

Not just surviving, but thriving

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

Reminding us that it always was, and always will be, Aboriginal land, hundreds of people claiming their right not to celebrate gathered as one mob in Apex Park on Byron Bay's Main Beach on Sunday for Survival Day.

The Survival Day annual event is an opportunity for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to mourn and recognise the tragic colonisation of this land, and the terrible loss of life, land and culture of the first people of this country.

Local Bundjalung woman and Byron Shire Councillor, Delta Kay, opened the event officially with both solemn and happy words, reminding the gathering that Byron Bay is built on stolen land and the local mob mourn for their people.

'Bundjalung land has been raped and pillaged for her natural resources – our people have worked without a wage, our people have been left displaced and disillusioned with white man's law, but I stand here today, shoulder to shoulder with all of us, to celebrate the survival of our culture.'

Not going anywhere

'Bundjalung people – we're not going anywhere.'

Ms Kay took time to make a special mention of the work of local woman Bronwyn Sindel, a member of Sisters for Reconciliation, a tireless advocate for Indigenous people, and a long time friend of the Bundjalung people, and in particular, the Arakwal People of Byron Bay.

Ms Kay said Bundjalung people



Survival Day event MC, Jason Campbell, with young sticker entrepreneur, James, and Byron Shire Councillor, Delta Kay, taking time for pride and joy in Indigenous culture and the unity of people at Sunday's gathering in Apex Park in Byron Bay.

want to work with the community. 'We don't want a handout for anything. We want a hand up and you can be part of that.'

'You can be a part of our people, standing shoulder to shoulder with all Australians. This is our day. Me and you.'

One of the stallholders who was getting a huge hand up for his beautiful work, was young entrepreneur, James Kruse.

At just 12-years of age, James took over his sticker business from his parents when he turned ten.

'I enjoy running my own little business,' he said. 'It's given me a

chance to explore different skills, learn new ones, and build my self confidence all through my culture.'

James said that though the paperwork of running a business isn't fun, events like Survival Day are.

'The best thing is being able to connect with so many people on Bundjalung country, about culture and being able to work for the things I want.'

Ms Kay had members of her mob on stage to support her acknowledgement of the land. 'Thank you for standing here with me, my family, the land we call "Jagun"'. 'Jagun! She's our mother. She

feeds us and waters us. Our stories are embedded in Jagun – and because we eat and drink from Jagun, we are Country. You eat and drink from country too, so you are part of Country, and you have that duty of care, of helping Bundjalung people look after this land.'

'We always say in our acknowledgement of the land, bugalbeh. Bugalbeh – thank you to the ancestors that have walked this land before us. Jingi walla – welcome everyone to this beautiful land that we all live work and play on, on behalf of our people. 'Jingi walla!'

Major storm havoc hits Byron Shire

A severe thunderstorm moved across the Northern Rivers from the south west last Thursday morning.

Extremely high winds caused extensive damage, with falling trees blocking roads, and homes and motor vehicles being damaged.

Multiple lightning strikes cut electricity to approximately 2,500 homes across the region. Lismore, Murwillumbah, Mullumbimby, Byron Bay, Ballina, Casino, Kyogle, Tweed Heads, Coolangatta, and surrounding areas were all impacted.

89 requests for assistance

SES Mullumbimby said in a statement that there were 89 requests for assistance in the Byron Shire.

By the following day, they say all but a few were completed, 'and it is expected that the remainder will be [the day after]'

'The damage was widespread and some jobs were in difficult terrain. Thank you for your patience. When out on jobs, we have noticed people helping others, which is wonderful.'

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Emergency contacts:

- SES: 132 500
- Council: 6626 7000 and after hours (urgent): 6622 7022
- Essential Energy (power outages): 13 20 80

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Rotary's Australia Day celebrations

Selma and Skye had plenty of fun at Rotary's Australia Day celebration at the Mullumbimby Pool. There was also an Australia Day celebration at Ocean Shores Public School, with the Ocean Shores Community Association (OSCA) holding their World Championship Mullet Throwing Competition, along with live music, food, and an Aussie singalong. Photo Tree Faerie

Susan Stirton

For the fifth consecutive year, Mullumbimby Rotary proudly hosted a vibrant community celebration at the Petria Thomas Pool, Mullumbimby on Australia Day, bringing together locals to honour our incredible country and its diverse people. The day was filled with

fun and connection featuring a free sausage sizzle, captivating Indigenous art activities, and boomerang painting that delighted attendees of all ages. The inflatable attractions added to the excitement, creating a festive atmosphere that drew an impressive crowd of around 500 people from our amazing community.

This heartwarming event has become a cherished annual tradition so be sure to mark it in your calendar for next year.

Don't miss the chance to join us in celebrating the spirit of unity, culture, and community that makes Mullumbimby so special.

■ Susan Stirton is from Mullumbimby Rotary Club.

2025 Splendour cancelled as it 'needs to recharge'

Splendour In The Grass (SITG) has announced that it will not run for the second year in a row.

On social media, SITG said that 'Splendour needs a little more time to recharge and we won't be back this year'.

'Hey gang, sorry it's been so quiet, but we had a little holiday... finally. The rest of the festival team have still been busy cooking up some awesome new things for music lovers in Australia, but Splendour needs a little more time to recharge and we won't be back this year'.

'Think of it as a breather, so we can come back even bigger and better when the

time is right. Lots of other huge events on the horizon so keep an ear to the ground in the coming months - we can't wait to share what we've been working on!'

The first festival was held in 2001 around Byron Bay, with two years at Woodford, and eventually moved to the North Byron Parklands site at Yelgun in 2013.

It featured Powderfinger at its 2001 event, and has seen a great range of artists play at SITG, including PJ Harvey, Coldplay, Queens of the Stone Age, Gorillaz and The Cure, among many.

The festival was rescheduled in 2021 to 2022 owing

to the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, and then ran again in 2022 and 2023 before being cancelled in 2024, a week after tickets went on sale.

According to the ABC, 'Secret Sounds' parent company, Live Nation, has said the festival team has their "full support to bring Splendour in the Grass back when they feel it's right".

While the SITG festival has at times been contentious locally owing to flood, traffic, and other impacts, it has also provided a range of local employment and contributed to local groups throughout the region.

Seven-lot residential subdivision proposed for Federal Drive

Paul Bibby

The owner of a 19-hectare rural property in Federal is seeking permission to subdivide her land into eight residential lots, documents on the Byron Council website show.

In a move that may become more common in the town as demand for rural housing grows, the owner of the undulating greenfield site at 403 Federal Drive has sought to create a cluster of 2000m² lots on the site.

The owner is seeking consent to subdivide one existing 18.59ha lot into seven vacant residential/village lots located at the southern part of the site, and one residual lot that will contain an existing house.

High environmental value vegetation

The Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) submitted as part of the application states that there are several areas of high environmental value vegetation on the site, as well as a small area of

flying fox habitat.

However, the SEE says that the development will not require the removal of any significant native endemic vegetation (other than a single small red kamala tree), nor impact on any nature fauna species.

The applicant further asserts that the proposed subdivision 'will not have any impacts on the local streetscape or scenic qualities of the locality'.

Visual impacts

'The construction of future residential buildings will have visual impacts, however, will be subject to further visual impact assessment at that time,' it states.

'The nature of the development is such that it is sympathetic to, and compatible with, adjoining and adjacent development.'

Though the lots will be out of the price range of most people, the applicant nevertheless states that the proposal will create 'positive social and economic impacts from an increase in vacant residential land in Federal'.

'Approval of the proposed subdivision will provide an extra stock of vacant residential lots in Federal and the Byron Shire and will provide increased competition in the marketplace and will provide additional and alternate lifestyle opportunities for existing and future residents,' the application states.

However, the site is designated as bushfire prone, meaning that any future housing plans will be constrained by the requirements of ensuring bushfire safety.

Federal has seen relatively few medium-to-large subdivision applications in recent years owing to the zoning of much of the town, and topographical constraints.

However, the Federal masterplan does anticipate an increase in residential density in the coming years, along with an increase in commercial and retail development.

To view the full DA go to Byron Council's DA tracker and search for DA number 10.2025.2.1.

Flashmob returns for February 14

Every February 14, for the past 13 years, the annual V Day flashmob has taken place on Main Beach.

Co-organiser, Zenith Virago, told *The Echo*, 'The reason we gather and dance is to rise up locally, and globally, to show our communities, and the world, we are disgusted and disturbed by the continuing levels of violence and murders by men on women and children'.

'We rise up through dance to express joy and community, and to celebrate the

fact that we have not been defeated by this increasing violence. We rise up to show we are determined to create a new kind of consciousness - one where violence will be resisted until it is unthinkable.'

'This year as well as the traditional "Break the Chain" dance, we will also have a powerful Bolero presentation.'

'Women, men, non-binary and children are all welcome to come and gather at 6.30am on Main Beach in solidarity with others

around the world to protest with dance in defiance. One Billion Rising is the biggest mass action to end violence in human history'.

A related event, the *Vagina Conversations*, will also take place at the Brunswick Picture House from March 13 till 16.

Zenith says it is the 10th event, with previous years' performances selling out.

'All proceeds go to the Women's Resource Service - Byron Escape Fund and the Tweed DVIRC Impact Fund'.



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A tail of Hannah's mermaid journey

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

Swimmers at Christmas Beach got a rare treat last week.

As the storm was about to hit the Shire – Hannah, an actual mermaid, came ashore for a splash and a quick photo before splashing off to Byron Bay.

Hannah Mermaid, aka Hannah Fraser, has swum to Byron waters to visit her non-flipper-and-finned family and to share her watery knowledge with those wanting to know the secrets of mermaidery.

As the world's first professional mermaid, Hannah has merged her artistic talents with her dedication to ocean conservation.

From her early days in Byron Bay, she has become an international icon, captivating audiences with underwater performances and her advocacy for marine life.

Hannah's mermaid journey began in childhood, when she filled sketchbooks with images of mermaids, dolphins, whales, and other aquatic creatures, making her first mermaid tail



Hanna Mermaid braved last week's stormy weather to come and visit our shores in preparation for her local classes, which are all things mermaid. Photo Tree Faerie

inspired by the movie *Splash* when she was just nine.

After moving to Byron Bay in the mid '90s, she transformed her artistic talents into a career, selling her creations at local markets and boutique stores around the country.

This soon led her to discover underwater modelling, where she could fully embody the mythical mermaids she had once

only imagined.

Thus began her career as the world's first professional freelance mermaid, combining creativity, aquatic skills, and activism.

Marine activist

Hannah was a key activist in the Oscar-winning documentary, *The Cove*, paddling out in blood-stained water to protest the dolphin

slaughter in Taiji, Japan. This impactful film brought international attention to the cruel practices.

Next week in Byron Bay, Hannah is hosting workshops in collaboration with renowned underwater photographer, Brett Stanley, to turn participants into real, live, merfolk.

For more information, visit www.hannahmermaid.com.

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Major storm havoc hits Northern Rivers

► Continued from page 1

Farmers' market

Meanwhile, Byron Bay Farmers Market organisers said in its 23 years of operation, 'Nothing compares to the ferocity of [Thursday's storm] event'.

'We want to express a big

thank-you to our stallholders and community for literally hanging in there when a freak storm hit the market'.

They said, 'Around 9.30am, when the market was in full swing, a severe storm with excessive winds hit us'.

'According to Weather-zone, wind gusts of 119 km/h

were recorded at Cape Byron at 9.43am.

Marquees broken

'All marquees were tied down, however the strength of the winds still managed to break a number of marquees.

'Thankfully no-one

was injured.

'Thank you to the many customers who helped hold down marquees and offered support during the storm.

'We truly appreciate it. 'It's times like this when community spirit comes to the fore', management added.



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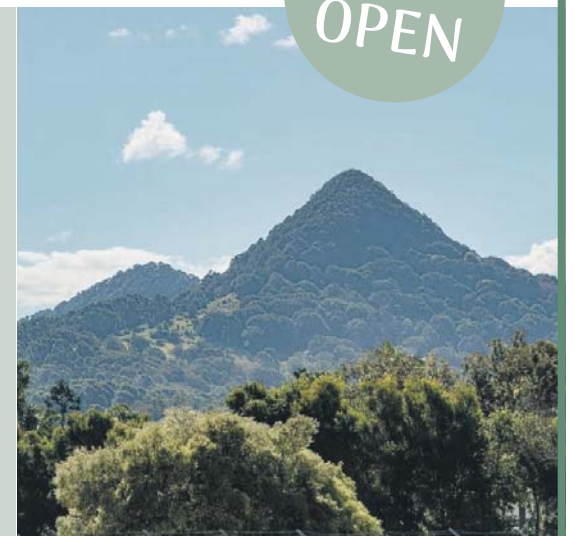
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Calls for AUKUS to be scrapped

Hans Lovejoy

The Australian Greens are calling for the \$73 billion AUKUS nuclear submarine deal with the UK and the US to be scrapped in favour of 'building constructive relationships with our regional neighbours', while spending the money on Australians' needs instead.

The AUKUS agreement has come under intense scrutiny, given the enormous cost and questionable outcome given it could be 25 years away.

In November last year, the federal Labor government announced that government-owned Australian Shipbuilding Company (ASC) and British weapons corporation, BAE Systems, would build five nuclear-powered subs in South Australia and the UK.

Previously, the AUKUS deal was for eight Virginia Class submarines from the US, which has now been pared down to three.

Former Liberal PM Malcolm Turnbull says the US congress and military are unlikely to provide them to



Virginia Class submarines. Photo wikipedia

Australia, even by 2050.

He has cited sovereignty as well as technological dependence as key concerns. 'I've been doing deals my whole life. I've never done a deal as bad as this,' he told ABC.

Free dental vs nukes

And while AUKUS was widely perceived as a response to growing concerns about China's influence in the Indo-Pacific region, Australia's largest trading partner is China.

The Greens say they would re-invest the \$73 billion into 'social programs that help people during a cost-of-living crisis - like getting dental into Medicare, more public and

affordable housing and seeing the GP for free.'

The *Echo* asked local federal MP, Justine Elliot (Labor), 'Do you think there is any support for AUKUS in this electorate?', and, 'Given former Liberal PM Turnbull has been a vocal opponent of AUKUS, how is this a good use of tax-payer money?'

She replied, 'The Greens' rejection of AUKUS undermines our national security, jeopardises critical alliances, and threatens more than 20,000 Australian jobs.'

'Yet again, the Greens Party doesn't care about our safety - I remind our community that first, the Greens want to put community

safety at risk by banning local police officers from carrying guns and tasers, and now they want to put national safety at risk by cancelling one of our biggest defence partnerships.

'The Greens' reckless policies are out of touch with Australia's values and priorities, making them a very real risk to our nation's safety and future security', she said.

Senator David Shoebridge said, 'Scott Morrison agreed to this deal, but it's been the Albanese Labor Government that has meekly carried out Liberal policy. AUKUS is a dangerous gamble that strips us of independence while taking hundreds of billions of public dollars from other essential projects.'

'Being a subservient and dependent ally of the US, it keeps drawing us into their wars, serving Washington's interest, not ours.'

Local federal Greens candidate, Mandy Nolan, told *The Echo*, 'Trump is like the school bully looking for conflict - do we really want to be in his gang?'

What did 800 locals say in Council's CSP survey?

A ten-year plan 'that reflects the visions, aspirations and needs of the community to guide Council's work and priorities' is on public exhibition until February 9.

Council staff say of the Draft Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2025: 'This is an opportunity for the community to shape the future of Byron Shire and make it an even better place to live.'

As part of the process, Council say that more than 800 community members participated in a survey from late 2023 to mid-2024.

So what did those 800 locals say?

According to the Community Engagement Outcomes Report, key themes emerged, with nature and wildlife as a top priority. Next was a sense of community, while 'housing affordability and availability was a major stressor'.

'To keep up with demand, condition of infrastructure was also highlighted as a stressor. Particularly roads and drainage, in the wake of the 2022 flood event.'

'The majority of respondents (70.86 per cent) to the online survey felt that the current strategies in the Community Strategic Plan 2032 will achieve effective leadership.'

Yet themes from the survey revealed that there were 'unclear pathways to action', with it being 'unclear how the CSP would be brought into effect and what actions Council is taking'.

Additionally, there was feedback that 'community consultation was lacking, ignored, imbalanced or over-saturated'. And while respondents said there was a 'lack of transparency in Council processes', staff replied by saying there was an existing strategy (1.1), and that 'This feedback has informed the development of the Community Engagement Strategy'.

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said of the CSP, 'This is one of Council's most important documents, and it must be reviewed after an election.'

Visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au and click on the 'Your Say' to see the plan.

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Keep an eye out for vulnerable shorebirds

Paul Bibby

State and local authorities are pleading with locals and visitors alike to take care not to disrupt the nesting activities of threatened shorebirds when they go to the beach and fragile estuarine environments this summer.

The Share the Shore campaign is the latest attempt to protect the future of these feathered friends, whose numbers have fallen dramatically in recent years.

Each summer, endangered pied oystercatchers and little terns, and critically endangered hooded plovers



A hooded plover (*thinornis cucullatus cucullatus*). Photo supplied

and beach stone curlews, lay their eggs in shallow nests on our beaches.

But their numbers have fallen dramatically in recent years, and they continue to face threats from dogs,

beachgoers, and vehicles.

The Share the Shore campaign is seeking to inform beachgoers of some simple things they can do to help endangered shorebirds raise their chicks on our beaches.

