



Short films take centre stage

The red carpet will be rolled out for Flickerfest's travelling short film festival with the opening night party on February 27 at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall from 7pm. It runs until March 1. Pictured are some of the local filmmakers who made the cut - from back, left to right: Sam Clarke 'Suvira', Bodhi Neylan 'Vibrations', Carlos West 'The Yesmads', Ash Mines 'Hold Steady'. Festival director, Bronwyn Kidd, festival manager, Shane Rennie and festival co-ordinator, Elie Zaragoza are in the foreground. For the full Flickerfest Mullumbimby and Byron All Shorts program, visit: www.iQ.org.au. Photo Jeff 'On The VIP List Since 1986' Dawson

Suffo traffic lights debate flares at Council

Paul Bibby

The debate over Byron Council's decision to install traffic lights at a notorious intersection in Suffolk Park flared again at last week's Council meeting.

During the public submissions section of the meeting, three Suffolk Park residents from the Keep the Flow in Suffo group strongly criticised Council's decision to install grant-funded traffic lights at the intersection of Clifford Street and Broken Head Road.

The intersection has been the site of worsening delays and safety

concerns for decades, with those turning right out of Clifford Street facing frustrating waits, particularly at peak times. Pedestrians trying to cross Broken Head Road, including school children, have also been at risk owing to the lack of a safe place to cross.

Federal grant

Late last year, councillors voted to accept federal grant funding to install traffic lights at the intersection, while at the same time keeping the door slightly ajar for the possibility of replacing the lights with a roundabout at some point

in the future.

The issue appears to have divided the Suffolk Park community.

Some Suffolk Park residents, particularly those associated with the Suffolk Park Progress Association, are strongly in favour of the lights being installed.

They argue that things have become so bad at the intersection that traffic lights are the only realistic option for addressing the situation in a timely fashion, even if the benefits in terms of alleviating traffic delays are not sustained in the long term.

► Continued on page 2

Demolition threats

Council compliance staff again attack Main Arm community without councillor knowledge

Hans Lovejoy

Home demolition orders have been placed on a small community of long-term locals in Upper Main Arm after Council compliance raided their shared multiple occupancy (MO).

Greens Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, and councillors contacted by *The Echo* were unaware of the orders made by staff, which could see around 30 families, including children, lose everything.

The shocked and horrified residents say compliance officer Dylan Cook's February 5 letter provided contacts for real estate agents to help them find alternative accommodation after they lost their homes and livelihoods.

While Cook gave them less than two weeks to respond, his boss, Shannon Burt, Director Sustainable Environment and Economy, told *The Echo* that residents will be now given '12 months or longer' to follow a required planning pathway, or 'to find alternate lawful accommodation'.

An admin fee of \$414 will be charged for the notice, says Cook, and if the order is issued, a further \$650 will be charged.

Cook told residents via email that, 'You will need to contact a town planner and conduct an investigation as to what dwellings require approval'.

Koohinur Pty Ltd is an MO located next to the community hall, and like all residents in the area, its residents suffered enormously from the 2022 floods and landslides.

One resident described

potentially losing their home as a 'vicious attack' by staff which is severely impacting their mental health.

'I am not sleeping properly, and cried for days after', they said, adding, 'There is a resident who could be potentially suicidal over this issue'.

'There's elderly residents here who have been here for decades and have limited funds. They are without options. Why hasn't this been considered by staff? This issue needs to be humanised'.

Unaware mayor

The Echo asked Mayor Ndiaye: 'Why have councillors, of which you have been a part of for eight years, not provided any leadership or reform when it comes to guiding staff with community expectations around demolition orders? Will there be some leadership now?'

While the question was provided to her on Friday, she replied that she didn't have enough time to be across the topic, and would need more time to reply.

Procedural fairness?

The Echo asked executive staff how placing demolition orders on an entire community without warning adheres to procedural fairness.

Shannon Burt, Director Sustainable Environment and Economy told *The Echo*, 'There is a documented history of communication with the landowners of this property since July 2024, following complaints about a range of matters such as

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Your input needed on Council's community engagement strategy ► p11

Grassroots festival to paint the town blue ► p15

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'Disobedience, in the eyes of any one who has read history, is man's original virtue. It is through disobedience that progress has been made, through disobedience and through rebellion.'

– Oscar Wilde (1854–1900)

Suffo traffic lights debate flares at Council

► Continued from page 1
Roundabout option

On the other side are a significant number of residents who argue that a roundabout is the only viable long-term solution, and that traffic lights will ultimately make things worse.

Who represents whom?

Both groups have asserted at various times that they represent the majority of Suffolk Park residents.

Council did not undertake a survey of residents prior to making its decision regarding the traffic lights, and it seems most residents of the suburb were not aware that this was on the table until after the decision had been made.

With Council having accepted the grant funding it would be very difficult, though not impossible, to reverse the decision.

At last week's Council meeting, the three members of Keep the Flow in Suffo called for the traffic light plan to be abandoned.

'Starting from a neutral position on traffic lights, I looked closely at the modelling and other technical information, reviewed the guidelines, and consulted with a highly-experienced traffic engineer,' local resident and chemical engineer, David Fligleman said.

'It's clear that traffic lights will not only fail to address the existing issues, but will risk creating new issues and problems.'

Mr Fligleman said that Roads and Maritime Services (RMS) set out the criteria for determining whether or not traffic lights were necessary, and that the Clifford Street intersection met none of them.

He said that, rather than introducing traffic lights, Council could implement other interim strategies until it was able to properly address the issues with a roundabout.

Mini-roundabout

These included a mini-roundabout that would not require widening of the road or the compulsory acquisition of private land, and a seagull layout – a type of three-way



road intersection that's designed to improve safety and reduce traffic delays.

But these suggestions received significant criticism from councillors Asren Pugh (Labor), Jack Dods (Independent) and Michael Lyon (Independent).

'Are you aware that we've received very strong advice that it's not possible to do a mini-roundabout for a couple of reasons, the main one being that it doesn't slow traffic down enough on Broken Head Road and also that it would require additional,

very high-level street lighting?' asked Cr Pugh.

'Anything we do has to be approved by Transport for NSW,' he said.

'It's very unlikely that we would get a mini-roundabout approved. As far as this grant goes, it's traffic lights or nothing'. I'm a realist about politics and how things work.'

Inflexible grant

The meeting heard that the federal government grant could not be varied in any way, meaning that Council could not spend the money on anything other than traffic lights.

Interim options

But Mr Fligleman rejected the argument that it was 'traffic lights or nothing' describing this as a 'false binary'.

'The binary choice of not doing anything versus traffic lights doesn't make sense when you have a range of interim options available which should be within the budgetary availability of this Council,' he said.

'Those items should be seriously looked at.'

■ See page 12 article.

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Rous hit some customers with new fee

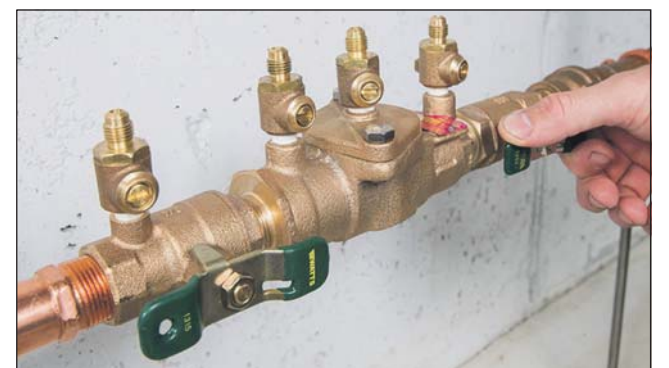
Residents have contacted *The Echo* concerned that water utility Rous are now slogging them with a \$196 per annum fee for a 'backflow device management charge'.

The fee impacts around 2,193 of its 110,000 customers, say Rous, and say that a backflow device is legally required on 'all medium to high connections to the Rous water supply network' which 'have increased potential for cross connections with non-potable water sources or potential contamination sources'.

A Rous spokesperson told *The Echo* the charge was arrived at by calculating the cost for a licensed plumber to undertake an annual test on the device, conduct any maintenance throughout the year, purchase and install the device and replace it every ten years.

They say inspections and testing typically takes less than an hour per connection.

A spokesperson said, 'We acknowledge that it is another cost for our customers. The project to install the backflow devices commenced in the second half of 2023, and we have delayed the introduction of the charge



A backflow device. Photo www.shoalwater.nsw.gov.au

(to the fourth quarter of 2024) for as long as possible to minimise the impact'.

The policy was adopted by Rous councillors in 2021, the spokesperson said.

The Echo also asked, 'Why wasn't this cost absorbed by Rous?' They replied, 'Rous provides drinking water to more than 110,000 customers (~41,000 connections) across the region, through our constituent councils and direct customers. It is critical that we are able to maintain control over the quality of the drinking water as it is distributed to all of those customers'.

'Rous' direct customers (approximately 2,200) are in areas which aren't supplied through normal local council water reticulation systems. 'These local council water

systems have different arrangements in place to manage the risk of contaminated water coming out of a property into the pipes, and the consequence of a backflow incident in these situations is much less than [in] the Rous bulk water system.

'Rous' direct customers benefit from having access to a reliable and safe drinking water supply, sometimes because one of our large pipes goes through their property.

'Water authorities are required to undertake a risk-based approach to manage their water supplies, backflow prevention is very common.

They added that other water authorities require customers to pay for the devices upfront, which is more expensive overall.

John Morgan steps into community pantry role

A Byron Bay organisation that feeds families and individuals in need has a new president, with Liz Jackson stepping down from Liberation Larder after 12 years in the role.

When asked what changes she had seen in that time, Liz replied that the number of people seeking assistance had increased, in particular there are more women with children, and elderly women.

No govt assistance

'It's an amazing service', she said. 'There is no government assistance, and no one is paid. As such, we have to raise funds.'

'I gave my heart and soul to it, but it's time to move on', Liz said.

Incoming president is well-known local, John Morgan, who ran Maddogs surfing label with Mark Plater for 40 years until 2016.

He told *The Echo*, 'We



Incoming Liberation Larder President, John Morgan. Photo Jeff 'Longboards' Dawson

work closely with the Fletcher Street Cottage to try to bring some comfort and stability to those whose lives have been upended, or have little choice but to live rough'.

'It's scary, the number of people I've known over many years who have seen their comfortable lives slip away'.

George Greenough will screen his groundbreaking surf movie, *The Innermost*

Limits Of Pure Fun, as a fundraiser for Liberation Larder on March 14 at the Community Centre Theatre from 7.30pm.

For more information visit www.liberationlarder.org.



Moving for change

Around 140 women came together at Byron's Main Beach last Friday morning to dance, celebrate, and dip into the water as part of the annual V-Day flashmob. It's part of the One Billion Rising campaign, which draws attention to violence against women and children. Photo Jeff Dawson

E-petition launched over big Mullum DA

An e-petition to relocate a proposal for 32 one- and two-bedroom units, plus shops, to a more suitable site is now online at <https://tinyurl.com/3f659zhu>.

The Mullum Residents Association (MRA) has raised concerns around the future planning of the town, and say the plans by Council and government development

corporation Landcom will exacerbate parking and traffic issues, and is on flood-prone land.

No surrounding businesses are in favour of the proposal.

The MRA are inviting the public to a meeting from 6.30pm on Monday, February 24 at the Ex-Services Club.

The mayor and councillors have been invited.

Council staff terrorise rural residents with demolition orders

► Continued from page 1

unauthorised construction, noise and an on-site sewerage management system'.

While she says, 'Council staff are legally obligated to investigate complaints', *The Echo* queried this, given there is flexibility within the NSW planning act that governs compliance.

She said, 'Once a complaint is lodged and Council is aware of unauthorised development or activity, we have legal obligations as a regulatory authority to act, taking into consideration the health and safety of the occupants and addressing risk to the safety and health of

people and the environment'.

She continued, 'Aware of the housing crisis, staff have been working with the owner of the property to find resolutions to problems'.

This claim has been rejected by residents, and *The Echo* queried the statement, given there is no one 'owner' on a shared multiple occupancy; it is managed by directors of a company.

Ms Burt also said, 'Following delays, Council has issued a Notice of Proposed Order. Should there be no action Council will issue a final order where owners will have a compliance period of 12 months or longer, to give sufficient time to

either comply with the required planning pathway or for the owners/occupants to find alternate lawful accommodation'.

Threat to everyone

Longtime local, Charlie Boyle, lives on the Kohinur MO, and rejects the claims of 'delays' in replying to staff, as claimed by Ms Burt.

He says, 'Two landowners were sent detailed letters with pathways for fixing their issues six months ago. The demolition order - for the entire community - came out of nowhere on February 5'.

'How is Council allocating liability?' He asked. 'The demolition

letter to the statutory company that manages the MO claims they are liable for actions of individuals who hold exclusive management zones (i.e. shares).

'As a company, we are unqualified to police compliance matters on behalf of Council.

'These orders by Council are a threat to everybody in the community, given the number of unapproved dwellings in the north coast'.

Housing crisis

A spokesperson for the Main Arm Rural Residents Association (MARRA) told *The Echo*, 'The Greens-led Council is not solving the housing

crisis. MARRA is also concerned that Council has yet again singled out Upper Main Arm to be the victims of its failed housing policies. The current action may be the beginning of a fourth wave of Council's push for gentrification of Main Arm'.

'Considering the housing crisis and that half the Shire's dwellings are probably non-conforming in some way, it is time Council looked at itself first and reviewed its building and compliance regulations and procedures.

'There needs to be an immediate amnesty on demolition and urgent attention to this review', they said.

■ See editorial, page 8



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Community battery to be investigated

The establishment of a Community Battery Working Group was unanimously supported by Byron Shire councillors at their Thursday meeting, held last week.

The group will investigate establishing a community battery within the Shire, that would store excess solar

energy for use during peak evening periods and outages.

Greens councillors Elia Hauge and Michelle Lowe put forward the motion, and say the working group will include local community groups, Essential Energy representatives, interested councillors and Council staff.

Cr Hauge said, 'Not everyone can install solar panels on their roof, whether they're renting or living in an apartment. A community battery will allow more residents to benefit from clean, affordable solar power while building our community's energy resilience'.

Menopausal transition – a discussion, Feb 25

US menopause doco, [M] FACTOR will screen along with a panel discussion and Q&A at The Drill Hall on Tuesday February 25.

Panelists are MC Mandy Nolan, Dr Jane Reffell from Women's Health and Wellbeing Newrybar, and organiser, Sally Mathrick, facilitator of

12-week Shape Your Menopause program.

Tickets for the event are available via Eventbrite: tinyurl.com/4bufyzzm.

Food hub given oink of approval

Paul Bibby

A sprawling 33-acre property at 103 Yagers Lane, Skinners Shoot was once home to the largest piggery in the southern hemisphere.

Now, it's a rusting reminder of Byron's blue-collar past. But last week, it was approved to become home to a farm-to-table restaurant and a small-scale artisan food and drink industry operation.

Last week, Byron councillors gave the \$22.2 million development the green light, despite strident opposition from neighbours, who have become used to an empty piggery and surrounding paddocks.

The approval will see construction of new buildings within the footprint of the old piggery to house the restaurant and the food and beverage operation.

Additional works will include the construction of a carpark, earthworks and retaining walls, landscaping, horticulture, art installations, solar panels and vegetation management works.

The owner of the property, Maggie Schreiber, told last week's meeting that the



Artist's impression of the new restaurant and artisan food and beverage operation on the site of the old Piggery at Skinners Shoot. Image from DA

development would 'breathe life into an iconic part of Byron's history' and have no significant negative impacts on surrounding residents or the environment.

'I'm totally committed to being a sensitive neighbour which involves ongoing consultation with other residents,' Ms Schreiber said.

But fellow resident, Kay Collins, said no local residents supported the proposal, which would adversely affect traffic flows and native wildlife.

'The road and adjacent land are an important corridor for wildlife with frequent sittings of swamp wallabies, echidnas, coastal pythons and particularly koalas.

'Friends of the Koala has expressed serious concerns

regarding the impact of this development, particularly as the hours of operation coincide with peak times of koala activity'.

'I know that people get used to not having something going on a particular block of land, but what we have here is a permissible use and what's been asked for is within what's allowable and is very reasonable,' Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said.

'Regardless of whether or not the people who live nearby want that to happen, it wouldn't hold up in the Land & Environment Court if it was refused'.

Mayor Ndiaye said it was unfortunate that the proposal had been a source of animosity within the Skinners Shoot community.

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Byron High student art makes exhibition cut

Sarah McGregor

Byron Bay High School's 2024 graduates, Sophia St Honey Clair and Juniper Stockdale, have been selected for ARTEXPRESS 2025, a prestigious exhibition showcasing outstanding HSC Visual Arts works.

Their pieces will be on display at Lismore Regional Art Gallery from February 21 to April 20.

