

Cash splashed at youth crime, but where's the funding for prevention?

Hans Lovejoy

Federal funding of \$3 million has been announced for a North Coast Crime Prevention Infrastructure Action Plan, which will see \$1m go towards Tweed, Ballina, and Byron Shire councils for crime prevention measures.

Labor Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, made the announcement in Lennox Head last week.

Yet despite the tough-on-crime rhetoric, NSW Labor recently scrapped an Indigenous Crime Prevention Program, impacting around 100 local kids who were at risk of disengaging with their community.

Local police supported the program, saying intervention and diversion programs are key to building up young people's confidence to divert them away from crime.

'Community victory'

Describing the \$3m as a 'big community victory', local Labor MP Justine Elliot said, 'This funding will allow local councils to deliver CCTV, lighting, bollards, fencing and landscaping to improve community safety and reduce crime risks, while enhancing the vibrancy and usability of shared community spaces.'

The Echo asked Mrs Elliot, 'Why isn't Labor also focused on crime prevention, rather than small, one-off funds?'

She replied, 'I am a strong

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Dancing and dipping against DV

The annual V-Day flashmob returns on Friday, February 14 on Byron's Main Beach, for a 6.30am gathering and 7am dance. Participants are encouraged to wear red, and dance in defiance of violence against women and children. Co-organiser, Zenith Virago, says it is part of One Billion Rising, which is the 'biggest mass action to end violence in human history'. Photo from previous year's event Jeff Dawson

Wallum protector fined as stop-work continues

Wallum protector, Maria Lloyd, faced Byron Bay Local Court last Tuesday following an incident in June last year at the contested 126-housing urban development in Bayside, Brunswick Heads.

In May last year, seven Save Wallum protectors had their cases dismissed in the Byron Local Court after being charged with locking on and obstructing civil works. No fines and no convictions were recorded.

Ms Lloyd told The Echo she remained peaceful in a vehicle on enclosed lands when she was arrested. Protesters and ecologists claim the unique habitat contains endangered species which are under threat.

A stop-work injunction, lodged by Save Wallum Inc, remains in place which prevents Clarence Property from commencing development.

Pleaded guilty

Ms Lloyd said that, the 'judge acknowledged the deep conviction and desperation that motivated my actions, but emphasised that the ruling was based on legal frameworks rather than moral considerations with regards to the development.'

'This judgment clearly exposes the failure of Australia's environmental laws to protect our communities and ecosystems,' said Ms Lloyd.

'Ordinary citizens are penalised

for trying to safeguard our natural and cultural heritage, while corporations like Clarence Property – who continuously degrade Wallum's fragile ecosystem through vehicle activity, fencing, and harass community members – face no consequences.'

Ms Lloyd said she is a 'dedicated bush regenerator', and stressed the irreplaceable nature of the Wallum landscape.

'Restoring degraded land takes years of effort, resources, and labor. But once an intact ecosystem like Wallum is lost, it can never be truly restored.'

Ms Lloyd pleaded guilty to two charges, was convicted and received a 'hefty fine', she said.

Greens mayor, Greens MP, at odds over large Mullum DA

Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) has ramped up its opposition to a proposal to plonk a three-storey block of units on the town's flood-prone public carpark, located next to Ottilies Pizza, opposite the roundabout at the town's entrance.

As previously reported, the government-led 'affordable housing' project would not be viable without public funds, and some units will house Council staff. All surrounding businesses have voiced their opposition, claiming it will adversely impact them.

Local NSW MP Tamara Smith (Greens) has raised her concerns, and will sponsor MRA's parliamentary petition calling for the government to consider other locations.

This puts her at odds with the Greens mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, who is in support of the project.

Ms Smith told The Echo, 'I strongly support affordable housing projects for Byron Shire and applaud Byron Shire Council's determination to deliver genuine affordable housing. However, I share the concerns of the community around the appropriateness of Station Street in light of the 2022 floods, the proposed loss of public

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Public meeting: The Mullum Residents Association (MRA) are inviting the public, and councillors, to a meeting around the carpark removal / 32-unit proposal at the Ex-Services Club on Monday, February 24. It starts at 6.30pm.

DFV service under pressure as referrals rise ► p2

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Pro Adaptive Surf Championships return ► p14

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DFV service under pressure as referrals rise

Hans Lovejoy

Local domestic family violence (DFV) and homelessness have clear links, according to the manager of the Women's Resource Service (WRS), Ambyr Johnston.

Located at the Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre, the WRS is a critical service on the front line of DFV.

Ms Johnston told *The Echo*, 'For example, in the last year alone, approximately ten per cent of Byron Shire [DFV] clients had secure housing at the time of the referral.'

She says, 'We are a diverse community, and this is reflected in the numbers of women who are subjected to DFV.'

'For the WRS, in the last year around 14 per cent of Byron Shire clients came from a CALD (culturally and linguistically diverse) background.'

'The summer period is not just busy for local business, it is also a time when we see DFV spike, and it has been the same again this year for the Byron Shire.'

'For example, of the most recent 30 referrals, ten are for Byron Shire clients.'

WRS Q&A

Is there a common theme for those women seeking help?

'Difficulties with very few affordable housing options, accessing public transport, cost of living.'

'Fear of losing housing can prevent women from wanting to report to police. Women fear reporting to police owing to concerns of retribution in our small community.'

Is the service able to assist all the women seeking help?

'We respond to all referrals that come in – if for some reason we can't offer case management support, then we link women with other support options.'

'Our aim is to ensure no woman or child falls through the gaps, and so we take a holistic and flexible approach to see how we can assist that person with the resources we have available.'

'We are a small team, so



Women's Resource Service manager, Ambyr Johnston.

Photo Jeff Dawson

there are many challenges as there is a huge demand for these types of services.'

If there was additional funding available from governments, how could it be used to help those in need?

'The DFV sector is chronically underfunded.'

'There are slow and small steps to improve this happening, however, funding to services who are on the ground embedded in local communities needs to be significantly increased to meet the demand.'

'To ensure those seeking help have safety, dignity and

all need to recognise and acknowledge the extent of the problem before any solutions can be devised.

'DFV needs a whole-of-community response. It affects all of us, and I mean every single one of us, in one way or another. I have been working in the DFV sector in the Northern Rivers for almost a decade, and I have seen families from every town and village, from every economic level of our community impacted.'

'I see the only long-term solution to prevent and reduce violence and abuse is for the whole of the community to recognise, acknowledge and be accountable – to work together for change.'

Where to get help

Across the Northern Rivers, there are specialist service providers who can offer crisis accommodation, legal support, financial assistance, and ongoing case management.

The Women's Resource Service can be contacted Monday to Friday, 9am till 4pm on 6684 4299

(Mullumbimby), via mdnc.org.au, or via email at wrs@mdnc.org.au

In Byron Bay, the Fletcher Street Cottage (supported by The Byron Community Centre) recently launched their Women's Emergency Relief Program.

It offers immediate assistance such as transport to safe locations, food vouchers, and emergency camping equipment for women in crisis, financial instability, and homelessness. Phone 6685 7830.

The Northern Rivers Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (WDVCAS) offer free support to women and children who have experienced domestic violence.

Phone 6621 1044 or 1300 720 606, from 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Women Up North Housing Inc. (WUNH) provides housing services for women and their children who have experienced domestic or family violence. Phone 6621 7730.

The NSW Domestic Violence Line is 1800 656 463.

No eviction for Mullum pod residents

Aslan Shand

Concerns that residents of the Mullumbimby pod houses are about to be evicted have been quashed by NSW Reconstruction Authority (NSW RA).

'Residents of the Mullumbimby temporary village have not been evicted,' a spokesperson for the NSW RA told *The Echo*.

'Wollongbar is the first temporary housing village that will be decommissioned later this year', they said.

'The NSW RA has made it

clear that this is in accordance with the direction of Ballina Shire Council, as the landowner.

'The NSW government and the NSW RA are supporting flood-impacted residents as they recover. The RA along with the Community Housing Providers (CHPs) managing these villages, will directly communicate with residents about any updated arrangements,' stated the NSW RA.

According to the NSW RA, the pod housing villages were only ever intended as

temporary accommodation following the devastating 2022 floods, and they are not built for long-term use and occupation.

'Community Housing Providers (CHPs), Homes NSW, and local services are actively working with all residents to secure long-term accommodation that meets their individual needs.'

'This includes a range of options such as private rentals, aged care, assisted living, social housing, share housing, and other sustainable housing solutions.'

NSW youth bail laws a failure, say experts

Aslan Shand

Extending the NSW temporary youth bail laws from 12 months to four years has been condemned, with data showing 80 per cent of young people charged with certain serious break-and-enter or motor vehicle theft offences have been refused bail since March last year.

'This is an enormously disappointing development,' former magistrate David Heilpern told *The Echo*.

'A short-term political fix has now morphed into a

long-term tightening of bail laws. As the Supreme Court of NSW has pointed out, this "ham-fisted" response means that children are treated more strictly than adults in exactly the same situation.'

'If you tighten bail laws, it inevitably leads to more young people being locked up before it is determined if they are guilty or not. Over 50 per cent of these young people will not be sentenced to incarceration, so we are effectively locking up many innocent young people.'

The youth bail law

changes were opposed by civil society organisations in March last year, including the NSW Bar Association, the Law Society of NSW, and the Aboriginal Legal Service.

The President of the Law Society of NSW, Jennifer Ball, acknowledges concerns about community safety and youth crime, but highlighted the importance of investment in youth, and jail being a last resort.

'Simply incarcerating children is unlikely to achieve sustainable community safety,' Ms Ball told *The Echo*.

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Members of the public are being sought to help their communities at the Bangalow and Byron Bay Fire Stations, with paid positions on offer for on-call firefighters.

Byron Bay Deputy Captain and recruitment officer, Matthew Crisp, told *The Echo* that information nights are planned at Bangalow Fire Station, Tuesday February 18 from 5.30pm, and Byron Bay Fire Station, Tuesday March 4 from 5.30pm.

He says, 'The information sessions give prospective candidates a chance to learn all about the role, meet the team, visit the fire station, see the specialised equipment, and ask any questions about the exciting and rewarding part-time role of on-call firefighter'.

Duty roster

According to Fire and Rescue NSW's *On-call Candidate Information Pack*, 'While our on-call fire stations respond to emergencies 24-hours a day and seven days a week, our on-call firefighters are not rostered on duty'.

'On-call firefighters declare their availability to



Captain Andrew Hall, with firefighters Thomas Rehn and Brad Hill.
Photo Jeff 'Big Shiny Red Machines Go Vroom' Dawson

respond a week in advance. This enables the on-call firefighters to maintain their employment and advise the station when they are available to respond.

'On-call firefighters are notified of an incident by pager and a mobile phone call'.

Matt adds, 'Our firefighters are a diverse group of men and women who balance their work, study, and family commitments. They enjoy

being part of a team, working with the community and other emergency services'.

On-call firefighters are paid on a fortnightly basis in accordance with the *Crown Employees (Fire and Rescue NSW Retained Firefighting Staff) Award 2021*.

Paid training, travel

All training and travel is paid. Applicants need to be an Australian or New Zealand citizen, or a permanent

resident of Australia, over 18, and hold a NSW drivers licence. Applicants must also live and/or work within a reasonable distance of their local station.

Comprehensive training is provided, covering all aspects of the work they do to keep your community safe.

For information, visit www.fire.nsw.gov.au, search FRNSW on-call firefighter careers, or call Matt on 0421 498 340.

Cash splashed at crime, but where's prevention funding?

► Continued from page 1 supporter of all programs aimed at reducing youth crime and I will continue to ask questions of the NSW government about the delivery of this specific program.'

Nationals candidate

Nationals candidate Kimberley Hone told *The Echo*, 'As someone with a background in youth and social work, I acknowledge the link between crime prevention and youth engagement programs'.

'It is deeply disappointing that Labor scrapped the Indigenous Crime Prevention Program without reason, leaving vulnerable communities without crucial resources.'

'Mrs Elliot has been in office for over 20 years, and has done nothing to address this crisis. She claims to be a former police officer, yet under her watch, crime has worsened, and Indigenous communities have been ignored. Now, just before an election, she suddenly announces \$3 million for crime prevention – but why wait? If Labor truly cared, they could act now instead of making empty promises.'

'I am committed to real

action. I will fund CCTV cameras and other crime prevention strategies in Tweed, Murwillumbah, Byron Bay, and Ballina.

'More importantly, I will strengthen existing youth diversion programs including cultural programs which have struggled under Labor's cuts.'

'Since the defeat of the Voice referendum, the Albanese government has abandoned Indigenous disadvantage as a priority. I will continue to fight for real, measurable change'.

Greens candidate

Greens candidate, Mandy Nolan, told *The Echo*, 'Keeping our communities safe means real investments in diversionary and educational programs that prevent at-risk youth committing crime and ending up in jail. And we know these programs work'.

She adds that she's been attending community crime meetings over the summer.

'Rather than scrapping local crime prevention programs, we need to be boosting them. Everybody knows prevention is better than a cure.'

'I've talked to so many teachers, police, parents and social workers, and what this community wants is policies that address the causes of crime, and programs that prevent it.'

'It's great that this region is getting the national attention it deserves, but I would have loved to have seen funding announced for programs targeting at-risk youth, like the one scrapped last year'.

Meanwhile, The Climate Justice Alliance of Northern

Rivers (CJA) condemned the \$3m pledge, calling it a 'waste'. In a statement they said, 'The Human Rights Watch's *World Report 2025* has criticised the treatment of children in the Australian criminal justice system, and last year's youth crime report by Children's Commissioner Anne Hollonds states, "We cannot 'police' our way out of this problem, and the evidence shows that locking up children does not make the community safer".'

Greens at odds over large Mullum DA

► Continued from page 1 amenity, and the need to future proof all new housing stock.'

Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye told *The Echo* in part there is a dire need for affordable housing that is in perpetuity 'for key workers and people on low incomes'.

Mayor Ndiaye said traffic issues 'must be addressed before moving forward with any further development'.

She said, 'While there is understandable concern about the use of public land, it's important to note that this project is part of a

broader effort to address the housing crisis. The proposal aligns with Council goals and has received support from the Department of Planning, unlike some other initiatives'.

She says there will be 'no net loss of parking in the town centre' and 'rail corridor land will be made available for car parking and other civic uses'.

MRA spokesperson, Dale Emerson, says that the chosen site 'takes away 43 much-needed carpark spaces in the town's CBD, not to mention the town's main public toilets'.

■ Full story at echo.net.au.

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Large Wilsons Creek mansion on DA exhibition

A development application (DA) for a large mansion at the top of Lavertys Gap in Wilsons Creek is on public exhibition at Council's website.

Valued at \$4,428 341, the property is located at 510 Wilsons Creek Road and proposes a six car-bay basement, internal lifts, a gymnasium with sauna, home office/photo studio, a large cellar, a rock climbing room and extensive courtyards, breeze-ways and outdoor areas.



Artist impression of 510 Wilsons Creek Road. Image from DA

Nine bedrooms are proposed throughout the three levels, with 11 bathrooms

and 12 toilets.

According to the State-ment Of Environmental

Effects (SoEE) within the DA, the existing dwelling will be demolished to make way for a new 'multigenerational dwelling'.

To create the required bushfire Asset Protection Zone (APZ), consultants to the developer say 'a number of trees located within or adjacent to the proposed building footprint will require removal'.

DA 10.2024.496.1 can be found online at www.byron.nsw.gov.au.