The first is to read and respect signage.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) shorebird officers often put temporary signs and fences around nesting areas to protect them and so people know where the birds are.

But the birds will also venture outside these fences and roam the beach looking for food. People are asked to

tread carefully when in their neighbourhood, chicks and eggs are well camouflaged in the sand.

The second rule is to keep dogs on a leash at all time unless in a designated off-leash area, and to avoid walking through dune areas with dogs as much as possible.

The third request is to always take fishing lines and other rubbish away.

Every year, dozens of shore birds die from entanglement in fishing line or ingesting rubbish. People are encouraged to take everything with them when they leave the beach.

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Road works to begin for Byron's emergency services precinct



Tennyson Street, from the corner of Marvell Street, will be extended to connect to Gilmore Crescent at the Byron Youth Service. Google Maps

Council staff say that work will start on an extension of Tennyson Street in Byron Bay in early February 2025, 'in preparation for the construction of the NSW government's new emergency services precinct in Gilmore Crescent'.

In a statement they say, 'In December last year, the NSW government announced plans for the \$28 million facility which will house the Police and Fire and Rescue NSW'.

'To accommodate the development, Council has been contracted by Crown Lands to extend Tennyson Street to meet Gilmore Crescent to provide efficient access and response times

for emergency services.

'The Tweed Byron Aboriginal Lands Council, and Arakwal have been consulted.

'Contractors will need to remove some trees and vegetation including 21 well-established native trees.

'While the area has been disturbed over many years, a biological assessment has been approved by the NSW government, and compensatory planting will be done in the nearby Sandhills wetlands.

'Environmental experts will also be on site to inspect the area before and during the excavation work to relocate any fauna'. Work is expected to be finished by early June.

Family shocked by Wategos tree poisoning

Paul Bibby

For more than 45 years, an old Tuckeroo tree has stood resolutely beside the Roberts family home at Wategos.

Back in the day, the Roberts kids would climb the tree and hang Christmas lights on its branches. Decades later, as adults, they appreciated the shelter it provided and the birds that rested among the leaves.

So it was with shock and sadness when Megan Roberts discovered 11 neat holes drilled deep into the old Tuckeroo's roots when she arrived for a visit late last year.

'I'd just come up for a little holiday, and I noticed that the canopy was dying and looking brittle,' says Ms Roberts, who grew up in the home with her brother Heath, sister Rachel, and their parents.

'I knew that the tree had been damaged about 12 months before, but it had been regenerating well so it shouldn't have been looking like that.

'I feared as I went down to have a look that it might have been poisoned and that was unfortunately confirmed



Two of the 11 holes which were drilled into the Tuckeroo tree. Photo supplied

when I got there.'

Every one of the Tuckeroo's roots had a large round drill hole in it and, judging by the tree's sickly state, poison had been poured in.

'The bark is drying out and peeling off... It might take months, but I'd say by this time next year, it will probably be gone or partially gone,' Ms Roberts says.

Herbicide suspected

The Roberts family informed Byron Shire Council, who inspected the tree and confirmed that it had been intentionally damaged, most likely with a 12mm drill bit or another

similar implement.

The Council officer further deduced that the poor health of the tree suggested that herbicide had been used.

'Herbicides such as glyphosate or aminopyralid are commonly used in this manner to poison large mature trees,' the officer said in subsequent correspondence to the Roberts family.

He further indicated that the police had been notified and were investigating the matter.

The Roberts family are aware that tracking down a tree poisoner weeks after the event may prove an impossible task. But they hope that

calling out the incident will raise awareness and help prevent future poisonings.

'When our family bought at Wategos in the late 1970s, it was frankly just a big grassy hill with a few fishing shacks,' Megan's brother Heath Roberts said.

'We've been through the whole Wategos journey, and that tree came on the journey with us. I think what's happened is unfortunately symptomatic [of the changes that have taken place at Wategos]. A lot of what's happened there is good, but some of it isn't. We've always just loved Wategos so much, but it's a stretch when you've got people killing trees, not to mention on properties that they don't own.

'If calling this out stops a similar incident happening in the future then it's worth it.'

Ms Roberts said she hoped talking about the incident would encourage people to reconnect to Byron's values.

'We know that Byron's changing, but I think people still want to hang on to those core values,' she said.

'I think caring for the community and caring for the environment is still really important to a lot of people.'

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Amber alert Lake Ainsworth remains

The blue green algae alert at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head will remain at amber.

Body located in search for missing man

At about 9.30pm on Saturday, January 18, emergency services were called to a property on Youngs Road, Limpinwood, following reports of a vehicle in the water.

Man injured in hit-and-run south of Lismore

Just after 3.20am on Saturday, emergency services were called to the Bruxner Highway at Loftville, about 5km south of Lismore CBD, after a man was found injured.

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Geoffrey Coombes OAM Lismore's Australia Day Ambassador

Geoffrey Coombes OAM was the 2025 Australia Day Ambassador for the Lismore City Council.

Kyogle and Mount Warning road sites reopen

Flood restoration works on Kyogle Road between Uki and Byangum Bridge marks a significant step forward in Tweed's ongoing flood restoration program, which continues into 2025.

Road safety beginning with pedestrians and cyclists

With the aim of improving road safety with a focus on vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists, the Mid Richmond Three Villages Cycleway project has received a financial boost.

Teen charged, another in hospital after police pursuit

NSW Police say a teenager has been charged and another remains in hospital following an alleged pursuit in Casino in the early hours of Saturday.

Six arrested following pursuit – Pottsville

About 5.35pm Monday, 20 January, 2025, Far North Sector Highway Patrol allegedly detected a Toyota Corolla travelling at 167km/h on the M1 Pacific Motorway near Pottsville.

www.echo.net.au

Ballina citizen of the year



Ballina Shire Council hosted an official Australia Day ceremony at the Lennox Head Cultural Centre and recognised more than 40 nominees. The 2025 Citizen of the Year Ezekiel Knight (Zeke) has been a dedicated member of the Ballina SES unit for eight years. As Co-Section Head of Flood Rescue, he has rebuilt the flood rescue team over the past few years, growing the team from two in-water operators to eight. Read the full story in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au. Photo supplied

Tweed citizen of the year



The Tweed Citizen of the Year, Mic Julien from Tyalgum, is a retired scientist turned dedicated volunteer whose leadership has improved Tyalgum's safety, recreation and resilience. He manages local crown lands and secures grants for playgrounds, skateparks, and campgrounds while also volunteering with the Rural Fire Service and Tyalgum Scratchers gardening group. Read the full story in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au. Photo supplied

Lismore citizen of the year



Lismore City Council held an Australia Day event at Whitehorse Theatre at Southern Cross University on Tuesday, with Neville Graham being given the 2025 Citizen of the Year award. Neville Graham is an outstanding community member who has 40+ years in emergency services and has given his time to the Lismore community through his volunteering with the SES, Army Reserves, Cave Rescue, the police and Police Rescue as well as the Westpac Helicopter and other sports and community groups, events and initiatives. Read the full story in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au. Photo supplied

Legal action and water to be cut – Lismore squatters

Aslan Shand

Claims that Lismore squatters are creating a 'ghetto' by Federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan last week have been refuted by the local, grassroots, Lismore group Reclaim Our Recovery (ROR) but appear to have led to the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) giving 40 occupiers of eight houses a seven-day eviction notice.

'The eviction notice comes amid the broader context of agitation by individuals: including Councillors from Lismore City Council and the Federal member for Page Kevin Hogan,' Miriam Torzillo, spokesperson for Lismore's Reclaim Our Recovery (ROR), told *The Echo*.

The RA have told *The Echo* that they have spent several

months engaging with the squatters and that some have left voluntarily. This has been refuted by the house occupiers who say they have been trying to create a conversation with the RA on the future of the houses with no response.

'We've previously proposed that we could work with a group like Women Up North, or another provider, to assess the houses for safety and allow people to live in them. We said we will work with people to have a flood plan. But the RA were never keen on it,' explained Ms Torzillo.

Water to be cut

The NSW RA have said that if the house occupiers have not vacated the properties by Tuesday, January 28

they will look at legal, and other actions.

'From when the notice was provided, squatters have seven days to vacate the premises before water services are permanently disconnected,' said the RA spokesperson.

'After exhausting all available options, if the properties are not vacated by midday on Tuesday, January 28, RA will initiate legal action.

'This decision has not been made lightly. The RHP was designed to support those genuinely affected by flooding, not to bear the cost of removing squatters from homes that are part of the buyback program.'

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

Pottsville and Cabarita petition for 'best' not 'cheapest' wastewater upgrade

Pottsville, Hastings Point, Round Mountain, Cabarita and Bogangar residents are demanding that Tweed Shire Council (TSC) upgrade the Hastings Point Wastewater Treatment Plant (HPWTP) to ensure that dunes, beaches and waterways are kept safe for locals, visitors and the environment.

They have launched a petition, available to sign at most businesses in Pottsville and Cabarita, and a campaign to persuade Tweed Shire councillors to choose the best upgrade option, not the cheapest, for the 40-year-old plant.

'The HPWTP needs urgent modernisation to service the beachside suburbs, and not

just a cheap, short-sighted "band-aid" fix,' they say.

The plant upgrade is expected to be on the Tweed Council meeting agenda on February 20.

Bogangar Residents' Association vice-president, and retired chemical engineer David Buick, says the plant is at best in fair condition, and uncontrolled discharges into the waterways and dunes have become increasingly common.

'Various components of the plant are at, or nearing, the end of their operational life,' he said. 'The plant has become incapable of consistently meeting EPA effluent discharge licence limits, raising public health and environmental alarms.

'The lack of treatment capacity in the plant is also reflected in issues at dunal disposal on Maggies Beach, with blinding of fabric beds and overflows of effluent.'

Mr Buick says the council's proposed option, costing \$28 million, is a continuation of the existing, barely adequate, technology with a performance rated only as 'acceptable'.

'The current option does not address community and environmental issues associated with noise, odour, dune infiltration or wet weather overflow into waterways,' he said.

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

Ballina Shine and Swap Meet to raise money for Westpac Helicopter Service

Ballina Racecourse will be holding a shiny car event to raise money for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service on Sunday, February 23.

The North Coast Show and Shine and Swap Meet will showcase an incredible array of vintage, classic, and current vehicles and motorbikes, delighting enthusiasts of all ages.

'This year our trophies for the categories are individually hand made by a member of the Lennox Head Machinery Club which is a major supporter of the event, and will be an attraction in themselves to view!' said the press release.

'Whether you're a vintage,

classic car lover or just enjoy stunning rides, there's something for everyone. The event features live music, creating a vibrant atmosphere, while families can enjoy children's rides and entertainment, all included in the entry fee,' said Michelle Bailey, president of the Ballina support group for the Westpac Helicopter Service.

A variety of food trucks will be on-site at an extra cost, offering delicious options to satisfy every craving. Local markets and trade displays will enhance the community spirit of the event.

Gates open to the public

at 9am, entry fees are pensioner/child >5yrs \$5, adult \$10, family \$25 (2A+3C). Join them for a day filled with fun, food, live music with JB's Blues Breakers and camaraderie, plus opportunities to buy, sell, or trade car parts and memorabilia. Mark your calendars and come down to the Ballina Racecourse!

'We're thrilled to announce that for this event, to reduce traffic and parking impact, Ballina Buslines is an event sponsor, running shuttles from zones throughout Ballina to ease parking and reduce traffic. The schedule will be on the website soon,' said Ms Bailey.

Top ceramic works on display

North Coast Ceramics (the folks who bring you the Mud Trail) held their annual ceramics award on Saturday, January 25 at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall.

An exhibition of the finalists will be on show in the Civic Hall until February 6, from 10am till 3pm daily.

All are welcome to attend.

Organisers say the finalists have been selected from over 40 sculptors and ceramicists from all over the eastern seaboard.



North Coast Ceramics award judge, Professor Pedram Khosronejad (centre), is flanked by prize winners Louise Fulton, Claudia Gyr, Jude Mudoioa and Gloria Malone. Photo Eve Jeffery

Art curators

Judging was by well-known art curators, Pedram Khosronejad (Grafton Regional Gallery) and Vanessa Jacob (Coffs Harbour, Yarilla Gallery and Museum).

'North Coast Ceramics sincerely thanks the sponsors of the award, the Cecilia and

Henry Foundation and Fired Up Kilns for their contribution to the prizes.'

Labor MP spruiks Home Guarantee Scheme

Local MP Justine Elliot said in a media statement that '763 North Coast locals have been able to buy a home of their own with a smaller deposit thanks to the Albanese Labor government's expanded Home Guarantee Scheme'.

Five pc deposit

She said, 'Labor is building Australia's future, and that means helping

Australians build their future with a home of their own'.

'Under the Home Guarantee Scheme, a portion of an eligible home buyer's home loan is guaranteed by Housing Australia, enabling them to buy a home with as little as a five per cent deposit, and can buy with siblings and friends, while avoiding Lenders Mortgage Insurance, which in some

cases can be tens of thousands of dollars.

'We can keep building Australia's future with the Albanese Labor Government by getting more Australians into a home of their own and building more homes, or we can go backwards under Peter Dutton's Liberal and Nationals, who cut billions of dollars investment in housing'.

Neighbourhood Centre launch community conversations

The Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre (MDNC) are kicking off their community conversations for the year, called Mullum Together, which explores what matters to you most and what kind of community you want to live and participate in.

In a media release they say, 'The approach is designed to foster open, meaningful conversations in relaxed, "around the table" settings, aiming to identify aspirations, opportunities for innovation, and collaboration'.

Mullum Together

'MDNC's Mullum Together is an ongoing practice to hear from those whose

voices are often not heard, with a commitment to listening widely, understanding diverse perspectives, and identifying the aspirations that unite us.

'By opening these safe informal spaces for dialogue, MDNC aims to: amplify diverse community voices (especially those missing voices not always included or heard); build cohesive community connections by uncovering shared aspirations; and spark innovative community solutions to local challenges.

'We're hoping this project will create a chain reaction of possibilities,' says Julie Williams, Manager of the MDNC. 'We know that no single

person or organisation can solve all our challenges. We believe in the magic of Mullumbimby. Where there are challenges, we want to work on change together with the community because the most effective solutions and actions come from within the community itself.'

Dates on offer

Dates on offer include February 5, 10, 20, 24, March 2, 7, 12, 17 and 22, at either the RSL, MDNC or Gulganii (3 Bridgland Lane).

To book your place or learn more, please contact Mel Williams: communitydevelopment@mdnc.org.au or Courtney Reid on communityengagement@mdnc.org.au.

Local infrastructure grants on offer

Funding for infrastructure projects that deliver positive social, environmental, and recreational outcomes are now on offer from the NSW government.

Called the Community

Building Partnership (CBP) program, the NSW government say it has awarded more than \$464 million to over 20,900 projects.

Grant amounts vary from \$10,000 to \$100,000.

They say, 'To be considered eligible, the project must be submitted through the online system SmartyGrants'. For more info visit www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/community-building-partnership.

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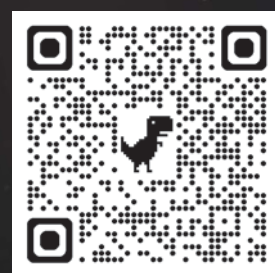
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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #34 • January 29, 2025

Aspirational vs legal

Further to the page 4 report on Council's Draft Community Strategic Plan (CSP) 2025, let's look a little closer at how such documents are incorporated into improving our wonderful life in the much envied Byron Shire.

It's well known that aspirational documents (plans, strategies, etc) are less important than legislation.

Laws carry weight, because they are interpreted by courts should conflict arise.

For example, the powers for compliance officers to come and inspect your home for anything they allege is contained in the *NSW Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A Act)*. Specifically, it's 'Division 9.2 Investigative powers of departmental or council officers'.

Similarly, the *Local Government Act 1993* provides the framework for how Councils function. For example, Chapter 13 is 'How are councils made accountable for their actions?'

Under the legislative umbrella are Local Environment Plans (LEPs) and then Development Control Plans (DCPs) which serve as frameworks for how development occurs.

Still with us? So when Council presents a document which 'reflects the visions, aspirations and needs of the community', it's worth asking whether there are benchmarks or a legal framework that can hold Council to account should they not deliver. There doesn't appear any in this document.

At 31-pages, the CSP provides five objectives, which are 'effective leadership, inclusive community, nurtured environment, ethical growth and connected infrastructure'.

From page 16, the community engagement survey is glossed over, where more than 800 locals gave their opinions.

It's worth drilling down on what they said via the *Community Engagement Outcomes Report*, because legitimate criticisms were addressed (somewhat) by staff.

One positive was that after respondents said there was 'inequitable distribution of resources particularly in the north of the Shire', staff replied that 'the Ocean Shores, New Brighton and South Golden Beach Place Plan is being developed and feedback has been shared with this consultation process'.

Yet other grievances were made, which staff appear unable to address.

Can the public be ever satisfied? One feedback included 'limiting over-development of Byron Shire and ensuring planning regulations protect character and biodiversity of the area. Concerns around development also included housing on floodplains'.

Council staff say there is an 'existing strategy 4.1', which is to 'manage responsible development through effective place and space planning'.

What a relief! There's a disclaimer on page 30, which reads, 'While Council has a custodial role in initiating, preparing, and maintaining the Community Strategic Plan, it is not wholly responsible for its implementation.'

And again on page 56, 'While the Community Strategic Plan tells us what the Byron Shire community aspires to, the requirements of federal and state governments will also influence what needs to be done'.