ARTEXPRESS highlights the finest bodies of work submitted for the 2024 HSC Visual Arts examination across NSW, celebrating artistic excellence and innovation. This achievement is a testament to their creativity, dedication, and talent in the field of visual arts.



Part of Sophia St Honey Clair's artwork, *Memento Vitae: Part I*.

Sophia St Honey Clair

Sophia St Honey Clair's artwork, *Memento Vitae: Part I*, is a striking seven-panel painting that reimagines the themes of traditional Dutch vanitas still-life paintings, exploring the fleeting nature of life. Drawing inspiration from surrealist icon Frida Kahlo and Australian contemporary artist Kate Bergin, Sophia's work unfolds in chronological order, moving from birth and childhood to adulthood.

Juniper Stockdale

Juniper Stockdale's work, *Monstrous Girlhood*, is a compelling exploration of identity through graphic design. Comprising five intricately crafted pieces, the series brings to life a host of eerie yet expressive girl-creatures

– manifestations of the id. Their exaggerated features and distorted anatomy serve as both unsettling and playful muses, capturing raw emotion and uninhibited self-expression. Juniper embraced their strange, surreal qualities, allowing them to evolve into the heart of her artistic vision.

Frankie Miller

Frankie Miller was also nominated for selection in ARTEXPRESS 2025. Although she did not secure a place in the final exhibition, the nomination for her piece *Dad (The Trophy Room)* is a testament to the outstanding quality of her work.

Their art teacher, Tarryn Wilson, praised the students' achievements, stating, 'I am incredibly proud of the girls for their hard work, dedication, and

the well-deserved recognition of their exceptional artistic abilities.'

In addition to their ARTEXPRESS nominations, these three talented students – along with several others from Byron Bay High School – were also recognised in other prestigious creative and performing arts showcases, as well as English extension 2.

With over 15 students on the 2024 HSC 'distinguished achievers' list, numerous awards and nominations, and Zev Sage, the 2024 dux, achieving an ATAR of 98.65, it is clear that Byron Bay High School is committed to nurturing the unique talents of every student.

■ Sarah McGregor is relieving English Head Teacher at Byron Bay High School.

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Works underway

- **Mullumbimby** – Emergency water main extension installation.
- **Mullumbimby** – Station Street and Fern Street stormwater drainage upgrade.
- **Brunswick Heads** – South Beach Road pavement and drainage upgrade.
- **Booyong** – Booyong Road upgrade.
- **Byron Bay:**
 - ▶ Rec Grounds sewer upgrade
 - ▶ Tennyson Street connection to Gilmore Cres.
 - ▶ New roundabout on Bayshore Drive near Byron TAFE/ Byron Bay Fair.

Works coming up

- **Byron Bay** – drainage upgrade of Byron Bay town centre starting mid-2025.
- **Mullumbimby** – Mullumbimby Road upgrade – major reseal of the road starting in May 2025.
- **Shire wide** – Emergency roadworks from December 2024 flood event – around 40 roads requiring repair works.
- **2022 flood repair works including:**
 - ▶ **Left Bank Road** – replace causeway two with a new low-level bridge.
 - ▶ **Main Arm** – Coopers Lane major culvert repair.
 - ▶ **Main Arm Road** – causeway and culvert repairs and replacements.
 - ▶ **Upper Wilsons Creek Road** – road pavement, culvert and causeway works.
 - ▶ **Wilsons Creek Road** – road pavement and drainage works.

For more information please:

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Seas the day, clean the bay!

Arabelle & Amelia

Last week, Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School class 9 undertook a beach clean up.

To kick off our community service-themed year, a bunch of 14 and 15 year olds in colourful sun hats, gardening gloves, with oversized collection bags walked from Main Beach to Belongil, tasked with picking up as much rubbish as we could.

We embarked on this thinking we would be greeted by fairly clean golden sands, picking up only a handful of microplastics and the occasional cigarette butt. Boy, were we wrong!

In just one hour we collected 24kg of rubbish, an average of 1kg per person in our class.

Cigis most common

Along with countless cans, glass bottles and a zillion cigarette butts, we found odd shoes, a discarded doormat, unopened boxes of menstrual products, loads of stinking take away containers and a fairly good pair of sunglasses that just needed



Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School class 9. Photo supplied

a clean. The overwhelmingly common item were cigarette butts - even more upsetting was knowing it is illegal to smoke on our beaches.

While we enjoyed the feeling of helping our marine life and environment, we also felt disappointed by how careless people are with their rubbish and how unaware we still are despite the dire state our world is in.

In writing this article, we want to bring awareness to the harm we are causing our marine life by neglecting our responsibilities to pick up after ourselves. We left the beach with garbage

bags overflowing, a certain level of frustration with our community, but also with a sense of hope that we can do better.

And what of that 24kg of rubbish we found?

Rather than add to landfill, we have sorted and washed and are in the throes of planning an artwork with the salvageable garbage to remind us that what we use and what we then do with it matters.

■ Arabelle Manousis and Amelia Close are in class 9 at Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School.

Support for Byron's expectant mums

Sally Cusack

Few regions can boast that their expectant mothers have been given the guidance and care of an independent information service that has been running for over 30 years.

Yet, an unbroken chain of Byron's birthworkers have collaborated to create a lasting legacy in the Byron Pregnancy Support Group.

Now operated by PBB Media (which also runs the Free Baby and Toddler Clothes Swap out of Mullumbimby CWA, 10am-12pm on Fridays), the Byron Pregnancy Support Group is up and running again for the year.

The first session will be held this Saturday, February 22 from 10.30am till 12pm at the Mullumbimby CWA, and will be facilitated by

mother, midwife and doula, Lara, who will share the ancient mythical story of *The Descent of Inanna*. Morning tea will be served. Join the Byron Pregnancy Support Group on Facebook, or for more information or go to humanitix.com.

■ Sally Cusack is from the Byron Pregnancy Support Group.

Vigilantism investigated by police

Mia Armitage

Police in the Tweed-Byron District are investigating claims of vigilantism made in community Facebook groups on the Northern Rivers.

An anonymous poster has reportedly claimed to have 'stolen back' stolen bikes such as e-bikes and e-scooters in an effort to have the goods returned to their rightful owners, or to teach the thieves a lesson, or both.

A police media spokesperson on Monday told *The Echo* at least three such recovered goods had been alluded to in anonymous posts shared among various community Facebook groups on the Northern

Rivers, including in Ballina.

The posts reportedly described incidents of the vigilantism around the Banora Point area in the Tweed Shire, part of the Tweed/Byron Police District.

The Echo was invited to search for the posts but could later only find one that was potentially defamatory, accusing someone in the community of receiving stolen goods.

Local police were investigating the posts, the spokesperson said.

The comments came after Tweed-Byron Police earlier this week posted to social media saying they'd received reports of vigilante behaviour in the community.

The post was still live as of Tuesday morning, with Tweed-Byron PD Commander, Superintendent David Roptell, saying those conducting illegal vigilante activities can expect to be arrested and charged.

Police to handle criminal matters

Sup't Roptell says it's crucial police handle criminal matters so their efforts aren't hindered, and community members aren't placed in danger. Police are urging residents to report any criminal activity to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000, and in an emergency, call triple zero (000) immediately.

Comment on the commercial and community balance at Ballina's Hampton Park Reserve

Aslan Shand

The Ballina Shire community now has the opportunity to put their ideas forward on the draft master plan for Hampton Park Reserve, which is now on public exhibition.

Community consultation in 2024 identified a number of community priorities including the protection of the fig trees, and the need to provide new shade trees, and the importance to the community of green space for informal enjoyment of the reserve. Sporting clubs expressed their desire to expand their capacity at Hampton Park. The need for improved parking and footpath connections, as well as drainage and flooding impacts were raised as concerns.

'Following community consultation, a Draft Master Planning Report was presented to the November 28, 2024 Ordinary Council Meeting. Council resolved to prepare an amended draft master plan for public exhibition,' said a Ballina Shire Council (BSC) press release.

'The draft master plan report presents a preferred design to the community for feedback. This proposed design formalises on-street carparking, provides a new

vehicle access point off Moon Street and, upon construction, closure of the Burnet Street driveway access.'

Who gets what space?

Ballina Council has acknowledged that there are competing demands for space at Hampton Park.

'This draft master plan balances general open space amenity and functionality with active recreation, while building on existing infrastructure capacity for tennis,' they state.

Loss of control of public land?

However, Max Liandra from East Ballina has raised concerns that, 'the area under lease to Cherry Street Sports Club, which covers as much as half of Hampton Park, and was recently expanded, is not considered in the draft master plan.'

'Ballina Council's earlier decisions mean that the sports club's leases over public land are now managed or will shortly be managed by Crown Lands, as business operations are not permitted on public recreation land. Local input is now stymied and the decisions

about the management and use of the Cherry Street Sports Club lease areas rest with a state department.'

'The draft plan opens the door for yet further loss of local decision making and control. The plan proposes that an access road, for the sole benefit of Cherry Street Sports Club, runs from Moon Street to the sports club loading dock.'

Have your say

Ballina Shire Council are asking locals to take a look at the draft plan and let them know if they agree with the vision and if they think BSC have got the priorities right.

You can read the draft master plan in full at yoursayballina.com.au/Hampton-park-reserve-master-plan and complete an online feedback form to let them know your ideas. Submissions close Friday, February 28, 2025.

'There is currently no funding allocated for implementation of works. However, once finalised the Hampton Park Reserve Master Plan will inform the management framework for the reserve, support future investment, planning and implementation of improvement works,' stated the BSC press release.

Will bulk billing increase in Murwillumbah?

Aslan Shand

How much financial support your local doctor and local GP clinic gets from the government directly affects how much you pay for your visit to the doctor, and whether doctors are able to bulk bill pensioners etc.

In 2019, under the coalition government, Murwillumbah was reclassified from a regional to a metropolitan categorisation which directly impacted the ability of local GPs to provide affordable health care and subsequently had a direct impact on the emergency department of the Murwillumbah Hospital.

Dr Tony Camilleri at Main Street Medical has been a local GP in Murwillumbah for 30 years and has campaigned tirelessly to have the reclassification reversed.

Dr Camilleri told *The Echo* that the reclassification led to his practice having to remove bulk billing for pensioners, and saw the practice running at significant losses of hundreds of thousands of dollars a year.

'It also saw the closure of the University of Rural Health established by the

Wollongong University and a significant increase in presentations to the Murwillumbah Hospital Emergency Department,' he explained.

'The metropolitan classification meant that we lost access to pay rates, Medicare rebates, and teaching rebates etc. The regional classification started 300m down the road from Main Street Medical. Our patients don't just come from Murwillumbah, 60 per cent of our patients are located in rural and regional areas; yet we were no longer able to get appropriate funding to service them.

On Thursday, February 13, Labor MP Justine Elliot announced the reversal back to a regional classification, six years after it took place.

'GPs will soon get more support from Medicare, with larger bulk billing incentive,' she said.

Mandy Nolan, the Greens candidate for Richmond said 'this reclassification is very good news for Murwillumbah but people want answers about why this took so long.'

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

Notice for Lennox free-campers

Aslan Shand

Free-campers at the Crown land reserve off Camp Drewe Road at Lennox Head have been asked to move after complaints about 'the illegal occupation, erection of unauthorised structures, and alleged anti-social behaviour impacting residents'.

The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI), told *The Echo* that, 'On February 11 signs were erected at the

site to provide a month's notice for illegal occupants to make a claim over any of the structures or materials at the site.'

Bushfire hazard risk

The DPHI have also highlighted the fact that the presence of free-campers at the site has affected bushfire hazard reduction operations in this high-risk bushfire area.

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

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

Goodwill lost over Lismore Council's museum backflip

Lismore City Council chose to ignore the pleas of the Richmond River Historical Society and its supporters that the city's museum be allowed to return to its home in Molesworth Street, which has been renovated following the 2022 floods.

Youth advisory group supported by Lismore Council

A youth advisory group (YAG) was proposed for Lismore City Council at Tuesday's council meeting by Labor councillor Harper Dalton-Earls who highlighted that Lismore is the only local council in the region that does not have one.

Standoff between squatters, police and NSW Reconstruction Authority in Lismore

Attempts to cut off water to nine houses that the NSW Reconstruction Authority has bought following the devastating 2022 flood, which are currently occupied by around 30-40 people has led to a standoff.

Bob Brown to join Mandy Nolan in Murwillumbah

Environmental leader Bob Brown will deliver a keynote address and join a panel discussion with Greens candidate for Richmond Mandy Nolan, journalist Mick O'Regan and Ballina MP Tamara Smith about protecting native forests, wildlife and strengthening environmental laws.

www.echo.net.au

Early end to bushfire danger season

Fire permits are no longer required. The Far North Coast Rural Fire Service (RFS) called an early end to the bushfire danger period from midnight on Monday, February 17. The bushfire danger period normally runs to March 31.

'The RFS have the power

to vary the date of the bushfire danger period,' Group Officer for Far North Coast RFS, Bob Graham, told *The Echo*.

The bushfire danger period has now ended for Ballina, Byron, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley, and Tweed local government

areas. 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.



DON'T LET A CAR CHANGE WHO YOU ARE

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #37 • February 19, 2025

Punching down

Losing one's home would perhaps the worst potential event for any individual or family, apart from inevitable death.

So you would think those in Byron Council with powers to enforce such drastic measures would be mindful, and have humane policies in place to deal with it.

But as locals know, they don't appear to, and don't seem to care.

Threats such as those outlined on page 1 come around every few years, and successive (Green?) mayors have been incapable – or unwilling – to guide Council staff around community expectations and basic human responses.

Do surrounding shire councils treat their ratepayers so harshly?

No, they don't.

While the entire north coast is rife with unapproved dwellings, it seems only Byron Council treats its ratepayers like this.

It's behaviour that also humiliates the mayor and councillors, as they are supposed to represent our collective interests. Are they concerned with this behaviour?

A short, potted history

Let's recap the last few years briefly.

During Covid in 2020, Council staff sent out 'robo-letters' to Main Arm property owners, accusing them of having unauthorised development on their land while there was both a moratorium in place, and an unauthorised dwelling policy currently on public exhibition.

Hilarious!

Was that moratorium effective?

Then in 2021, *The Echo* reported that Cr Sarah Ndiaye drafted a motion on-the-fly to develop a Draft Unauthorised Dwelling Policy, by tacking it onto a development application for a property in Skinners Shoot.

The Echo reported at the time,

'Her motion led to an attack on property owners in Upper Main Arm by Council's compliance staff. Before the policy went on exhibition for public feedback, compliance staff took it upon themselves to target their first area of alleged unauthorised dwellings – Upper Main Arm.'

The Draft Unauthorised Dwelling Policy was later shelved for staff's 'internal use', with Cr Ndiaye saying, 'I apologise that it was misinterpreted by staff.'

But incompetency isn't just limited to lashing out at unsuspecting ratepayers – in 2023, Council staff were involved in the dumping of 150 tonnes of fill, or 12 truckloads, on Marshalls Creek in The Pocket from infrastructure jobs.

There were no consequences, and the matter magically disappeared after then-mayor, Michael Lyon, had councillor support to simply 'note' the indiscretion. So laws don't apply to Council.

Nice work!

From here, this is an opportunity for the new mayor to demonstrate her pre-election rhetoric and provide the leadership that has been missing since former mayors Richardson and Lyon were in office.

Councillors should be given staff reports in meeting agendas around current compliance actions.

Residents can, and should, contact councillors/the mayor if they feel they are being unfairly treated by compliance officers.

Many don't, of course, owing to fear – this needs to change.

Improving Council's reputation should be the focus of councillors, yet it's not easy.

For decades, it has been continually trashed by executive staff who don't even live in the Shire.

Hans Lovejoy, editor
News tips are welcome:
editor@echo.net.au

Blood money behind govt's forest destruction

In 2019 and 2020, NSW Forestry Corporation clear-felled 14,440 square metres of mature native hardwood forest.

By 'clear-felled', I mean that they left not one living thing standing. Hundreds of trees, thousands of animals.

This is nothing particularly novel of itself. That's the way NSW chooses to lose its hard-earned money – \$29 million was thrown away in the hardwood division in 2024. That's a lot of youth crime projects spent, instead of subsidising those who only vote National anyway.

The unique feature in this case is that Forestry Corporation was not clearing its own land as it was meant to. It was clearing its neighbour's. That would be tragedy enough if the land was yours or mine, but it gets even worse. It was part of Bindarri National Park. Yes, let's read that slowly again. Forestry NSW, an habitual offender for this kind of malarkey, levelled every piece of vegetation in a huge swathe of national park.

This of course is a serious criminal offence. It carries fines in excess of \$1 million and prison terms. Directors of companies like Forestry Corporation can also be liable if they have failed to properly manage, or been grossly negligent, or reckless. And you'd have to think, in the days of GPS on every phone, that it's not brain surgery to avoid hacking down hundreds of trees on your neighbour's plot.

