



AFTER THE STORM COMES THE RAINBOW

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 39 #39 • March 5, 2025 • www.echo.net.au

# Bracing for Cyclone Alfred

Residents across the Northern Rivers and in South East Queensland are being urged to prepare for Tropical Cyclone Alfred, which is expected to hit land later this week.

The cyclone was a category one as of Monday morning, and is tracking slowly south-west, with predictions Brisbane and the Gold Coast may be the hardest hit.

By comparison, ex-Cyclone Debbie was a Category Four when it hit in 2017, causing extensive flooding across the region.

By Tuesday, Alfred had intensified to a category two cyclone.

SES said in a statement, 'It is likely to maintain a category 2 intensity as it approaches the South East Queensland coast late on Thursday.'

Catchments listed in an official flood watch include, but aren't limited to, the Tweed, Rous, Wilsons, Richmond, Clarence, Orara and Brunswick Rivers and Marshalls Creek. Hazardous surf conditions have also prompted a warning, particularly for rock fishers.

## Where to get sandbags

Local state emergency services say Mullumbimby and Byron residents can collect self-service sandbags from the Mullumbimby SES Unit, located at 33 Coolamon Scenic Drive.

More sandbags are to be available at the soccer field carpark on Shara Boulevard for residents of Ocean Shores, New Brighton and South Golden Beach.



The Lotus Palliative Care Fundraiser is on Saturday, March 15, at the Billinudgel Hotel. The annual event raises funds to support local individuals and families, ensuring those who need support access to specialist palliative care in the comfort of their own homes. It follows three consecutive sell-out events, and prizes for this year's fundraiser include an e-bike and there will be a silent auction, featuring donations from generous local businesses. Visit [tinyurl.com/4mj6mef2](http://tinyurl.com/4mj6mef2) for tickets. Pictured are Lotus Care principal, Lulu Shapiro, with DJs DANU and Leshi. Photo Jeff 'DJ Palliative' Dawson

# Enforcement policy set to be reviewed

Hans Lovejoy

After Council's compliance team threatened to demolish the homes of a small Main Arm multiple occupancy (MO) community, councillors voted unanimously last Thursday to review their enforcement policy in the coming months.

The policy expired last year and 'has not been substantively updated since 2011'.

Greens Cr Elia Hauge's motion calls for a closed door workshop with staff to review the enforcement policy, including 'appropriate community engagement' compliance priorities, and STRA compliance.

## Change of direction

It's a welcome change of direction for residents – last week, Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Greens) defended Council's compliance team, and said those Main Arm MO residents will be provided 'time to either bring properties into compliance or, as a last resort, find alternative accommodation'.

In an email to Cr Ndiaye, Main Arm MO resident, Charles Boyle, outlined the history and impact that the current policy is having on residents.

He said, 'The Multiple Occupancy (MO) system was designed to provide low-cost housing, and the demand for this has never been higher – in fact Byron Shire is experiencing an acute and increasing housing crisis, especially for those on lower incomes. I suggest we urgently seek a way forward to

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# U-turn on Suffo traffic lights

Paul Bibby

The controversial decision to install traffic lights at Suffolk Park's notorious Clifford Street intersection could be reversed within weeks, after Byron Shire councillors voted to put the option of a roundabout firmly back on the table.

After months of lobbying from residents on both sides of the issue, councillors voted last week to find out whether the \$2.33 million road safety grant they secured to install traffic lights at the intersection could be used to fund

a roundabout instead.

In doing so, they indicated that it was their intent to seek such a variation and pursue the roundabout option.

## Shire's first permanent traffic lights

Should the funding authority, Transport for NSW, indicate that such a variation is possible, the decision to install the Shire's first permanent traffic lights could be consigned to the dustbin of history at Council's next meeting.

'Given the level of frustration expressed by the community and our promise to do our best to listen, I'm opening up this opportunity for councillors to do that,' Byron Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, said in moving the key motion in relation to the issue at last week's meeting.

'We know, from the response, it [the traffic lights decision] hasn't landed well.

'We did all agree at the time [of the traffic light decision] that we would prefer a roundabout, and I guess this is an opportunity to see

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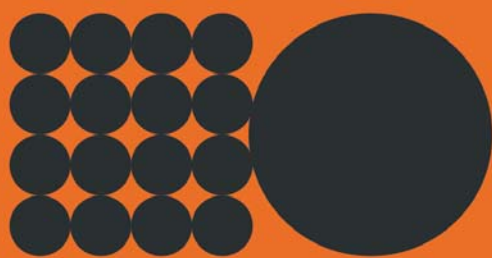
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The arts in focus ► p22

Murwillumbah offers plenty to discover ► p26

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## King of pleasure and pain – a memoir



Local musician Steve Sax, has just penned his memoir running Australia's leading bondage business, S(A)X Leather. In *The Bondage King*, Sax starts his S&M journey running a leather shop in Oxford Street, Sydney, after a customer asked for a bondage harness prototype. Eventually, S(A)X Leather became the country's premier outlet for kinky gear. 'There were parties so wild they weren't for the faint of heart', he says. To order a copy, visit [www.thebondageking.com](http://www.thebondageking.com) or Amazon. Photo Jeff 'Doms and Subbies' Dawson

## Compliance policy to be reviewed

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reduce hostility and resentment and to achieve co-operative compliance. It is time for all interested parties to work together through discussion and mutual co-operation to revise the MO system to meet the contemporary needs of Council, residents and the environment'

In a media release on Saturday, Cr Hauge acknowledged the 'severe housing crises', and said, 'The review must recognise the reality that many residents have limited housing options. Evicting residents or issuing demolition orders must be a last resort only, when there is no pathway to make a dwelling safe for habitation.'

'While we must uphold planning regulations and safety standards, we also need a balanced and compassionate approach that considers the dire circumstances many of our residents are facing'

Cr Hauge said, "Compassion" or "sensitivity" do not appear anywhere in the current policy, which also makes no reference to Byron Shire Council's 2022 *Unauthorised Dwellings Guideline*.

'The focus should be on making dwellings safe, not removing homes that have been part of our community for decades.'

Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye added, 'This policy review gives us an opportunity to develop a framework that better reflects our community values while ensuring safety remains paramount. We need to work together – Council, staff, and community – to address these complex challenges with compassion and practicality.'

### Rebranded

In related news, Council compliance staff have rebranded the department.

In a report to Council at

last Thursday's meeting, Manager Public and Environmental Services, Sarah Nagel, said the team name was changed from 'Enforcement' to 'Compliance Services' and all vehicles were re-stickered. The reason given was 'to reflect its community focus and approach of the team'.

'Officers were retitled from Parking Enforcement Officers, Animal Enforcement Officers and Community Enforcement Officers to Parking Officers, Companion Animal Officers and Compliance Officers'.

She said, 'The vast majority of the team's work [in the last reporting period] was dominated by vehicle, illegal works, animals and camping.'

There were 2,821 camping-related penalty infringement notices issued, she said, 'which was over double that of the 2023 year, and may be the cause of the significantly reduced number of complaints received during the period.'

## U-turn on Suffo traffic lights

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if that's possible in a short period of time and get all of that information out in the public domain in a clear and transparent way.

'I know it's been a challenging issue. If we can buy a couple of weeks to get all of that info out into the public domain that would be great.'

The extended debate at last week's meeting was characterised by participants from different sides making factual assertions that directly contradicted those of their opponents.

The key contested claim was whether the installation of a roundabout – either in full size or mini version – would be a better outcome in terms of pedestrian, cyclist, and driver safety than traffic lights.

'Any beachside resident has stories of ridiculous delays, near misses, or unrecorded but real collisions,' said local resident Liz Levy, a staunch supporter of the traffic lights option.

### Outraged resident

'We are outraged by the anti-lights narrative. They tell us that there's no real problem. Any infeasible, band-aid measure will do. [With the traffic lights] we finally have a solution that that the official advice says will deal effectively with the gridlock and dangerous righthand turns.'



The Suffolk Park intersection. Photo supplied

'So what is the plan here? Because a grant variation won't do it. We'll have yet another roundabout application with no proven achievable path for achieving acquisition. More wishful thinking and ideology rather than sound administration.'

But David Fligelman from the Keep the Flow in Suffo group took a different view.

### Flawed process

'The process that has brought us to this point [of choosing traffic lights] has been deeply flawed, resulting in Council making the decision to accept a grant for signalisation based on limited information, virtually no community consultation and the false premise that it was traffic lights or nothing.'

'If this grant for \$2.3m is accepted [for traffic lights] it's the last we'll have for this intersection – we'll have to live with this for decades.'

'However, we've learnt that this grant specifically includes provision to be varied based on application to Transport for NSW and that means that there's any opportunity to turn all of this around.'

### Grant extension, variation sought

Councillors voted to urgently write to Transport for NSW asking whether the deadline for the grant can be extended, as well as whether it can be varied to allow for the construction of a roundabout rather than lights.

Should the Sydney-based bureaucrats indicate that this is not an option, Council will be faced with an even more challenging dilemma – whether to pursue a largely unpopular traffic lights option, or to try and find funding for a roundabout solution or another interim measure.

## Woman winched from Wategos

The Westpac Rescue Helicopter team says they winched a woman to safety from an isolated rock shelf at Wategos Beach on Sunday morning.

The woman in her 30s was reportedly surfing when

she was washed onto rocks around 10am.

The helicopter's critical care paramedics took her to a local sports oval where NSW Ambulance paramedics met them and took her to Byron Bay Hospital with

minor injuries.

Authorities this week are warning of dangerous surf and rock-fishing conditions along the northern NSW coastline with Cyclone Alfred still off the coast of Queensland.



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# Mullum land earmarked for new pool in aquatic strategy

Paul Bibby

**B**yron Council will make the redevelopment of the Byron Bay pool and the installation of heating at the Mullumbimby pool key priorities under its newly adopted Shire-wide aquatic strategy.

But the question of whether to replace the Mullum pool with a brand-new facility on vacant land known as 'Lot 22' at the end of Stuart Street near the community gardens remains up in the air.

In a significant development for pool users across the Shire, the Council adopted its Shire-wide aquatic strategy at last week's meeting, following an extensive public consultation period.

The strategy confirms that the Shire's most pressing needs in terms of pool infrastructure are for two fully accessible 50 metre pools, a warm water indoor hydrotherapy pool, and for all facilities to be available all year round, rather than closing over the cooler months as is currently the case.

Councillors unanimously voted to prioritise the work on the Byron Bay pool as well as the heating for the Petria Thomas Pool in Mullumbimby, so that it can remain open during the winter months.

'It's such a waste for the Mullum pool to be sitting there unused in the winter months,' Cr Janet Swain (Labor) told the meeting.



Council-managed land, Lot 22, located south of the Mullum community gardens, was previously rejected for housing owing to flooding constraints. Photo supplied

'This is projected to have taken place by winter 2026.' Detailed planning work will also begin imminently on a major redevelopment of the Byron Bay pool that includes extending it to eight lanes, building a new program pool, accessible facilities, and a new splash pad.

However, the plan to build an entirely new pool on Lot 22 in Mullumbimby received a luke-warm response from several councillors, despite the fact that it was given the tick of approval by the majority of locals who took part in the public consultation process.

### Preferred option

Officially, Council has adopted the construction of a new facility at Lot 22 as its preferred option.

However, with this site requiring significant fill to address the risk of future flooding, reservations remain.

Council's previous plan to build housing on this site

produced strong and vocal expressions of concern from a significant section of the Mullumbimby community, with many believing that it was too flood-prone to safely support this use.

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Greens) said that she wanted to be sure that the community was on-board before fully committing to such a sizeable project.

'I'm personally very nervous around committing to Lot 22 with the level of challenges that are at that site, and the engineering around the flood studies and those sorts of things,' Cr Ndiaye said.

'This could be another thing where we get a lot of backlash later on and it will require another level of community engagement.'

In the end, councillors vote unanimously to endorse the Lot 22 option, but to note that 'there will be further opportunities for engagement on the preferred options.'

# Bruns community digs deep for its school



From left, P&C President Mara Rotheraine, School Principal Jodi Ridgeway and P&C Treasurer Vinnie Bleakley. Photo Jeff 'Last Time I Chequed' Dawson

Last year, the Brunswick Heads Public School P&C were busy fundraising to help support the school, and through their efforts, were able to raise an impressive \$50,000 for the school to help refurbish and modernise the classrooms.

P&C Treasurer Vinnie Bleakley told *The Echo*, 'Our funds raised came from hosting a secondhand market at the school during Old And Gold in June, and our annual

Halloween Fair, with major donations from our generous fair sponsors: Ravenous Mantis, Reflections Holiday Parks, Byron Shire Real Estate, Bashforths Earthmoving, Bruns Bakery, Byron PA Hire, Old Maids, The Sails Motel, and Street Sushi.'

'Funds were also raised from various raffles, gold coin donations and prizes.

'We worked with the school to identify where the money would be best spent

to benefit all the children, and it was decided to modernise and refit all ten classrooms with new furniture to promote interactive learning and collaboration.

### April renos

'The refit is expected to take place in the April school holidays, with the old school furniture being collected by Rotary Club and donated to underfunded schools overseas,' Vinnie added.

# Medicare bulk billing boost if Labor re-elected

The federal Labor government say if re-elected, they will make the 'single largest investment in Medicare since its creation over 40 years ago, with \$8.5 billion to deliver an additional 18 million bulk billed GP visits each year, hundreds of nursing scholarships, and thousands more doctors in the largest GP training program ever.'

Local MP Justine Elliot said in a media release that 'Labor built Medicare, we will protect it and improve it for all Australians. We want every Australian to know they only need their Medicare card, not their credit card, to receive the healthcare they need.'

'Labor will also introduce a new incentive payment for

practices that bulk bill every patient. From November 1, 2025, a new Bulk Billing Practice Incentive Program will support practices that bulk bill all their patients - this is on top of the bulk billing incentive.'