Given new Greens mayor Sarah Ndiaye claims this is an important document to have your say with, it's unclear why.

But I am happy to be corrected!

Hans Lovejoy, editor

All men are now women in MAGA-land

Are you also reeling and feeling bewildered and shocked by the chaos of the times we are living through?

Donald Trump, the sequel, is fast and furious, as advertised. It's like we're encountering a black hole and time could start running backwards. It's hard to look away and not be drawn into the density of the darkness, but we must resist this event horizon with all the light of our humanity.

President Trump, the self-proclaimed dictator, with his band of tech-bro billionaires, aptly named the 'broligarchy', cheered on by hoodwinked MAGA cultists, have stolen liberal democracy from under our noses in broad daylight, stuffing it into their bulging sacks of loot along with truth and justice.

Trump's 'freedom' is looking a lot like fascism. Mass deportations of undocumented immigrants, demonisation of transgender people, mass civil servant sackings, tariffs, stacking the judiciary and government bureaucracy with sycophants, expansionist threats to take over Greenland, Canada the Panama Canal, just for starters.

The red MAGA cap may well turn out to be the Nazi swastika of our times.

In a life imitating art moment, references to acclaimed African American science fiction writer Octavia Butler's Parable series have been appearing. In *Parable of the Talents* (1998), the story opens in America in 2032, where the oppression of women has become extreme, science has been written off, and a violent movement is being whipped up by a Texan religious zealot and presidential hopeful running on a platform to 'Make America great again'. Spooky.

Some say Butler was prophetic, but like other authors whose books are resonating in these times, think Orwell's *1984* and Atwood's *Handmaid Tales*, her skill was to know history and understand politics and social change to see where things might end up. And here we are.

Thank God Bishop Mariann Budde, and others, have found the courage to speak of compassion, mercy and kindness. The



'The emboldened broligarchy has thrown facts to the wind and is flexing its muscles further afield in Europe, and no doubt Australia.'

- Jo Immig

upside-downness of Bishop Budde then being labelled by Trump as 'nasty' and a 'radical left hard line Trump hater' for speaking of true Christian values, and now subject to death threats, shows what peril we're in. Jesus wept.

The emboldened broligarchy has thrown facts to the wind and is flexing its muscles further afield in Europe, and no doubt Australia. Peter Dutton, with all the charisma of an undercooked chip, is already parroting Trumpist rhetoric and applying its tactics in his unofficial election campaign.

What role will Musk play? It is intriguing Trump has such an omnipresent Musk-shaped shadow.

There's money involved of course, but Musk had such prominence throughout the campaign and on the victory stage, brazenly doing his odious salutes.

It makes you wonder whether Trump might owe him big time.

There's speculation about odd remarks Trump made about Musk during a post-election rally: 'He knows those computers better than anybody. All those computers. Those vote-counting computers,' Trump told the crowd.

'And we ended up winning Pennsylvania like in a landslide.'

Vote rigging?

A report by the non-profit Smart Elections found there are 'serious concerns' vote rigging took place. They've been imploring the Department of Justice (DoJ) to investigate, which seems unlikely since Trump is dismantling the DoJ and remaking it in his own image.

'First buddy' Musk gloated about being in the Oval Office when Trump signed the executive order to unconditionally pardon libertarian pinup boy Ross Ulbricht, founder of the dark web Silk Road illicit marketplace. Ulbricht was serving a lifetime sentence for his role in distributing

drugs, money laundering and conspiring to commit computer hacking.

On freeing Ulbricht, Trump posted on his Truth Social, 'The scum that worked to convict him were some of the same lunatics who were involved in the modern day weaponisation of government against me'. Trump also pardoned more than 1,500 January 6th rioters and commuted the sentences of those convicted of serious violence.

We're witnessing firsthand how hard-won social, medical and scientific progress can be so easily threatened by Trump's big fat pen. Executive orders (EO), such as 'Henceforth... there are only two genders, male and female'. According to Trump 'science', sex now starts at the moment of conception.

This EO claims to 'defend women's legal rights from gender ideology extremism'.

As a woman and a biologist, I'm laughing crying. Trump's hallmark hypocrisy is on full display here, obscuring what is outright transphobia while wedging feminist discourse, claiming to defend women while also cheering on pro-lifers and removing women's reproductive rights.

One hilarious thing though. The EO claims to be 'restoring science and biological realities' and defines 'male' as meaning a 'person belonging, at conception, to the sex that produces the small reproductive cell'.

Um, the current scientific understanding and biological reality is that at conception and up until six to seven weeks gestation, the foetal genitalia are the same and are phenotypically female.

So, henceforth all men are officially women in MAGA-land.

■ Jo Immig is a former advisor to the NSW Legislative Council and co-ordinator of the National Toxics Network. She's currently a freelance writer and researcher.

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Phone: 02 6684 1777
Editorial/news: editor@echo.net.au
Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
Office: 64 McGoughans Lane, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager **Simon Haslam**
Editor **Hans Lovejoy**
Deputy Editor **Aslan Shand**
Photographer **Jeff Dawson**
Advertising Manager **Anna Coelho**
Production Manager **Ziggi Browning**

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

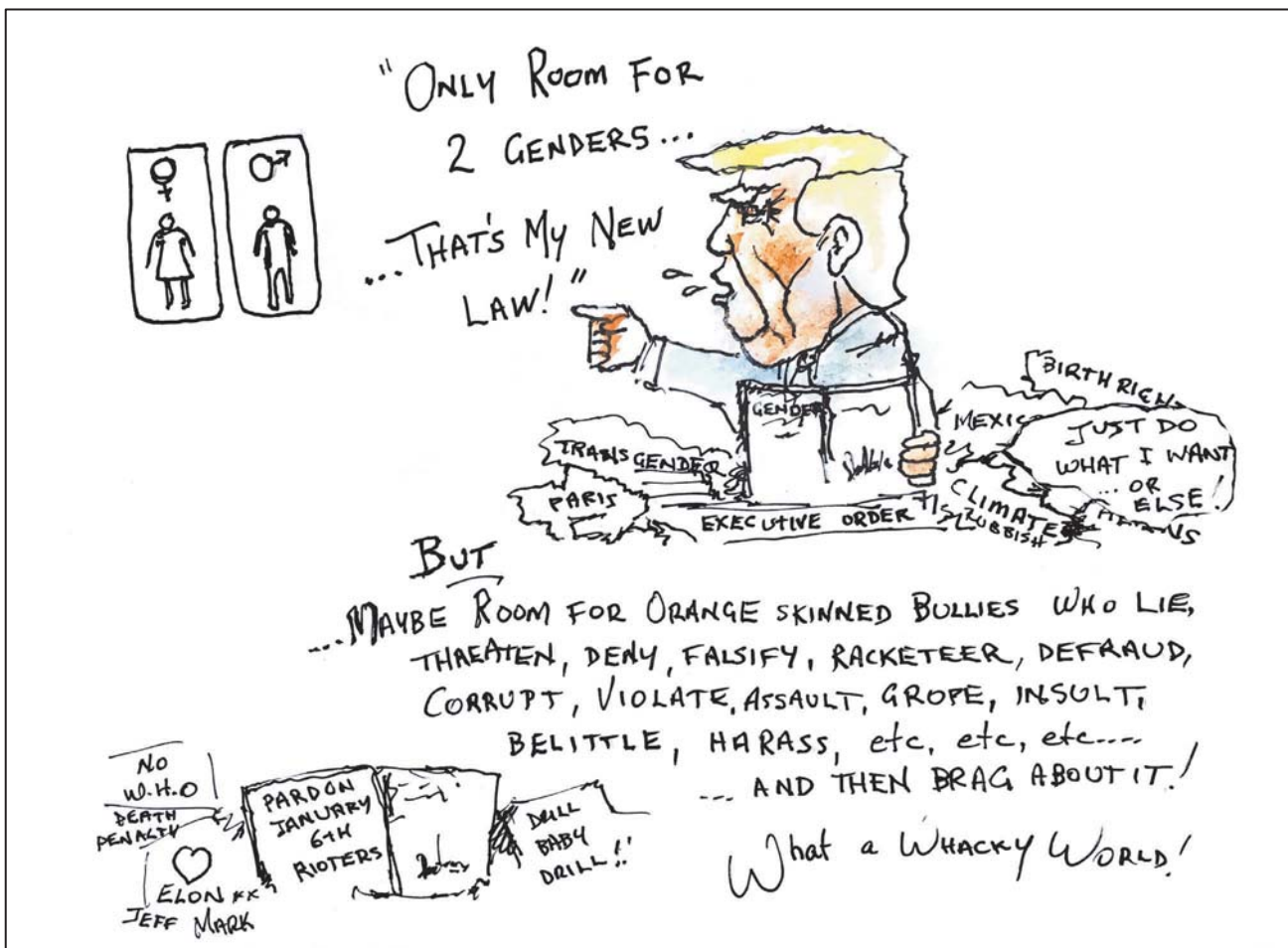
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Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

Rodeo ban

It seems that Simon has let his emotions get the better of some logic. There is little, if any, correlation between farming and the so-called sport of rodeo. In my many years of farm veterinary practice, I have yet to see a farmer, whether in Northern Rivers or elsewhere, ride his bucking bull across his paddocks. The rest of his letter has nothing to do with the rights or wrongs of rodeos.

The fact remains that rodeo's cause stress and sometimes trauma to the animals concerned, just to appease the egos of the so-called 'cowboys' and make money for the rodeo owners.

The rodeo circuit should be banned due to animal welfare issues - let the bulls be bulls not objects for inhumane treatment

Dr John O'Grady
Suffolk Park

Traffic lights - what's the fuss?

The recent council decision to install traffic lights in Suffolk Park isn't just about safety, it's also about locality design. Why a speed reduction wasn't proposed as an obvious, immediate option to improve safety isn't clear. But it goes deeper than that. It's about character and sense of place.

For over three decades community consultations on planning have consistently revealed what we value and what we don't. We didn't want Club Med, MacDonalds or KFC and also traffic lights. We aren't a city, we are a low key, low density, nature, and community-based location. These are important aspects of Byron's desirability as a home and a visitor destination. It's time to look closely at community concerns and recognise that there may be other ways to achieve improved safety and to respect the character of place.

A review of the reports indicates that traffic lights will not deliver the outcomes required and also failed to consider a mini-roundabout option. An immediate improvement would be to lower the speed, which is also important for this wildlife corridor, and a review to consider low key solutions that deliver on safety and respect the character and sense of place. These are key aspects of good planning.

Jan Barham
Broken Head

Thank you

After 12 years as caretakers of Mullumbimby Showground, Margaret and Keith White and their beautiful dog Ollie, retire and leave

Mullumbimby, at the end of January.

Living on site saw them on duty 365 days every year. Their dedication and outstanding work in carrying out all the duties, including maintenance of the grounds and all other facilities, never wavered. Friendly, helpful and welcoming, they ensured the safety, enjoyment, and comfort of the many different users, and will be missed.

I wish them a long and happy retirement following their exemplary service to the showground and to the town.

Ruth Grayson
Mullumbimby

Mullum drainage

Has anyone notice there's a mini-moat going around town whenever it rains? Especially on Stuart Street from the newsagents, outside along the old bakery, past the Japanese takeaway, and down beyond the carpark even.

I mean, it's traditionally wet season now and I'm applauding Byron Shire Council (BSC) for beginning Mullum's (much needed) stormwater works. Yet, it hasn't really rained heavy enough yet to tell the difference. So if there were major floods only three years ago, then isn't this a little bit slow?

I thought living in Germany had too much red tape bureaucracy, seems the BSC will approve (and not know about) more roofs being put up around the place, or DA's approved, without much regarding the stormwater situation. I mean I'm not an Einstein but more structures or developments in town means more water coming off roofs and going where exactly?

Oh, well, perhaps the parking problems get solved by keeping the town mildly flooded this season and we canoe ourselves about town? And what about digging mass dams (and allowing new DAs) out on

► Continued on next page

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Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

Locals look at why they support the Labor party in Richmond and Australia

■ At Justine Elliot's campaign launch for Richmond on Saturday, January 18, Federal Treasurer, Dr Jim Chalmers, reiterated that Labor changes people's lives now and into the future. He glowingly described Justine as an outcomes-focused, valuable member of the parliament whose team assisted myself during an extremely stressful housing situation.

Also supporting Justine was Janelle Saffin, Labor member for Lismore, who walked the talk during the 2022 floods in attracting funding and support for the Northern Rivers, and provided personal assistance for myself and my daughter.

My granddaughter recently applied for a \$12,000 subsidy to assist with her nursing studies, provided by the NSW Labor government for the Ballina electorate. She also secured a part-time job before moving to her university's locale.

My people are living in an era of: restoration of TAFE; Australia being the first country in the world to ban silicon-based manufactured stone; inflation reduced

with high employment maintained; cheaper prescriptions; live sheep exports stopped; 15 per cent pay increases for aged care staff; increases in child care subsidies; rearrangement of Stage 3 tax cuts; \$32 billion invested in housing since 2022; restoration of trade with China, and our international relationships improved; rollout of renewable energy; Future Made in Australia to attract investment in renewable energy; and the list goes on and on.

The Australian Energy Market Operator published in 2024, by 2038 we will be weaned off coal as Australia's coal power stations will all close.

I hope everyone's people will continue benefiting from this Labor era.

Yvonne Jessup
Byron Bay

■ A good letter Coral Larke (January 15), sadly crime has been a hot media and political issue for many years, and it's only getting worse with the advent of social media. Young people are becoming more highly impressionable and more likely to commit

crime than ever, the problem is that the victims of these often violent juvenile crimes rightly demand harsh punishment, get a lot of media attention and vote, and oppositions quickly seize on these violent events and turn them into political attacks on incumbent governments like in the recent NT and Qld elections.

It's not an easy problem to solve, but as you say the only real solution is for appropriate preventative programs to be in place to try and save these kids from a life of crime and jail, the police can't do everything. On one hand we have the gung-ho chest-beating LNP simply wanting to just lock them all up as adults, (will only produce more hardened criminals), and on the other hand we have the likes of inexperienced Greens candidate Mandy Nolan openly advocating for on-duty police officers to be stripped of their tasers, (Mandy needs a serious reality check).

Only the Australian Labor Party seems capable of offering a balanced and evidence-based approach,

that usually attracts criticism from both the extreme left and right of the political divide. But if voters look beyond the political and media hype surrounding this law-and-order issue, they would see that preventative issues do work and do save taxpayers money. Justine Elliott is an experienced former police officer and will always take youth crime and preventative measures very seriously.

Keith Duncan
Ballina Labor

■ I went door knocking with Justine Elliot the other day, through the flood-affected streets of Mullumbimby. What I noticed was the way Justine listened carefully to

people talking about their troubles, asking for more info, and then suggesting ways to contact her at her office to see if she could help. It was so moving... People had the opportunity to speak to someone who has the power to actually help, or at least know where and how to get help.

This is the Labor Party on the ground, caring about people and their lives. Small pictures inside big pictures. Politics matter, and can make a huge difference in day-to-day quality of life for people.

I just came home from the Labor launch for Richmond. We were privileged to hear from Treasurer Jim Chalmers,

who spoke to us calmly about his work and the achievements of the Labor Party. He is smart, articulate, down to earth and making a massive contribution to our daily lives. Yes, there is still much to be done. No one is denying that. I believe that we need to give Labor another three years to really get things going properly, to make a real and lasting difference.

He was there to support Justine and really, she needs to win this seat if we are to see things properly progress in Australia.

Don't waste your vote in the next Federal election!

Janet Swain
Ocean Shores

► Continued from page 9 the paddocks as you drive into town (along from Uncle Toms) and drain out town's stormwater there? It's all degraded land due to its ongoing farming use. Then we could think about a mini hydroelectric plant to power us up (again) in the future?

Anyway, just mildly concerned and not to alarm anyone!

Chad Butler
Goonengerry

Lengthy letters

I'd like to completely endorse Peter Walters' missive re letter length.

This has been an issue with *The Echo* for years and complaining is utterly useless. The letters editor seems to love essays in the guise of opinions, and constantly ignores the supposed 200-word limit.

My point is, can you raise the limit to 2,000 words (which can be typical presently) and we'll get maybe four frustrated authors per week, and stop ignoring your own length edict, and we can move on. And you only have four letters to publish a week. Pick them by length.

Win,win!

John Donnellan
Ocean Shores

■ Ed note: 2,000 words would be around four pages of the paper.

Auld Lang Syne

I shrugged at the January 8 letter regarding the 'boring' New Year's Eve in Byron because I thought the writer was so far off the mark it wasn't worth responding to. But after 'Joy to Byron Bay,' in this week's issue I must comment about Council's NYE celebration in Byron Bay.

There were two different venue areas. Jonson Street (Soul Street) and Dening Park, just next to the surf club. The first writer seemingly couldn't find Dening Park and so missed out on all the fun, and this week's writer found it not a 'joyful atmosphere', evidently also not making it to Dening Park. Jonson

Street had live music and DJs starting at 4pm and Dening Park started at 6pm. I enjoyed a reggae artist in Soul Street - and later on two DJs - and walked to Dening Park to see families, lots of kids enjoying the brightly lit 'jellyfish' or umbrellas on their heads, flowing giant butterflies on stilts, a dancing fairy; the hoola hoop and circus area - all under the colourfully lit trees.