But where is the prosecution in this case? Nowhere. Why? Because NSW National Park Service, or their masters in the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water decided not to prosecute.

No transparency

Why? Because they got a better deal by entering into a deed where one government authority gives another government authority just under \$1 million in cash and in kind. And where is the agreement publicly available? Nowhere. Of course.

And when did they choose to publicise this abomination? On December 20, 2024, five years after the secret destruction, by way of a wee website posting. Such a



'For NSW Forestry, this is the best deal ever. The Christmas parties must have been buzzing like a chainsaw.'

– David Heilpern

pathetically obvious Christmas smoke screen.

And why would National Parks agree to such a deal? In defending the decision not to prosecute, department boss Anthony Lean said: 'The deed imposes significant obligations on Forestry Corporation to ensure we get a better outcome than would have been secured through litigation.'

Outrageous arrangement

There is so much wrong with this outrageous arrangement it is hard to know where to start.

Criminal prosecutions should never be determined on the ability of the defendant to pay.

This is fundamental, and ought to be obvious to all those who signed off on this dirty sweetheart deal.

Two hypotheticals illustrate this: First, imagine that it was a private logging company that levelled the national park, but had no funds. Would they be prosecuted because they could not come up with \$1 million in blood money?

Second, if Gina Reinhardt is caught drink driving, (mmm, maybe a bad example because she likely has a team of chauffeurs – but bear with me) should she be able to avoid prosecution by paying big dollar-bucks to the state coffers?

Of course not, and that is because determining criminal litigation on financial capacity has never, and should never, play a part in our justice system.

Shocking as this is, it is even worse when it is taxpayers' money being shifted from one pile to another in a so-called litigation outcome that is 'better' than a criminal court penalty. There is a clear and obvious advantage to government in not having the scrutiny and commentary inherent in judicial determination of punishment and compensation. Such an arrangement between government agencies

stinks to high heaven.

For NSW Forestry, this is the best deal ever. The Christmas parties must have been buzzing like a chainsaw. Last time they were fined hundreds of thousands for illegal logging, the court specifically rejected the contention that they were sufficiently remorseful, and discounted a submission that they were unlikely to offend in the future.

The court judgment contains line after depressing line, detailing the offending history of this loss-making venture over decades in searing, deprecating detail, with particularly telling commentary on the CEO's evidence.

No wonder it is better to dig into our coffers to pay off another state body rather than have to go through that again. I mean, if you can pay to hide your dirty washing, who wouldn't huh? Especially with yet another criminal matter entering penalty phase over even more illegal logging at Wild Cattle Creek.

There is nothing wrong with a court ordering, or noting compensation being paid from perpetrator to victim. It is also appropriate that this can impact sentence as an indication of remorse, and by reparation. However, payment of lucre ought never be grounds for a decision not to prosecute as it robs the community of the opportunity for appropriate scrutiny, public airing, transparency and independent determination.

After all, the court may have been able to get to the bottom of how this could ever occur, identify the executives concerned, and help make sure it never happens again.

That is one of the functions of the criminal justice system.

Yet again, Forestry NSW has shown itself to be unworthy as a custodian of public resources.

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



The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #37 February 19, 2025
Established 1986 • 22,000 copies every week

www.echo.net.au

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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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FRIDAY
7
MARCH

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY LUNCH

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Celebrate 10 years of SHIFT at Crystalbrook Byron on March 7th with Mandy Nolan, guest speakers, bubbles on arrival, and a three-course meal.

Theme # Accelerate Action.

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Bullies call the shots! Cartoon by Jamie Hoile.

Happy night

Sometimes these days one knows that one is in the right place at the right time with the right people who are supporting animals facing extinction.

This realisation happened to many of us last Thursday at the Bangalow Koala Fund-raising night at the A&I Hall.

With good food, hilarious comedy, generous hearts, and great organisation, a full audience raised a lot of money to reach the goal of planting 500,000 trees for koalas by the end of 2025.

What a great night and a great cause. Good on you, Linda Sparrow!

Now let's all make sure we drive carefully on the roads around here!

Noelle Lynden-Way
Ewingsdale

MensLine

In all the bustle and commotion of life, I discovered only last Sunday the Safe Haven behind Mullum's Civic Hall as I sauntered by. In the adjacent park, I happened upon one beautiful brother from Tasmania, named Johan, and asked if he knew how long it had been there. 'Since the floods,' he replied.

As I perused the leaflets stuck to the walls, one with a long list of helplines caught my attention, at the bottom of which was a phone number for MensLine. Most arresting was that, upon careful rereading, there were no specific women's

helplines. Of course there are organisations with dedicated support for women, but what's important about this as a man, I realised, is that it's basically a licence for vulnerability, something which the dominating culture does not readily grant to males, though apparently the tide is shifting.

'Our secrets make us sick,' concurred Johan as I shared my insight with him, fighting back tears. That licence, the MensLine phone number, is 1300 789 978. I didn't call it, but was happy to know it was there. I walked away with the sunshine in my face.

Jason van Tol
Myocum

HAJ

When my husband or I fail to finish a task, we affectionately call each other HAJ, an acronym for Half a Job.

It's so disappointing to see this dynamic play out at an organisational level via the Byron Council. A notable and almost literal HAJ is the Stuart Street Green Spine project, so successfully executed south through to Tincogan Street, while the north side remains in a state of ill repair.

Seeing Council get juiced up about new expensive projects like moving the Mullum Pool, whilst neglecting to finish those they've already committed to really grinds my gears. Finish what you start.

Sam Leader
Mullumbimby

Wallum court case

This Friday, February 21, the Federal Court of Australia in Sydney will begin the hearing of Save Wallum vs Clarence Property.

Save Wallum's goal is, 'to permanently halt the development and buy back the land for community and conservation purposes'. It is a culmination of a huge grassroots, non-violent movement involving people, locally and nationally: politicians, lawyers, ecologists, local indigenous leaders, local businesses, environmental activists, community liaisons, social media bloggers, filmmakers, photographers, artists, poets, musicians, backpackers, students, grannies, parents and children.

Information was disseminated via a multitude of volunteers at Bayside tents, NVDA (Non Violent Direct Action) workshops, guided walks through Wallum, market stalls, street marches and protests, websites, photography and art exhibitions, music concerts, morning teas, local newspapers and national media outlets. Many of these venues have been selling a huge range of locally-produced merchandise to raise awareness and funds to cover Save Wallum's huge legal costs.

In this David and Goliath battle, our community is fighting to protect 30 hectares of rare coastal wetlands and their threatened plants and animals.

This is a message to the federal government that they need to strengthen our environmental laws. Coastal communities facing high population growth must urge local councils, and...

► Please read full letter in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au/letters.

Sue McLeod
Myocum

Life hack for surviving storms

During last night's big storm, with flashes of fork n' sheet lightning, crazy thunder and pelting rain, I noticed anxious feelings in my body. The house was literally rattling! Then I remembered a simple tip: deep-breath humming.

So I began to hum/sigh in a loud but relaxed way, taking slow, deep breaths, and was amazed at how quickly the tension melted away. It turns out humming redirects one's scary thoughts, which stimulates the vagus nerve, which calms the nervous system. You can't hum and feel anxious at the same time!

I thought others in our community might find this little trick helpful in times of stress, especially during storms like that one!

Sandy Loyall
Bangalow

Cycling

I read David Lowe's article (December 31, 2024) about his cycling to Uluru.

In 2024 I cycled from Cairo to Cape Town. There is another local couple who cycled across Africa in 2012. The rail trail has great potential for bringing cycling tourism to the area serviced by *The Echo*.

► Continued on next page

Beautiful new clinic in Newrybar Village

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Letters to the Editor

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

■ *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.

ATTENTION ALL LETTER WRITERS

In order to run more letters on different topics, from this 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.



AND THE FAMOUS RAILS KITCHEN

WED 19 FEB

ISAAK FRANKHAM

THU 20 FEB

PHIL & TILLEY TRIO

FRI 21 FEB

THE WHISKEYS

SAT 22 FEB

MARSHALL OKELL BAND

SUN 23 FEB

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MON 24 FEB

LEIGH JAMES

TUES 25 FEB

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Where's Justine? Here are a few reader insights

Also as a long-time local, and contrary to the intimation of a letter writer from last week's *Echo* (February 12), I can personally vouch for just a small aspect of the excellent work and actions of our Federal Member for Richmond, Justine Elliot and her staff, particularly in the aftermath of the floods of 2022.

I volunteered my services to Justine's office to assist wherever required, and under their co-ordination and direction, I variously helped transfer ambulant patients from Ballina to the makeshift Ballina Hospital at Holy Family School in Lennox Head, took bedding and manchester to Lake Ainsworth for the Cabbage Tree Island community members, transferred a load of one thousand frozen meals, donated from Sydney, from Lismore to the Murwillumbah flood hub, dropped off countless donated items from the Bangalow Op Shop to the Mullumbimby and Murwillumbah hubs, and

the list went on.

Much of this was with Justine by my side. I certainly learnt from this just how genuine she is, and that you can always count on Justine to be there for you in difficult times.

Justine was also agitating fiercely, and ultimately successfully, to have the immediate cash payments to flood victims, which PM Morrison had...

► **Please read full letter in *The Echo* online:**
www.echo.net.au/letters.

Ross Krippner
Bangalow

With the issues raised at the end of her letter, I'd have to question the 'no political agenda' in Noelle Maxwell's letter (February 12).

Feros Care? – solved through the Labor councillor, Asren Pugh and the work of Mark Swivel, state and federal Labor governments. Fletcher Street Cottage – a \$1m grant from the state Labor government and

Justine working with state ministers. Violence against women – national coordination and state Labor government implementation of coercive control legislation, federally implemented domestic violence leave, and record investment in support services. Reducing coal and gas reliance – are you kidding? The best way to do this is by the major investment and rollout of renewable projects that we've seen under this government

You could go on, you say, and so could I. We all want empathy but the schedule of a cabinet minister does not quite allow for a presence at the opening of every envelope, or offers to MC any event with a microphone. It's steady, concerted work far from *The Echo's* cameras.

Empathy's great but, being in government and cabinet is far more likely to give you the 'plan and action' you call for.

Liz Levy
Suffolk Park

► **Continued from page 9**

I cycle several times a week from Ballina to Broadwater, to Lismore via Dalwood, to Newrybar via Percies Creek and/or Fernleigh, Rous via Uralba down to Meerschaum Vale and back via Wardell.

The area has stunning cycling routes and opportunities. The Byron Bay Bike Club has hosted the Cycling Festival in Lismore in 2023 and 2024.

There are a number of informal cycling groups that cycle in the area most days per week.

The conduct of some (mainly young) e-bike riders is generating adverse social media comments. In contrast to these posts I am seeing an increasing number of people riding e-bikes recreationally. Riders cover all the age groups, and often comprise family groups with dad and mum with a child (or in some cases a couple of children) as pillion passengers. It is a joy to see a whole new group of people embracing cycling.

Richard Hughes
East Ballina

Necks planet

It is bewildering to aliens like me to see you humans wandering around destroying your climate as if it doesn't matter.

In particular it annoys me that there are so many cloudy wet days, due to the eight per cent increase in

atmospheric water for each increased degree of average temperature. Up and down, up and down the water goes; it's boring sitting in my saucer all week.

Hey, how about switching over to electrons instead of those blardy carbomb molecules. Ehh. That dirty smelly stuff going pop pop pop at 3,000 rpm... Give me a break. Yes I know you like the brmmm brmmm, but try to move beyond that, boys and gurls. Good planets are hard to find.

If you see bats hanging around in trees, or sucking blood from your neck at night, it's nature's way of getting you to take batteries seriously. Yes they stash electrons to keep your lights on at night and your neck safe.

C'mon humans, the way you're going it'll get so cloudy my solar won't work, battery won't charge, and saucer won't fly. At least, when it floods, I'll be able to stay up to my neck in it.

Sapoty Brook
Milky Way

Sam Kerr

I'd like to thank Catherine Cusack for giving us the correct information about soccer player Sam Kerr's story. I hadn't taken much notice of it at all, but I did spend the time and watched the video in the London police station, where the girls were clearly not being listened to.

As usual the mainstream media did not report this incident correctly. This happens time and time again.

I'm glad Sam has won her case and now she can get on with her life.

Margot Hays
Bangalow

Takeover of Hampton Park

Ballina Council's complicity in the loss of local input and control of more than half of Hampton Park is revealed in the Hampton Park Draft Master Plan.

The area under lease to Cherry Street Sports Club, which covers as much as half of Hampton Park, and was recently expanded, is not considered in the Draft Master Plan. Ballina Council's earlier decisions mean that the sports club's leases over public land are now managed or will shortly be managed by Crown Lands, as business operations are not permitted on public recreation land. Local input is now stymied and the decisions about the management and use of the Cherry Street Sports Club lease areas rest with a state department.

Lucky Ballina – decisions affecting open green space that has been whittled away is now at the mercy of state governments of the calibre of the incompetent and inept current government that is in thrall to registered clubs and

► **Continued on page 12**

Community engagement and collaboration in Byron Shire

Dale Emerson & Jan Barham

Local government is the most relevant level of government in relation to our daily lives. It's concerned with development in our neighbourhood, parking, rubbish, protecting the environment and preparations for managing future disaster situations.

Our community has an important role in determining how our council addresses the future and ongoing issues that affect how we live, by staying informed and engaged about what, how and when issues are prioritised and actioned, and having a say when the opportunities arise. This is the unique collaboration that exists at a local level.

Community input

Byron Council has a responsibility to inform and seek input from the community about actions, priorities, and future plans and to respect the value of community input and to commit to the collaboration.

How council keeps the community informed and engaged is defined in a document called the Community Engagement Strategy (CES).

The Office of Local Government (OLG) *Councillor Handbook* states that Community engagement is



Photos from Byron Shire Council's 'Draft Community Engagement Strategy 2024 to 2028'. You can find the draft CES on Council's website at: <https://tinyurl.com/zwrc666k>.

at the heart of local government. It helps community to be active participants in shaping their own future and play a part in positive change.

It also directs councils to incorporate the principles of IAP2, the International Association for Public Participation program that defines best practice for how the community engagement and participation processes operate. It determines that the first priority is to inform, and then defines the ways in which Council consults, empowers, and collaborates with the community. Then, there's a responsibility to report on the

contributions from community and how the input affected the decision-making process. This assists the community to gain increased knowledge about how Council operates.

Community empowerment

IAP2 has a focus on empowering community which includes five levels of engagement to inform and involve the community to deliver a collaborative, community-led approach to local government decision making. IAP2 also defines the need for government to make

'promises' to community that it will conduct the processes of engagement in a respectful manner and deliver on the defined principles and objectives.

The CES also identifies how it determines the design of Council's communications with the community. It must identify all stakeholders and ensure that it engages with those groups in a meaningful way, acknowledging specific needs.

A new Council is required to undertake a review of the previous Council's CES and seek community input on a revised draft.

This process happened recently

and the draft CES was placed on public exhibition and received ten submissions. The report back to Byron Council identified that submissions were received but no input from those submissions were included and no explanation given.

Council then heard from residents (us) who had made submissions, we requested a deferral for a review of submissions and strengthening of the document. The councillors took note and resolved to defer approval and hold a workshop to explore how it could be enhanced.

The draft CES is being considered by our elected councillors soon. If community members have expectations for their input to receive greater focus and attention then it's important to look at what is proposed and contact councillors with your feedback.

If you have an interest in the collaboration, now is the time to get informed and make contact with your elected councillors.

■ You can find the draft CES and councillors contacts on the Byron Shire Council website (www.byron.nsw.gov.au or <https://tinyurl.com/zwrc666k>).

■ To find out more about IAP2 you can visit <https://iap2.org.au>.



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Are traffic lights right for Suffolk Park?

Joti Jaffray

Many people in the community have asked, how did we miss the plan for traffic lights for the Suffolk intersection?

The answer's simple, we weren't informed and weren't asked for comment.

The recent grant process for traffic lights began last year.

In the May 23, 2024 Byron Council meeting agenda, Cr Dey spotted in a grant report that staff were considering a grant for traffic lights at Suffolk Park. He highlighted that there was no Council decision or community consultation to support traffic lights. In the meeting it was revealed the grant application had been lodged on May 10. Cr Dey also raised a 2017 Council decision for an Options Report to 'review all facets of the design process for the intersection' that hadn't been delivered. Cr Dey was able to put that prior action on the record again and was advised by staff that it could be done prior to the grant finalisation.

The November 28, 2024 Byron Council meeting agenda included the Options



Report, recommending traffic lights as an interim option, despite not considering all options. It failed to consider the NSW Road Action Plan priority safety measure of speed reduction, or other designs including a mini-roundabout.

