your physicality. If you don't have a script, and you're not really a theater-based show, then you can only kind of go so far with that. So it's all about the connection of the acrobats on stage. We, as



Casus, will always make sure that we are cohesive and a team that love each other. You know, it's the people that are most important for me when I cast a show. It's about the people. It's not about the skill. If we're going to tour nine months of the year together, live 24 hours, train together, work together, we've got to be good friends. And so that really shines across on stage for us. So there's themes and things like that that we put within the show.

You and I, the show that you're doing in Mullum just has yourself and your husband. Can it be hard if one of you is having a shit day?

Yeah, of course. But I mean, when we perform, it's the best therapy session you can have, because it's all about trust. And if you go on stage with someone that you're having a bit of a tiff with, you have to let it be. You have to let it go, because they have to know that you're going to catch them, and you have to know that they're going to throw themselves at you in the right, correct way, because, if not injuries happen, and then the whole season's over, your career can be over. And so you just have to let go of that kind of petty stuff and really focus on what it truly is to connect with the human – and that's trusting them. And so that's where it happens. And luckily enough for me and my husband Lachlan – we never fight.

The National Circus Festival is on at the Mullumbimby Showground from October 4 to 6. More information and tickets can be found at www.nationalcircusfestival.com.

SAE sends Ben from Byron to Berlin

SAE University College Byron Bay audio graduate **Ben Rompotis** took advantage of the network of SAE campuses worldwide to complete his audio degree in Berlin.

Ben said studying with SAE has unlocked the global music scene for him. When he moved to Berlin to complete his studies, he also took his psychedelic rock band, The Dharma Chain, which was founded at SAE, with him.

'SAE has been a key to unlocking countless opportunities for me, it's been truly unbelievable,' says Ben.

SAE Byron Bay course coordinator, **Dirk Terrill**, paved the way for a seamless transition to SAE Berlin for Ben.

'At SAE we truly are a global network of creatives,' says Dirk. 'Ben had a very clear goal of what he wanted to achieve, and as an educator I was very happy to help facilitate his transition from our Byron to Berlin campuses.'



Under the guidance of SAE Berlin's Fabricius Clavee, Ben found himself equipped with all the same resources and support he enjoyed at his home campus, in the middle of building a network – since graduating, Ben has engaged with the Berlin music scene.

From interning at renowned studios like Funkhaus Studios, to his involvement with The Dharma Chain, Ben's audio engineering skills unlocked many possibilities in the music industry.

Reflecting on the success of the band, Ben said networking is at the heart of it. 'In Berlin, we had to rebuild our network from scratch. Opportunities don't simply materialise, you have to cultivate and nurture relationships within the music industry.'

Exploring Berlin, Ben said his immersion in Berlin's music scene has opened his eyes to the diversity of work available to him. He has discovered a knack for orchestrating soundscapes for live events at Privat Club, and Club Dervisionaire, and has since ventured into the realm of sound engineering for films. 'I really enjoy doing live sound, and the money is good.'

'I started to network at one of the clubs, and found out about other opportunities through online forums and Facebook groups, which included doing sound engineering for a number of German feature films.'

Ben has found Berlin locals to be extremely adept at speaking English. 'The language barrier doesn't seem to have been a problem in Berlin. So far I have found German people to be very comfortable communicating in English.'

For aspiring high school students eyeing a future in live sound or feature film sound engineering, Ben had some sage advice. 'The audio engineering fundamentals you learn at somewhere like SAE are certainly vital for one's survival in the industry, but I would also put a lot of weight in being a good person to work with – your distinct personality, along with your collaborative and supportive traits, will set you apart.'

SAE's audio courses are designed to build the essential skills for a successful career in the creative industries.

Enrol now for September 2024. Find out more: sae.edu.au



Launching Serendipity!

The **Cape Byron Distillery** will launch their first, and long-awaited peated whisky, Serendipity, at their cellar door this **Saturday**.

Named after a fortuitous meeting, this whisky embodies the magic of unexpected connections and collaboration. Enjoy Pip's Plates, available for purchase, cooked over an open flame and using Traeger smoked grills to create mouthwatering plates that perfectly complement the whisky. Musician **Ben Walsh** will be bringing the vibes.

They'll have drink specials, exclusive deals and free tasting sessions hosted by Eddie Brook guiding you through the magic behind Serendipity.

This event is free and will run from 12pm to 5pm at Cape Byron Distillery, 80 St Helena Road, McLeods Shoot.

Visit capebyrondistillery.com for more information.



In the beginning, the summer was endless

The film about a film, *Birth of The Endless Summer* premieres in Lennox and Byron with **Rob Machado** this week. Surf enthusiasts and documentary buffs, get ready for an event that combines film and surf culture in a unique way. *Birth of The Endless Summer*, a highly praised documentary, directed by Emmy-nominated Richard Yelland and produced in collaboration with Oscar-nominated Bruce Brown Films, is making its way to Lennox Head and Byron Bay this weekend. The film delves into the origins of the classic surf movie *The Endless Summer*, offering a detailed look at its creation and its lasting influence on surfing culture around the world.

To mark the film's release, Rob Machado, a legendary figure in the surfing community, will be staying in the region for this special tour. The first screening *Birth of The Endless Summer* is scheduled for **Friday, August 30**, at the **Lennox Head Cultural Centre**, with a second screening set for **Sunday, September 1**, at the **Byron Theatre**.

Both events will not only feature the documentary but also provide a rare opportunity for attendees and local panels to participate in a **Q&A session with Machado**. He will offer his personal insights into both the new film and the original, *The Endless Summer*, discussing its impact and his own experiences in surfing.

Machado is excited to reconnect with the North Coast community. 'I'm thrilled to return to Australia and discuss the story behind one of surfing's most influential films. It's an opportunity to engage with the local surf community and share stories from both *Birth of The Endless Summer* and *The Endless Summer*,' he said.

Birth of The Endless Summer offers more than just a recount of a film; it provides an in-depth exploration of surfing history through interviews with key figures such as **Robert August, Mike Hynson, Kelly Slater**, and **Pat O'Connell**. Director Richard Yelland's goal is to shed light on the sport's rich heritage and its broader cultural significance. 'This film is about connecting people with the history of surfing and inspiring new generations to appreciate and continue its legacy,' says Yelland.