The Greens, meanwhile, propose free dental, including orthodontics, and restorative services.

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# The best of local films on screen



The Byron All Shorts filmmakers and cast, plus festival organisers. Photo Jeff Dawson

Last weekend's Flickerfest and Byron All Shorts screenings were a great success, with audiences from across the region enjoying a fantastic weekend of parties, workshops screenings and awards.

Festival production and tour manager, Shane Rennie, said, 'An annual highlight of the Flickerfest Mullumbimby weekend, Byron All Shorts, the best of Northern Rivers short film competition, screened on Saturday, March

1 at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall. Eleven amazing local short films screened, with applause from the capacity audience. The finalist filmmakers introduced their films to the enthusiastic crowd.'

# Gulgan Village steams ahead

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council has sought to ensure that at least 10 per cent of the housing in a new suburb proposed for the Shire's north will be affordable, and remain so into the future.

In a move which received surprisingly little fanfare, the planning proposal for 'Gulgan Village' – a new suburb for up to 1,400 people – came before last week's Council meeting.

Located on a 39-hectare greenfield site adjacent to Gulgan Rd and Bashforths Lane, the proposed suburb would be home to between 400 and 550 dwellings, with a mix of lots sizes, housing styles and ownership arrangements.

## Higher density

The suburb will be of a higher density than Byron's other suburbs, featuring a floor space ratio of 0.9:1 and a maximum height limit of 11.5 metres – 2.5 metres higher than the limit for the vast majority of the Shire.

Private developer, Gulgan Road Property Pty Ltd, has submitted a draft planning proposal in relation to the development – this is essentially an application to rezone the land from rural to residential, thus paving the way for the development to take place.

The planning proposal came before Council last week for preliminary approval ahead of a further determination by the NSW government.

Councillors indicated that they supported the

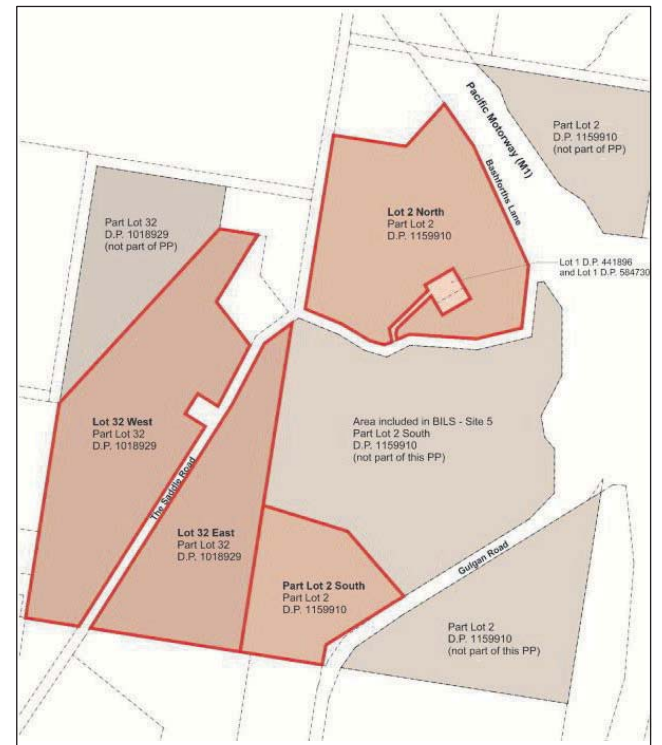


Image from Council's Ordinary Meeting Agenda, February 27, 2025.

proposal, but that a number of amendments would be required before the greenlight was given.

Chief among them was a requirement that the developer designate at least 10 per cent of housing on the site as affordable in perpetuity.

## Arakwal housing

The developer has already promised that five per cent of the housing stock will be given to the Bundjalung of Byron Bay (Arakwal) Aboriginal Corporation.

The amendment is an attempt by Council to ensure that a minimum affordable housing component be included in the plan, after the developer stopped short of making any firm commitments in this

regard, instead indicating that the amount should be determined by an 'affordable housing expert'.

While an independent expert will still make the final determination on affordable housing, Council's amendment guarantees a baseline amount which cannot be eroded.

## Amendments

Should Gulgan Road Property Pty Ltd agree to this and the other amendments made by Council last week, the proposal will then go to the NSW government for a Gateway Determination.

Only once this has been provided can the developer proceed to submit a formal, detailed development application (DA).

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## Meet the new team for Mullum RSL sub-branch

The Mullumbimby RSL Sub-Branch is delighted to announce the appointment of their new committee members: Stephen Williams, Neville Watts, Narelle Williams, and Helen Bostock.

Each of them brings unique skills and enthusiasm to the sub-branch, and believes they can contribute in the coming months.

Stephen Williams told *The Echo*, 'While the Mullumbimby RSL sub-branch is co-located within the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club, it's important to understand that the sub-branch serves a distinct role.'



Vice-President Neville Watts, Treasurer Narelle Williams, President Stephen Williams and Secretary Helen Bostock. Photo Jeff Dawson

### Unwavering support for veterans

'Its primary focus is to provide unwavering support to the veterans of the local community.'

'The services offered by the sub-branch include advocacy services and welfare support, tailored to meet the unique needs of our veterans.'

'One of the greatest challenges faced by veterans after their service is the sense

of belonging and acceptance back into civilian life.'

'This period of transition can lead to mental health issues and a feeling of disassociation from family and friends. Acknowledging this, the Mullumbimby RSL Sub-Branch is committed to developing a future activities program aimed at fostering community and connection.'

'Planned activities include lawn bowls, golf,

beach-walks, fishing, music and creating pathways into Mullumbimby's businesses and community groups.'

'We at the Mullum RSL Sub-Branch are continuously seeking new members.'

'Whether you are a service member (ex-military) or an affiliate member (no military background), your participation is invaluable.'

'Together, we can provide the necessary support and

camaraderie to those who need it the most.'

'Join us in our mission to support our veterans and contribute to a thriving community.'

Bi-monthly meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month from 4pm at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club.

To get involved, phone 0413 806 508 or email MullumbimbySB@rslnsw.org.au.

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## Scouting about on clean up day

Byron Bay Scouts and Cubs participated in Clean Up Australia Day on Sunday, cleaning up part of Sunrise.

Scout leader, Sophia Marles, told *The Echo*, 'They collected 11kg of rubbish in public parks, streets, walkways and foreshore around Elements of Byron'.

But it's not all about rubbish.

According to scoutsnew.com.au, 'Scouts encourages young people to develop at their own pace by leading, assisting and participating in a broad range of activities and adventures designed to spark their curiosity and inspire growth'.

Sophia says they meet



Byron Bay Scouts and Cubs. Photo supplied

at Byron Bay Scout Hall on Tennyson Street on Mondays, from 6pm till 8pm for the Scouts group (11 to 14-year-olds). On Tuesdays, Cubs (who are eight to 11-years-old) meet from 5.30 till 7.30pm.

'We're looking at starting a Joey meet for five to eight-year olds, once we have a couple more leaders onboard', she said.

To join, email Sophia. Marles@nsw.scouts.com.au.

## Mordaunt film retrospective in April

A retrospective of films by renowned Byron filmmaker, Richard Mordaunt will be held over two days at the Byron Theatre on April 25 and 26.

Organisers say Mordaunt's groundbreaking works explore community activism, art, and civil rights.

They say, 'A pioneer in documentary filmmaking, Mordaunt studied at the

London Film School in 1964, drawing inspiration from the French New Wave, before founding Lusita Films in London. Using the first silent Éclair camera in the UK, he created films that resonate globally, capturing humanity's resilience, creativity, and pursuit of justice, leaving an indelible mark on cinema. Audiences

will gain unique insights into his creative process, experiences, and the powerful stories behind his iconic works'.

The films screened will be *Battle for Byron* (Co-directed with David Bradbury), *Salvatore Zofrea: Master of Light*, *Otis Redding and the Battle for Civil Rights*, and *Brushes with Fame*.

## Disaster recovery agency doubles its executives

Hans Lovejoy

In the week of the third anniversary of the devastating 2022 floods this week, the government-run corporation, The NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA), tabled its 2023-24 annual report.

Federal Greens candidate Mandy Nolan has raised concerns around the lack of progress around house raising and retrofit programs tabled within the report, and also pointed to the doubling of senior executive staff members, who earn on average \$350,000 a year from the taxpayer.

Comment was sought from Lismore NSW MP, Janelle Saffin (Labor), yet she was unable to provide any reply by deadline.

Her staff said she was recovering from illness and was focused on cyclone preparations.

The NSW government's Resilient Homes Program is jointly funded by the federal and state governments, and was established to make homes in the Northern Rivers better prepared for increasingly extreme flood events under climate change.

Within its 'timeline of key announcements', on page 12, there is no mention of the previous agencies that were abolished after being found to be ineffective and too bureaucratic – they were Resilience NSW (dissolved 2022) and the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (dissolved 2023).

Both agencies did not operate with any public accountability, and only after pressure did the NSW Labor government adopt accountability measures for RA.

### \$54 million in wages

Ms Nolan says, 'The report shows a staggering \$54 million spent on wages and salaries in the last financial year, which is 33 times the estimated \$1.6 million in grants which has been spent on the tiny number of house-raises and retrofits – assuming the maximum grant is \$100,000'.

'The annual report also shows the Reconstruction Authority has doubled the number of senior executives to 50 – including ten executive directors on an average of \$350,000 a year.

'While up to 10,000 people may have been impacted in

the Northern Rivers floods in 2022, the report notes that just 780 home buy backs have been offered.

'While the ABC reported in December that only 16 grants had been made in NSW for house retrofitting or raising, in Queensland there's been almost 690 grants for resilience works and 340 grants for home-raising.

'While thousands of residents in this region are still waiting for help, the Reconstruction Authority is swollen with senior executives,' says Ms Nolan.

'State and federal Labor governments have failed to deliver on their commitment to fully support flood-impacted residents in the Northern Rivers.

'It's not good enough that now three years on, governments still can't give certainty to the thousands of residents they promised to support.

'In the three years since the flood, instead of fully funding the recovery, we've seen Labor approve over 30 coal and gas projects, fueling the climate crisis which will continue to increase the risks of extreme weather events,' says Ms Nolan.

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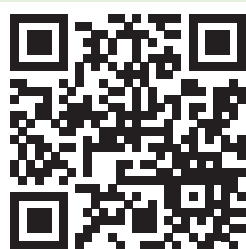
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# The push for all-access beach immersion

Sally Cusack

Plunging into the refreshing waters of our beaches on a hot day is one of summer's great joys, but for a number of our long-term residents, it's a pleasure and a relief they can only imagine.

For more than a year, local group Waves Without Limits has been working towards making the dream of water immersion in the ocean for our disabled residents a reality.

There are beach access sites to the north and south of us, in Ballina and Tweed, but none in this shire.

## Torakina target

Our target site is Torakina, which does have a beach chair nearby at the Bruns Community Centre. However, it doesn't provide access to the water for full immersion, and there's no hoist to transfer to the chair.

Beach Access Australia helped us with our initial investigations, but we quickly discovered the project is complicated by the fact that we need to negotiate with so many organisations, including Council, Crown Lands, Reflections Holiday Parks,



A local who would love the opportunity to immerse themselves in the ocean is Andy Graeme-Cook. He is a long-term resident and father with multiple sclerosis (MS). He is pictured with his wife Cath, carer Vicky holding the umbrella and Ben, one of the builders from Marine Rescue. Photo supplied

the Surf Club and Marine Rescue. We have found some enthusiasm, however.

One option that is being explored at the moment is extending the existing toilet block to include a separate toilet and change room.

Special matting would then be installed to create a pathway down to the water's edge from there.

Marine Rescue have stepped forward to offer the space at the front of their

tower to erect a small shed for the chair and hoist.

Rotary have also stepped forward with ideas for the kind of chairs and hoists available, and are helping compile a wishlist of equipment needed.

They will also help with funding to some extent, but we'd like to generate some local interest, and funds, to make this happen.

It's potentially great timing, with the Adaptive Surf

competition coming to the region in March.

## Get involved

Enquiries and donations for this worthwhile project can be directed to Sue Stirton, President of Brunswick Valley Rotary Club. Her email is susanstirton10@gmail.com and her mobile number is 0437 898 797.

■ Sally Cusack is from Waves Without Limits.

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# A peek inside the book of Peter and Lois

Hans Lovejoy

Ever had the book thrown at you? Throw one back! Or a whole pile... but read them first because it's guaranteed to expand your mind.

To do this, one must visit our local book stores.

Lucky Mullum has two. The Mullum Book Shop on Burringbar Street is run by the delightful Denise, and the other is a little different.

Located next to the drive-in bottle, with an unassuming front facade is the Book Barn.

It's hard to resist comparison to the TV show *Black Books*, where the acerbic Dylan Moran chases pesky customers from his musky den of dusty second-hand books.

At 89 years – soon to be 90 in July – Peter Baldwin is usually found behind the counter, relaxing in his lazy chair.

And sometimes his wife, Lois (90) is there too, beside his side.

The shop feels unique because Peter appears unfazed whether anyone buys his books, and he isn't particularly fussed about trying to sell you anything.

He is just content to have his feet up.

## Longest-running business

'It's the longest-running business in town, at 38 years', says Peter confidently.

Peter says he spent 28 years as a lawyer in Walgett, NSW, north-west of Armidale, where he was born and raised. As one of four kids, he scored a Sydney Uni scholarship before



Peter and Lois. Photo Jeff 'Reading The Room' Dawson

returning home to practice.

He says, 'My wife Lois came to marry me in Walgett. Most people didn't stay, but we did, and we had five children there. She asked one rainy night how long we will stay here, and I felt she had done her duty, so we counted our money. We just had enough to move to Byron Shire.'