The view that a roundabout isn't possible without land acquisition may be incorrect. The Action Plan supports roundabouts as more efficient and cost-effective than traffic lights and when there are site constraints, features mini-roundabouts as part of safe design solutions.

A review of the available information has identified that the criteria for traffic signals aren't met. The report failed to

mention that there's been no accidents since the removal of the left-turn lane into Clifford Street.

Grant variation possible

Mayor Sarah N'diaye queried if a deferral for community consultation and grant variation were possible. The answer from staff was no to both. The \$1.8m grant had been approved and councillors were informed it would be lost if the December 13, 2024 deadline for acceptance wasn't met. A vote to support the grant was successful.

Council is meant to be transparent and inform and engage the community and respond to their views. Last week three locals opposing traffic lights spoke at Council, presenting viable alternative safety options, but were ridiculed about having a 'Do Nothing' approach. Now it's also been revealed that the grant can be varied. A petition has been lodged with 1,091 signatures opposing traffic lights.

The question now is will Byron Council listen and resolve to do a grant variation to deliver an alternative to traffic lights to improve safety, queuing and delays in Suffolk Park?

► **Continued from page 10** the gambling industry.

The draft plan opens the door for yet further loss of local decision making and control. The plan proposes that an access road, for the sole benefit of Cherry Street Sports Club, runs from Moon Street to the sports club loading dock...

► **Please read full letter in *The Echo* online:**
www.echo.net.au/letters.

Max Liandra
East Ballina

Trump has ruined our rivers

Good on *The Echo* for stepping up and devoting its front page to the global geopolitical stage. Slightly lacking in imagination however, as your article locked in goose step with the likes of Reuters and BBC in their latest shrill outbreak of Trump Derangement Syndrome.

In my opinion the US Agency for International Development is not an aid organisation, it is a giant Ponzi scheme run by globalist warmongers. It has washed a conservative \$37.6 billion through the Ukraine money-laundering operation, to fill the pockets of armament manufacturers and other warmongers across the globe. To me, its principal remit has been to create and sustain human conflict.

Interesting you highlighted a local connection to the disgraced organisation [USAID]. I just read the latest annual report on the glossy

Positive Change for Marine Life website. Strange USAID was not cited anywhere as a funding source in the financials. I guess that can happen given 95 per cent of the funding is casually labelled 'donations'.

Another issue highlighted by the financials is 'campaign expenses' being greater than 'operations', a reliable signifier of much gloss, but little substance. It all sounds wonderful with the 'objective of healthy waterways', and a local focus on...

► **Please read full letter in *The Echo* online:**
www.echo.net.au/letters.

Marc Westley
Ocean Shores

Unreasonable, persistent

It is outrageous that the current admin staff employed by Byron Shire Council can classify a ratepayer or member of the community as an unreasonable, persistent person and treat them accordingly. Does a director or general manager communicate with the ratepayer or member of the community before they are labelled unreasonable and persistent to see if this label is warranted? The answer is no.

This opens a door for the admin to label people who are trying to ask legitimate questions that should be able to be answered to be shelved by admin staff.

A suitable answer to ratepayers' or community members' questions is not 'well that is the way it is', or

'you can always take legal action', or to classify them as a unreasonable and persistent person.

The scenario is also created by this labeling process existing and being used for a person asking a legitimate question to be put on the shelf and their question and situation ignored. I don't think this can be construed as consultative or transparent.

The situation is then created that if Byron Council's, for example, compliance requirements, have been broken nothing is done. The situation is not addressed and remains. How frustrating this ...

► **Please read full letter in *The Echo* online:**
www.echo.net.au/letters.

Alan Dickens
Byron Bay

Identity

If you're a Palestinian Muslim resident, whose family's background is from Israel, I think you'd be safe, and you could be confident that you weren't included as one of the Israelis who the Banksdown Hospital nurses said they'd kill.

I'm sure they were just referring to killing Australians with a Jewish Israeli background. For general non-Jewish residents, just to be safe, for blokes it may be worth registering at a hospital with an additional made-up Muslim middle name, and wearing a Muslim kefiya scarf (a Greens Party member might lend you

one). for women, just to clarify you're not Jewish, perhaps go in a hijab.

I wish Jewish residents well on celebrating the recent Jewish religious festival of Tu B'Shvat, a festival for honouring trees, (from sundown February 12 to sundown February 13). And perhaps we all can take inspiration for a response to this ugly 'health care' situation, from the trees honoured in this particular instance of Australia's multicultural festivals – trees that continue to provide shade, even to those that come to cut them down.

John Lazarus
Byron Bay

One state

It seems to me the only viable, legitimate, and lasting solution to the conflict in Palestine is one state, not two, with human rights and equality under the law for all its citizens. Perhaps Danny Wakil can explain why he doesn't agree.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Congrats

Congratulations for publishing the December 'Miss-Information' front cover; I cannot think of any other paper that would print it, except *The Light*.

The realism is amazing, a little scary.

You should make a high-quality print, frame it and hang in your office.

Michael Priestley
Northern Rivers

Kerry O'Brien and Jenny Hocking in conversation

Richard Hil

Could 2025 be any more burdened by less-than-great expectations? By the time this article gets published, an authoritarian populist with a penchant for grand gestures, threats and land grabs will be installed in the White House. Less grandiose leaders in Europe and elsewhere will hasten the shift away from liberal democracy toward nativism, cruelty and brute force.

This year, Australia faces its own moment of truth as we await the announcement of one of the most consequential elections of our time (aren't they all?). The nation seems enveloped in a zeitgeist of uncertainty, fear and anxiety that will steer the choices people make about who should sit in parliament.

Meanwhile, big tech oligarchs are reshaping the world in their interests, intervening at will in the affairs of other countries and rolling back pesky regulations and 'globalism'. Violent hot spots across the globe, including those resulting in mass murder (otherwise known as genocide), will continue to horrify us.



Professor Jenny Hocking. Photo supplied



Kerry O'Brien. Photo David Lowe

More Decent and Independent Nation, features author and broadcaster Kerry O'Brien and Emeritus Professor Jenny Hocking, Gough Whitlam's biographer and author of *The Palace Letters*. Kerry and Jenny will discuss the values that shape today's Australia and the sort of nation we should and could become. How can Australia become a better, more equitable, inclusive and just nation that finally comes to terms with its past? Can we grow into a more independent country, that truly knows its place in the world?

Taking place just weeks after Trump's re-ascension to power and with the upcoming federal election around the corner, this event is surely a must-attend. There will be music, food and drink, sparkling conversation involving two respected progressive thinkers, and lots of open discussion that will send everyone home with a sense of renewed understanding and purpose.

■ Doors open at 5.30pm, with music and conversation starting at 6.45pm. For more details, and to book tickets visit: www.trybooking.com/CYNOZ.

What could Australia become?

Australia's particular range of problems reflect its confused sense of what this nation is, or what it could become. We're still hanging on to the apron strings of empire. We're a shadow country with an unresolved past which many want to keep concealed. We remain a giant quarry, exporting stuff around the world that wreaks havoc on the biosphere, while claiming green credentials

and global citizenship. Our governments routinely mouth falsehoods. People have lost confidence in them (even though the current government has done some good things).

Debt-ridden households can't cope, homeless populations grow, education and health divides deepen. Yet rather than big pictures we're often offered policy hand-me-downs. And vested interest continues to reign supreme. There's precious little vision to guide us to a different future. It's as if we're

stuck in a vision-free quagmire.

And then there's the climate catastrophe....

So here we are, not so much at the crossroads but rather peering boggle-eyed into an abyss. It's not a fun time. Far from it. It's with all this in mind that we consider an upcoming event to be held on February 20 at M-Arts, Murwillumbah.

Politics of Life

The opening event of the 2025 Politics of Life series, tilted *Unstuck Australia: Becoming a*

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Byron Boardriders back in the water for 2025

Ross Kendall

The Byron Bay Boardriders held their first junior contest for the season in good swell at Byron Bay's Main Beach last Sunday.

More than 100 junior surfers and their families enjoyed a great day of high-quality surfing in good swell, according to Byron Bay Boardriders Club president, Neil Cameron. 'They all loved it, it was a great way to kick off 2025,' he said.

'There were great waves for young kids, they got some really good waves and the standard is amazing.'

'We try to fit in seven events across the year.'

Age groups start at U/16s boys and girls and go down to U/9s with 'parent assist'.

'The parents can go out with the younger surfers and push them onto waves,' Neil said. 'We also put on



Dakota Walters at Main Beach on Sunday. Photo Mike Egan

a barbeque, and there is a professional photographer there getting shots from in the water and from a drone. So the kids have something to download.'

Top performers

The day's best included: U/16s Jaya Suhendra, Hugo Spierings, Malia Barron and Amelia Miller; U/14s Levi Lowe, Tymen Spierings, Rosie Barron and

Giorgia Benedetti; and U/12s Cooper Cameron and Sasha Hemsworth.

The seniors are also underway for 2025, and had their first competitive outing on February 9.

Dakota Walters took out the open men's, while Mali Adam was the best female open competitor. Mac Brindley won the junior men's event while Charly Wrtrencher won the over-50s.

Grassroots festival to paint the town blue

Paul Bibby

Local filmmaker and educator, Karin Ochsner, credits the ocean with her survival, a place that has helped her deal with a rare and life-threatening allergic condition.

So it was natural, when considering her next big project, that Ms Ochsner decided to focus on helping the ocean heal and survive.

It was from this simple, altruistic premise, and conversations with Dolphin Research Australia CEO Dr Elizabeth Hawkins and Surfers For Climate COO Caitlin Fine, that the idea for Future Blue Fest was born.

Fest held April 6

Taking place on Sunday, April 6 at the Byron Bay Bowling Club, the event aims to bring the Shire's ocean-lovers together to connect, learn, and let their salty hair down.

'The ocean has helped me heal so much, I was literally *Surfing to Survive*,' says Ms Ochsner, who made an award-winning feature documentary with this title.



Dolphins in Byron Bay. Photo www.kimcareyimages.com

'I've gotten so much better, and I now feel the energy to organise bigger events, and I just really want to give back to the ocean because without it I probably wouldn't be here.'

'I want to celebrate what we've got here in the Shire in a positive way.'

Ms Ochsner's vision is shared by Dolphin Research Australia, which will be front and centre at the grassroots festival, along with Surfers for Climate.

In May 2023, Dolphin Research Australia played a central role in having Byron Bay listed as an Ocean Hope Spot – a site with incredible

ecological diversity that needs to be protected from the encroaching threats of pollution, runoff, and increasing coastal development.

Collaboration

With Ms Ochsner and Dr Hawkins pulling in the same direction, they decided to team up to organise the Future Blue Fest as a way of raising awareness and encouraging collaborative efforts to protect the Bay.

'We've got so many people here who support the ocean in Byron, but we don't always mingle that much,' Ms Ochsner says.

Byron cyclists start 2025 racing calendar

The Byron Bay Cycling Club held its first criterium race day for 2025 at the Cavanbah Centre.

The day included racing across three grades as well as a women's development and kids' races. Winners included William Stirling, Margaret Wieggers, Robert Crossley (who has celebrated 50 years of racing), Tim Wall and Laurelie Moss.



Byron Bay Cycling Club. Photo supplied

McCulloch and Cibilic scoop Gold Coast Open

Sunshine Coast local and former championship tour surfer, Sophie McCulloch, has made a triumphant return, claiming victory at her first World Surf League (WSL) Qualifying Series (QS) event since recovering from a back injury.

The 2025 Gold Coast Open Finals Day last

weekend saw pumping three-to-four-foot surf at Burleigh Heads, says Surfing Queensland.

'Sophie McCulloch, who recently overcame a career-threatening back injury, shared her determination to secure the win during a pre-event media call. As the women's final unfolded,

all eyes were on the water, with Charli Hatley delivering textbook surfing alongside the eventual champion, Sophie McCulloch.'

Former Championship Tour surfer, Morgan Cibilic, secured victory in a thrilling final against standout competitor and Angourie local, Dakota Walters.

Welfare payment cuts leads to deaths

Revelations that at least ten Australians died after being wrongfully cut off from vital government payments has prompted peak lobby group ACOSS to demand an overhaul of the income support compliance system.

On February 15, *The Saturday Paper* reported, 'The government was informed of a glitch that caused more than a thousand people to be cut off from welfare payments, but ignored it for more than three years because halting it would harm the profits of privatised employment service providers.'

Journalist Rick Morton writes, 'Services Australia

either cannot, or will not, say whether these deaths were the result of suicide or the destitution brought about by the incorrect cancellation of welfare.'

Four week cut off

'After each cancellation, there is a mandatory wait of four weeks before people are able to reapply for support.'

Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) said 'The Targeted Compliance Framework that cuts off people's payments must be urgently stopped and overhauled.'

'In November, it was revealed that around 1,000 income support payments

may have been illegally cancelled in the period between April 2022 and July 2024.'

ACOSS CEO, Cassandra Goldie, said, 'Since its introduction in 2018, ACOSS has consistently opposed the Targeted Compliance Framework and formally warned successive ministers about the serious harm it causes, urging the payment suspensions to be stopped.'

'Every three months, 240,000 people – over a third of people in Workforce Australia – have their payment suspended. The TCF must be urgently removed to prevent further harm to people on low incomes,' said Dr Goldie.

Echo

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MULLUM ON THE MAP



A WORD FROM THE CHAMBER

Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce and community is all about our connections in our community. We support anything Mullumbimby, from prizes for our local tennis club, to putting on the Kaleido festival and The Chippy Charge (both coming up later in the year). We love Mullumbimby and really support our local businesses. We have a great competition coming up - a treasure hunt for Mullumbimby - so keep an eye out for it. Again, supporting our local businesses is the key to a thriving Mullumbimby, and keeping our community alive and healthy.

mullumbimby.org.au

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hempculture.com.au
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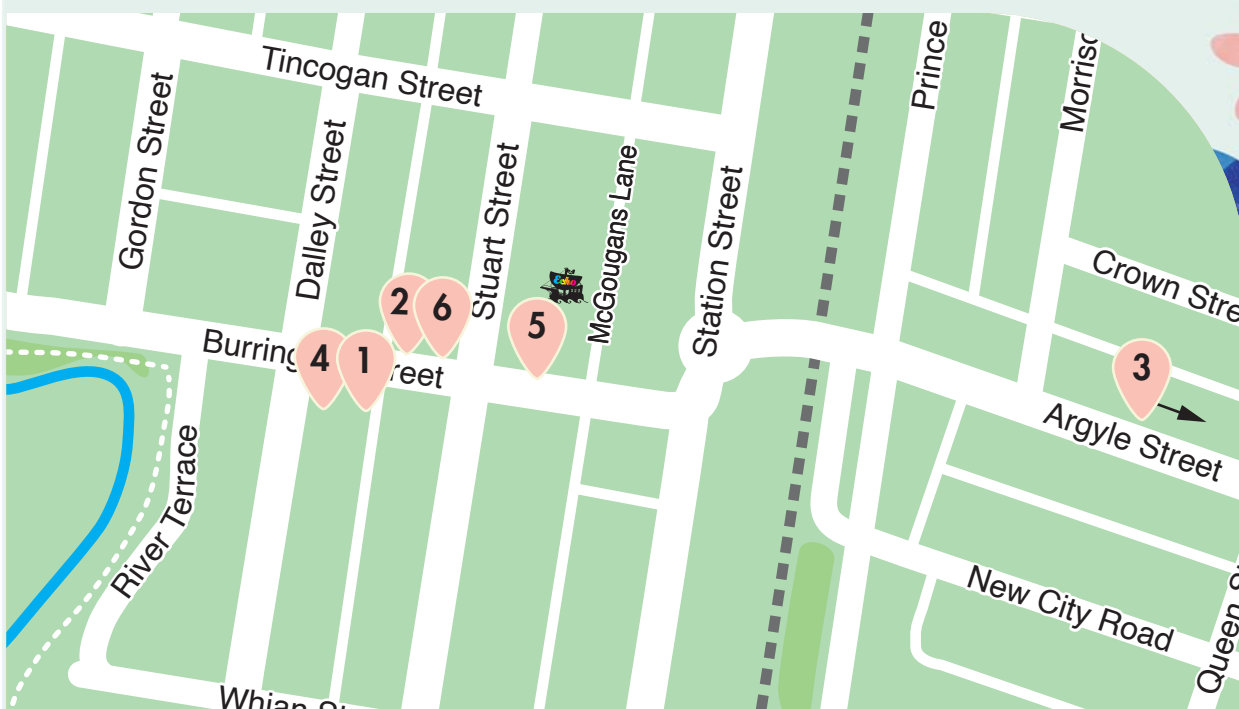
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Good Taste

Eateries Guide

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BYRON BAY (continued)



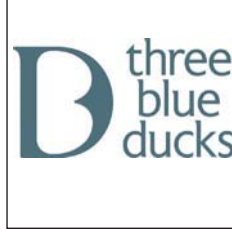
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empiremullumbimby.com.au

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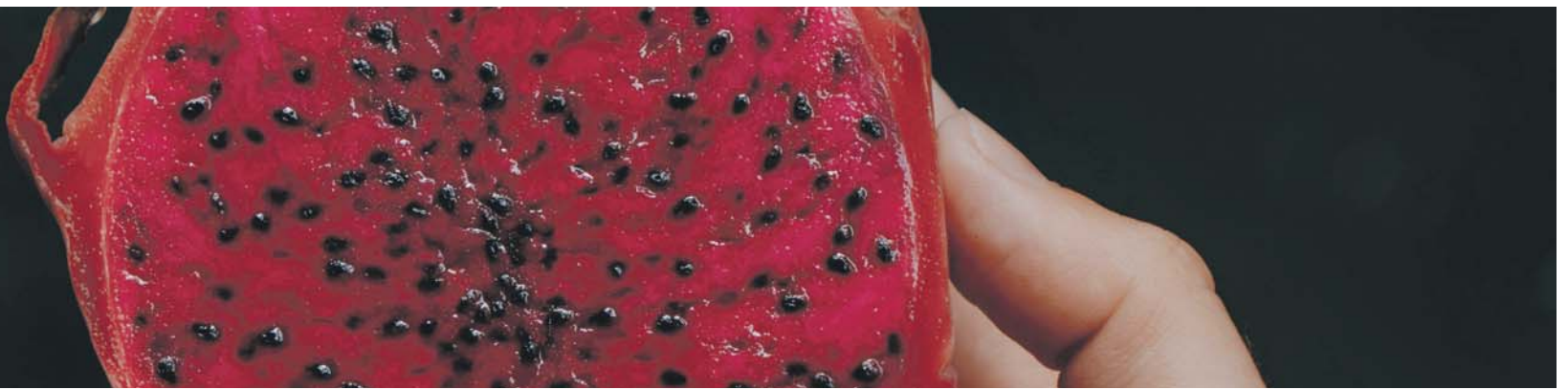
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The Good Life



Lifting the (Darl) bar on healthy snacks



Joel Drexler from Thanks Darl at Byron Farmers Market and in his kitchen in Byron Bay.

