



Mitch vs the block

The famous Brunswick Heads Woodchop Festival's final day was on Saturday, which drew axe-wielding professionals from far and wide. Pictured is hard hitter, Mitch Argent. Photo Jeff 'Off The Block And Fully Chipped' Dawson

Lennox meets to address youth crime

Paul Bibby

Installing CCTV cameras and motion-sensor lights is one of the best ways for locals to protect their homes from the wave of break-ins and car thefts occurring across the Northern Rivers, a community meeting has been told.

Around 100 people gathered at the Lennox Cultural Centre last Saturday evening, a turnout that appeared to reflect the growing level of concern about youth crime in the town.

The meeting was addressed by current and former police officers, a security expert, and concerned locals, all of whom emphasised that

the best way for locals to protect their homes was by installing CCTV cameras and motion-sensor lights, and by sharing information with neighbours via smartphone apps.

'Look, you're not going to stop the real criminals from getting into your home if they really want to,' said Geoff Bensley, who installed security systems and other electrical services in Byron for many years.

'But you can deter the kind of crime and theft that these young people are involved in. Putting motion-detection lights in is definitely an option, and so is CCTV.'

Mr Bensley and the others who addressed the meeting also emphasised the importance of

collaborating with neighbours to share information through WhatsApp chat groups and apps such as WeWatch, which is specifically designed to boost community security.

WeWatch app

WeWatch, which informs communities whenever there has been a break-in within a certain radius, was described as a 'more up-to-date version of Neighbourhood Watch'.

Earlier in the meeting, Detective Sergeant Michael Smith, from the Richmond Local Area Command, painted a picture of the types of young offenders who were

► Continued on page 5

The Saddle Road and future traffic – a closer look

Hans Lovejoy

With up to 1,500 new homes and commercial expansion planned for the exclusive hilltop along The Saddle Road, *The Echo* sought to clarify Council's traffic plans given new roads will be needed to accommodate the proposal.

The Saddle Road precinct, including the Gulgan Village, is proposed for large residential and commercial expansion under Council's *Residential Strategy 2041* and *Business Lands Strategy (BILS)*.

The NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) are also involved, having held closed-door meetings with Council over many months.

According to www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Development-Business/Land-Use-Zoning/Saddle-Road-Precinct, the 'Infrastructure Priority Plan' has commenced, with the Precinct Structure Plan yet to begin.

As reported last week, Council staff are preparing to undertake road improvements on Mullumbimby Road, which will impact traffic on The Saddle Road.

The Local Traffic Committee meeting minutes from November 19, 2024, read, 'A meeting was held with Transport to discuss the possibility of lowering the speed limit on Mullumbimby Road to address the sight distance issues at the Saddle Road and McAuleys Lane intersections'.

'At this time, Transport was not supportive of lowering the speed limit from 80km/h in this location'.

The Echo asked Mayor Sarah Ndiaye, 'Are there any plans to create a new access road for The Saddle Road, or will the residents of the estimated 1,500 new homes all

be using the existing road network?'

She replied, 'This is a large and complex site, involving multiple landowners and numerous moving parts. It's also a significant opportunity to address the housing crisis with modern planning principles, focusing on affordable and diverse housing solutions that can meet future needs. As I understand it, the existing road reserve along the Saddle Road ridge is not suitable for accommodating the additional traffic generated by the BILS site.'

'As per the development proposal, the BILS/Gulgan Village site will need to construct a new roundabout off Gulgan Road, as well as an internal access road up to the ridge to manage the expected traffic flows.'

Uncle Tom's roundabout

'Council has applied for a \$7.6 million grant from the Housing Support Program to fund the construction of a roundabout at the Gulgan/Mullumbimby Road (Uncle Tom's) intersection.'

'In this scenario, a left-in/left-out arrangement at the northern end of The Saddle Road would allow local traffic travelling towards Mullumbimby to turn left, perform a U-turn at the new roundabout, and then continue north into Mullumbimby.'

'The existing intersection at the northern end of The Saddle Road is particularly hazardous, especially for right-turns at the crest, and a redesign is essential.'

'However, it's important to note that no decision has yet been made by the Commonwealth government regarding this funding request.'

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CT subdivision proposed for Main Arm ► p4

David Heilpern looks at unapproved dwellings ► p8

The hoary old nuclear chestnut ► p12

Local folk who take care of your wellbeing ► p13

Bright and shiny Mullum on the map ► p16

Summer fun for everyone ► p18

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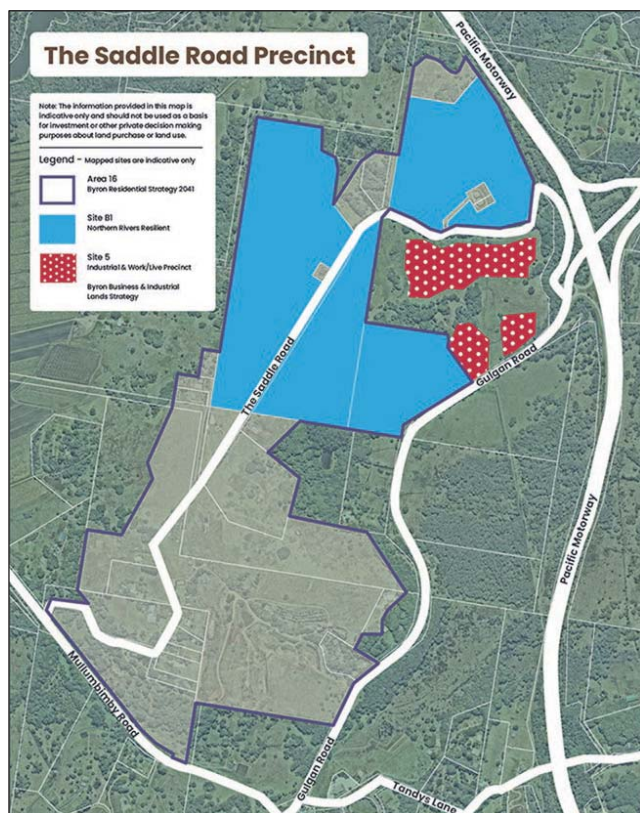
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The Saddle Road and future traffic – a closer look



The dark blue outline depicts lands included in the Residential Strategy 2041, the light blue area will be developed by the NSW Reconstruction Authority, and the dotted red area is land included in the Business & Industrial Lands Strategy. Image Byron Council

► **Continued from page 1**
 'If the grant is not approved in the short term, alternative traffic management strategies will be explored during the planning and development phases to ensure the development's traffic needs are addressed.
 'Looking further ahead, long-term access to the entire Saddle Road precinct will be guided by the development of an infrastructure priority plan, which is already underway.
 'This plan is crucial for supporting any future precinct structure plan and will incorporate a thorough assessment of Aboriginal cultural and landscape values.
 'Throughout this process, we are engaging regularly with the Saddle Road Precinct Landowners Group, and will provide updates to

Council at each stage.
 'The first report on the Gulgan Village development is scheduled to be presented to Council in February.
Gulgan Village
 'Although the planning process is ongoing, it's likely that all new vehicular access to, and within, the future development areas will be routed via a new internal road network connecting to Gulgan Road.
 'Given the scale of the project, changes to the road network will be phased over a ten-plus-year period, meaning there will likely be interim traffic management measures implemented throughout this timeline, depending on funding availability and development progress', Mayor Ndiaye added.

Court allows farm stay Gulgan Road access

Paul Bibby

A long-running issue over road access from a farm stay development in Brunswick Heads has been quietly settled in favour of the developer in the NSW Land & Environment Court.

The settlement, reached late last year between developer Koresoft and Byron Shire Council, could provide a precedent for future tourism developments in the Shire.

It was back in 2021 when Koresoft successfully applied for permission to build a six-cabin farm stay on a greenfield site at 219 The Saddle Rd.

There was extensive debate at the time over how visitors to the venue should access it.

The developer sought permission to build a private access road connecting the farm stay to nearby Gulgan Road – an 80km/hr road that takes locals between Bruns and Mullumbimby, and is also a key road accessing the Pacific Highway.

The developer's request was denied by Byron Council because of a clause in the Byron Local Environment Plan, which forbids tourism developments which rely on



Concept drawing of farm stay buildings at the northern end of The Saddle Road. Photo supplied

access to and from a 'Classified Road'.

While the developer accepted this decision at the time, agreeing to build an alternative access via The Saddle Road, it later submitted a modification application seeking a return to its preferred plan.

Deemed refusal

It then took Council to the Land and Environment Court (LEC) over the issue, arguing that the length of time taken to determine the application amounted to 'deemed refusal'.

Late last year, during compulsory conciliation meetings mandated by the court, Council agreed to

settle the matter, granting Koresoft permission to build its preferred access to Gulgan Road.

Approved roadworks

In formally codifying this settlement, LEC Acting Commissioner Michael Young acknowledged that the relevant roadworks had already been approved under another development consent for an Agricultural Produce Industry Development Application on the same property.

Acting Commissioner Young also noted an expert report prepared by Greg Alderson Associates at the request of the developer in regards to the proposed

access road.

It stated that the closest intersection to the development from the Saddle Road exit was the intersection with Mullumbimby Road, which was 'unsafe owing to poor sight distances...'

'There is consequently a significant risk of a collision between a vehicle turning into or from the Saddle Road and vehicles proceeding along Mullumbimby Road,' the expert report stated.

Access supported

Acting Commissioner Young also noted that Transport for NSW had indicated that it concurred with the new access, stating that the additional traffic generated was 'satisfactorily catered for'.

However, the outcome raises questions regarding whether the current 80km/hr speed limit on Gulgan Road can remain in place, given that multiple cars will now be entering and exiting the farm stay from this road on a daily basis.

The outcome could also have significance for future tourism developments in Byron Shire – acting as an incentive for other tourism developers wanting to privately access 'Classified Roads' as part of their plans.

Cane toad bust community event, Jan 16

A community cane toad bust event is planned for Waterlily Park, Ocean Shores, on Thursday, 16 January from 5.30pm till 8.30pm.

Organised by Byron Council and environment group, Watergum, the event aims to inform residents to identify cane toads and 'humanely reduce cane toad and tadpole numbers'.

Organisers say, 'You'll have the opportunity to

practise collecting toads in preparation for our upcoming online toad bust challenge, where you can compete for exciting prizes!'

'We have partnered with not-for-profit community environment group, Watergum, to tackle cane toads head on.

'Studies show that cane toad control efforts can remove between 28 per cent to 47 per cent of a localised

toad population.

'As summer is cane toad breeding season, this is the ideal time to join our community cane toad bust event and cane toad information session, and work together to control cane toads.'

What to bring

Organisers say to bring covered walking shoes, insect protection, drinking water, and appropriate clothing for

outdoors at night.

'If you have a toad bust kit, please bring it along.'

'If not, Watergum will have gear you can use.'

Toad busting kit equipment includes a bucket with a lid, rubber garden gloves, a torch and pick-up stick (optional).

To register your attendance (free, including light food), visit <https://tinyurl.com/yc46cty9>.

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Colour comes to Coorabell Hall

Coorabell Hall marks the start of its 2025 arts program, with Jan Rae's latest exhibition, 'Hinterland + Dance'.

Opening night is Friday January 24 from 5.30pm, and the exhibition runs through Saturday, January 25, from 10am till 3pm, until Monday January 27.

Organisers say, 'Jan is a long-time resident of Byron, originally trained at UNSW Art & Design (COFA) and in Florence, Italy. The Byron Bay area became her home in 1974'.

Jan says, 'My art practice takes inspiration from being surrounded by the beautiful hinterland and coastline of Byron Shire'.

'The spectacular view from Coorabell Hall and along Coolamon Scenic Drive has inspired many of my paintings, so it is perfect to be able to exhibit at the hall that looks over this panorama.'



Jan Rae with her latest exhibition, which will be held at the Coorabell Hall from January 24. Photo Jeff Dawson

'Being an organiser and teacher of Argentine tango in Byron, I will also be exhibiting a series of recent paintings inspired by my passion for dancing the tango, alongside

the Hinterland series.'

Featured on the big screen for the opening night will be an audio-visual presentation of Jan's 'performance drawing'.

Jan will also be in conversation with a Q&A, on Sunday 26 from 2.30 pm.

From 4 till 6pm there will be tango dancing with Practica and music by DJ Juana.



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Bushfire preparedness – red tape slashed

Landholders wanting to prepare for bushfires can now lawfully take up to 100,000 litres (0.1 ML) of water per year 'and store it in a tank or dam for future firefighting purposes', says the NSW Labor government.

In a media release, the NSW Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib, said, 'During a fire emergency, a landholder can now take water from surface water and groundwater sources on their land without needing to have a water licence and water use approval. This includes streams, creeks and rivers abutting the boundary'.

He says, 'This commonsense exemption has been made via amendments to the *Water Management (General) Regulation 2018*'.

Mr Dib says, 'The NSW

government will carry out targeted periodic surveys of landholders to understand how the exemption is being used and to identify the extent and scale of water use'.

No reporting

'While landholders are not required to submit reports, they are encouraged to log the volume of water they take under the exemption, for their own records'.

The Echo sought comment from NSW Greens MLC, Sue Higginson.

She replied, 'Fire is deadly serious, and we need surge capacity to deal with wildfire, but it is reckless to think that we don't need to take a regulatory approach to our most essential shared and common resource – water. Taking surface water from

the ecosystem, particularly at times of scarcity, is serious business and can have life and death consequences. Rule changes like this exemption must be accurately accounted for.'

'Allowing emergency use of unlicensed water for fighting bush fires might be necessary, but we cannot pretend that there is not the potential for abuse to occur owing to bad faith actors, and we certainly can't assume that this will lead to necessary strategic and fair responses to fighting fires.'

'Allowing the storage of up to 100,000 litres per property per year requires strict reporting obligations on the amount of water taken and used. We run the risk of further diminishing water security in NSW and

downstream states if massive volumes of water are removed from the system without a central reporting requirement.'

'This exemption is a tool, and tools have to be used correctly if they are going to be safe.'

'The government needs to look closely at the potential consequences and make sure there are checks and balance in place to prevent rampant water theft to take place under the guise of bush fire safety', added Ms Higginson.

More storms predicted over coming months

Olivia Grosser

The Bureau of Meteorology's (BOM) long-range forecast shows a continuation of current wet conditions, with above-average rainfall likely to swamp the Northern Rivers with 400–600mm of rain over the next three months.

The BOM also forecasts warmer-than-average days across southern and eastern Australia, and an increased chance of high overnight temperatures across the country.

Despite the rain and

thunderstorms, temperatures will remain in the high 20s and reach the 30s in the coming weeks. Humidity percentages will remain in the 70s and 80s, and may extend to 90 per cent later in the week.

The BOM released a severe weather update over the weekend, delivered by senior meteorologist, Angus Hines.

The update forecasts severe storms that could deliver heavy rain and lead to flash flooding across Australia's east coast, including the Northern Rivers.

'We'll see extensive stormy weather yet again, all across the eastern side of the country,' Hines said.

'It's really following that daily cycle that builds through the early afternoon, with the most active period being the late afternoon and the evening, and then starting to subside again overnight', Hines added.

■ Olivia Grosser is on work experience at *The Echo*.

■ Full story online at www.echo.net.au.

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CT subdivision proposed for Main Arm

Paul Bibby

'It can be strongly argued that there would not be a more sustainable way to provide housing within a rural area of the Byron Shire...'

This is the not-so-modest assessment of a new community title (CT) housing development proposed for Main Arm, known as 'Hidden Valley'.

It was made by a local planning consultant hired by the developer behind the project.

But you don't have to take their word for it.

The plans for the proposed development at 84 Blindmouth Road are currently on public exhibition on the Byron Council website, so you can decide for yourself whether such lofty descriptions are warranted.

The development application (10.2024.438.1) is for 12 neighbourhood lots on a sprawling rural property around the corner from the Main Arm Store.

The 38.15-hectare site, which contains two separate land parcels, will also involve one community association lot, an internal shared access road, and ancillary



A 12-lot community title DA near Main Arm shops, on Blindmouth Road, is on exhibition. Image: DA 10.2024.438.1

works including earthworks, drainage, services, and ecological protection and enhancement work.

MO approved

Main Arm locals and other careful readers of *The Echo* may recall that Byron Council already approved a Multiple Occupancy (MO) development for this site back in 2020.

Significant upgrades of Blindmouth Road have already been completed as a condition of the original MO development consent, as have a range of other works,

including vegetation buffer plantings and other work associated with the vegetation management plan.

So, what's different about this version?

Well, it appears that the new proposal includes a request for permission to build dual occupancy dwellings and secondary dwellings on each of the rural living lots if the future community title holders wish to do so.

This means that the 12-lot subdivision could end up becoming home to 24 or more separate dwellings.

There is also another

reason for the new application.

Community title subdivisions have significant benefits over multiple occupancies, including the ability to attain finance to construct dwellings.

In a time of increased construction costs this is a big financial incentive to go down the community title path.

As for the claim that the proposed development is the gold standard for sustainability, the proposal will have on-site wastewater management, and the layout of the subdivision appears to utilise land that has already been disturbed while protecting areas of habitat value.