The documentary traces the journey of surf pioneer **Dick Metz**, whose hitchhiking trip in 1958 led him all around the globe to Europe, Australia, Tahiti, and engaging with the emerging surf scene in South Africa; and details Metz's discovery of the iconic 'perfect wave' at Cape St. Francis, which was immortalized in *The Endless Summer*.

For those interested in surf culture and filmmaking, *Birth of The Endless Summer* offers a fresh perspective on a storied narrative. Don't miss this chance to gain deeper insights into surf history and engage with Rob Machado at the screenings in Lennox Head and Byron Bay. There will be giveaways on the night at each show, including a Firewire surfboard autographed by Rob himself, and runner-up prizes including Firewire fins, caps and tailpads, Papa Salt Coastal Gin, and Yeti accessories.

Book now to ensure your seats at communityspaces.com.au and byroncentre.com.au.

www.echo.net.au



ZÖJ

There Is No Celebration Here

A remarkable fusion of neo-classical Persian music by experimental music duo, Gelareh Pour and Brian O'Dwyer.

**Sunday 22nd September
4:00pm**

ZÖJ is an experimental cross-cultural music duo comprising Gelareh Pour on kamancheh, qeychak alto, and voice, and Brian O'Dwyer on drum kit. The ideals of ZÖJ are firmly rooted in true expression of inter-culturalism, specifically what it means to be from more than one place.

"The consistently exquisite genius of Gelareh Pour ~ we are simply not worthy."
Nick Cave

\$39 / \$28 / \$17
NRC Concert Room,
152 Keen St, Lismore



events.nrcac.edu.au

Northern Rivers Conservatorium

Presented in association with Musica Viva Australia



GIG GUIDE

It's FREE to list your gigs in the gig guide.
gigs@echo.net.au w: echo.net.au/gig-guide



A historical tour



After ten years of magic, **Aiden Schofield** is embarking on his first-ever live tour – this 60-minute spectacle will showcase Aiden's incredible magic skills in what promises to be an unforgettable production and fun for the whole family to enjoy.

Jam-packed with mind blowing magic and mentalism, watch as the impossible is performed with bubbles, butterflies, Rubik's cubes, sand and much, much more – right in front of your eyes.

This is just one show only so don't miss it!

Thursday, September 5 at 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House. Tickets from brunswickpicturehouse.com.

All the fun at Shearwater



Shearwater brings back all the fun of the fair this month, with the Mullumbimby Steiner School's much-loved annual community **Spring Fair** on **Saturday, September 7**. The focus this year is play and you won't know where to start, with a ton of fun activities for all ages.

The Enchanted Forest is a shady grove with craft and games for the littlies. Make a spring flower crown or get muddy with a clay play; enjoy weaving, beading or crystal mining, or upskill your tumbling and plate-spinning with Spaghetti Circus.

Side Show Alley will keep the big kids and teens busy with Steam Lab science fun, a photo booth and heaps of old-fashioned fair games, like the beanbag toss, coconut shy, pillow fights and sponge throw. And for those who like their Saturday sporty, the kids versus grown-ups ultimate frisbee and volleyball tournaments are a must.

Want to know more about Steiner education? Don't miss the morning sessions from 10am to 12 noon, when the high school curriculum, including **WAVE** (the school's annual wearable arts performance event) and a selection of student films, will be on display, and the primary school classrooms will be open to visitors, with teachers available to talk about the learning program and answer questions.

Music performances will be on throughout the day in the hall, with strings, percussion and choir in the morning and not-to-be-missed high school bands and solo performers in the afternoon.

The Village Green market space will feature a huge range of food trucks and stalls, including BBQ, pizza, falafel, sushi, nachos, ice cream, coffee, smoothies, chai, cakes and more. Secondhand books, craft supplies and Steiner dolls and toys will also be for sale.

For those that just like to soak up the atmosphere — pull up a hay bale, throw down a blanket and fill your cup with community, connection and celebration as we move into the longer, warmer days of spring.

On the housekeeping front, a reminder that the Spring Fair is alcohol-free and CASH ONLY (there will be an ATM on site). Onsite parking is limited. Please follow the instructions of the parking wardens and carpool where possible. You can support the school's push towards zero waste by bringing along your reusable picnic things, refillable water bottles, etc. There will be dedicated wash-up and refill zones. And lastly, please leave your pooches at home.

Shearwater is at 349 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby. The office will be open at the fair for enrolment enquiries or call 6684 3223. The School's website is shearwater.nsw.edu.au. Bring on the fun!

WEDNESDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM SCREENING – **ICE AND FIRE: PROTECTING AUSTRALIA'S HEARD AND MCDONALD ISLANDS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KANE MUIR**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE BIG BIKE FILM NIGHT 2024**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY – FEAT GORDON SOUTHERN**

THURSDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LILLI FAIRFAX**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **HENRY WEST + WILL HEARN + AKA LUI + TONY VELVET**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK **SARAH GRANT**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 10.30AM **DAVID & GOLIATH: WHEN YOU TAKE ON THE BIG SHOTS AND WIN**, 7PM **THE BIG BIKE FILM NIGHT**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- KELP BAR, BALLINA, 6PM **ROD MURRAY**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7PM **THE BIG GIG COMEDY NIGHT – MC MANDY NOLAN AND FT GORDON SOUTHERN + JOHN PEACOCK**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6PM **BLUEGRASS JAM**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 5PM **ALEX TILLEY, 7.30PM ALPHABET POETS**

- THE SUPPER CLUB AT THE BOWLO, LISMORE, 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**

FRIDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE HOOCHERS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **NORTHEAST PARTY HOUSE W/ SPECIAL GUESTS SACHI + RAAVE TAPES**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **MY COUSIN FRANK**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **MATT ARMITAGE + DJ OREN SELECTA**, 8PM **HARDBEAT BYRON: CHAPTER 360**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 5PM **SHORTY BROWN KIDS DISCO + LOCAL LEGENDS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ TAZ**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ RIVKA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS**
- LENNOX HEAD COMMUNITY CENTRE 7PM **BIRTH OF THE ENDLESS SUMMER**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **JOE CONROY**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **FOLLOW THE FOX**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7PM **THE AUSTRALIAN BEACH BOYS**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 7.30PM **HUGO**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 7PM **MP3**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **MR TROY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **GABRIELLE LAMBE**

SATURDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **GOODRICH**

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM + MICKA SCENE DUO + IZAEAH MARSH BAND + CLUB RAIDERS**
- BYRON THEATRE 2PM **MY COUSIN FRANK**, 7.30PM **MY COUSIN FRANK**
- CAPE BYRON DISTILLERY 12PM **SERENDIPITY WHISKY LAUNCH FT BEN WALSH**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **KANE MUIR + DJ OREN SELECTA**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 8PM **FELIX REY DUO**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **RAGGA JUMP**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **DANIEL HOLT**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ ABEL EL TORO**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7.30PM **JORDIE LANE AND EMILY LUBITZ**
- CLUB LENNOX 8PM **GLENN MASSEY & THE THREAD**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **DJ JIMMY MACK MACK**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **INO PIO**
- STAR COURT THEATRE, LISMORE, 5.30PM **THE BIG BIKE FILM NIGHT**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **GLENN SHIELDS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **GREER SULLIVAN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE BEACH BOYS EXPERIENCE**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 6.30PM **THE BELAIR LIP BOMBS**

SUNDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **SO YOU THINK YOU CAN DJ**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **BIRTH OF THE ENDLESS SUMMER**

- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM **YULLI'S OPEN MIC**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 2PM **GUS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **ALLENSWORTH**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ MR DIOP**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10.45AM **FATHERS DAY BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB**, BOARDWALK 12PM **SIMON BOLT**, 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB WITH MOJO WEBB BAND**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA, 3PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2PM **MANDY HAWKES**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 2PM **THE DEVIL'S ADVOCATES**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 2PM **TWO TEARS IN A BUCKET**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 1PM **JOCK BARNES**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 2PM **INO PIO**

MONDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TIAGO FREITAS**

TUESDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LEIGH JAMES**

WEDNESDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **NATHAN KAYE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TIM STOKES**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**

Session Times Ballina Fair Cinema

Thurs, August 29 - Wed, September 4 47/84 Kerr St, Ballina

A HORSE NAMED WINX (PG) 103 MIN Sun: 2:30PM	BOOKWORM (PG) 103 MIN Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:00AM, Fri: 12:30PM, Sat: 2:50PM, Sun: 2:45PM	RUNT (PG) 92 MIN - FATHER'S DAY SNEAK Sun: 12:45PM
AFRAID (M) 84 MIN Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 12:50PM, 5:30PM, Fri: 4:10PM, 6:00PM, Sat: 1:00PM, 6:10PM	DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE (MA15+) 128 MIN Daily except Sun: 2:30PM, 5:00PM, Sun: 5:00PM	TAKE MY HAND (M) 102 MIN Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 12:15PM
ALIEN: ROMULUS (MA15+) 119 MIN Daily except Sat, Sun: 3:00PM, 5:15PM, Sat: 12:20PM, 5:15PM, Sun: 5:15PM	IT ENDS WITH US (M) 130 MIN Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:10AM, 7:40PM, Fri, Sun: 10:00AM, 7:40PM, Sat: 10:15AM, 7:40PM	THE CROW (MA15+) 111 MIN Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:40PM, 7:30PM, Sat: 12:10PM, 8:00PM
ANDRÉ RIEU'S 2024 CONCERT: POWER OF LOVE (G) 88 MIN Sat: 1:00PM, Sun: 3:00PM	MIDAS MAN (M) 112 MIN Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:10AM, 7:45PM, Sat: 10:00AM, 7:45PM	THE LION KING (30TH ANNIVERSARY RE-RELEASE) (G) 88 MIN Sat, Sun: 10:10AM
BLINK TWICE (M) 112 MIN Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 7:45PM		TWISTERS (M) 122 MIN Fri: 12:00PM

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Ballina Fair Shopping Centre FREE parking Book Online at palacecinemas.com.au

*NFT = No Free Tickets

PALACE CINEMAS

Session Times

Thurs, August 29 - Wed, September 4 108 Jonson St, Byron Bay

SPECIAL SCREENINGS	INSIDE OUT 2 (PG) 105 MIN Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, Sat: 11:00AM, Sun: 10:45AM, Wed: 11:10AM, 1:45PM	BLINK TWICE (MA15+) 112 MIN Thurs, Fri, Tues, Wed: 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM, Sat: 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:20PM, Sun: 10:45AM, 6:20PM, Mon: 3:45PM, 6:00PM	LONGLEGS (MA15+) 83 MIN Daily: 8:30PM
A HORSE NAMED WINX (PG) FATHER'S DAY SNEAK Sun: 3:00PM	THE LION KING (30TH ANNIVERSARY RE-RELEASE) (G) 88 MIN Sat: 11:00AM, 1:20PM, Sun: 1:00PM	DEADPOOL & WOLVERINE (MA15+) 128 MIN Daily: 11:45AM, 2:30PM, 5:15PM, 7:10PM, 8:00PM	MIDAS MAN (M) 112 MIN Daily except Sun: 11:00AM, 3:50PM, 6:10PM, Sun: 11:00AM, 3:00PM, 5:30PM
ANDRÉ RIEU'S 2024 CONCERT: POWER OF LOVE (G) 88 MIN Sat: 1:00PM, Sun: 3:00PM	HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON (PG) FATHER'S DAY SNEAK Sun: 3:00PM	IRIS AND THE MEN (M) 113 MIN Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 11:30AM	TAKE MY HAND (M) 102 MIN Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:10AM, Sun: 10:45AM, Wed: 11:00AM
RUNT (PG) FATHER'S DAY SNEAK Sun: 1:00PM	ALL FILMS	IT ENDS WITH US (M) 130 MIN Daily except Sun: 11:30AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 8:15PM, Sun: 11:30AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 8:15PM	THE BLIND SEA (PG) 103 MIN Sun: 6:20PM
FAMILY FILMS	AFRAID (M) 84 MIN Daily except Sun: 1:15PM, 5:20PM, 8:30PM, Sun: 1:00PM, 5:20PM, 8:30PM	KNEECAP (MA15+) 115 MIN Daily except Sun: 11:20AM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM, Sun: 10:45AM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM, 8:00PM	THE CROW (MA15+) 111 MIN Daily: 2:15PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM
BOOKWORM (PG) 103 MIN Daily except Sun, Tues: 1:30PM, 3:10PM, Sun: 1:00PM, 3:10PM, Tues: 3:10PM	ALIEN: ROMULUS (MA15+) 119 MIN Thurs, Fri: 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 8:15PM, Sat: 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 8:30PM, Sun: 1:20PM, 8:00PM, Mon, Tues: 12:00PM, 8:15PM, Wed: 11:00AM, 8:15PM		TOUCH (M) 115 MIN Daily except Sun, Wed: 11:15AM, 1:50PM, 4:30PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM, Sun: 11:10AM, 1:15PM, 3:50PM, 5:30PM, 7:15PM, Wed: 11:15AM, 1:15PM, 4:30PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM
DESPICABLE ME 4 (PG) 105 MIN Daily except Sat, Sun: 3:50PM, Sat: 4:10PM			