When Joel Drexler's wife, Laura, couldn't find a healthy and tasty muesli bar, he decided to create one for her. The Byron Bay-based foodie was already looking for a career change, so the synchronicity saw the birth of Darl Bars.

'I started experimenting with muesli bar recipes and, four months later, I started selling them at the Mullumbimby craft markets,' Joel says. 'I decided to call them Darl Bars because Laura and I call each other darl.'

Fast-forward a couple of years and Joel and his locally-made, plant-based bars joined Byron Farmers Market where he quickly gathered a strong following. He puts this down to a number of things, including sourcing the best ingredients.

'I love coming up with new recipes and interacting with customers who enjoy our products,' he says. 'Running a business can be tough and lonely, so interacting with customers at the markets who love our products is very important for me.'

'My goal is to source the best ingredients I can find and combine them to create delicious flavours unlike any other snack. I source most of our ingredients from Australian farms. Our macadamia oil comes from Northern NSW and Queensland and we get our pumpkin seeds from a farm in Victoria that's the only pumpkin seed grower

in Australia. I prefer working with the farms directly because it means the ingredients are always fresh.'

Another secret to the great-tasting bars is the way in which they're made.

'Rather than using extruders that squash the ingredients, I decided to use equipment that keeps the ingredients whole,' Joel says. 'This is a trickier process, but it makes for a much tastier product, where you get the flavours and textures of each ingredient.'

The regular Thanks Darl range includes six flavours: Roasted Almond Cinnamon, Turmeric, Caramel Pecan, Dark Chocolate Hazelnut, Dark Chocolate Sour Berry, and Lemon Macadamia, although Joel is always experimenting with seasonal produce.

'The most rewarding part of what I do is receiving positive feedback from customers, and providing healthier, more delicious snacks. When someone tells me how they love having a Darl Bar at 3pm when they're craving something sweet, or how instead of milk chocolate after dinner, they enjoy a Darl Bar, this is the best part of my job.'

■ You can find Joel and his Darl Bars at Byron Farmers Market. Byron Farmers Market is on Thursdays from 7am to 11am at Butler St Reserve and Bangalow Farmers Market is on Saturdays from 7am to 11am in Piccabeen Park.



Luncheon to support The Shift Project

On Friday, March 7, The SHIFT Project, which supports women at risk of homelessness with both direct support, and by offering employment in their laundry business, is celebrating International Women's Day with a delicious luncheon at Crystalbrook Byron.

The SHIFT Project Byron was launched at an International Women's Day lunch in 2015.

Ten years on, organisers say, 'We are delighted to invite our community to join us at Crystalbrook again, to hear stories of our adventures and to understand the impact you have on the women in our region.'

'Your belief in SHIFT and in the families/women and children who courageously ask for support to rebuild their lives, has made a significant difference in this community.'

'Join Mandy Nolan and the SHIFT community to enjoy a wonderful lunch, great storytelling and beautiful company on a day of celebration.'

'Hear the story of one of our ladies, whose goal was to

rebuild her self-confidence to be able to have her two young children back in her care. Her journey is one of inspiration. After year one, building on communication and financial stability, her children returned to her care.'

'Year two saw her reconnecting with her four teenagers who were living in another state. Year three saw her living independently with her two littlies, and continuing to work. Come hear the story of intergenerational reconnection.'

In 2020, SHIFT launched their social enterprise and employment pathway Linen SHIFT, laundry with a conscience. Opening the laundry meant they could offer their services to women who did not need residential support but did need supported employment, as they found their way back

into the workforce. Employing over 46 women at risk, SHIFT managed its way through Covid, and the floods, and remains proudly embedded into the community.

■ Come listen to the women as they talk about their incredible journeys. To book tickets or a table go to www.shiftproject.org.au.



Where the locals go!
NORTH BYRON HOTEL

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(02) 6885 6500

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FREE Issue 87, September 2024 - Echo

Get in touch now to be a part of the Eat Drink Easter magazine.
Call 6684 1777 or email adcipy@echo.net.au



health & healing



Dr Sam Gartland

Dr Sam Gartland is a UK-trained doctor, whose practice of medicine has been profoundly influenced by his own recovery from multiple sclerosis (MS). His area of interest is Lifestyle Medicine, a lifestyle approach centering on plant-based nutrition. Sam's new practice, Life Medical Mullumbimby, offers Lifestyle Medicine consultations that address the causes of disease alongside GP services, skin-checks and natural therapies. Sam also holds a Masters in Sports Medicine. He has worked with Premier League and 'A'

League football clubs and has been published in Sports Medicine literature. He has been a retreat facilitator for Overcoming MS and is a co-author of the *Overcoming MS Handbook*. Sam is committed to empowering others with the skills and knowledge to optimise their health.

Life Medical Mullumbimby
113 Stuart St, Mullumbimby
02 6680 2486
www.lifemedicalmullumbimby.com.au

Zenthai Shiatsu

Zenthai Shiatsu is a holistic therapy integrating zen shiatsu, traditional Thai massage and osteopathic techniques. An effective structural and energetic form of bodywork, it works with your meridians to bring the body systems into balance, releasing areas of held tension, and increasing the flow of energy. This hands-on, movement-based therapy incorporates stretching, pressure, pulsing, rocking and stillness. Sessions are tailored to each individual's needs, whether it's for relaxation or a specific therapeutic focus. Benefits include joint mobilisation, pain relief, nervous system regulation, clarity of mind, reset for behavioural and emotional holding in the body, immunity and digestion support, and inviting vitality and good health into your life. The practitioners combine their knowledge and heart-centred awareness to enhance people's quality of life through focused intention bodywork.



byroncommunityclinic@gmail.com
0459 849 939

Kinesiology & Energy Psychology



Your body is an incredible database that keeps a record or memory of every move, thought, emotion and stress it has ever had. Kinesiology uses gentle biofeedback muscle testing to communicate with your subconscious mind, physical body and energy systems, tapping into this memory in a very precise and targeted way, to identify the

underlying cause of stress and imbalance, and the most appropriate therapeutic techniques to clear all kinds of stress and free your innate healing capacity to do what is necessary to bring all levels of your being back into balance and harmony.

Kate can work with you around physical and emotional issues, stress release, pain relief, posture and flexibility, fears and phobias, sabotage programs, compulsive behaviours, enhanced performance, concentration and focus, and more!

Mullumbimby
www.katemessengerkinesiology.com.au
[@katemesseger_kinesiology](https://www.instagram.com/katemessenger_kinesiology)
0413 003 301

New Health & Wellness Sanctuary in Bangalow

In exciting news for Bangalow, the beautiful heritage home next to the Uniting Church has now opened as a holistic health clinic - a space designed for deep-healing, relaxation and self-care, with four unique offerings.

The Day Spa provides luxurious treatments, massages, infrared sauna and a pre-wedding pamper parlour. Naturopathy consultations and personalised wellness plans are available with an experienced practitioner. Visit the store and herbal dispensary to stock up on organic, bulk skincare and their beautiful range of self-care essentials, or book your serene escape for ultimate relaxation, staying in their luxurious accommodation - perfect for private retreats.

Locals receive 10% off using the code LOCALS10.

Visit their website or Instagram to learn more and book your experience today.

They look forward to welcoming you!

www.janellapurcell.com
[@janellapurcell2](https://www.instagram.com/janellapurcell2)
13 Station Street, Bangalow



Northern Rivers Podiatry

Located on Marvell Street in the heart of Byron Bay, is a premier clinic dedicated to exceptional foot care. Known for its commitment to patient wellbeing, the clinic offers state-of-the-art podiatric services that range from general foot health to advanced treatments for sports injuries, orthotic therapy, and ingrown toenail care. Northern Rivers Podiatry prides itself on using the latest technology and evidence-based practices, ensuring tailored solutions for every patient. Led by a team of highly qualified professionals, the clinic places a strong emphasis on personalised care, aiming to enhance mobility, comfort, and overall quality of life. With a welcoming atmosphere and a reputation for excellence, Northern Rivers Podiatry is a trusted choice for foot health in Byron Bay and the surrounding communities.



10/6 Marvell St, Byron Bay
02 6619 2939
northernriverspodiatry.com.au

health & healing



World Doctor

At World Doctor, they understand that preparation and integration are essential for anyone exploring expanded states of consciousness within a healing framework, including psychedelic-assisted therapy. Through their RESET program, Soul Line Therapy™, Practitioner Training and RESET Retreats, they provide a comprehensive approach to ensure safety, and that these states lead to deep, lasting transformation. Their RESET program supports integration, nervous system recalibration, and embodied awareness.

Embodying Psychedelia is a community gathering of over 400 participants - practitioners, healers and spiritual seekers. Taking place from March 21-23 at Mount Tamborine, it explores the intersection of psychedelic wisdom and science - without the use of plant medicines.

Through somatic practices, talks, and workshops, they aim to shape the future of healing.

Join them and build your mycelium connections.

www.worlddoctor.com



Byron Community College

Support your wellbeing needs with upcoming health and wellness courses at Byron Community College, including Psychic Development - identify and cultivate your innate psychic abilities; Myofascial Release Massage (Pt.3) - advanced hands-on techniques that offer effective relief for upper and lower body pain; Breath for Life - discover the power that breath has to improve sleep, reduce panic, anxiety and depression, help with pain relief, and calm the mind and emotions; HeartMath Resilience - learn techniques to self-regulate emotions, clear old patterns, reduce stress, and recharge your energy for better sleep, enhanced vitality and ongoing resilience; Healthy Transition to Raw Vegan - guidance on healthy alternatives, changes to expect and how to mitigate whilst ensuring nutrition and wellbeing and meeting your ethical choices.

www.byroncollege.org.au or

02 6684 3374



Grove Psychology Clinic

After earning a PhD in psychology from Columbia University and working in a range of clinical settings in New York City, Dr. Geiger made her way to the Byron Shire and opened Grove Psychology Clinic, providing high quality psychology services.

In the heart of Brunswick Heads, Grove has a growing team of psychologists, specialising in trauma, PTSD, ADHD, dissatisfying relationships, psychosis and more. Services include individual and group therapy.

Fit is an essential component to the success of therapy, and finding the right therapist is not always easy. At Grove, their goal is to make this process as seamless as possible. Consultation calls are available to ensure they find the best match for your needs.

Contact them now to enquire or make a booking.

02 6685 8032

admin@grovepsychologyclinic.com

<https://grovepsychologyclinic.com/>

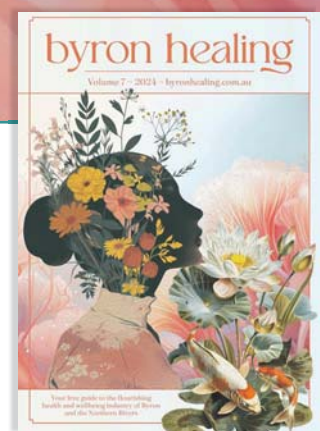
SAVE THE DATE

byron healing

www.byronhealing.com.au



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



The Yamas & Niyamas

Held by Byron Community College
Date: Sat 22 & Sun 23 Feb
Time: 10:30am-2:30pm
Address: Byron College, Mullum Campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au or 6684 3374

Psychic Development

Held by Byron Community College
Date: Wed 26 Feb (6 -sessions)
Time: 5:30-7:30pm
Address: Byron College, Mullum Campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au or 6684 3374

Myofascial Release massage Pt.3 (FUNDED*)

Held by Byron Community College
Date: Fri 28 Feb - Sun 2 Mar (weekend workshop)
Time: 5-9pm, and Sat & Sun 9am-6pm
Address: Byron College, Mullum Campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au or 6684 3374

Seeing Auras + Energy

Held by I of RA School of Consciousness
Date: Sat 1 Mar
Time: 10am-3pm
Address: Casa Veras, Byron Bay hinterland
Contact: i-of-ra.com/seeing-auras-and-energy

Breath for Life

Held by Byron Community College
Date: Tues 4 Mar (4-sessions)
Time: 1-4pm
Address: Byron College, Mullum Campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au or 6684 3374

HeartMath Resilience

Held by Byron Community College
Date: Sat 8 Mar (3-sessions)
Time: 10am-12 noon
Address: Byron College, Mullum Campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au or 6684 3374

THRIVE In 2025 - One Day Transformative Retreat

Held by Sugar Beach Ranch
Date: Sat 8 & Sun 9 Mar, Sat 5 & Sun 6 Apr
Time: 9am-4pm
Address: Sugar Beach Ranch, South Ballina
Contact: www.sugarbeachranch.com/thrive

Healthy Transition to Raw Vegan

Held by Byron Community College
Date: Sun 9 Mar
Time: 9:30am-4pm
Address: Byron College, Mullum Campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au or 6684 3374

Feed Your Family Seasonally (Autumn)

Held by Byron Community College
Date: Sat 15 & Sat 22 Mar
Time: 10am-3pm
Address: Byron College, Mullum Campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au or 6684 3374

Reiki One Teaching

Held by The Way of Healing
Date: Sat 15 Mar
Time: 10:30am-3:30pm
Address: advised upon booking
Contact: www.aqherbalist@gmail.com, thewayofhealing.net 0431 190 309

Qigong Health & Meditation Retreat

Held by Heart Mind Centre
Date: Oct 3 - 8
Time: 5-night residential retreat - daily
Address: Sangsurya Retreat Centre, Byron Bay
Contact: www.heartmindcentre.com.au/heart-mind-qigong-retreat / E: info@heartmindcentre.com.au



SEVEN

Eclectic Selection

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

✳️ Join in syntropic garden fun with live music, fresh produce and a delicious curry. **Every Wednesday from 4pm**, the **Curry & Jam** evenings are facilitated by a passionate musician. It's an open mic event, and beginners to masters are all welcome to play.

Wednesday from 4pm at The Paddock Project, Mullumbimby. Free event.



✳️ *Fragments of a Half Life* is a poignant film exploration of memory, loss, and the intricate relationship between a father and son. 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.

Thursday at 7.30pm at the Byron Theatre. Tickets \$25, kids/cons \$20 from byroncentre.com.au.



✳️ **Sam Buckley** is an innovative, dynamic and roaring blues artist in the Australian music scene. Buckley's performances – carved over 20 years of intense devotion and fiery passion – leave audiences uplifted in exhilaration to his energetic groove, face-melting riffs and rhythmic melodies.

Friday from 10pm at The Northern, Byron Bay. Free show.

Flaming Heart Records and Spangled Drongo Brewery are thrilled to announce the highly anticipated return of **Flaming Heart Fest** – a buzzing day, packed with local creatives, delicious craft beer and the coast's most electrifying, emerging bands!

This year's event promises to be bigger and better, showcasing six incredible acts hailing from across north east NSW.

Saturday from 2pm at the Burringbar Hall. Tickets \$30 from humantix.com.