'We have always had a connection to the place, as my mum was born in Mullumbimby. Her name was Amy Mallett. I also had other family here. We used to take the kids down to The Pass for a drowning every holiday, and every time I'd come up here, I'd buy a property. It was very cheap in those days.'

'I thought it was a good place to retire'

Before books, Peter sold antiques for a short time. But it was books that he enjoyed the most.

'I enjoy doing nothing all day', he says dryly.

When asked what are the main changes in the town, he replied, 'I don't know, as I don't go outside'.

But as for the clientele that come into the shop, he says they are 'not as weird as they used to be in the old days'.

One of Peter's other loves, apart from solitude with his books, is theatre.

He says he was instrumental in starting the Byron Theatre Company.

'I did a couple of plays, concerts and musicals', he says. 'Ever since, I've been sitting here with my feet up.'

# Where the elders meet



Courses, conversations, a drumming circle, and chair yoga were all part of last Saturday's Elders' Hub, held in the bamboo yurt in Mullumbimby's Gordon Street permaculture garden. Len Hend, Anjali Walsh, Ian Hamilton, Ruby Gardiner, Ramen, Cleis Pearce, Prema Robberts and Anna Walsh were at the Elders' gathering at the new space dedicated for those in their prime. Photo Jeff 'Elderberry' Dawson

## Yoga Centre finalist for small biz awards

Congrats Byron Yoga Centre, who have been selected as a finalist in the prestigious 2025 Australian Small Business Champion Awards.

Additionally, the centre has also been honoured with the Booking.com Traveller Review Award 2025, which reflects the 'consistently positive reviews from visitors who have enjoyed the Centre's

unique approach to wellness, relaxation, and personal transformation'.

Byron Yoga Centre founder, John Ogilvie, says, 'Being named a finalist in these prestigious awards, alongside receiving the Booking.com Traveller Review Award, is a true reflection of the passion and dedication of our entire team.'



BEFORE



AFTER

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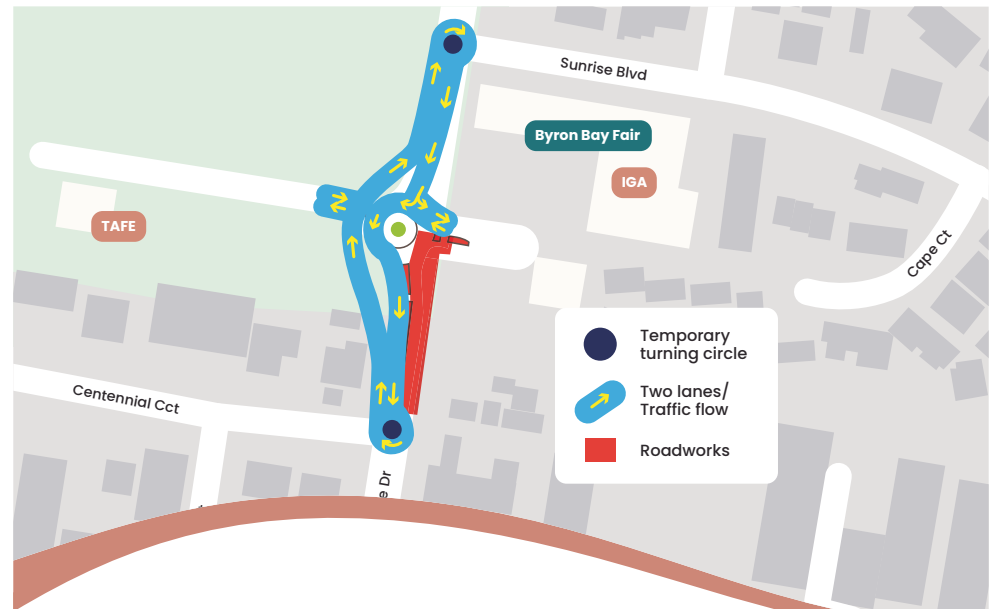
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## Bayshore Drive Roundabout Construction

Temporary changes to traffic conditions start this week

- Two traffic lanes will remain open – thanks to the new slip lane on the Byron Bay TAFE site.
- Use the new turning circles on Bayshore Drive to enter and exit Byron Bay Fair shops and the TAFE.
- Footpath and pedestrian access remain open.

It's business as usual at Byron Bay Fair. Come in and support your local businesses.

### More information

- [www.byron.nsw.gov.au/bayshore-drive-roundabout](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/bayshore-drive-roundabout)
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## Ballina Council to 'investigate' rough sleeper options

Aslan Shand

All Ballina Shire councillors, bar Mayor Sharon Cadwallader, voted to investigate Flat Rock Tent Park 'or another suitable site... for the purposes of providing safe and affordable accommodation to rough sleepers'.

Greens councillor Kiri Dicker put forward a motion, 'that Council provide a limited number of unpowered sites at the FlatRock TentPark during the off-peak season for the purposes of providing safe and affordable accommodation to rough sleepers'. This was proposed to be offered at \$120 per week for a site that would normally cost \$320 per week for one adult.

Speaking in favour of the motion Cr Dicker said, 'I was talking to the staff at Tamara Smith's office, and they were saying that they were having some rough sleepers coming into the office and saying that they don't want to be camping in a public park. [They said] "It's not safe for us, but we just genuinely don't have anywhere else to go".'

Councillors raised a range of concerns including mental health issues, drugs and anti-social behaviour.

Mayor Cadwallader spoke against the motion saying that 'drug use, erratic behaviour towards holiday makers, indecent exposure, violent behaviour, misuse and vandalism of facilities' were concerns.

Cr Therese Crollick responded reminding people that yes 'there are people who are homeless who have

all those issues. But rough sleeping doesn't necessarily mean someone who is actually in a tent under a bush in one of our parks. Rough sleeping or homeless are defined as the people who couch surf, the people who are living in cars.'

Cr Crollick then pointed out that 'the highest number of people who are homeless and living in cars - looking around this room - are women of our age group, and that's a fact, that's what the statistics say.'

'The other sort of people that are living in cars are younger women with children escaping domestic violence. The other sort of people that are living in cars and vans are families who are in low-paying jobs.'

Cr Michelle Baily moved an amendment seeking an 'investigation' into the Flat Rock Tent Park and other potential sites around Ballina Shire.

'My issue with it is the location. It's really distant from the essential services that are required. If we could explore alternative solutions, that would be great. Bringing this matter to us is giving us that chance. I do believe we could work with a collaborative effort to find a balanced approach,' she said.

Cr Cadwallader voted against the amendment while all other councillors voted in favour. The staff have said they will bring a report to council in approximately six weeks.

■ Read full story in *The Echo Online*: [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

## 70 new units in Tweed Shire to help combat homelessness

Aslan Shand

Minister for Housing and Homelessness Rose Jackson was in the Northern Rivers last week announcing 70 new units in Tweed Shire to help with homelessness.

The minister had previously been booked to speak at Southern Cross University's Land, Sharing and the Law: Innovative Solutions to the Housing Crisis forum but had pulled out of the engagement as she was no longer available.

### 70 temporary beds

In partnership with Homes NSW, community housing provider Social Futures plans

to deliver 70 temporary beds at Tweed Heads, with wraparound support to help vulnerable locals get back on their feet.

The former residential village for over 55s was sitting vacant and unused since it was put on the market in 2023.

'Soon, it will provide a safe place to stay for community members including seniors and people with a disability, with the first stage of the project to deliver 20 new homes in coming weeks,' said the press release.

■ Read full story in *The Echo Online*: [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

## Lismore Museum without a home

Aslan Shand

Lismore City Council (LCC) held an extraordinary meeting on February 27. The housing of the Richmond River Historical Society (RRHS), otherwise called the Lismore Museum, was a key issue of debate as part of the Council's Property Strategy.

Prior to the meeting President of the RRHS, Dr Robert Smith, gathered with supporters outside the LCC chambers seeking support for the return of the RRHS to their former museum premises in the heritage Municipal Building at 165 Molesworth Street. The Lismore Museum has been waiting for the renovation of the building following the 2022 floods with the expectation that they would be moving back in.

Dr Smith told the gathered crowd that there had been misinformation put out by the LCC saying that they had failed to sign a lease.

'No, we were not given a lease to sign,' he said.

'They say we waited eight months to do things. No, we didn't. There was no doubt whatsoever, throughout anywhere in the community, or in this building that we wanted to move back in, we were ambushed.'

'How did it happen? A group went and saw the shiny new building down there that was put together, with the help of our own Jeff Kerr in particular. They saw it, and they liked the look of it, and like any two-year-old, they wanted this shiny new thing for themselves, and they didn't care what happened, what the consequences were, and they've made up whatever they can to cover that up.'

The decision not to return the RRHS to its former location was part of the LCC



Protesters join President of the Richmond River Historical Society Dr Robert Smith outside Lismore Council. They want the museum to return to its pre-flood location. Photo Facebook

Property Strategy. Councillors Adam Guise, Jasmine Knight-Smith, and Virginia Waters put in a recission motion to reverse the decision of the LCC and reinstate the Lismore Museum (RRHS) back into the heritage building they had previously occupied.

'It's a bit of a surprise to the RRHS that they have been caught up in this property strategy and are being turfed out of the municipal building, whereas we'd resolved to issue a licence for them to occupy that [building] back in May [14] 2024,' said Cr Guise.

'I'm asking my fellow councillors here today to consider the sentiment in the community, to consider what you've heard here in this chamber, and think about how important these physical institutions are, but also these cultural institutions are, to our town. These sort of services are attractors to people from far and wide. They bring visitors to Lismore. They rely extensively on volunteers to do this work, and we can't take volunteers for granted.'

Cr Guise highlighted the fact that the LCC had a previously passed a motion to lease the building to the

RRHS that they had been waiting to sign when the property strategy 'came out of left field' removing that previously-approved LCC motion.

'Is it staff's job to decide which motions of council to enact' he asked.

Cr Electra Jensen spoke against the motion saying that, 'We are not turfing them out. There is a resolution to delegate the authority to the staff which is being enacted on and they can choose whether or not to go on with it,' she said referring to the fact that LCC had previously passed a motion to licence the RRHS to occupy the building.

Responding to her statement Cr Guise pointed out that, 'We executed a [council] resolution that said, "license agreement with Richmond River Historical Society over ground floor, suite seven to eight and the entire first floor 165 Molesworth Street for a five-year term to facilitate the maintenance of an archive containing materials and historical artifacts that can encapsulate the unique essence of the region".'

'That's what we resolved.'

Those other licences [that were part of the same resolution], they have been executed. This one hasn't. It's not up to us to pass these resolutions, and then the general manager can pick and choose which ones that they agree to implement or not. That was a resolution, that's on the books and that stands.'

Mayor Steve Krieg put the recission motion to the vote, it was lost with Crs Guise, Jasmine Knight-Smith and Virginia Waters in favour and Crs Gianpiero Battista, Andrew Bing, Andrew Gordon, Jeri Hall, Jensen, Krieg and Big Rob voting against.

## Fire ants and cattle ticks issues for local farmers

Fire ants and cattle ticks were at the top of the agenda for the recent NSW Farmers Biosecurity Forum hosted in Murwillumbah.

With North Coast farmers on the frontline of some of the nation's worst biosecurity threats, NSW Farmers President Xavier Martin said the forum was a chance to hear the latest on farm biosecurity and NSW Farmers' advocacy efforts to protect agriculture from exotic pests.

'Farmers in the north are battling cattle ticks one day and deadly fire ants the next,



Burringbar farmer and Chair of the NSW Farmers Far North Coast Branch, Craig Huf with his dog Skip. Photo supplied

so they're truly at ground zero of NSW's biosecurity threats,' Mr Martin said.

'We want to bring the

latest information on these pests right to the grassroots, so farmers know what they're dealing with, as well as what's being done about it.'

Two separate panel sessions on fire ants and cattle ticks were hosted as part of the forum.

NSW Farmers Far North Coast Branch Chair Craig Huf said that this forum gave people an opportunity to understand 'the current pest control plans that are in place, as well as the latest on-farm management options'.

News from across the North Coast online ► [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

### Wild weather predicted across Northern Rivers this week

Authorities are advising residents across the Northern Rivers and beyond to prepare for predicted heavy rain, damaging winds, large surf, flash flooding and possible major riverine flooding with Tropical Cyclone Alfred expected to cross the coast later this week.

### Can you help get free mobile laundry service running in Casino?

When you don't have a home or are vulnerable simple things like accessing a shower or getting your laundry done can become significant challenges.

### Woman charged over alleged fraud

A woman has been charged by Tweed-Byron police following an investigation into an alleged fraud incident on the Far North Coast.

### Poverty issues biting in Ballina - what to do?

Ballina Cr Kiri Dicker is bringing a number of motions to the next meeting of Ballina Council intended to address some of the effects of the cost of living crisis, particularly the growing number of rough sleepers.

### Northern Rivers measles alert

Health authorities have issued another measles alert on the Northern Rivers.

### Lismore's CBD occupancy rate remains stable at 77%

The latest Lismore City Council audit of 'The Block' shows a healthy increase in occupancy in Molesworth and Keen streets, while overall the rate remained steady.

### Woman in critical condition after multi-truck highway crash

Police say they're investigating two crashes in Ballina that led to a woman being airlifted to hospital Friday morning.

### Man dies in hospital a month after crash - South Lismore

A man has died in hospital after a crash last month in Lismore.

### Firearms and drug offence charges - Tweed Heads

About 2.10am on Wednesday, 26 February, 2025, police stopped a vehicle on Ourimbah Road, Tweed Heads, due to the manner of driving.

[www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)



**The Byron Shire Echo**  
Volume 39 #39 • March 5, 2025

## All this precipitation is getting tedious

In the week of the three-year anniversary of the 2022 flood, residents are again preparing for Cyclone Alfred.