Giving Albo the elbow: Bradbury to contest PM's safe seat



David Bradbury in the US. Photo supplied

Local filmmaker, David Bradbury, says he will run against PM Anthony Albanese in his safe Sydney seat of Grayndler as an independent at the upcoming federal election.

Bradbury says, 'I have just returned from three months shooting a film in the belly of the beast, Washington DC, capital of the world's mightiest empire'.

'My determination to take Albo on has grown out of increasing dissatisfaction and grave concern with the direction Australia is headed'.

He says Labor is no longer the great anti-war party of the working class and the poor.

'I fear our servile attitude to the US will lead us into a war with China, which will very quickly turn nuclear'.

'Taxes are needed urgently to address the housing crisis in Australia, to build new public hospitals, to lift public education standards for our kids and future-proof Australian homes and small businesses in the firing line of more bushfires and floods.'

Exclusive Skinners Shoot restaurant before Council

A \$22m restaurant with an 'artisan food and drink industry' component, at the end of Yagers Lane, Skinners Shoot, will come before councillors at their first 2025 meeting on Thursday.

According to the staff report in the February 13 agenda, issues raised include the scale of development, hours of operation, noise and traffic, and road safety.

A total of 141 submissions were received, say staff, with 64 in support and 77 opposed.

Staff support DA 10.2024.24.1, subject to the

conditions of approval.

Sitting on 33 acres, the developer says some of the existing piggery buildings would be transformed 'into an intimate 45-seat restaurant and a new associated 15-seat artisan food and drink industry space'.

The proponent's consultant says, 'Restaurant operations are proposed to be of a high end/exclusive nature and is intended as a small-scale and intimate fine dining experience'. The plan of management adds, 'two separate buildings will be

constructed to comprise the artisan area, within which, gourmet food products will be manufactured by the restaurant chef and sampled by a maximum of 15 patrons where they can "meet and greet" the maker.'

While staff say there is 'sufficient planning grounds to support the development', conditions for approval include 'road upgrades to Yagers Lane and Skinners Shoot Road intersection'.

Staff noted that the remainder of Skinners Shoot Road back to Byron Bay was

'generally satisfactory, but the carriageway within the road reserve has been somewhat narrowed owing to the encroachment of tree foliage, branches, vegetation and overgrown shrubs encroaching into the road carriageway'.

'This has been referred for attention of Council's Infrastructure Services Works for further investigation and action, as appropriate... Other upgrades will be considered in the context of Shire-wide priorities and asset management plans to be included in future operational budgets'.

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Mullum Food Box opens for 2025

Mullumbimby Uniting Church Food Box have commenced their 13th year of operations, distributing nutritious food to those in need every Thursday, from 9.30am till 11.30am.

Co-ordinator Gill Lomath told *The Echo* that people still think they need to have a welfare card to use the service.

Gill says, 'This has not been the case for a number of years. Just before Covid, Food Box removed this requirement'.

'We now work in conjunction with the Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre Gulganii Pantry on different days - ours being Thursday'.

The Gulganii Pantry, which also offers low-cost pantry food and grocery items, is located at 3 Bridgland Lane, between Mullum Hire and Kiva Spa in the bright yellow building. They are open Monday, Wednesday, Friday from 10am to 12.30pm, and 1.30pm to 3pm.

Koala komedy raises the big bucks



Pictured are President of Bangalow Koalas, Linda Sparrow, comedian Harley Breen, MC Mandy Nolan and Keith the homeless Koala. Photo Jeff 'Koala Komedy' Dawson

It was a full house at the Bangalow A&I last week, when more than 320 people gathered for the Bangalow Koalas Fundraiser.

Co-organiser, Linda Sparrow, called it 'The best one yet', with the night raising in excess of \$20,000. It also saw The Lions Club join forces with the Singh family to provide food and a bar to keep the good times rolling.

MC Mandy Nolan held the night together with her high-energy hijinks, proving that she is also a gun auctioneer. Comedian Harley Breen won the hearts of all, with touchingly hilarious details of his wife's home birth, and Jimeoin delivered a five-star set. The event helped raise funds to hit a 500,000-tree target by October.

Clarity sought over Main Arm property offers

With a recent *Echo* advertisement offering 'ten legal house sites soon to be available' at a property in Main Arm, *The Echo* sought clarity around the estate.

Located just past the primary school, Maccas has been renamed the Funny Farm by presumptive new owner, Chris McIlrath.

The back page *Echo* advertisement from February 22 said off-grid homes in an organic macadamia orchard would cost \$300,000 and were 'negotiable'.

Late last year, Macca's

Camping closed, with Chris telling *The Echo* Council closed the campground as the 'licence lapsed owing to failure to submit drinking quality water tests'.

Probate not lodged

Maccas owner, David McIlrath, died in October last year, and according to his brother Chris, probate is yet to be lodged by the executor.

Chris told *The Echo* he and his children are beneficiaries of the estate, and he has already lodged a caveat around the probate to secure

ownership of the estate.

Given Chris says there is a 'substantial mortgage' on the property, *The Echo* asked, 'Are you under any threat of foreclosure by the bank?'

Chris replied, 'One of the two directors of the lender, a private company, has told me and emailed me that they can do nothing until probate, and are ready to assign the mortgage before probate (which may take a couple of months to be granted)'.

He said, 'The DA is finished and ready to submit, but the executor wants

to delay submitting, even though their delay of over a year so far has cost us around \$500,000 in interest'.

Chris dismissed another DA that has been lodged by a claimant, and another caveat by another claimant, saying he is confident it will all be dismissed in court.

'Our DA for Community Title (CT) has been prepared by Chris Pratt who, prior to being an independent consultant, was chief town planner for Byron Council, so the DA will certainly be passed when submitted'.

Govt-run dispute resolution services to close

Concerns are being raised around the NSW Labor government plans to close all Community Justice Centres (CJCs) in June.

CJCs provide free mediation to help people solve disagreements (or resolve disputes) without going to court.

Law Society of NSW President Brett McGrath told AAP, 'The closure of these centres represents further erosion of access to justice which will particularly affect people in vulnerable circumstances'.

The peak body for local

government in NSW went further, and is calling on Labor to reverse the decision.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW) President Mayor Phyllis Miller OAM said closure of CJCs would have 'devastating consequences for some of the state's most disadvantaged residents'.

'Whether it be a dispute over fencing, overhanging branches, pets, privacy, access to land, or building/renovation works, the mediation services provided by CJCs are critical to helping communities resolve issues

outside of court,' she said.

According to dcj.nsw.gov.au, CJCs engage 'more than 63 mediators [who are] located throughout NSW. Up to 20 staff work (full-time, part-time and casual) in our Parramatta office'.

More than 12,000 people use the service each year in NSW, with 86 per cent willing to recommend it to others. Seventy seven centres are slated for closure.

The Canberra Times reported a government spokesman as saying that many state agencies now

offer mediation as an alternative.

'Despite mediation being the primary objective of Community Justice Centres, less than nine per cent of inquiries proceed to mediation,' the spokesman said.

Mayor Miller added, 'The lack of consultation with councils in reaching this decision is deeply disappointing. Late last year, LGNSW wrote to the NSW Attorney General expressing concern about reports that all CJCs would be closed from June 30, 2025'.

Hate crimes beefed up – what do federal candidates think?

Despite the Law Council of Australia raising serious concerns over risks to freedom of political speech, federal parliament has passed a new hate crime law that will see jail time for publicly displaying prohibited Nazi symbols or giving a Nazi salute.

The Criminal Code Amendment (Hate Crimes) Bill 2024 was supported by Labor, the Liberal-Nationals Coalition, and the Greens.

Financing terrorism and associating with terrorist organisations carry new sentences under a mandatory minimum sentencing regime. Mandatory minimum sentencing imposes fixed minimum penalties for specific crimes, which limits judicial discretion.

Sydney Criminal Lawyers say that 'for the most part [it] will target Muslims', while academic website, The Conversation, says it has a 'poor track record of reducing crime'.

As lawmakers tighten freedoms around speech, Australia does not have a national Human Rights Act or a Bill of Rights.

Local MP in support

Local Labor MP, Justine Elliot, told *The Echo*, 'I supported it because standing against hate is integral to my values of fairness, safety, and respect for all people. This law is the strongest Australia has ever had against hate crimes, ensuring everyone can live freely and without fear. We are all aware of the

recent hateful attacks on members of the Jewish community, which is deeply concerning. Antisemitism and hate speech have no place in our country, and that's why this reform matters.'

Nationals in support

Nationals candidate Kimberly Hone told *The Echo*, 'Strengthening laws to protect our community is essential'.

'A culture of tolerance, acceptance, and diversity is only possible if we defend Australian values and our way of life. The Albanese Labor government failed to take decisive action on this critical issue, only amending its own legislation after pressure to do so. These stronger laws are long overdue.'

'After I met with the Never Again Is Now organisation last year, I committed to making all Australians feel safer. I welcome the Coalition's stance on tougher penalties, including mandatory minimum sentences for terrorism offences, stronger laws against Nazi and terrorist symbols, new offences for attacks on places of worship, and harsher penalties for religiously-motivated property damage. These measures are critical to keeping Australians safe.'

'Terrorist incidents have escalated to alarming levels in NSW, including the firebombing of a synagogue and an attempted mass-casualty attack with a bomb-laden caravan. Many Australians now live in fear – worried about attacks on

their homes, businesses, and places of gathering. The prime minister's failure to show leadership has only worsened this crisis.'

'I will fight to establish a national task force, directing law enforcement agencies to prioritise antisemitic crimes, strengthening visa cancellation laws for offenders, and providing essential security funding to protect vulnerable communities. This is the strong, effective response the people of Richmond are asking for'.

Greens position

Federal Greens candidate, Mandy Nolan, told *The Echo*, 'I unequivocally condemn all forms of antisemitism, Islamophobia, and hate. Our strength lies in our diversity and our ability to stand together in the face of hatred. There is no place for antisemitism, Islamophobia, or any form of racism or hatred in our society. Our community is stronger when we stand together.'

'I do not support mandatory sentencing for the same reason that the Labor Party apparently did, up until last week – it is an attack on the separation of powers and does not make our country safer.'

'I agree with the Law Council of Australia, which also strongly opposes mandatory minimum sentencing, and supports greater resources for countering violent extremism, through early intervention programs for children and young people.'

Herbicide spraying in Ocean Shores Nature Reserve

A distressed Ocean Shores resident contacted *The Echo* last week, saying they walked their dogs in an area that had been sprayed by herbicide.

They claimed, 'My dogs had it on them, I have it on me'.

'Last year, I went to hospital for two days because of it.'

'We didn't even walk through any long grass, so I don't know how it even got on us!'

The resident says neighbours around Goolara Crt have also been affected, and they are concerned the poison ran into the creek that runs into Inderwong Avenue, located at the bottom of the hill.

The Echo asked Council staff whether they undertook

herbicide spraying that day.

They replied, 'Yallakool Park has been under the care of a dedicated team of Landcare volunteers for the last 20 years'.

'Prior to them assisting with maintaining the park, the reserve was dominated by camphor laurel, lantana, and exotic grasses'.

'With continued weed control it has been transformed into rainforest.'

'To maintain this, continued weed control is required.'

'Council assists by conducting targeted herbicide application to exotic species as they reappear, over time the amount of herbicide and frequency of use has greatly reduced as these species become less common.'

'The council staff who apply the herbicide are qualified bush regeneration staff and they place signs warning the public, when spraying is taking place.'

'The Yallakool Park features a network of tracks, we suggest the public stick to these tracks to minimise the potential of coming into contact with any herbicides.'

Chemical-sensitive register

'People can also be added to our chemical-sensitive register, by completing a registration form available on Council's website', staff added.

The chemical-sensitive register website is <https://tinyurl.com/4u56rk8e>.



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

Measles alert for Lismore

The community, particularly in the Lismore area, should watch out for signs and symptoms of measles after the Northern NSW Local Health District (NNLHD), while visiting several locations, was notified of a confirmed case which was infectious.

Will NSW Forestry Corporation be investigated for changing data on native logging?

The NSW Forestry Corporation has retrospectively slashed timber yields by 28 per cent each year over the last three years according to the North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) once again calling into question the viability of NSW's native logging forestry industry.

Women take over Stone & Wood for IWD event

In preparation for a day when women will take over the brewery, the women of Stone & Wood were recently joined by local creative women and not-for-profit founders, to brew a beer together ahead of International Women's Day.

Grants for local groups to reduce isolation among older people

Lismore MP Janelle Saffin says that two local grant recipients will use State funding to support innovative projects which aim to reduce social isolation among older people in the Lismore district and in the Murwillumbah area.

Have your say on the Reconciliation Action Plan

Lismore City Council is inviting community members to participate in an upcoming consultation to help shape its Reconciliation Action Plan.

Where are our koalas?

Things are getting scary for koalas as their habitat is reduced daily, but communities are getting together to monitor local koala populations for the purpose of conservation.

Lions Road to be closed (temporarily)

Scenic Lions Road between Standfields Bridge and the Queensland border crossing will be closed to through traffic from Monday, February 17 to mid-June while Kyogle Council replaces six culverts damaged in the February 2022 floods.

New TAFE NSW Charter launched at Kingscliff

A key recommendation of the independent review of the NSW vocational education and training (VET) sector, the TAFE NSW Charter lets the people of NSW know what they should expect from TAFE – as the provider at the heart of vocational training.

www.echo.net.au

Don't dump our waste in the dunes say Tweed residents

Residents and community associations in the Pottsville and Cabarita area are calling for an end to sewage discharges into the waterways, and to have the cleanest possible effluent discharged to the dunes.

'Support is growing for the campaign urging Tweed Shire Council to upgrade Hastings Point Wastewater Treatment Plant to the best available technology, and in the process much reduce the tonnes of polluting effluents that are annually dumped and accumulating in the dunes,' said the community group in a press release.

Engineering consultant and Pottsville resident, Philip Arthur, is calling on councillors to choose the best available water treatment technology for the upgrade so that the pristine environment around Hastings Point, Cabarita Beach and the Cudgera Creek waterway that flows into the ocean at Hastings Point can be enjoyed by future generations of residents and visitors.

'I am deeply concerned that the plant discharges effluent with unacceptably high pollutant loads into the

dunes between Bogangar and Hastings Point. As one of northern NSW's ecological gems and premier tourist destinations, it's imperative for the Tweed Coast that long-term sustainability be given priority,' Mr Arthur said.

'We can't risk the legacy of the area for a questionable short-term financial benefit. The current practice of pumping contaminated effluent into the dunes adjacent to tourist destinations, and only metres from the beach, is not an acceptable long-term solution.'

Petition

The community groups have been collecting signatures at local shops in the Pottsville and Cabarita area and at the local supermarkets in support of the 'best' upgrade, with pressure mounting for Tweed Council to deliver the sewerage upgrade that dovetails with the area's irreplaceable natural assets, while also recognising the importance of local tourism and public health.

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

Lighthouse Beach all-abilities access to get underway

There are big challenges for many people to get access to our beautiful beaches up and down the NSW North Coast.

Ballina Shire Council (BSC) will create all-abilities access to one of Ballina's main beaches, Lighthouse Beach, with construction starting on February 10. The work will include a new beach access ramp and improved emergency vehicle access.

'This project aims to ensure people of all abilities can enjoy our beautiful coastline,' said Mr Cheyne Willebrands, Ballina Shire Council Manager – Open Spaces.

'The improved beach access ramp has been a long-term goal for Council, and we are excited to deliver this important infrastructure for the community.'

Tactile surfaces

The work will include the construction of a concrete ramp with stainless steel handrails and tactile surface indicators to provide universal access to the beach. Also an extension of the existing emergency vehicle concrete

ramp and a concrete block retaining wall with stairs leading up to the beach showers.