✳️ After a long and seasoned career as a bassist and sideman to many, clocking up an impressive list

of albums and international tours along the way, **Bill Jacobi** has more recently been settling into the north coast lifestyle. Bill's songs emanate a strong sense of the groove and are laden with a down-to-earth honesty – an eclectic amalgamation of swamp/roots, alternative county and hillbilly funk.

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



✳️ Byron Bay-based band **Wild Marmalade** are the pioneers of the didgeridoo and drum sound that is now a global phenomenon. From their humble origins as street entertainers in the late

'90s they have taken their unique brand of didgeridoo and drum dance music to stages, clubs and festivals the world over – delivering uplifting, inspired, human-powered didgeridoo dance music unparalleled in the world today.

Sunday from 4pm at the Hotel Brunswick, Brunswick Heads. Free show.

✳️ **Lewis Garnham** returns to Byron with a brand-new show for one night only. *Stream of Contentedness* has been killing it all over the world – from the 2024 Melbourne International Comedy Festival Oxfam Gala, to Triple J. He's all over Youtube and has a heap of viral online videos. Now you can see his brand-new hour of stand up – live!

Monday from 7pm at the Byron Bay Services Club. Tickets \$25 from trybooking or mandynolan.com.au.

Steve Banks and The SIDEMEN



Jo Jo Zep / 10cc
 Rodriguez / Renée Geyer
 Kate Ceberano / Alex Lloyd
 Black Sorrows / Rockin' Emus
 Kasey Chambers
 The Sea Benz

TICKETS
 eventfinda.com.au



Pete WILKINS - Chloe WEST - Rick FENN - Brendan St LEDGER - Jeff BURSTIN - Mike MILLS
 with Steve BANKS out front - up close and personal with Rick FENN

7:00pm Friday 28 February @ The Brunswick Picture House





Discover the electro house legends

They're not that dirty

All legends, all classic rock hits – Australia's largest supergroup, **The Filthy Animals**, is a rotational lineup from a pool of over 35 of the country's finest musicians from Aussie pub rock royalty bands – fronted by legends of rock, sport and TV.

Whatever the lineup, the band continues to delight audiences and gather followers wherever they perform with their infectious joy, playing some of the best classic rock songs of all time, with other musicians they respect and admire, while keeping the audience smiling and dancing all night long.

This time around, you can join **Mark Furze** (Home & Away/Underbelly) on vocals; **Kerry Jacobsen** (Dragon/Mondo Rock) on drums; **Pete Robinson** (Electric Mary) on guitar; **Glen Muirhead** (Eurogliders) on keyboards; **Bobby Poulton** (Wolfmother) on bass; and **Daniel Cox** (The Poor) on guitar.

This is a free Sunday show at the Beach Hotel, from 4.30pm on Sunday, March 2.



Discovery is Australia's tribute to the music and image of French electro house legends, **Daft Punk**.

Complete with authentic signature gold and silver helmets, they have an entertaining, fun and party-vibe DJ set of their own with remixes and mashup. They will ensure even the purest Daft Punk fan will be satisfied.

With the attention to detail in custom-made costumes, **Discovery** are heading to the **Beach Hotel** on **Saturday, March 1** for a **free show**.

They'll have an awesome DJ support – the show starts at 8pm and finishes late!

GLEN MUIRHEAD KEYS	BOBBY POULTON BASS	MARK FURZE VOCALS	PETE ROBINSON GUITAR	DAN COX GUITAR	KERRY JACOBSON DRUMS
EUROGLIDERS	WOLF MOTHER	THE VOICE	ELECTRIC MARY	THE POOR	DRAGON

SUN 2 MAR 4:30PM
BEACH HOTEL, BAY ST. BYRON BAY

34th International Short Film Festival
THUR 27 FEB – SAT 1 MAR
MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL

FLICKERFEST MULLUMBIMBY & BYRON ALL SHORTS Northern Rivers Short Film Comp MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL – THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY TO SATURDAY 1ST MARCH

Celebrating 34 years of strictly great short films!

Flickerfest is back in the Northern Rivers for its 28th year screening a smorgasbord of the best short films from the Byron Region, Australia and the world across one cinematic weekend.

All films are handpicked from a record 3,500 entries promising local Northern Rivers audiences an entertaining journey through the most remarkable short films in the world today, including much-loved festival award-winners and exciting local talent.

2025 PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS:

THURSDAY 27TH FEB

7pm – Opening Night party:

Includes a complimentary drink from Gage Roads Brew Co, Rosnay Organic and Karma Juices, delicious treats from Yaman, and tunes from Diego Zaragoza.

8pm – Best Of International Shorts:

Flickerfest is thrilled to present a selection of 9 stunning film gems from our Oscar and BAFTA-qualifying competition in Bondi. Take a journey from Ireland to Sweden, Belgium, China and more. Highlights include the delightful Belgian film *Beautiful Men*, winner of Best International Animation at Flickerfest 2025, hot off its nomination for the upcoming Oscars and stunning Swedish film *Game Rules*.

FRIDAY 28TH FEB

8pm – Best Of Australian Shorts:

Celebrate and be amazed by a diverse range of our incredible Australian stories that honour our unique identity and culture. Highlights include *Marcia And The Shark* starring Tilda Cobham-Hervey (*I Am Woman*) winner of Best Australian Short Film, and the heartwarming and delightful *The Fix-It-Man And The Fix-It-Woman*, set in the bright lights of Alice Springs from a talented group of Yarrenyty Arltere Town Camp artists. Meet Lismore-born-and-raised director Naomi Fryer, joining us on the night, whose haunting film *The Sax* will also feature.

SATURDAY 1ST MAR

2pm – Free Filmmaking Workshop:

Go behind the scenes with Director Nick Waterman, *How to Make Gravy* based on Paul Kelly's famous song.

4pm – Byron All Shorts Competition:

Returning for the 20th year and presenting the Best Of Northern Rivers Shorts; experience amazing local talent and our own stories on the big screen. 11 incredible local short films will shine. Meet their creators before and after the session and see who takes home this year's awards.

8pm – Short Laughs Comedy:

Enjoy an evening of clever comedy from Australia and across the world with the Short Laughs Comedy programme. Don't miss the delicious black Australian comedy *Candy Bar* from director Nash Edgerton (*Mr Inbetween*), written by and starring award-winning actor Damon Herriman (*Breaking Bad*) and laugh out loud at the highly humorous Dutch film *Nelson the Piglet*, about a family whose miniature pig becomes the talk of the town.



The Fix-It-Man And The Fix-It-Woman (Australian Shorts)



Beautiful Men (International Shorts)



Vibrations (Byron All Shorts)



Candy Bar (Short Laughs)

Info/tickets: www.iQ.org.au

Booking is recommended, limited tix at the door subject to availability. The iQ licensed cafe opens 1 hour before sessions serving delicious local snacks and drinks.

[f](https://www.facebook.com/flickerfest) [i](https://www.instagram.com/flickerfest) @flickerfest #flickerfest2025

SEVEN



Introducing BoomChild

In just one year of jamming, the collaborative accolades that **BoomChild** have amassed is second to pretty much none. With opening slots for Hermitude, Adrian Eagle, The Rubens and Triple J's DreamFest, music video premieres on MTV and Rage, sold-out shows, and tracks piquing the interest of industry icons such as Future Classic, EMI, BMG and Sony Music – the collective have entered the scene with a boom.

The core collective is composed of lead vocalists **Charbel and Rico** with producers **Sumatra**. Together they've joined forces to captivate Australian ears with the release of 'Every Little Thing'. This single is the official introduction of BoomChild to the music industry.

Backing BoomChild is an underground rapper from the central coast and three of Australia's finest female vocalists. With tracks produced by Sumatra, **Zyad** brings the missing lyrical complexity the Australian hip-hop scene is craving, and the veteran singers of Sydney's live scene are stepping forward as **Ms Thandi, RISSA** and **Maina Doe**.

With a rich library of unreleased demos, singles and EPs, expect to grow familiar with these artists as BoomChild takes over.

BoomChild are playing a free show at the Beach Hotel on Thursday, February 27, with support from 8pm.

BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE
BAYFM AND BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE PRESENTS

FACE THE MUSIC

LIVE MUSIC GAME SHOW

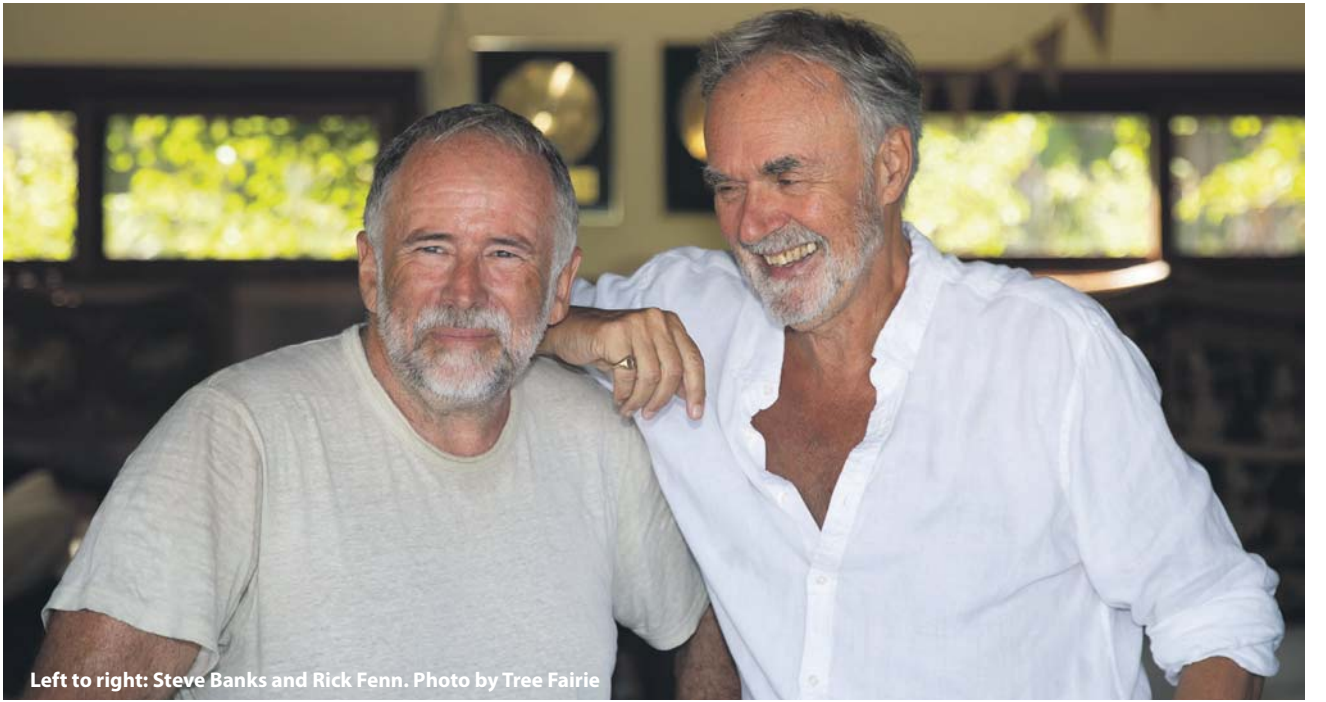
A KICK-ASS TRIVIA NIGHT!

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

THU 20 MAR @ 7PM

byron BayFM

brunswickpicturehouse.com



Left to right: Steve Banks and Rick Fenn. Photo by Tree Fairie

Autumn is everything 'in the house'

Summer is definitely one of our favourite times of the year to be out and about, but Brunswick Picture House is looking ahead to launching a packed program for autumn with some amazing shows in little ol' Brunswick Heads.

If it's live music and concerts you're after, look no further – superstar **Sarah Blasko** is touring her new album, *I Just Need to Conquer This Mountain* and naturally, after selling out the 7pm session, has just added a second show on **Saturday**, at 4pm. Things couldn't get more ridiculous than this – **Bob Downe** is celebrating 40 years in his new show *Choose Bob*, featuring classics with an unnaturally big-haired, shoulder-padded feel. Bob will perform two shows on **Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30**.

After packing out the Picture House on his last visit, **Steve Banks** returns with the fabulous **Sidemen**, and of course old mate **Rick Fenn** on **Friday, February 28**. Get ready to

rock and bring your dancing shoes while you're at it.

The Picture House owners have a long history with the amazing Irish torch song chanteuse **Camille O'Sullivan**. Raunchy and dangerously fragile, Camille has a formidable reputation for her intensely dramatic interpretations. The breathtaking *Loveletter* and its intimate and heartfelt tributes will light the stage on **Saturday and Sunday, March 8 and 9**.

Grab some mates as **BayFM** and the Picture House launch *Face The Music* – the wildest, wackiest night you'll ever experience! Forget everything you know about trivia nights – this one's got a live house band, a hilarious host and a whole lot of musical mayhem with epic prizes on the line – ready your fun button for **Thursday, March 20**.

Recognised as the most prominent flamenco guitarist in Australia, **Paco Lara's Duende Flamenco Show** is a world-class musical and cultural

experience not to be missed on **Saturday, March 22**.

Just mention the words *Vagina Conversations* and you will instantly recognise that it's one of the hottest tickets in the whole calendar. In celebration of International Women's Day and created by **Zenith Virago**, the four shows, over four days are on track to sell out – **Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 13, 14 and 15 at 7pm and Sunday, March 16 at 2pm** are your diary dates – book early!

And last, but definitely, not least, the Picture House is really thrilled to welcome Logie-winner **Rob Carlton** as he delivers his five-star show *Willing Participant* on **Sunday, March 23** – you'll laugh and cry and laugh again and leave in love with the world.

Tickets for all of these truly fabulous shows can be found at: brunswickpicturehouse.com.

discovery

DAFT PUNK TRIBUTE

SAT 1ST MAR 8PM

BEACH HOTEL

FREE ENTRY

1 BAY STREET, BYRON BAY

BOOMCHILD

THURS 27TH FEB

BEACH HOTEL

FREE SHOW

1 BAY STREET, BYRON BAY

CINEMA



A Complete Unknown

You know in some circles it's hard to talk about Bob Dylan without starting an argument – in other circles, there is no speaking, just sitting in the lotus position (if you can still get down that far) and listening.

Love him or love him more, he is an enigma and an icon and a symbol, of something or other, to millions across the globe, and now his rise to fame has been put on the big screen.

Oscar-winning filmmaker **James Mangold** brings to life the story of Bob Dylan in *A Complete Unknown*, a star-studded biographical drama that explores the transformative early years of this legendary singer-songwriter. Anchored by a career-defining performance from **Timothée Chalamet** as Dylan, the film captures the revolutionary spirit of the 1960s and the birth of one of music's most-known and best-loved voices – apart from Joni Mitchell.

Set against the backdrop of the American folk revival, *A Complete Unknown* follows Dylan's meteoric rise from his humble beginnings in Minnesota, to his pivotal arrival in New York City's Greenwich Village. The film delves into Dylan's artistic evolution, the relationships that shaped his identity, and the moments of creative brilliance that defined a generation.

Featuring a stellar ensemble cast, including **Monica Barbaro** as Joan Baez, **Edward Norton** as Pete Seeger, **Elle Fanning** as Sylvie Russo, and **Boyd Holbrook** as Johnny Cash, the film is as much about the cultural revolution as it is about Dylan himself.

All this with an electrifying soundtrack bringing this pivotal era to life. Both intimate and epic, *A Complete Unknown* is an unmissable tribute to Dylan and the extraordinary times that shaped him.