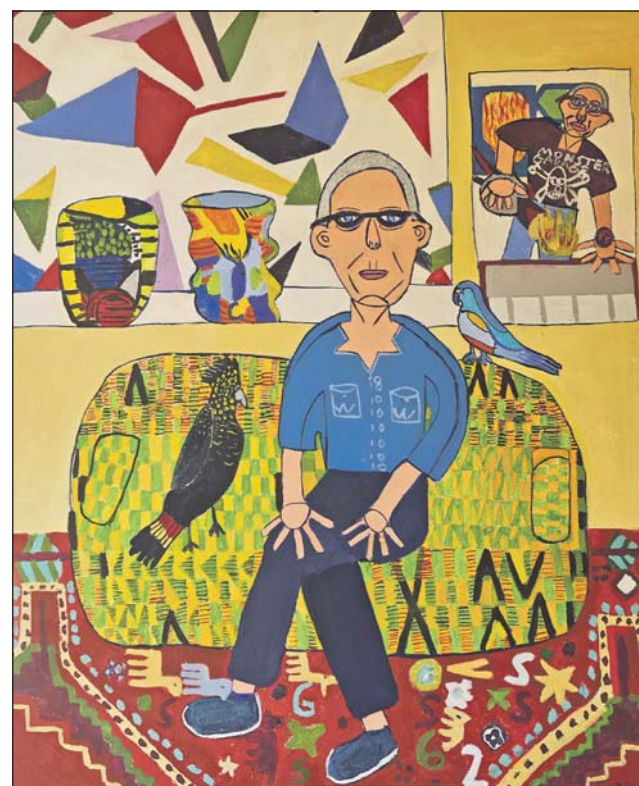
Ecological works

The developer has also promised to undertake significant ecological works on the site, including the planting of more than 10,000 trees and equivalent works.

Some of this work has already been undertaken, as has the reconstruction of Blindmouth Creek Road at the creek crossing.

Locals have until January 24 to have their say on the development, and can do so on Council's website.

Zion's new art adorns Tweed Gallery



Zion Levy Stewart's painting Noel Hart. Photo supplied

Mullumbimby artist Zion Levy Stewart's latest exhibition, 'Life is Art', opens on Valentine's Day, February 14, at the Tweed Gallery.

Organisers say, 'The aim of this exhibition is to share Zion's positive view of his life with Up Syndrome (generally called Down Syndrome)'.

'Through his art, Zion has the capacity to spread joy, bring happiness to peoples'

hearts, as they enter his innocent, naive world of quirky people, birds and animals.

Compulsive artist

'Zion is a compulsive artist who paints every day. Come and experience this art with heart, opening on Valentine's Day until May 4, during which Zion will be sketching people on Thursdays', they added.

Entry is free.



Tell us what you think about our plan for the future

The Draft Community Strategic Plan 2035 is currently on exhibition for feedback.

The Community Strategic Plan is a ten-year plan that reflects the visions, aspirations and needs of the community to guide Council's work and priorities. The previous Plan has been reviewed and amended based on feedback received from community consultation.

The deadline for submissions is **9 February 2025**.

Submissions can be made:

- 🌐 www.byron.nsw.gov.au/communityplan
- 👤 Council Offices, 70 Station Street Mullumbimby, NSW 2482
- ☎ 02 6626 7000
- ✉ PO Box 219, Mullumbimby NSW 2482



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Addressing youth crime

► Continued from page 1 responsible for the scores of break-ins and car thefts occurring across the region.

'The age range is from 14 to 36, but the most common age is around 16,' he said.

He added that some of the young offenders had intellectual challenges, such as foetal alcohol syndrome and developmental delays.

Police were facing issues prosecuting young people accused of offences because of the need to prove that the young person was aware that what they were doing was wrong.

This requirement particularly applies to children aged under 14, who were also protected from having their DNA and fingerprints taken.

Detective Sergeant Smith also painted a picture of when and how the offences were occurring.

'Thursday night is the most common night for break and enters, and they occur most commonly between midnight and 3am,' he said.

'The MO is generally young offenders in small groups of about two-to-five members... They're checking for unlocked doors and



The most common age of offenders is around 16, police say. File photo

garages and for high quality, easily transportable goods and obviously for car keys.

'They're also on the lookout for shoes because they often take their shoes off before going into someone's house, and then leave them behind because if they get someone's keys, they want to get out of there pretty quickly.'

The offenders were also stealing knives and food, the meeting heard.

Whole community

A key overarching theme during the meeting was the need for the whole community to work together to address the issue, particularly those with relevant expertise.

'Youth crime is an issue that requires action on a range of levels,' meeting organiser, Alison Vickery said.

'I don't have an agenda, and I don't know how to solve this problem, but I do know how to get community issues heard.'

She said the group was looking at developing a Northern Rivers-wide response to the issue, that included people from across the community.

'A number of members of the community have stepped forward to help and advise us,' she said.

'Drawing on our resources is definitely going to be part of the solution.'

Youth programs help with crime

Another aspect discussed at the Lennox Head gathering last week was boosting investment in youth programs which prevent young people entering the criminal justice system.

Human Nature targets 14- to 18-year-olds who are struggling in the Northern Rivers and have not found office-based services helpful.

They offer counselling, activities with peers, and physical challenges in the natural environment, such as hiking and surfing, with the aim of helping young people to engage with the therapeutic support they need.

Strong evidence

Its CEO Sharyn White, says, 'We have strong evidence that what we do makes a difference with positive impacts that will reduce the chances of offending.'

Human Nature's ambassador is Mandy Nolan, who is the local Greens candidate for the upcoming federal election.

She says, 'We need to fully fund diversionary and preventative programs for young people.'

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Echo

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

Late end for NSW cane season

The NSW sugar industry has seen an unusually late end to the 2024 crush with Harwood Sugar Mill closing out the season January 7, 2025.

Crystal Walker still missing

NSW Police are appealing for public assistance to locate a teenage girl missing from the Lismore area.

Securing safe drinking water for Tabulam

The village of Tabulam, west of Casino, is on the path to securing its first ever drinking water supply network, thanks to a \$400,000 investment from Kyogle Council and the Australian government's National Water Grid Fund.

Senior Achievement Award nominations now open

Nominations are now open for the 2025 NSW Seniors Festival Local Achievement Awards.

Nominees announced for Ballina's 2025 Australia Day Awards

Ballina Shire Council have announced the nominees for their 2025 Australia Day Awards, commemorating individual and community achievement throughout the shire.

Call to end rodeos in Northern Rivers

Multiple rodeos and bull riding events have been held throughout the Northern Rivers including Byron Bay, Evans Head, and Murwillumbah with an upcoming 'Cowboys in Coffs' this Saturday.

Tweed Council take action to reduce risk of costs from building and developments

Damage to community assets such as footpaths, stormwater drains etc has led Tweed Shire Council to create a new security bond that is payable to TSC for non-subdivision development applications and Complying Development Certificates.

A new lease on life in Lismore?

The University of the Third Age (U3A) in Lismore is highlighting the fact that they have a wide range of courses and activities available and are holding an open day on Wednesday, January 22 for locals to take a look at what is on offer.

www.echo.net.au

Call to end rodeos in Northern Rivers

Aslan Shand

Multiple rodeos and bull riding events have been held throughout the Northern Rivers including in Byron Bay, Evans Head, Murwillumbah, and Coffs Harbour.

Multiple issues have been raised over the rodeos – from animal cruelty to the fact that they take place on public land.

Animal cruelty

One key issue that has been repeatedly raised is how the animals are handled and provoked into 'performing'.

'These spectacles are brutal and violent, designed solely for human entertainment, and are terrifying for the animals, many of which suffer repeated trauma week in and week out as they are loaded, unloaded

and trucked around the state,' said Lisa Ryan, Animal Liberation's Regional Campaigns Manager.

Animal Liberation, Australia's longest-running animal rights organisation, has been actively opposing and campaigning against rodeos, rodeo schools and bull riding events for decades, including documenting and filming events to raise public awareness about the practices – and is continuing to demand a complete ban on what it describes as, 'government-sanctioned legalised animal abuse'.

Under review

'In NSW, rodeo events still rely on legal exemptions under the state's animal welfare laws, that allow animal handling practices that would otherwise be

prosecuted as cruelty to animals. These exemptions are currently under review along with other animal welfare considerations, in a draft Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Regulations 2025, with the current 2012 Regulations due for repeal on 1 February 2025,' explained Ms Ryan.

Crown land used for rodeos

The fact that public and Crown lands are used for the rodeo events from local parks as in Evans Head, to showgrounds like the event in Murwillumbah, has been raised as an issue as those opposed to rodeos say this is not the best use of land set aside for public use.

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

Incumbent Kevin Hogan to run as Nationals candidate for Page

Current National Party member for Page, Kevin Hogan, has again been endorsed as the National Party candidate for the seat of Page for the upcoming federal election.

The seat of Page includes the local government areas of the Clarence Valley Council, Kyogle Council, Lismore City Council, Richmond Valley Council, part of the Ballina Shire Council, and part of the Coffs Harbour City Council.

The seat has moved between the Labor Party and the National Party since it was created in 1984 and Mr Hogan has held the seat since 2013.

'I am humbled to have recently been endorsed as the Nationals' candidate for this year's federal election. It is an honour to serve our community and with their



Kevin and his wife Karen Hogan. Photo supplied

support I hope to continue to do so,' said Mr Hogan.

'We need to get our country back on track. Labor have been an exceptionally disappointing government. Cost-of-living pressures, the housing crisis and the complete lack of funding for regional communities all need reversing.'

Kevin bucked 2022 trend

The 2022 federal election saw the LNP lose to Labor with the LNP retaining only 58 seats combined. Mr Hogan bucked the trend with a swing of 1.3 per cent towards the National Party in the seat of Page. On a two-party preferred basis he won 60.7 per cent of the vote with Labor on 39.3 per cent.

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

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Ballina mayor highlights need to fund juvenile crime diversion programs

Aslan Shand

Ballina Mayor Sharon Cadwallader and a core group of councillors and community representatives moved their peaceful community gathering aimed at putting pressure on the justice system to take more action on juvenile crime from Ballina to Lismore court today.

The case they were highlighting, of a recent home break-in at Lennox Head in which a family was allegedly terrorised with knives, was moved from Ballina to Lismore Court and Cr Cadwallader told *The Echo* that they moved the gathering as the case had been moved to Lismore Court.

Breaking the cycle

'It is not about getting the juveniles incarcerated,' she told *The Echo*. 'My question is why aren't the magistrates mandating community diversionary programs? Maybe they should be mandated into diversionary programs under the law?'

Cr Cadwallader said that something had to change as break and enters, burglaries and thefts were having significant impacts on the community.

'It can't just be seeing to the protection of properties and people. The mental health issues of the break and enter and home invasions are significant,' she said.

'Each of these unfortunates, who have hard upbringings, we need to teach them how to enjoy life. Get them into jobs. They have never had that experience, support, or boundaries in their home environment.'

Early intervention

'We know that the police PCYC programs are very effective, Backtrack has been very effective and Northtrack very promising,' she explained.

'But once again they are relying on volunteers and grant funding to run these programs. Early intervention is where the resources need to be going.'

'I spoke to some Aboriginal people who were at the courthouse today and they agreed with me that we need more programs, we need them sent into diversionary programs. Building more jails is not the answer. They need to be mandated to go into diversionary programs – why aren't they doing it?'

PFAS at safe levels in the drinking water Byron, Lismore, Ballina and Richmond LGAs

Independent laboratory testing for PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) using samples collected within the Rous County Council (RCC) water network has indicated the water is safe to drink.

Rous County Council supplies water to Byron, Lismore, Ballina and Richmond local government areas (LGAs). RCC has been conducting its own routine testing for PFAS since 2023 using samples taken from water and environmental sources. To date, all results have shown PFAS chemicals are not detectable.

The most recent results from NSW Health's

independent tests, received in December 2024, also did not find PFAS in any samples, according to Adam Nesbitt, Group Manager Operations, RCC.

'I am pleased to share that the analysis undertaken by NSW Health has returned excellent results with PFAS undetectable in all samples,' said Mr Nesbitt.

'These independent test results reaffirm the safety and quality of our drinking water and reflect tests for PFAS that RCC has been undertaking for some time.'

'By conducting regular testing and transparent reporting, we ensure that our water supply continues to meet – and exceed – national safety standards.'

Rous County Council publishes an Annual Water Quality Summary Report, which includes PFAS testing results, on its website. Visit: <https://rous.nsw.gov.au/annual-water-quality-summary-reports>.

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

Vadasz's architecture recognised

Aslan Shand

Byron architect, Christine Vadasz, describes herself as an 'organic architect' and has been awarded a Life Fellowship by the Australian Institute of Architects (AIA).

Christine has designed structures from the award-winning Bedarra Island Resort, to private residences and the local 'ying-yang' Mullumbimby public toilet behind the IGA.

'Christine's designs have demonstrated her mastery in creating aesthetically striking spaces and harmoniously integrating them into their environments,' said the AIA when they presented Christine with her award.

'Her dedication to environmental design extends beyond her architectural practice; Christine has passionately advocated for sustainable architecture as a guest lecturer, sharing her knowledge and experience with the next generation of architects,' said the AIA.

Working with the land, with the rocks, with trees, and plants is an essential part of her approach to architecture, Christine told *The Echo*.

'I've always worked with the land. For me, a good house is a house you can't see,' she explained.

'That is the ultimate compliment I can get: "Oh there's a house on that beautiful piece of land?"'

Christine's connection the area goes back to working for radical architect Bill Lucas in



Christine Vadasz receiving her Life Fellowship from the Australian Institute of Architects in Sydney. Photo supplied

'Like Indigenous Australians, we need to live with Country rather than desecrate it.'

— Christine Vadasz

Sydney, who was part of the Aquarius Festival.

'I came up to design a house at Wategos Beach and stayed.'

'We wanted to change the world,' she said with a smile.

'For me, architecture is about blending in with the environment because the Earth is the most important thing we have, and we should celebrate it rather than overcome it. Like Indigenous Australians, we need to live with Country rather than desecrate it.'

Christine says architects are designing structures for other people and 'we need people to build to their needs, rather than for a statement about their wealth.'

'This region is very special.

We stand on land that has been protected and cared for by local First Nations people for millennia. We latecomers all love it so much, but we also have to honour the heritage of our local Indigenous peoples,' she said.

'When a client comes to you, especially from somewhere else, you need to help them understand the environment they are entering into, and not build something that degrades the area.'

'You don't need to build to the maximum of the site, just because a client wishes it. Build to their needs, but keep the needs of the site and the community in mind as well.'

'It should be a balancing act between the client's request and needs of the environment, e.g. the contours of the land, the way the water flows around the site, trees, rocks, plants, the sun, air, views, and the needs of our native animals as well as humans who may also use the site.'

Council's Draft Community Strategic Plan on exhibition

Byron Shire Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, is reminding the community that now is the time to have a say on the Draft Community Strategic Plan 2035 (CSP) – Council's ten-year guiding document which sets out the vision and objectives for the whole of Byron Shire.

The media release says, 'The CSP is on extended public exhibition over two months until February 9, and people can share their views and thoughts via an online form on the website, over the phone, or in person at Council's Customer Service Centre in Mullumbimby.'

'This is one of Council's most important documents

and it must be reviewed after an election,' Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said.

'The draft plan incorporates views and feedback from the Byron Shire community collected via surveys, in-person pop up stalls around the Shire, and workshops.'

Five objectives

'As a result of this feedback, we've made some changes to ways in which we plan to achieve community objectives. We've also made it clearer how the plan will be carried out by including more detail around who will be involved and how,' Mayor Nidaye said.

Council say the five objectives for Byron Shire are: 'Effective Leadership – We have effective decision making and community leadership that is open and informed; Inclusive Community – We have an inclusive and proactive community where diversity is embraced and everyone is valued; Nurtured Environment – We nurture and enhance the natural environment; Ethical Growth – We will responsibly and resiliently navigate growth and change; and Connected Infrastructure – We have connected infrastructure, transport and facilities that are safe, accessible and reliable.'

THE Tay Tay TRIBUTE SHOW

TUESDAY 21 JANUARY
Ballina RSL Auditorium
All Ages Show | Tickets \$22
Doors 4.00pm Show 4.30pm

Morning Melodies

FRIDAY 24 JANUARY
Doors: 9.30am
Show: 10am
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Issi Dye
AUSSIE MUSIC GOLD

B:G GIG

MC Mandy NOLAN Paul McMAHON Ellen BRIGGS

30 JANUARY | 7PM
The Auditorium | Free Event

THE FERAMONES

Valentine's Traffic Light Party

FREE ENTRY
THE AUDITORIUM
FRIDAY 14 FEBRUARY

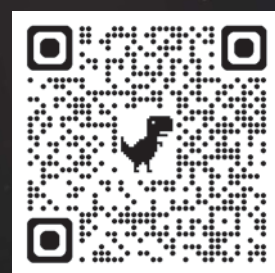
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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #32 • January 15, 2025

It's Hell, hey (LA)

It was shocking to learn from Elon's vanity project X (formerly Twitter) that the ongoing LA fires were the fault of extreme environmentalists, the Democrats and trans people, who apparently now run the LA fire department and have infiltrated the deep state.



Would you like to be fried with that? LA seems like a perfect place for a fire storm, or a fresh new location for the deep state to roll out Smart Cities. Photo BBC

It's a rainbow globalist plot to wage economic warfare against God-fearing patriots!

During Australia's 2019-20 bush fires, Nationals MP, Barnaby Joyce, blamed environmentalists and the Greens for not allowing hazard reduction/back burning to occur. It was never pointed out to Barnaby that the Greens were not in charge - his government was.

Back in LA, celebrity homes have become dust, and according to those posting on X, it's because of the evil, incompetent Governor of California, Gavin Newsom, and Los Angeles Mayor, Karen Bass.

Los Angeles Times publisher, Patrick Soon-Shiong, said LA's fire department's budget saw big cuts, which was refuted by *Politico* and many others.

With a mounting death toll and devastation, the incoming 47th US President made shameless political capital from the fires, blaming the Democrats for not having functioning fire hydrants and defunding emergency agency FEMA.

Again, these are refuted claims.

And while climate change was largely ignored as a cause by mainstream media, US government agency, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), was happy to tell the few who asked them that these types of events will become more frequent with a destabilised atmosphere.

Over on the X/Twitter equivalent, Bluesky, pointy-headed intellectuals made considerable efforts to

counter the narrative that LA is the victim of lefty incompetence and malice. Is that working?