Lighthouse Beach is approximately 500m in length and is patrolled in school holidays. There are plenty of walking tracks at either end which give great views of the beach, North Wall and Ballina Headland.

'The northern end is perfect for when the northerly winds blow, as it is protected from the headland. It is also the end that is patrolled in school holidays and on weekends in the summer months,' says the BSC website.

Two-month construction

Construction of the access will take approximately two months, weather permitting. During construction, alternative beach access will be available via the front of the Lighthouse Beach Surf Life Saving Club slab. Lifeguard operations and the kiosk located under the surf club building will remain open throughout the works.

Hundreds gather in Lismore for trans rally



Lismore rallied to demand that Queensland overturn its ban on hormone therapy for trans young people. Photo Rebecca Rushbrook

Aslan Shand

Around 300 people, young and old, from as far afield as Bellingen and the Gold Coast came to Lismore on Saturday to rally in support of trans kids impacted by the Queensland government decision to remove care for trans youth.

The decision might be Queensland-based but the impacts are felt here in NSW, and particularly in the Northern Rivers, as many transgender people's closest access to medical care is across the border in Queensland.

'Tears were shed as local parents shared how the Queensland decision has impacted their children, as they were using Queensland services and are now having to look as far away as Newcastle,' explained rally organiser Zoe Xanadu.

'Meanwhile one mother's trans daughter's voice is breaking right as treatment has become inaccessible and this is causing strain on the family as the single mum working full time is trying to navigate moving their buy-back house, at last, three years after the devastating floods.'

Lismore's trans councillor

Speakers included Harper Dalton-Earls, a local Lismore Labor councillor who is one of the first two trans people elected to local council. Dalton-Earls emphasised the importance of the NSW government reference group and letting them know that transgender health and safety is important to voters.

'First and foremost, the reason we are here is to demand that Queensland overturn its ban on hormone therapy for trans young people, and that gender-affirming care needs to be accessible and affordable,' said singer/songwriter trans gay man Pippin Nicholson, speaking at the Lismore rally.

'Thank you all for being here today to show your support for transgender kids and teens and letting the government know that using the wellbeing of young people as a political tool isn't something we will accept or tolerate.'

'Right now Queensland lawmakers and politicians are ignoring the advice of the many science and health experts who know for a fact that denying essential healthcare to trans youth costs lives. The undeniable fact is that social transition and medical intervention such as puberty blockers save lives. It's important to remember that is what we are gathering for; for trans kids to get to grow into adults. For trans kids to get to live their lives. This is about the 491 young people and their families who have been kicked off the waiting list in Queensland, many who have been waiting for months, or even years,' said Nicholson.

Chants, deep breaths and full body shakes punctuated the speeches as kids and big people chalked the pavement, made beaded bracelets and crocheted love hearts in trans flag colours, hula hooping, lounging on rainbow cushions, and enjoying zipper doopers handed out by members of Tropical Fruits.

Speaking out

'Young trans folk braved public speaking for the first time, saying that the issue was too important to not speak up about, and that they would rather face the fear of speaking in front of a crowd than the loss of their friends to suicide, which they described as an "inevitable outcome" for some if access to gender-affirming care was not available,' said Xanadu.

'The rally closed with an offering from celebrated Trans Elder Mopoke, who reminded listeners of the importance of "eternal vigilance" that our rights are never guaranteed, and shared a deeply empowering self care practice of harnessing inner love and strength to be able to share with community and beyond.'

Donate to help

You can donate to Project 491 (<https://auspath.org.au/project-491>) to help cover the cost of medical care for those 491 young people who were cut off from the public healthcare system by Premier Nicholls' decision.

Project 491 is an initiative led by AusPATH in response to the Queensland government's restrictions on gender-affirming care (GAC) for trans and gender-diverse (TGD) children.

This includes blocking access to both stage one (puberty blockers) and stage two (hormone therapy) treatments for patients under 18 in Queensland public health system.

You can sign a petition to reverse the ban here: <https://transjustice.org.au/ban>.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #36 • February 12, 2025

Whack-a-mole the crims

As a member of the small niche independent media landscape, *The Echo* is acutely aware that this job is not just being a journal of public record, but a reporter on how governments behave. And treat us.

This outlook is unlike how corporate mainstream media operates; they fail to hold power to account because they see themselves as cheerleaders for the establishment.

So, are governments making things better for everyone?

Are they committed to making difficult and nuanced decisions to address the structural causes of crime, for example?

Or are they addicted to easy, lazy options that prop up a broken system that they are a part of?

There's answers for all the issues raised throughout the news section of this edition when it comes to crime. It just take a bit of courage and honesty.

On page 1, Justine Elliot MP should explain what she is doing to fund the Indigenous Crime Prevention Program that the NSW Labor government axed last year.

On page 2, it's clear that NSW government funding for domestic family violence (DFV) is inadequate, and has been for some time.

Perhaps money can be found within the \$1B a year NSW police budget? As the police have no requirements around budget expenditure, they put their priorities before the public.

Boosted DFV policing could replace expensive cannabis helicopters and dog squads, for example.

Again on page 2, legal experts are being ignored around NSW youth bail laws.

Incarcerating children should be the last resort of any civil society, but locking them up is clearly the first choice for NSW Labor.

Instead of judicial discretion, prescriptive laws continue to send young people and adults behind bars.

It leads to longer-term problems, such as high rates of recidivism, and difficulties with reintegration back into society.

Which is costly and unnecessary.

On page 7, legal experts were again ignored in favour of mandatory minimum sentences around hate crimes.

Being 'tough on crime' is an old, outdated, punitive paradigm.

As a blanket deterrence, it is has not worked.

But intervention programs, such as youth mentoring, education initiatives, mental health services, and skills training, do work.

Fun fact: the average cost per year to imprison an Australian is approximately \$147,890, according to www.justicereforminitiative.org.au.

Don't be like America

Australia appears to be following the type of policies that gained traction during the war on drugs in the US. It has led to the US having the sixth-highest incarceration rate on the planet, at 531 people incarcerated per 100,000 population.

In Australia it was 207.8 persons per 100,000 adult population in 2024, according to www.abs.gov.au.

And according to *Vice*, approximately 20.5 per cent of the Australian prison population is held in privately-operated facilities, 'a significantly higher proportion compared to the US, where the figure is about eight per cent'.

Ultimately, to address the root cause of crime, the government should be focused on providing every Australian with an opportunity to escape entrenched generational poverty. And re-nationalise the prison system!

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Focus off centre around Sam Kerr's arrest

I agree with media commentary describing as 'confronting' the footage of Aussie soccer player Sam Kerr's 3.30am interview by Twickenham Police in the UK.

We have all seen the world-famous bodycam of her telling a white male policeman he was 'stupid and white' – a statement for which she apologised in person the next day.

Surely the matter should have ended there?

The fact that it hasn't, raises serious questions about the integrity of British police and the cowardice of prosecutors who declined to take up the case, but appeared to have been forced into it by an angry white male police officer.

The ABC has helpfully posted the entire 30-minute bodycam footage that enables us to see the full context of Ms Kerr and Constable Lovell's interaction.

It helps us understand why Ms Kerr was angry with the cab driver and subsequently the police.

It began with the cabbie's decision to imprison Ms Kerr and Ms Mewis in his vehicle – refusing their pleas to stop and let them out, and take them to a place other than the destination they requested.

Is it legal to do this?

There are certainly guidelines for drivers in the UK and Australia suggesting the cabbie was the one who broke the law.

At least one UK Council (Wolverhampton) has published guidelines stating: 'You must never lock passengers in the vehicle. You may be arrested and charged with false imprisonment if you do this'.

In Australia, it seems an uncommon crime, but at least one Gold Coast cab driver has been charged with 'deprivation of liberty' after imprisoning his female passengers because they challenged the fare for a short trip.

Anyone who has watched *The Bone Collector* will share my own horror of being locked in a cab where the passenger doors have been modified to turn the space into a prison.

I note Australian taxi laws



'The interview shows Ms Kerr's increasing frustration as Constable Lovell openly sides with the cabbie and asks the women to pay him money'.

– Catherine Cusack

require taxi boots to have an internal release mechanism. Shouldn't this also apply to passenger doors?

I felt sick listening to Constable Lovell dismissing the need to investigate the behaviour of the cabbie in the Twickenham Police video.

Constable Lovell acknowledges he did not even interview the taxi driver personally. A five-minute complaint was made to his partner.

The interview shows Ms Kerr's increasing frustration as Constable Lovell openly sides with the cabbie and asks the women to pay him money.

Ms Mewis can be heard saying 'I am not trying to get out of anything'.

Both women say they would be happy to pay the fare and the cleaning.

Ms Kerr simply wants police to investigate their false imprisonment claims first.

She goes on to accuse police of being sexist and 'not listening'.

Constable Lovell retorts: 'I have listened to you a lot, because I haven't any choice because you are a very loud person... All I am saying is you're bragging about how much money you've got, and that poor bloke will never see that much money in his life... You've told me so many times you are happy to pay the money – are you happy to pay the money or not?'

Job of police

Is it seriously the job of police to detain women in police stations demanding they pay money to an alleged perpetrator in order to be released?

The next day, Ms Kerr returns to the station, apologises for her

outbursts and pays the cabbie money to bring the incident to a conclusion. Was this fair? I doubt it. But her inebriated 4am outburst had muddled the issues.

In the sober light of day, it was necessary to settle the issue on the terms demanded by Constable Lovell in order to move on.

But this officer did not want to resolve the issue.

His insistence on pursuing a criminal case raises even more questions about police judgement than Sam Kerr – because his is a considered decision. Sam has at least regretted and apologised for her mistake.

It is really troubling that any prosecutor would go along with the Lovell charade.

I wish the Australian media in London would ask some harder questions, like how many times have UK citizens been prosecuted for calling a policeman 'white'?

How many women have been arrested for escaping imprisonment by a man holding them against their will?

Special treatment

Because it is obvious Sam Kerr is being meted special treatment by police.

Indeed it feels to me like she is really being pursued and prosecuted for being famous, female and not white.

And police unwillingness to listen to, or help female victims, is what we should be focused on here.

Somehow a victim who asked for police help winds up on trial accused of being a perpetrator. What's wrong with this picture?

■ Catherine Cusack is a former NSW Liberal MLC.



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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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The Echo's new 'Department Of Greater Efficiency' arrive ready for work. Photo Jeff Dawson

Don't know, don't vote

Dutton says he will cut and slash but presents no details. If you don't know, don't vote for the opposition.

Robert Durand
Goonellabah

MAGA land

Thanks to Jo Immig for her thought-provoking article on the Trump phenomenon. Like all right-wing charlatans, Trump promises things he can't possibly deliver. Add a dose of extreme narcissism and

the occasional two-year-old hissy fit and we have a very dangerous demagogue as American president.

But as leftists, we have to study what's fuelling the surge to the extreme right. Not all Americans are MAGA fanatics or espouse nutcase conspiracy theories.

Many Trump voters say 'cost of living' motivated them to vote for him (watch Dutton attempt the same false promises here). The high cost of living is a global post-pandemic issue. National governments

really can't do much about it. The other major issue fuelling the extreme right in America and Europe is immigration. The perception that first-world countries are being swamped by illegal third-world immigrants is a strong motivator for voting hard right. These aren't always racists or fascists but ordinary people who often support controlled immigration and multiculturalism. Many Trump voters were Latinos or African American and point out that many illegals aren't refugees fleeing persecution but economic hardship. Even as a leftist I tend to agree with their point that we should be encouraging migrants to stay and better their lands if possible rather than fleeing to the west. This is a major issue in Europe and America that the left needs to address to shift the tide away from otherwise unelectable extremists.

Attention all letter writers!

In order to run more letters on different topics, from next week we are only going to publish the first 200 words of your letters in print. Readers will be able to read them in full (if a reasonable length) in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au/letters.

Thankfully Australia has already defused this fire. Labor has copied the LNP in cracking down on unauthorised migrants therefore knocking the wind out of the likes of Dutton and Hanson. If social democratic parties around the world followed suit they'd be no Trump, AfD or Le Pen. The extreme right would have to retreat back into the dark abyss from which it emerged.

Simon Alderton
Ballina

Multi-millionaires

The development application (DA 10.2024.24.1) for a \$22+ million, 45-seat restaurant in a small rural residential locality will be considered by Byron Shire Council this Thursday at its planning meeting. (Does this seem like a legitimate business case, even charging the proposed \$900 per person for dinner?).

I do not know of any residents of the locality who want their lives, homes, environment and wildlife impacted by the increase in noise and lights, and traffic on an already overloaded and substandard road. Few, **▶ Continued on next page**

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■ *The Echo* is committed to providing a voice for our whole community. The views of letter writers are their own and don't represent the owners or staff of this publication.

► **Continued from page 11** if any, will be able to afford to eat there, so what benefits are there for the community from this development?

Where did the letters of support for this development come from? Not the local residents. The multi-millionaire developer's mates? Those who are also profiting from developments that serve themselves and a few wealthy others at the expense of the community and the environment? Will their lives and homes be impacted? No. Will the developer's? No. He lives in a \$20m beachfront mansion at Belongil.

Let us hope that Byron Shire councillors stay true to their election promises to support the local community and the environment, and refuse this DA. Get in touch with them, by phone or email, if you want to express your opinion, or get along to the meeting.

Pamela Collins
Skinners Shoot

Appalling telco

It's appalling how incompetent Telstra is! I had far better mobile phone reception at my home in Montecollum when I bought it 30 years ago, long before 3G, 4G and 5G.

I've had far better mobile phone and internet connection in the jungles of northern Thailand and Myanmar – yet here we are in one of the richest parts of a so called first-world country, and Telstra drops out up to 15 times a day when I'm trying to make or receive calls, or abruptly kills the audio of one of both of the parties to the call.

When the audio drops

out, I have to race out onto my deck, stand at the furthest corner, hold the phone at a certain angle (and my tongue on the left of my mouth), and sometimes the audio is restored. But only briefly, until the call is cut off completely. And unfortunately, Optus is not a viable solution in my area.

I recently berated a Telstra technician who was fixing the rat's nest of landline cables in a pit near my home and he totally agreed. 'You think you've got it bad? Bangalow is even worse,' he said. He agreed that it was pointless trying to ring Telstra to complain. 'You wait on the line for two hours and then get onto someone at a call centre in India, who apologises, but nothing ever is done to improve the situation.'

'So what can we do?' I begged him. 'Organise a local petition,' he said. 'If you get enough signatures and get your local politicians to join the crusade, you might get some action.'

So what about it people? Are enough of you outraged enough to join me in organising a protest petition? You can contact me on 0427 882 786 or at gxlwin@gmail.com.

George Lewin
Montecollum

Trumposia

Last edition, what did I say? And two days later he put his foot in his mouth concerning the disaster at Washington airport without waiting for the authorities to report.

Hopefully when he tries for a hole in one, it's him that finishes in the hole!

Peter Walters
Ballina

Where've you been Justine?

Three years ago my town of Mullumbimby, and many other towns in the Northern Rivers, flooded. That's not news to most, but it was news that three years later, just last week, Justine Elliot had come to town to talk to the residents of Mullumbimby, and that upon hearing, for the first time, from the flooded in Mullum about their experience and how they have been managing or not she offered her empathy.