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*NFT = No Free Tickets.

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Pill Testing NOW

Mandy Nolan



Bad drug policy is killing our kids. Why won't we face the facts? Drug prohibition doesn't work. In fact, it makes it more dangerous. It creates a lucrative billion-dollar black market, it's unregulated, and consequently it's dangerous. It's easy to say 'don't do it', but that's hardly a policy, it's unrealistic, unsafe and not cognisant of how people use drugs, and who uses drugs. Pretty well half of everybody at some time in their life.

People have always experimented with drugs. It's why we made alcohol. The ancient Chinese found cannabis and people were taking hallucinogenic drugs at rave-like cave ceremonies 3,000 years ago. Humans like to play with their brains. Studies show that 47% of Australians have used illicit substances at some time in their life. And most people who use drugs do it a couple of times a year and aren't addicted. Moral objections to drug use are as dangerous as the pills we buy on the internet.

Last week I sat with the parents of a boy who died from taking half a pill he bought on the internet. He bought just one OxyContin, took half and died. Anyone who has ever used substances knows the basic safety protocol of 'take half'. He clearly attempted to do what anyone who is careful and abiding by harm reduction principles does. And one pill is very moderate. But the pill he took wasn't OxyContin – it was counterfeit.

It was bought online, not through the 'dark web'. Just the regular old internet. It was coloured and stamped as Oxy but contained nitrozone – a substance that is 883 times stronger than morphine. It's turning up in a lot of pills made on the black market. It's lethal.

We are in a mental health crisis where it can take months to see someone, so that just increases the number of people seeing Dr Google

Research in the UK shows there was a 95% reduction in drug-related transfers to hospital at a festival when they had drug checking.

and buying pharmaceuticals online. Xanax, Valium, Oxy – all available on the internet – but it's generally NOT what you think it is, and in NSW and in most of Australia, you'd have no way of knowing. If you can't regulate the internet – which clearly no one can, pill testing is the most obvious solution. People think they are taking pharmaceuticals, but they're not. Increasing access to mental health services and support would be a good harm reduction approach as well.

Pill testing would have saved someone's 18-year-old son. Pill testing now operates in 20 countries,

including New Zealand, the US, Canada and this summer in Victoria where they intend to set up mobile pill testing teams at festivals and events. By mid-2025 they are on track to set up a fixed, inner-city site where people can come and have their drugs tested.

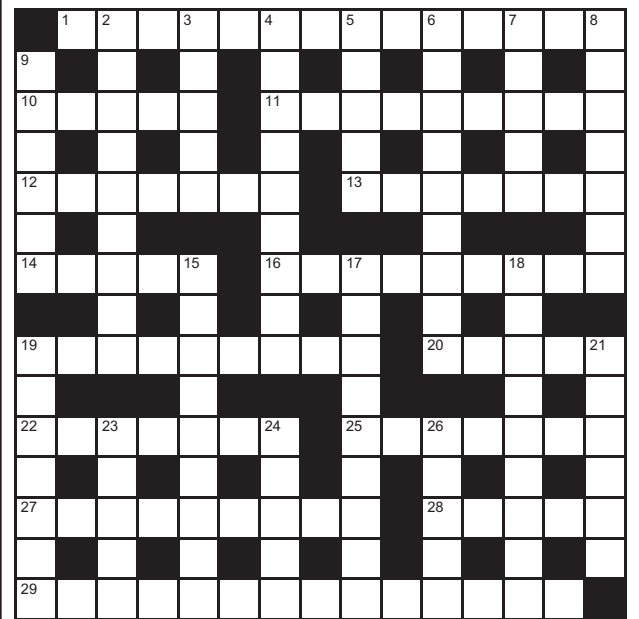
Let people make informed decisions. Research in the UK shows there was a 95% reduction in drug-related transfers to hospital at a festival when they had drug checking. Australian data said that there was a sizable proportion of people who discarded substances after testing. So drug testing doesn't increase drug use, it actually decreases it. Sadly we can't seem to get a pill testing service passed in NSW, so our kids and our community are at risk. In my opinion it's negligent. Stop victim blaming. Pill testing is the equivalent of seat belts in cars. Is the idea to punish or reduce death?

In the meantime, there is a federal government program called 'Take Home Naloxone'. Everyone should have naloxone in their first-aid kit. It's free. If anyone has an opiate overdose it gives you a window of time to revive someone before medical help arrives.

The 'Just Say No' drug policy is a proven disaster. Pill testing saves lives.