Winning hearts and minds may not matter as much when those in charge are driven by revenge.

Governor Newsom told NBC news that 'he's worried the president-elect may make good on his threats to withhold disaster aid from the state after his inauguration'.

NBC reports, 'Newsom cited Trump's past efforts to withhold federal disaster aid from states with leaders he was feuding with. "He's done it in Utah. He's done it in Michigan, did it in Puerto Rico. He did it to California back before I was even governor, in 2018," Newsom said.'

False claims around disasters - as they unfold - are now becoming commonplace.

False claims diminishes trust, which is the glue a society relies upon to function.

Without trust, a society weakens, and as *The Art of War* points out, they are much easier to invade. But who wants to invade the US?

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Is land sharing the future?

Christmas is a time for visiting, and boy, did we visit.

Up in humid hills around Nimbin, a few sunsets on a multiple occupancy (MO) near Main Arm, long long lunch/dinner/breakfast at a grass castle at Wilsons Creek, dinner in strata-titled Billen Cliffs, then to a couple of long-established communities a bit south in sandy Clarence country near the coast.

We then went out to west of Kyogle, for an every-year river camp party, then to Tasmania, and visiting some old friends on land-share communities in the cold country hills.

Notably, every one of these houses is stunningly beautiful.

They may have dirt floors, reclaimed window walls, odd stone shapes, skewed atriums, unsquare rooms, experimental dunnies and exposed plumbing, but they ooze character and creativity.

The ceilings (where they exist) eek memories of music played, pots thrown, protests planned, children birthed and friends laid to rest.

You can smell the memory of huge home-grown veggie soups, chai tea and the sweet scent of joints once passed. Most of the houses have stood for 20 years plus, the oldest more than 50 years. They sit gently and proudly on the earth and often in it, with flexible boundaries between inside and out, garden and lounge, trees and walls.

Every one was unapproved

And here's the rub: every one was unapproved. Every one was unapprovable.

Our friends seem to be walking talking contributing criminals. They often sit with neighbouring houses never burdened by subdivision applications. Land that was meant to house just one dwelling hosts many. Yet there they stand, in so much better condition than some soulless project brick box on a checkerboard block. Houses that are loved and that love right back. And they're much more private and spacious and yet connected to community than some medium-density enclave. They have personality.

So there's two issues here - planning regulation and building standards. Supposedly, our building codes



'Supposedly, our building codes are there for safety and environmental sustainability, but our hippy friends' houses are solid and sound.'

- David Heilpern

are there for safety and environmental sustainability, but our hippy friends' houses are solid and sound.

Mind you, there may be no waste pipe in the centre of the bathroom floor, or regulation door widths or veranda roof heights.

Their steps may (shock horror) have different gaps in the stringers.

But they house happy and healthy people enjoying the homes they themselves built (and continue to build) and (as long as they are not in Byron Shire) live free of local government harassment, compliance officers or building inspectors. And when they have kids who can't, or won't, leave home, they just throw up a lean-to room or shack until they find their feet. Or chuck a caravan under a tree 'til it rots.

And before you tsk tsk and start quoting the reasons to justify every single one of the millions of regulations being breached by these involved communities, ask yourself this.

Does the single mother with two kids living in her car on Koonyum Range Road, or in a tent at a salubrious Ballina campground, or the involuntary grey nomads priced out of retirement in anything other than their Coaster, or the gutter-dwelling mentally-ill loner, or the couch-surfer going from mattress in the garage to converted shed in the backyard - do any of these people benefit from the so-called safety thereby derived? And what about all those about to be evicted from the flood pods, are they concerned if their potential house complies to the nth degree with building codes and subdivision rules?

I know the arguments against illegal subdivision and non-complying buildings, but surely intentional communities are a wonderful use of clapped-out cattle country and give character to what was previously stale. It is the hippies in them hills that gave this area its alternative

community, writers, artists, musicians, poets and muses.

Yes, yes, yes, I'm harking back to a time where land was cheap and replicated now it would be messy. But chaos has its place in a crisis.

I reckon the building regulations are searching for the perfect in the place of good enough.

There is a human-induced housing crisis unique to Australia, with five of our capital cities in the top ten for price in the world. The polities won't cut immigration, or restructure tax, no matter how many times I've told them to, so we may have to be innovative with housing regulations and land use.

And that's why law at SCU is hosting a conference on land sharing and the link is below.

It is free, online or in-person, and the keynote speaker is Labor MP Rose Jackson, the NSW Minister for Housing and the North Coast. After a short dance back in time looking at the range of lasting experiments from the early years, we will explore the present challenges including climate change, natural disaster and the housing shortage, and moving to innovations in land sharing for the future.

It will be a massive brainstorm on land-sharing options, a positive discussion with plenty of room for questions and input.

Join us! And, of course, most of the speakers may well (and probably will) disagree with my provocations on building rules and multiple occupancy.

But that's what's great about all universities and every housing debate. Disagreement is essential, good humour a must, and a listening ear changes the world.

Book now: www.scu.edu.au/business-law-and-arts/events/land-sharing-and-the-law.

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



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Nicholas Shand
1948-1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944-2024
Co-founder

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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Happy New Year

Will the catastrophic and unprecedented fires in Los Angeles wake up the masses to what our new outlook for the future is, because we see all these famous people in tears and devastated?

While we're getting ready for our third flood anniversary in February, our government is allowing more coal and gas mines and extensions, continuous logging in the planned 'Great Koala National Park' by our criminal Forestry Corporation, burning taxpayers' dollars every minute. When will we stop this madness, dreaming of nuclear submarines and power plants?

Chibo Mertineit
Lillian Rock

Fire ants

Much as I agree with the need to eradicate the red imported fire ant or RIFA (*Solenopsis invicta*), there is no need to misreport or sensationalise. The baby that died in the day care centre in America (*Letters*, January 8) was not killed by a swarm of RIFAs but of fatal anaphylaxis due to a native Arizona fire ant (*Solenopsis xyloni*) sting. Newspaper reports at the time, including the SMH, did report that the baby was 'covered in black ants that had bitten her hundreds of times' but all we really know is that some ants were found in the crib and that a post-mortem examination revealed approximately 40 erythematous lesions.

Also I'm not saying fire ants can't kill. The Invasive Species Council states: 'They have caused the death of 85 people (in the USA), all dying from anaphylactic shock.'

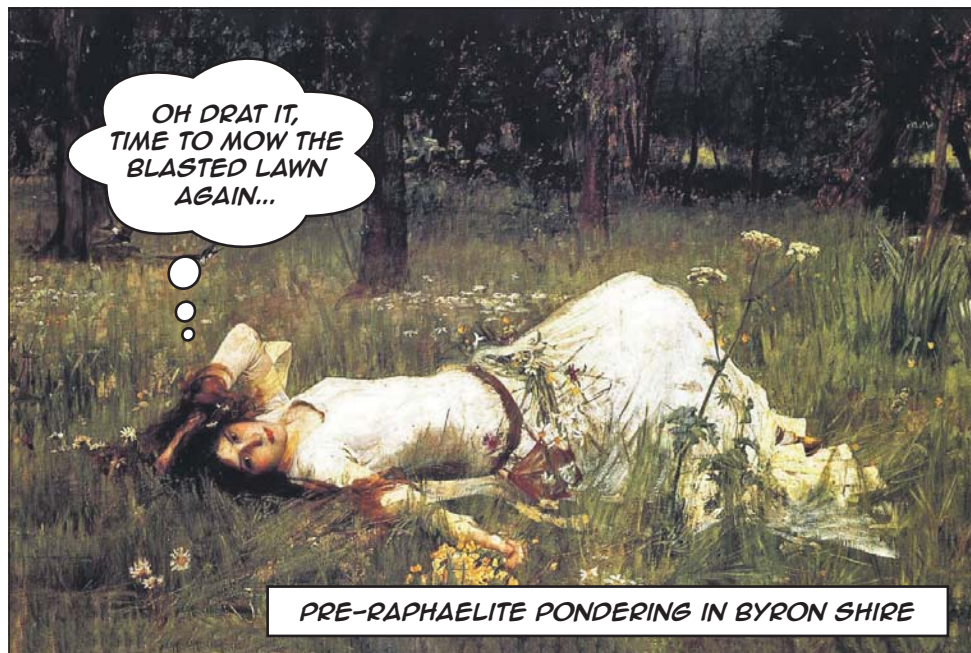
Rob Watson
Tyagarah

Covid petition to Council, really?

So Backlash is now promoting any idea that comes across the desk. How did it become Byron Council's responsibility to investigate the health outcomes of the Covid vaccine?

This has been studied to death, including one study of 99 million people. A tiny percentage have an adverse reaction to any medication, and so it is with Covid vaccines, almost everybody avoids long Covid or ending up in a morgue.

What else should Council waste their time and money



PRE-RAPHAELITE PONDERING IN BYRON SHIRE

Apologies to John William Waterhouse.

on? Proving 5G causes cancer? Fluoride rots your brain? Is the Earth flat? The effects of chemtrails on the lizard people?

Alan Watterson
Hastings Point

Power bikes on footpath

Walking along the footpath between Clifford Street and the service station in Suffolk, quite a few times recently, the Black Power Bikes have whizzed past, almost brushing me at a great rate of knots, into the sunset.

No warning as the engine is completely silent, nor any ringing of bells. Just one step to the wrong side at the wrong time, complete disaster.

There is a sign on the footpath indicating bicycles are allowed on the footpath. Does that mean power bikes also?

There must be similar problems on many other footpaths in town. There is a seniors' residence

opposite the service station and a large number of its residents use the footpath daily to commute to shops. Also, quite a number of children, and babies in perambulators etc.

These machines are very solid and heavy and can do very serious damage to anybody they hit.

Not sure which authority regulates these road rules but, whomsoever better act quickly before somebody cops it, including me.

Haven't seen any of the riders wearing a helmet either. Compulsory only for bicycle riders?

V Subramanya
Suffolk Park

Suffering Park

I have lived in 'Suffering Park' for 17.5 years. I drive into Byron town on most days. Sometimes two to three trips a day. I know the traffic conditions and how to time departures to avoid congestion.

I have observed that a good portion of the traffic that can build up in Clifford Street results from drivers, who are turning left from Broken Head Road into Clifford Street, not using their indicator, or not indicating until they are just about to turn left and sometimes not indicating at all. In that time delay, providing there is no traffic coming from Ballina/Lennox Head direction two or three cars could have exited right onto Broken Head Road. Drivers are left waiting, frustrated and with a queue developing.

I think traffic lights would potentially exacerbate this situation.

Jenny Cain
Suffolk Park

Re: Suffolk traffic lights letter

Oh the mock humility Dean! At the insufficient awe I showed for the illustriousness of your campaign group. Sorry, I'm actually more interested in people who need to use that Clifford Street exit to get to work, transport kids, or attend to stuff in Byron Bay. I know of no ex-mayors among these, founders of golf clubs, nor doyens of local business.

It's 'prickly' evidently, to call out the pretension inherent in declarations of what's 'not the way of the bay' - no further explanation needed

nor consequences examined! How precious!

I would have thought concern for community wellbeing and safety is more of a 'Byron way'.

More important than a totally mystifying horror for a traffic safety feature. No equivalence here with fast food outlets and height restrictions - issues we've all fought for.

Remember that SAFETY is ALL you care about. What's really unsafe is leaving the intersection as is and mentions of 'five-year waits' are totally delusional - despite the eminence of the agitators.

I fear that, mission accomplished, your group will be too busy being eminent to last the battle, abandoning us to another thirty years of that intersection. And we're not 'The Bay' we're just 'Suffering Park'!

Liz Levy
Suffolk Park

► More letters overleaf

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What's needed to win?

Mandy Nolan has been advertising that the Greens only need 1.8 per cent to win so I decided to give this claim a test run.

The best starting point is the distributed 2022 federal election results after elimination of all minor parties and Independents leaving the three major parties standing as follows: Nationals (35,533), ALP (33,379), and Greens (30,852) before the exclusion of the Greens which saw 85 per cent preference transfer of Green votes to the ALP – Justine Elliot elected.

The numbers I used were based upon the most conservative projection I could think of: total vote increase of 7,000, one per cent increase in the National and Green primary vote, one per cent decrease in the ALP vote and I applied exactly the same preference distribution percentage results as each party received in 2022. Take home result: ALP was still ahead of the Greens but there was only a few hundred votes in it.

This raised the interesting question, what if the Greens got on top of Labor – how would Labor preferences roll out? As Justine Eliot

(ALP) has won the last several elections we have no information on which to make a sensible estimate of ALP preference flow to the Nationals and Greens. I did the numbers again assuming the Greens were one vote ahead of Labor and the Labor preference distribution was 60:40 in favour of the Greens. The take home result: Greens beat the Nationals by a few thousand votes! Final take home: the Richmond federal election is much closer than Mandy's advertised prediction.

Terry Sharples
Tweed Heads

While the world watches

After reading so many letters and articles referring to atrocities over these months and years, inflicted by man upon men, women, and children, (I don't watch television – that's too perverse for me), thousands mercilessly killed, (an extraordinary percentage being actually women and children), maimed bodies, legs and arms lost, spinal and brain injuries in those that survived, millions of people displaced. Horror.

It sickens me and makes me so sad, and so I think it should. But another emotion is also aroused and that is anger, ire, at what sort of human beings are they that are carrying out these attacks and bombings and causing such suffering in this the 21st century, right in front of our eyes, in front of the so-called civilised world?

And I wonder where the hell are all the leaders of the powerful nations of this world while this is all happening? And what the f**k are they doing to stop it? And they do have the power to stop it. What a travesty.

How can these countries get away with it in this world of instant media coverage? Killing like there's no tomorrow and no one to answer to, but there always is, isn't there? Because what is done is never forgotten.

Are governments such as the United States, the United Kingdom and the United Nations so impotent that they can't stop the massacres? Or are they really so callous that they stand by and not only do nothing but provide money, weapons, and bombs to continue this madness?

Maybe I'm naive? Maybe someone could explain? Is it really actually true that we the majority, the 99 per cent of this world who do not want war, who do not want

to suffer, and who do not want others to suffer either, are powerless to a one per cent of so-called authority figures? Leaders – sociopaths and psychopaths – who are the true terrorists of our world that mostly sit dressed in suits and ties behind desks, that we let turn this beautiful paradise into a living hell for so many.

And I read so many letters and informed opinions about who is at fault, about who is to blame. What about we are all to blame and that we are all responsible for giving up our power and allowing the despots of the world to rule instead of taking charge ourselves. I think that it's time for a 'United Front' of the world's good people to stand up and say, 'No more. Not in our names. Not for us you arseholes and madmen. Step aside, there must be a better way to do things'.

Or are they just us in different bodies and maybe we too, given enough power, would also be corrupted and claim we are doing good by doing bad? Such is one of the insanities of we humans I'd say. We hold onto our grudges, our resentment, our hate and our racism and we project anger onto others and wonder why they are so aggressive.

So what are we? Descendants of alpha-male-led gorillas and chimpanzees or of sharing and cooperative bonobos, amongst which females are honoured and respected, and dominant and overbearing males are quickly put in their place often by having their penises bitten off. I think that it is up to us which we choose to be, after all, we are not apes, we are human beings and we are meant to have free will.

I guess it depends on what we do with it. Do we serve fear, greed, and selfishness or do we serve love?

Philip Byrt
Tyagarah

Tough on crime

Justine Elliot's advocacy for more police is welcome, but it must be paired with progressive policies addressing crime's root causes. The current 'tough on crime' approach fails to tackle issues like drug abuse, lack of education, family breakdown, and housing insecurity, which drive criminal behaviour. Instead of perpetuating regressive policies, we need humane and effective solutions.

I can't bear the thought of living under a regressive, racist, Trumpian-style

government led by Peter Dutton. Therefore, I hope Justine can offer a more enlightened approach other than the overused 'tough on crime' strategy. Give me humane and effective solutions in addition to the conservative approach. And yes, I understand that the 'tough on crime' strategy guarantees votes.

Australia is the only nation imprisoning children as young as ten, with devastating consequences. Evidence shows that youth incarceration often leads to a lifetime in the justice system, known as the revolving door jail system. Many held on remand, detained without conviction. The cost exceeds \$700,000 per child annually, often benefiting private corporations.

The involvement of private businesses in the detention system has sparked debates about accountability, human rights, and the ethics of profiteering from the incarceration of vulnerable individuals, including children. Redirecting these funds toward welfare and education could break this cycle.

In 2022, the UN Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture suspended its visit to Australian jails due to denied access, violating anti-torture protocols. This raises serious concerns about Australia's commitment to human rights.

Reform is overdue. Current strategies aren't working, as 60 per cent of prisoners have been previously incarcerated. Simply repeating failed policies is futile. Justine, we need a comprehensive approach that prioritizes prevention, rehabilitation, and addressing systemic issues, rather than relying solely on outdated 'tough on crime' rhetoric.

Coral Larke
Ocean Shores

A call for bike helmets

I am alarmed to see children riding ebikes at high speed on busy streets in shorts and T-shirts without helmets.

I ask other members of the community to join me in taking responsibility in which parents are failing by donating bike helmets available in op shops. I propose that they be hung on the rail of the pedestrian path on the road edge of Massey Green Caravan Park.

Di McKee
Brunswick Heads

'The Australian Taxation Office is a company that's 100% owned by Black Rock Inc, an American multinational investment company.'

Let's face it, not many people think issues through critically, or thoroughly, which is why we're all at risk of believing complete bullshit, like the above.

The Echo's 100% local journalists are independent thinkers. When they think, they think for themselves. Our local news stories are independent of corporate bullshit, PR, sovereign citizen conspiracy theories and party politics. If you read one of the free 22,000 Echo newspapers delivered each week, or echo.net.au, you might not always agree with our journalists, but at least you know they're not just making stuff up.