People were strolling, dancing, sitting in groups, eating from the food vans. I saw the Byron Taiko drum performance, Caitlyn Shadbolt belt out some songs, heavy metal duo Wild Rocket doing original songs, Lemonise, Owls of Neptune, Loona Loop and Lucid Safari. The Silent Disco provided varied and great dance music until midnight, disturbing no one.

To describe that as 'impersonal and rushed,' means the letter writer was not there. Then to say we need a NYE concert with 'our talented artistic community,' belies the fact that that is exactly what we had!

Regarding stand-alone New Year's Eve concerts: Waverley Council allowed a NYE concert some years ago in fenced-off Bondi Pavilion. Even with security guards monitoring alcohol and punters' behaviours, there were riots, people rocking cars to drivers' horror and the usual skirmishes and conflict when there is a large concert and alcohol in a tourist town. Byron Bay is also a tourist town.

The next year, Waverley Council brought in an external company to run

Mistaken identity

Hi everybody. My name's Dave Power and I'm a singer and guitarist. I did a gig at the Bangalow Hotel, Sunday, January 19, and it was lots of fun!

I'd really like to thank *The Echo* for featuring my gig in the 'Whats On This Week' section, however, it said I was from Brisbane and I have a deep passion for storytelling and connect through emotive soundscapes. I'd just like to clear a few things up if I may. I'm from Mullum, and whilst I do write my own stuff and connect with the audience, I was really just bangin' out some tunes at the Bangalow. I'll be back there again March 16 to bang out some more. Love to see you there.

The other Dave Power
Mullumbimby

Your well being

Beware folks, there's a new pandemic on the way, this time on a global scale. It's called Trumposia and as yet there's no known cure. Face masks will not help but ear plugs might!

Peter Walters
Ballina

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Israel, antisemitism and distinguishing between the two

■ I can understand why the author of the back page of last week's *Echo* seeks to remain anonymous. The sentiments expressed are racist, ignorant and puerile.

Describing the rabid, hateful, increase of anti-semitism in Australia as 'reductionist name-calling of anyone critical of Israel's...' is hateful racism in itself.

The burning down of synagogues, childcare centres, fire bombing cars, and Nazi-style graffiti all over schools and private homes, such as 'F the Jews' and 'Gas the Jews', is not anti-Israel sentiment. The author is beyond ridiculous, and rightly wants to remain anonymous.

I'm shocked that *The Echo* would publish such racism.

M McCormack
Billinudgel

■ When Australia joined COW (Coalition Of The Willing) I hated our government sending our military off to invade Iraq, I was passionately opposed to Australian involvement, but I didn't hate all Australians.

In this same spirit, I am horrified by the way the extremist Israeli government and the IDF is pulverizing Gaza to a wasteland, smashing hospitals and schools to rubble and killing over 60,000, including 22,000 children. Though I am appalled - I don't hate all Israeli's or the Jewish people.

I think what we are seeing in Australia is a handful of hot-headed people 'acting out' because they are genuinely shocked by what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank and are

striking out at synagogues as the only accessible Jewish symbols. They are painting swastikas in blood red, not because they themselves are necessarily fascists, but are saying that the extreme right-wing Israeli government are behaving like fascists in the way they are treating the Palestinians. I think most humanitarians feel helpless and degraded watching this IDF meat grinder chewing up an entire metropolis and so many thousands of lives.

Meanwhile, our state and federal governments have politicised this as if there is some massive 'antisemitic' movement, even alluding to someone hiring fascist criminals from overseas. On TV, police are conspicuously throwing suspects around much the same way as Nazi's

abused Jews. Politicians calling them 'animals, scum, and bastards' and trying to outdo each other with promises of ever-increasing punishment.

I think when the IDF stop slamming Palestinians and leave them in peace - the whole graffiti, arson, and antisemitic thing in Australia will go away.

Michael Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek

■ To the person who penned the piece on the back page of last week's *Echo*, regarding the huge increase in antisemitism in Australia, asking if 'antisemitic' is just reductionist name-calling for anyone who is critical of Israel's government?

Your 'question' is quite shocking, and completely

ignores, or wilfully ignores, the overwhelming evidence that has been seen around Australia over an extended period of time.

Yes, the burning down of synagogues is antisemitic

Yes, physical assaults on individuals who are visibly Jewish regardless of their political opinions is antisemitic.

Yes, the firebombing of cars and other private property owned by members of the Jewish community after spray painting graffiti such as 'kill all Jews', 'F*#k the Jews', is antisemitic. Yes, the targeting of Jews on university campuses is antisemitic.

Our beautiful country and magnificent shire need peace and harmony, not division. Thankfully, the great majority of the Australian public do

not agree with your disgusting words that possibly come from living in an 'echo' chamber?

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

■ As editor of *The Byron Shire Echo* since 2010, I take full responsibility for comments on the back page. With the concerning rise of antisemitism, the question should be 'why is this occurring?'. It appears to me this question has been ignored by Western governments and mainstream media. My point last week was that being critical of the Israeli government's war crimes can, and does, result in being called an antisemite. Thankfully, there is now a ceasefire in place, and hopefully it lasts.
- **Hans Lovejoy, editor**

► the night with Campbell Parade blocked off, a billy-cart race, food vans, bands and entertainers on foot and street stages. The result? Families and locals attended and the partygoers went to the Big Day Out or whatever, wherever, five kilometres from Bondi Beach. The result? A peaceful and 'joyful atmosphere' for the locals.

NYE in Byron was safe, peaceful, and a lot of fun. Byron Council is doing NYE right.

Raphael Lee Cass
Byron Bay

Electoral inquiry

In discussions on TV, Senator Don Farrell, preparing the final report on the 2022 federal election, stated that he is a great supporter of the Westminster system. Surely that doesn't mean that Australia should continue with an electoral system that favours the major parties.

That is not really part of the Westminster system at all.

The purpose of the 2022 inquiry by the Joint Standing Committee on Electoral Matters (JSCEM), a committee entirely dominated by the two major parties, is to recommend reforms following submissions by voters. After the 2022 election, many voters complained about the large donations provided by a variety of rich supporters. Apparently JSCEM's recommendations again favour both major parties.

My own submission to JSCEM (No 219), recommending the introduction of Proportional Representation - Party List, used in 90 other countries including some using the Westminster system, does present a real reform. Clearly, the time has come for a truly independent inquiry, not one dominated by the

major parties defending their threatened dominance.

Klaas Woldring
Pearl Beach

Why war?

In reference to David Heilpern's editorial, (Comment, January 15) Is land sharing the future?

I would say that if we don't learn how to share land as a species, we don't have a future.

In my unsophisticated brain the three main causes of war are:

First, psychopathic leaders, and their favoured pyramidal, outdated forms of government and business structures, and docile, and compliant citizens/slaves.

Second, our attachment, to the security of groups for now invalid reasons of survival, and to belonging, for reasons of identity, and feeling special, more, better or different. Think

sport, tribal, social, gender, intellectual, cultural, racial, national, political, religious, spiritual and the one neglected group to which we all actually already do belong, but seem to overlook and under rate, human.

Third, our obsession with possession and ownership of land and resources.

So David, I think you're right on the money there with your article, as were our nomadic, Indigenous brothers and sisters but the question is, how do we shake us non-indigenous agriculturalists of our 11,000 year old, Neolithic habit and attachment to mine, mine, mine?

Also thank you to Sapoty Brook (Letters, January 22) for his confirmation of the high degree of psychopaths in our world, three per cent with one per cent being severe. Unfortunately many

of the one per cent would be our business, political, religious, and spiritual leaders I'd say. (Please check Wiki's definition of psychopath - they're not all killers, mostly they're egotistical, narcissistic, control freaks with an unfortunate, for us all, inclination to violence, that lack empathy and remorse).

Philip Byrt
Tyagarah

Lame response

After 15 months of Israeli genocide, thanks to US-fed arms supply, together with Australia's 'opaque approval process' (Amnesty International) and the obliteration of 90 per cent

of infrastructure, in their so called 'self defence', now the lame and unconvincing Labor government has expressed it's deep concern on all the details of the situation in Gaza.

The PM stated in his usual meaningless rhetoric at the hell these people have experienced, that 'it was a fragile peace' and that he was 'pleased that aid was starting to enter Gaza to relieve some of the issues there'.

Now, if we could only overlook the last 75 years of Israeli aggression and Labor's allegiance to the US war machine.

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

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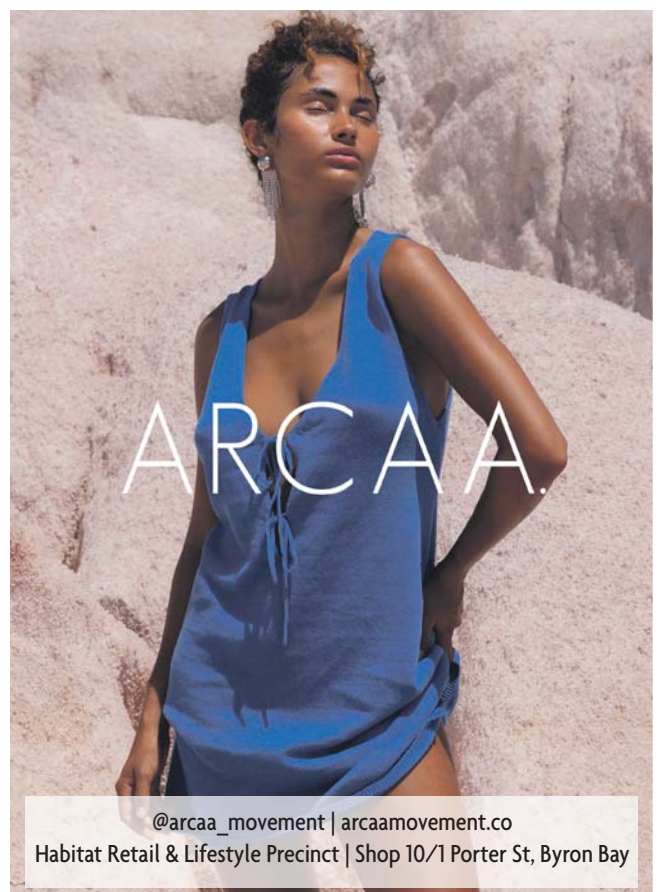
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New pharmacy vape regulations ineffective

Dr Colin Mendelsohn

A recent survey of pharmacies across New South Wales highlights the failure of the new regulations intended to make low-nicotine vapes ($\leq 20\text{mg/mL}$ nicotine) available without a prescription as Schedule 3 medicines.

Despite promises from Health Minister Mark Butler, a survey of 47 pharmacies revealed that none had low-nicotine vapes available for walk-in customers. Only one pharmacy offered to order them upon request, illustrating the widespread lack of participation.

The survey was commissioned by me and was conducted in metropolitan and rural areas in NSW during the first two weeks of October 2024, following the introduction of the new regulations on October 1, 2024.

The regulations aimed to provide adult smokers with easier access to nicotine vapes, after the failure of the prescription model. The prescription model has been largely rejected by vapers – only seven per cent of vapers had a prescription in 2023 – and few doctors are willing to write nicotine prescriptions.

Increasing violence

I believe this has inadvertently fuelled an increasingly violent black market resulting in a wave of firebombing of vape and tobacco shops and three contract killings since March 2023 (<https://tinyurl.com/4nn9k6k8>). Additionally, the black market has made vapes easily accessible to young people, leading to a recent surge in youth vaping.

However, the new prescription-free initiative faced significant challenges from the outset, primarily due to a lack of industry consultation



Photo Wikimedia Commons

with the pharmacy industry and strong opposition from the Pharmacy Guild of Australia. As a result, many pharmacy chains and individual stores opted out of the scheme entirely.

Further compounding the issue is the prohibition on pharmacies advertising nicotine vape availability, which makes it difficult for adult vapers to identify participating locations.

A survey of ten online Australian pharmacies selling vapes revealed that only one offered products without a prescription through online channels. The main obstacle is the need for an in-depth consultation with the pharmacist, which is impractical to conduct online.

Prohibition

The current regulations are tantamount to prohibition and deny NSW's smokers and 587,000 adult vapers (total includes the ACT) legal access to the most popular and most effective quitting aid. As a result, some vapers are returning to smoking, while the majority will continue to source unregulated products from the black market.

Youth vaping

The black market further undermines public health by offering unrestricted access to vapes to young people. These illicit products often contain dangerously high

nicotine levels and lack safety standards, and are responsible for a recent spike in youth vaping.

This situation is a public health crisis. Smoking remains the leading preventable cause of death and illness in NSW. Adult smokers and vapers must have reasonable access to this safer alternative.

How to sell a vape

Vapes should be sold as adult consumer products from licensed retail outlets with strict age verification protocols, like cigarettes and alcohol, as they are in other Western countries. If adult smokers and vapers have easy, legal access to regulated products, they will prefer them over blackmarket options, leading to a significant reduction in illegal sales.

The solution is straightforward, but the politics are complex. Only by making vaping products accessible and regulated can the government address the current crisis and improve public health outcomes.

■ Dr Colin Mendelsohn is an academic, researcher, and clinician working in smoking cessation and tobacco harm reduction for over 40 years. He was a member of the Expert Advisory Group that developed the RACGP Australian national smoking cessation guidelines.

Are megadroughts upon us?

Cosmos Magazine

International researchers who are monitoring climate change say persistent multiyear drought events – sometimes called megadroughts – pose a growing threat to nature and humans.

A team of researchers from the Institute of Science and Technology Austria produced a 40-year global quantitative inventory to inform policy about the environmental impact of human-induced climate change. It also detected previously 'overlooked' events.

The team, writing in an article in the January edition of *Science*, pointed to its research showing that multi-year droughts (MYDs): '...have become drier, hotter, and led to increasingly diminished vegetation greenness.

'The global terrestrial land affected by MYDs has increased at a rate of 14,771 square kilometres per year from 1980 to 2018.

'Temperate grasslands have exhibited the greatest declines in vegetation greenness during MYDs, whereas boreal and tropical forests have had comparably minor responses.'

The team provided an inventory of 13,176 MYDs and listed the top ten saying: 'Recent MYDs in central Chile, the western United States, and Australia have alarmed the scientific community, public media, stakeholders, and decision-makers because of their devastating impacts.

'The longest-lasting MYD covered the eastern Congo basin in Africa and persisted for almost a decade, from 2010 until 2018, with its largest extent in 2014 covering an area of 1,494,226 km².

'The MYD that occurred in the southwestern Amazon lasted nine years, and the annual coverage gradually increased from 112,540 km² in

2010 to 212,925 km² in 2014, which is nearly equivalent to the size of the UK.

'Severe societal and ecological disruptions were seen in several prominent MYD events, such as the US Dust Bowl in the 1930s (1931 to 1939), the Australian millennium drought (2001 to 2009), a California drought (2012 to 2016), and the central European drought (2018 to 2022).

'With MYDs becoming more common, this global quantitative inventory of the occurrence, severity, trend, and impact of MYDs provides an important benchmark for facilitating more effective and collaborative preparedness toward mitigation of and adaptation to such extreme events.'

The team has concerns that the standardised precipitation index (SPI), which is broadly used to monitor and characterise meteorological drought conditions, does not go far enough to describe the impact of drought.

'In a warming world, excess bottom-up evaporation can substantially amplify ecosystem water deficits during droughts, challenging the effectiveness of a drought index that is solely derived from precipitation in measuring drought stress.

'Prolonged drought can also deplete deep water storage, as seen during the fourth year of a multiyear drought event in California, which led to a substantial increase in tree mortality.'

Australian drought researcher Albert van Dijk led a team which this month published the annual report on trends in floods and droughts, which include MYDs.

Because the *Science* journal article was accompanied by a news release headed: 'The megadroughts are here,' *Cosmos* asked him if Australia had been experiencing megadroughts?

'I think the article takes care to call them multiyear droughts but the journal editor took some liberty putting the header 'megadroughts' over it,' van Dijk says.

'I suppose there probably isn't a formal definition of 'megadrought' but it's a term that comes from the paleoclimatology literature where they see extreme events in tree rings etc and those can easily be of 1 in 500-year events or more rare than a decade.

'The recent Western US drought can still be considered a megadrought as it's been about two decades by now, and our millennium drought arguably might be called one.

'For much of Australia low rainfall would need to occur for multiple years to be called a drought anyway, but not always: the 2019/20 black summer was the culmination of a relatively short but very intense drought, and in the Australian context could be called a so-called 'flash drought'.

So when does a MYD or megadrought simply morph into permanent climate change?

'It depends on your expectations, I guess. For example, Southwest WA and more recently much of Victoria have shifted to different climates and now systematically get less winter rainfall.

'You could probably call that a megadrought if you expected it to change back any moment, but the majority of climate scientists see it as a global warming-driven shift that's unlikely to change back until greenhouse gas concentrations fall again, which at best would be several decades hence.'

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

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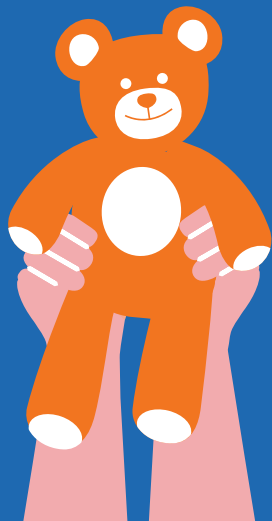
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2025 ENROLMENTS



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Appreciation for lifelong learning

Vistara Primary School is a not-for-profit Independent primary school that has been operating since 1987. Situated in the beautiful rural surrounds of Richmond Hill, 7 kms from Lismore NSW, part of Bundjalung Country.