Crossword by Stephen Clarke

#18



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Corrupt politicians gather round a bar, with financial backing (14)
- Plagiarist, robbed of piano, gets really angry (5)
- Gulf city starts to export limited shipments of grapes (9)
- World famous band uses sneaky tactics to trap horse! (7)
- Salutation at Mensa misinterpreted (7)
- Voters in favour of you old emergency workers (5)
- Execute men in temple revolution (9)
- Unknown Salinger novel on young animals (9)
- Oversight of large part of church (5)
- States of confusion in Crimea and Albanian capital (7)
- Criminal thirsts for gear (1-6)
- Copper model of lark (9)
- Same changes around new minister's house (5)
- Podium finish with scope and depth (5,9)

DOWN

- Obsessively tidy sage, one revolutionised by painlessness (9)
- Perfect one to trade (5)
- Commercial assignment a revelation (9)
- Playwright employs lie, without beginning to brief old person (5)
- Warning everyone about crumbling marble (5,4)
- Things time has changed at school (5)
- Incipient corruption of NetScan (7)
- Broadcast to evaluate spoken passage (6)
- Stew of dried sole served in the army (9)
- A term at Grammar? Beyond perfect, possibly (4,5)
- Language of psychic power has not altered over time (9)
- Spooner's expensive boat is at the start (4,3)
- Proceeds from university, in a strange sense (6)
- Concluding words expressed in broken voice (5)
- Bailout one used as an excuse! (5)
- Celebrated solver called out for pads (5)

Quick Clues

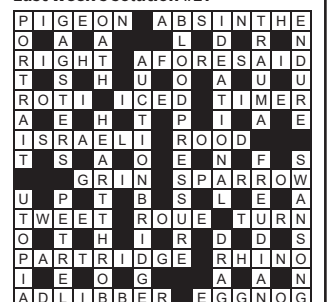
ACROSS

- Writing in upper case (14)
- Fit to be tied (5)
- Fruit that is the source of a rich, spicy wine (9)
- Group of children's entertainers (7)
- A traditional form of greeting in India (7)
- Expressions of assent (5)
- Appliance; utensil (9)
- Racehorses ready for sale (9)
- Fall from grace (5)
- Home of the brave (7)
- Items of casual clothing (1-6)
- Distraction; amusement (9)
- Dwelling provided for clergy (5)
- The thickness of an object (5,9)

DOWN

- Insensibility to pain (9)
- Perfect one to trade (5)
- Commercial assignment a revelation (9)
- 19th century Danish dramatist (5)
- Device alerting of possible threat (5,4)
- People in romantic relationships (5)
- Being born; developing (7)
- Channel for air to pass from nose or mouth to the lungs (6)
- Plied the warrior's trade (9)
- Part of a verb (4,5)
- Artificial means of global communication (9)
- The beginning of time (4,3)
- Occurs as a consequence (6)
- Brief stanza concluding certain forms of poetry (5)
- The plea in a court of law of having been elsewhere at the time in question (5)
- Dwelling places (5)

Last week's solution #17



STARS BY LILITH

This week's planetary snakes and ladders feature the snaky slide of outer planets Uranus and Pluto turning retrograde in earth signs, while Venus ascends into peace-loving Libra and Mercury climbs back on track...



VIRGO THE VIRGIN

ARIES: Arians can be hard on themselves, but mistakes are only lessons in disguise, so reframe this week's learning curves into the valuable experiences they really are. And just so you know, the current astrological climate inclines people to be more responsive to thoughtful gestures than love bombing or ultimatums.

TAURUS: Uranus, planet of change, reversing in your sign can cause widespread economic unrest. If this means rearranging your personal finances, your prima planet Venus supports processing them graciously by focussing on important Tauran values: beauty, the arts, and growing things like plants, vegies, relationships, a business.

GEMINI: As your mentor planet Mercury, the celestial engine of communication heads forward again this week, situationships ease and misunderstandings clarify. Now it's time to establish order by organising and financial strategising; also starting new habits by writing them down and planning ahead – but keep it simple.

CANCER: Power struggles that punctuated recent weeks have a better chance of resolving now conciliatory Venus is in her most negotiable transit. But still, don't assume anything. With this week's energetic focus on nature and wellness, spend time out of the house, and practice random acts of kindness.

LEO: If Mercury's turnaround in Leo has you overbooked and juggling a dozen things at once, take what's useful from feedback, and if you've been committed to one plan or point of view, be prepared to look at it from a different angle, with a sense of curiosity and willingness to try new techniques.

VIRGO: August's final week sees Mercury in gear again and the birthday sun shining on your precise, practical, earth-oriented sign. And if it feels like folks are flirting with you, that's how this week's cosmic coquette Venus operates, so why not just relax and enjoy the general ambience of disarming charm.

LIBRA: Beautiful news! This week Venus saunters into Libra for a glorious month in her favourite place of style, charm and grace. Plus the current health-conscious transit suggests snapping up some snazzy athleisurewear, investing in a new exercise routine, revising the winter diet and considering a spring detox.

SCORPIO: Powerhouse planet Pluto revisiting your communication zone until October 11 extends a final opportunity for deep reflection and meaningful conversations which won't come again in this lifetime. Consider this a call to action to step up and be the change you want to see in the world.

SAGITTARIUS: As Mercury ends its retrograde in the sign of easily taken offence, dramas start to dissipate, mountains shrink back into molehills, and what felt like tragedies begin to show their entertaining side. Though best keep those fearlessly frank opinions to yourself, as people are still quite thin-skinned.

CAPRICORN: Since 2008, Pluto in Capricorn has shaken up governments, corporations and economies. Its backtrack into Capricorn until October 11 is the last time in your life it will be in your sign. Meaning what for you? Questions about sustainability, accountability and an in-depth look at your ways of earning money.

AQUARIUS: As unpredictable Uranus reverses for the next five months through the sign of money and your base of operations, it's advisable to keep a stash of cash on hand for unexpected contingencies. If income slows, this could allow time and space to think about developing an indie venture or business.

PISCES: The somewhat uneasy alliance between pushy Mars, gullible Neptune and inflationary Jupiter advises enjoying this week's entertaining stories and the possibility of future adventures by all means, but also staying very aware of the difference between truth and a tall tale before you commit or sign anything.

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

Ads may be taken by phone on **6684 1777**

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

Ads can be lodged in person at the Mullum Echo office:

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

Ad bookings only taken during business hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm. Ads can't be taken on the weekend.

Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

DISPLAY ADS (with a border): \$14 per column centimetre

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa

Prepayment is required for all ads.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

Echo Classies also appear online:
www.echo.net.au/classified-ads

Echo

WORK WANTED

WORDPRESS WEBSITE CREATION
Fair rates info@wordpressit.com.au

HANDYMAN SERVICES No job too big or too small. Free quote. Servicing the Byron Shire \$60ph. Insured. 0439735817.

TUITION

Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Tutor

- Photoshop
- Indesign
- Illustrator

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www.thinkblinkdesign.com

MUSICAL NOTES

GUITARS, RECORDS, HI-FI
WE BUY AND SELL 66851005

SEEKING DRUMMER
for established reggae band
0434 438706



LOST AND FOUND

FOUND
A pair of trainers tied together and thrown over a power line

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Graham Chilvers
passed away peacefully on the 15th of August, 2024 aged 90.



A Byron Bay local for the past 3 decades, he was a keen croquet player and volunteer tour guide at the lighthouse. He now joins his wife Ruth who passed in 2009 and son Martin who passed in 1989. He is survived by his son Colin and daughter in law Patricia, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Friends and Family are welcome to a memorial service to Graham, held in the Rainbow Chapel, off Rainbow avenue at Guardian Funeral Home, West Ballina at 10.30 on the 28th of September.

PROF. SERVICES

DENTURES

LOOK GOOD
FEEL GOOD

Free consultation. **SANDRO 66805002**

PUBLIC NOTICES

WHERE TO GET THE ECHO

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

HEALTH

HAWAIIAN MASSAGE

Ocean Shores, Michaela, 0416332886

KINESIOLOGY

Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs.

Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress.
0403125506

SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.

HYPNOSIS & EFT

Simple and effective solutions. Anxiety, Cravings, Fears & Trauma.

Maureen Bracken 0402205352

HYPNOSIS & NLP

WendyPurdey.com. Ph 0497 090 233

Body Based Psychotherapy Somatic Practice

Julie Wells

Anne Goslett
(nee Mannix)



Dip.Som.Psych, Clinical PACFA Reg. Individual and Couple Therapy Supervision and Coaching

(02) 6685 5185
9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay

TRADEWORK

Septic Waste Removal Summerland Environmental

The Liquid Waste Specialists!

- Septic tank cleaning
- Grease trap servicing
- Oily Liquids
- Portable toilet hire
- 24 hour service

6687 2880

TREE SERVICES

Leaf it to us 4x4 truck/chipper, crane truck, stump grinding. Local, qualified, insured, free quotes. 0402487213

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Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas

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Mobile 0417 698 227

HART TREE SERVICES

20 years local experience

- 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding
- Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat

Fully insured • Free quotes

0427 347 380

FOR SALE

PROFESSIONAL SOUNDPROOFING for home or holiday rental Ph: 0432 060 110

ORCHID SALE

Variety of quality orchids for sale. Friday 6 & Saturday 7 Sept, 9am–5pm. 6 Pandanus Court, Brunswick Heads 66851709

MIELE WASHERS

Dryers and dishwashers available at Bridglands Mullumbimby. 66842511

EVOLVE GTR BAMBOO all-terrain skateboard, as new, with packaging and charger \$1.5k ono. Ph 0410206627

ARCHIBALD'S CHEAP QUARRY PRODUCTS

Road base, gravel, blue metal and metal dust. ALL SIZE DELIVERIES. Phone 66845517, 0418481617

SUPER73 SG2 e-Bike Apollo White w/ throttle 2021. Just serviced. Helmet (unused) and ABUS chain included. \$4000 ono. Ph 0410206627

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

CALL MARK
0427 490 038

WANTED

LP RECORDS: good condition, no op shop crap! Matt 0401955052

TREE FERNS

Any shape, size. Royalties paid. Ongoing supply needed. 0414904396

GARAGE SALES

OCEAN SHORES

Unit 3, 77 Orana Rd. Fabulous plants, electrical, linen, decor, homewares, fashion, accessories & jewellery. All top quality. Sat 8am

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

Second Hand Saturday:

the biggest day of garage sales
21st September 2024

secondhandsaturday.com.au

Register your garage sale for free!

Brought to you by NE Waste and your local Council.

MOTOR VEHICLES

TOYOTA COASTER BUS 1997 Manual. Good condition. Text 0422041882 for photos and info. \$32k

CARAVANS

CARAVANS
We buy, sell & consign. All makes & models. 0408 758 688

SHARE ACCOM.

SUNRISE: Room in 3 bdrm townhouse. \$270pw incl bills. No pets. 66856760.

LAND FOR SALE

SHARE (1/14) in established freehold tenancy in common landholding adjacent to Mt Warning National Park. Superb aesthetics, environmental zonings. Council building restrictions - not for the faint-hearted. Ph Michael 0423929548 ah.

TO LET

LOCAL REMOVAL

& backloads to Brisbane. Friendly, with 10 years local exp. 0409917646

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Secure. From \$22p/w. Ranging from 10–44 m3. Across 3 locations. 66867011

MULLUM: STATION ST STUDIOS

Studio 1 - 136sqm funky warehouse studio. \$770pw incl GST + elec. TEXT 0419 887 775

TO LEASE

CREATIVE DYNAMIC ART SPACE to share. 50sqm plus. Mullumbimby, on the river. \$95p/w plus elec. Ph 0408809528

STORAGE/WORKSHOP 6x3 incl elec. \$95p/w. Billinudgel. Elders RE 66851206

MULLUM: STATION ST STUDIOS

Studio G: 5.2m x 3m \$605 per month
TEXT 0419 887 775

POSITIONS VACANT

TOWER CRANE OPERATOR FALCON CRANES

We are looking for an experienced tower crane operator for a Kingscliff project commencing mid-September. HRWL CT ticket / White Card, drivers licence and own transport required. Please call 1300 668 799 or email your CV to info@falconcranes.com.au

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

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

Flexible work hours - perfect 2nd income
Email operations@byronbaytaxis.com

Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School

Accounts Payable Officer

Advertised on Page 9
In this Issue

Position Description
and Application Process
Capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre

RECEPTIONIST

Medical Reception Position, permanent part-time (32-38 hours) available. No experience necessary. Customer service and computer skills essential. Be a part of an exciting multidisciplinary team.