I have been working in the flood space as a resident, and as a part of groups of flood-affected and RA-affected, to get the fully-funded flood recovery we were promised by the Liberal and then Labor governments. I have done this with a band of volunteers meeting weekly. We held a meeting and action day with as many community groups as we could get from across the seven affected LGAs, 75 representatives in all, and attended by Janelle Saffin, Tamara Smith, Mandy Nolan, the RA and other politicians during the weeks, months, and years. Tamara and Mandy have consistently supported us in our work attending numerous meetings with us in person, by phone, and online, and have been generous with advice and their time, actioning and calling in parliament for action.

Where were you Justine Elliot?

Despite many requests to talk to us Justine has been unable to answer our emails our invitations and in the three years has attended

one meeting online. She was unable to contribute to the meeting as she appeared to have only a basic understanding of who had flooded and where.

I have been a Byron Shire resident for 37 years, I have no political agenda, I would just like everyone to know who has actually been putting in the work actively supporting the flood-affected, and talking to residents specifically to find out what their needs are and then to push for action, whether that be Feros Care, house-raising and retrofit, Wallum, Fletcher Street Cottage, violence against women, Cabbage Tree Island rehousing, Airbnb caps, reducing coal and gas reliance – the list goes on. We want empathy, but mostly we want a plan and action.

Thank you Tamara, Mandy, Janelle.

Noelle Maxwell not AI
Mullumbimby

Bill and Carol and Mandy

Given the content of Mandy's story about her parents' Vietnamese 'intruder,' I'd love to have had the opportunity to retitle her story, 'Empathy, Kindness, and Love.' Truly inspiring.

Raphael Lee Cass
Byron Bay

Farmers' markets

I'm Louis and I'm ten years old. I love the Byron Farmers Market and have been going all my life.

As mentioned in a previous *Echo*, (January 29) a major storm recently blustered its way through the Shire, and the Byron Farmers Market was severely impacted.

Punters had to help stallholders hold down their tents. My parents were two of those people.

I think the farmers' market is a welcoming place for everyone, young and old. It has a great communal feel to it and I am always seeing familiar faces and bumping into friends.

The massive fig tree at the front entrance is constantly teeming with kids of all ages; I've been climbing it since I could walk.

Lastly, we have to admire the market for its sole purpose, food! Multiple coffee shops, (iced chocolate in my case) terrific drinks and Ice blocks, a selection of breakfast stalls, a few delicious sweet treats, and of course, the market's fantastically fresh fruit and vegetables.

Not only is there a farmers' market in Byron Bay, but all over the Shire – in Mullum, New Brighton, and Bangalow. So, I hope to see you there!

Louis Moynihan-Burne
Suffolk Park

Trump Tower

I can see it 50 years from now, Trump Tower, the tallest building on Earth, a giant gold-plated phallus rising hundreds of meters from what was Southern Gaza, renamed Trumpopolis.

The Benjamin Netanyahu Memorial Gardens sprawl hundreds of hectares into a 72-hole golf course, the longest in the world, where entire tournaments are played in a single outing. Many kilometres of foreshore have been transformed into rolling green fairways where thousands of children once played and streets of proud buildings once stood.

During the winter solstice, Trump Tower throws its shadow the entire length of Israel, darkening the towering ramparts of Trump Heights in the north. The

shadow passes over like the exterminating angel, purging the land of dissent.

Every Orthodox believer marvels that a gentile, a goy real estate developer from New York, is the Messiah they had all been waiting for. Yahweh works in strange ways indeed.

Mike Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek

Incite:

To stir up or provoke to action.

New laws to criminalise incitement and hate speech have just been made. The fact that government supports (the manufacturers) making weapons and systems that kill people, and sells or gives weapons to Ukraine and others, this is inciting death and negativity to others.

Meanwhile they use Australian taxpayers' money to cause this to happen, so the incitement of all taxpayers (goods and services) is taking place to enable the use of the weapons involved in the death and injury of others, (wars).

Am I being incited to comply with this barbaric act of condoning possible death and injury to others? It is compulsory to vote, there is political advertising to encourage people to vote for government representatives, resulting in hate speech that is promoting death and harm to others with the sale/gift of weapons and systems that kill people. The incitement of people to join in their actions, by making tax payments, that make taxpayers part of the organisation, who supply the means to cause possible death to living people. Are government putting a stop to their hate deals, weapons of death systems? Or does it depend on the interpretations given?

R Podhajsky
Ocean Shores



20 years of service to the community continues as Sunrise Window Tinting is now under the new management of Richard Russell's son Timothy, his wife Eleanor, and their new baby, Albie, after Richards passing.

"We will continue to prioritise quality and service as we navigate this new chapter. We are so grateful for all our ongoing local support, it means the world to our family"

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On the wing: Latham's snipe



Byron Bird Buddies

Have you ever heard of Latham's snipe? Better still, have you ever seen one? These secretive, well camouflaged, medium-sized wading birds grace us with their presence here in Byron Shire between August and February, having flown all the way from their breeding grounds on the Japanese islands of Hokkaido and Honshu, or from far-eastern Russia's Sakhalin and Kuril islands.

Some Latham's snipe make their first landfall in Papua New Guinea, others in far northern Queensland, before dispersing further south along the east coast of Australia.

With few – if indeed any – sightings of these birds in locations between their departure and arrival points, they likely make this trip of 8,000km in five days.

Their body structure helps them achieve this incredible feat: their rather stocky appearance is owing to the highly developed pectoral muscles they use to fly, with some birds said to have been clocked at almost 100km per hour!

Latham's snipe (*Gallinago hardwickii*) belong to the large shorebird or wader family with the scientific name of *Scolopacidae*. Other family members include curlews and sandpipers.

All have narrow, sensitive beaks designed to pick out their primary prey – invertebrates such as beetles, snails, and worms – from their watery habitats. Being omnivorous, however, they'll also happily eat plant material. Mostly feeding in the evening, at night, or early in the morning, Latham's snipe rest during the day in thick vegetation near water bodies, their camouflage-style colouration safeguarding against predation.



Top: Latham's snipe on the wing. Above: Latham's snipe enjoying a moment wading in Byron Shire. Photos Geoff Ball

Beautiful body markings

From a keen birdwatcher's perspective, what more could a Latham's snipe offer? As first impressions might suggest, not much at all, just another dull brown jobbie.

A closer look reveals subtle, but really beautiful and most striking body markings from which, proportionally, a very long pointy bill protrudes between quite large, piercing eyes.

But when it comes to its jizz, or giss, which describes a bird's overall appearance based on shape, posture, flying style, and other habitual movements – that subtle identifier so popular in the birdo world, it's their characteristic upwards explosion from the ground into flight, followed by extraordinarily F1-like zero-to-one-hundred forwards acceleration.

Vulnerable and rapidly declining

The Australian government's Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water has listed the conservation status of Latham's snipe as vulnerable. Nationally, widespread drought, blazing fires, and development have all contributed to this.

While the snipe are here,

Byron Bird Buddies monitor their populations three times at Belongil Ponds, Byron Wetlands, and a private property in Ewingsdale for the National Latham's Snipe Project.

This year at the wetlands, snipe numbers are higher than ever. Surveyors were delighted to discover an increase to 22 individuals at the Byron Wetlands, a record for October, possibly owing to more suitable conditions in a number of the ponds.

Rapid decline due to habitat loss

Sadly though, here as elsewhere, their overall numbers are rapidly declining, owing largely to habitat loss.

The 2022 floods and our warmer winters have accelerated the spread of weeds, a situation that Council is doing its best to mitigate. Meanwhile, the ever-diminishing numbers and varieties of species – especially waterbirds and shorebirds – has bird lovers deeply concerned. Well rested and fattened from their summer here in Byron Shire, the birds are now preparing for their long-distance flight back to their breeding grounds. Let's hope that the motivation to conserve and protect our precious feathered friends wins out.

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**BALLINA
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Pro Adaptive Surf Championships return to Byron, March 23–30

Byron Bay will host the premier event on the Association of Adaptive Surfing Professionals (AASP) World Tour: the 2025 BrightSky Australian Pro Adaptive Surf Championships.

Elite adaptive surfers from across Australia, and around the world, are set to return to the bay from March 23 to 30, and showcase their skill and determination

In a media release, organisers say, 'The event is proud to welcome BrightSky as the naming rights partner and Forward Ability Support as the presenting partner, solidifying the organisation's commitment to enabling people to live well and achieve any goal they set for themselves.'

Event manager, and six-time world champion and adaptive surfing legend, Mark 'Mono' Stewart, said he is thrilled to see the event return to Byron Bay.



Chris Astill made his way through the heats, quarters and semis to compete in last year's final. Photo Tree Faerie

Mark said, 'The Australian Pro Adaptive Surfing Championships committee are stoked to partner with BrightSky and Forward Ability Support for 2025.'

Support welcome

'We welcome their support and commitment to ensuring the growth of this sport and couldn't think of better partners to support

the event and the competing athletes.'

The media release adds, 'Although the main draw card for the event is the inspirational adaptive surfers, the week will feature a mix of competition, clinics, cultural ceremonies, and community engagement, creating an unforgettable experience for athletes and spectators.'

Tennis league to strengthen junior pathways

Tennis in the Northern Rivers is set for an exciting transformation with the launch of the North-East Tennis League (NET League), a new inter-club competition designed to strengthen local tennis communities, foster affordable play, and create vital development pathways for junior players.

Backed by Tennis NSW, the NET League offers a structured and inclusive competition catering to social and elite club-level players, with a strong emphasis on junior development.

By providing a competitive, yet supportive environment, the league will encourage young players

to step up into higher-level matches, gaining experience against seasoned club players while refining their skills.

The league features two divisions – A grade for experienced competitors and B grade for developing players – allowing juniors to transition into mature competition at a pace that suits their ability. Weekly matches will be tracked through Tennis Australia's Universal Tennis Rating (UTR) system, enabling players to measure their progress and work towards higher levels of competition.

Beyond player development, NET League aims to strengthen local clubs by increasing participation,

fostering greater community engagement, and attracting regional sponsorships. Hosting clubs will provide after-match refreshments, encouraging a social and inclusive atmosphere.

With the inaugural season kicking off in March, NET League presents an exciting opportunity for players of all ages to elevate their game while contributing to a thriving tennis community.

Participating clubs are Suffolk Park, Mullumbimby, Alstonville, Brunswick, Bangalow, Ocean Shores, and Pottsville.

For more information, contact your local club or Jesse Taylor at netennisleague@gmail.com.

Local triathletes fire up for the Tweed Enduro

Ross Kendall

A contingent of the Byron Tri Club joined 600 other competitors in Pottsville last weekend for the 2025 Tweed Enduro.

In the main events, Jack Sosinski from the Gold Coast, claimed victory in the men's, while Emily Donker dominated the women's open Enduro, finishing more than ten minutes ahead of her closest competitor.

Byron Tri Club

Some of the results for the Byron Tri Club on the long course (1900m swim, 90km cycle and 21.1km run) included Kiva Gwynne coming third in his age group, while Larissa Whitton finished second in hers.



A few of the Byron Tri Club members. Photo supplied

In the Enduro sprinters (750m swim, 20km cycle and 5km run), Jett Beck came first in his age group and fifth overall. Filippo Orsini also won his age group, as did Caroline Hogan, Deb

Fuller and Coco Beck. Nick Engere and Bogi Varga came third in their age groups.

'This year's Tweed Enduro has been nothing short of spectacular,' race director Mike Crawley said.

Under 10s cricket gets underway

An eight-a-side competition is starting for under 10s in mid-February, with five teams from NSW far north towns such as Ballina, Lennox Head, Bangalow and Alstonville.

Monday evenings

Cricket NSW said in a media release, 'The competition will be held on Monday evenings at 5pm, played on synthetic pitches, with players bringing in their

own equipment or the club providing them.'

Jacob Graham, CNSW Cricket Manager, Far North Coast, said, 'The term one programs are designed to provide a great junior cricketing experience to children that are excited to play cricket after watching the Australian cricketers etching their amazing wins this summer and want to try the game.'

Graham added, 'The

short, sharp match formats are designed for our young players to start their cricketing journeys and be able to play and love cricket for life.'

Cricket NSW say the comps are for the children that missed the start of the season, 'or have been inspired after seeing their heroes on TV.'

All programs are still accepting registrations. For more information visit www.cricketnsw.com.au.

Concussion campaign aims to to keep kids safe

Sports Medicine Australia (SMA) has launched a nationwide campaign to help coaches, teachers and sport medicine professionals safely manage the 100,000 sport-related concussions in Australia each year.

Concussion is a serious condition that concerns parents and young athletes across Australia, says Sports Medicine Australia.

Posters are being mailed to schools and clubs from February 10, they say.

Four steps

SMA CEO Jamie Crain says. 'It has four easy-to-follow steps, with an emphasis on the health of the athlete and a return-to-play only after the recommended time: 1: Recognise that concussion

has occurred and remove the athlete from play; 2: Resume light activities on the advice of a healthcare practitioner; 3: Review by a healthcare practitioner after athlete is symptom-free for 14 days; and 4: Return to competition, but not before day-21 post-concussion, and the athlete must have remained symptom-free for at least 14 days.'



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www.mrmacintosh.com.au

Facebook: Mr Macintosh

Instagram: @mrmacbyronbay

or call Dave to organise a booking on 0418 408 869

MY GEEK MATE

Windows 10 support ends in October 2025. After this, your device will no longer receive security updates, making it vulnerable to threats. Upgrading to Windows 11 ensures continued security and access to the latest features.

Alternatively, you could switch to a Linux distribution, a free and open-source operating system that offers a secure and customisable environment with a wide range of software options.

While antivirus software will offer some protection for Windows 10, it's not a complete solution.

Newly-discovered vulnerabilities won't be patched, leaving your system increasingly exposed, even with antivirus. The more secure long-term approach is to upgrade to Windows 11 (or switch to a supported OS like Linux).

More details here www.mygeekmate.com.au

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LOX AND CHAIN

In 2020, partners and designers Zak and Frei turned a \$2,000 idea into Lox and Chain - now a global jewellery brand with a cult following.

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With a shared passion for craftsmanship and design, Zak and Frei built Lox and Chain from the ground up, shaping every collection with their vision. Today, they design each piece in-house, out of Byron's industrial area - blending sentiment, artistry, and bold aesthetics. Their signature? Solid 925 sterling silver jewellery, redefining modern style.

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RAINBOW REGION KIDS

Rainbow Region Kids (RRK) is a community-based, outside-school-hours care program of Northern Rivers Community Gateway.

Their program has 15 sites across the Northern Rivers. They offer before and after school care and a vacation club for kids aged 5 to 12 years.

RRK is a not-for-profit organisation, externally accredited through ACECQA.

What makes them different? Fun, safety and learning. They provide a safe space, with qualified and skilled staff, for all children and families. They offer fun and affordable vacation club excursions and incursions. They support local businesses, and are approved for child care subsidy (CCS).

Enquiries Mon-Fri from 9am to 3pm.

Phone 0429 640 075 or email

rrkassist@nrcg.org.au. RRK offers

flexible enrolment options. Enrol

anytime. Their next vacation care

program begins April 14th.

nrcg.org.au/rrk



Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BANGALOW



Bangalow Tuckshop

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

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.

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Rosefina's Mexican

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www.rosefinas.place

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

BYRON BAY



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The Good Life



The Harvest Festival is back, in a new month-long format

Lovers of our extraordinary local array of fresh produce, bush foods, cheese, meats, nuts, beers, spirits and more, are in for an exceptional treat in May, with the return of the Northern Rivers Food Harvest Festival.

'Sporting a bright, new month-long format, the Festival will run across four weekends in May, shining a spotlight each weekend on a different sub-region, its food specialties and local farmers and producers,' organisers say.