Rallies call for Great Koala National Park to be declared

Aslan Shand

Rallies took place yesterday at Coffs Harbour and Sydney as multiple groups called for an end to logging in the areas identified for the Great Koala National Park (GKNP) and for NSW to establish the park as promised.

In January 2015 the NSW ALP opposition leader Luke Foley first promised, if elected, to create the 315,000 hectare GKNP, incorporating 175,000 ha of State Forests and 140,000ha of existing reserves. This commitment was also taken to the 2019 election.

'For the 2023 election the NSW ALP also committed \$80 million to create an iconic GKNP protecting approximately 20 per cent of the wild koala population in NSW, the catch was that there would first be an assessment of the 176,000ha of State Forest,' explained the Nature Conservation Council NSW in an open letter to Premier Minns and the NSW government that has also been signed by 31 groups including the National Parks Association.

'While the assessment was not completed until early November, conservation groups were still assured a Cabinet decision would be made in December 2024. Now we are told a decision will be made early in 2025. Meanwhile, almost ten years after the ALP committed



Grahame Douglas President of the National Parks Association of NSW and Susie Russel from North Coast Environment Centre at the Coffs Harbour rally. Photo supplied



Sentinel satellite images of logging within the Great Koala National Park. Image supplied

towards ending native forest logging across the country as a top priority.'

Moratorium

The two rallies yesterday called for a moratorium on clearing koala habitat and an end to native forest logging in the GKNP with the Coffs Harbour rally seeing around 150 people calling for the GKNP to be declared.

'The purpose of the rallies was to bring to the government's attention the fact it is time to declare the park as they promised,' National Parks Association's Grahame Douglas told *The Echo*.

'We are saying it is time to make the decision. The government has done the assessments and consultations with the Indigenous groups, the community, and industry of the 176,000ha that were assessed. The assessment demonstrated the high conservation value of all these areas.'

'It is time to move forward and declare the GKNP. The budget is in place and it is time for the government to implement its key promise to create the park; they committed to it three times prior to being elected, and again coming into government they promised they would put the GKNP in place. It is time to put an end to the logging and time to declare the GKNP.'

to protecting the full GKNP, and 21 months after the election of the Minns government, the logging of the GKNP and core koala habitat continues, with no commitment as to when they will stop logging the areas the assessment has identified as having amongst the highest densities of endangered koalas and greater gliders.'

Increased logging

A new assessment by the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) shows that in the 21 months since the election of NSW Labor the NSW Forestry Corporation have logged 7,185ha of the proposed GKNP, 8.4 per cent of the State Forests able to be logged, with new operations now starting.

Using Forestry Corporation's

logging data for the GKNP up until 25 March 2024 NEFA have claimed that, 'logging has increased from a monthly average of 211ha under the NSW Coalition government to a monthly average of 342ha under the NSW Minns government, an increase of 62 per cent, with a marked acceleration in the past nine months.'

NEFA spokesperson and study author Dailan Pugh said that, 'the Forestry Corporation dismisses my report with the patently false claim that I assessed gross areas without accounting for all the areas excluded from logging, they also refer to volumes removed rather than hectares logged. Instead of denying the extent of their logging, the Forestry Corporation needs to

come clean and release their data for the areas of the park logged from 25 March 2023 until 20 December 2024.'

Greens Environment Spokesperson Senator Sarah Hanson-Young said that, 'the Greens will be putting the environment top of the agenda during the federal election campaign and in any power-sharing parliament which is looking increasingly likely.'

'You can't save koalas while continuing to destroy their homes. Unless we take urgent action to end clearing of critical habitat, koalas will be extinct in NSW by 2050.'

Local Greens candidate for the federal seat of Richmond Mandy Nolan told *The Echo* that, 'if I'm elected to Canberra, we will work

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RICHARDSON MURRAY

The hoary old nuclear chestnut vs renewables

Dr Anne Stuart

What options do we have to combat global warming and address the energy crisis? Politically, there's a debate between renewable energy and nuclear power. Both options offer low-carbon alternatives to fossil fuels, yet they differ significantly. Renewables, like wind and solar, promise an abundant, sustainable future but face challenges with intermittency and energy storage. Nuclear power, on the other hand, raises concerns about waste management, safety risks, and high upfront costs.

If we just look at cost, and side-bar the other issues for another time, there is unequivocal evidence that renewables provide a clear path to reduce energy poverty balanced against the cost of nuclear. Energy poverty refers to a situation where some in the community lack access to affordable and reliable energy services, and where high energy costs make it difficult to afford essentials such as food, or healthcare.

In June of 2024, the conservative journal *The Economist* ran a Special Issue: The Dawn of The Solar Age, arguing that an energy source which gets cheaper the more you use it marks a turning point in industrial history. The research tells us that solar enjoys more 'social licence' than any other form of energy generation, be it fossil-fuel or nuclear.

Adair Turner of Britain's Climate Change Committee admitted that solar was not previously a part of their thinking. 'We totally failed to see that solar would come down [in cost] so much,' he said. 'In 2008 we were thinking that capital costs would come down by 19 per cent by 2020. When we got to 2020, they were down by 95 per cent'. Ouch.

One million households in NSW now have rooftop solar, the highest penetration in the world. More than 30 per cent of Australian households now have rooftop solar. The cost of installation of solar panels has decreased by more than 80% over the past decade, making solar energy more affordable than ever. This price drop has driven rapid adoption worldwide. Rooftops are solar farms.

The CSIRO's 2024-25 GenCost Report provided an



What are the costs of nuclear vs renewables? Photo supplied

objective annual benchmark on the cost of electricity projections. The report calculated that globally, renewables (led by wind and solar PV) are the fastest growing energy source with electricity technologies presenting some of the lowest cost abatement opportunities.

The report established that the capital cost of large-scale solar photovoltaics has dropped by eight per cent and battery costs by 20 per cent.

If you want cheap, plentiful, safe, acceptable energy at the point of generation, while reducing carbon emissions, it might seem the climate crisis is solved through renewables. Except there is a catch, two in fact.

Storage

First catch. Consumers want to draw power at night. The grid operators use a ranking system that ensures the most cost-effective power generation resources are used first, followed by more expensive ones as needed.

Without large storage, power plants with lower production costs are dispatched first, while those with higher production costs (like coal plants) are dispatched last. The merit order is an essential mechanism in grid operations that optimises the electricity generation mix based on cost, ensuring that the power system operates efficiently and cost-effectively. It prioritises the use of cheaper, cleaner sources of energy, which also supports the transition to more sustainable power systems.

So, what's the second catch? It becomes rather inconvenient for power operators when power from solar substantially contributes to electricity supply – because the price of electricity can fall to zero.

If power is cheap the grid operators still need to make a buck to keep things running smoothly. That's where large storage technologies allow for 'arbitrage' across time, not space. For example, energy generated at midday (time) when prices are low can be sold when the sun sets and prices are normally higher (sending power through space along transmission lines). To arbitrage this nicely and fairly would result in a Goldilocks price. It's economics.

Which brings us to the hoary old nuclear question: if nuclear power is such a great solution, and measures up economically, why hasn't private enterprise seized this opportunity?

Andrew Forrest of Fortescue says that 'nuclear power doesn't stack up'. Business Council of Australia's Bran Black says, 'Nuclear energy is not a near-term proposition', citing the amount of taxpayer money required and how the policy will impact investment certainty. Economics again.

Due to the long lead time in nuclear deployment, the cost reductions, achieved when the original capital investment (from taxpayers) is no longer being repaid, will not be available for around 45 years from now, significantly reducing nuclear power's value to consumers compared to other options which can be deployed immediately.

Small modular reactor

In the CSIRO's modelling for uncommercialised small modular reactors (proposed by the federal Opposition) they calculated that nuclear would cost \$400 to \$663 a megawatt hour; renewables \$98 to \$150. These costs include what the industry calls 'firming costs' which include storage,

transmission, system security and spilled energy.

And what is the cost of decommissioning nuclear plants? Griffith University Professor Ian Lowe estimates \$6 billion and if the Coalition builds 14 nuclear reactors by the mid-2040s then that's \$82 billion to \$125 billion in today's dollars, paid for by taxpayers. Why taxpayers? Because companies can go bust but the nuclear waste is still going to be there – so it must be owned by the government, says University of NSW Professor Edward Obbard.

And what of cleaning up a nuclear disaster? University of NSW energy researcher Mark Diesendorf and Ian Lowe say that public liability rests with – you got it – the public. Hundreds of billions of dollars. The clean-up from Japan's 2011 nuclear disaster came to \$290 billion.

And what of emissions? Steven Hamilton of the Australian National University published his analysis in the *Australian Financial Review* (15 December, 2024) saying the Coalition's plan would produce cumulative emissions to 2050 of 1.65 billion tonnes compared with 0.6 billion tonnes under the current government's proposals.

And the social licence for nuclear? Polling by Resolve Political Monitor revealed that only 21 per cent of voters favoured taxpayer investment in nuclear power; whereas renewables were favoured with 45 per cent (particularly subsidies for rooftop solar) and 34 per cent (subsidies for home batteries).

Last but not least, with the introduction of nuclear, rooftop solar could be switched off for long periods of time, lest the grid be overwhelmed with excess power. According to the Smart Energy Council, 'up to 5 million rooftop solar systems could be switched off, and the average price bill will more than double'.

Positioned squarely against the economics of the solar revolution one must surely question if Peter Dutton's nuclear policy is good value for money or, given nuclear policy has been reviewed and assessed in Australia for decades, is it just another hoary old chestnut?

■ Dr Anne Stuart is Chair of Zero Emissions Byron, and Adjunct Research Fellow, Griffith University.

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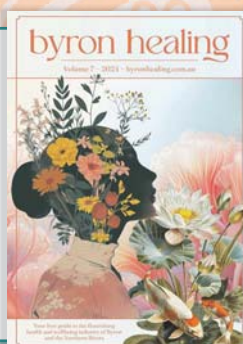
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Byron Healing is a go-to website featuring informative and entertaining articles on health and wellbeing. It features a host of practitioners and businesses in the industry, offering a range of modalities and services across The Northern Rivers.



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Eateries Guide

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The Good Life

Blue Cow Gelato



Blue Cow Gelato, a beloved New South Wales gem, has officially brought its fresh, authentic Italian gelato to the heart of Byron Bay. With four established locations in Port Macquarie, Coffs Harbour, Woolgoolga and Tamworth, the new Byron Bay store offers an exciting taste of what locals and visitors have long awaited. Whether you're strolling down the vibrant streets of Byron Bay or looking for a treat to cool down on a sunny day, Blue Cow Gelato is the perfect stop.

Known for making all their flavours fresh in-store daily, Blue Cow Gelato offers up to 35 rotating options, ensuring every visit is filled with new and exciting choices. From the classic chocolate to fruity sorbets, there's something to delight every palate. Plus, Blue Cow Gelato takes pride in offering a range of vegan, gluten-free, sugar-free, and dairy-free options, so no one has to miss out.

If you're looking to make a celebration extra special, Blue Cow Gelato also creates custom Gelato Cakes. Choose your size, flavour, and toppings for a deliciously personal touch that's perfect for birthdays, anniversaries, or any occasion.

Order your cake in-store or online, making it easier than ever to enjoy Blue Cow Gelato's unforgettable flavours.

Open seven days a week from 10 am to 10 pm, Blue Cow Gelato Byron Bay invites you to indulge any day of the week. If you're craving a night in, Blue Cow Gelato offers convenient take-home containers, making it easy to indulge from the comfort of your own home.

Proudly Aussie-owned, sourcing the finest local ingredients, each Blue Cow Gelato store reflects a passion for quality, authenticity, and the joy of bringing people together over delicious gelato. The team at Blue Cow Gelato is dedicated to using fresh, local ingredients to craft their gelato, ensuring that every bite bursts with flavour. With a welcoming atmosphere and friendly service, it's the perfect place to gather with family and friends or enjoy a peaceful moment on your own. Whether you're popping in for a scoop or planning a special celebration, Blue Cow Gelato is a must-visit destination at 8/4 Jonson Street in Byron Bay.

■ Open seven days a week from 10am to 10pm in Byron Bay.

Smokin' hot locally-made fish rillettes!

A childhood love of eating smoked fish inspired former documentary filmmaker Damien Curtis to launch what is now an award-winning fish smokery business, The Bay Smokehouse, which specialises in sustainable wild caught local fish.

Having grown up between France, England and Scotland, where smoked fish can be found at any local shop or supermarket, when Damien moved with his family to the Byron region in 2008, he was unable to source his childhood favourite dish.

'As a child I was always eating smoked fish. I loved the simplicity of it: the combination of salt, fat and smokiness, and how nourishing it was,' Damien says. 'But when we moved here, I asked myself why you couldn't find local wild-caught smoked fish around these parts, considering there was so much bounty in the ocean here.'

At the same time, Damien had been looking for a more financially sustainable future after working in filmmaking and advocacy on Indigenous rights for more than a decade.

'I'd always loved spearfishing and had started to smoke oily catch like tailor and mullet in a simple small metal box smoker,' he says. 'Every time I was blown away by the golden oily deliciousness of it. It's also a healthier and tastier alternative to toxic farmed Atlantic salmon. Combined with my love of fine foods and interest in artisanal traditions, thus the idea for The Bay Smokehouse was born (in 2017).'

Since then, Damien has been selling his range of smoked fish and award-winning smoked fish rillettes at Byron Farmers Market every Thursday morning. The rillettes have a cult following and come with a warning of being highly addictive. Damien's secret?

'Instead of blending the fish with your standard cream cheese or mayo, as many smoked fish dips are, I was encouraged to develop something that was paleo and dairy-free; we're in the Byron Shire after all.

'The original recipe was with cashew cream, which just worked from the get-go. And a few years later, I finally succumbed to customers' urgings that I should try it with macadamia cream,



Damien Curtis of The Bay Smokehouse, at Byron Farmers Market.

and that took it to another level of rich indulgent deliciousness, yet healthy and nourishing.'

You can find The Bay Smokehouse at Byron Farmers Market every Thursday morning.

■ Byron Farmers Market is held Thursdays 7-11am at Butler St Reserve and Bangalow Farmers Market is Saturdays 7-11am in Piccabeen Park.




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MULLUM ON THE MAP

A word from the Chamber

The Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and Community are looking forward to working with the business, arts and general community for an exciting 2025.

They are supporting the Neighbourhood Centre, Back to School Program and working with Byron Council to save and preserve the Railway Station and Cottage.

They encourage you to reach out if they can assist in any matter that will aid the town of Mullumbimby.

mullumbimby.org.au



1. The Echo

Sailing on an even keel over the waters of human chaos and endeavour since 1986. Currently anchored in the back streets of Mullumbimby, employing locals and supporting local news, business and events.

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Celebrate the festive season with Hemp Culture! Discover discounts on stylish clothing and Australian-grown, locally-made products. Support your community, shop sustainably, and enjoy the best Australian-made products.

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5. Rosetta Deli & Bistro

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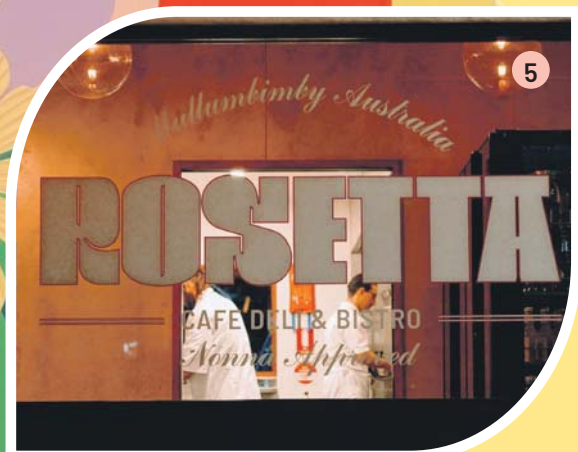
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6. Byron Bay Pork

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Fresh from garden to plate, The Paddock Project is a unique farm-to-plate experience in Mullum. Their menu reflects their philosophy to serve dishes crafted with love, using only the freshest ingredients harvested from the garden.