Its guiding principles, founded by P.R. Sarkar (1921-1990), are based on the understanding of the deep interconnectedness between self, others and the natural environment. These principles are integrated into the Australian Curriculum (ACARA – Australian Curriculum Assessment and Reporting Authority) and the NESA NSW Syllabus (NESA – NSW Education Standards Authority), to create an approach to education that aims to develop each student's potential, catering for different styles of learning.

Enrolments are now open. Contact the school to make arrangements for a personal tour.

www.vistara.nsw.edu.au

Mirabelle Early Learning

Mirabelle Early Learning is a close knit community of incredible children, educators and families. They aim to spark curiosity and inspire a love of learning through artistic expression, as well as a deep connection to, and respect for, the land on which we live and play.

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Their team appreciate and nurture each child's uniqueness and abilities, celebrating them within their daily rhythms and routines, as well as across their bigger milestones. They would love to introduce you to the Mirabelle way!

mirabellelearning.com.au

hello@mirabellelearning.com.au

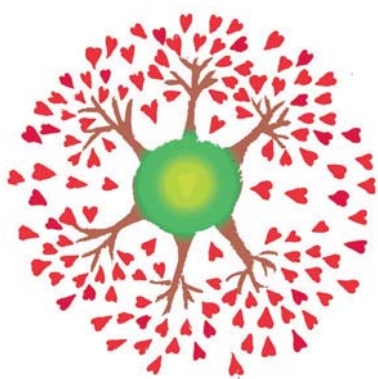
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www.bangacademyofperformingarts.com



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jinwukoonkarate.com.au
0490 849 295
Ewingsdale Community Hall



Byron Youth Service

Art Access Presents: Glimmer Lab - Free Youth Art Program

Calling all young creatives aged 16–22! Join the Glimmer Lab, a free creative art program hosted by Byron Youth Service. Dive into painting, drawing, mixed media, and art journaling while connecting with like-minded individuals in a safe and supportive space.

Inclusive for all: neurodivergent-supported, LGBTQI+ safe, and accessible to all abilities.

When: Wednesdays, 4pm to 5.30pm, starting February 5.

Where: Byron Youth Service, 1 Gilmore Crescent, Byron Bay.

The program runs for ten weeks and offers a welcoming environment to explore your creativity, build skills, and gain confidence.

Contact: Karma Barnes at Byron Youth Service
0490 801 418
karma@bys.org.au



Who let the dogs out

Come and sign up to the mighty Brunswick Valley Bulldogs for the 2025 season. It doesn't matter whether your child is just beginning or already 'doing it like Dusty'; their wonderful inclusive club invites kids of all ages and abilities. The club aims to teach kids about the basics of AFL while making friends, developing resilience and team spirit but most importantly having fun.

Sign on now at <https://www.playhq.com/afl/org/brunswick-valley-jafc/660c38f5>. Season 2025 training begins mid-February and active kids vouchers are welcome.

Facebook: Brunswick Valley Bulldogs Junior AFL for updates
Email: brunswick.valley.bulldogs@outlook.com

Byron Bay Basketball

Join Byron Bay Basketball for their Autumn 2025 Season!

Two weeks of masters begin February 5 - join the fun and find your team! They have a thriving juniors competition, from primary school (Aussie Hoops for beginners, plus A & B divisions), to high school boys and girls, as well as healthy senior divisions (Mens A & B, and mixed).

Muster games help grade teams and welcome new players. Competition begins February 17. Whether you're a beginner or a pro, there's a place for you!

Visit www.byronbasketball.com for more.

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Bangalow 8 min, Brunswick 10 mins,
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www.byronyouthservice.org

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Northern Rivers Tennis Academy

Welcome to the home of the Northern Rivers Tennis Academy venues at Ballina, Mullumbimby and Ocean Shores.

Fun, friendly and welcoming tennis sessions are open to all ages and abilities. Daily squads and private lessons are available for all age groups. They also offer adult clinics, competitions, events for juniors, holiday camps, and private lessons for adults and junior players. Weekly adult and social comps are at all of their venues. Competition travel is available for all tournament players. Active Kids vouchers are available, and they have onsite tennis equipment shops and a restringing service.

For further enquires check: Northern Rivers Tennis Academy website, Ballina Tennis Club website, Mullumbimby and Ocean Shores club websites.

Or ring Steve on 0412 731 814.



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Spaghetti Circus

Start strong with Spaghetti Circus in 2025

Spaghetti Circus starts back on February 3, 2025 with new classes in stilts and tumbling in addition to the 30+ classes already on offer. Classes offer something for everyone irrespective of age, fitness or skill level. As well as a wide range of classes for kids from 2 to 18 years they offer several adults classes aimed at having fun and getting fit – no circus experience required and it's a fabulous way to meet new people!

Enrol at www.spaghetticircus.com

Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley FC

MBVFC are an inclusive and development-focused club. They welcome new and learning players, from 5 years to first-time seniors.

Teams go from men's and women's 5ths to men's premiership level, and a dedicated female football program.

Come down to their OPEN DAY on February 15 for games, BBQ, meet the teammates, registration or if you're just curious.

**More details at www.mbvfc.com.au or
Facebook/Instagram: @mbvfc**

Suffolk Park FC

No experience necessary to join Suffolk Park FC teams! They welcome all players and volunteers to their community friendly club. Come and meet new friends and be a part of the Phoenix family.

Miniroos - Training Wednesdays 4-5pm at Linda Vidler Park, starts March.

Men - Looking for players to join the 'local dads' lower division men's team.

Women - come and join their 4th + 5th division women's teams.

Training for both men and women low division teams is Wednesday nights at Cavanbah at 6.30pm, starting February 19.

Coaches - please get in touch if you are looking for a team! The club needs you.

info@suffolkparkfc.com

0405 554 933

Facebook: SuffolkParkFC

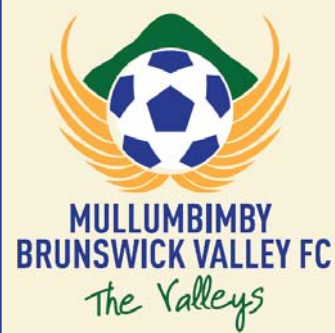
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At home in Ocean Shores and New Brighton, Shores United is more than a grassroots soccer club – it's a community built on heart, determination, and a love for the game.

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Discover more about their programs and the season ahead at shoresunited.com.au.

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**[www.mbvfc.com.au/
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**Or contact
info@mbvfc.com.au**



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Wednesdays 4-5pm at Linda Vidler Park**



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Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BANGALOW



Bangalow Tuckshop

Open: Wed to Sat, noon till late.
43 Byron Street, Bangalow
bangalowtuckshop.com
hello@bangalowtuckshop.com.au
@Bangalowtuckshop

Tuckshop serves up elevated comfort food and familiar favourites featuring locally sourced produce with super salads and seafood, wagyu steak, vegetables cooked on charcoal, and refreshing wines and cocktails that cater to today's foodie culture.

BILLINUDGEL



Rosefina's Mexican

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Lunch 12pm-2:30pm
Dinner 5pm-8:30pm
Sunday 12pm-8pm
8/10 Wilfred St, Billinudgel
www.rosefinas.place

Rosefina went retro and bought a Club Lounge to eat tacos and drink tequila.

BYRON BAY



North Byron Liquor Merchants

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

'Byron's boutique bottle shop'

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



Three Blue Ducks

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

Delicious new winter dinner menu, live jazz every Sunday arvo, happy hour 3-5pm Friday to Sunday & our famous Sunday roast.

Enjoy a wander in the fields, meet the pigs, and picnic in the sun... there really is something for everyone.



Roca Byron Bay

Open: 6.30am - midnight
14 Lawson St, Byron Bay
(02) 5642 0149
www.rocabayronbay.com.au

Latin Fusion All-Day Dining

Join us in celebrating our opening, with free prosecco or tap beer with the purchase of any ceviche. Available daily from 2:30pm to 5pm.



Main Street

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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details @mainstreet_burgerbar

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



Horizon Rooftop

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

Welcome to Horizon, Byron's newest rooftop bar.

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

BYRON BAY (Continued)



Success Thai

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

All your favourites, every lunch and dinner. Experienced Thai chefs cooking fresh, delicious Thai food for you.

BYO only.

Welcome for lunch, dinner and takeaway.

Menus available on Facebook.



NO BONES

Vegan Kitchen + Bar.
11 Fletcher Street, BYRON BAY
0481 148 007

Celebrate Christmas at No Bones! Enjoy a 5 course plant based banquet that's full of festive cheer and cruelty free indulgence. Gather your loved ones and let us make your holiday one to remember.

Book via our website and celebrate the season.
www.nobones.co/whats-on



Oyster Bar

4 Marvell St, Byron Bay
DAILY
Breakfast 7-11:30am
Lunch 12-4pm
TUESDAY TO SATURDAY
Dinner 5-10pm
Book
byronbayoysterbar.com.au

Hotel Marvell's Newest Seafood Destination

OYSTER HOUR

Tuesday to Saturday 5-6pm
Serving \$3 oysters

LENNOX HEAD



Lennox Head Pizza & Pasta

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

Views, Brews, Cocktails, Beats, and Eats!

Live Music Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

Bookings essential.

Head to lennoxpizza.com

Follow on Insta: @lennoxpizza

MULLUMBIMBY



The Empire

20 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby
6684 2306
Open for brunch and lunch, Mon-Fri 8am-3.30pm
Sat & Sun 8am-2pm
FB/Insta: EmpireMullumbimby
empiremullumbimby.com.au

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

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizjackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR.



Find more tasty morsels at
Echo.net.au



Celebrate love with exclusive Valentine's Day dining experience



Azure's expertly prepared Crispy Chicken Breast

Celebrate the most romantic day of the year at Azure Bar and Grill, located within the stunning Elements of Byron resort. Known for its commitment to local, seasonal ingredients and exceptional culinary craftsmanship, Azure invites couples to indulge in a Valentine's Day dining experience that reflects the beauty and flavours of Byron Bay.

This carefully curated

menu offers two courses for \$110, or three courses for \$130, showcasing the best of regional produce and Azure's passion for creating unforgettable dining moments. Each guest will be welcomed with a complimentary drink—bubbles, beer, or a handcrafted mocktail—alongside house-made focaccia, setting the tone for an exquisite evening.

The Valentine's Day menu

highlights the freshest and finest ingredients, with entrée options including Tuna Tiradito, Pepperberry Venison, Zucchini Flower, or a vibrant Stonefruit, Fig & Whipped Goat's Cheese Salad.

For mains, savour expertly prepared dishes like Scotch Fillet, Crispy Chicken Breast, Vegetable Gratin, or Seafood Spaghetti. End your meal on a sweet note with a choice of desserts, from refreshing



Azure's decadent Black Forest

sorbets to decadent Black Forest, or the delicate Pistachio, Raspberry & Rosewater Dessert, crafted as a nod to the season of love.

Azure Bar and Grill is renowned for its dedication to sustainability, local partnerships, and delivering the finest dining experiences in Byron Bay. As part of this ethos, the Valentine's Day menu can be enhanced with an award-winning wine

pairing, featuring selections from the restaurant's celebrated wine list. Enjoy three perfectly matched wines for an additional \$45, or \$30 with the two-course option.

This Valentine's Day, Azure welcomes locals to savour the flavours of home in a setting that celebrates the natural beauty and vibrant community of Byron Bay. Whether you're planning a romantic escape or a special

dinner close to home, Azure promises an unforgettable evening steeped in quality, care, and love.

■ Bookings are essential. Visit <https://elementsofbyron.com.au/dining/azure-bar-grill/> or email bookings@azurebarandgrill.com.au to secure your table. Celebrate love with an experience that reflects the heart of Byron Bay.

Passionate about Passionfruit

Victoria Cosford

My partner and I have a long-running debate about passionfruit seeds. While I happily crunch into them as part of the experience, he is horrified at this notion and swallows his. So I was curious to know what passionfruit grower Will Everest had to say on the matter.

'The seeds are really nutritious, like nuts', he informs me. Of course, you crunch them, he goes on to say, to my intense satisfaction, in the same way you do watermelon seeds.

Will had arrived at the market that morning with his truck, which was a third filled with passionfruit. It's the fruit's time to shine, and at Everest Farm, back of Mullumbimby, and in the same farming family for five generations, they've had a great season. Brother Matt, Will

tells me, is 'starting to really get into the passionfruit. We seem to have the right land for them.'

Native to Brazil, the fruit is botanically a type of berry which flourishes in the tropics and sub-tropics; most of Australia's passionfruit is grown in either Far North Queensland or Northern NSW. A vigorous woody vine, it can spread up to 10 square meters and serve as a beautiful cover for walls or fences, a garden adornment in its own right.

The pulp itself freezes well (ice-cube trays are a good idea), but I'll be making passionfruit curd frozen yoghurt this summer. Whisk together 155g of caster sugar and four egg yolks until smooth, then in a medium saucepan over low heat, stir through 125g of chilled, chopped butter and ¾ of a cup of fresh passionfruit pulp. Keep stirring for 10-15 minutes, or until the mixture

thickens, then chill in the refrigerator. Once chilled, swirl it through 500g of thick Greek-style yoghurt in ripples, transfer to a container and freeze overnight. Half an hour before serving, place in the fridge to soften.

■ Everest Farms are at New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday from 8am to 11am and at Mullumbimby Farmers Market every Friday from 7am to 11am.



Passionfruit - You have to crunch the pips



**Open 6am – 12pm
Monday – Saturday
Shop 6/108 Stuart Street
Mullumbimby.
@bimbi_coffee_shop
ALLPRESS ESPRESSO**



≈ BYRON BAY ≈
PROVIDORE

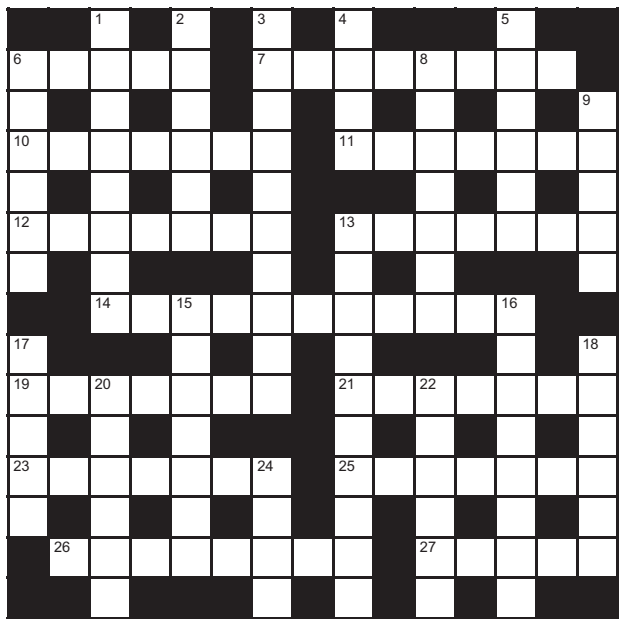
FINE FOODS MEATS CHEESES

Truly the Bay's best selection of award-winning local & international specialty foods.

10am – 4:30pm Mon – Sat
10am – 1pm Sun

Ground Floor, 110 – 114 Jonson Street, Byron Bay

@byronbayprovidore
Come in and ask about our weekly specials



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- 6. Romantic encounter in the corner with Yankee (5)
- 7. Service broadcast on behalf of church (3,5)
- 10. Post by poet incorporates old Latin letterhead (7)
- 11. Wind about to turn into a violent storm (7)
- 12. Last of trevally caught in group of superfluous fish (2-5)
- 13. Spooner locks badger into close embrace (4,3)
- 14. Working people get to airport late, in disarray (11)
- 19. Hacker uses small machine to start to explore time and energy (7)
- 21. Surfer's first to echo muted comment, at Wategos perhaps (7)
- 23. Part of foot - i.e. talon - fractured (7)
- 25. Vagrant crossing island has a file (7)
- 26. Diets adapted to accommodate gluten, originally providing post-prandial aid (8)
- 27. Pork and lamb put in frame at show (5)

DOWN

- 1. Variety of paper folios re-arranged, with one left on top (8)
- 2. Party ranting is about Trump? (6)
- 3. Parmesan that's tough? (4,6)
- 4. Romeo's in the club, the nasty child (4)
- 5. Crush spirit (6)
- 6. Rich guys - people of high rank - surround sailor (6)
- 8. Japanese craft circle has fix on openings in allied military intelligence (7)
- 9. Penny plays jokes on Yanks (5)
- 13. Angry officers at *Echo* remove gear (7,3)
- 15. Work and work with energy and speed (7)
- 16. Didn't IRA get smashed in this island? (8)
- 17. Hit spinner, at first just a little bit (5)
- 18. Rex enters preliminary events - in a suit! (6)
- 20. Charlie tried fiddling a loan (6)
- 22. Take over from Apollo's top dancing muses (6)
- 24. Instrument found in sack at audition (4)

Quick Clues

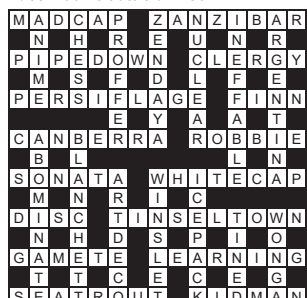
ACROSS

- 6. Sexual activity (slang) (5)
- 7. A branch of the armed services (3,5)
- 10. Post on a wharf or ship for securing ropes (7)
- 11. Tornado (colloq) (7)
- 12. Fish inadvertently caught along with the desired catch (2-5)
- 13. Wrestling hold locking opponent's arms and chest (4,3)
- 14. The poorest labouring class (11)
- 19. Heavy knife or cutlass used as a tool and a weapon (7)
- 21. I do like to be beside the ... (7)
- 23. Protective plate on the digits of the foot or hoof (7)
- 25. A set of documents relating to a person, event or case (7)
- 26. Drink taken to help a meal go down (8)
- 27. Edible parts of animals (5)

DOWN

- 1. A size of long folio paper (8)
- 2. Arbitrary, often oppressive, ruler (6)
- 3. Bad luck! (colloq) (4,6)
- 4. A badly-behaved child (4)
- 5. Quash; put an end to (6)
- 6. Important people; people of great wealth (6)
- 8. Japanese art of folding paper (7)
- 9. Hauls along a surface (5)
- 13. Fed up; disgruntled (slang) (7,3)
- 15. Function (7)
- 16. Southernmost island of the West Indies (8)
- 17. Struck; whacked (5)
- 18. Card game AKA Black Maria (6)
- 20. Commendation; trustworthiness (6)
- 22. Suppose; expropriate (6)
- 24. Old stringed instrument shaped like half a pear (4)

Last week's solution #39



A Bit Sharkey

Mandy Nolan

The other day my friend said, 'I don't think I am going surfing today, the beach is a bit sharkey'.