First region to shine on May 3-4 is Ballina-Byron; then Lismore-Kyogle-Richmond Valley on May 10-11, the Tweed on May 17-18, and the Clarence on May 24-25.

Each weekend is being specially curated in conjunction with local farmers and producers, and will feature a two-day Harvest Trail, an all-weather local producers' hub, and a long-table lunch or dinner set in an idyllic location.

TV presenter, Paul West, of *River Cottage* fame, is one of a number of visiting and local food-based celebrities who'll be appearing and hosting workshops around topics such as getting more out of your home veggie patch, growing with the seasons, and preserving your home harvest.

For more information and tickets, visit harvestfestival.org.au (website launching soon). Expressions of interest to participate in the 2025 Harvest Festival are welcome from all Northern Rivers food and beverage producers.

Masterclasses for local food businesses

Through Northern Rivers Food's collaboration with the Australian Food and Beverage Accelerator (FaBA), local food



Above: Waliz Nuts at Zentveld's Coffee.
Photo Nelly Le Comte



Left: Brookfarm farm tour.
Photo Tashi & Co

and beverage producers are being treated to an array of masterclasses designed to help them run their business better.

First up is an Advanced Food Product Development Masterclass, presented by UQSkills, the training arm of University of Queensland: to be held at Lennox Head Cultural and Community Centre on Monday, February 24, this full-day masterclass will cover everything from initial scoping, to market research, testing, labelling and launching. All Northern Rivers food and beverage producers are invited to attend.

Through FaBA, Northern Rivers Food is rolling out a series of masterclasses across 2025 on a range of vital topics including packaging, reducing costs, AI in food manufacturing, introduction to the new world of ESG, and being audit

ready. If you're interested in attending, please contact Northern Rivers Food for more information.

April local food producer dinner

In the pipeline for early April is a special, ticketed dinner to be held at one of Byron Bay's most iconic beachside restaurants. Featuring a special menu with a spotlight on our local food and beverage producers, diners will also be treated to two of Australia's culinary icons in conversation. A fundraiser for Northern Rivers Food, ticket purchases will help provide a series of support services, including training and mentoring, to help our local producers grow. Stay tuned for more details.

For enquiries please email info@northernriversfood.org.

Valentine's Day fresh from the heart at the farmers' markets

Food is the language of love, and this Valentine's Day, whisper sweet nothings with a delicious experience at the local farmers' market. Whether you envision a vibrant morning out, bustling with energy and enticing aromas, or a quiet, romantic dinner at home filled with warmth and laughter, the Mullumbimby and New Brighton farmers' markets offer everything you need for a memorable celebration.

Bring your loved one and wander through a world of culinary delights. Explore stalls overflowing with fresh produce, discover unique artisan products, and choose from over eight breakfast options showcasing global cuisine made with local ingredients. Imagine sharing a delectable meal under the market fig trees, the air filled with gentle live music – a truly enchanting setting. Savour the vibrant atmosphere, the friendly chatter, and the delicious smells, creating a shared experience that will linger.

For a more intimate celebration, gather inspiration and ingredients at the market and create a special meal. Figs and raspberries, known for their romantic symbolism, and in season now, are perfect for a Valentine's treat. The farmers' market crew recommend this recipe from Belinda Jeffery.



Figs with raspberries and mascarpone.
Photo belindajeffery.com.au

Method: Gently combine figs and raspberries. Whisk egg yolks and sugar, then whisk in Marsala. Cook over simmering water (bowl must not touch water) until thick and doubled in volume. Remove from heat and whisk until cool and thick. Gently fold in mascarpone. Spoon zabaglione over fruit. Serve immediately.

Beyond the food, the market offers romantic touches. Surprise your loved one with locally-grown flowers.

Set the mood with handmade beeswax candles. And for relaxation, explore Dr. Chill's soothing oils. The farmers' market is your one-stop shop for a memorable Valentine's Day. Whether you choose a market breakfast, a quiet dinner, or a combination, we have everything you need.

Recipe: Figs and raspberries

This elegant dessert, combining figs, raspberries, mascarpone, and zabaglione, is sure to impress. Here's a simplified version of Belinda Jeffery's recipe.

Source: www.belindajeffery.com.au/recipe/figs-with-raspberries-mascarpone-zabaglione

Ingredients: Figs, raspberries, mascarpone, egg yolks, sugar, Marsala (or sweet wine).

■ Mullum Farmers Market, Friday 7am-11am. mullumfarmersmarket.org.au

■ New Brighton Farmers Market, Tuesday 8am-11am. newbrightonfarmersmarket.org.au

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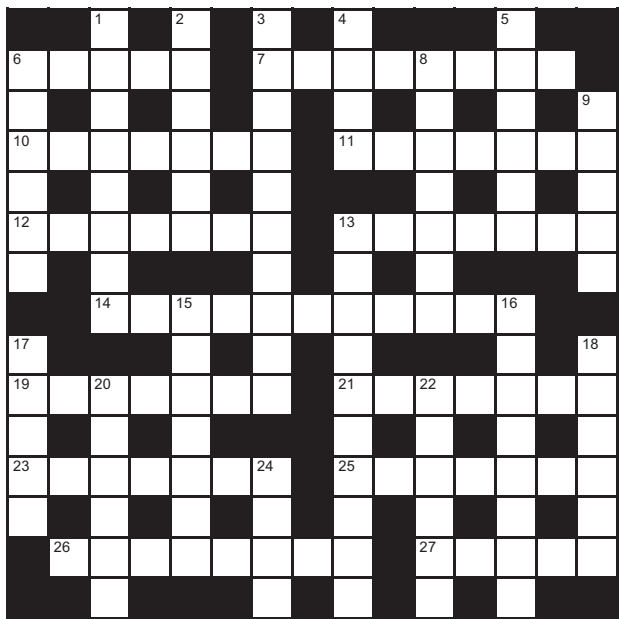
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Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- 6. Spanish wine and orange juice served in a backward manner (5)
- 7. Surgeon needed for public speaker getting over exercise (8)
- 10. Grifter at hearing spotted speedster (7)
- 11. Flyer has circuit to conquer before finally resting (7)
- 12. Decent avocados can be snaffled with this money (7)
- 13. Severe fight turned short rural politician (7)
- 14. Wind threatens devastation over Oregon (11)
- 19. Mike eschews condiment, hands over to Charlie for dessert (7)
- 21. Thrash lightweight after tenth round starts (7)
- 23. Cries of disapproval heard to increase at drinking session (5-2)
- 25. Anger about mistreated pet crocodile? (7)
- 26. Plane is not damaged by Chuck (8)
- 27. Smouldering remnant, part of which monsieur's thrown away (5)

DOWN

- 1. Take aim at Ohio men, rioting at night (4,2,2)
- 2. Seductive woman Papa's excised from sacred chant (6)
- 3. Fictional bear, repeatedly having erectile dysfunction, is ridiculed (4-6)
- 4. Actual area legally enclosed (4)
- 5. Eastern European money supporting island territory (6)
- 6. Baroque style starts to reinvigorate old companies (6)
- 8. Misuse of sap to stop - it's been spread all over the road! (7)
- 9. Getting on with gang I assembled (5)
- 13. A little bit of grass covers stuff (10)
- 15. Ruler admits a reactionary! (7)
- 16. Money of miner in Burma's beginning to be distributed (8)
- 17. Southern Cross University degree that can be used on marine expeditions (5)
- 18. Referee never got over reflecting on appearance (6)
- 20. Digger on push to port (6)
- 22. Very big victim of raptor (6)
- 24. Content of Pope's 'Ode to Money' (4)

Quick Clues

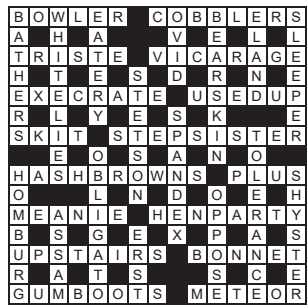
ACROSS

- 6. Spanish wine region (5)
- 7. Phone service employee (8)
- 10. Fastest land animal (7)
- 11. Crested wading bird (7)
- 12. Coin fraction in some countries (7)
- 13. Austere and disciplined (7)
- 14. Wind or storm from a particular direction (11)
- 19. Egg-based dessert (7)
- 21. Defeat soundly (7)
- 23. Drinking session (5-2)
- 25. Cold-blooded, scaly creature (7)
- 26. Discard or throw overboard (8)
- 27. Glowing coal in a dying fire (5)

DOWN

- 1. Zero in on a target (4,2,2)
- 2. Repeated phrase or slogan (6)
- 3. Dismissed with contempt (4-6)
- 4. Authentic or genuine (4)
- 5. Hungarian currency (6)
- 6. Ornate 18th-century art style (6)
- 8. Road surface material (7)
- 9. Growing older (5)
- 13. Superficial knowledge (10)
- 15. Chemical testing substance (7)
- 16. Chinese currency (8)
- 17. Underwater breathing apparatus (5)
- 18. Thin decorative covering (6)
- 20. Digging tool (6)
- 22. Fish-eating bird of prey (6)
- 24. Currency in various countries (4)

Last week's solution #41



Maths, Daylight Savings and Me

Mandy Nolan

Last Saturday I almost missed my flight. I had booked an early Gold Coast to Melbourne to see my kids for the weekend, for my daughter's birthday. I had booked a 6am from GC. So we know here in NSW that it's 7am our time. So I had to leave at 5am NSW to be there at 5am Qld. Approximately. It gives me about 15 minutes to find a park and get a coffee.

The numbers are always confusing, and sometimes in this weird twilight zone that exists between our states I started to misremember. In my mind I started to think I had a 7am flight, which meant I had to leave at 6am to be there by 6. So I set the alarm for 5, and woke up knowing I had a leisurely hour to pack, have a shower and wash my hair.

At about 5.25am standing in my undies as I blow-dried my hair, I had that unsettled feeling that I should check my flight times. I thought, 'No, you're being paranoid.' But the nagging feeling got bigger so I stopped mid-blow and opened my emails. My flight was at 6am. Not 7am. Shit. I have to leave now. I am not even wearing pants.

I pack in 2 minutes, making an executive decision to only take black clothes. My heart is racing. I've gone into flight mode, literally. But I make it. Just. My hair is frizzy, I'm make-up-free and bra-free. I realise I haven't packed a bra. But who cares. Maybe my boobs need a weekend off too.

Every year I do this at least once. It shouldn't be hard, but the 'add an hour subtract an hour' really messes with you. It's like some sort of cognitive hypnotism. And I work over the border a lot - so I do the 'add an hour subtract an hour' at least three times a week. Fortunately I have given up drinking. It's definitely not something you should attempt after a few wines.

I cannot imagine what it's like living on the border and sending your kids to school in Queensland. Or running a business. That magical hour keeps being squeezed back and forth between your fingertips. It's here, and now it's gone. Appointments missed, lunch dates stood



Picture created using ai by thinkblinkdesign



Joh Bjelke-Petersen thought it would fade the curtains. And confuse the cows.

up, kids left at bus stops. How do they do it? How do they manage to get anywhere on time? The anxiety must be crippling. And smart phones don't help. They get location anxiety and start slipping in and out of time zones without telling you. You can be in NSW but your phone decides to make the executive decision and switch to think you have another hour.

You need a clock. An old-fashioned, solid, reliable clock. One that just sticks by you on the time you set it in

1971. That was when daylight savings came in. Queensland wasn't into it. Joh Bjelke-Petersen thought it would fade the curtains. And confuse the cows. They even had a referendum, and like with the Voice, the Sunshine State said 'No'. They've never been big on change I guess. So Queensland is just a little behind.

Disclosure. I was born and raised in Queensland. So I feel I have a license to have a little dig at our neighbours. One of my favourite jokes runs something like this... I've reached this age where I don't always look when I'm reversing. It doesn't change the outcome. I just use my intuition. I can generally feel if something is behind me. And if I'm right I hear this noise, not beeping, more crunching. Generally if you hit someone around here it's a Queenslander. I drive off. They're an hour behind, so technically it hasn't happened yet.

Or has it?

■ 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

It's always worth celebrating big red heart day, but rather than buying the same old stuff, why not hand make something or create a memorable occasion? With some love language from fellow star signs to inspire you, happy Valentine ...



AQUARIUS THE WATER POURER

ARIES: *We have not long to love. Light does not stay. In silence I have watched you comb your hair. I could but did not, reach to touch your arm. So moments pass as though they wished to stay. We have not long to love. A night. A day.*
Tennessee Williams, Aries playwright

TAURUS: *Life has always appeared to me too short to be spent in nursing animosity or registering wrongs. There is no happiness like that of being loved by your fellow creatures, and feeling that your presence is an addition to their comfort.*
Charlotte Bronte, Tauran writer

GEMINI: *God help us to live slowly, to move simply, to look softly, to allow emptiness, to let the heart create for us. Love one another and you will be happy. It's as simple and as difficult as that.*
Michael Leunig, Gemini cartoonist and social commentator

CANCER: *May you live as long as you wish and love as long as you live. There must always be time enough for love. To enjoy the flavour of life, take big bites. Anything worth doing is worth overdoing. Moderation is for monks.*
Robert A. Heinlein, Cancerian author

LEO: *The time to be happy is now. The place to be happy is here. The way to be happy is to make others so. Happiness is not a reward, it is a consequence... of generous deeds, loving words, art and song, the divine climate of kindness.*
Robert Ingersoll, Leo freethinker

VIRGO: *When I am among the trees... they give off such hints of gladness. I would almost say that they save me, and daily. 'It's simple,' they say, 'and you too have come into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled with light, and to shine.'*
Mary Oliver, Virgo poet

LIBRA: *When we love, we open to all that life has to offer. We need to learn to love ourselves first, in all our glory and our imperfections. If we cannot love ourselves, we cannot fully open to our ability to love others or our potential to create.*
John Lennon, Libran musician

SCORPIO: *Be aware of this truth: that the people on this earth could be joyous, if only they would live rationally, and if they would contribute mutually to each others' welfare. There is love enough in this world for everybody, if people will just look.*
Kurt Vonnegut, Scorpio author

SAGITTARIUS: *I've found that the great moments often don't have too much to them. They're not huge, complicated events; they're just magical wee moments when somebody says 'I love you' or 'You're really good at what you do' or simply 'You're a good person.'*
Billy Connolly, Sagittarian comedian

CAPRICORN: *When the weight deadens on your shoulders and you stumble, may the clay dance to balance you. May a flock of colours, indigo, red, green, and azure blue, come to awaken in you a meadow of delight. May the protection of the ancestors be yours.*
John O'Donohue, Capricorn poet

AQUARIUS: *The time will come when you will love again the stranger who was your self. Give back your heart to itself, to the stranger who has loved you all your life, who knows you by heart. Sit. Give wine. Give bread. Feast on your life.*
Derek Walcott, Aquarian poet

PISCES: *These days we believe we are in touch with a greater amount of people, a concept which brings a greater poverty in intimacy and human vision - an illusion which might cheat us of being in touch deeply with the one breathing next to us.*
Anais Nin, Pisces novelist

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seven
 seven days of entertainment

Eclectic Selection

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



✿ With a reputation for their electrifying energy, **Mama Kin Spender** will transform the Brunswick Picture House into an unforgettable night of deep dive songs and stories, bringing all the ingredients for the magic that happens when we tune in and get 'up close'.

Thursday 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House, Brunswick Heads. Tickets from \$31 from brunswickpicturehouse.com.



✿ Inspired by Australian landscapes and dedicated to living and learning from our natural world, **Véronique Serret's Migrating Bird** bridges the gap between contemporary and classical.