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9. Stewart's Menswear

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www.stewartsmenswear.com.au

10. Artists & Makers Collective

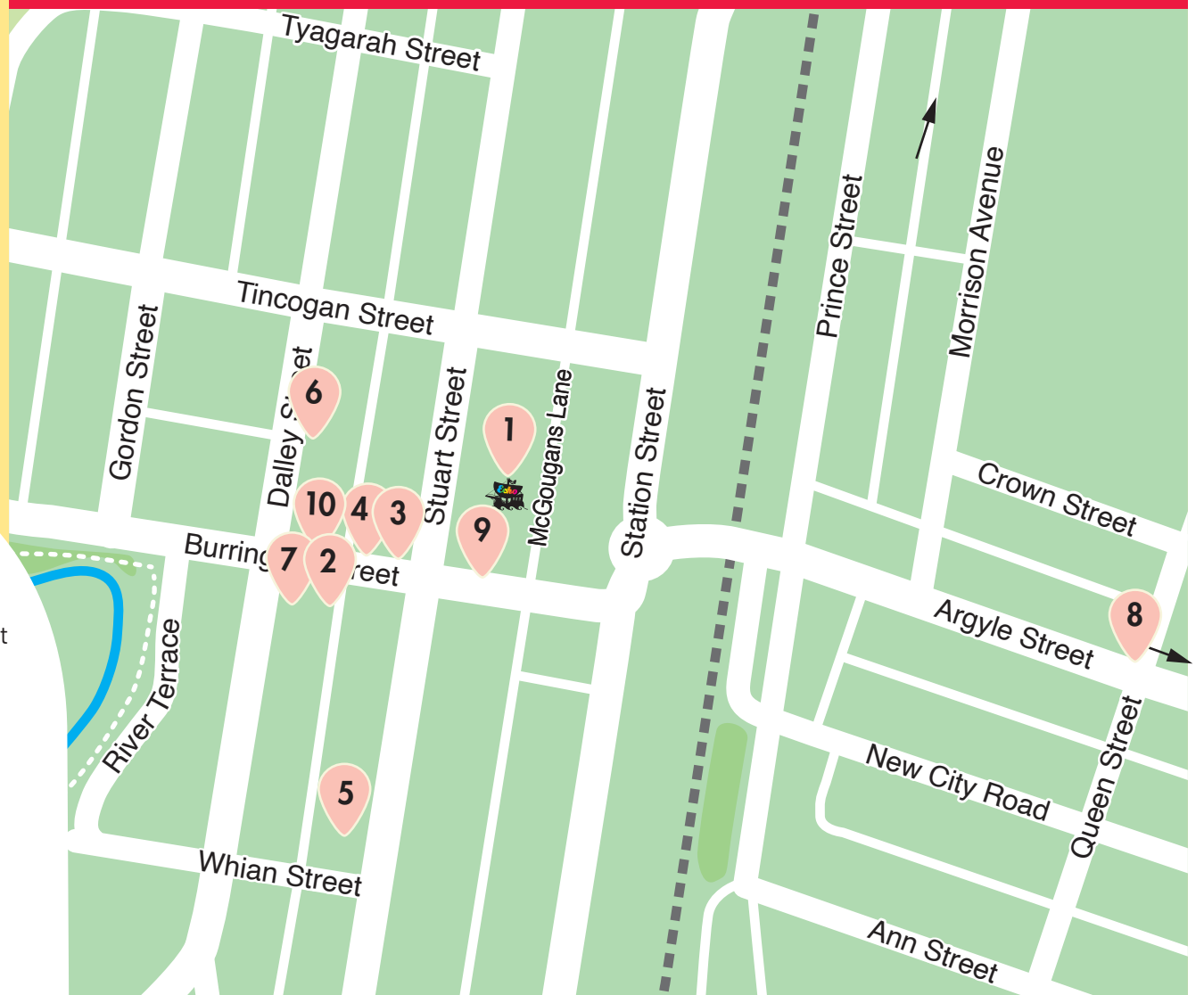
Made in Mullum is an amazing collective of 64 local artists and makers sharing one shop.

Open seven days a week, they have everything from handmade clothes, toys, ceramics and jewellery to original art, tie-dye kits and perfume.

@madeinmullum



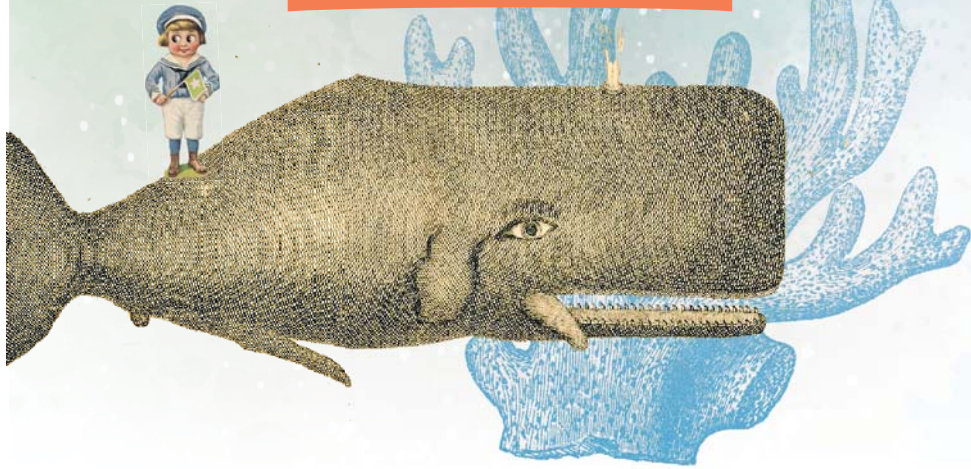
MULLUMBIMBY CBD



1. **The Echo** • 64 McGoughans Lane
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4. **Hemp Culture** • 40 Burringbar Street
5. **Rosetta Deli & Bistro** • 105 Stuart Street
6. **Byron Bay Pork** • 70 Dalley Street
7. **Son of Drum** • Shop 1/31 Burringbar Street
8. **The Paddock Project** • 64 Argyle Street
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Hello Summer

THINGS TO DO



BALLOON ALOFT

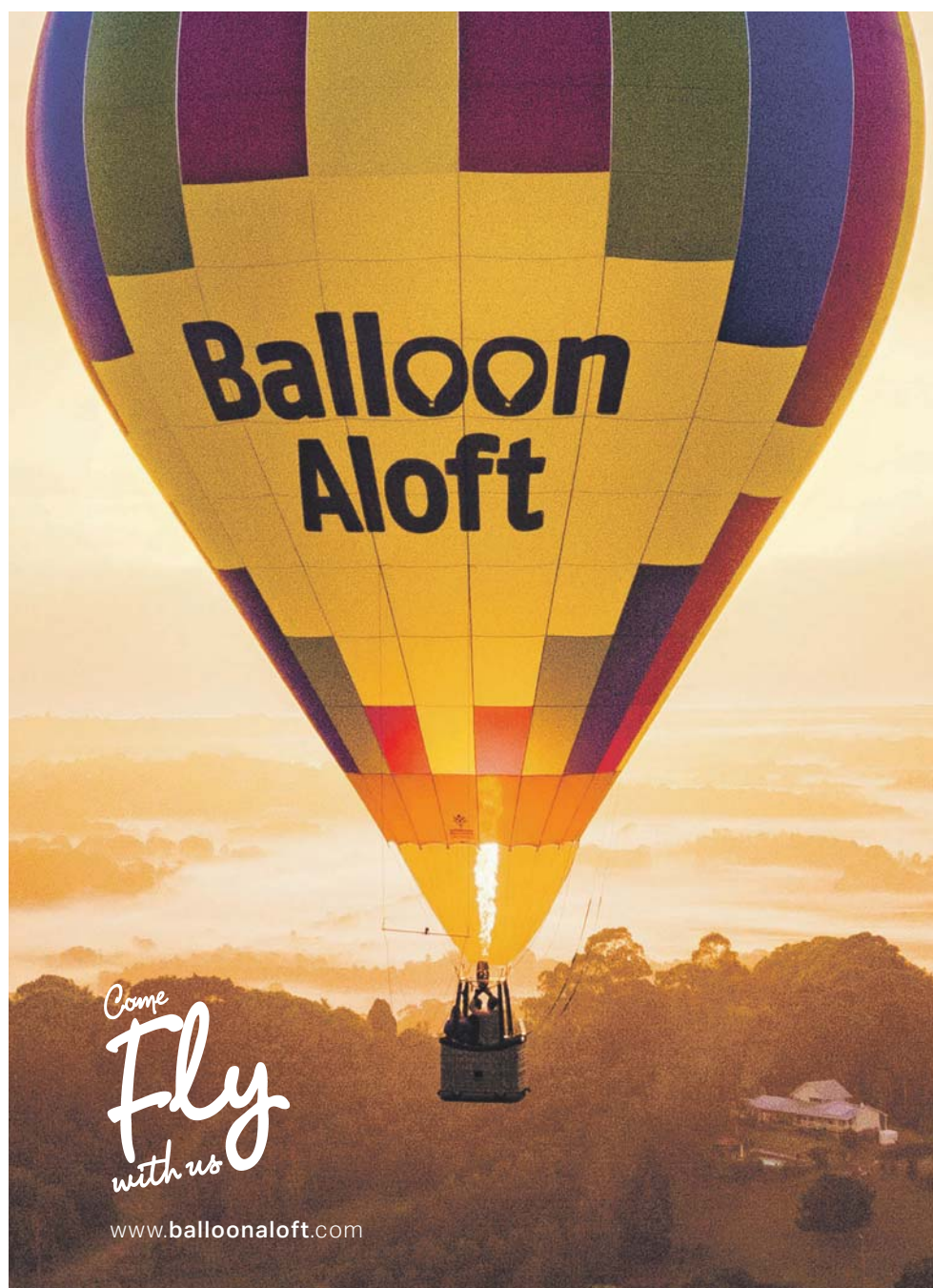
There is plenty to do and see in the Northern Rivers this busy summer season.

Why not float above it all on a gorgeous hot air balloon flight? Whether you're looking for adventure, have a special occasion or staff get together, or simply want time well spent with the family these summer holidays - then look no further!

Hot air ballooning is the first form of aviation and offers great romance!

Every Balloon Aloft flight is a fantastic morning out during golden sunrise hours and is followed by a delicious breakfast afterwards at Three Blue Ducks restaurant.

With pictures included and gift vouchers available too, it also makes for a great gift idea! Be organised, book in and 'Come Fly with Us' this season at balloonaloft.com



LONE GOAT GALLERY

Lone Goat Gallery is a contemporary art space in the heart of Byron Bay, located in the Byron Library building, just a short walk from Main Beach. The gallery showcases emerging and established artists from the Northern Rivers and beyond, through an exciting program of exhibitions, workshops, events and more!

Celebrate the New Year by joining them for their first opening: 'String Theory', an exhibition of delicate and delightful embroidered works by local artist Liv Enqvist opening 6pm Friday 17 January.

Visit their website to see the full list of exhibitions coming in 2025 and subscribe and follow them to stay in the loop for all free workshops and events: www.lonegoatgallery.com @lonegoatgallery

The Lone Goat Gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday: 10am to 4pm.

28 Lawson Street, Byron Bay

LET NATURE RESTORE YOU IN 2025

Step out of the busyness of summer and join Bower Camp Co as they head for the lush hills, cool creeks and stunning waterholes of ancient Gondwana Rainforest. Enjoy true self care on their Rest and Restore Camp Retreat from 21-24 February in the Border Ranges National Park.

Slow down, immerse in nature and return to yourself.

Experience rainforest walks, waterhole swims, creative workshops, breathwork and time to rest, read, and sleep in your comfortable bed.

Enjoy delicious meals, made with care, from local produce.

Let Bower Camp Co nurture you in nature.

Head to their website to book. Single and double stays available.

Bower Camp Co also host private camps for your group or special event and run hiking and stargazing comfortable camp packages.

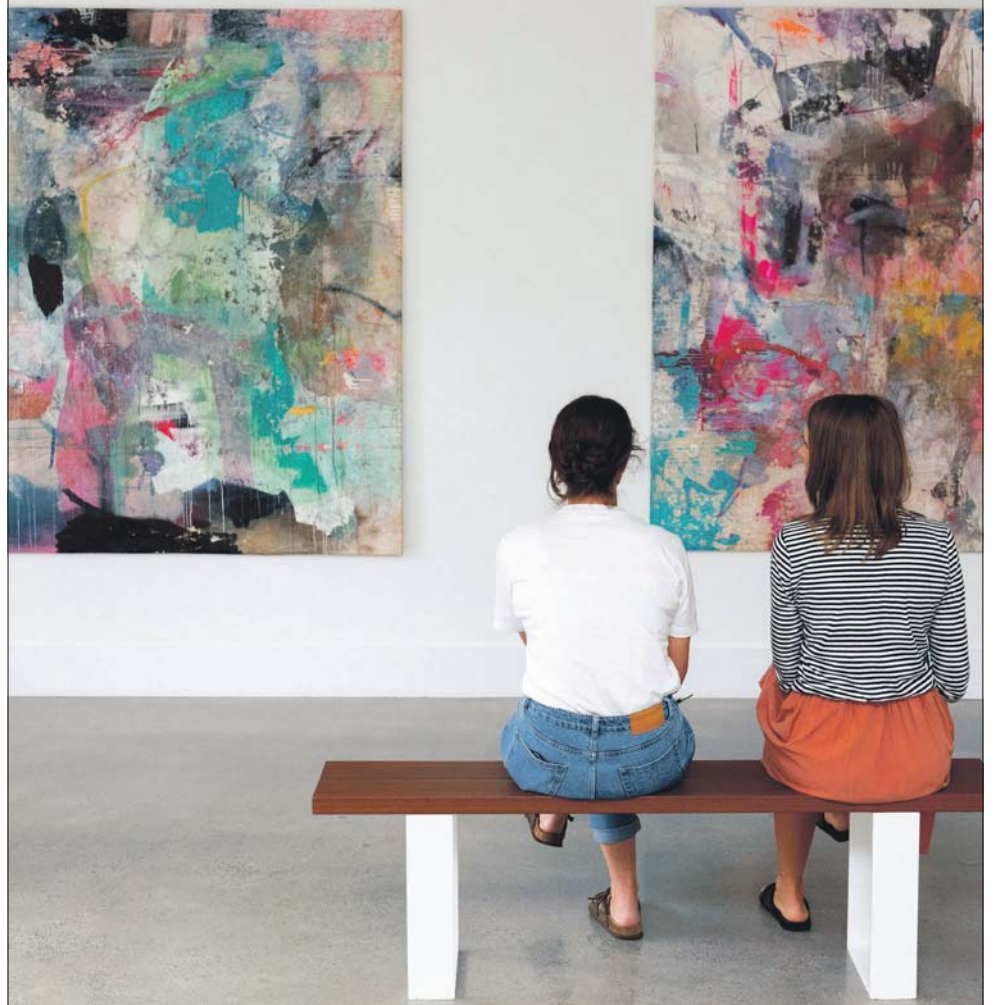
Contact: info@bowercampco.com.au

0424 468 777

@bowercampco

bowercampco.com.au

LONE GOAT GALLERY



Surface Paradise by Michael Donnelly, photo: Jaka Adamic.

WED-SAT, 10AM-4PM
28 LAWSON ST, BYRON BAY

f @LONEGOATGALLERY
LONEGOATGALLERY.COM

Lone Goat Gallery is
a creative initiative of
Byron Shire Council



Hello summer



YOUR PATHWAY TO A NEW CAREER

Byron Community College is now offering the perfect introductory courses to their Nationally Recognised Certifications. These industry-specific 8-week courses are available FEE-FREE* for those looking to upskill, secure their first job or create sustained career success.

Introduction to Mental Health: learn to support individuals from diverse backgrounds through loss and grief, those living with mental health challenges, and effectively navigate the complexities of the AOD sector.

Pathways to Aged Care: develop the skills to meaningfully impact individuals living with dementia or life-limiting illnesses, offering essential end-of-life support.

Make 2025 the year that you unlock your potential and create your future.

Get in touch www.byroncollege.org.au/or call 6684 3374

SLOW KARATE

Slow Karate is a new way of learning karate that enhances health and wellbeing. Focusing on kata as the practice of learning choreographed fighting movements, there is no sparring or contact. Students learn the same kata as normal karate classes along with meditation, slow stretching and controlled breathing. It helps students become grounded and develop self-awareness. You will learn to be calm and clear thinking under pressure. Students can do only Slow Karate or join the normal JWK karate class as well.

Sensei Ric Light has a PhD in Human Movement from the University of Queensland and is Professor Emeritus at The University of Canterbury in Sport Coaching. He has a 6th dan black belt with 50 years' experience.

www.jinwukoonkarate.com.au



Enrolments for 2025 Now Open

Subsidised & Fee-Free* Certificate courses



INTRODUCTION TO MENTAL HEALTH



PATHWAY TO AGED CARE



byroncollege.org.au

RTO: 90013
02 6684 3374

customercare@byroncollege.org.au

*for eligible students.*This training is subsidised by the NSW Government.

SLOW KARATE CLASSES

MAXIMISE YOUR HEALTH & WELLBEING

Experience karate as moving meditation through slow, detailed kata practice. Slow karate is ideal for current students and newcomers seeking personal development without sparring.

Who: Existing JWK karate students and new participants

Where: Ewingsdale Community Hall

When: Thursdays 4–6pm, from 30th January

What to wear: JWK students in dogi, newcomers in comfortable attire (no loud colours)

Register online for two free trials.
www.jinwukoonkarate.com.au

YOU GET WILD WE DO THE WORK. YOU GET WILD WE DO THE WORK. YOU GET WILD

BOWER CAMP CO.

Feb 21-24

Rest & Restore

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

Hello Summer

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES



BETTER BY BIKE

Take the family on an unforgettable adventure along the Northern Rivers Rail Trail!

This holiday season, get the kids out into nature. With Better By Bike's super-comfy e-bikes, their ride will be the highlight of the holidays!

Explore lush rainforests, cross historic bridges, and ride through abandoned rail tunnels. They've got the whole family covered with infant seats, tow-behind bikes, and chariots for kids or pets. Need something extra? Cargo and fat-tyre bikes are also available. Choose pickup from your accommodation or meet them at their Murwillumbah Railway Station shop.

Thinking of buying your own bike? Check out their wide range of bikes, e-bikes, and fat-tyre e-bikes for all ages. Their friendly team will help you find your perfect fit to start the new year rolling!

0408 444 858

@betterbybikeoz

betterbybike.com.au

SPAGHETTI CIRCUS HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Come and enjoy one, two or three days of circus fun with Spaghetti Circus. Holiday workshops will be held on Tuesday 28, Wednesday 29 and Thursday 30 January at Spaghetti's premises at Mullumbimby Showgrounds. Children can pick their own circus adventure! Classes include tight rope, big tramp and mini tramp, German wheel, tissu and trapeze, acro balance, circus games, hula hoops, juggling, and many more. Half-day sessions for children aged 4-6 years are \$50 from 9.30-12.30, and full-day sessions for 7-14 years are \$75 from 9.30 -3.30pm. Early drop off is available from 8.30am (at an additional cost).

Active Kids vouchers accepted. Bookings essential and places are limited.

Book now at www.spaghetticircus.com



10% OFF
ECHO10

CODE VALID
TO 5.2.25

BOOK NOW!



This Summer GET THE FAMILY ROLLING!

Explore the Northern Rivers Rail Trail on our comfy e-bikes!