It's something only people who live here, who know the water, say.

I don't think 'sharkey' is an official adjective that one can use to describe a body of water which contains said sharks. I don't even know if it's spelt with an 'e'.

But when someone who surfs everyday says the water is a bit sharkey - I don't go in.

Sharkey isn't just an adjective. Most importantly as a beach assessment tool, it's a 'feeling'.

'Happy', 'sad', 'sharkey'. Live here long enough and you'll get it.

But for my friend who flagged the whole sharkey scenario, for her it wasn't just a feeling. It was an evidence-based condition assessment.

When she said sharkey - she meant she'd actually seen a shark, albeit a baby one just two feet long in a couple of inches of water. When she told me the scientific basis for her prognosis I agreed. Definitely sharkey.

I wondered whether this new term should be added to beach condition warnings.

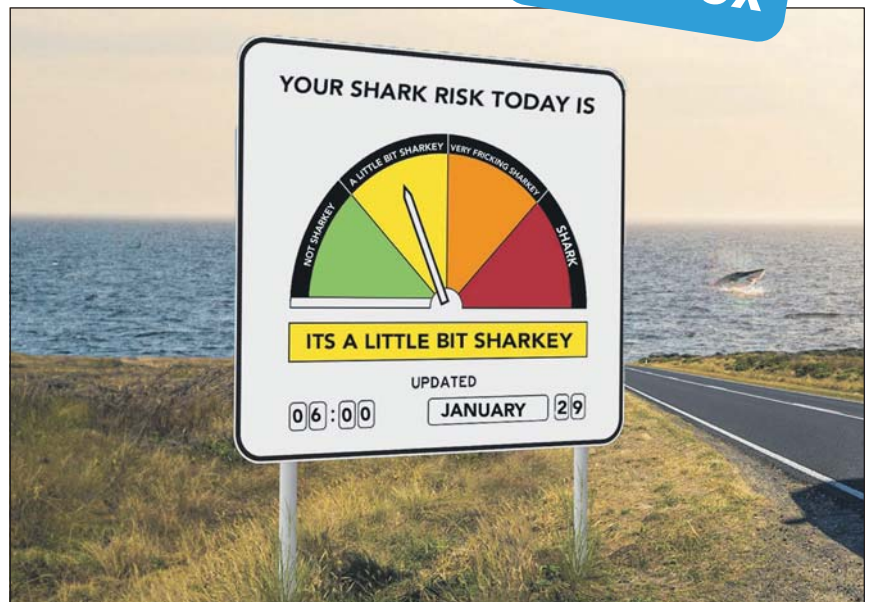
Kind of like one of those fire hazard warnings that tracks everything from zero risk, to moderate, to catastrophic.

We could have the sharkey monitor. From 'not sharkey' to 'very fricking sharkey' to I guess, the final reading 'SHARK!'

Bruns probably gets the most sharkey because it's near the river mouth. After a big rain the water gets a bit dirty and churned up. I think that's also a good early sharkey warning. Sneaky, murky water where you can't see them. At least in the bay, in the crystal clear water, they're in plain sight. So even when it is sharkey, it never 'feels' sharkey.

Wow, this sharkey thing is more complex than I first thought.

I actually think understanding that sharkey is a feeling is an awesome way to live with sharks. It's preservation



We could have the sharkey monitor. From 'not sharkey' to 'very fricking sharkey' to I guess, the final reading 'SHARK!'

intuition. People in the far north probably get the same thing but with a different species. They probably wake up and walk to the ocean and say, 'hmm feels a bit crocky'. That's why mainly tourists are at risk. Because they don't feel 'crocky', they are more likely to be eaten.

I am terrified of sharks. Jaws ruined my enjoyment of the ocean forever. I've always found it ironic that the most rejuvenating thing you can do, where you can feel the anxiety of your life just melt away, is the one place you can be

eaten alive. Bitten in half. Realistically, that's a good reason to get anxiety. Relieving anxiety by swimming in the one place where you can be chomped in half is one of the great paradoxes of paradise.

But I've made peace with sharks. I think they're beautiful and prehistoric and powerful and mythic. And terrifying. I like that there is something in nature that we haven't conquered. Something that reminds us that we are another link in the food chain.

Saying the ocean is sharkey is like saying the forest is tree-ey. They're in the water. It's where they live. So to be fair, the beach is always a sharkey place, even when it doesn't feel sharkey. You rarely walk into your home and go hmm, it feels sharkey. Unless you live with a bunch of property developers.

But I wonder, seeing as the greatest predator on earth is us, do sharks ever warn their young, 'be careful today my love, it feels a bit humany'.

■ 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

This week we welcome the Year of the Green Wood Snake, which in Eastern astrology symbolises wisdom, agility, flexibility and dynamic change. And for the animals of our Western zodiac ...



AQUARIUS THE WATER POURER

ARIES: The year of the sssnake ssoftens and ssslows your fiery self into appreciating life less as an adventure and more as a blessing. But snake year's group involvements do need constant monitoring to be aware of enemies, so slither carefully, glide warily, and try to avoid snakes in the grass.

TAURUS: Taureans thrive in a methodical environment of orderly routines calculated to shield you against the messy business of growth and change. The snake year brings healing of the physical body through release of the past: shedding skins to the sleek new and improved version of your original design.

GEMINI: Get ready for this year to transform you from inside out as Gemini's dark and light sides, devil and angel, learn to work together in amicable partnership. When old patterns surface, take private hibernation time to sit with them, observing and moving through emotions to a more peaceful clarity.

CANCER: Snakes like feeling secure and protected - sounds like someone you know? The savvy serpent year highlights those stories you tell yourself to keep close people and things safe. Its challenge? Loving the constantly changing nature of reality. Your mantra? I have all I need to do what I must.

LEO: The snake year quietly asks the big questions: are you living up to your full potential? Making meaningful contributions to your community? Expressing yourself creatively? It challenges you to build a legacy of lasting value, and the more people benefit from your efforts, the greater you'll find your personal rewards.

VIRGO: Like a snake keeps its belly to the ground, Virgos should trust gut hunches from the snake-brain this year, even when they don't make sense to you. As mindsets, friends and familiar situations change, watch who stays and what goes. Begin a practice of thinking this and that, rather than either/or.

LIBRA: Snake year favours the arts, and is reputedly good for grants. Also for decreasing the perennial distractions of vino and cappuccino and really learning to love the Libra in the mirror - not in a vain way, but truly and deeply so you feel confident of making the wisest decisions on your own behalf.

SCORPIO: It's said a snake year makes people intense, demanding and passionate. Scorpios are already blessed and cursed with feeling the highest joy, deepest grief, sweetest tears, most bitter rage, allowing you to empathise and guide others through life's rites of passage, so use these superpowers for good.

SAGITTARIUS: Eastern astrology decrees gambling taboo during a snake year, which includes taking reckless chances on romance, finance or any other circumstance. This year shifts Sagittarian focus from greener pastures home to your own heart, and each time you take a snaky slide, it extends a helping ladder.

CAPRICORN: The year of the cautious, purposeful, shrewd snake seems superbly tailored for Capricorns, allowing you to move forward at a steady, structured pace because of all the foundational groundwork you've laid. Though like everyone else you'll be squeezed through the transformational wringer into the latest version of your best self.

AQUARIUS: As the snake year forces you through portals of change, expect challenges to the ways you operate. Get used to having your perceptions questioned, redefined and refined. Cool-blooded snakes are loners, but Aquarians most able to nourish others are the ones destined to prosper this year.

PISCES: Discipline, commitment and follow-through are all easier for Pisces in a snake year. And all crucial when connecting with collective energy, which you'll be doing this year more than ever. So stay physically, emotionally and creatively hydrated and live by your own serpentine, sinuous, slinky rhythms.

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 Editor: Eve Jeffery
 Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
 Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday
 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
 P: 02 6684 1777
 W: echo.net.au/entertainment



Eclectic Selection

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



that belies the dark wit that lurks beneath. She has made an art-form of sneaking really politically incorrect jokes onto the end of 'nice' yarns. She launches the punch lines stealthily. You won't see them coming, but you'll know when they hit.

The Big Gig Comedy Night featuring Ellen Briggs Paul McMahon and MC Mandy Nolan.



Adam Newling has a bunch of songs he's been cooking up at home over the last six months with his family. They mean a lot to him and he reckons it's about time he shared them around.

Thursday from 7pm at the Citadel, Murwillumbah. Tickets \$30 from Humantix or \$35 on the door.



Ooz is an acoustic roots reggae artist with a huge repertoire of crowd favorites. His unique, laid-back but lively style is relaxing and nostalgic. With a loop pedal of bass guitar and percussion beats, his show gets you up! Ooz has heads nodding and toes tapping.

Monday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show.

repertoire spans gypsy to latin, classic jazz standards along with plucky and funky originals.

Sunday from 2pm at Lismore City Bowlo. Tickets from \$15 on the door.

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.

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.

Saturday from 6pm at The Green Room, Byron Bay. Tickets \$89.86 from thegreenroombyron.com.

Ellen Briggs is an author, comedy writer, and professional MC but where she is most at home is on the stage doing stand-up comedy. Ellen Briggs has an easy-going, friendly nature



Thursday from 7pm at Ballina RSL, Level One. Free show.

Isaac Frankham has a unique ability to connect and interact with audiences – a strong vocal complements a deep emotional connection to his music, bringing songs to life – taking well-known songs and spicing them up with grooves and sonic textures, Isaac has people on their feet, or quietly contemplating.

Friday from 7pm at Club Lennox, Lennox Head. Free show.

Cheeky Cabaret, is back with another massive Summer 2025 season. This outrageous genre-bending show has an often weird, and always fabulous, line-up – a new cast each season. This is without question the wildest night you'll have in the Northern Rivers!

Two shows on Saturday at 4pm and 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House, Brunswick Heads. Tickets from \$46.57 brunswickpicturehouse.com.



Formed 16 years ago, **Acid Bleed** play a mean blend of hot, gypsy, swing jazz infused with a spicy Latin groove. Their

For over ten years the six members of **The Feramones** have refined a repertoire of some of the greatest and most sophisticated rock songs of the '60s, '70s and '80s – songs that are universally known and loved, songs that transcend the generation gap but require The Feramones' rare level of craftsmanship to faithfully deliver. If there's a dance floor, The Feramones will keep it busy.

Sunday from 4.30pm at the Byron Bay Services Club. Tickets from \$15 on the door.

CUNNING STUNTS

nudge nudge Wink wink

PARTY WITH A CONSCIENCE

FEATURING DJS

**KATE MONROE
GI JODE
HIGH HAT
DALE STEPHEN
LORD SUT**

SATURDAY FEB 1 / 4-11PM / The Billinudge Hotel

BUY TICKETS / www.cunningstunts.com.au

SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITIES

Printworks byronbay northcoast E&L consultancy

LENNOX SESSIONS PROUDLY PRESENTS

JOSEPH TAWADROS

The Art of the OUD

Joseph Tawadros is a 7-time ARIA award winning virtuoso Oud player of great diversity and sensitivity. He is known for his brilliant technique, deep musicianship and joyous style of performance... and also his engaging rapport with the audience.

'Tawadros is an exhilarating player, both when he is delivering mercurial mastery and when he is summoning more haunting atmospheres, often incorporating techniques drawn from other traditions.'

THE TIMES 13/02/23

BYRON THEATRE

SAT FEB 1st

SHOW STARTS 7.30pm

ARIA Award Winners

The Vampires

8 Feb

Coorabell Hall

with Animal Ventura

Doors 7pm, music from 7:30pm

TICKETS ↓ → thevampires.com.au

This project has been assisted by the Australian Government through Creative Australia, its principal arts investment and advisory body.



A sizzling triple treat

Cunning Stunts invites you to an unforgettable February edition of **Nudge Nudge Wink Wink**, featuring an all-female guest DJ line-up supported by the beloved resident DJs, **Lord Sut** and **Dale Stephen**. This vibrant event celebrates the best in music, community, and philanthropy, continuing its tradition of making a meaningful impact. Don't miss this chance to experience an electrifying evening of beats, connection, and generosity. This dynamic DJ line-up is going to lift the roof off of the shed!

DJ Kate Monroe recognised as Australia's 'First Lady of House', returns to the Nudge Nudge Wink Wink shed with **DJ GI Jode** joining Kate as she makes her debut at Nudge Nudge Wink Wink, together these two incredible DJs are slated for a special extended set.

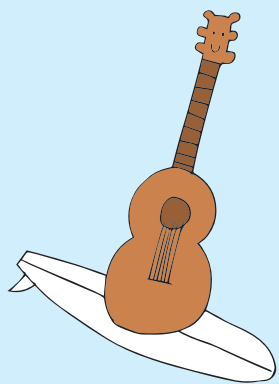
Making her shed debut we have the vibrant **DJ High Hat** – this is really exciting!

The January and February events are raising funds to support Haus of Armour, a not-for-profit organisation addressing the low self-worth and poor self-image of women and gender-diverse survivors of domestic violence in the Northern Rivers.

Nudgers have helped raise over \$421,824.00 to date, helping 39 local charities since December 2015. Community supporting its own!

Saturday from 4pm – TICKETED 18+ event at The Billinudgel Hotel. Lucky Last Bird Tickets are available: https://bit.ly/Nudge_Feb-1_TICKETS.

Missed out? Check Tixel for the only safe resale options – no scalpers here!



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



Oud on the international map

Egyptian-born Australian, **Joseph Tawadros**, has single-handedly put the oud, the beautiful Arabic lute, on the international map.

As conductor Benjamin Northey puts it, 'Joe has forged a unique path in showing us how western classical music and the ancient tradition of music for the oud can come together to create something altogether new and incredibly compelling.'

Joe says his goal is to try to show the oud in new and exciting collaborations. 'Not only centred around the Middle East, but in general music; not leaning towards any ethnicity, but rather connecting to all humans on an emotional level. The oud is highly emotive.'

Northey, who recorded Tawadros's 'Concerto for Oud and Orchestra' live with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra at the Sydney Opera House in 2019, says it's always a thrilling

experience making music with Joe. 'He's one of a kind. His compositions are both incredibly virtuosic and deeply heartfelt and his expressive personality comes out in his playing.'

Tawadros's music can come as a surprise after the jokes and jibes, especially for audience members expecting a traditional oud player. 'I am the east and the west. I'm very proud of my heritage, how it can resonate with other people. I use the knowledge that I have, from my culture, and forward it to others. It's not about forgetting or pushing anything. My interest is in creating music with a beautiful sentiment that everyone can resonate with.'

Joe is a powerful communicator with a big heart, and his musical storytelling is authentic and often very personal. One of his original



compositions 'Permission to Evaporate', is about losing his mother, Rose Masni, who died in 2012 and his father, Nabil, who died the following year. 'People have loss, so they can relate to that.'

Joseph joins us in the Northern Rivers performing at the Byron Theatre on Saturday from 7.30pm. Tickets available from Byron Theatre: byroncentre.com.au/theatre-events/joseph-tawadros.

Bangalow Koalas is having a laugh ...

... and the Byron Shire-based environmental group wants everyone to join in the hilarity by grabbing a ticket to **Seriously Funny**, one-night-only comedy fundraiser on **Thursday, February 6, at Bangalow's A&I Hall.**

Headlined by the ever-hilarious **Jimeoin** and **Mandy Nolan**, the night will also feature appearances from stand-up comedian, actor and radio and television personality, **Harley Breen**, as well as Bangalow Koalas' mascot, **Keith the Koala.**

Bangalow Lions Club will be manning the bar, the Singh family will serve up their famous curries and an online silent auction of some highly-prized items and local experiences will be launched on the night.

All proceeds raised from the event will help bring Bangalow Koalas closer to its goal of planting its 500,000th tree by the end of this year.

Bangalow Koalas president, Linda Sparrow, says since 2019, Bangalow Koalas has planted 413,737 trees on properties across seven different shires in Northern NSW. 'To kickstart 2025, we're inviting people to buy a ticket and enjoy a night of raucous laughter in Bangalow to help us achieve our milestone of planting that all-important 500,000th tree this year.'