Gypsy spirit Véronique Serret is renowned as one of Australia's most celebrated violinists. Véronique will be joined by percussionist **Richard Daniell**, **Sam Pankhurst** on double bass, and special guest **William Barton** on didgeridoo and vocals.

Friday 7.30 at The Citadel, Murwillumbah. Tickets \$30 from Humantix.com or \$35 at the door.



✿ **Dean Doyle with Sophistication** is a four-piece band specialising in lounge music from the 1930s to 1970s – Sinatra, Dean Martin, Elvis, Tom Jones, Engelbert Humperdinck, etc. The shows are themed and a lot of fun.

Dean Doyle with Sophistication travel to Ballina for the second Friday of every second month for Morning Melodies shows at the Ballina RSL Club.

Friday 10am at Ballina RSL, Level One. Tickets \$17.50 from ballinarsl.com.au.

Olivia. A night to remember, filled with classic hits, stunning vocals, vibrant costumes and a few surprises along the way. Don't miss your chance to experience the magic of Olivia Newton-John's music with this incredible tribute show.

Saturday 8pm at the Lismore Workers Club. Tickets \$27.50 from lismoreworkers.com.au.



✿ Hailing from the vibrant music scenes of Europe and the UK, and with a career spanning over two decades, **Loonaloop** have captivated diverse audiences worldwide with their refreshingly unique, genre-defying sound.

Whether you've experienced the magic of their live shows firsthand, or are just now discovering them, Loonaloop is sure to leave a lasting imprint on the senses, and sweat on the dance floor.

Sunday 4pm at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay. Free show.

Into this crazy world of increasing distraction walks **Tim Stokes**, a big-hearted man with a pocket full of songs, reminding us of who we are and what really matters. A combination of the swoon of Elvis and the party-starter vibe of Paul Kelly, Tim Stokes is an artist who's able to open your heart, expand your mind and get your body grooving with songs that branch the bridges between ages, generations and walks of life.



Wednesday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show.



✿ Country music singer **Anita Spring** brings the iconic hits of Olivia Newton-John to life in a world-class show *Forever*

Sky High Presents
RIDDIM TIME
 SUN 23.02.25
 5PM-MIDNIGHT
 FREE ENTRY

Errol Renaud

 Reggae. Soca. Dancehall

DJ Sunny Side Up
 Dance Hall. Reggae


Marta Kalani
 Soul

DJ Kurt Murray
 Afro house. Dub.

BEACH HOTEL BYRON BAY
 1 Bay St Byron Bay




pond
 Regional Tour '25



SATURDAY,	FEBRUARY	22
BEACH		HOTEL
CAWANBAH	/	BYRON BAY
NEW SOUTH WALES,		AU

TICKETS AT POND.BAND
 PRESENTED BY SPINNING TOP + VILLAGE SOUNDS



LISMORE THEATRE COMPANY

Embodied Theatre



LTC is proud to announce the development of an innovative Embodied Theatre project that merges text, movement and storytelling in ways that captivate and inspire.

Tuesdays 6-9pm and/or
 3rd Sunday of the month 10am-4pm
 At Rochedale Theatre, 603 Ballina Rd, Goonellabah
 Starts 16th and 18th February

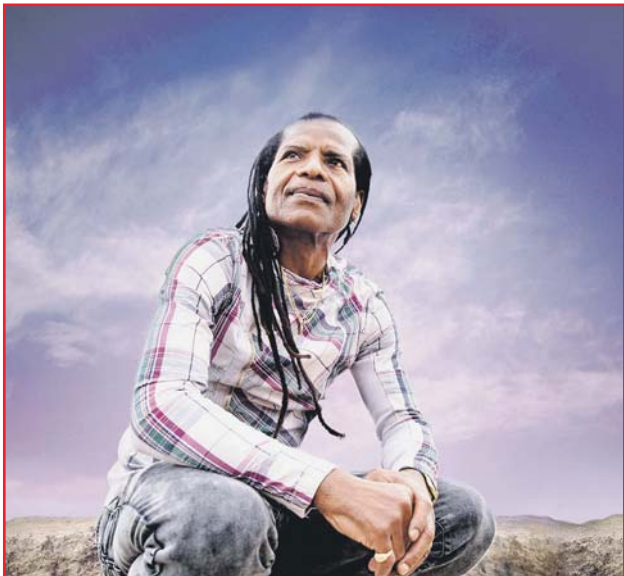
Cost: \$75 per semester (3 months)
 \$50 (LTC members)

Deborah Mills
 MA Hons in Contemporary Arts (Dance/Theatre)
 U.W.S.

Bookings via:
events.humantix.com/embodied-theatre
 Enquiries: 0406 399 842 or
admin@lismoretheatrecompany.org.au
www.lismoretheatrecompany.org.au

seven



Everyone getting sky high 'cause it's Riddim Time

Sky High presents 'Riddim Time' for all things reggae, soca, dancehall and soul, live at the **Beach Hotel**, Byron Bay, and it's a free entry gig.

This show features **Errol Renaud 'C Soul'** – Errol is from Trinidad and Tobago and is a pioneer of Caribbean music in Sydney, Australia, and the Asia Pacific regions. Along with his band **Caribbean Soul**, he performs his own brand of reggae, soca, Caribbean music and world beat; **DJ Sunny Side Up** is a local heavyweight bringing you all things dancehall, reggae and hip hop; and **Marta Kalani** is an international singer-songwriter born and raised in Spain, now based in Australia.

Each project reflects a tapestry of musical influences rooted in neo soul and R&B, blending Latin heritage, cultural flavours, and life experiences into original music.

Be part of this great show on Sunday, February 23 from 5pm to midnight at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay.

BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE
BAYFM AND BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE PRESENTS

FACE THE MUSIC

LIVE MUSIC GAME SHOW

A KICK-ASS TRIVIA NIGHT!

LIVE HOUSE BAND * PRIZE GIVEAWAYS & A WHOLE LOT OF RIDICULOUSNESS

THU 20 MAR @ 7PM

brunswickpicturehouse.com

The holidays are over but the summer fun kicks on

This week, the **Brunswick Picture House** has rolled out the red carpet for the 'Queen of Ireland' herself, **Panti Bliss**, as she hits Bruns with her record-breaking, smash hit comedy *If These Wigs Could Talk*.

Expect salacious stories, impassioned polemics and some seriously funny soul searching in this big, beautiful and brilliant show! One final show – **Wednesday, February 12.**

On **Thursday**, a duo who really needs no introduction to Shire audiences – with a reputation for their electrifying energy, **Mama Kin Spender** will be here to enchant us all with an unforgettable night of deep dive songs and stories in the intimate up close show.

Finally, your **Valentine's Day** is sorted... step up to worship at the **Church of the Clitori** and get your punk on with **Mutton** in a smart, sassy, **funny-as-f*ck women-over-50 event** bringing you a double bill of musical cabaret, steeped in 100+ years of combined theatre and circus power. You'll be in safe, yet smutty hands on **Friday and Saturday** – and all that's just in one week.

Looking ahead, tickets are already on sale for some amazing shows in little ol' Brunswick Heads: superstar **Sarah Blasko** has just added a second show on **Saturday, February 22 at 4pm**, after selling out the evening session; and after selling out their last show, **Steve Banks** returns with the fabulous **Sidemen**, including old mate **Rick Fenn**, on **Friday, February 28**; the bodacious and bubbly **Odette** will bring her ethereal killer show to the Picture House on **Saturday, March 1**; and Irish torch song chanteuse **Camille O'Sullivan** will heat up the Bruns stage with *Loveletter* – two shows on **Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9** – and that's just a small sample from the upcoming program.

Be sure to arrive early and grab a bite and drink in the garden cocktail bar, shaking up cocktails aplenty and serving wine, beer and bubbles for your enjoyment – open one hour before all shows.

Tickets at brunswickpicturehouse.com

BYRON THEATRE

FRAGMENTS OF A HALF LIFE
A JOHNNY ABEGBG FILM

THURS FEB 20TH
BYRON THEATRE
CAVANBAH | BYRON BAY
TICKETS \$25 | 7PM

IN CONVERSATION WITH LAUREN L. HILL | WATERPEOPLE PODCAST

LET GRIEF HAVE ITS WAY WITH YOU



Go to the Pond to get Stung!

Following a run of sold-out shows in major cities across Australia in 2024, **Pond** are bringing their *Stung!* album tour to the **Beach Hotel**, Byron Bay on **Saturday, February 22.**

Last June Pond shared *Stung!*, their tenth album, to critical acclaim across the globe; with *Uncut*, *Mojo*, *Rolling Stone Australia*, *DIY*, *Dork*, and *Clash* all publishing 4-star reviews on the LP – UPROXX wrote: 'Rimming with fuzzed-out guitar tones, bombastic drumming, and alluring sonic trickery.'

The last four Pond albums have been showcases of tidiness and brevity, ten ideas always tucked into 40 minutes or so. But on *Stung!*, they gleefully, madly, and willfully lean into double-LP largesse, tapping the spirit of *Tusk* and *Sign 'O' the Times* by funneling 14 songs into the most unfettered and splendid hour of their recording career. A band for the better part of two decades, Pond has accepted (with no small joy or relief) that they are no longer beholden to shifting expectations of cool. That idea has empowered them, allowing them to play precisely what they want, to not move toward any goal but being themselves.

On *Stung!* you'll find some of Pond's most glorious rock songs ever and also some of their least rock moments – Pond's **Nick Allbrook** speaks to our collective modern paradox of being disappointed in, or even disconsolate over, a world that we know more about than any prior generation, but also being in awe of it and (sometimes) each other, too!

There are so many reasons to cry and so many reasons to marvel. Can't they all, Pond suggest with *Stung!*, be reasons to sing?

Tickets are on sale now via Moshtix. Don't miss your chance to catch Pond at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay. **Saturday, February 22** – supported by Full Flower Moon Band and Yellow The Sun from 8pm.

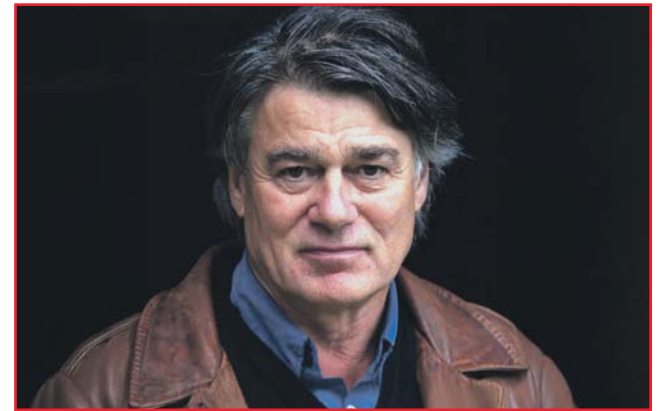
BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

★★★★★
WHAT'S ON ADELAIDE
★★★★★
HI FI WAY

THE CHURCH OF THE CLITORI & MUTTON

7PM | 14 & 15 FEBRUARY

BRUNSWICKPICTUREHOUSE.COM | 30 FINGAL STREET



Celebrating 28 years – Flickerfest

The famous **Flickerfest** returns to Mullumbimby, and Flickerfest and IQ inc are thrilled to be back for their 28th year in the Northern Rivers, kicking off their three-day festival of short films at the **Mullumbimby Civic Hall from Thursday, February 27 to Saturday, March 1.**

This year's smorgasbord of over 40 incredible short films are handpicked from a record 3,500 entries received for Flickerfest's Academy Award and BAFTA-qualifying short film festival, screened recently in Bondi, including much-loved favourites, festival award-winners and Oscar-nominees that will inspire local audiences with the best Australian and international short films the world has to offer, screening alongside exciting, fresh local talent.

On Thursday, February 27, doors open at 7pm – raise a glass to 28 years of Flickerfest in the Northern Rivers at the festival's opening night party,

with delicious craft beer, organic wine, organic juices, sumptuous snacks and entertainment included. Then at 8pm take a trip around the world with the **Best Of International Shorts** program.

The Friday program starts at 8pm and shines a spotlight on the incredible short film talent that exists in our emerging Australian industry with a host of Australian stories honouring our unique identity and culture with **Best Of Australian Shorts.**

One of the highly anticipated highlights will be on **Saturday, March 1 at 4pm** – Flickerfest and IQ will celebrate a host of local talent at the 20th year of **Byron All Shorts**, an incredible Northern Rivers short film showcase of the talent of our region's creators. This year a bumper crop of entries has been received and the finalists will be announced in the coming week.

Later that evening, at 8pm, clever comedy also brings joy to the big screen with the **Short Laughs Comedy** program.

Celebrating 28 years as national Flickerfest festival director in 2025, and 34 years of Flickerfest, **Bronwyn Kidd** says she is always excited to bring Flickerfest home to Mullumbimby and the Northern Rivers where she lives. 'The films we are presenting are clever, soulful, insightful, moving and funny and I think they will really resonate with our local audiences. Our Mullumbimby Flickerfest and Byron All Shorts weekend is for people of all ages who love cinema and great stories and want to celebrate the best of short cinema with other local cinema lovers, in a fun and welcoming festival environment.'

For the full Flickerfest Mullumbimby and Byron All Shorts program and tickets go to: www.iq.org.au.

A human with a purpose

Humans of Purpose is honoured to host **David Whyte**, internationally-renowned poet, philosopher and speaker in Byron Bay this weekend.

David Whyte's talks weave poetry, story and commentary into a moving, almost physical experience of the themes that run through every human life, bringing the understanding of the poetic tradition to bear on the many great cyclical questions of existence.

In these immersive experiences, through David's inimitable gifts of poetry, philosophy and storytelling, you will be invited through a doorway that attempts to give voice to the wellsprings of your human identity, striving, and the possibility of a good, true life.

At a time of year when we wonder what lies beyond the horizon for us personally and at a moment in history when we're collectively wondering the same for society, it's timely to be welcoming David Whyte back to Australian shores for a series of deeply immersive experiences to nourish our imaginations, hearts and minds.

Two shows, both at 10am, one on Saturday and one of Sunday, at the Byron Theatre. Tickets from byroncentre.com.au.

Academy Award® and BAFTA qualifying

STRICTLY GREAT
SHORT FILMS

Flickerfest

34th International Short Film Festival

THUR 27 FEB – SAT 1 MAR | MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL

Celebrate the most innovative, provocative and wildly entertaining short films the world has to offer at Australia's leading short film Festival.

Info & tickets: iq.org.au

flickerfest.com.au | O® flickerfest | #flickerfest2025
!!! di, II WAVERLEY COUNCIL

The Bangalow Film Festival is back

The **Bangalow Film Festival (BFF)** is back in **March** with a star-studded fifth season – the festival will open on **Thursday, March 6** – bringing a touch of Italy to Bangalow, the Australian premiere of *Milano: The Inside Story of Italian Fashion* will open the festival with a night of glitz and glamour. Bring your best fashionista look for this gala event – arrive in style and raise a glass of prosecco before the screening with friends and enjoy a dazzling start to the festival.

Milano is set against the stunning backdrop of Italy's fashion capital, and chronicles the emergence of Italian fashion and its rise as a global phenomenon. A captivating documentary tribute helmed by award-winning filmmaker John Maggio, the film features a renowned cast of icons including **Helen Mirren, Sharon Stone, Samuel L. Jackson, Frances McDormand, Tom Ford, Gianni Versace, Giorgio Armani** and **Dolce & Gabbana**.

BFF 2025 has a star-studded program of special guests, exclusive films, premieres, events and masterclasses.



With an incredible selection of 24 critically-acclaimed international and Australian films to experience along with several short films, find your seats and settle in for the 2025 program reveal.