- We cater to all ages with accessories for kids and pets
- Accommodation pick-up or meet at our Murwillumbah Railway Station shop
- Shop our range of bikes, e-bikes, and fat tyre bikes too!

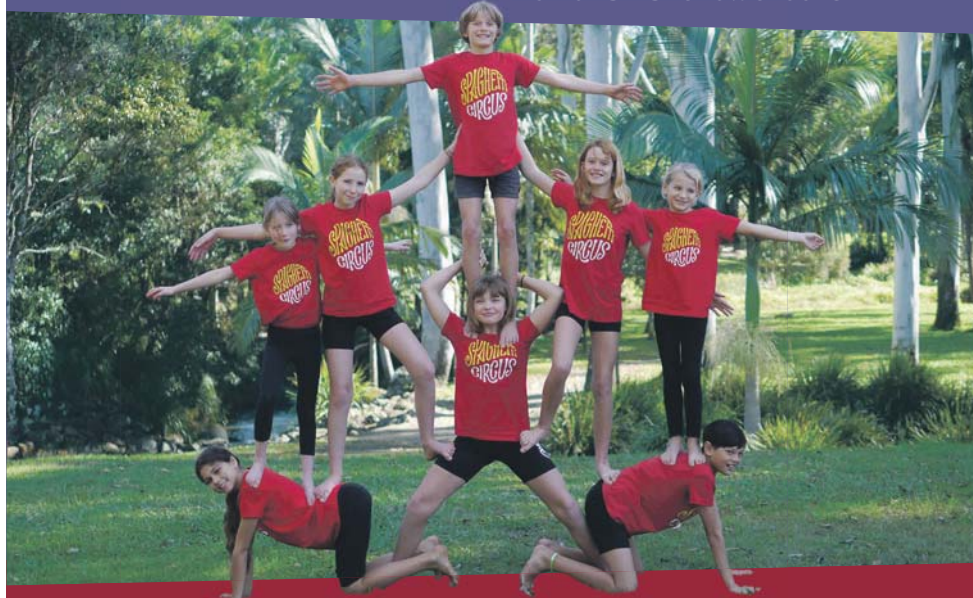
FAMILY ADVENTURE AWAITS - CALL US TODAY!

betterbybike.com.au | 0408 444 858 | @betterbybikeoz

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

TUE 28 ★ WED 29 ★ THU 30 JANUARY

MULLUMBIMBY SHOWGROUND



Come and enjoy one, two or three days of circus fun!

WHAT'S ON OFFER:

- Tight rope
- Big tramp and mini tramp
- German wheel
- Tissu and trapeze
- Acro balance
- Circus games
- Hula hoops
- Juggling
- ...and so much more!

HALF-DAY (4-6 YEARS)

9.30am - 12.30pm:
\$50 per day

FULL-DAY (6-14 YEARS)

9.30am - 3.30pm:
\$75 per day

EARLY DROP-OFF AVAILABLE

8.30am - 9.30am:
\$15 per day

3-DAY PACKAGE

Half-Day (4-6 years): \$120
Full-Day (6-14 years): \$195

BOOK NOW - PLACES ARE LIMITED
www.spaghetticircus.com



hello summer

NORTH BYRON HOTEL

The North Byron Hotel is hosting exciting kids' cooking classes every Wednesday and Thursday during the school holidays, for three weeks. These fun-filled sessions will focus on gnocchi and pizza-making, and the children will learn to craft delicious dishes under the guidance of expert chefs. It's a perfect way for parents to relax and enjoy a drink, knowing their little ones are entertained, engaged, and learning valuable culinary skills. With a hands-on approach to cooking, kids will have a blast while creating their own tasty meals. Go online now to book! These classes offer a great opportunity for both parents and children to enjoy the school holidays in a fun, interactive, and educational environment.

61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay
02 6685 6500
northbyronhotel.com.au

OTHERWORLD

OtherWorld is the only immersive arts gallery in the Northern Rivers - a feast for the senses where technology and art collide. Experience over 20 interactive exhibits from local and international artists, including the only 360 VR cinema dome in NSW, projection mapped sculptures, augmented reality paintings, infinity mirror installations, and many more. Check out their brand new exhibits incorporating the latest in AI technology and interactive imaging. It's fun for all the family. Don't miss out on this extraordinary journey into the world of immersive art. Kids under 3 are free. And come visit our new outdoor terrace featuring music, drinks and organic doughnuts. Annual family passes also available.

Book now at www.otherworld.live
102 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

NORTH BYRON HOTEL
 Summer Holidays
KIDS COOKING CLASS
 SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM

Summer Holidays
KIDS COOKING CLASS

Escape to a world of family fun this Summer at North Byron Hotel! Our Summer holiday program for kids promises an unforgettable experience filled with creativity and excitement. Young chefs will delight in our Gnocchi and Pizza making classes, where they'll learn the secrets of crafting delicious Italian delicacies under the guidance of our expert chefs.

BOOK NOW

ALL AGES
ALL WEATHER
OVER 20 INSTALLATIONS

OTHERWORLD

IMMERSIVE ART & LIGHT GALLERY
GET YOUR TICKETS AT otherworld.live

Hello Summer

SHOPPING



BYRON BAY CAMPING AND DISPOSALS

Loving the beautiful weather but need some portable shade to be able to stay at the beach longer? Byron Bay Camping and Disposals have lots of different beach shelters, umbrellas and cabanas, along with beach chairs and outdoor rugs. There are many different styles and colours to choose from. Come and visit the friendly team in store or shop on their website and ask for local delivery.

1/1 Tasman Way, Byron Bay

0439 212 153

Email: theteam@byron-camping.com.au

byron-camping.com.au

ELEMENTS I LOVE

Elements I Love owners Brooke and Tim have always been fans of the antique, vintage and hand-made over the mass-produced. They believe antique and time-worn finds are often the difference between creating an individual and distinctive home as opposed to an off-the-shelf one. Elements I Love sources small decorative elements, timeless furniture and interesting architectural salvage, including old doors and gates. In an era of mass waste, consciously consuming and creating a unique interior takes time and patience. That's why they love old things ... it's a mood. The restoration of their showroom, an old glass-blowing factory in the Byron Arts & Industry Estate, has focused on this design ethos. They believe that a beautiful space does not have to come at the expense of sustainability.

www.elements.net.au

6 Acacia Street, Byron Bay



**BYRON BAY
CAMPING & DISPOSALS**

FOR THE PERFECT BEACH SHELTER






PHONE: 0439 212 153
**SHOP 1/1 TASMAN WAY,
 BYRON BAY NSW 2481**
WWW.BYRON-CAMPING.COM.AU
THETEAM@BYRON-CAMPING.COM.AU





SUMMER SALE

***Opening Hours or By Appointment**

Jan 16/17/18 10 am - 3pm
 Jan 23/24/25 10 am - 3pm

6 Acacia St Byron Bay

WWW.ELEMENTS.NET.AU

Hello summer

SON OF DRUM

Treat your earholes and visit Son of Drum in Mullumbimby!

Their latest range includes all sorts of folk and world instruments, tribal percussion and beautiful chimes and sound healing items, and plenty of fun stuff for the kids, so they've got everyone covered, from grommets to grannies!

And if you're no muso, no problem; get moving instead with some fun toys such as glo poi, fire staff, juggling balls and more.

And of course they've got all the strings, accessories, on stage and recording gear you need, so get down to 31 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby and sort yourself out!

02 6684 1742

Shop 1/31 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby

sonofdrum.com.au

NIMBIN HERBS

Nestled in the lush hinterlands of the Northern Rivers, Nimbin Herbs has been a sanctuary for seekers of healing, transformation, and connection for over 25 years. Rooted in tradition and guided by the wisdom of nature, they believe that plants have the power to inspire profound change.

Their mission is to support your healing journey with nature as your guide, and their carefully crafted botanical offerings are designed to soothe the mind, energise the body, and awaken the spirit.

Every item, from their organic teas and tinctures to their ritual blends, is made in Nimbin, and many of the plants and herbs they use are also locally grown.

Explore Nimbin Herbs in person or online, and experience the transformative power of plants for yourself.

Open 7 days.

60A Cullen Street, Nimbin 2480

@nimbin.herbs

nimbinherbs.com.au



son of drum Musical Instruments

Taste with your ears!



20% off ukuleles mention this ad

Ph. 02 6684 1742
Shop 1 / 31 Burringbar St
Mullumbimby NSW 2482

www.sonofdrum.com.au
@son_of_drum_store

Transform your life with plants



Nestled in the lush hinterlands of the Northern Rivers, Nimbin Herbs has been a sanctuary for over 25 years, offering handcrafted botanical creations that support your healing journey. Rooted in tradition and nurtured by the rainforest, we create organic teas, tinctures, and ritual blends to soothe the mind, energise the body, and awaken the spirit.

Visit us in Nimbin seven days a week or explore our curated offerings online. Experience nature's wisdom with Nimbin Herbs today.

60A Cullen St, Nimbin
www.nimbinherbs.com.au
@nimbin.herbs



WIN BIG

ENTER THE DRAW TO SCORE A BRAND NEW
TRADIES TOOLBOX PLUS
\$2,000 OF WORKWEAR & PPE



**SPEND \$300 IN STORE
FOR THE CHANCE TO BE
1 OF 3 LUCKY WINNERS!**

Only at Ballina, Bankstown, Browns Plains, Cairns, Lismore, Macgregor, Slacks Creek, and Yatala stores. T&C's apply (displayed in store). Images are for illustrative purposes only.

UPGRADE YOUR WORK SPACE!

KingGee

Hard Yakka



PRO CHOICE SAFETY GEAR





STYLE & HIRE

The Sperry Tents team are passionate about delivering luxury, creative and sustainable events. They are able to turn these values into reality and offer a unique and visionary style of event planning.

They bring a holistic approach to event hire by personally assisting you with all areas of event design and delivery to ensure your experience is smooth and enjoyable from the first conversation to the last.

Call **1300 773 779** or email hello@sperrytents.com.au
 Instagram [@sperrytentsaustralia](#) [@styleandhire](#)

THE CORK SHOP

Virgin cork bark is the first harvest of the cork tree, when the cork tree is around 25 years old. It has a deeply structured, rougher surface. Cork is a 100% natural, renewable, recyclable and biodegradable material that is obtained through an environmentally-friendly harvesting process. This harvesting helps regenerate the trees, contributing to their life span of around 200 years.

The Cork Shop has a wide range of virgin cork unique items, including furniture, plates, platters, planter pots and tea light holders. Cork is uniquely lightweight and moisture-resistant. It is strong, durable and long-lasting.

Visit The Cork Shop in Byron Bay or their one month POP UP SHOP on Griffith Street, Coolangatta for their January clearance sale, on now.

thecorkshop.com.au

STYLE & HIRE

Are you planning an intimate private gathering or lavish celebration?

We will make your event a truly unforgettable experience.

Furniture, lighting, styling & more...



ph: 1300 875 683 create@styleandhire.com.au

BYRON BAY
the cork shop
 CORTIÇA

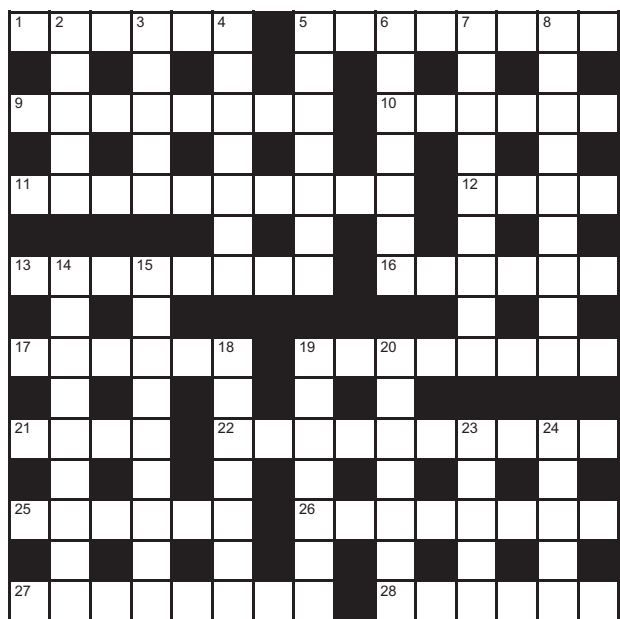
**CORK FURNITURE
 CLEARANCE
 UP TO 60% OFF**

Sale on our unique work of art furniture and homewares, crafted from the bark of the cork oak tree. It is strong, sturdy and durable.



Byron Arcade, 13 Lawson Street, Byron Bay
 Open Mon-Sat 10-3pm
 Ph: 0422 262 675





Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Female gets blame – wrongly – for meal being on fire (6)
- Replace the cap on sepulchral monument (8)
- Rudely undress one, and various others (8)
- Mike gets copy I ruined, having poor vision (6)
- Corrupt headmistresses hide away in sewer (10)
- Dollar's beginning to be replaced by yen – that's awful! (4)
- Ruins of meals chef de cuisine consumed (8)
- Romeo appears in photos in pants (6)
- Magistrate rings conservative leader at hotel for a cuddle (6)
- Origins of early mammals, birds and reptiles found in hair and tissue (8)
- Lawyer can't bear foreign cheese (4)
- Flatbreads not quite set for the spit (10)
- Brassed off about returning to Ukrainian city (6)
- Cross placed over German city by university (8)
- Badly buggered by envy (8)
- Biting ant kept out of earthwork (6)

DOWN

- Take a look at employment of bloodsucker (5)
- Frenchmen take in poem via transmitter (5)
- Record list *Echo* edited for New Testament content (7)
- Brass we turned over on Sunday – must be nuts! (7)
- Backward blokes echo sibling's vengeance (7)
- Dimensions of timber calculated to be eight (3-2-4)
- Royal fails to finish school in England, then university in America (9)
- Cold game bird carved up at university (9)
- Bad press for old worker at university (9)
- University being difficult about article on Republican victor (7)
- Painter of couple hugging is, at bottom, crass (7)
- Rodent has to swarm over capsized refuge boat (7)
- Run away with easy long stride (5)
- Sort of column Charlie carved from pictorial representation, essential tricky (5)

Quick Clues

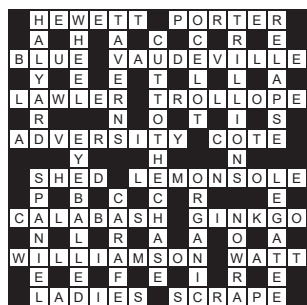
ACROSS

- Served with a dressing of flaming liquor (6)
- Monument in honour of one or more people buried elsewhere (8)
- Extras; miscellaneous things (8)
- Short-sighted (6)
- A woman who makes clothes (10)
- An expression of disgust (4)
- Holes allowing water to drain from ships' decks (8)
- Little boy's trousers (6)
- Kiss and cuddle (6)
- Thin flexible solid sheet or film (8)
- A white soft cheese (4)
- Spit-roasting apparatus (10)
- Ukrainian Black Sea port (6)
- A theological college of the medieval university of Paris (8)
- To envy the possession of (8)
- A protective ditch dug in warfare (6)

DOWN

- A person worthy of contempt (5)
- Electronic device which converts digital data into analogue (5)
- A letter (7)
- Tropical American nut-bearing tree, *Anacardium occidentale* (7)
- Greek goddess of retribution (7)
- A standard size of timber (3-2-4)
- Ivy League university in New Jersey (9)
- English collegiate research university founded in 1209 (9)
- University or college teacher of the highest grade (9)
- America's first university, founded in Massachusetts in 1636 (7)
- French painter, draftsman, and collagist, a leading Fauvist (7)
- Amphibious beaver-like rodent (7)
- To marry on the run (5)
- An order of ancient Greek architecture (5)

Last week's solution #37



The names that drive us



Mandy Nolan

I am driving on the highway and there's a giant ute up my butt. It's making me nervous. I can feel the 'get out of my way' energy. I'm a menopausal woman. I don't respond to coercion.

It's one of those super big muscle utes. Twin cab. Black. It's a monster truck. Tinted windows. I am doing 109 ks. It's 110 speed limit and this bloke won't back off. He's angry. His ute looks angry. It's a Ram. I wonder who named it? Because I reckon it pretty well describes how this dude lives his life. He Rams. Rams his ute up the back of fellow drivers. Rams his beliefs down your throat. Rams his fist into someone's face when they have a go at his driving. I find myself wishing they'd named his ute something more chill, like chill, or gentle, or accept. I mean what tradie is gonna drive the Dodge Accept? Or the more aptly named Dodge Tiny Dick?

Who names cars? Someone somewhere is sitting in a room coming up with these stupid names. Names they think will reflect our driving egos. That's the dickhead we become when we get behind a wheel. Because it happens. Not many of us become better people behind the wheel. Not even the Dalai Lama. That's why he prefers to travel by foot.

Car monikers used to be more animal-inspired, like Mustang, or Falcon, or Impala. Generally fast animals. No one was going to drive the Suzuki Sloth. Or the Chrysler Koala. Suburu Snail. The Toyota Tortoise. But maybe, if you have road safety in mind, maybe the Lexus Loris is all that's standing between the marketing department and actually decreasing the road toll.

When all the kids were at home I was driving a seven seater van. You don't feel sexy in a mum van. It was the Kia Carnival. And yes, to be fair, with the five kids on board crying, punching each other and throwing food it was a



It's a Ram. I wonder who named it? Because I reckon it pretty well describes how this dude lives his life. He Rams.

circus. Carnival was an upbeat name for what it feels like to declare to the world that you suck at contraception.

I was thinking of some good names for people movers to encourage more socially conscious breeding. The Volkswagon Vasectomy? The Tarago Tubal Ligation? The Honda Hysterectomy. The Kia Condom. I really missed my calling. I shouldn't have been naming kids, I should have been naming cars!