Screening at the **Palace Cinema, Byron Bay.**

GIG GUIDE

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

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 AND JAM**

THURSDAY 20

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **KALAKARI**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **SCREENING – FRAGMENTS OF A HALF LIFE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM **DJ DAVID BANGMA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX BOWEN, 8PM TEMPERATE, ZENITH & VALLEY GREEN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **YAZMINDI**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 7PM **SCREENING: FRAGMENTS OF A HALF LIFE**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB**

FRIDAY 21

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE WHISKEYS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JOE CONROY + LUKE HAYWARD BAND + JAM HOT LIVE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **MATT ARMATIGE + SAM BUCKLEY BAND, 9PM ABEL TORO, DALE STEPHEN & REIF HAND**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **ROUNDUP**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **BOOGIE ROYAL BAND**
- LENNOX HOTEL 7PM **LIVING IN THE 70S**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **YOLAN**

- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM **MID DRIFT + REED FORTY**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **CASH SAVAGE**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB 8PM **REPUTATION: THE ULTIMATE TAYLOR SWIFT SHOW**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **MARTIN WAY**
- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB 6PM **BRETT HEALY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **TAHLIA MATHESON**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **ROO MACKERRAS**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7.30PM **ALWAYS THE BON JOVI EXPERIENCE**

SATURDAY 22

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MARSHALL OKELL BAND**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **ALEX TILLEY + POND + FULL FLOWER MOON BAND & YELLOW THE SUN**
- BYRON THEATRE 6PM **SCREENING – WASHED AWAY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM **KANE MUIR, 9PM ISAAC FRANKHAM + SUPERCHEEZE**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **ROO**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **SAM BUCKLEY + DJ BOZ**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **SARAH BLASKO**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ EZZY**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 7PM **AMBER ROSE & JACK REEVES**
- BURRINGBAR HALL 2PM **FLAMING HEARTS FEST**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **BILL JACOBI**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **MATT DAY**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **JOCK BARNES BAND**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 9PM **DJ LIJ**
- ALSTONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL 7.30PM **DUCK CREEK FILM SOCIETY PRESENTS 'THE MONK AND THE GUN'**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MERLIN**

- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **LEE-ANNE JOY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **INO PIO**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 7.30PM **BARNES STORM**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **DARYL BRAITHWAITE**
- DURRUMBUL HALL 5PM **FABIAN KROOSS, KON FABER, MARIA DIE RUHE AND LOSTBOY LUDO**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **BAKERS EDDY WITH VLADS + YOURS TO KEEP**

SUNDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **RIDDIM TIME**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 2PM **JOE CONROY**
- PLAYGROUND, BYRON BAY, 2.30PM **FERAL**
- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM **YULLI'S OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 4PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM + JASON DELPHIN**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 1PM **JAZZ FACTORY**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **MARK USHER**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **WILD MARMALADE**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH DR BAZ**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ DARLAN**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **MATT ARMATIGE**
- CLUB LENNOX 4PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT. GUY KACHEL BAND + MESCALITO BLUES**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **THE HILLBILLY SKANK**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA, 3PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- IMPERIAL HOTEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 3PM **LIZ NEWMAN**

- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 3PM **RAMJET**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2.30PM **JERSEY GUYS**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 3PM **ROSS WILSON & THE PEACENIKS**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**

MONDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MICKA SCENE**
- BYRON BAY SERVICES CLUB 7PM **LEWIS GARNHAM: STREAM OF CONTENTEDNESS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARK USHER**

TUESDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ALLY PALMER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JORDAN MAC**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **PYRAMID POWER**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4PM **DJ DAVID BANGMA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **JAKE MEYWES**

WEDNESDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAMIEN COOPER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **INO PIO + SHMONÉ**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DJ NAT WHITE**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 5PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JOCK BARNES DUO + DAN HANNAFORD**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **MATT BUGGY**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY AND JAM**

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SESSION TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20 TO WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

- HARD TRUTHS** (M) ADVANCE SCREENINGS Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:30PM
- I'M STILL HERE** (M) ADVANCE SCREENINGS Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:45PM
- MULHOLLAND DRIVE** (M) SPARKLING SESSION Thurs: 6:30PM
- SEVEN** (R18+) CINEVALUITY Mon: 6:00PM
- THE LAST JOURNEY** (CTC) ADVANCE SCREENINGS Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:20PM
- THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG** (M) ADVANCE SCREENINGS Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:30PM

FAMILY FILMS

- 10 LIVES** (M) Daily: 10:50AM

PADDINGTON IN PERU (PG) Sat, Sun: 11:00AM

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 (PG) Daily: 1:20PM

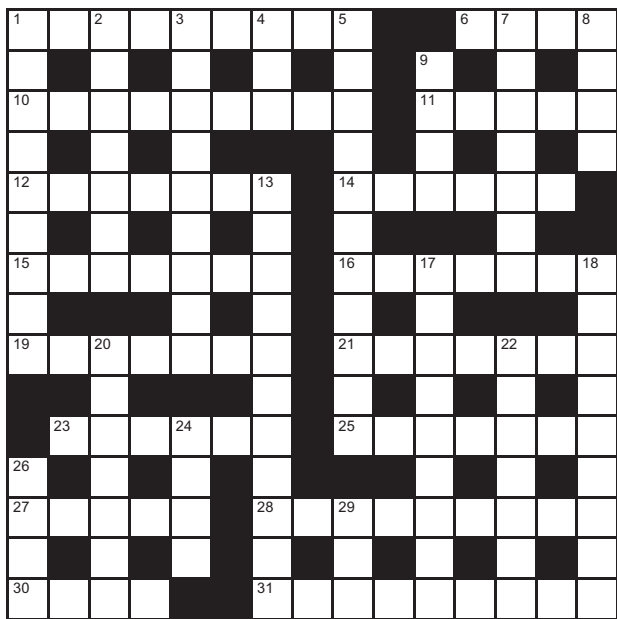
ALL FILMS

- A COMPLETE UNKNOWN** (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:50AM, 1:40PM, 4:30PM, 7:20PM. Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:50AM, 4:30PM, 7:20PM
- BABYGIRL** (M15+) Thurs, Mon, Wed: 1:20PM, 3:40PM, 6:10PM. Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:40PM, 8:15PM. Tues: 1:20PM, 3:40PM, 8:15PM
- BECOMING LED ZEPPELIN** (PG) Thurs, Mon: 10:45AM, 8:15PM. Fri, Sat, Sun, Tues: 10:45AM, 6:50PM. Wed: 10:45AM
- BIRD** (M15+) Thurs, Mon, Wed: 3:45PM, 7:10PM. Fri, Sat, Sun, Tues: 3:45PM, 6:00PM
- BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY** (M) Thurs, Mon, Wed: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 3:15PM, 5:50PM, 8:30PM
- CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD** (M) Daily: 12:50PM, 3:30PM, 5:50PM, 8:30PM
- CONCLAVE** (PG) Daily except Mon, Wed: 11:20AM, 6:00PM. Mon: 11:20AM, 6:30PM. Wed: 11:20AM
- HEART EYES** (M15+) Daily: 3:50PM
- MARIA** (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:40PM
- QUEER** (M15+) Daily: 10:45AM
- SEPTEMBER 5** (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:10AM
- SPIDER-MANIA: SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME** (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 3:20PM
- THE BRUTALIST** (M15+) Daily: 12:50PM, 6:15PM
- THE LAST SHOWGIRL** (M) Daily: 10:50AM, 4:15PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM
- THE MONKEY** (CTC) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:15PM, 5:00PM, 8:15PM. Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:50PM, 5:00PM, 8:15PM
- WIDOW CLICQUOT** (M) Daily: 11:00AM, 1:50PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

- A COMPLETE UNKNOWN** (M) Daily: 3:20PM, 6:10PM
- BABYGIRL** (M15+) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:20PM
- BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY** (M) Daily: 10:40AM, 1:20PM, 6:30PM
- CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD** (M) Daily: 12:50PM, 4:00PM, 6:40PM
- HARD TRUTHS** (M) Fri, Sat, Sun: 4:30PM
- PADDINGTON IN PERU** (PG) Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:10PM. Sat, Sun: 10:15AM
- SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3** (PG) Daily: 10:30AM
- THE LAST JOURNEY** (CTC) Fri, Sat, Sun: 2:30PM
- WIDOW CLICQUOT** (M) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:15AM, 2:20PM. Fri: 10:15AM. Sat, Sun: 12:30PM

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE FOR BOOKINGS AND SESSION TIMES PALACECINEMAS.COM.AU 6686 9600 BALLINA FAIR • 6680 8555 BYRON BAY



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. Regain control of creature running wild around park (9)
6. Communists are blocking head of state (4)
10. Cleaner piece of music for daytime TV show? (4,5)
11. Frenzied attack captures bishop (5)
12. Lunatic lost her case (7)
14. '30s movie star, at twenty-seven, invites Romeo in (6)
15. Simpleton clutches streamer on wild horse (7)
16. Rubbish date, misbehaving, took a turn (7)
19. Pie that can be consumed in state and territory - that's smart (7)
21. Article more complicated? QED! (7)
23. Greek character misleadingly lies about breakfast food (6)
25. Express contempt over hotel that bans lawyers (7)
27. '30s movie star found on roof? (5)
28. Bed gear in woven material (9)
30. '30s movie star taking off ring and dress (4)
31. Eastern ring road redesigned at part of US-Mexico border (3,6)

DOWN

1. 'Care facilities relax,' said famous sleuth (4,5)
2. Wine, served cold at hotel - a nirvana that never ends! (7)
3. Exhausted experts having time on speed (9)
4. Jesus returns, stripped of function (3)
5. *Echo* goes onto X with article on egg reproduction, judged to be too much (11)
7. Pluto's book, briefly edited, reveals a secondary narrative (7)
8. Yankee avoids red PM (4)
9. Macron turns up embracing marine killer (4)
13. Spooner's old Aussie novelist - gun shearer and Tory (5-6)
17. Perhaps Chalmers makes adjusted rate safer (9)
18. Metal ornament king's dropped in play performance (9)
20. Penny Wood, tradie (7)
22. Adjust to get right gin/ale mixture (7)
24. Pursue zebra, crossing canal (4)
26. Previously, golf excited (4)
29. Scary sound, partly a mistake (3)

Quick Clues

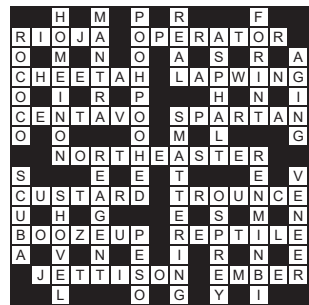
ACROSS

1. Take back (9)
6. Former Russian monarch (4)
10. Dramatic television series (4,5)
11. Extremely enthusiastic or fanatical (5)
12. Firearm carrying case (7)
14. American actress and pin-up girl of the 1930s and 1940s (6)
15. Wild horse of North American plains (7)
16. Turned around an axis (7)
19. Wise or intelligent (7)
21. Mathematical statement to be proved (7)
23. Breakfast cereal of grains, nuts, seeds and dried fruit (6)
25. Expels from the legal profession (7)
27. Triangular wall section under a pitched roof (5)
28. Tightly woven worsted cloth (9)
30. Style of clothing (4)
31. River between US and Mexico (3,6)

DOWN

1. Facilities for elderly care (4,5)
2. White wine from Burgundy region (7)
3. Lying face down (9)
4. Employ for a purpose (3)
5. Overstated or embellished (11)
7. Another story within a main narrative (7)
8. Small freshwater fish; former Australian PM (4)
9. Large black and white marine mammal (4)
13. Conservative political supporter (5-6)
17. Financial officer (9)
18. Inlaid metalwork technique (9)
20. Pipe and fixture specialist (7)
22. Modify or reposition (7)
24. Egyptian city on famous canal (4)
26. Avid; in suspense (4)
29. Express disapproval vocally (3)

Last week's solution #42



Put a helmet on

Your brain is a miracle. Put a helmet on. Lately I've been noticing a marked increase in the number of people not wearing helmets. Especially on e-bikes. If you've spent that much on your bike, couldn't you fork out a few bucks for your head? Let's face it. Your head is the most precious technology you own.

It's a complex organ that controls thoughts, emotion, touch, motor skills, vision, breathing, temperature, hunger and pretty well every process that regulates your body. It's your operating system. So when you're hurtling along, at 25 plus kilometres an hour, on the road surrounded by cars, whack on a helmet. I go into full mum mode every time I see someone not wearing a helmet. I want to chase them down. Give them a lecture. Tell them about head injuries. About what could happen to them in a simple fall. How they could end up in ED with serious injuries that could have been avoided. Up to 88% reduction in risk of brain, head and facial injury.

Clearly the police are not having much luck, and the \$344 fine for non-helmet compliance is clearly not working. When you consider the cost to the health system for people injured by not wearing helmets is in the many thousands, and the impact on your life from damage is potentially catastrophic, maybe it's worth a \$50 protective cover for your multi-million-dollar head. It's good for your head, and it's good for the economy.

I was thinking that instead of cops doing the enforcement, it should be mums. We have always been ninjas at getting people to wear shit they don't like. Scratchy pants, ugly shirts from grandma, sensible undies. It's part of our job description. And we have technique.

We could start with the disappointed look. Followed by the head shake. And then we point to the head. This would be followed up by a very long chat in our car. A chat when we go through the data, we give examples of when things went bad, we talk about the responsibility of an adult to make informed choices. And what do you use to inform



MANDY NOLAN'S SOAPBOX

Science tells us, you can't stop being a dickhead. But you can wear a helmet while you're being one.

your choices? Your brain. And where is your brain? In your head. And what happens if your head hits something hard at speed? It gets damaged. And when they can't take it anymore, we go an extra 20 minutes, with a threat of a follow-up lecture if they are seen helmetless again.

And if that doesn't work - we confiscate the bike. And sell it on Marketplace. To someone who promises to wear a helmet. Or we reverse over your stupid bike so you can't ride it. Oops. An accident!

Apparently helmets aren't cool. You get helmet hair. That's the only push-back I've ever had from my kids. No one is allergic to helmets. They don't cause injury (unless you clip some double-chin fat into the clasp). Prolonged helmet use doesn't cause cancer. You

might lose a few followers on Instagram but you'll lose more if you're dead.

The other day I saw a kid doing a wheelie, at full tilt, down the middle of the road, without a helmet. It nearly killed me. I felt my pulse quicken. I'm angry on behalf of this kid's mum. Of all mums. Of the people at ED who have to deal with his broken body and his injured head when a car swings out and hits him. This is the Northern Rivers. There are cars in streets everywhere because there's a housing crisis and people are living in their garages. Doors could fly open at any point. We can't hear you coming. And we certainly can't see you. It's dickhead behaviour. And the science tells us, you can't stop being a dickhead. But you can wear a helmet while you're being one.

Protect your stupid dickhead, dickhead. And while you're at it, could you please not ride on the footpath? We don't want to have to wear helmets to protect ourselves from you.

■ 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

The celestial quartet of artistic sun and Mercury, maestro Saturn and poetic Neptune in liquid Pisces are tuning up to orchestrate a week of divine downloads, dreaming, dancing and surrender...



PISCES THE FISH

ARIES: Mars retrograde offers the opportunity to reassess, see what works, what doesn't, and make the requisite changes. When the red planet of confrontation is retrograde we're invited to look at the ways we express anger, irritation or annoyance and find more user-friendly ways of releasing our heat.

TAURUS: Your boss planet Venus, fire-twirling into her hottest zodiac zone, is racy and impatient for change. And waving a flame-colored flag. So avoid wasting time and energy by all means, but rather than barrelling forward, full pelt, ease off the accelerator and give projects a thorough evaluation.

GEMINI: With Jupiter headed directly in Gemini, and your planet ruler Mercury in its most psychic sign, current advice is don't waste time arguing ideologies. Treat this week's inconveniences as alternative routes to better outcomes. Juicy opportunities and entertaining revelations abound, even if your mind tries to tell you otherwise.

CANCER: Why not spend the last week of Mars retrograde in your sign dispelling any lingering tension at home by decluttering, redecorating and ensuring everyone has enough space to do their thing. And for icing on the domestic cake, how about some of that Cancerian brand of pampering nobody does better?

LEO: If the recent full moon in Leo brought a crossroads moment of wondering whether to stick with the tried-and-true or try something new, whatever you choose, know that it's high time for a body, mind, heart and spirit reset. Let your intuition tell you who, what, where and how much.

VRIGO: This week's astral energetics support letting go of old war stories and giving the past a decent burial. Award yourself an extra helping of divine self-kindness. Dive into the emotional nourishment and intellectual stimulation of discussing ideas with like-minded others. Take time out to dream.

LIBRA: This week's astral activity moving from Libra's zodiac zone of self-expression and entertainment into your knuckle-down-and-work sector doesn't automatically mean less fun. Because vivacious Venus full of charming get-up-and-go is reigniting whatever might have got a little dull and ho-hum.

SCORPIO: Some things may get more intense before they get better as uncomfortable energies surface to be addressed so they can progress. Nothing wrong or to be avoided here, it's simply a step in the process. That said, this week makes tangible advances, or even springs a delightful surprise.

SAGITTARIUS: After months of introspective rewiring since last October, Jupiter powers forward in the sign of articulate communication to bless team efforts, writing and recording. Sagittarians aren't usually shy about striking up conversations, and plugging into group chats, this week could amplify your voice to reach a global audience.

CAPRICORN: Surfing waves of change remains number one on this week's agenda, with lightning strikes of realisation as old roles disintegrate. Challenging yes, but just continue as the responsible, reasonable Capricorn you are, without settling for the familiar and comfortable, or stubbornly resisting the emerging unknown.

AQUARIUS: This year's undeniably exciting new Aquarian life-cycle kicked off in vivid style at a cracking pace. This week requires discernment, tact and diplomacy, so whether you're writing, speaking face-to-face, communicating to small groups or larger organisations, share the inspirational downloads you're likely to receive wisely.

PISCES: Mercury and the sun joining Saturn and Neptune in your lyrical sign see February's communications segue from intellectual to intuitive, and the life of Pisces slide into an increasingly upbeat rhythm. So, regarding that special dream you wise and watery ones have, isn't it time to believe you can achieve it?