Every tree planted becomes part of what's known as a 'koala corridor', a corridor of trees that connects once-fragmented patches of habitat with newly planted stretches of foliage.



'Habitat destruction and loss is one of the biggest threats Australia's east coast koalas are facing,' says Ms Sparrow. 'This is why Bangalow Koalas has been working so hard to create and restore the koala corridor.'

'The effort is already paying off. We've seen koala scats – in other words koala poo – around trees that we planted just a couple of years ago as well as scratchings recorded amongst them, too.'

'Seeing tangible evidence of koalas on trees so young gives us hope that we, not only can but we are, bringing them back from the brink – buying a ticket to Seriously Funny is everyone's chance to be involved and play a part in that.'

Doors for Seriously Funny open at 6.30pm on Thursday, February 6 at the A&I Hall, 3 Station Street, Bangalow.

Tickets on sale now at tinyurl.com/seriously-funny.



Exciting News! Latest Release from Kate Hamilton.

The Movement: Byron Bay – A cult classic. Highly anticipated second book in the Frank Phelan series explores the swampy subcultures of idyllic Byron Bay.

Available on Amazon and author's website. amazon.com/stores/author/B099ZF6M86 katehamiltonauthor.com



CULTURE



A novel cult classic

Set in beautiful and idyllic Byron Bay, the story centres around two young women whose fates are entwined through drug smuggling. Lucy Lush Box, a member of a cult known as The Movement, witnesses a drug deal on Tyagarah airstrip late one night. The co-pilot is Natalie Mulligan, an indigenous crop duster, mixed up in bad company. When Natalie goes missing, her family contacts Diana Gianiovellis and Frank Phelan at Legal Aid NSW. In a former life, Frank was deputy chief of staff to Prime Minister, Bill Falco, now he has a desk job and wants an uncomplicated life. However, Frank and Diana agree to represent the Mulligan family in a case against the police for racism, and neglect in finding Natalie.

Meanwhile, things are not going smoothly for cult leader Seth, Lord High Alchemist. Unbeknownst to him, The Movement's managers, the Elders of Isis, are using their shipments of spiritual merchandise to make money by looking the other way. The police target the smugglers and arrest Seth while he's stoned and blessing the cartons where the contraband is hidden. Seth promptly throws everyone under the bus. A luscious love story unfolds amidst the mayhem even as the mafia is still tracking Natalie, with deadly consequences.

The Movement: Byron Bay – A cult classic is available through independent bookstores and on Amazon.

GIG GUIDE

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



WEDNESDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAMIEN COOPER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **TRILLA**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 5PM **INO PIO**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY – FEAT ELLEN BRIGGS**

THURSDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **PHIL & TILLEY + MATT DAY BAND**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **EYESITE, ANNOYING NEIGHBOURS & BENT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **CALLUM CREELMAN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEE WITH JESS**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **JAM NIGHT**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7PM **THE BIG GIG COMEDY NIGHT FEAT. ELLEN BRIGGS + PAUL MCMAHON – MC MANDY NOLAN**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6PM **BLUEGRASS JAM**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**

- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **ADAM NEWLING**

FRIDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PAPER LANE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MOHILA + IZZY DAY + 42 BAND**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **CENTRAL SONICS + KIRA SUNDAY + MY HAPPY PLACE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **ADAM JAMES**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **INO PIO**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **HAYLEY GRACE DUO**
- AUSTRALIA HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM **COLBEY**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM **ANGEL WHITE, LILY-GRACE GRANT, STEVE SPACEK AND \$TA**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **MERLIN**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **STEVE SAVAGE**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **HARRY NICHOLS**

SATURDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BILLY GUDGEON**

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **CAMERON ALEXANDER DUO + BVNQUET + UKAUS & ZAC EWING + B2B BUSX**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **JOSEPH TAWADROS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **DJ QUENDO**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 6PM **INO PIO**
- THE GREEN ROOM, BYRON, 6PM **STEEL PULSE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **JB'S BLUESBREAKERS + DJ CRISTINA GUIJARRO**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4PM & 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 4PM **NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK – DJS KATE MONROE & GI JODE, HIGH HAT, DALE STEPHEN, LORD SUT**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **HANNAH PEARL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 8PM **SOUTHERN SONS**

SUNDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MARSHALL OKELL DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **BULLHORN**
- BYRON BAY SERVICES CLUB 4.30PM **THE FERAMONES**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **BEN AMOR**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **PAUL A. GEORGE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **CHEEKY CABARET**

- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT. NATHAN BERETTA BAND**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA, 3PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- AUSTRALIA HOTEL, BALLINA, 9PM **DJ DONNY**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **ANDREW MORRIS**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 2PM **ACID BLEED**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 7PM **NOISEWORKS**

MONDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OOZ**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TAHLIA MATHESON**

TUESDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OOZ**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **TOMMY MEMPHIS & THE TREMORS**

WEDNESDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HAYLEY GRACE**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **BLUEGRASS JAM**

PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR
SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY JANUARY 30
TO WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5



PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

- ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S LOVE NEVER DIES (CTC) Sat, Sun: 1:00PM
- LA SCALA: LA FORZA DEL DESTINO (CTC) Sun: 1:00PM. Wed: 11:00AM
- PRESENCE (MA15+) Wed: 8:30PM
- QUEER (MA15+) FESTIVAL DARBING PREVIEW Fri: 6:30PM
- SEPTEMBER 5 (M) Fri, Sat, Sun: 4:00PM
- THE LAST SHOWGIRL (CTC) MOVIE CLUB PREVIEW Thurs: 7:00PM
- THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG (M) Wed: 6:40PM
- WIDOW CLIQUOT (M) CHAMPAGNE GALA Wed 6:30PM

FAMILY FILMS

- 10 LIVES (M) Daily except Wed: 10:30AM, 5:00PM. Wed: 10:00AM, 5:00PM
- MAGIC BEACH (M) Daily except Wed: 10:00AM
- MOANA 2 (PG) Daily except Sun: 10:10AM, 2:50PM. Sun: 10:10AM
- MUFASA: THE LION KING (PG) Daily except Wed: 12:30PM, 4:00PM. Wed: 12:30PM, 4:10PM
- PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG) Daily except Sun, Wed: 10:15AM, 12:30PM. Sun: 10:15AM, 2:45PM. Wed: 10:15AM, 3:20PM
- SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 (PG) Daily: 10:00AM

ALL FILMS

- A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (M) DFT Daily: 10:15AM, 1:15PM, 4:15PM, 5:45PM, 7:15PM
- A REAL PAIN (MA15+) Daily except Wed: 12:40PM, 8:30PM. Wed: 12:40PM
- BABYGIRL (MA15+) DFT Daily: 10:20AM, 12:50PM, 3:20PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:30PM
- BETTER MAN (MA15+) Daily: 8:20PM
- COMPANION (CTC) DFT Daily except Wed: 11:50AM, 3:40PM, 5:45PM. Wed: 12:00PM, 3:40PM, 5:45PM
- CONCLAVE (PG) Daily: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 5:50PM

FLIGHT RISK (M)

- Daily except Wed: 2:00PM, 8:30PM. Wed: 2:10PM, 8:30PM
- MARIA (M) DFT Daily: 10:10AM, 12:45PM, 3:20PM, 6:00PM
- NOSFERATU (M) Thurs, Fri: 3:00PM, 8:00PM. Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues: 3:00PM, 6:30PM. Wed: 3:00PM
- SPIDER-MANIA: THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 2 (M) Daily except Sun, Wed: 2:50PM
- WE LIVE IN TIME (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues: 3:50PM, 6:10PM, 8:30PM. Fri, Sat, Sun: 6:10PM, 8:30PM. Wed: 3:50PM, 8:30PM
- WICKED (PG) Thurs, Fri: 12:30PM. Sat, Sun: 8:00PM. Mon, Tues, Wed: 12:30PM, 8:00PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

- A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (M) Daily: 11:40AM, 2:30PM, 7:30PM
- BABYGIRL (MA15+) DFT Daily except Wed: 2:00PM, 5:45PM, 8:10PM. Wed: 2:00PM, 5:45PM
- COMPANION (CTC) DFT Daily: 3:40PM, 7:50PM
- MOANA 2 (PG) Daily: 9:00AM
- MUFASA: THE LION KING (PG) Daily: 9:00AM, 11:30AM
- PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG) Daily: 11:10AM
- PRESENCE (MA15+) DFT Daily: 8:10PM
- SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 (PG) Daily: 9:15AM, 1:20PM
- WE LIVE IN TIME (M) Daily: 5:30PM
- WICKED (PG) Daily: 4:20PM

HAVE YOU SENT US YOUR GIG?

gigs@echo.net.au



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

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

Ads may be taken by phone on **6684 1777**

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

Ads can be lodged in person at the Mullum Echo office:

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

DISPLAY ADS (with a border): \$14 per column centimetre

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa

Prepayment is required for all ads.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

Echo Classies also appear online:
www.echo.net.au/classified-ads

Echo

DISCLAIMER

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GARAGE SALES

SISTERS OF SALVAGE. Pop up shop, \$20 rack sale & more. 1st Feb. 43 Fingal Street Brunswick Heads 7:30am -12pm

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

CARAVANS

CARAVANS
We buy, sell & consign.
All makes & models.
0408 758 688

TO LET

LOCAL REMOVAL
& backloads to Brisbane. Friendly, with 10 years local exp. 0409917646

BALLINA SELF-STORAGE UNITS
Secure. From \$22p/w. Ranging from 10–44 m3. Across 3 locations. 66867011

WANTED TO RENT

SECURE SINGLE GARAGE
to rent in central Byron Bay. Please call Ed on 0418660063 if you have something available.

TO LEASE

IN A CREATIVE SPACE, STUDIO/ OFFICE / CLINIC Centre of Mullumbimby. \$310p/w. Private toilet and sink. Text 0403663284. NOT FOR RESIDENTIAL TENANCY.

CLINIC/MASSAGE ROOM

AVAILABLE TO RENT IN EWINGSDALE
9am – 6pm weekdays.
\$120 per day.
SMS Kai 0421 856 162

POSITIONS VACANT

LADIES WANTED, MUST BE 18+ Work available in busy adult parlour. Travellers welcome. 66816038 for details.

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

Flexible work hours – perfect 2nd income
Email operations@byronbaytaxi.com

The Health Lodge

General Practitioner Integrative Mentoring Opportunity
See ad on page 3 for full details.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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

FUNDRAISER at GoFundMe to help establish a school for 52 orphaned children who live in a horrendous brick kiln factory in Pakistan. <https://www.gofundme.com/f/Help-A-School-for-52-Orphaned-Children-in-Pakistan>



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

COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH



FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

- Sausage sizzle • Hot dogs • Sandwiches
- Coffee & tea • Fruit Salad

EVERYONE WELCOME

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

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall



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

PROF. SERVICES

DENTURES

LOOK GOOD
FEEL GOOD

Free consultation. SANDRO 66805002

HEALTH

KINESIOLOGY

Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs. Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress. 0403125506
SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.

HYPNOSIS & EFT

Simple and effective solutions. Anxiety, Cravings, Fears & Trauma. Maureen Bracken 0402205352

KINESIOLOGY & ENERGY PSYCHOLOGY

Mullumbimby

- Physical & emotional issues
- Stress & pain relief
- Posture & flexibility
- Fears & phobias
- Sabotage programs
- Enhanced performance
- Concentration & focus + much more!

Kate Messenger
0413 003 301

crystalsanddreaming.com.au

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

- Arborist • 15" Wood Chipper • Stump Grinder
- Fully Insured

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas

6681 3140

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HART TREE SERVICES

20 years local experience

- 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding
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Fully insured • Free quotes

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Septic Waste Removal Summerland Environmental

The Liquid Waste Specialists!

- Septic tank cleaning
 - Grease trap servicing
 - Oily Liquids
 - Portable toilet hire
 - 24 hour service
- 6687 2880**

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

MOWING

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Mullum, Myocum, Bruns, Byron.

Local, honest, reliable. Mat

0408546037

FOR SALE

MIELE WASHERS

Dryers and dishwashers available at Bridglands Mullumbimby. 66842511

ARCHIBALD'S CHEAP QUARRY PRODUCTS

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

RANGE ROVER 2009. White, 222000km. Good car. Timing belts (2), brakes, suspension pump, tyres all done. \$10,000. Call Greg 0412468673

WANTED

LP RECORDS: good condition, no op shop crap! Matt 0401955052

TREE FERNS

Any shape, size. Royalties paid. Ongoing supply needed. 0414904396



TREE SERVICES

Leaf it to us 4x4 truck/chipper, crane truck, stump grinding. Local, qualified, insured, free quotes. 0402487213



At **Devine Quality Meats**, we believe in real food, real connections, and the beauty of high-quality, locally sourced meats. We're looking for a **Butcher Shop Manager** who shares our love for sustainability, craftsmanship, and community.

Why You'll Love This Role:

- ✔ Work with premium, ethically sourced meats
- ✔ Lead a supportive, passionate team
- ✔ Competitive pay & room to grow

You're the Perfect Fit If You:

- ✔ Have strong butchery & leadership skills
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- ✔ Love working with people & creating a welcoming space

If you're ready to bring your passion for **real food and real connections** to our team, we'd love to hear from you! Send your resume to seek@devinequalitymeats.com.au today.

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9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay

Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby
0401 926 090

Road Renaming:

Notice of proposed road name

Council has received a proposal for the naming of the following road within Byron Shire and invites written submissions.

No Name Lane, Suffolk Park

Council initiated a formal proposal process for naming a no name lane adjoining Clifford Street, located between Alcorn and Hayter Streets, Suffolk Park in response to a request from the community. Council has proposed "Coast Lane" which recognises the location and character of the area.

Once the submission period is completed, Byron Shire Council will consider all duly made submissions before deciding whether to continue with the road naming and preferred name.

Council Ref: #E2025/9151
Enquiries: Tracy Armstrong
Telephone: 02 6626 7201

This document will be available on Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice.

Submissions Close:
Friday 7th March 2025



Classifieds

WORK WANTED

WORDPRESS WEBSITE CREATION
Fair rates info@wordpressit.com.au

HANDYMAN SERVICES No job too big or too small. Call for quote. \$60ph. Insured. 0439735817.

TUITION

Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Trainer
• Photoshop
• Indesign
• Illustrator

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www.thinkblinkdesign.com

LOST AND FOUND

LOST

The Gulf of Mexico

FOUND

The Gulf of America

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SIMON



Love the Echo crew

LIFE CELEBRATIONS

CRAIG HAMMER

10/2/1961 - 1/1/2025

CRAIG'S LIFE CELEBRATION

Saturday 8th February From 3pm

Kohinur Hall
Upper Main Arm
NSW 2482

EMMY FINBERG

6/8/1994 - 2/1/2025

EMMY'S FAREWELL

SATURDAY 1ST FEBRUARY
2PM - LATE

DURRUMBUL HALL

16 MUD BRICK LANE,
MAIN ARM - NSW 2482

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



PETS

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



BO & JANGLE'S

BO & JANGLE'S Teeny weeny Bo (16-months) & Jangle's (9-months) are two cutesy putesy desexed male Chihuahuas. Rescued from squalid conditions, these sweeties are a bonded pair who are slowly coming out of their shells and love human affection and cuddles. They walk well on leash but will need further socialisation and training. If you are comfortable with the Chihuahua personality and temperament and have a safe, fenced yard/area, please contact Shell on 0458 461 935. MC: 953010006824659/683



Mack is a 4 year old, English Staffy/Mastiff X. He is a big, affectionate boy who thrives on being around his people. He would be happiest in a home where someone is present most of the time. #991003001419614

Location: Murwillumbah
For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128

Interested? Please complete our online adoption expression of interest friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/

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



Tilly is a confident 4-year-old black and white girl who knows her own mind! She likes to be patted and stroked and is soooo over being in the shelter! She loves sitting by the window. Microchip no. 953010004365538.

Please make an appointment 0403 533 589 • Billinudgel@petsforlife.net

FUNERAL NOTICES

WILTON, Bruce

Late of Gladstone QLD (Formerly of Mooball & Mullumbimby)

Passed away Peacefully
21st January 2025

Aged 87 Years

Dearly Loved Husband of Margaret (dec)

Loved Father & Father In-law of Warren & Anna, Heather & Gordon, Colleen & Andrew and Daryl & Lois.

Loved Papa of 10, Loved Great-Papa of 12.

Loved Brother of Ross (dec), Allan (dec) and John

Family and Friends are warmly invited to attend Bruce's Funeral Service to be held at Tweed Valley Lawn Cemetery Chapel, Eviron Rd, Eviron,

Monday 3rd of February 2025, 11:30am (NSW time, ADST)

Followed by a Graveside Service.



Murwillumbah (02) 6672 2144

MUSICAL NOTES

GUITARS, RECORDS, HI-FI
WE BUY AND SELL 66851005



ONLY ADULTS

BALLINA EXCLUSIVE

34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late.

In & Out Calls. 66816038.

Ladies wanted

Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

KRYSTAL ADULT SHOP

Large variety of toys and lingerie
6/6 Tasman Way, A&I Est, Byron Bay
66856330

SOCIAL ESCORTS

LOTS OF GORGEOUS LADIES available for your pleasure nearby. Spoil yourself. In-house & outcalls. 7 days. 0266816038.