Email cover letter and CV to
mmcadmin@mullumhealthcentre.com



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

Contact Sylvia - Volunteer Coordinator
Mon-Fri
6684 1286

Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby
0401 926 090

KINESIOLOGY CRYSTAL HEALINGS & READINGS

Mullumbimby

- Physical & emotional issues
- Stress & pain relief
- Posture & flexibility
- Fears & phobias
- Self sabotage programs
- Enhanced performance
- Concentration & focus + much more!

Kate Messenger
0413 003 301

crystalsanddreaming.com.au

COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH



FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- Sausage sizzle • Hot dogs • Sandwiches
- Coffee & tea • Fruit Salad

EVERYONE WELCOME

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

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall

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



IN MEMORIAM



BELLA MAE BOWDEN
5/8/2007-30/8/2013

Our darling Bella
You are just away in an unknown land,
a little ahead to wait for our hand,

Love Yaya, Poppy Graham, Aunty Chris & Uncle Kev
XXXX
Lovingly Remembering Ivy always
XXXX

DISCLAIMER

Advertisements placed in The Byron Shire Echo do not reflect the views or opinions of the editorial staff.
The Byron Shire Echo does not make any representations as to the accuracy or suitability of any content or information contained in advertising material nor does publication constitute in any way an endorsement by The Byron Shire Echo of the content or representations contained therein.

ONLY ADULTS

BALLINA EXCLUSIVE
34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late.
In & Out Calls. 66816038. Ladies wanted
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

KRYSTAL ADULT SHOP

Large variety of toys and lingerie
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LOTS OF GORGEOUS LADIES available for your pleasure nearby. Spoil yourself. In-house & outcalls. 7 days. 0266816038.

SUN, MOON & TIDES
- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

Table with columns: DATE (August/Sept), DAY, MOON PHASE, SUN RISE/SET, MOON RISE/SET, HIGH TIDES (m), LOW TIDES (m). Rows show dates from 28 to 11.

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

PETS

NEISHA



Neisha is such a sweet cat. She's a quiet girl who doesn't hog the limelight & that's probably why she's been overlooked.
Neisha likes affection & would be a dream demure companion.

To meet Neisha, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.
OPEN: Tues 2.30-5.30pm, Thurs 3-5pm / Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 0436 845 542

Like us on Facebook!

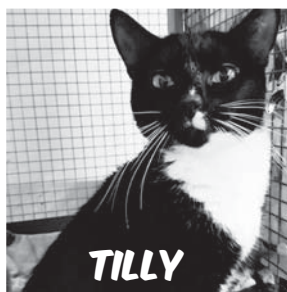
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation Number: R251000222



Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



Sweet, strong 2-year-old desexed female Dalmatian x Staffy 'Opal' has a shy, sensitive, quiet demeanour, is great with other dogs and children and has lived with a cat.
Very intelligent and highly intuitive, Opal will thrive with leadership and consistent training. She'll need a good couple of hours of off-leash exercise per day.
In the right home, Opal will reward you with her loyal, fun-loving and affectionate self.
Contact Shell on 0458 461 935.
MC: 953010005792889



Tilly is a delightfully friendly black and white 4 year old. She came into the shelter with her sister, Lyla. A wonderful little companion.

All cats are desexed, vaccinated and microchipped.
No: 953010004365538. PETS FOR LIFE

Please make an appointment 0403 533 589 • Billinudgel petsforlifeanimalshelter.net



Falcon is a 8 month old Kelpie/Smithfield X. This intelligent guy is quick to learn, showing all the traits of a working breed. Falcon would thrive in an active family with older kids, especially on a property where he can get the enrichment and exercise he needs M/C # 991003002444227

Location: Murwillumbah
For more information please contact Yvette on 0421 831 128 or please complete our online expression of interest form at: www.friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest

Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
ABN 83 126 970 338

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE000
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
LIFELINE131 114
MENSLINE.....1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics1300 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

Table with columns: Market Name, Day, Time, Contact Info. Rows include Brunswick Heads, Byron Bay, The Channon, Lennox Head, Chillingham, Coolangatta, Tabulam, Mullumbimby, Murwillumbah, Salt Village Market, Casuarina, Federal, Uki, Ballina, Evans Head, Kyogle Bazaar, Bangalow, Nimbin, Murwillumbah, Coolangatta.

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.

Annie O'Moon-Browning

Join Annie O'Moon-Browning the local author with Donald Maughan in conversation. They will be talking about her well reviewed book 'Rosanna'. Light refreshments provided. Bookings essential. Phone 6685 8540 or visit www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au Thursday, 5 September 4-5.30pm.

Bruns CWA Market Day

Come along to the Bruns CWA Market Day on Saturday September 14 between 8am-1pm. Craft work, cakes, biscuits, jams and pickles, plants and Devonshire teas at the corner of Park and Booyun Steets Brunswick Heads. Cash only, please.

BV Probus Club

The Brunswick Valley Probus Club meeting is on Tuesday, September 3 at 10am at the Ocean Shores Country Club. Guest Speaker is Liara Covert, she is a sound healer showing how sound can facilitate reducing stress. Visitors welcome. Inquires ring Margaret on 6680 3316.

Richmond-Tweed Family History Society

The next general meeting of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society will be held on Saturday, September 7, from 2-4pm at Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street, Ballina. The topic at this meeting will be www.ancestry.com as the Society has just purchased the genealogy site ancestry.com. This meeting is free with afternoon tea served. Any further enquiries please contact Victoria (Vicki) Evans on 0467 573 282 or email presidentrthf1@yahoo.com.

Mullumbimby CWA

Mullumbimby CWA will meet on September 11 at 10am at the CWA Rooms with a light lunch to follow. Annual subscriptions are due. September 14 is the day for the Land Cookery contest. Bring entries to the CWA Rooms at 9am. Judging will begin at 9.30am by an independent judge. Info: Jenny Barlow, secretary 6684 7282.