There have been some very big fails in the car naming department. Did you know Mitsubishi bought out the Mum 500 micro car. They also came out with one of my faves: The Mini Active Urban Sandal. That sounds like a foreign film. Then there was the Ford Probe. That's a watch and act.

We all had a big laugh when we found out that the Pajero was having sales issues in Europe and South America because Pajero in Spanish means wanker. It made me think that maybe it's a good idea to name vehicles after our less favourable characteristics? The Nissan Narcissist? The Suzuki Sociopath? The Mercedes Manipulator. The Tesla Tyrant?

Ok, I'm done. I'm off to my tank. I'm not kidding. How's that for a car name for a woman committed to non-violence? In my defence, the Gandhi hasn't hit the market yet.

■ Mandy Nolan's Soapbox column has appeared in *The Echo* for almost 23 years. The personal and the political often meet here; she's also been the Greens federal candidate since before the last federal election. *The Echo's* coverage of political issues will remain as comprehensive and fair as it has ever been, outside this opinion column which, as always, contains Mandy's personal opinions only.

STARS BY LILITH

Rare quiet in this week's sky, with the resting face of the heavens showing sun/Mercury in practical Capricorn, Venus in dreamy Pisces and Mars master-minding the home zone. What can you make of these ingredients....?



CAPRICORN THE MOUNTAIN GOAT

ARIES: This year launches into dismantling the secret fears (even Aries have them) blocking you from living your authentic best. One of your personal pitfalls is overdoing it: overworking, overindulging, overcommitting. Start lavishing this super-size energy instead on cultivating a serene mind, calm heart and relaxed body.

TAURUS: You're already prepped to deal with this year's economic variations, and this week your prima planet Venus wants to focus on personal rituals. Suggestions? Make a healing sanctuary, an oasis of calm (crystals are particularly in tune with your earth sign) where you can spend regular time meditating, contemplating, creating...

GEMINI: Big-picture Jupiter in your sign underlines how everything on, under and above the earth is inextricably interconnected: the good, bad, ugly and wonderful. This week will benefit from a long, honest look at yourself in connection with others. What you have to offer. What's being offered to you.

CANCER: With Mars currently reversed in your sign, emotional control's number one on the current menu. Agitated impulses will surge: let them. But resist the urge to react immediately, which can activate the law of unintended consequences. Calm down, get the facts straight first. Payoff? Unburned bridges, happier life.

LEO: This week's astrological pattern speaks to your core beliefs about soul-honouring ways of contributing to the group mood and community dynamic. With everyone's life trajectory up for reassessment, take a look at what you have and what you share, what's ripe for restructuring and what needs deleting.

VIRGO: With your main planet Mercury in the sign of doing what you say and finishing what you start, this week's vibe supports commitment and follow through. Forget multitasking: get selective and prioritize - fewer choices will make life easier. The rewards? Personal satisfaction, feeling valued, accolades, praise, appreciation.

LIBRA: With Saturn renovating your primary relationships over the next couple of years, expect a few chapter changes as some social contracts expire and others spring not altogether unexpected surprises. This week's no-nonsense energetics ask you to get very clear about the kind of partnerships you want to commit to.

SCORPIO: If, as pop philosophy asserts, people are in your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime, this is a good time for sorting who's who and what's what. Mars retrograde is certainly conspiring to conduct this week's dance moves towards joining forces with courageous, caring others.

SAGITTARIUS: The current astrological mix promotes and benefits from discipline, direction, and while you might resist it, a certain amount of reining in. This whole year's about seeing where you can be more truthful with yourself, and this week someone older, wiser and more experienced might have recommendations.

CAPRICORN: This week's sun and Mercury turbo-charge all things Capricorn: responsibilities, resolutions and ambitions, so don't be shy about advertising what you have. Want to ask for a raise or a favour? With Venus presently in your sector of polished communications, you can express yourself with elegance and diplomacy.

AQUARIUS: While there's a plethora of new opportunities to engage with creative collectives, the major directive regarding this week's astro-pattern is to be very sensitive about boundaries. It's worth making the effort to feel out and be aware of other peoples', and if you're not sure, ask.

PISCES: The present astrological narrative favours a steady step-by-step path supported by inner discipline. With celestial heavyweight Saturn in your sign, if unexpected expenses crop up this week, or you can't get on top of a problem, look for help. Even from invisible sources, because allies are standing by.

Eclectic Selection

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



✳️ One of the nation's most beloved performers and radio co-hosts, Tommy Little has won over audiences across the country with his sharp wit, hilarious banter, and engaging storytelling. His high-energy show and outrageous tales are guaranteed to keep you laughing from beginning to end

Wednesday 6pm at the Brunswick Heads Picture House
 Tickets from \$39 brunswickpicturehouse.com.



✳️ Downgirl embodies a dark feminine rage with a raw punk edge while also conjuring up the tender nostalgic feeling of being a girl alone in her bedroom. Downgirl creates the kind of music that is both guttural and gratifying.

Sunday 7.30pm at The Northern. Free show

✳️ Hilarious world-class stand-up from the internationally acclaimed Irish master! You've seen him on The Royal Variety Performance, Live at the Apollo, Sunday Night at the Palladium, Conan O'Brien or perhaps online where he has clocked up millions of views of his comedy clips... but NOTHING beats seeing Jimeoin live.

Friday 8pm Ballina RSL - Level One
 Tickets \$54 from ballinarsl.com.au

✳️ Taking inspiration from the much cheekier 'grown-ups' version, the circus/cabaret/variety show the Cheeky Cabaret, Lil' Cheeky is an all-ages bonanza for the kids. Tailored for the young and tailor-made for the young at heart, this show will razzle and dazzle its way into your hearts and tickle your funny bones.

Saturday 2pm at the Brunswick Heads Picture House
 Tickets start at \$21.76 from brunswickpicturehouse.com.

✳️ Step into a world where rhythm meets renewal, as an enchanting evening of live music unfolds under AKITU – a celebration that transcends mere revelry. This event is not just a party; it's a spiritual journey, marking the rebirth of nature and humanity's triumphant emergence from the depths of chaos – featuring: Tijuana Cartel, Xuja, She-J and Carebear.

Saturday 7pm, at The Northern, Byron Bay
 Tickets from \$55 at thenorthern.com.au.

✳️ Dave Power is a Brisbane-based musician known for his heartfelt songwriting and soulful performances. Blending folk, indie rock, and Americana influences, Dave's deep passion for storytelling through music, resonates throughout the room, creating an intimate connection through emotive soundscapes.

Sunday 4pm at the Bangalow Hotel. Free show

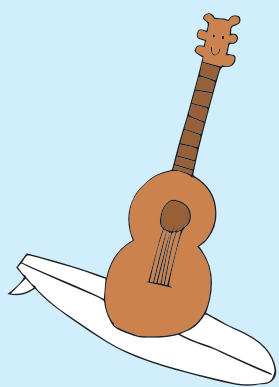


✳️ Music mainstays for 15 or so years, Shannon & the Clams are known for their vintage-infused, garage-psych sound. Experience good times with this excellent band and feel the effects of these extraordinary live shows in your orbit at the tail end of Mercury flying into retrograde.

Tuesday 7pm at the Bangalow A&I Hall
 Tickets \$52.51 from moshtix.com.au.

✳️ Emerging from a small garage in Byron Shire, Ratmongers are the next generation of modern rock. This three-piece blends melodic vocals, intricate guitar work, and a thunderous rhythm section, crafting a sound that's not just heard but felt.

Ratmongers and others from 8pm on Thursday at The Northern Byron Bay. Free show.



LISTEN TO SOMETHING ELSE

There's no 'same old, same old' at BayFM. Our wide range of music shows are diverse and dangerous (and a couple are deadly).

Jump onto 99.9FM for the best in dance, pop, rock, blues, reggae, soul, folk, punk, Americana and vintage, plus hot local acts and music from around the world in our foreign language shows. Check our online Program Guide for details.



More at bayfm.org

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 A NIGHT OF COMEDY TO HELP SAVE OUR KOALAS

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MANDY NOLAN
HARLEY BREEN
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THE LOVEYS
FAREWELL TOUR

10 YEARS 2015-2025

Fri, 24th Jan • Drill Hall Mullumbimby • 7.30pm
 Tickets at www.theloveysmusic.com



SAE and the world

SAE Byron Bay students are making their mark locally and internationally, the University College has been delivering industry-focused education since 1976.

Students can study nine disciplines: Animation, Audio, Computer Science, Creative Industries, Design, Film, Games, Music, VFX and Virtual Production, across six campuses in Australia.

Byron Bachelor of Audio graduate Sophie Ryder always wanted to make music and is now supporting other regional artists with her independent record label Flaming Heart Records.

'I established Flaming Heart Records during my degree as I was so inspired by what I was doing and wanted to start a music-related business,' she said. 'Here in the Northern Rivers and the Gold Coast, we have some of the most incredible young musicians. It really is my passion to support the scene here because it is so diverse and so thriving.'

'The arts sector is so important to Australian culture and we should be nurturing it as much as possible.'

Sophie has put on a local Flaming Hearts Music Festival with the label, which she will repeat this year, and travelled to Berlin, Germany to further her career.

'SAE Byron Bay really stood out to me. It is a small university that has small classes, offering a more personal and practical approach to teaching,' she said. 'I was keen to learn more about audio production and live technology and SAE offers a more non-traditional way of teaching and project work, which is very appealing.'

'The knowledge and skills I learnt at SAE are invaluable and I encourage any creative to attend an open day and see what it's like.'

For international student Noah Malin, studying the Bachelor of Film at Byron Bay has given him the opportunity to create a visually arresting short documentary on kitesurfing that has been recognised internationally.

Noah was one of four Byron students honoured at the 19th annual SAE International Awards, winning the Best Film or TV Project by a student for *Chasing the Breeze*.

The short film explores the stories of Ballina kitesurfing enthusiasts Steve and Kenno and was also screened at the Sony Catchlight Film Festival in Sydney and at the Byron Film Festival.

Noah said making his documentary was challenging but rewarding.

'Winning an international award feels incredible, and I'm so grateful to everyone who helped me along the way,' he said.

'It's projects like these where you learn the most and really grow as a filmmaker.'

The February intake is now open – for more information on how to make your vision your reality: sae.edu.au.



Sensory Blender delivers Aroop Roy

Prepare for an unforgettable event as Sensory Blender presents Aroop Roy, an acclaimed producer, musician, and DJ. Renowned for blending house, techno, and garage with jazz, disco, and global rhythms, Aroop is celebrated as one of today's most versatile artists.

Supported by icons like Gilles Peterson and Mr Scruff, this headline set marks his first Australian Tour.

Alongside some of Australia's finest DJs Simon Caldwell, a staple of Sydney's underground scene and the first time playing in the region in 12 years, brings decades of experience with genre-spanning sets.

Personally chosen to perform for Prince – Stevie G, celebrated for his soulful grooves and Balearic vibes, continues to captivate audiences globally.

O'Shagahan delivers high-energy performances infused with her rich musical expertise, while Lord Sut the founder of Nudge Nudge Wink Wink brings his eclectic and Balearic beats.

This event supports a great local cause, with a portion of the profits going to Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital. This vital facility offers free veterinary care to native Australian wildlife in need.

Don't miss out on this fusion of world-class music and community spirit at the Billinudgel Hotel Saturday 25 January 3.30pm-11pm.

Tickets via: cunningstunts.com.au



Come Alive

Alive In The 70s will bring the unforgettable sounds and distinctive style of the 1970s back to life at a show at Byron Theatre on Saturday, January 18.

Led by the powerful vocals of local resident Mama Cath and Papa Pan, and backed by a talented group of seasoned musicians, Alive In The 70s will make you feel like you've stepped out of a time machine straight back to the glory days of groovy tunes, bell-bottoms, and big hair.

Whether it's the soulful ballads, infectious disco anthems, or classic rock hits, the six-piece band's extensive repertoire will have you singing and dancing all night long.

The band love nothing more than seeing crowds rise from their seats to fill a dance floor – and are bringing their show to the Northern Rivers for the first time in three years.

Expect to hear timeless hits from artists like ABBA, AC/DC, The Bee Gees, Gloria Gaynor, Kiss, Earth, Wind & Fire, Linda Ronstadt, Donna Summer and many more.

No matter whether you were there when this music was created, or you've discovered it in the intervening decades, Alive in the 70s is a show not to be missed by die-hard fans or those discovering the era for the first time.

Tickets for the two-hour show cost just \$55 and can be purchased through the Byron Theatre – byroncentre.com.au.



Janet Swain's
BIG VOICE

COMMUNITY GOSPEL CHOIR
BRUNSWICK HEADS & MURWILLUMBAH

starts Monday 27 January, 5.30. 20 week semester. Get into it.
sdynastymusic@gmail.com



Pure reggae magic

Byron Bay, get ready for a night of pure reggae magic as Steel Pulse, one of the genre's most iconic and enduring bands, takes the stage at The Green Room on Saturday, February 1.

Celebrating their 50th anniversary, Steel Pulse brings a legacy of socially conscious, empowering music that has inspired millions across the globe. This performance is part of a limited three-show Australian tour, making it a can't-miss event for reggae enthusiasts and music lovers alike.

Formed in Birmingham, England, in 1975, Steel Pulse emerged during a time of racial and social upheaval, channeling their experiences into a groundbreaking blend of roots reggae, punk, and rock. Led by founding members David Hinds and Selwyn Brown, the band's anthems such as Rally Round the Flag and Roller Skates have become timeless calls for unity and justice. Their Grammy-winning album *Babylon the Bandit* remains a landmark in reggae history, and their influence has stretched far beyond the music scene, touching movements for equality and change worldwide.

Steel Pulse's live performances are legendary, offering a powerful mix of infectious rhythms, poignant lyrics, and unrelenting energy. As they mark their golden milestone, audiences can expect a journey through their storied catalogue, from classic hits to deeper cuts that showcase their musical evolution. The Green Room, known for its intimate and vibrant atmosphere, provides the perfect setting to experience this legendary band up close.

Whether you're a lifelong fan or discovering Steel Pulse for the first time, this Byron Bay show promises an unforgettable night of music and meaning. It's more than a concert - it's a celebration of a band that has shaped the reggae genre and used their art as a force for good. Tickets are limited, so secure your spot now and join together to honour 50 years of Steel Pulse's groundbreaking journey.

The Green Room on February 1.

Find tickets: <https://www.thegreenroombyron.com>.

GIG GUIDE

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



WEDNESDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4PM **SAMARUH + ALLY PALMER TRIO**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 5PM **ALEX BOWAN**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **TOMMY LITTLE**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7PM **DIONNE WARWICK**

THURSDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **THE GIN BUGGS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **LOS ANTONIOS + MECHE ROMEO**
- BYRON THEATRE 6PM **BRIGHT LIGHTS JANUARY 2025 HOLIDAY WORKSHOP PERFORMANCE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **HUMAN DINOSAUR MACHINE, THUNDER GOD OF THE MULTIVERSE & RAT MONGERS**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **JORDAN MAC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **TOMMY LITTLE, 8PM BRUNS DOES BURLESQUE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEE WITH JESS**

FRIDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **BARRY MCLAY & FRIENDS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM **JAM HOT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8AM **PAV4N & HYPHO, BAYAWAKA**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **TWO TEARS IN A BUCKET**

- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **HAYLEY GRACE, LEVEL ONE 8PM JIMEOIN**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **JOCK BARNES DUO**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 7.30PM **CATH SIMES BAND**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **TOMMY LITTLE, 8PM BRUNS DOES BURLESQUE**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **BLAKE EVANS**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **SUZI QUATRO**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7PM **MEL BUTTLE**

SATURDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **POLY & CO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **DAVID MCCREDIE + JEROME WILLIAMS BAND + AIRWOLF PARADISE, B2B & TORREN FOOT**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **ALIVE IN THE 70S**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4.30PM **DJ SHANE COLLINS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **TIJUANA CARTEL, XUJA SHE AND J CAREBEAR**
- SUFFOLK PARK HOTEL 8PM **RELOADER**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **PINK ZINC + DJ KOSHA**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM **LIL' CHEEKY, 6PM TOMMY LITTLE, 8PM BRUNS DOES BURLESQUE**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **SIMON BOLT**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM **DJ ROB SYDNEY**

- THE CHANNON TAVERN 6.30PM **KARAOKE**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 5PM **MARK SEYMOUR & THE UNDERTOW**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **SHENANIGANS + BLAKBOI**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **JOSH LEE HAMILTON**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 6PM **OUT OF ABINGDON + JESSE MORRIS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **SUZI QUATRO**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **DAN HANNAFORD**

SUNDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **ALLY PALMER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **THE FERAMONES**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 2PM **DAMIEN COOPER**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2.30PM **DJ IAIN YES, 5PM DJ MYLES DOUGHMAN**
- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM **YULLI'S OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM **DOWNGIRL**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **DAVE POWER**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **FAT ALBERT + YAZMINDI**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT LEE TAYLOR'S TAYLORMADE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 5PM **TOMMY LITTLE, 7PM BRUNS DOES BURLESQUE**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3.30PM **DJ DARLAN**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **AZO BELL & THE NEIGHBOURS FROM HELL**

MONDAY 20

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **GUY KACHEL**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM **DJ DAVID BANGMA**

TUESDAY 21

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **OLE FALCOR**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4PM **HAYLEY GRACE**
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 7PM **SHANNON & THE CLAMS**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 4.30PM **THE TAY TAY TRIBUTE**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **SHARON ROWNTREE**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7.30PM **ALWAYS THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE**

WEDNESDAY 22

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **DONNY SHADES TRIO**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 5PM **LUKE BENNETT**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**

PALACE CINEMAS
 BYRON BAY • BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
 THURSDAY JANUARY 16
 TO WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (M) (NFT)
 AWARDS SEASON PREVIEW
 Fri: 6:30PM