Special guests at this edition of the festival include extraordinary directors **Rolf de Heer, Warwick Thornton, Mark Leonard Winter, Molly Reynolds, Mara Jean Quinn, Eliza Cox** and **Nays Baghai** along with beloved actors **Gary Sweet, Aaron Pedersen** and **Damon Gameau**.

The 2025 program will feature over 20 exclusive premieres of international and Australian critically-acclaimed feature



films and award-winning documentaries, plus various special screenings and Q&A sessions, live performances, and a two-day program of industry panels presented in partnership with the Byron Writers Festival and Screenworks.

Everyone is invited to the Film Festival Lobby Bar, with Common People Brewing Co, Ink Gin, and Husk Rum providing refreshments plus all your favorite movie snacks and more.

Tickets and information at bangalowfilmfestival.com.au.

Theatre-making with movement

Highly qualified and internationally experienced choreographer, director and teacher, **Deborah Mills** (MAHons in Dance-Theatre, UWS) is teaming up with Lismore Theatre Company (LTC) to offer an exciting and innovative project. Mills is calling all interested creative people and performers wanting to learn new skills and have the opportunity to perform on stage, to join her.

This is the first time LTC (a local, not-for-profit, community theatre) is investing in the creation and development of an original theatre work from the ground up: from script-writing to stage.

This ground-breaking project consists of 12 months of workshops culminating in an original production in February 2026 at Rochdale Theatre.

Sharon Brodie, President of LTC, says, 'This adventure into the realm of dance-theatre is new and risk-taking for us, movement is the primary focus.'

Mills calls this process 'embodied theatre'. Her particular interest is the creation of moving metaphors and in teaching skills to convert pedestrian movement into abstract movement. This process will be an essential part of her new embodied theatre workshops.

When asked to explain her term she says her process places the human body at the heart of the narrative,



'I train the performers to use their bodies, to express their emotions, so the spoken text is fully embodied. My hope is that participants will take to the stage this time next year.'

Adults of all levels of experience with an interest in improvisation, movement exploration, experimentation with props, script development and performance, are most welcome to join the workshops and share in the fun of theatre-making.

Workshops will be held at Rochdale Theatre, Goonellabah on Tuesdays from 6pm to 9pm (starting February 18) and every third Sunday of the month from 10am to 4pm (starting February 16).

Cost: \$75 per semester (\$50 for LTC members). To book a place or find out more, contact admin@lismoretheatrecompany.org.au or call 0406 399 842.

**BFF
2025**

**Bangalow
Film
Festival**

MARCH 6-16TH

**WORLD
CLASS
FILMS
SMALL
TOWN
CHARM**

BFF

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
bangalowfilmfestival.com.au



GIG GUIDE

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



Let grief have its way

Fragments of a Half Life is a poignant film exploration of memory, loss, and the intricate relationship between father and son, screening at the **Byron Theatre on Thursday, February 20.**

This introspective piece from Byron Bay filmmaker **Johnny Abegg**, is a fragmented journey delving into the profound loss Johnny experiences after the death of his father, as he dives deep into the emotions of grief.

Winning Best Local Film at the recent Byron Bay International Film Festival, with an honourable mention for its cinematography, *Fragments of a Half Life* is an independent and self-funded project, directed, produced, filmed and edited by Abegg. 'Making this film was one of the hardest creative journeys I've ever taken, reliving the grief over and over again during the creative process was pretty crazy, yet, through the repetition, there was a healing in that journey,' says Abegg.

The film uses the ocean as an abstract metaphor for grief, and rather than drowning in it, Abegg finds the more he allows his father's passing to flow through him, the closer he comes to living a more meaningful life. 'In being vulnerable and open about my own grief, and the relationship I had with my Dad, I'm hoping others see themselves in the film,' he says.

Alongside his mother's recounting of the life his father never shared, Johnny explores the father and son dynamic, and the silent struggles that define all our relationships.

The screening includes a Q&A with Lauren L. Hill.

Fragments of a Half Life is a film that does not offer easy answers or clear resolutions; instead, it seeks to capture the complexity of human emotion, and show that sometimes the very people we love are the ones we struggle most to understand.

***Fragments of a Half Life* screens Thursday, February 20 at the Byron Theatre. Doors open at 7pm, film starts at 7:30pm. Tickets: \$25, kids/cons \$20. Tickets: byroncentre.com.au.**

WEDNESDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TIM STOKES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **HENRY WEST**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 5PM **INO PIO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KANE MUIR**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **PANTI BLISS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 5PM **IRISH FOLK JAM**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **DEVU**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE CHURCH OF THE CLITORI & MUTTON**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM **DJ PAPA BITCHO**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **MATT BUGGY**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10AM **MORNING MELODIES WITH DEAN DOYLE**, BOARDWALK 6PM **LUKE YEAMAN**, LEVEL ONE 8.30PM **THE FERAMONES**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM **RESONANT HAND + IT'S MULTIMEDIA**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **VÉRONIQUE SERRET**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **MR TROY**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **GARY PUCKETT & THE UNION GAP**

THURSDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MATT DAY DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **EGOISM + KOADY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**, 8PM **THUNDER FOX**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **BRIAN WATT**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **MAMA KIN SPENDER**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEE WITH JESS**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BULLETPROOF**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **CHRIS SHEEHY**, 8PM **HOLY HOLY + CLEWS**
- BYRON THEATRE 10AM **DAVID WHYTE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **MATT DAY DUO**, 4PM **INO PIO + JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**, 8PM **HARDBEAT BYRON CHAPTER VI**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **THE HILLBILLY SKANK**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **SKY EATER & 420 SOUND**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE CHURCH OF THE CLITORI & MUTTON**

FRIDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HARRY NICHOLS BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM + ED SOLO, YUSSI + THE 420 SOUND, DAVE QUENDO & SOPHDEXX**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM **THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **BARRY MCLAY + POLLY & CO**, 8.30PM **GUY MANTZUR, KAMILO SANCLEMENTE + EICHENBAUM**
- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HARRY NICHOLS BAND**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **MATT DAY DUO**, 4PM **INO PIO + JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**, 8PM **HARDBEAT BYRON CHAPTER VI**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **THE HILLBILLY SKANK**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **SKY EATER & 420 SOUND**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE CHURCH OF THE CLITORI & MUTTON**

SATURDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BULLETPROOF**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **CHRIS SHEEHY**, 8PM **HOLY HOLY + CLEWS**
- BYRON THEATRE 10AM **DAVID WHYTE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **MATT DAY DUO**, 4PM **INO PIO + JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**, 8PM **HARDBEAT BYRON CHAPTER VI**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **THE HILLBILLY SKANK**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **SKY EATER & 420 SOUND**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE CHURCH OF THE CLITORI & MUTTON**

- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ JASON DIGBY**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **HARRY NICHOLS BAND**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **OOZ**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **OUTBACK ROAD**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 9PM **DJ DONNY**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB 8PM **FOREVER OLIVIA**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **LUKE PAULEY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **GARY PUCKETT & THE UNION GAP**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ LAINIE GODIVA**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT. HOW DARE YOU**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA, 3PM **ADAM GARDINER**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **MASSEY BROTHERS**

MONDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARK USHER**
- BYRON BAY SERVICES CLUB 7PM **RAW COMEDY HEAT 1**

SUNDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **GUY KACHEL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **LOONALOOP**, 8PM **BEN GERRANS & OGYMEL**
- BYRON THEATRE 10AM **DAVID WHYTE**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 2PM **YAZMINDI**
- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM **YULLI'S OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 4PM **OLE FALCOR + JORDAN MAC**, 7PM **MICKY O'BRIEN, BEYOND DOPE, B.RAW, BIGREDCAP, JIMMY THE HAND, DJ BEGZY, BOOMTOWN RUINS, MATT XANDER & EVERGREEN**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **LUKE YEAMAN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **GIMMY**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**

TUESDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **AKOVA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **I LOVE PARIS**

WEDNESDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **PABLO LAVERDE**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 5PM **ALEX BOWEN**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**

PALACE CINEMAS
 BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
 THURSDAY FEBRUARY 13
 TO WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19

BEATING HEARTS (MA15+) FRENCH FF PREVIEW
 Fri: 6:30PM

BIRD (MA15+) SNEAKS
 Sat, Sun: 1:30PM

FLOW (G) SNEAKS
 Wed: 6:30PM

I'M STILL HERE (M) SNEAKS
 Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:00PM

INSIDE (MA15+) SNEAKS
 Tues: 6:10PM

ROYAL OPERA: THE TALES OF HOFFMANN (G)
 Sun: 1:00PM, Wed: 11:00AM

THE LAST JOURNEY (G)
 Sun: 3:30PM

FAMILY FILMS
10 LIVES (G)
 Daily: 10:50AM

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BEATING HEARTS (MA15+) FRENCH FF PREVIEW
 Fri: 6:30PM

BIRD (MA15+) SNEAKS
 Sat, Sun: 1:30PM

FLOW (G) SNEAKS
 Wed: 6:30PM

I'M STILL HERE (M) SNEAKS
 Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:00PM

INSIDE (MA15+) SNEAKS
 Tues: 6:10PM

ROYAL OPERA: THE TALES OF HOFFMANN (G)
 Sun: 1:00PM, Wed: 11:00AM

THE LAST JOURNEY (G)
 Sun: 3:30PM

FAMILY FILMS
10 LIVES (G)
 Daily: 10:50AM

MUFASA: THE LION KING (PG)
 Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:50AM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:45AM

PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG)
 Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:45AM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:00AM

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 (PG)
 Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:00PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:15PM

ALL FILMS

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (M)
 Thurs, Mon, Wed: 10:50AM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM, 8:15PM, Fri: 1:10PM, 3:40PM, 5:45PM, 8:15PM, Sat: 1:10PM, 3:40PM, 6:30PM, 8:15PM, Sun: 10:45AM, 1:10PM, 5:40PM, 8:15PM, Tues: 10:50AM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM

BABYGIRL (MA15+)
 Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:45PM, 3:50PM, 8:15PM, Fri:

1:20PM, 3:50PM, 8:30PM, Sat: 1:20PM, 3:50PM, 8:15PM, Sun: 3:50PM, 8:15PM

BECOMING LED ZEPPELIN (PG) NFT
 Daily except Sun, Wed: 3:30PM, 6:00PM, Sun: 1:20PM, 4:30PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM, Wed: 3:30PM

BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY (M) NFT
 Daily: 11:00AM, 12:45PM, 1:30PM, 3:20PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:30PM

CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD (M) NFT
 Daily: 11:30AM, 2:00PM, 4:30PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM

CONCLAVE (PG)
 Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:50AM, 1:20PM, 7:30PM, Fri: 10:50AM, 8:10PM, Sat, Sun: 10:50AM, 5:45PM

HEART EYES (MA15+) NFT
 Daily except Tues: 4:00PM, 6:10PM, Tues: 4:00PM, 8:30PM

MARIA (M)
 Daily except Sun: 10:45AM, 4:00PM, Sun: 4:00PM

NOSFERATU (M)
 Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:20PM, Sat, Sun: 8:15PM

QUEER (MA15+)
 Daily except Sun, Wed: 12:45PM, Sun: 8:00PM

SEPTEMBER 5 (M)
 Daily except Wed: 10:45AM, 8:30PM, Wed: 8:30PM

SPIDER-MANIA: SPIDER-MAN: FAR FROM HOME (EXTENDED) (G)
 Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:15PM

THE BRUTALIST (MA15+)
 Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 3:30PM, 6:30PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:50AM, 6:30PM

WIDOW CLICQUOT (M)
 Daily: 4:00PM, 6:15PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

A COMPLETE UNKNOWN (M)
 Daily: 3:20PM, 6:10PM

BABYGIRL (MA15+)
 Daily: 4:20PM

BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY (M) NFT
 Daily: 10:40AM, 1:20PM, 6:30PM

CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD (M) NFT
 Daily: 12:50PM, 4:00PM, 6:40PM

PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG)
 Daily: 10:15AM

PRESENCE (MA15+)
 Daily: 2:30PM

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 (PG)
 Daily: 10:30AM

WIDOW CLICQUOT (M)
 Daily: 12:30PM

It's Free!

Let us know about your gig and we will put it in the Echo Gig Guide and on Bay FM email gigs@echo.net.au with the details

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

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

WANTED

Someone to unpack & assemble my new **ROWING MACHINE**. Mullum. Ph Barbara 0412 060 316 to discuss price.

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

TREE FERNS

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

MOTOR VEHICLES

Car for Sale
2005 Subaru Forester
\$4000 o.n.o.



Very reliable, clean and well maintained car. 260,000 km. New windscreen fitted, A/C, comes with Rhino roof rack. Registered until July 2025. Just passed it's 6 month roadworthy certificate. Selling as going overseas. Available to view now.
0466 479 374

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

WITHIN 5K BYRON in exchange for garden, in/out maintenance and payment. Ensuite, kitchenette, unfurn 0479122470

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

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Advertisements placed in *The Byron Shire Echo* do not reflect the views or opinions of the editorial staff.

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The Byron Shire Echo does not accept any liability for the representations or promises made in paid advertisements or for any loss or damage arising from reliance on such content, representations or promises.

PUBLIC NOTICES

INTRODUCTION TO QIGONG COURSE

21 Feb to 11 April 2025

@ Suffolk Park Hall 6.30am to 7.30am
\$350 includes notes and aftercare video. No experience or fitness level required. Ph 0412 765 939 www.shawnaink.com

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

V. DAY 6.30am

FRI 14 FEB

Main Beach

*

VAGINA CONVERSATIONS

MARCH 13-16

BRUNS PICTURE HOUSE



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
- ✔ Care about quality, sustainability & customer experience
- ✔ 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.

REVOCATION OF THE BUSH FIRE DANGER PERIOD

In accordance with Section 82 of the Rural Fires Act 1997 as amended, the Bush Fire Danger Period within the following Local Government areas will be revoked from midnight Monday 17 February 2025.

- Ballina
- Byron
- Kyogle
- Lismore
- Richmond Valley
- Tweed

Pursuant to Section 87 of the Rural Fires Act 1997 as amended, fire permits will no longer be required in rural areas for the lighting of fire for the purposes of land clearance or land breaks.

Smoke regulations prohibit burning in some areas. Contact your local Council or local Fire Brigade for further information.



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

PROF. SERVICES

DENTURES

LOOK GOOD
FEEL GOOD

Free consultation. **SANDRO 66805002**

HEALTH

HYPNOSIS & EFT

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

KINESIOLOGY

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

HYPNOSIS & NLP

Over 30 years of experience
WendyPurdey.com. Ph 0497 090 233

Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby
0401 926 090

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

Body Based Psychotherapy Somatic Practice

Julie Wells

Anne Goslett
(nee Mannix)



Dip.Som.Psych, Clinical PACFA Reg. Individual and Couple Therapy Supervision and Coaching

(02) 6685 5185

9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay

TRADEWORK

Septic Waste Removal Summerland Environmental

The Liquid Waste Specialists!

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

6687 2880

TREE SERVICES

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

HART TREE SERVICES

20 years local experience

- 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding
- Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat

Fully insured • Free quotes

0427 347 380

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

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

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas

6681 3140

Mobile 0417 698 227

GARDEN MAINTENANCE

MOWING

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL
Mullum, Myocum, Bruns, Byron. Local, honest, reliable. Mat 0408546037

GARAGE SALES

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

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.

Classifieds

POSITIONS VACANT

DRIVERS AUTHORITY & ABN? Byron Bus Company is looking for drivers, please call 0490 183 424 for ongoing casual work.