It may well be the most over-hyped and over-exposed tropical storm ever, which is the price we pay for having algorithms at our fingertips.

It's a mass psychosis event!

As a category 2, gusts may well reach up to 125–164 km/h, which according to the BOM, means 'minor house damage, significant damage to signs, trees and caravans, heavy damage to some crops, risk of power failure and small craft may break moorings'.

And FYI, Category 5 is the worst, with widespread destruction and 'Typical strongest gust greater than 279 km/h'.

Cyclones are considered rare in this region, and usually make landfall further north.

There have been a few big cyclones in Northern NSW over the years – notably in 1954, 1974 and 2017.

In 1974, Cyclone Pam radically reshaped the entire NSW coastline. Paddocks in New Brighton were lost, and the small village of Sheltering Palms, near Brunswick Heads, was destroyed.

In the April 5, 2017 edition, *The Echo* reported that 'The North Coast was declared a natural disaster zone, as the massive cleanup effort across the region continues in the aftermath of Cyclone Debbie'.

The 2022 floods were not the result of a cyclone, but a slow-moving pressure system that formed after consecutive La Niña events. Yet there is a theory that it was also triggered after a massive undersea volcano eruption near Tonga a month prior.

Just last month, a brief morning storm ripped through the hinterland and screamed west to the coast. It

was also unusual, because winds of that strength rarely blow in that direction. Subsequently it knocked out large, established trees that would normally withstand storms.

So – what have we learned from these events? Probably that it will be largely up to us to deal with whatever comes our way on Thursday.

### Taxes spent wisely

Have government spent our taxes wisely in this critical area, so there is a well-resourced response ready to be deployed? (See page 7).

It's not worth boring the reader around bureaucratic manuals that exist for natural emergencies such as cyclones.

But why not, we pay for them after all. The main one is called the *Tweed Byron Local Emergency Management Plan 2022* (EMPLAN), and it's available on Council's website.

Yet it's not much help – there are a lot of pages devoted to outlining demographics, geography, and stating agency responsibilities.

*The Byron Shire Flood Emergency Sub Plan 2013* is mentioned within it, but doesn't appear to exist on Council's website.

Perhaps the most effective thing governments could do is appropriately fund councils so that all drainage is maintained. And fund the SES like they do the police.

It may not be a popular statement for the environmentalists, but dredging the creeks and rivers of the roadbase that has accumulated in there over generations would improve the flow of flood waters that washes out to sea.

And ruling out floodplain development makes sense too.

Best of luck with Alfred, and thanks to the emergency services for being there to help us.

**Hans Lovejoy, editor**  
*News tips are welcome:*  
[editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au)

## How many seconds to midnight now?

The Doomsday Clock shifted to 89 seconds to midnight just a month ago, the closest humanity has ever come to catastrophic destruction since the clock started ticking in 1947.

As tectonic plates shift all around us, the ground beneath our feet feels less stable and unfamiliar.

Existential threat isn't just nuclear warheads, it's also collapsing biodiversity and climate chaos, the emergence of diseases and pandemics, the rapid deployment of AI and surveillance, and the degraded communication ecosystem rife with misinformation, disinformation and conspiracy theories.

We've become an existential threat to ourselves.

The irrational 'mirror world' of communications so eloquently described in Naomi Klein's book *Doppelganger*, acts like a strange attractor with its chaotic dynamics.

People are drawn to its unreality as the coherence of humanity's shared values and experience is lost. It's a 'bonkers blender' that makes a 'thought puree,' to borrow Klein's ideas.

Nothing screams 'mirror mirror on the wall, who's the evilest of them all?' than tiny-handed Donald Trump posting a grotesque AI-generated video of 'Trump Gaza' to his Truth Social echo chamber in the wee hours.

It's a megalomaniacal oligarch's dream pasted over Palestinian blood and land, replete with a golden Trump statue and children happily carrying golden Trump balloons while Musk throws money in the air on the beach.

The only thing upsetting MAGA Christian nationalists about the abhorrent vision is the Trump statue because it's idolatry. Do they choose to be so blind? They are hypnotised by their self-righteousness in the fractured part of the mirror they keep looking at.

The MAGA cult is to politics what the golden arches are to junk food and it's looking to MAGAfy in a town near you. Bad for your health and designed to be additive, if you don't stay alert and push back, it can



**'Copycat Peter Dutton has announced his plans to drain swampy Canberra and take the public out of service by firing 36,000 people.'**

– Jo Immig

swallow you whole and you start speaking in hashtags and memes.

It's like a frightening *Dr Who* episode where an amoral virtual world takes over physical reality and the body politic. It steals humanity through their eyeballs glued to hungry devices and sucks out their data to feed rapacious AI models, taking down governments one by one.

Once it's finished plagiarising us, a neurachip is inserted and we're goners.

### Xenophobic Daleks

Meanwhile, geeky 'tech support' Musk is preparing his xenophobic Daleks for a full-scale Earth invasion and the Dr is nowhere to be seen. Plot twist: we are the Dr we've been waiting for, if only we can 'wake up' and remember we've built immunity to Daleks before.

Dalek Donald is acting like the Russian asset everyone who didn't vote for him thought he was.

Putin his puppet master is making him dance to bullets on the global stage. What hold does he have over him? Sleazy kompromat and money no doubt. When Trump's matryoshka doll is unstacked, we'll probably just find a tiny Donald in the foetal position.

On our own shores, parroting billionaire Clive Palmer with his ridiculous 'Trumpet of Patriots' is calling in the chaos and wants to do Australia DOGE-style.

Copycat Peter Dutton has announced his plans to drain swampy Canberra and take the public out of service by firing 36,000 people.

This is the only way we can see a doctor for free, he says.

Draining swamps is a political preoccupation of conservatives working under the mantra 'private good, public bad'. But when you drain a swamp, you kill an entire

ecosystem. It's an ecological disaster. We know all about this in our swampy region.

It's also true of human service ecosystems. They are complex networks of people and skills.

The human face of government.

Real people with lives, mortgages, kids and health needs who are now being terrorised and treated as 'waste' to be cut out with axes and chainsaws.

### Robodebt disaster

Last time the Coalition gutted the public service it ended in a parliamentary inquiry into the integrity of private external consulting services, because that's where the water from the swamp drained to. Taxpayers lost billions and private corporations won.

Remember the cruel Robodebt disaster? People have brain worms if they fall for that again.

Which brings me to RFK Jr who has fans in Byron Shire. I know he says things that might appeal, like banning glyphosate, and bringing back unpasteurised milk and measles, but it's a pureed thought process if you think he's willing, or capable, of achieving anything meaningful during a dictatorial coup of USA democracy.

Supporting him is like saying you'd cheer on Hitler, even though you don't like all his ideas, just because he was a vegetarian and liked dogs.

The utterly shocking Trump Oval Office meltdown with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky left the entire free world reeling.

How much closer is the Doomsday Clock to midnight now?

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



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**Nicholas Shand**  
1948–1996  
Founding Editor



**David Lovejoy**  
1944–2024  
Co-founder

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

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

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## NORTH COAST VETS

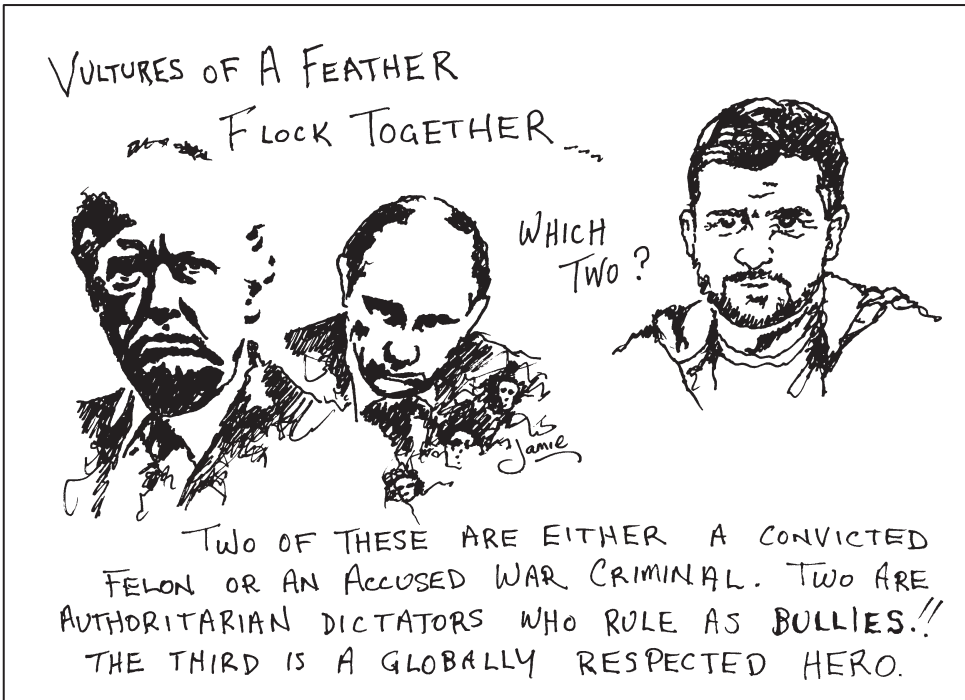
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Clinic: 233 Gulgan Rd Between Mullum and Bruns just down the road from Uncle Toms



Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

### Thumping torture

What is it with the bush doof people who think it's okay to drive the nearby folks to complete sleepless despair? All night and then into the next day.

From a distance the incessant unremitting low frequency assault is reminiscent of an overloaded, out of balance washing machine thumping away continuously.

Yes you have your all night medicine cabinet to keep you going but how about some simple consideration for the nocturnal forest critters and the long-suffering neighbours?

C Davies  
Mullumbimby

### Attack on USAID

Marc Westley sure has been chugging down the Trump/Musk Kool Aid.

Far from being a 'disgraced organisation' USAID's cancellation by the Musk goon squad marks it as an organisation of integrity doing good works. It was set up by JFK as the principal arm of US soft power, a term Trump doesn't understand and Musk doesn't care about, but China sure does and will be moving into the vacuum.

Musk has condemned hordes of African kids to die of starvation while food rots on the docks and US mid-western farmers face

bankruptcy. One of the reasons Musk gave was condoms being sent to Gaza. It was Gaza, Mozambique not Gaza, Palestine and it was to stem the spread of AIDS.

Trump/Musk have stopped aid to 50 developing countries including 26 of the poorest in the world. The fight against diseases such as malaria, cholera and TB has been halted. USAID does not have the time, inclination or wherewithal to be involved in 'warmongering'.

Describing Ukraine's fight against Russia's illegal invasion as a 'money laundering operation' is an idea from a very deep rabbit hole. BTW Musk has achieved his main objective, shutting down the 32 investigations into his government contracts.

Alan Watterson  
Hastings Point

### Lennox roundabout

On July 12, 2023 Eva Ramsay and myself reported in the *Byron Shire Echo* that there was an urgent 'Call for Roundabout at Dangerous Lennox Head Intersection', and warned of the risk of an imminent fatality at the junction of Byron Bay Road and Byron Street.

I was stunned when I was told by the Road Safety Officer at Ballina Council that there would not be funding for such a project until 2036!

I suggested that at the least the Ballina Council

needed to construct an interim, water-filled, orange plastic roundabout. To the credit of Ballina Council they constructed that very roundabout within the next two days... and it has served the community well from that point, until the eventual construction of the current permanent roundabout happening now.

I want electors to know, at this critical time in 2025, that this project was fully funded and supported by the current government, with grants through the office of Justine Elliot MP. It is just one of very many projects that could not have been completed without the Albanese government, (in this case working with our local Ballina Shire Council). That point should be noted.

Jamie Hoile  
Lennox Head

### Enforcement policy

You would think that Council staff, and Mayor Sarah Ndiaye, would know what Council policies are, but perhaps not. Council's Enforcement Policy has made it quite clear, since at least 2016, that Council does not have to act on 'unauthorised activity' that comes to its attention, and that one option in such a situation is to 'take no action.'

Section 4.14 of the policy says, 'Council has discretion in deciding whether to take

enforcement action', and Section 4.15 says, 'Council will have regard to the impact the unauthorised activity is causing on amenity or harm to the environment. If action is required, Council will consider what is reasonable in the circumstances and ensure the action is not disproportionate to the level of harm or damage arising from the unauthorised activity.'

Council's Unauthorised Dwellings Guidelines offer ways to become compliant, but a pensioner in their 70s, with no financial resources and in poor health, is not likely to be able to comply with Council's demands to upgrade their dwelling, which may have been built 50 years ago, and pay large fees to Council.

As long as they are not having an effect on 'amenity or harm to the environment' they should be left alone to see out their time in peace.

Matthew Lambourne  
Mullumbimby

### Traffic lights

Thank you councillors from Suffolk Park, Broken Head and the wider community.

I am writing to express the community's gratitude towards our nine councillors. The community was loud and clear and we have been heard.

The hot topic of traffic lights has been addressed by way of a new unanimous council resolution seeking a variation on the scope of works from the Shire's first traffic lights to a roundabout to resolve the Clifford Street intersection dangers, and congestion. Interestingly this is what all councillors had

► Continued on page 15

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## Letters to the Editor

■ Send to Letters Editor Aslan Shand, fax: 6684 1719 email: [editor@echo.net.au](mailto: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](http://www.echo.net.au/letters).



## AND THE FAMOUS RAILS KITCHEN

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# The United States no longer an ally of democracy

David Lowe

**U**S President Donald Trump's disgusting, stage-managed TV ambush of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy didn't quite go to plan last week. Both leaders have a background as popular entertainers, but only one has any concept of what it takes to be a statesman.

While the situation facing his country is more perilous than ever, Zelenskyy emerged with his integrity intact, while Trump fell deeper into his mob boss character, aided by two henchmen who once attacked their leader in the strongest possible terms but have now decided to abandon all principles in the pursuit of political power.