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Jan/Feb)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
29	W	6:14 / 19:43	5:25 / 19:45	0928 1.82; 2130 1.23	0221 0.23; 1555 0.31
30	TH	6:15 / 19:43	6:33 / 20:25	1008 1.87; 2214 1.29	0305 0.18; 1632 0.26
31	F	6:15 / 19:42	7:40 / 21:02	1047 1.88; 2259 1.35	0350 0.16; 1710 0.23
1	SA	6:16 / 19:42	8:46 / 21:35	1127 1.84; 2344 1.39	0435 0.18; 1747 0.22
2	SU	6:17 / 19:41	9:50 / 22:07	1205 1.75	0523 0.25; 1826 0.24
3	M	6:18 / 19:40	10:55 / 22:40	0032 1.42; 1245 1.60	0615 0.35; 1904 0.27
4	TU	6:19 / 19:40	12:00 / 23:16	0125 1.43; 1328 1.43	0715 0.48; 1947 0.33
5	W	6:20 / 19:39	13:07 / 23:55	0227 1.44; 1418 1.25	0829 0.60; 2036 0.38
6	TH	6:20 / 19:38	14:15 / 23:38	0341 1.47; 1526 1.10	1003 0.66; 2137 0.43
7	F	6:21 / 19:38	15:22 / 04:40	0500 1.52; 1657 1.02	1145 0.64; 2249 0.45
8	SA	6:22 / 19:37	16:27 / 5:32	0613 1.60; 1825 1.02	1305 0.55
9	SU	6:23 / 19:36	17:24 / 6:21	0713 1.68; 1929 1.08	0000 0.42; 1400 0.46
10	M	6:24 / 19:36	18:14 / 7:04	0804 1.74; 2018 1.15	0101 0.36; 1443 0.40
11	TU	6:24 / 19:35	18:57 / 7:43	0848 1.78; 2100 1.22	0152 0.31; 1519 0.36
12	W	6:25 / 19:34	19:34 / 8:11	0928 1.78; 2139 1.27	0236 0.27; 1552 0.33

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415
1st SUN	Byron Bay	02 6685 6807
2nd SUN	The Channon	02 6688 6433
2nd SUN	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

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.

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

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

Community at Work

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

BV Probus Club

The Brunswick Valley Probus Club meeting is on Tuesday, February 4, at 10am start at the Ocean Shores Country Club. Guest speaker is John Tranter, our favourite scientist. This is our first meeting for the year so lets have a good turn up. Visitors welcome. Inquires ring Margaret 6680 3316.

Comic Workshop

Byron Bay Library presents The Holly English Alternative Comic Workshop as a special 18+ Library Lovers Day Event. This is a hands-on activity in hard copy with no drawing experience needed. Draw your heart out, speak your truth and get a grip on your own comic strip! Friday, 14 February, 2pm to 5pm. Light refreshments provided. Bookings essential online www.rtrf.nsw.gov.au or 6685 8540.

Ballina Council seeking Ward members

Ballina Shire Council is calling for residents to join their local ward committees. Submissions close Monday, 10 February 2025. Further information, including a Ward boundary map, 2025 meeting schedule and the Ward Committee application form can be found at <https://ballina.nsw.gov.au/council-committees>. Byron Cavanbah Toastmasters Club is a group for public speaking. It meets on the first and third Monday of the month 6.15pm to 8.30pm at Byron Services Club, 132 Jonson Street, Byron Bay. For more information email Tamra @ temmahon15@outlook.com.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina, South Tweed and Ballina. Attendees must be Exit Members. For further information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina and South Tweed) or Peter 0429 950 352 (Ballina).

Death cafe

A Death Cafe is being held on Saturday, February 8 at The Gallery Cafe, Cherry

Street, Ballina at 10.30am. A Death Cafe is an opportunity to have a discussion about death and dying in a safe and respectful space. The object is to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives and to break down the taboos. A Death Cafe is not bereavement support or grief counselling and there are no agendas. For further information and/or to register attendance please email kerryjmj@gmail.com.

Free African Dance

Free African Dance classes for local seniors are being led by Angela McWhinney on Mondays in Byron Community Centre, 69 Jonson Street, Byron Bay. These classes are a joyful exploration of African rhythms and movement designed for all fitness levels. Each session includes a gentle warm-up, rhythmic sequences, body percussion, free expression, choreography and a relaxing cool-down. Spaces are limited and bookings are essential. Call (02) 6685 6807 (Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm); or book your ticket at <https://events.humanitix.com/african-dance-for-seniors>.

NR Gateway

Free community lunch the first Friday each month. All are welcome to come and connect, enjoy a free barbecue with vegetarian options, cakes, snacks and coffees. Lunch runs 10.30am to 12pm at 76 Carrington Street, Lismore. Call Community Gateway for more details 6621 7397. Fresh bread and produce If you're living on a low income and struggling to put food on the table, get to Community Gateway on Tuesdays after 11am to access their community pantry, with fresh bread, food and produce at 76 Carrington Street, Lismore. Call 6621 7397 to check your eligibility. Residents can receive community support in Goonellabah on Tuesdays from 1-4pm. Supports include energy bill assistance, chemist and retail vouchers, food boxes and access to a range of other support services. Bookings essential. Call Community Gateway on 6621 7397 for more information and to check eligibility. Mums and Bubs free inclusive playground for children aged 0-3 years, their parents and carers. Bookings are essential, call 0429 640 075 for more information.

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

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

who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to enjoy practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. Fletcher Street Cottage services are open Tuesday-Friday; breakfast 7am-9am; showers and laundry 7am-12pm; office support 9am-12pm. Individual support appointments with community workers and specialist services available please book on (02) 6685 7830. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au. **Byron Seniors Club:** www.byronseniors.com.au. More info on **Community Services:** www.byroncentre.com.au Phone: (02) 6685 6807.

Low-cost or free food

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

Byron Community

The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people

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2:00pm, 31st January 2025
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One-of-a-kind, award-winning pavilion-style estate

446 Binna Burra Road, Federal

Set on 95 acres of stunning hinterland, this property is like no other. Designed by Rory O'Halloran of Byron Design and Construction, this award-winning pavilion-style home, which was named NSW House of the Year in 2005, offers the perfect combination of unique design, luxurious resort-style living, and unparalleled natural beauty.

The home is a true work of art, with four individual pavilions thoughtfully connected by covered walkways, creating an exceptional indoor-outdoor flow, allowing the home to seamlessly blend with its tropical surroundings. Expansive bifold stacker doors in every pavilion open directly to the lush gardens and tranquil outdoor spaces, making the beauty of the land an integral part of everyday life. High, wood-panelled ceilings and sloping roofs allow natural airflow, keeping the space cool and comfortable year-round.

Natural materials combine with modern finishes to create a warm, welcoming atmosphere throughout, with recycled timber floors, curved timber ceilings, and ironbark posts sourced from the historic Brisbane Webster wharfs.

The kitchen features a large granite bench, a butler's pantry, and premium appliances-perfect for both everyday living and entertaining. The main bathroom is a luxurious retreat, with a freestanding bath and an overhead shower that looks out over the tropical gardens through plantation shutters.

Outside, a stunning resort-style infinity pool seems to merge with the landscape, offering panoramic views of the surrounding hinterland. Mature tropical gardens and water features add to the sense of peace and privacy, making this home feel like a true sanctuary. A private creek meanders through the land, enhancing the serenity of the environment.

The French pavilion-style barn, built in 1997, is a versatile space with timber beams, a laid-brick floor, and rendered walls. Previously used for Stayz accommodation, it offers potential as guest lodging, a studio, or event space.

With over 600 meters of Wilsons River frontage, the property offers multiple swimming holes and direct access to the river. Two natural springs feed into the river, providing ample water for irrigation, cattle, gardens, and the pool.



With its unique, award-winning design, resort-style living, and seamless indoor-outdoor flow, 446 Binna Burra Road is truly

one-of-a-kind, offering the ultimate in privacy and relaxation in the heart of the Byron hinterland. You won't want to leave.

Expressions of interest
Guide on request
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711M²

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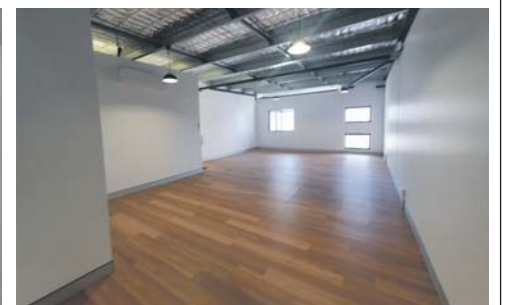
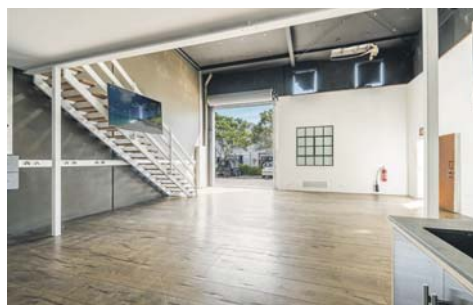




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SALE

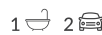
10/19-21 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay

David Gordon of Ray White Byron Bay Commercial is please to present this well positioned strata titled factory outlet on the Byron Arts & Industrial Estate. This is a front row position in the Mecca Centre that ensures you are seen by all passing traffic.

Sale
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3/6 Wollongbar Street, Byron Bay

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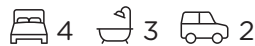


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Elevated Retreat with Breathtaking Views in Mullumbimby

18 Cockatoo Crescent, Mullumbimby.



PRICED TO SELL! \$1,450,000

Let your eyes wander across endless vistas from every corner of this remarkable home, where each moment is accentuated by stunning views that make this property truly unique and unforgettable. Looking straight onto Mt Chincogan, with Wollumbin in the distance.

This amazing home is nestled on a quiet, tree-lined street and welcomes you with a sense of character and style that instantly feels like the dream home you've been searching for. Inside, the warmth of the gorgeous timber-style flooring sets the tone, flowing effortlessly throughout the generously proportioned light filled living spaces, with high ceilings throughout.

- **Prime location** in the sort after Tallowood Estate – minutes to Mullumbimby town, 15 minutes to Byron Bay's beaches and restaurants
- **Generous three bedroom**, office and two bathroom layout upstairs
- **Separate downstairs studio**, with bathroom. Currently used as a professional music studio, soundproofed and acoustically engineered.
- **Spacious open-plan kitchen**, living, and dining areas with seamless indoor-outdoor flow
- **Primary suite** with walk-in robe, ensuite, and direct private deck access
- **Large timber veranda** facing mountain views and fenced backyard, perfect for entertaining or relaxing with family.
- **Eco-friendly living** with a premium solar system and water tank

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WHY WAIT?

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Sale
Contact Agent

David Gordon
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AUCTION

1/6 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay

AUCTION ACTION !! David Gordon from Ray White Byron Bay Commercial is delighted to offer this large and spacious light industrial warehouse located on the bustling Byron Arts & Industry Estate. Its rare to offer a 330 sqm tenanted warehouse with onsite parking, great location at the northern end of Centennial Circuit, and in a small block of three units.

WHY WAIT?

Ray White Byron Bay | 02 6685 6222

Auction
Thursday, 27 February 10.00am onsite

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3 1 2 4ha

1 WALKER STREET, CLUNES



Price Guide: \$1,100,000 - \$1,200,000
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4 2 1 2070m²

159 TINTENBAR ROAD, TINTENBAR



Price Guide: \$1,550,000 - \$1,650,000
 Open: Sat 1st Feb, 2:00pm - 2:30pm

4 2 3 2748m²

4 JARVIS STREET, CLUNES



Contact Agent

4 2 1 1170m²

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First National Byron Bay

- 12 Glasgow Street, Suffolk Park. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 12.30-1pm
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 12.30-1pm
- 16 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Fri 1.15-1.45pm
- 12/213 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 12 Glasgow Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 16 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 24 Swell Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 9-9.30am
- 4 Mango Bark Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30-10am
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.45-10.15am
- 22 Karalaren Court, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 835 Federal Drive, Goonengerry. Sat 10-10.30am
- 23 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 346 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Sat 10-10.30am
- 23 Green Frog Lane, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 14 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10.30-11am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 50 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7/19 Teak Road, Federal. Sat 11-11.30am
- 3 Weemala Lane, Federal. Sat 11-11.30am
- 231 Sneaths Road, Wollongbar. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 2/8 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm

- 147 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 6 Coachwood Close, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 18 Cockatoo Crescent, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.45am
- 120 Stuart Street Mullumbimby. Sat 10-11am
- 22 Mill Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.15am-12pm
- Lot 1, Wilsons Creek Road, Wilsons Creek. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 35 Avocado Crescent, Ewingsdale. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 325 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 132 Lockton Road, Bexhill. Sat 1-1.30pm

Ruth Russell Realty

- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am
- 1 Boondoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30-1.15pm
- 2 Boondoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30-1.15pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 5 Walker Street, Clunes. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1 Walker Street, Clunes. Sat 9.30-10am
- 390 Binna Burra Road, Federal. Sat 10.30-11am

- 1 Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 12.45-1.15pm
- 159 Tintenbar Road, Tintenbar. Sat 2-2.30pm

Dodds Real Estate

- 28 Rankin Drive, Bangalow. Sat 9-9.30am
- 11 Hanlon Court, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 11 Campbell Street, Bangalow. Sat 11-11.30am
- 57 Leslie Street, Bangalow. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2/11 Constellation Close, Byron Bay. Sat 1.30-2pm

MANA Real Estate

- 2/2 Gara Court, Ocean Shores. Wed 4.30-5pm
- 467 Tweed Valley Way, South Murwillumbah. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1/50 Hall Drive South, Murwillumbah. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/10 Halyard Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/2 Gara Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1 Tree Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 11-11.30am
- 49 Eviron Road, Condong. Sat 12-12.30am
- 5 Aldinga Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 11 Dignan Street, Burringbar. Sat 1.30-2pm

Real Estate of Distinction

- 15 Broadway, Burringbar. Sat 10-10.30am
- 308 Burringbar Road, Upper Burringbar. Sat 11-11.30am

- 39 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 81 Harwood Road, Burringbar. Sat 2-2.30pm

DJ Stringer Property Services

- 155 Golden Four Dr, Bilinga. Sat 9-9.30am
- 5/28 Dutton St, Coolangatta. Sat 10-10.30am
- 27 Oakland Dr, Banora Point. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 3/4B Chitticks Lane, Fingal. Sat 1-1.30pm

New listings:

First National Byron Bay

- 168 Grays Lane, Tyagarah
- 14 Citriadora Drive, Ewingsdale
- 53 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay
- 8/2 Langi Place, Ocean Shores
- 23 New City Road, Mullumbimby
- 12 Glasgow Street, Suffolk Park
- 69 Paterson Street, Byron Bay

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 4 Riverside Crescent, Brunswick Heads. \$3,290,000
- 120 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby. \$1,050,000

Auction

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 390 Binna Burra Road, Federal. Sat 11am on site

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Enquiries - byronballet@gmail.com

Thanks to all those who jumped on their chainsaws and diggers, and those who helped by hand, to remove tree debris from rural roads after last Thursday's freak storm. And also thanks to the SES, RFS, Essential Energy and Council crews – your work is much appreciated.

How come we don't see this legal service? 'Are you suffering because the world is run by mentally unstable, drug-addled, sad-sack idiot psycho bond villains? You may be entitled to compensation.'

The Scarrabelotti Lookout, located on Coolamon Scenic Drive, has been given a much-needed clean up by Council. Nearby residents contacted *The Echo* to say 'Joe Scarrabelotti and his son Ben are very happy that their father's legacy is finally getting the TLC it deserves.' The residents say there are new 'No Camping' signs, and Council staff have been onto illegal campers. They added, 'Hopefully the maintenance visits become a regular thing and they mow and slash to keep the area clean and presentable to visitors and locals alike.'

Proving that international law is largely ignored by nation states, there were recent decisions by the UN Human Rights Committee which found Australia was in gross breach of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights for its treatment of asylum seekers in Nauru. Surely advanced 'democracies' can be a better example to the world?



After listening to his owner drone on for hours, Ralph came to the realisation that he was not cut out to be an emotional support dog after all. Photo sourced online

Crikey reports, 'Prince Harry has won a 'monumental' victory against Rupert Murdoch's UK tabloids, and received a apology (sort of) from News Group Newspapers over its phone-hacking scandal!'

'Don't fight your demons. Your demons are here to teach you lessons. Sit down with your demons and have a drink and a chat and learn their names on their fingers and scratches on their ankles. Some of them are very nice' – poet, author, Charles Bukowski (1920–1994).

Saying cheers to three years, Bangalow's Common People Brewing Co is celebrating its third birthday on February 1, with a full day of free festivities. Organisers say the event is pet friendly, and starts from 12pm, with food, market stalls and kids' crafts and activities from 2pm till 4pm. From 4pm till 12am, there will be DJ sets from

DJ Yoda, Jessie Belters (UK), Mutcrespo and Luen.

Just to remind the middle class and poor that there is

no cost-of-living crisis for the one per cent, the Wall Street Journal reports that 'JPMorgan Chase awarded its chief executive Jamie Dimon US \$39 million for 2024'. That's \$750,000 per week.

With the three year anniversary of the 2022 devastating floods approaching, Business NSW say it's time to reassess insurance and want the removal of the Emergency Services Levy (ESL) and stamp duty on insurance premiums. To learn more visit www.businessnsw.com.

Ten years ago in *The Echo*, on January 28, 2015, we interviewed retiring Council planning director, Ray Darney. He pointed to Tallwood Estate as being representative of good planning, while West Byron not so. Happy retirement, Ray!

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