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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

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\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of Praeipce

For the record Wilhelmina Elsa Ford© of Reedy Creek, Queensland state is permanently domiciled on the Land and Soil of Terra Australis. I am not a voluntary transactor in commerce, and the paramount security interest holder of all estates, property, assets and collateral, both registered and unregistered, including Dustin Hartley Smith RPP44 63900 05100 20133 23600B2 and Monique Zoe Smith RPPP44 63900 05100 20132 02608 and all associated copyright protected trade names. My lawful reconveyance to the Land and Soil jurisdiction of Terra Australis, was recorded with Public Record Number RPP44 63900 05100 20132 02608, Proclamation Date 25th November 2024, and tacit agreement was established by my unrebutted Living Testimony in the Form of an Affidavit. All usufruct subjugation ties have been severed with the occupying corporate government of Australia. The corporate Australian kakistocracy and its affiliates are instructed to immediately cease and desist misaddressing Wilhelmina Elsa Ford© in fraudulent debased Dog-Latin, GLOSSA and to cease and desist infringing on my estate, property, assets, collateral and copyright protected trade names.

Notice of Praeipce

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

NOTICE OF TWEED BYRON LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING 2023/24

DATE: Friday 7th March 2025

TIME: 10:00am

PLACE: Minjungbal Museum & Cultural Centre
Cnr Kirkwood Road & Duffy Street, Tweed Heads South

AGENDA:

1. Welcome/Apologies;
2. Previous Minutes;
3. Receipt of 2023/24 Annual Report including CLBP Implementation Report;
4. Receipt of 2023/24 Audited Financial Statements and Management Letter;
5. Meeting Closed

Authorised: Chairperson Tweed Byron LALC

NOTICE OF TWEED BYRON LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL ORDINARY MEETING

DATE: Friday 7th March 2025

TIME: 12:00pm

PLACE: Minjungbal Museum & Cultural Centre
Cnr Kirkwood Road & Duffy Street, Tweed Heads South

AGENDA items include:

Welcome, Apologies, CLBP Update, General Business.

Authorised: Chairperson Tweed Byron LALC

TWEED BYRON LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

Notice is hereby given of an Extraordinary Meeting of the Tweed Byron LALC:

DATE: Friday 7th March 2025

PLACE: Minjungbal Museum & Cultural Centre
Cnr Kirkwood Road & Duffy Street, Tweed Heads South

TIME: 11:00am

AGENDA:

1. Welcomes;
2. Apologies;
3. Minutes of previous meeting;
4. Approval of the TBLALC Community Land and Business Plan (CLBP) 2022–2027;
5. Other Business placed on the agenda prior to the commencement of the meeting;
6. Date and time of next meeting.

Please note: A copy of the CLBP or a Summary is available for viewing on request at the TBLALC during business hours.

All inquiries about this meeting should be directed to the CEO of the Tweed Byron LALC during business hours.

Authorised: Chairperson

Contact: 07 5536 1763

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AGMs

PERIWINKLE COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL AGM
26th February 6:30pm–7:30pm
5 Sunrise Blvd, Byron Bay

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MOWING
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FOR SALE

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

FOR SALE

2004 Toyota Echo

Good condition, well-maintained, a couple of minor details. Runs smoothly with reliable fuel economy. Ideal for a first car. Rego until May 25. Ocean Shores
Text Dani 0432 436 843

WANTED

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

TREE FERNS

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

MOTOR VEHICLES

SUBARU XV-s hatch. 2018. One owner, Log book, Rego 9/25, 93000 kms. Leather interior, great condition \$22,500. 0417609498

CARAVANS

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

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday Paul



Love from the Echo

Happy Birthday Beautiful Katie T.
Lots of love from your Echo family
XXX



DEATH NOTICES

Venerable Tencho
1/07/1959 to 10/02/2025



Cheeky and compassionate, Tencho brought colour to our community markets and joy to those who met her. She has performed her final swan song and will see you on the other side.

LIFE CELEBRATIONS



Edna Leclere

Born 1.3.32 passed away peacefully at Coolamon Villa on Sunday 16.2.25 aged 92 years. Loving wife of Doug dec 2.5.19.

Survived by Elaine, John, Neville, Annette, Glenn and Helen. Grandmother to Sara, Kate, Jayne, Renee, April, Grant, Kristie & Leon. Loving Great Nan to 16 great grandchildren.

A private family service at graveside will be followed at 11:00am on Tuesday 25th Feb at Mullum Golf Club to celebrate Edna's life. All welcome.

PETS

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



BO & JANGLE'S

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

Benji is a ridiculously cute & loveable, ginger kitten. He's great with other cats & dogs & would slip seamlessly into a loving family. We expect him to be snapped up quickly so if Benji looks like the boy for you, hurry on in. To meet Benji & our other cats & kittens, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

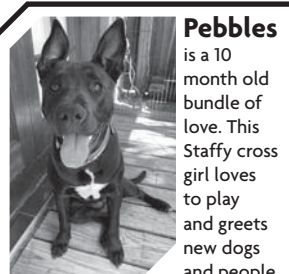


OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm Thurs 3-5pm Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL 6684 4070
Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R25100222



Mahala is a 4 month old, Mastiff/Staffy X. She is one of 4 pups that came through the pound. She has a lovely nature and will make a great family dog. Mahala and her siblings have started in the training program and are doing well. M/C# 991003002702906

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



Pebbles is a 10 month old bundle of love. This Staffy cross girl loves to play and greets new dogs and people with enthusiasm. She will thrive in a home with regular exercise, ongoing training and lots of love! All animals are vet checked, flea and worm treated, vaccinated, microchipped and desexed prior to adoption.

Mandatory Re-homing #R251 00 00 60. Contact the NRAS Shelter Office on 6681 1860 or shelter@nras.org.au
www.nras.org.au



I was named Lucky as PFL shelter saved me from the pound. I am a super affectionate, sweet young boy who thrives on lots of attention. I could be the perfect family cat with kids! I have the most amazing and handsome face markings and soft silky coat. Just one year old, I'm desexed and vaccinated, and looking for a fun loving 'forever' home... could that be you?! Microchip no. 991003002727092.

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SUN, MOON & TIDES
- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Feb/Mar)	DAY/MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
19	W	6:30 22:55 19:28 12:06	12:06 13:03	0114 1.35; 1303 1.22	0715 0.67; 1912 0.48
20	TH	6:31 23:31 19:27 13:02	13:02 13:45	0205 1.33; 1345 1.10	0820 0.74; 1953 0.54
21	F	6:32 24:00 19:26 14:00	14:00 14:50	0315 1.32; 1450 1.00	0951 0.77; 2053 0.58
22	SA	6:33 24:58 19:25 14:58	14:58 15:53	0437 1.35; 1624 0.96	1137 0.74; 2211 0.59
23	SU	6:33 25:55 19:24 15:55	15:55 16:50	0549 1.43; 1752 0.99	1245 0.65; 2328 0.54
24	M	6:34 26:48 19:23 16:48	16:48 17:43	0647 1.54; 1855 1.07	1332 0.55
25	TU	6:35 27:33 19:22 17:35	17:35 18:30	0736 1.66; 1945 1.17	0430 0.45; 1411 0.44
26	W	6:35 28:18 19:21 18:18	18:18 19:13	0820 1.77; 2030 1.28	0121 0.34; 1447 0.35
27	TH	6:36 29:03 19:20 18:56	18:56 19:51	0902 1.85; 2114 1.39	0208 0.24; 1523 0.26
28	F	6:37 29:48 19:19 19:31	19:31 20:26	0943 1.89; 2158 1.49	0253 0.17; 1559 0.20
1	SA	6:37 30:33 19:18 20:05	20:05 20:50	1021 1.87; 2241 1.57	0339 0.15; 1634 0.17
2	SU	6:38 31:18 19:17 20:39	20:39 21:24	1100 1.78; 2326 1.62	0427 0.18; 1710 0.17
3	M	6:39 32:03 19:16 21:14	21:14 22:00	1140 1.64	0516 0.26; 1746 0.21
4	TU	6:39 32:48 19:15 21:53	21:53 22:39	0013 1.64; 1221 1.46	0612 0.38; 1824 0.28
5	W	6:40 33:33 19:14 22:38	22:38 23:24	0103 1.62; 1305 1.27	0716 0.51; 1905 0.38

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
Storm & tempest damage, flooding132 500
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE
Primary rescue 6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER
6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL 6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY
AFTER HOURS 6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
(Mullumbimby) 6684 1286

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
24 hour crisis line1800 656 463
LIFELINE131 114
MENSLINE1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
24 hours1800 423 431

AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics
1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS
Meets daily 6680 7280

NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE 6687 2520
HIV/AIDS - ACON
Confidential testing & information 6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)
6622 1881

NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS 6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE 6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service 6628 1898

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

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 speaker Des Wann talks on punctuation, pronunciation, fake news in dictionaries + mice running up the clock on Tuesday February 25 from 10am till 12 noon at the Uniting Church Hall, Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads. Contact Denise on 0423 778 573 or find more info at: bvua3a.org.

Eureka Hall AGM

Eureka Hall AGM is on March 15 at 10am. Morning tea to follow. World Day of Prayer 2025
Cook Islands, I Made You Wonderful. Psalm 139:14 - The World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a

common day of prayer each year.

The Cook Islands have prepared the 2025 service. The World Day of Prayer for the Brunswick Valley will be held at 10am on March 7 at the St John's Catholic Church, 15 Murwillumbah Rd, Mullumbimby. For more info: worlddayofprayeraustralia.org and biblesociety.org.au/wdp.

End-of-Life Choices

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

Wilson's Park walk

Wander through the beautiful young forest in the Wilson's Park Species Garden on a guided walk with Tim at Lismore Rainforest Botanic garden. The plants in this section mirror those originally found in the remnant forest in the Wilson's Park Reserve. It's an easy 1 hour walk on unpaved paths. Wear sturdy shoes and a hat. Bring water. Cost \$5 adults, children free. Morning tea available after the walk in the Visitor's Centre (gold coin donation appreciated). Email booking essential as numbers are limited publicity@friendslrbg.com.au.

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: brunscwa@gmail.com or 0431 908 063.

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

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

Some of our services include:
Flood recovery support service: personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods.
Community support: food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.

Listening Space: free counselling.
More Than A Meal: free community lunch Tuesday-Thursday 12.30-1.30pm.

Financial counselling
Staying Home, Leaving Violence program: Information, referral, and advocacy.

Gulgani affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.
Orange Sky: free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon.

To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdnc.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community

The Byron Community Centre provides community services

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

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.

Free African Dance

Free African Dance classes for local seniors are being led by Angela McWhinney on Mondays in Byron Community Centre, 69 Jonson

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.

Low-cost or free food

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

Respite Service

Byron Shire Respite Service delivers high-quality respite care to a broad range of clients throughout the Byron, Ballina and Lismore shires. Donations welcome: Ph 6685 1921, email fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au, website: www.byronrespite.com.au.

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

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

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

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

ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

Deadline: For additions and changes is **12pm Friday**
Line ads: \$99 for 3 months or \$340 for 1 year prepaid
Display ads: \$70 per week for colour display ad.
 Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.
 Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high.
 New ads will be placed at end of section.
Contact: 6684 1777 or adcopy@echo.net.au



www.echo.net.au/service-directory



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3 2 2 2

711M²

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- Versatile floorplan with potential to generate rental income
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PRICE | \$1M - \$1.1M

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772M²

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PRICE | Contact Agent
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95 ACRES

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Site 134
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Renovated bathroom showcasing a delightful bath with an overhead shower, stylish vanity and a toilet.

Two good sized newly carpeted bedrooms with sliding barn doors, built-in robes & modern ceiling fans; master features a luxury ensuite.

A wide carport adjoins the home and is suitable for 2 vehicles. Situated just minutes from Tweed Heads/Coolangatta the 'Pet Friendly' over 50's Lifestyle village is just a stroll to the Tweed River and there is public transport at the entrance to the park.

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- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Thur 1-1.30pm
- 12/213 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Fri 10-10.30am
- 2/37 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Fri 10-10.30am
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 12.45-1.15pm
- 16 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Fri 1.30-2pm
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Fri 2.30-3pm
- 16 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 23 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 132 Lockton Road, Bexhill. Sat 9-9.30am
- 24 Swell Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 9-9.30am
- 53 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9.45-10.15am
- 231 Sneaths Road, Wollongbar. Sat 10-10.30am
- 835 Federal Drive, Goonengerry. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7 Glendale Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 346 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Sat 10-10.30am
- 4 Mango Bark Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10.30-11am
- 14A Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 11/31 Hayters Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5 Barby Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 11-11.30am
- 35 Avocado Crescent, Ewingsdale. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
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- 7/68-70 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 1-1.30pm
- 7A Little Burns Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 43 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 3-3.30pm
- 5/112 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am

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- 7A Little Burns Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 43 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 17 Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 11 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 9 Bunjil Place, 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
- 15 Little Burns Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 5/10 Sunrise Boulevard, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 355 Coopers Shoot Road, Coopers Shoot. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 70 Foxs Lane, Tyagarah. Sat 12-12.30pm
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- 70 Charltons Road, Federal. Sat 1.30-2pm

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- 39 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 1.30-2pm

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- 4 South Beach Road, Brunswick Heads
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- 14a Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads



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Further to the page 1 story, SCU is hosting an all-day land sharing conference on February 28. While Council staff, under GM Mark Arnold, are bullying Main Arm residents, it's good to see another organisation willing to explore solutions. For more info visit www.scu.edu.au/business-law-and-arts/events/land-sharing-and-the-law.

Psst: Bushfire permits are no longer required in rural areas for the lighting of fires for the purposes of land clearance or land breaks.

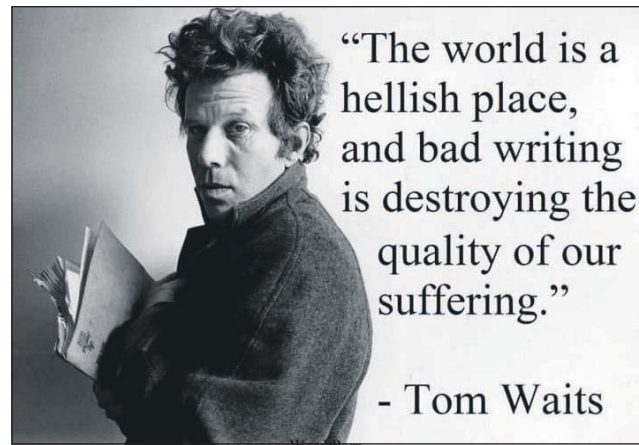
Isn't it fascinating that the world's billionaires could end world hunger and prevent climate catastrophe, yet still remain billionaires?

Much to the letters editor's surprise, many *Echo* letter writers are willing to comply to the 200 word limit – thanks for all the letters we received within the word limit this week.

'At the moment, mansion-sized asteroid 2024-YR4 has a one-in-fifty chance of hitting Earth in the next eight years. Now might be a bad time to reduce spending on science' – US astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson.

Two paintings by local Mullum artist Zion Levy Stewart have been purchased by the Tweed Regional Gallery for their permanent collection. Gallery Director Ingrid Hedgcock made the announcement at Zion's opening, which runs until May 4.

Shameless plug: illustrator Alex Mankiewicz will be talking about his latest graphic



"The world is a hellish place, and bad writing is destroying the quality of our suffering."
- Tom Waits

Photo from the interwebs

novel, *When the World Was Soft: Yindjibarndi Creation Tales*, on February 21 at the Book Room at Byron from 6pm. Alex says the book has been 'long-listed for the DANZ award, which honours diversity in storytelling'.

Former councillor running mate to Cr Jack Dods, David Michie, upset a few residents during the election campaign, with tone deaf social media comments around bike tracks next to protected waterways, for example. He also has a keen interest in increasing housing density at all costs. Regarding the proposed units over a Mullum car park debate last week, he flew into another online rage and blathered that he 'hates NIMBYS'. Stay classy, David.

Last week, much-loved *Echo* drudge, Eve Jeffery, was driving and had a bingle with another car. Fortunately, no-one was injured, but Eve is looking for a few extra bucks to cover the extensive repair costs. If you've got some work for a singing teaching/photographing/funeral organising/writing/vegan cooker she's your girl! Email eve@echo.net.au.

unless each is defended from the beginning. So choose an institution you care about – a court, a newspaper, a law, a labor union – and take its side'

Is it healthy for a society to become numb to inhumane actions of governments and corporations? See page 14 story: 'Welfare payment cuts leads to deaths'. The same thing happened under Liberal PM Scott Morrison with Robodebt.

Psst: The major federal parties have banded together over political donation reform, which sees their cap for donations going up to \$90m, whereas the donations allowable for minor parties is capped at \$800k. Instead of building trust with their declining voter base, they do that?

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