In a sense, it doesn't really matter now if Donald Trump is on the payroll of Vladimir Putin or not. He's acting exactly as though he is, and has done so since he entered politics. Those who see him as a peacemaker are as delusional as those who saw Hitler as a peacemaker in 1936.

The argument that Ukraine brought the war upon itself and that Russia was entitled to invade because it has historical connections with the area is like saying that Mexico is entitled to the Southern USA, or the United Kingdom should have Ireland back, or Australia should rule Papua New Guinea.

Germany thought it was entitled to what is now called the Czech Republic in 1938, because there were German-speakers there and it had once been part of the Austro-Hungarian empire. The world stood by and let it invade.



The infamous White House meeting of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with US President Donald Trump and Vice President J.D. Vance. Photo BBC



Russian President Valdimir Putin. Photo Wikicommons

Remember how that turned out? During the occupation, around 300,000 citizens were murdered and many other people were drafted for slave labour in Germany.

Further invasions of other sovereign states followed.

Russia's neighbours are right to be concerned, particularly those with valuable resources.

## Peace or a piece of the action?

It's worth remembering that authoritarian peace is nothing like democratic peace, but the peace of 'a boot stamping on a human face - forever', as George Orwell memorably put it.

Russia's nervousness about being surrounded by enemies is understandable, but Russia is a very big country. There was never any real prospect of Ukraine joining NATO, but the United States and Russia did provide guarantees that Ukraine would remain independent and free from



Russia looms large over Ukraine.

the threat of force when it gave up its nuclear arsenal in 1994, as part of the *Budapest Memorandum*.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy is not a dictator, but Vladimir Putin certainly is, and Donald Trump is showing all the signs of joining him. Zelenskyy was elected democratically after Ukraine's previous puppet president Viktor Yanukovich was deposed and fled back to Russia in 2014, following months of protests.

Ukraine's constitution states that elections can't

be held during time of war, which would clearly be impossible anyway. This was affirmed by majority vote in the Verkhovna Rada (Ukraine's parliament) as recently as last week (286 votes), with no abstentions or votes against it. Russia, the much bigger aggressor in this case, held a sham election in 2024 which reinforced Putin's power. This has nothing to do with democracy.

While there have been Nazis in Ukraine, and still are, as in many other places,

Zelenskyy is Jewish and his ancestors were literally murdered by Nazis. Calling Zelenskyy a Nazi is ludicrous.

## So what about democracy?

Donald Trump's partner in crime J.D. Vance recently told European leaders, 'If you're running in fear of your own voters, there is nothing America can do for you.'

Last week, after a series of town hall meetings in which Republican representatives were harangued by Republican voters over the behaviour of Trump and Musk, the party has cancelled all such meetings going forward. These people are hypocrites of the highest order.

After last week's disastrous meeting at the White House, Trump went off to play golf at public expense in Mar-a-Lago, and Vance went skiing in Vermont, where he was pursued by angry crowds. Zelenskyy returned to the existential

crisis of war in Ukraine, via the UK, where he found a warm welcome.

So what does the treatment of Ukraine mean for America's other 'allies'? If international politics is now a card game, what sort of hand does Australia hold? We learned last week that Donald Trump literally has no idea what AUKUS is. Perhaps we should stop throwing billions of dollars at it?

If countries like Canada are being attacked by Trump in a tariff war, it's clearly time for Australia to start talking seriously to new potential allies.

The real battle, here and everywhere, is shaping up between the billionaires, including the billionaire dictators (together with those who worship them), and everyone else. Which side is Australia on?

■ David Lowe writes a weekly political column every Monday in *The Echo Online*: [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au).

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► Continued from page 13 previously agreed would be a superior 'future outcome' to aim for once the lights failed.

The 'opportunity' created by staff in applying for and receiving a \$2.3m grant now has a good chance of being used to bring an excellent outcome for the community.

This revised motion is a win for councillors and the whole community. We are edging closer to a lasting solution for Suffolk Park.

**Joti Jaffray**  
Broken Head

### Good government

David Lowe's fabulous article in last week's *Echo*, 'Why good government is nothing like a business' really is THE core issue of our times. If you never fully understood why neoliberalism is so toxic, please make the effort to read this article, he explains it impeccably. Thankyou David, you nailed it!

**Michael Balson**  
Wilson's Creek

### Cost of climate living

We need to wake up to the reality that climate change is forcing the cost of living to increase. Mainly via rising food prices, as crops fail in various regions, and rising insurance costs, as housing and infrastructure

is demolished in multiple locations worldwide. 'Climate change' is a placid, cosy phrase designed by a PR company to disguise the unvarnished reality. Similarly 'carbon footprint' is a PR phrase to put responsibility on individuals' choices, and distract from fossil fuel corporations' own responsibility.

What is happening already is climate crisis and collapse, manifesting in extreme weather of all sorts and in all regions, and typically 'unprecedented'. We've had it here, and seen it all over the globe on social media and platforms. And there will be more and worse as unrestricted greenhouse gases continue to be poured into the atmosphere. Our mainstream politicians have been bought by fossil-fuel donations, which they return in gobsmacking subsidies while the company profits are largely tax-free. We have to do better. Time is running out.

**Daniel Berg**  
Lismore

### When is a pig farm, not a pig farm?

We were amazed that the Yagers Lane DA was approved for another 'farm'. We remember that for

decades pig piss and shit was sprayed over the fields. When the wind was blowing SE we could smell it. Now we are to believe it will be an artisan agricultural heaven. Vegetarians and vegans be aware!

**Grant Clementson**  
Skinners Shoot

### Mega-mansion fight!

Every now and then I really agree with our Byron Shire Council's perseverance and the direction of their fight against developers with huge monetary resources and sharp well-paid barristers. This fight is a classic example of that sentiment.

Wategos is famous for its secluded beach and surf break, rimmed with very expensive homes that are lived in during a southern hemisphere summer holiday season.

Now, we have a situation where a very local business owner with oodles of cash, defies state planning laws, which his architect must have been well aware of when approached to design this mega-mansion. It seems to me as if the developer's advisors in these situations advise: 'it's probably going to be a court case with The NSW Land and Environment Court (L&EC) which has a

reputation with agreeing with the defendants. We'll just keep throwing money at it until it's done'.

Mr Catalano's development is disrespectful of our community. That piece of land was once owned by First Nations local people, who unfortunately sold it into white-fella hands. But it has been deemed by NSW law to be precious Coastal Wetland Littoral Forest a habitat for endangered species of plants and animals therefore not to be brutally dug into and refashioned.

How dare developers do this! We are already seeing monstrous redevelopment in our town's centre striving to capture the allusive tourist dollar. This is something different and I find it very alarming that such monetary influence could be allowed to prevail and destroy our fast-diminishing character and quality of Byron life. Here we need to support our Council in its fight to stop it, on March 3 the battle will rage.

**Savaad Churcher-Wells**  
Byron Bay

### Local library

After many years I have just rediscovered my local library, the Byron Bay branch.

► Continued on page 16

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► **Continued from page 15**

I am spending an afternoon a week there, in a quiet space to get some work done.

You could not find friendlier staff. If you need a book they'll find it for you, or order it. There are current magazines and newspapers to read. The building itself is an example of good architecture. Sun streams in through the windows.

What a treasure it is. Hard copy books are alive and well there.

Libraries are an essential community service. High school and primary school kids arrive when school finishes.

Ten minutes to closing time the librarians turn on the music and it is just like a dance party. On Valentine's Day they played Love is in the Air and Little River Band's

Reminiscing while handing out love heart chocolates.

I don't know if all libraries are like the Byron Bay branch. I doubt it. It's sort of a one-off, like the Bay itself. Do yourself a favour and go have a look, get a book, support this valuable resource in our community.

**Tricia Shantz**  
Byron Bay

**Voter tactics**

While I totally understand that many voters are tired of the two- (or three- with Greens) party system in Australia it has served its democratic role fairly well, although laws concerning donations, especially 'hidden' donations, do urgently need to be changed.

The concept of more teals/independents in Parliament sounds like a great idea but it does have

serious pitfalls, especially for this coming federal election. Notably, the votes that go to an independent may well be taken from the ALP, (far fewer Coalition voters seem to change their voting patterns).

This means that independents of all persuasions, plus the Greens, even with preferences, could hand over the government to the Coalition. Considering the teals are to be substantially funded by an environmental lobby group the irony is dazzling. The Coalition promises to spend billions of dollars on nuclear, which by all scientific analysis is the worst possible choice for Australia and who knows what cuts will be made to solar incentives. Plus, coal extraction will last a good deal longer than under the ALP.

If there is a Coalition

majority in both houses then nothing will stop them passing whatever they want. So check deeply into the policies behind all candidates...

► **Please read full letter in *The Echo* online:**

[www.echo.net.au/letters](http://www.echo.net.au/letters).  
**Bette Guy**  
North Lismore

**Dutton's false economy**

Peter Dutton's plan to fund bulk billing by slashing \$24 billion in federal government jobs is a false economy that will hurt essential services without actually solving the problem.

Yes, bureaucracy can be inefficient – I've seen government jobs remain long after the original problem was solved. But the solution isn't indiscriminate cuts that cripple Medicare, Centrelink, and the ATO – it's targeted

reviews to ensure efficiency without gutting essential services.

We've seen this before – past Coalition governments cut public service jobs, only to spend even more on private consultants at double or triple the cost. If Dutton were serious about funding Medicare, he'd close corporate tax loopholes, crack down on government waste in consulting contracts, and reinvest in essential services – not gut the very institutions that keep them running.

This isn't about fiscal responsibility; it's about an ideological attack on government at the expense of everyday Australians.

**Bryan Frew**  
Byron Bay

**Federal election**

*The Echo* reported that over 400 people packed out the Murwillumbah Civic Centre to hear Bob Brown, former Greens leader endorsing Mandy Nolan as the Greens candidate for the Federal seat of Richmond in the upcoming federal election.

That's all very good, though I would think the majority of voters in Richmond would be uneasy to see a Dutton Coalition government. There lies the problem, if Mandy Nolan wins the seat that would deny Labor a seat they can't afford to lose. Labor cannot lose a seat if they want to form a second term of government, a second term they deserve.

Voters in the seat of Richmond need to consider the consequences of their vote.

**Paul Brennan**  
Brunswick Heads

**Pursuing illegal fat bikes**

Tamara Smith's office responded quickly to my concerns about illegal electric motorbikes, and suggested people keep their local council and police informed about e-bike accidents and dangerous events. It [the response] included a link to a 165-page report from the 2025 NSW Legislative Council Inquiry (Google: Report No 25 – Portfolio committee No 6).

To make it easier, The Bicycle Network has published a summary ([Bicyclenetwork.com.au/newsroom/2025/02/22](http://Bicyclenetwork.com.au/newsroom/2025/02/22)) which I have abbreviated here.

The report has 34 recommendations for e-bikes, e-scooters and other e-mobility devices (EMDs) to better control their uses. It says the trending 'fat bikes' that have been altered for

illegal speeds were one of the triggers for the inquiry. The report urges the government to crack down on illegal EMDs, allow police to seize illegal EMDs, recommends 15kph on shared footpaths, increased funding for active transport paths, discusses the issues of battery safety, specific parking for EMDs, funding for cycleways, having road knowledge and safety tests for food-delivery riders, education for under-16 riders, mandatory insurance, and to review the government decision to allow higher motor power.

The report writers interviewed an amazing number of appropriate experts and grass roots folk for this document. Have a read. It is thorough.

**Raphael Lee Cass**  
Byron Bay

**Flood spending bleed**

As a mortgage-free, off-grid woman approaching 60, I never imagined that five landslides would rattle my driveway in hundreds of metres of churned earth and leave me battling with my own government three years down the track.

But natural disasters, like those of February 2022, are set to change even the most seemingly sorted lives.

There are tales of trauma from across our communities ever since. For me, couch surfing for over a year, two surgeries including one for cancer and their long recoveries, all while trying to navigate the complexities of government agencies meant to assist victims, has been an unexpected challenge. It has become the taxpayer-sponsored trauma that goes on and on.

► **Please read full letter in *The Echo* online:**

[www.echo.net.au/letters](http://www.echo.net.au/letters).  
**Marnee Wong**  
Nimbin

**Trump has ruined our rivers**

I have done some work with Positive Change for Marine Life over the years and the letter in last week's *Echo* from Mark Westley, 'Trump has ruined our rivers', reflects not only a complete lack of understanding of the organisation or their local work, but also about what NGO funds and aid are designed to do and how they do it.

► **Please read full letter in *The Echo* online:**

[www.echo.net.au/letters](http://www.echo.net.au/letters).  
**Kaye Richards**  
Brunswick Heads

► **More letters on page 18**

# Rainforest Warriors – the spirit of dissent is under threat

Stephen Wyatt

When the Northern Rivers went from rural to radical in the 1970s, the scene was set for a stoush with loggers and government to save the region's rare and valuable rainforest – the Big Scrub, or the little that was left of the Big Scrub.

And what a stoush it was. The forest wars broke out at Terania Creek in 1979 and Mt Nardi in 1982. The newly-arrived counter-culture banded together and for the first time in Australia's history stood up against logging.

Why this is important today is that Australian governments over the past 15 years have actively legislated to crush environmental activism. The protesters at Terania Creek would arguably be jailed under today's legislation.

The spirit of dissent is under threat. That is why this story about the forest wars of 1979 needs to be told and retold. It is being forgotten as are the many brave people that took on the NSW Forestry Corporation and stood



Stopping the loggers at the Terania Creek Protest 1979. Photo David Kemp

up against the logging of rare rainforest.