EMILIA PEREZ
 NOW SHOWING

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (M) (NFT)
 AWARDS SEASON PREVIEW
 Fri: 6:30PM

FAMILY FILMS

DRAGONKEEPER (PG) (NFT)
 Daily: 9:45AM, 3:40PM

MAGIC BEACH (G) (NFT)
 Daily: 9:45AM, 11:50AM

MOANA 2 (PG)
 Daily: 9:45AM, 12:20PM, 1:40PM

MUFASA: THE LION KING (PG)
 Daily except Fri: 10:00AM, 1:10PM, 3:10PM, 6:00PM, Fri: 10:00AM, 1:10PM, 3:10PM

PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG)
 Daily: 10:15AM, 12:30PM, 2:45PM, 5:00PM

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 (PG)
 Daily: 10:00AM, 1:45PM, 3:40PM

ALL FILMS

A REAL PAIN (MA15+)
 Daily: 11:50AM, 1:45PM, 6:30PM

ANORA (MA15+)
 Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:40PM, 5:45PM, Sat, Sun: 5:30PM

BETTER MAN (MA15+)
 Daily except Fri: 8:00PM

CONCLAVE (PG)
 Daily: 12:30PM, 4:45PM, 7:15PM, 8:30PM

DEN OF THIEVES 2: PANTERA (M)
 Daily except Sat, Sun: 8:30PM, Sat, Sun: 8:15PM

EMILIA PÉREZ (MA15+) (NFT)
 Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:10AM, 3:00PM, 5:30PM, 8:30PM, Fri: 10:10AM, 3:00PM, 5:30PM, 8:30PM, Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 3:00PM, 5:45PM, 8:30PM

NOSFERATU (M)
 Daily: 12:30PM, 3:50PM, 8:30PM

SPIDER-MANIA: SPIDER-MAN 3 (M)
 Daily: 5:40PM

THE ROOM NEXT DOOR (M)
 Daily: 10:15AM

WE LIVE IN TIME (M) (NFT)
 Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:30AM, 2:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM, 7:15PM, Sat, Sun: 11:30AM, 2:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM, 8:20PM

WICKED (PG)
 Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 8:00PM, Sat, Sun: 10:00AM

WOLF MAN (CTC) (NFT)
 Daily: 3:30PM, 5:45PM, 8:30PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

ALL FILMS

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (M) (NFT)
 AWARDS PREVIEW
 Fri: 6:30PM

CONCLAVE (PG)
 Daily except Sat, Sun: 6:00PM, Sat: 8:35PM, Sun: 8:30PM

DEN OF THIEVES 2: PANTERA (M)
 Thurs, Mon, Tues: 8:30PM, Wed: 8:45PM

NOSFERATU (M)
 Daily except Sat, Sun: 8:30PM, Sat, Sun: 8:45PM

WE LIVE IN TIME (M) (NFT)
 Daily: 3:45PM, 6:10PM

WICKED (PG)
 Daily: 12:50PM

WOLF MAN (CTC) (NFT)
 Daily: 4:00PM, 8:30PM

FAMILY FILMS

DRAGONKEEPER (PG) (NFT)
 Daily: 11:15AM

MAGIC BEACH (G) (NFT)
 Daily: 11:10AM

MOANA 2 (PG)
 Daily: 9:00AM, 11:30AM

MUFASA: THE LION KING (PG)
 Daily: 1:20PM

PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG)
 Daily except Wed: 9:00AM, 4:00PM, Wed: 9:00AM, 2:00PM

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 (PG)
 Daily except Fri, Wed: 9:10AM, 1:40PM, 6:15PM, Fri: 9:10AM, 1:40PM, Wed: 9:10AM, 4:15PM, 6:30PM

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Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

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

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\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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See page 12 for full details



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Notice of Praeipce

For the record Wilhelmina Elsa Ford© of Reedy Creek, Queensland state is permanently domiciled on the Land and Soil of Terra Australis. I am not a voluntary transactor in commerce, and the paramount security interest holder of all estates, property, assets and collateral, both registered and unregistered, including Dustin Hartley Smith RPP44 63900 05100 20133 23600B2 and Monique Zoe Smith RPP44 63900 05100 20132 02608 and all associated copyright protected trade names. My lawful reconveyance to the Land and Soil jurisdiction of Terra Australis, was recorded with Public Record Number RPP44 63900 05100 20132 02608, Proclamation Date 25th November 2024, and tacit agreement was established by my un rebutted Living Testimony in the Form of an Affidavit. All usufruct subjugation ties have been severed with the occupying corporate government of Australia. The corporate Australian kakistocracy and its affiliates are instructed to immediately cease and desist misaddressing Wilhelmina Elsa Ford© in fraudulent debased Dog-Latin, GLOSSA and to cease and desist infringing on my estate, property, assets, collateral and copyright protected trade names.

Notice of Praeipce

For the record Jenna Barbara Ford© of Tyalgum, New South Wales state is permanently domiciled on the Land and Soil of Terra Australis. I am not a voluntary transactor in commerce, and the paramount security interest holder of all estates, property, assets and collateral, both registered and unregistered, and all associated copyright protected trade names. My lawful reconveyance to the Land and Soil jurisdiction of Terra Australis, was recorded with Public Record Number RPP44 63900 05100 20132 01601, Proclamation Date 19th November 2024, and tacit agreement was established by my un rebutted Living Testimony in the Form of an Affidavit. All usufruct subjugation ties have been severed with the occupying corporate government of Australia. The corporate Australian kakistocracy and its affiliates are instructed to immediately cease and desist misaddressing Jenna Barbara Ford© in fraudulent debased Dog-Latin, GLOSSA and to cease and desist infringing on my estate, property, assets, collateral and copyright protected trade names.

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Any Sunday until
19th Jan 2025 from 6.30pm

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MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY MARKET & MUSEUM OPEN THIS SATURDAY 8am - 2pm

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FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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EVERYONE WELCOME

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

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall



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



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



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- Portable toilet hire
- 24 hour service

6687 2880

FOR SALE

2 x FERGUSON TRACTORS, ready for restoration. Cash or exchange for 4WD ute. Ph 66849329

MIELE WASHERS

Dryers and dishwashers available at Bridglands Mullumbimby. 66842511

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Road base, gravel, blue metal and metal dust. ALL SIZE DELIVERIES.
Phone 66845517, 0418481617

WANTED

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Phone: (02) 6680 8910 with any questions

IN MEMORIAM

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

MARTY ROSS MAYBERRY

1st February 2025

Please join us at a memorial to celebrate the life of Marty Mayberry.

01 February 2025, 1:00PM

Garden Marquee Room
Victoria Park
Herston Road, Herston QLD

Celebration of life, with memories shared by friends and family. We invite you to share memories and tributes of Marty at: martymayberrytribute@gmail.com



DEATH NOTICES

William (Bill) Mitchell
2-11-1961 to 30-12-2024

Precious son of Alan (dec) and Gretta (dec).
Beloved husband of Cane, father of Betsy & Rupert, Nathaniel, and Hayden & Travis.
Grandfather of Xavier, Abigail, Charlie & Taylor.
Dear brother of Patrick, Mary, Michael, Anne, Kate, Susan & Liz.
Sadly missed by so many friends, we will all miss your smile and kindness.

Paperbark Deathcare



SHEBA
Sheba is a 2 year old, Mastiff X. She is a lovely-natured girl who just wants to please! Sheba would be best suited for a family with older kids as the only pet in the home.
991003001704224
Location: Murwillumbah
For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128
Interested? Please complete our online adoption expression of interest <https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>

Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338

PETS

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



JESS

4-year-old desexed female Kelpie 'Jess' is an affectionate sweetheart. She would thrive with a dedicated companion who could provide her with some further training, and some lovin' 'n' fun. She walks well on-leash and loves hanging out indoors with some creature comforts.
She is pretty obedient and comes when called. Socially she is OK with other dogs, but is best suited to a one-dog household due to possessiveness issues.

Please contact Shell on 0458461935. MC: 982126058255706



SMOKEY

Smokey is about 2 years old. She's a small green eyed, grey tortoiseshell with a super affectionate nature. This darling will make you feel very special.
Let's hope Smokey can find a home. We have some lovely adults - such a shame that people don't seem to be interested in them.

Please make an appointment 0403 533 589 • BillInudgel.petsforlifeshelter.net

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66856330

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AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE 000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay 131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads 6629 7510
Mullumbimby..... 6629 7570
Byron Bay..... 6685 9499
Bangalow..... 6629 7500

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
Storm & tempest damage, flooding 132 500
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE
Primary rescue 6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER
..... 6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL 6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY
AFTER HOURS 6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
(Mullumbimby) 6684 1286

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
24 hour crisis line 1800 656 463
LIFELINE..... 131 114
MENSLINE..... 1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours
..... 1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics
..... 1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
Meets daily 6680 7280
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE 6687 2520
HIV/AIDS - ACON
Confidential testing & information 6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)
..... 6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE
CARERS 6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE 6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service..... 6628 1898

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Jan)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
15	W	6:02 19:48	21:01 6:51	1028 1.82; 2234 1.17	0326 0.22; 1657 0.31
16	TH	6:03 19:47	21:35 7:54	1104 1.77; 2313 1.18	0407 0.25; 1731 0.33
17	F	6:04 19:47	22:06 8:53	1138 1.70; 2350 1.18	0446 0.30; 1804 0.36
18	SA	6:04 19:47	22:33 9:48	1210 1.61	0526 0.38; 1835 0.39
19	SU	6:05 19:47	23:00 10:42	0030 1.19; 1241 1.51	0607 0.48; 1906 0.41
20	M	6:06 19:47	23:26 11:34	0113 1.19; 1313 1.40	0653 0.58; 1941 0.43
21	TU	6:07 19:46	23:54 12:27	0205 1.20; 1350 1.28	0749 0.67; 2020 0.46
22	W	6:08 19:46	0:24 13:21	0244 1.27; 1438 1.16	0850 0.74; 2108 0.48
23	TH	6:09 19:46	0:58 14:16	0311 1.22; 1543 1.06	0900 0.74; 2202 0.50
24	F	6:10 19:45	1:37 15:14	0330 1.25; 1700 1.01	1206 0.72; 2301 0.48
25	SA	6:10 19:45	1:37 16:13	0367 1.45; 1813 1.01	1311 0.64; 2359 0.44
26	SU	6:11 19:45	2:24 17:12	0416 1.55; 1913 1.05	1400 0.54
27	M	6:12 19:44	3:19 18:08	0482 1.65; 2002 1.10	1440 0.46
28	TU	6:13 19:44	4:20 19:00	0545 1.74; 2047 1.17	1517 0.38
29	W	6:14 19:43	5:25 19:45	0628 1.82; 2130 1.23	1555 0.31

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

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

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

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

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

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New ads will be placed at end of section.

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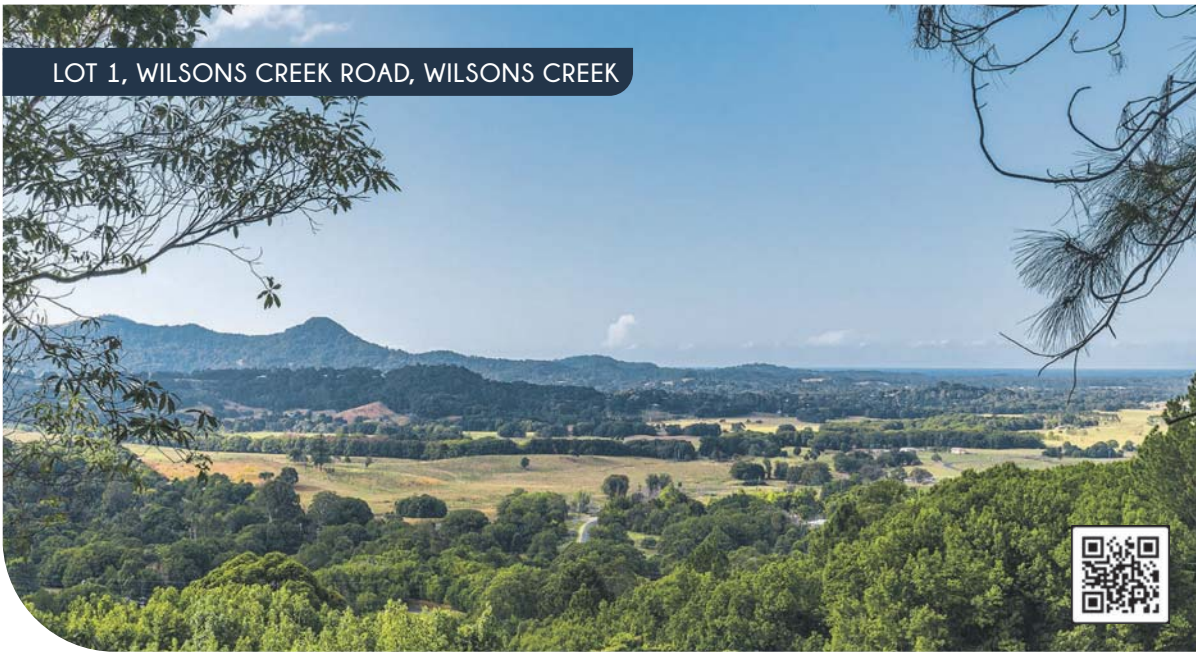


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- 1/305 Golden Four Dr, Bilinga. Sat 10-10:30am QLD time
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- 20 Eliza Fraser Ct, Terranora. Sat 11-12pm NSW time
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- 22 Offshore Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 9-9.30am
- 3/2-6 Cemetery Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 24 Swell Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 9-9.30am
- 325 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 9.30-10am
- 4/113 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 22 Karalaren Court, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 23 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am

- 835 Federal Drive, Goonengerry. Sat 10-10.30am
- 29B Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 14 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 12/213 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Sat 10.30-11am
- 18 Palmer Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30-11am
- 147 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 11-11.30am
- 6 Coachwood Close, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 4 Mango Bark Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 50 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 2/8 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 231 Sneaths Road, Wollongbar. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 16 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 1.45-2.15pm

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- 2/2 Gara Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
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- 5 Aldinga Court, Ocean Shores. 12-12.30pm

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- 5/20 Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 26 Phillip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10-10.45am
- 1 Ocean Avenue New Brighton. Sat 11-11.45am
- 7/7 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 73a Kingscliff Street, Kingscliff. Sat 11-11.30am
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- 17 Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 5/10 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 243 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/134 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7/68-70 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 11 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 16 Coral Court, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 9 Bunjil Place, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm

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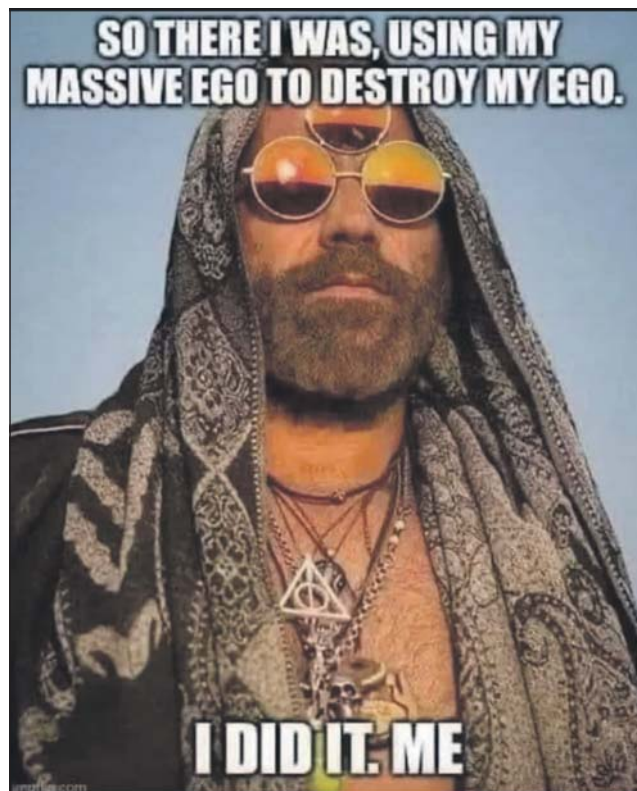
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It appears a change.org petition calling on Byron Shire Council to investigate covid vaccine health concerns has been deleted – the published link on *Backlash* last week no longer works. It's now been five years since the first covid death in China, and the World Health Organisation continues to urge China to share data to help understand its origins.

Further to last week's story about the proposed traffic upgrades to Mullumbimby Road and McAuleys Lane, Michael Abboud, the landlord of one of the impacted properties, contacted *The Echo* to clarify his position. He said that he has 'good standing relationship and dealings with Council and remains optimistic that Council will exhaust all options in order to provide him with a fair and safe solution to his access with the modifications on that intersection'.

2024 is now officially the hottest year ever recorded on our planet, easily beating the previous record year of 2023. David Lowe's account can be read on www.echo.net.au/where-is-the-governments-duty-of-care.

Auditions are now open for Bangalow Theatre's first production of 2025, *Tiny Beautiful Things*. Organisers say they are looking for a 'small cast of compelling and diverse performers to bring this incredible text to life, under the direction of award-winning Director Anouska Gammon'. Visit www.bagalowtheatre.com.au/auditions for more info.



X/Tweet by The Dumbest Cat.

Tweet from Jewish Council of Australia: 'It is disgraceful that instead of promoting international law, Australia's top law officer [Attorney-General Mark Dreyfus] is trying to repair relations with a foreign government found to be committing the international crime of genocide'.

The federal election campaign is nearly upon us, and is underway unofficially, with PM Albanese and 'P Dud' Dutton showing great interest in electorates that don't seem to have much interest in them.

Tweet by Robert Reich: 'The oil industry buys off Congress. No action on climate. The NRA buys off Congress. No action on guns. Insurance companies buy off Congress. No action on health care. The list goes on and on. Money in politics is the root of our dysfunction'.

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