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

Marketing & Events Coordinator

3 to 5 hrs/day work-from-home position in local Byron Bay Health & Wellbeing company.
Help us change lives and the planet in ethical and healthy ways.
Visit www.seek.com.au/job/81969349 for job advert and to apply.

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.

HANDYMAN/CARPENTER



Renovations, Decks, Fencing, Landscaping, odd jobs. Reliable, honest and hardworking local 20 years experience in construction.
\$65 ph free quote.
Call Red 0433 547 162

TUITION

BRIDGE LESSONS
Commencing 14th March
Bangalow
Contact Leo 0429 672 262

Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Trainer
• Photoshop
• Indesign
• Illustrator

contact@thinkblinkdesign.com
www.thinkblinkdesign.com

MUSICAL NOTES

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

LIFE CELEBRATIONS



Family and Friends are warmly invited to remember and celebrate the life of **Manfred Hobel** at the Federal Hall on the 22nd February 2025 commencing from 12 pm.
Please R.S.V.P. With numbers to **0428 785 759 by 17 February (for catering purposes)**

DEATH NOTICES

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
RALPH J. MOORE



It's with heavy hearts we wave goodbye to Ralph, who passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones in Byron Bay Hospital on 29/11/2025. He left behind a lifetime of love, laughter and stories. A devoted family man and friend, a quick wit, a committed volunteer, creative, a walking encyclopedia, and an unwavering music, literature and art connoisseur. He will be dearly missed but fondly remembered by all those who were lucky to know him, and by the greater Byron Bay community.
Rest easy Ralph - we've got this.

LOST & FOUND

LOST: GREEN-FRAMED prescription and bronze-framed round reading glasses. Reward offered. Christina 0468771196

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY 16
TO OUR FABULOUS CORBY!



SENDING YOU ALL OUR LOVE



Happy 18th birthday to the gorgeous, talented, courageous Felix!
All our love, always XXX



HAPPY 20TH BIRTHDAY TO OUR GORGEOUS EVA!!!!
With lots of love x x

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.

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: 95301006824659/683



My name is Dixon, I'm a handsome, gentle, fluffy giant! An absolute gentleman, with such an easy going nature, and gentle with other cat's and kittens too! A true sweetheart, we all love him at the shelter! Only just turning 5, desexed and vaccinated, ready for a gentle and loving forever new home!
Microchip no. 982126054049521.

Please make an appointment 0403 533 589 • Billinudgel
petsforlifeforanimalshelter.net



Deniz is a 1 year old, Staffy/Shar Pei X. He was from a litter that was surrendered to Friends of the Pound in poor condition. Now healthy and thriving, he's ready to find his forever home. With his sweet nature, Deniz pups would make wonderful family dog.
#991003002063717
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

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.

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Feb)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
12	W	6:25 19:34	19:34 5:41	0928 1.78; 2139 1.27	0236 0.27; 1552 0.33
13	TH	6:26 19:33	20:05 6:40	1003 1.76; 2214 1.31	0315 0.26; 1623 0.33
14	F	6:27 19:32	20:34 7:37	1034 1.72; 2247 1.33	0353 0.28; 1651 0.33
15	SA	6:27 19:32	21:01 8:32	1103 1.65; 2320 1.35	0429 0.33; 1717 0.34
16	SU	6:28 19:31	21:27 9:25	1131 1.56; 2354 1.36	0504 0.40; 1743 0.36
17	M	6:29 19:30	21:54 10:18	1200 1.46	0542 0.48; 1810 0.39
18	TU	6:30 19:29	22:23 11:11	0031 1.36; 1230 1.34	0624 0.57; 1839 0.43
19	W	6:30 19:28	22:55 12:06	0114 1.35; 1303 1.22	0715 0.67; 1912 0.48
20	TH	6:31 19:27	23:31 13:02	0205 1.33; 1345 1.10	0820 0.74; 1953 0.54
21	F	6:32 19:26	14:00	0315 1.32; 1450 1.00	0951 0.77; 2053 0.58
22	SA	6:33 19:25	0:14 14:58	0437 1.35; 1624 0.96	1137 0.74; 2211 0.59
23	SU	6:33 19:24	1:04 15:55	0549 1.43; 1752 0.99	1245 0.65; 2328 0.54
24	M	6:34 19:23	2:01 16:48	0647 1.54; 1855 1.07	1332 0.55
25	TU	6:35 19:22	3:04 17:35	0736 1.66; 1945 1.17	0030 0.45; 1411 0.44
26	W	6:35 19:21	4:11 18:18	0820 1.77; 2030 1.28	0121 0.34; 1447 0.35

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

Daisy is a beautiful work in progress. She is a little un-trusting of people at the moment but you can see that she wants to be loved. Daisy is becoming braver & is now accepting nose bumps! She is looking for a patient & quiet home where she can blossom in her own time. She will be well worth the wait!
To meet Daisy, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

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Community at Work



On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

GCAT

The Green and Clean Awareness Team's (GCAT) monthly Dunecare Day is on Sunday, February 16 from 9am to 12 noon, meeting in front of the Beach Cafe at Clarks Beach. We plant in the sand dunes from Clarks Beach to Main Beach. From 12 noon to 1pm, enjoy a delicious free BBQ and be in the draw to win one of four excellent prizes. It's good fun. Inquiries to Veda 6685 7991 or Peter 0488 715 565.

Bruns U3A

Lifelong learning for retired seniors in your third age at Brunswick Heads. Come along and enjoy a variety of interest groups. The February Forum Group speakers are:
SES Jenny King with stories and prep for weather events, on Tuesday 11. Denise and Rodger will talk on Driver Revivor stories and service, on Tuesday 18. Des Wann talks on punctuation, pronunciation, fake news in dictionaries + mice running up the clock, on Tuesday 25. Join us for each forum at the Uniting Church Hall, Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Contact Denise on 0423 778 573 or find more info at: bv3a.org.

Prostate cancer support

The first meeting of the Northern Rivers Day Prostate Cancer Support Group for 2025 is on Wednesday, February, 12 from 10am until 12 noon at the Alstonville Plateau Sports Club, Deegan Drive, Alstonville. Men previously and newly diagnosed with prostate cancer are urged to join with the group to experience the personal cancer stories to share, learn, and benefit from each other. Partners and carers are welcome. Enquiries phone Bob Corney 0493 075 612.

CWA Bruns Open Day

CWA Brunswick Heads is holding an Open Day on Saturday, February 22, 9am to 12noon. Thinking of joining, then come along and find out all about CWA and how you can become part of this amazing group of women. We need new members to drive the branch forward and there are many roles you can get involved in. Tea and scones will be served. Corner of Park and Booyun Streets, Brunswick Heads. Contact: brunswickcwa@gmail.com or 0431 908 063.

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.rtrl.nsw.gov.au or 6685 8540.

Byron Toastmasters

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 @temcmahon15@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).

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 playgroup for children aged 0-3 years, their parents and carers. Bookings are essential, call 0429 640 075 for more information.

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POLICE Brunswick Heads	6629 7510
Mullumbimby	6629 7570
Byron Bay	6685 9499
Bangalow	6629 7500
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding.....	132 500
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BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER.....	6685 0148
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BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS.....	6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby)	6684 1286
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3 1 4 1004m²

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- 130m² over two levels.
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SALE

19 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay

David Gordon of Ray White Byron Bay Commercial is extremely pleased to offer to market a very rare investment opportunity occupied by a strong tenancy covenant and prominent position. The site offers 1191 m of dual street exposure, a substantial 437m approved and licenced childcare facility for 57 places, (please note business is not for sale) substantial infrastructure, parking and softfall play areas, and a lease till 2032 in place.

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AUCTION

1/6 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay

- Ground floor plate of 184sqm plus 141 mezzanine
- Tenant on lease to June 2026
- Large roller door with mix of open plan
- Ample onsite parking for staff & customers
- Long established secure tenancy.

Enjoying a popular position close to the main road this one is not to be missed. For more property enquiries or to arrange an inspections please contact the exclusive

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23 NEW CITY ROAD, MULLUMBIMBY

Boundary lines are approximate

Two Titles, Corner Block with Income Potential

3 2 2 2

711M²

- Original cottage with polished floorboards and an ornate ceiling
- Quiet location yet within walking distance to town and local schools
- Versatile floorplan with potential to generate rental income
- Exciting opportunity for investment or development

PRICE | \$1M - \$1.1M

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Stunning Coastal home Lighthouse and Ocean Views

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715M²

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- Versatile floorplan offers options for multiple private guest suites or a large family home
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- Two car garage, lots of off street parking plus large store room



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Supermarket 900m



Approved Plans



3D Render (CAD)



3D Render (CAD)

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- 49 Carlyle Lane, Byron Bay. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 2 Pioneers Crescent, Bangalow. Thurs 9.30-10am
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 26 Booyun Street, Brunswick Heads. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 12/213 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Fri 9-9.30am
- 2/37 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Fri 10-10.30am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 12.45-1.15pm
- 16 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Fri 1.30-2pm
- Lot 1, Wilsons Creek Road, Wilsons Creek. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 23 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 16 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 132 Lockton Road, Bexhill. Sat 9-9.30am
- 24 Swell Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 9-9.30am
- 11/31 Hayters Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.45-10.15am
- 5 Barby Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 835 Federal Drive, Goonengerry. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7 Glendale Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 231 Sneaths Road, Wollongbar. Sat 10-10.30am
- 22 Karalauren Court, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 35 Avocado Crescent, Ewingsdale. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3 Weemala Lane, Federal. Sat 11-11.30am
- 8 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 4 Mango Bark Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 50 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 11-11.30am
- 346 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 147 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 49 Carlyle Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 325 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 1.15-1.45pm

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- 11 Garden Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.30-1.15pm
- 1&2/6 Boondoan Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 2-2.30pm

Ray White Byron Bay

- 5/10 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Wed 12.30-1pm
- 7A Little Burns Street, Byron Bay. Wed 2-2.30pm
- 43 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Wed 3-3.30pm
- 7/68-70 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 1-1.30pm
- 17 Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 15 Little Burns Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1/134 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 43 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 17 Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 16 Coral Court, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7/68-70 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 161 Tandys Lane, Brunswick Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7A Little Burns Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 70 Foxs Lane, Tyagarah. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 70 Charltons Road, Federal. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 11 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1.30-2pm
- 355 Coopers Shoot Road, Coopers Shoot. Sat 2.30-3pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 5 Walker Street, Clunes. Sat 9.15-9.45am
- 1 Parrot Tree Place, Bangalow. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 159 Tintenbar Road, Tintenbar. Sat 11.15-11.45am

New listings

First National Byron Bay

- 166 Myocum Road, Ewingsdale
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby



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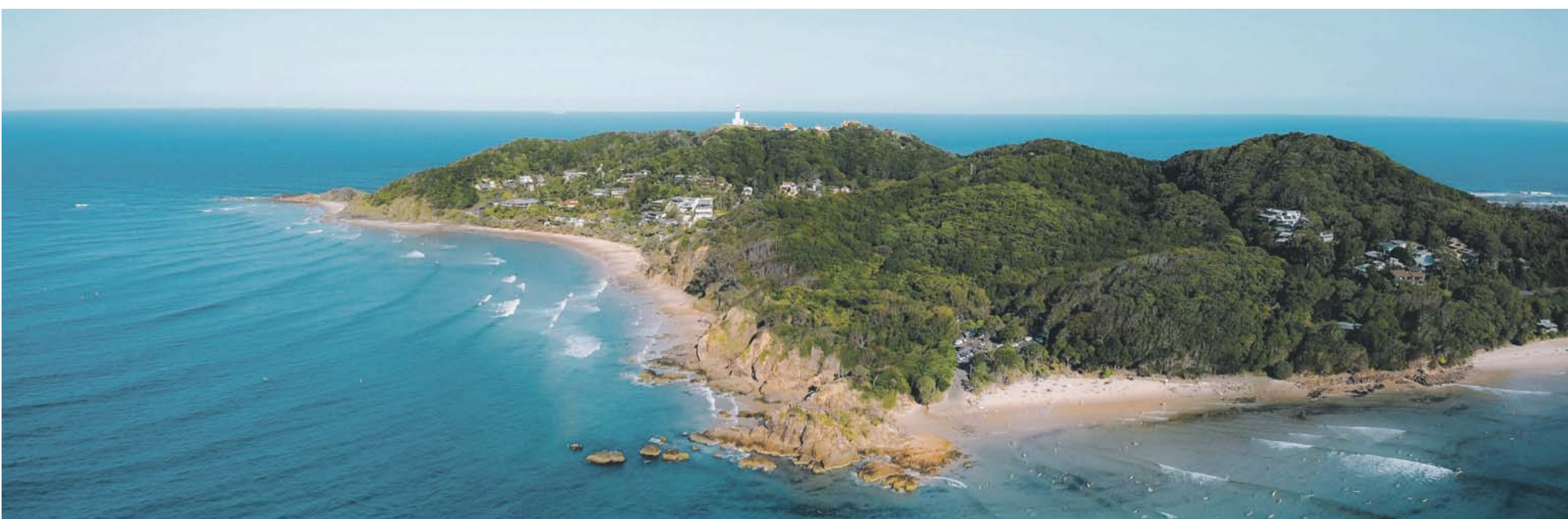
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Council watchers, rejoice! For it is the start of the 2025 season this Thursday. But please take note, the reality show has moved to 3pm instead of the morning, and that time slot will run until July, in recognition of the work commitments of some councillors.

Byron's business chamber will host a free open biz forum, February 24 from 6pm at the Byron Services Club. They say, 'Whether you're a long-time member or new to the discussion, we encourage you to join us and have your voice heard. Let's continue building a stronger, more connected business community in Byron Bay.'

It's a surprise that NSW Labor minister Jo Haylen quit the frontbench after (being found out for) misusing taxpayer-funded transport. A Liberal-Nationals minister would instead double down and attack the opposition. And the Murdoch media would applaud it.

Psst: The Australian government announced last week that it had banned Chinese AI tool DeepSeek from all Commonwealth computers.

The 47th US president's very, very ultra White (Supremacy) House has new rules around press briefings, with fewer established and trained journalists allowed, in favour of more podcasters and influencers who are supporters of his loony agendas.

ABC top brass have been punching themselves in the face of late, with damning internal emails tabled in court by former presenter, Antoinette Lattouf. She took



Meme from the internet - where else?

them to court for being sacked after reposting a Human Rights Watch post, alleging Israel was starving Palestinians. Despite the ABC running that story too, Murdoch's orcs demanded action. They got it.

Ten years ago in *The Echo* (February 11, 2015): 'Byron's traffic problems have either been courageously tackled or wilfully exacerbated, depending on who you believe from last Thursday's Council meeting'. Another story was 'Telstra and its sub-contractor Aurecon will have to find a new home for their 30-metre tower after Council unanimously rejected a proposal to erect a telecommunication facility within close proximity to Ocean Shores schools and homes'.

Promo alert: author and Bay FM drive-time host, Daniel Salfield, has a new book, *Island of the Gods*. It's available at The Bookroom in Byron and Lennox.

units. While she supports it, local business, residents and the local NSW Greens MP don't. Surely Council can do better than this? A public meeting on the town's future will be held at the Ex-Services Club on Monday, February 24, from 6:30pm.

The Byron Chamber of Commerce is alerting the public around allegedly fraudulent online retailer, ByronBay-Boutique.com. The chamber say the Chinese-owned business falsely associates itself with Byron Bay, and the chamber has received multiple complaints around misleading and deceptive conduct. Formal complaints have been lodged with Fair Trading NSW, the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC), ASIC, and international consumer protection agencies.

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