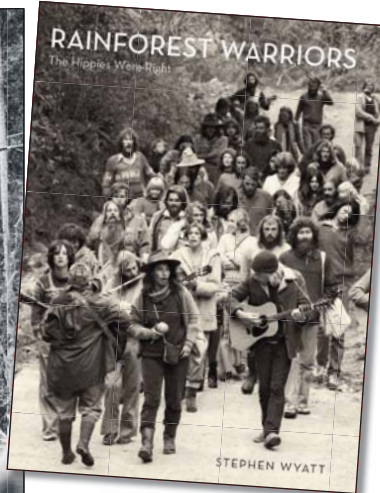
And this story shows just what can be done when people do stand up for what they believe in.

The blockade back in 1979 was wildly successful. It turned Labor green and

resulted in the creation of national parks right down the spine of NSW.

This environmental action would never have occurred without the extraordinary social and cultural change in the region.

The 1970s was arguably



the most radical decade since World War II. The Vietnam war – a very unpopular event – was a primary radicalising factor. But so was apartheid in South Africa and, in Australia, 23 years of conservative government.

Society and post-war philosophies were being challenged.

A counter-culture in NSW exploded. There was the Aquarius Festival in Nimbin in 1973 when a few thousand half-naked hippies moved in and changed the town forever, communes sprang up like magic mushrooms and the back-to-earthers, in search of rural bliss, bought farms in the area.

There were 94 communes established back in the 1980s; 60 still exist, albeit of varying political hues.

Queensland was out of the question back then for radicals because it was a police state run by a corrupt police force and the hard right Bjelke-Petersen government. Hippies were given short shrift there.

So, the counter-culture hunkered up in Northern NSW.

There was suddenly a critical mass that was ready to stand up against environmental destruction.

This new counter-culture no longer saw nature as a resource that was there to be exploited. Instead it was seen as a living and breathing ecosystem that needed protecting and nurturing.

The scene was suddenly set for environmental action.

The fight to stop logging was seeded. No such fight had ever occurred. It was all new. The activists, loggers, and police were all confused. Blockading tactics of the activists and counter-reactions of police and loggers were all invented as the fight progressed.

The forest war in the Byron hinterland was the primary trigger to a much wider environmental movement: at the Franklin in Tasmania, in the Daintree Rainforest in North Queensland, coal seam gas blockades, and internationally.

Once the then premier of NSW, Neville Wran, got the numbers in parliament logging was stopped.

Bob Carr said recently that the Terania and Mount Nardi blockades, '... provided a political model. It was an alliance of the Labor Party and nature conservationists'.

These logging blockades gave birth to a culture of dissent in the region. This spirit of dissent was rebirthed at Bentley when the community stood up against coal seam gas exploration and now again at the Pilgiga Scrub where Santos is threatening to frack and extract gas.

■ 'Rainforest Warriors – the hippies were right', was launched at the last Byron Writers Festival. It is for sale at bookshops in Byron, Mullum and Lismore or on [rainforestwarriors.net](http://rainforestwarriors.net).

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# Housing on the 'biggest little carpark' in Mullumbimby causes waves

■ I attended the community meeting about the proposed affordable housing to be built on the Byron Council carpark at Station Street with an open mind.

I was appalled at the behaviour of Councillors Ndiaye, Pugh and Lyon. Instead of providing clear reasons why the proposal should proceed on this site, they bullied and attacked the audience and set up a false dichotomy: if you don't support this development, you don't care about the homeless. As the audience raised problem after problem with the development, they had no solutions. Instead, they insisted the problems would somehow be solved at the future DA stage.

It became clear that the problems associated with this site are insurmountable and if we proceed, the development will be stopped when the DA is considered in a few years. We will then be back to square one and the homeless will be screwed again. Meanwhile the carpark to the south of the Council building, which is twice the size, has none of the myriad

problems associated with this site. Councillors, please abandon this futile project now and start the process of constructing affordable housing over the council building carpark and start to genuinely address the housing crisis.

**Peter Brennan**  
Mullumbimby

■ On Monday 24 February, the public held the first-ever public meeting about Byron Shire Council's affordable housing project at 57 Station Street in Mullumbimby. The meeting got pretty excited and part of that was when I presented incorrect information on the height of the proposed building. Landcom had turned down their invitation to attend and Council staff did too. It was left to councillors to set the record right. Interruption had become the flavour of the night and I was over it, so I rejected further interruptions on the height story.

Please let me set the record straight now.

The two power poles that stand on the footpath in Station Street at each end of the property are 8m high

(measured / estimated on 27 February).

The building is likely to exceed its height limit by ten per cent. Council, or the state planning panel, will approve this for such a deserving project. If the height limit is 9m, the building can thus be 9.9m tall. This height is measured above the level to which the site gets raised for flood. In December Landcom responded to community questions by saying the site would be filled by 1m for flood.

The building's total height above the current bitumen level is therefore likely to be 10.9m. That is about 3m above the tops of the two power poles in Station Street. Take a look when passing the site – but please drive safely.

I apologise for my misunderstanding of the height limit.

**Duncan Dey**  
(ex-Byron Shire Councillor)  
Main Arm

■ There was a nearly full turn-out of old and newly-elected Byron Shire Councillors at the meeting to discuss the loss of a public

carpark and toilet block to 'affordable' housing. Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) speakers attempted to point out the unsuitability of this site for the 32 units with 20 parking spaces on a flood-prone site with difficult entry and exit into a delivery lane.

There were suggestions for a number of alternative sites that would yield more housing with less traffic and flood problems. The proposed site was expected to be well above the two-storey limit set out in the Heritage Development Control Plan.

Mullumbimby township has a Heritage Conservation Area ruling and this site falls within this area. It would require fill and run-off could negatively affect surrounding businesses and set a precedent for future non-compliant building. Unfortunately, some of the old guard of councillors were less than gracious as one MRA speaker was then called a 'liar' by at least two of the old-guard councillors with no helpful correction.

Insults do not make for a healthy debate, facts, figures, respectful discourse, a willingness to listen to concerns of the community that elected them would have been more helpful.

**Vee Hunt**  
Mullumbimby

■ An apology needed from councillors.

The disgusting way the residents were spoken to at the public meeting to discuss the development at 57 Station Street in Mullumbimby, by the Mayor Sarah Ndiaye, Asren Pugh and Michael Lyon, was, in my opinion, totally offensive.

They also had no intention of hearing what we had to say. We need an apology from them. It is not okay to speak to the residents in that way.

**Len Bates**  
Mullumbimby

■ The issue from last night's rather raucous meeting with Byron Shire Councillors in Mullumbimby seems to boil down to this:

Do we have 32 affordable rental units on the town's carpark, with all the

attendant traffic, parking and disruption to local businesses, not to mention a three-storey block at the gateway to our CBD, OR do we have 64 affordable rental units on Council's carpark, without the traffic, parking and 'disruption to business' issues.

The only argument against this seeming no-brainer is that Council's carpark has solar (but that is on a roof anyway, so can be on the roof of a building), and the library may need to expand. Council staff can use the new carpark which is maybe even a bit closer to their front door.

Come on Byron Council, does it really make sense to hang onto a bad idea?

**Anando Hefley**  
Mullumbimby

■ Those that oppose the development of the Station Street carpark need to look deeply into their conscience and ask if the loss of 23 [there are more than 23] car parks (that can be replaced elsewhere) is morally worse than the provision of 32 affordable housing units.

► **Continued opposite**



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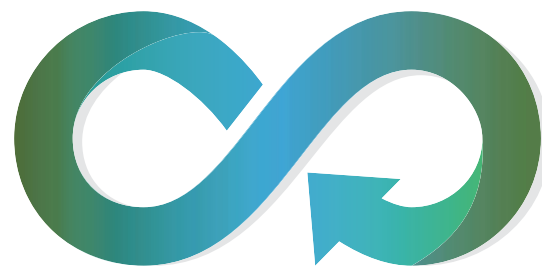
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## Losers supporting locals

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

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



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

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

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# Dutton's road from property to nuclear power



Dutton's Palm Beach \$2.3 million mansion purchased in 2014 recently sold for \$6 million. Photo supplied



Albanese paid \$4.3 million for a NSW Central Coast beachfront home that last sold for \$1.7 million in 2017. Photo supplied

Jim Beatson

Peter Dutton says a 'Labor dirt team' is behind the 'new' reports of Dutton \$30 million profit over real estate investments.

Not true. It has been widely reported and known by competent journalists since 2018.

Kerry Stokes' Channel 7/West Australian empire and Murdoch's News Ltd empire dominate Australian media. Both strong backers for Coalition governments. But their media outlets rarely raised this issue.

The only book written about Peter Dutton, *Bad Cop - Peter Dutton's Strongman Politics* by Lech Blaine,

published in March 2024 by Black Inc. is also full of detailed Dutton property dealings.

Last year, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese bought a \$4.3 million cliff-top mansion on NSW's Central Coast. In 2017, it sold for just \$1.7 million.

At the time Opposition leader Peter Dutton was quick to criticise. 'It's the homeowners I'm worried about - people who can't afford their mortgages,' he said.

## Dutton's property empire

Dutton's first property? A \$93,000 Brisbane apartment in Yeronga. Two years later, he flipped it for \$116,500 - a 25 per cent profit, even though the city's

median price only rose 14 per cent in the same period.

Dutton made a tidy profit on a beachfront house in Palm Beach on the Gold Coast, that he and his wife Kirilly bought for \$2.325 million in 2014. They sold it last year for \$6 million - a return most homeowners could only dream of.

Unlike today's struggling 20-somethings, Dutton's generation played the property game at just the right time - helped along by generous tax breaks from Liberal Coalition policies. And federal MPs? They're hardly scraping by, homeless. A backbencher earns over \$5,000 a week - before perks.

### ► Continued from page 18

I find the complaints about housing versus car parking repugnant at worst, and NIMBY mean-spirited at best.

What is proposed is a decent outcome arrived at by Byron Shire Council after years of planning, hand wringing and negotiating with Landcom, the state government housing provider to deliver more of the low-cost housing we all agree that we need. David Mitchie represents a centrist view which is neither NIMBY or YIMBY.

What we do need is to remain vigilant about is the quality of the housing design

to ensure that in ten years' time the apartments still add to the vibrancy of the Mullum town centre, and don't look cheap or tired. This is what Byron in My Back Yard should be. Join the BIMBY discussion on Facebook.

**Merran Morrison**  
Byron Bay

■ I commend Hans Lovejoy's evisceration of prominent members of our council in last week's *Echo* concerning the proposed development of the carpark at 57 Station Street, Mullumbimby.

A point not made by Hans was that, from the outset councillors tried to frame

the discussion in terms of either you are FOR this development or AGAINST providing affordable housing for people living out of their cars when it was clear that the overwhelming feeling of the audience was FOR affordable housing but NOT at this location.

The logistics of constructing and servicing a block of 32 units plus retail outlets alone is of nightmarish proportions let alone the disruption and pressure placed on affected businesses nearby.

Many attendees were aghast at the prospect of having a three-storey dominating the very

gateway to our town. When the Council carpark next to the library was suggested as an alternative location this was dismissed by Mayor Ndiaye saying we've just installed solar panels and at some (unspecified) time we may want to extend the library.

This site is more than twice the size, with surrounding green space and easy access and easily accommodates the existing carpark. There are many more attractive locations for such a project.

Council, you can do much better.

**Keith O'Neill**  
Mullumbimby

## Op Shop

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Sat 10am-1pm  
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hosts@intothewildescapes.com

INTO THE WILD  
ESCAPES

## Local athletes shine at Herb Elliott track event

Lisa Thompson

The fourth annual Herb Elliott Twilight Track Meet was held on January 27, and proved to be a memorable evening for local athletes, showcasing impressive performances across five key distances: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1,500m, and 3,000m.

Among the standout moments of the evening, local sprint stars Stella Du Plessis and Aziz Marone captured the spotlight, dominating their respective events.

Du Plessis raced to a thrilling victory in the 100m, while Marone powered through to claim top honours by nearly more than one second in the men's A race.

In the prestigious 1,500m blue ribbon event, Joseph Hein and Chloe Pateman were crowned champions, delivering exceptional performances to take home first place in the main event.

Club President, Scott Sewell, expressed his delight



Indiana, Madi, Willow, Cailin. Photo Lisa Thompson

with the success of the event.

He said, 'We are thrilled with the success of the fourth Herb Elliott Track Meet'.

### Opportunity to compete

'It is nice to be able to provide local athletes of all ages, levels and abilities an opportunity to compete, and we are excited to build on this success in the years to come.'

The event continues to grow in stature, giving local athletes the platform to

showcase their talent, and there's anticipation for even bigger things in future meets. Thanks to the generosity of the event sponsors, the evening served as a great reminder of the strength and potential within our local athletic community.

For full results and information on how to join, and other upcoming community events, check out Byron Bay Runners website: [www.byronbayrunners.com](http://www.byronbayrunners.com).

■ Lisa Thompson is Byron Bay Runners Secretary.

## Local groms win at Cadet Cup



From left: U16 girls winner, Byron's Mali Adam, U14 girls winner Lily White, U12 girls winner Lennox Head's Cleo Beesley, U14 boys winner Harry Stephens, U12 boys winner, Maverick Magugan. Photo supplied

Young surfers from across NSW showed competitive flair and grit amid 'tough' ocean conditions last weekend, in the Reflections Cadet Cup, held at Rainbow Beach, on the Mid North Coast.

Lennox and Byron groms were among the winners, from 85 competitors.

The 5,500-rated event is a partnership between NSW government-run Reflections Holiday Parks, and Surfest, the biggest surfing festival in Australia.

Surfest director Warren Smith said conditions were rough thanks to a strong north-east swell and north-east winds caused by tropical cyclone Alfred further

north, however the standard of surfing and ocean skills was exceptional.

Conditions got rougher on Saturday, which tested all the age groups, particularly the young groups.

On Sunday, Smith said it was rough all day, and 'we've had to reschedule events to accommodate the conditions'.