Amateur beekeeping

Northern Rivers Amateur Beekeeping Association Inc (NRABA) notice of Annual General Meeting to be held at 12.30pm on Sunday, September 1 at Ruthven Hall, 900 Coraki Rd, Ruthven.

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).

Dying at home

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

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/.

Bruns crafty women

The CWA Brunswick Heads crafty women meet each Friday between 10am and 2pm, corner of Park and Booyun Streets, 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: brunswca@gmail.com. Our members meeting takes place the first Friday of the month at 9am.

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 could be used here then please call in or phone Trisha on 0429 882 525. Find us on Facebook or contact us bangalowhistorical2479@gmail.com.

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. Listing Space: free counselling. More Than A Meal: free community lunch Tuesday-Thursday 12.30-1.30pm.

Financial counselling Staying Home, Leaving Violence program: Information, referral, and advocacy. Gulganii affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane. Orange Sky: free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon. To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdn.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community

The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. Fletcher Street Cottage: A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to get practical relief opportunities,

find connections and access broader support. Fletcher Street Cottage services are open Tuesday-Friday. Breakfast: Tuesday-Friday, 7-9am. Showers and laundry: Tuesday-Friday, 7am-12pm. Office support: Tuesday-Friday, 9am-12pm. Support appointments: Individual support appointments with community workers or specialist services. For bookings please call 6685 6807. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au. Byron Community Cabin: Seniors Computer Club (school term only), 9-11am, Friday, Carlyle Steet. More info: www.byroncentre.com.au Phone: 6685 6807.

Low-cost or free food

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

Respite Service

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

Alateen meeting

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

ACA

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

Drug support groups

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

SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

DEADLINE: For additions and changes to the Service Directory is 12pm Friday.
LINE ADS: \$99 for 3 months or \$340 for 1 year prepaid.
 For line Service Directory ads email classifieds@echo.net.au.
DISPLAY ADS: \$70 per week for colour display ad. Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.
 Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high. New display ads will be placed at end of section.
 For display Service Directory ads email adcopy@echo.net.au.
 The Echo Service Directory is online – www.echo.net.au/service-directory
ACCOUNTS & BOOKINGS: 6684 1777

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326 BOOYONG ROAD, NASHUA



Expansive Rural Estate with Multiple Residences and Breathtaking Panoramic Views

12 beds 2 living 4 baths 4 cars

108 ACRE

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- Circa 1900's farmhouse with original timber floorboards, VJ panelling and ornate details
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- Lagoon style pool

PRICE | Contact Agent
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Light-Filled Coastal Gem Near Byron Bay Main Beach

2 beds 1 living 1 bath 1 car

- Freshly revitalised space featuring brand-new floors and carpet throughout
- Open-plan living and dining, bathed in natural light from north-facing aspect
- Shared BBQ facilities in a gated garden area and a secure lock-up garage
- 100 meters from Main Beach and 200 meters from town

PRICE | \$1.3M - \$1.4M
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The highest winter temperature ever recorded in Australia was on Monday: Yampi Sound, Western Australia (near Broome) hit +41.6°C. With hot weather, now is the time for rural residents to consider fire preparedness: visit www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare.

Are councillors (many of whom are seeking re-election) tone deaf to local business (see page 1)? While Council staff are only obliged to follow legal frameworks, it's councillors who guide staff around how to treat the community. Elections are September 14.

After eight years, NT voters booted out Labor last weekend, with pundits speculating crime and social issues were primary reasons. Environmental concerns also played a part, with the Greens making gains.

As odd as it sounds, *Tickle v Giggle* is a real case. The Federal Court of Australia recently ruled in favour of Roxanne Tickle, with the court finding that Tickle, a transgender woman, had been discriminated against when she was denied access to the women-only social media app, Giggle, which was marketed as a safe space for women. Professor Anne Twomey explains the case on her Youtube channel, Constitutional Clarion.

Greens Senator, David Shoebridge says he will give notice of a motion in the Australian Senate calling for an urgent Royal Commission into governments' responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. 'Unlike the Labor government's



When you say 'furthermore' instead of 'also'.

current inquiry, the Greens want to see a Royal Commission independently examine the response to Covid from the Commonwealth, states and territories' he says.

A new panel to advise on native forest logging in NSW will have no forest scientists appointed to it, says Lisimore-based Greens MP Sue Higginson. Seems like the thing to do if you don't want to be properly informed?

Byron Community Markets will be celebrating the first day of spring on Sunday, September 1. Everyone is invited!

This can't be good: the CSIRO has confirmed hundreds of jobs will be lost as the national science agency seeks to reel in \$100m worth of operating costs. According to www.governmentnews.com.au, they have to 'reduce costs across the non-research part of the organisation by 25 per cent - which is at least \$100m'.

Shostak, says the Bob Brown Foundation incorrectly stated that Paul Watson 'stopped Tokyo slaughtering thousands more whales'. He says, 'It is correct to say that he helped, but he didn't stop them. The Australian government stopped them by spending \$30 million to pay for the legal fees for the International Court of Justice in the Hague, and after deliberation, they banned the slaughter of whales in the southern ocean by the Japanese government'.

NSW Labor government say they have improved rental laws to end no-grounds evictions. The media release reads, 'Under our proposed reforms, homeowners will now need a reason to end a tenancy for both periodic and fixed term leases'.

Gemma Mackenzie
Local Byron Shire Psychologist



Born and raised in Byron Shire, Gemma has worked in mental health for over ten years as a registered psychologist and art therapist.

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Meet David Warth, your candidate for mayor, at these venues:

Byron Bay Community Centre
Meet the Candidates event
Monday 2nd September 6pm

Brunswick Heads Bowling Club
Wednesday 4th September 6pm

Mullumbimby RSL
Friday 6th September 6pm

Bangalow Bowling Club
Meet the Candidates event
Tuesday 10th September 6pm

Ocean Shores Tavern
Wednesday 11th September 6pm

VOTE

1

DAVID WARTH