### Impressed judges

'The one thing that has impressed everyone, from our lifeguards to the judges, has been the level of surfing and the surf awareness that the kids have shown all the way through. It gives you so much faith in what they

are doing with their parents and [surf] clubs.

'The lifeguards have been so impressed with how they read the surf, their surf ability and their attitude'.

### Local winners

Local winners were: in the U12 girls category, Lennox Head's Cleo Beesley came first, while Byron Bay's Rosie Barron came third.

In the U12 boys category, Byron Bay's Jaya Suhendra came second.

In the U14 girls category, Lennox Head's Charlee Walker came fourth.

In the U16 girls category, Byron Bay's Mali Adam came first.

## Emma snags singles bowls win

Kristine Pryor

Let's never say you are too old to be able to do anything!

Tuesday, February 25 was the finals of the Women's Singles Championship, held at Brunswick Heads Bowling Club. The weather was warmish and the match lasted for two hours and ten minutes.

It was our oldest player Marcia, at the sprightly young age of 88, against our youngest player Emma, at the ripe old age of 57.

Even with a 30-year age gap, Marcia did not make



Pictured left is Marcia Crichton, along with winner Emma Scattergood. Photo supplied

it easy for Emma. With her bowls that were bought last century that have a bias that only her generation would understand, she was

a worthy competitor to be reckoned with.

Many thanks to Kerry for doing the score-keeping, and for Blossom who had to run from her own game (more than once), to get out the measuring tape to make it all official.

The score of 25 to 11 did not really reflect how close the match was.

Congratulations to Emma, as it was a great game, and she deserved to win it in the end.

■ Kristine Pryor is publicity officer from the Brunswick Heads Bowling Club.

## Bangalow U16s cricketers triumphant over Tweed

G Lance

Bangalow U16 played Tweed/Banora Colts on Saturday at the Shultz Oval in Bangalow.

The Colts batted first, with their top three batters scoring the bulk of their runs, finishing on 5/186 off 27 overs at a run rate of 6.9.

With a strong run chase needed, it was looking shaky at 4/52, but the lower order stepped up with a ferocious batting display to get the Bangalow boys home with seven balls to spare.

Contributions by Colesy 34, Hammer 41, and a brutal 'stand and deliver' last wicket

partnership by Tiger 35 and Gus Mills 22 led to an incredible finish scoring at over 10/over for the final 10 overs.

With only nine players most weeks, this team of young men continue to play with guts, flair and boundless fun.

Congratulations to you all.

**Ray Towers** **CARPETS RUGS & VINYL**

**Towers Drive, Mullumbimby**  
**PH 6684 2467**  
**raytowercarpets.com.au**

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[www.byronandbeyond.com](http://www.byronandbeyond.com)

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In the paper each week and online at [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

**Service Directory**



# THE ARTS



## Byron Writers Festival present Brooke Boney – All of It

Join acclaimed journalist and proud Gamilaroi woman Brooke Boney as she shares stories from her life and career in *All of It*, a collection of witty and heartfelt essays on love, loss, ambition and identity. From her rise in media to fertility struggles and the joys of dog ownership, Brooke writes with honesty, humour and deep insight. In conversation with esteemed author, radio broadcaster and journalist Daniel Browning, this special event offers a rare glimpse into her most personal stories yet.

**Tuesday April 8, 6.30pm (Yum Cha and bar available from 5.30pm)**  
**A&I Hall, Bangalow**  
**\$41.50 General / \$36.38 Festival Friend. Don't miss this unforgettable evening. Book your tickets at [byronwritersfestival.com](http://byronwritersfestival.com)**

## proppaNOW: OCCURRENT AFFAIR

**MARCH 1 TO APRIL 27**

Lismore Regional Gallery presents OCCURRENT AFFAIR, a major exhibition featuring new and recent works by the influential Aboriginal artist collective proppaNOW.

Established in 2003, proppaNOW is one of Australia's leading cultural collectives. Members Vernon Ah Kee, Tony Albert, Richard Bell, Megan Cope, Jennifer Herd, Gordon Hookey and Laurie Nilsen explore the politics of Aboriginal art and culture, rethinking what it means to be a 'contemporary Aboriginal artist'. Conceived as a collaborative activist gesture, OCCURRENT AFFAIR addresses current socio-political, economic, and environmental issues while celebrating the strength, resilience, and continuity of Aboriginal culture.

This is proppaNOW's last exhibition as a collective – seeing this historically significant movement is an unmissable opportunity.

**Learn more about the exhibition and associated public programs at [lismoregallery.org](http://lismoregallery.org)**

## Life is Art

**ZION LEVY STEWART**

Zion Levy Stewart is an artist with Up Syndrome (generally called Down Syndrome.) His infectious zest for life is chronicled through his art, sharing with us his unique and positive view on life.

Through a series of vibrant acrylic paintings, *Life is Art* invites viewers to enter an innocent, naïve world of quirky people, birds and animals, and share in the joyful visions of Stewart's world.

*Life is Art* is on display until Sunday, May 4.

**Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre**  
**Open Wed to Sun, 10am to 4pm**  
**Free Admission**  
**[gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au)**  
**@tweedregionalgallery**

## Join Byron Writers Festival In Conversation with Colum McCann

Award-winning Irish writer Colum McCann joins Byron Writers Festival for an exclusive evening of storytelling, discussing his latest novel, *Twist*. A propulsive and powerfully realist novel about men at sea and the world under the ocean, *Twist* is a meditation on the nature of narrative and truth from one of the great storytellers of our times. An International Dublin Literary Prize and USA National Book Award winner, don't miss this rare opportunity to hear from the New York Times best-seller at A&I Hall, Bangalow.

**Wednesday May 7, 6.30pm Where: A&I Hall, Bangalow**  
**\$41.50 General / \$36.38 Festival Friend.**  
**Book your tickets at [byronwritersfestival.com](http://byronwritersfestival.com)**



Special Event

## Brooke Boney In Conversation

8 April

Tickets —>

[byronwritersfestival.com](http://byronwritersfestival.com)



## Life is Art

Zion Levy Stewart

14 February – 4 May 2025



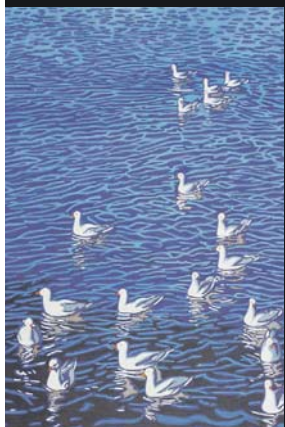
Zion Levy Stewart *Birds and Bees* (detail) 2023  
acrylic on canvas, 76 x 76cm, Image courtesy the artist © The artist

**TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE**



The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is a Tweed Shire Council Community Facility and is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.  
Open Wed – Sun, 10am – 4pm DST | 2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah | [gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au)

**HART GALLERY**



*Art in the heart*  
INSPIRED LOCAL ART

**Mullumbimby**  
Comprehensive Health Centre



**proppaNOW: OCCURRENT AFFAIR**  
1 March — 27 April 2025

An exhibition from The University of Queensland Art Museum, touring with Museums & Galleries of NSW.



**Lismore Regional Gallery**  
11 Rural Street, Lismore NSW

**Open hours**  
Wednesday – Sunday 10am – 4pm, Thursdays until 6pm  
[lismoregallery.org](http://lismoregallery.org) | [art.gallery@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:art.gallery@lismore.nsw.gov.au) | 02 6627 4600

**LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY**

Image credit: proppaNOW: Gordon Hookey, Jennifer Herd, Tony Albert, Megan Cope, Richard Bell, Vernon Ah Kee (left to right).  
Photo: Rhett Hamerton.

# ART GALLERIES

## ART KIND | GALLERY | STUDIO | EXPERIENCES

3 / 18 Centennial Cct, Byron Bay  
0404 946 553  
www.artkind.com.au  
artkindstudio@gmail.com  
@artkindbyronbay

### ARTIST STUDIO GALLERY

Belongil Beach  
Open by appointment  
0409 604 405  
www.janrae.com.au

### ARTIST'S HOME GALLERY

Byron Bay  
Landscape inspired works imparting a 'spirit of place'  
Open by appointment  
02 6685 5317  
jaypearse.com

### BLUE KNOB HALL GALLERY

Blue Knob  
719 Blue Knob Road, Lillian Rock  
Open Thurs to Sun 10am-3pm  
02 6689 7449  
Blueknobgallery.com

### BYRON CLAY WORKERS GALLERY

Fairview Studios  
114 Stewarts Road, Clunes  
Open Friday to Sunday  
John Stewart  
0406 404 335  
byronclayworkersgallery.com.au

### GALLERY COSMOSIS

Visionary Art  
22 Brigantine St, Byron Bay  
Open Thurs-Sat: 10.30am-3pm or by appointment  
0431 331 205  
gallerycosmosis.com

### GARAGE GALLERY

'Community Arts Hub' (Byron Community College)  
Cnr Gordon & Burringbar Streets, Mullumbimby  
@mullum.garage.gallery  
02 6684 3374

### H'ART GALLERY

Local art in the heart of Mullumbimby  
Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre,  
60 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby  
0401 647 325

### KARENA WYNN-MOYLAN, FINE ART

World award-winning contemporary realism  
Art direct from the artist at her Bangalow studio  
Phone or text 0414 822 196

### LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

11 Rural St, Lismore, Bundjalung Country NSW  
Open hours: Wednesday-Sunday 10am-4pm,  
Thursdays until 6pm  
lismoregallery.org | @lismoreregionalgallery

### LONE GOAT GALLERY

28 Lawson St, Byron Bay (located in the Byron Library building)  
Open Wed-Sat 10am-4pm  
lonegoatgallery.com.au

### MULLUMBIMBY CLAY WORKERS GALLERY

Drill Hall Complex,  
2 Jubilee Ave, Mullumbimby  
Open Thurs-Sat: 12-4pm  
mullumclayworkers.com

### MZ GALLERY

Byron Bay Contemporary Artspace  
57 Tennyson Street, Byron Bay  
0468 718 045  
www.byronartspace.com.au

### NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY

47 Cullen Street, Nimbin  
Opening hours 10am-4pm daily  
02 6689 1444  
www.nimbinartistsgallery.org

### NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

Cnr Cherry & Crane Sts, Ballina  
Open Wed-Fri 9am-3pm, Sat-Sun 9.30am-1pm  
02 6681 0530  
nrcgballina.com.au

### STUDIO SUVIRA

Ceramics & Sculpture Gallery Home gallery and sculpture garden  
28 Left Bank Rd, Mullumbimby  
0402 125 922 (call/text first)  
suviramcdonald.com

### TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

Gallery hours: Wed-Sun 10am-4pm  
Cafe open 10am-4pm  
2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah  
02 6670 2790  
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

# THE ARTS

## Art in the heart of Mullumbimby

Art lovers need look no further than the Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre, home to the H'Art Gallery. Featuring more than 30 artworks by 10 local artists, the gallery is an absolute must-see.

Graphic impressionist Solveig curates the two-floor gallery and rotates the exhibition every six months. The space provides local artists a platform to display for an extended period and sell their work.

Visitors to the health centre are greeted by the art, which provides a distracting escape from stress and concern while creating a vibrant, healing atmosphere.

Conveniently located on Stuart Street, the H'Art Gallery is art in the heart of Mullumbimby.

Enquire at [info@solveig.com.au](mailto:info@solveig.com.au)

## Olive Cotton Award

The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is inviting photographers nationally to submit entries for the 2025 Olive Cotton Award. This year marks 20 years since the Olive Cotton Award launched in 2005.

Named after iconic Australian photographer Olive Cotton, the prestigious \$20,000 Award recognises excellence in photographic portraiture and is open to photographic artists from across Australia.

The finalist exhibition will be selected from entrants across Australia and is a significant opportunity for established and emerging photographers. The winning work is acquired for the gallery's collection.

Finalist works will be exhibited at the Gallery from Saturday, August 17 to Sunday, November 2 with winners announced on Saturday, August 30.

For more information including the panel of judges and award categories visit the Tweed Regional Gallery website. Entries close Tuesday, May 13.

[Gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://Gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au)  
2 Mistral Rd (cnr Tweed Valley Way),  
Murwillumbah South  
02 6670 2790

## Nimbin Artists Gallery proudly presents the Annual NIMBIN ART FAIR 2025

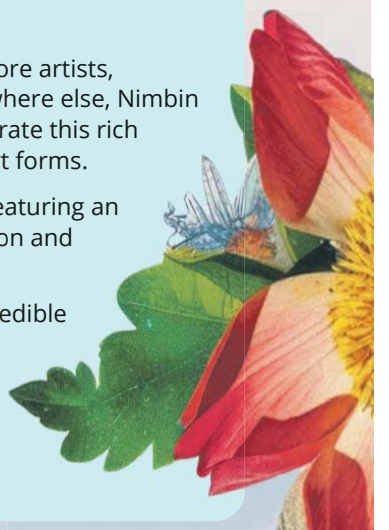
APRIL 12 TO 27 FROM 10AM TO 4PM

Nimbin is internationally renowned for its vibrant alternative culture. With more artists, musicians, dancers, filmmakers, and performers per capita than almost anywhere else, Nimbin is a thriving artistic community. The Nimbin Artists Gallery continues to celebrate this rich diversity, curating an exciting mix of traditional, innovative, and alternative art forms.

This year's exhibition showcases the spirit of Nimbin's rainbow community, featuring an array of talented artists, including Leigh Arnold, Pauline Ahern, Nathan Dawson and Donna Sharam.

Join them for this celebration of art, culture, and community. Browse the incredible collection, immerse yourself in creativity, and support local artists by taking home a piece of Nimbin's magic!

**Nimbin Artists Gallery, 49 Cullen Street, Nimbin • 02 6689 1444**  
[nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com) • [www.nimbinartistsgallery.com](http://www.nimbinartistsgallery.com)



## Special Event

# Colum McCann In Conversation

## 7 May

Tickets → [byronwritersfestival.com](http://byronwritersfestival.com)



## 3DAY ART EXHIBITION NEGATIVE SPACE EXPERIENCE



LAUNCH EVENT FRI MAR 7TH 5-8PM

mar 7 - 5-8pm civic art space  
mar 8&9 - 10-4pm mullum memorial hall

next event - apr 4-6 / submissions deadline mar 15

[3DAYART.COM.AU](http://3DAYART.COM.AU)

[CREATIVEMULLUM.ORG.AU](http://CREATIVEMULLUM.ORG.AU)



# ARTIST IN FOCUS

## SOPHIA ST CLAIR HONEY

### ARTEXPRESS

**FEBRUARY 21 TO APRIL 20**

Lismore Regional Gallery is proud to host ARTEXPRESS 2025, an extensive exhibition that showcases the culmination of exceptional work from 2024 HSC graduates across NSW. This inspiring and diverse show highlights the creativity of 43 young artists, including five from the Northern Rivers region.

These ambitious artists are charting their own path, pushing creative boundaries and sharing their voices with bold experimentation. They express concepts and narratives through film, design, painting, printmaking, sculpture, drawing, and more.

Join guide Julie Webb for an enjoyable and informative free tour on Thursdays at 11am.

Sophia St Clair Honey from Byron Bay High School on her work, MEMENTO VITAE: PART 1 2024: 'My body of work references the concept of vanitas, examining life's fleetingness. These seven panels convey chronological milestones, from birth to adulthood, of my personal memories and experiences. Drapery tugged away represents the chaos and uncertainty of my transition to independence... My initial intention for this work was to investigate my fear and anxiety about leaving home. I now embrace this new chapter in my life. Through this project I have developed immense gratitude for the love and opportunities in my life, and the richness of my journey.'



### Civic Art Space

The front room at the Mullum Civic Memorial Hall is set to buzz with creativity as it unveils its new identity as the Civic Art Space. The newly fitted out space will host a surge of exciting exhibitions, including a series of six three-day shows, featuring local sculptors, potters, and installation artists, presented by local arts collective, Creative Mullum.

Kicking off this Friday evening at 5, the project is proudly supported by North Coast Ceramics (The Mud Trailers) and Byron Shire Council. The first exhibition, Negative Space in Sculpture, features 20 local sculptors exploring the possibilities of space through their work.

The exhibitions will run through the weekend and will continue as a recurring event on the first weekend of each month until August.

**More info at [3dayart.com.au](http://3dayart.com.au).**



### ARTEXPRESS 2025

21 February — 20 April 2025

A joint initiative between the NSW Department of Education and the NSW Education Standards Authority.



**LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY**

Lismore Regional Gallery  
11 Rural Street, Lismore NSW  
**Open hours**  
Wednesday – Sunday 10am – 4pm, Thursdays until 6pm  
[lismoregallery.org](http://lismoregallery.org) | [art.gallery@lismore.nsw.gov.au](mailto:art.gallery@lismore.nsw.gov.au) | 02 6627 4600

Image credit: Ana-Lei Elias, Decoding Dyslexia (detail) 2024.

20  
YEARS

2025 olive cotton award  
for photographic portraiture



**ENTER NOW**

Entries close 13 May | [gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au)

Danielle Edwards *Blurred Vision* (detail) 2023 digital print. Finalist 2023 Olive Cotton Award. © The artist



**TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE**

Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.



NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY  
presents

**NIMBIN ART FAIR** 2025

Sat 12th April - Sun 27th April  
10AM to 4PM DAILY  
NIMBIN SCHOOL OF ARTS

CONTACT: PH 02 6689 1444  
[www.nimbinartistsgallery.com](http://www.nimbinartistsgallery.com)  
[nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com](mailto:nimbinartistsgallery@gmail.com)



# Good Taste

## Eateries Guide

### BANGALOW



#### Bangalow Tuckshop

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

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

### BILLINUDGEL



#### Rosefina's Mexican

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

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

### BYRON BAY



#### Success Thai

Open Lunch Wed-Fri  
12-2:30pm.  
Dinner Mon-Sat 5-8pm.  
Closed Sunday  
3/31 Lawson St, Byron Bay  
www.facebook.com/  
pages/Success-Thai-  
Food/237359826303469

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

BYO only.

Welcome for lunch, dinner and takeaway.

Menus available on Facebook.

#### BYRON BAY OYSTER BAR & SEAFOOD RESTAURANT

#### Oyster Bar

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

#### Hotel Marvell's Newest Seafood Destination

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

#### NORTH BYRON HOTEL

#### North Byron Hotel

61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay  
6685 6500  
Open:  
11am Mon-Fri & 8am Sat-Sun  
Kitchen hours: 11:30am-late daily  
Breakfast: 8am-11am Sat & Sun  
www.northbyronhotel.com.au

Step away from the centre of town and into a shimmering oasis away from crowds.

A tucked away treasure, the North Byron Hotel is a thriving mecca of good food, great music, laughter and the 'chilled Byron Bay vibes'.

Eat Drink Discover



#### Main Street

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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details  
@mainstreet\_burgerbar

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

### BYRON BAY (continued)



#### Three Blue Ducks

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

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

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



#### Roca Byron Bay

Sun to Thur-6:30am-10pm  
Fri & Sat-6:30am-midnight  
14 Lawson St, Byron Bay  
(02) 5642 0149  
@rocabyronbay  
www.rocabyronbay.com.au

#### Latin Fusion All-Day Dining

Enjoy delicious casual dining with flavors straight from the grill! Savor our chargrilled anticuchos, indulge in fresh ceviche & oysters, or elevate your night with the Roca dining experience. Pair it all with a classic Pisco Sour or our best-selling Hot Like Papi cocktail.

Available daily from 2:30pm to 5pm.



#### Horizon Rooftop

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 DAYS  
Horizon Rooftop, Hotel Marvell  
4 Marvell Street, Byron Bay  
Open Daily | 12pm - late  
NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED  
Call: 6685 7385  
@horizonbyronbay

#### Welcome to Horizon, Byron's newest rooftop bar.

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

### LENNOX HEAD



#### Lennox Pizza

4/74 Ballina St, Lennox Head  
Open Mon-Thurs from 3pm  
Fri-Sun from 12pm  
Online pick up orders available daily 12pm  
HAPPY HOUR: 3pm-5 pm daily

Views, Brews, Cocktails, Beats, and Eats!

Live Music Friday, Sunday.

Bookings essential.

Head to lennoxpizza.com

Follow on Insta: @lennoxpizza

### MULLUMBIMBY



#### The Empire

20 Burringbar St, Mullum  
6684 2306  
Open for brunch and lunch,  
Mon-Fri 8am-3:30pm  
Sat & Sun 8am-2pm  
FB/Insta: EmpireMullum  
empiremullum.com.au

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

### CATERING

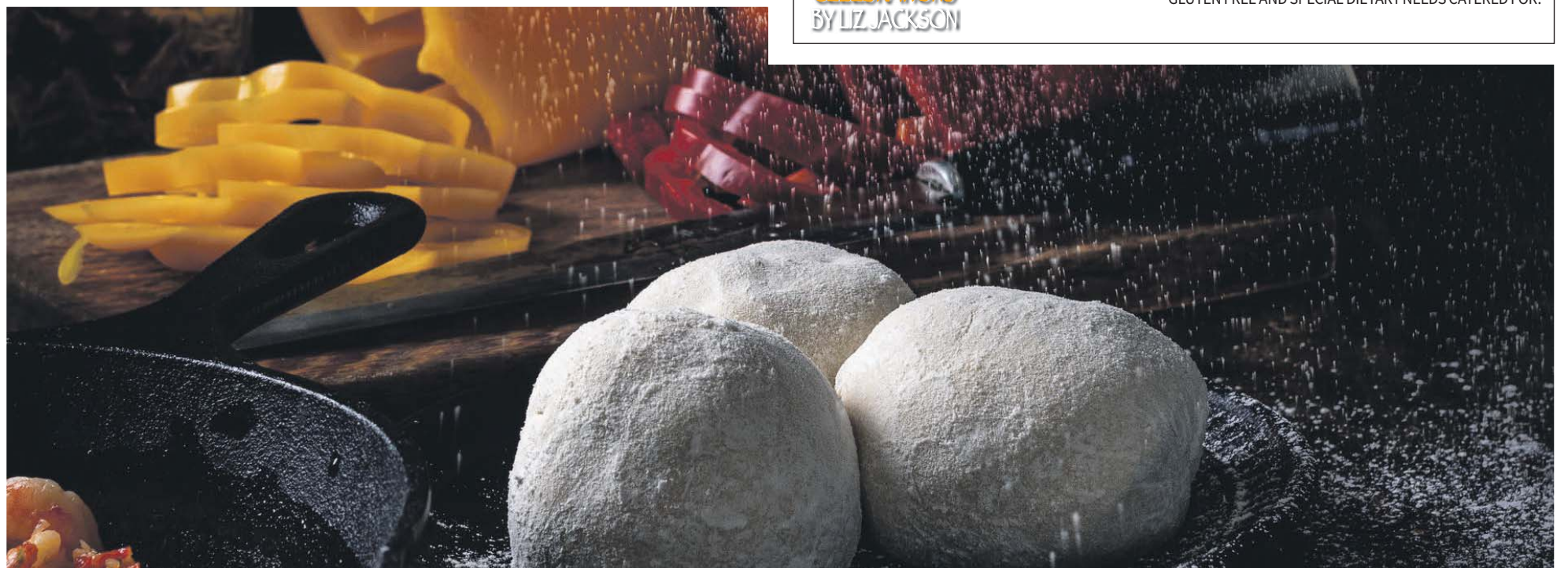


#### Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com

0414 895 441

GLUTEN FREE AND SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS CATERED FOR.



# The Good Life

## Weather and the Mullumbimby and New Brighton Farmers Markets



As the Northern Rivers braces for the impact of Cyclone Alfred, organisers of the Mullumbimby and New Brighton Farmers Markets say, 'We want to keep you informed about our market plans. Your safety and access to fresh, local produce are our top priorities.'

'We know how much you look forward to the New Brighton Farmers Market on Tuesday mornings and the Mullum Farmers Market on Friday mornings. These gatherings are more than just shopping trips; they're vital connections to our community and the hardworking farmers who nourish us. However, Mother Nature has other plans this week.'

'The predicted strong winds and heavy rainfall associated with Cyclone Alfred present significant challenges. We're closely monitoring the situation and will make informed decisions regarding market operations. Please know that safety is essential. If conditions are deemed unsafe, we will unfortunately have to cancel the markets.'

'Our dedicated farmers are facing their own challenges. Regardless of the weather, their crops continue to grow, and they must harvest to prevent spoilage. This means they'll be out in the elements, ensuring that when we can reopen, we'll have the freshest produce available.'

'We understand the disappointment a cancellation would cause, and we'll do everything possible to keep the markets running. We will be providing constant updates via our Instagram and Facebook pages, as well as our website. Please keep a close eye on these platforms for the most current information.'

'We appreciate your understanding and support during this unpredictable time. We are a resilient community, and we will get through this together. We are committed to bringing you the freshest vegetables possible, and if there is a safe way to do that, we will be there.'

'Stay safe, and we look forward to seeing you at the markets as soon as the weather allows.'

- [www.facebook.com/newbrightonfarmersmkt](http://www.facebook.com/newbrightonfarmersmkt)
- [www.facebook.com/mullumfarmersmarket](http://www.facebook.com/mullumfarmersmarket)
- [www.instagram.com/mullumfarmersmkt](http://www.instagram.com/mullumfarmersmkt)
- [www.instagram.com/newbrightonfarmersmarket](http://www.instagram.com/newbrightonfarmersmarket)
- [www.mullumfarmersmarket.org.au](http://www.mullumfarmersmarket.org.au)
- [www.newbrightonfarmersmarket.org.au](http://www.newbrightonfarmersmarket.org.au)

## Buckin' bull at cowboy night in Ocean Shores

Hold on to ya hats! Friday, March 14, Ocean Shores Tavern is gearing up for a ripper night of smokey BBQ, country bangers, and a bucking bull!

Throw on ya daisy dukes and cowboy boots, favourite flanno and Akubra, and bring the family down to ya local for a kilo of tasty buffalo wings for just \$20, smashed burgers, smoked meat treats, and test your skills on the mechanical bull. Prizes for best bull rider at show!

Meat n Mingle is the Tavern's Smokehouse

& Burger Bar! From \$10 cheese burgers and chip-pies lunchtime Monday to Friday, to the most incredible fried chicken dishes, Meat n Mingle will have the mouths watering of the most discerning American barbeque lover. Chef Asaf will be firing up the smoker for all your favs from 5pm, bucking bull kicks off 6pm to 9pm, booze and honky tonk tunes all night long. So slide on in for a cheeky one, saddle up, and settle in.

For the low down on more events including comedy, open mic nights,

trivia, pool comps, tipping comps and more, follow us on Facebook and Insta!

- Come party with Team Tav! Ocean Shores Tavern, 84 Rajah Rd, Ocean Shores.

### Riding a mechanical bull

Here are some important points for beginners to consider if you want to impress the crowd, on a mechanical bull.

1. Core needs to be engaged during the ride.
2. You should grip

the handle with your dominant hand e.g. right hand if you're right-handed, with the knuckles facing outward and your body straight. Raise the other hand into the air, it will help you balance as well as looking much cooler.

3. Use your legs: toes pointed downwards, heels up, clamp with your thighs.

4. Cowboy jeans and boots is practical attire for bull-riding for a number of reasons.



NORTH BYRON HOTEL

WHERE THE LOCALS GO

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@thenorthbyronhotel

# eat drink

EASTER  
EDITION  
BOOK  
NOW!

Indulge yourself with the Northern Rivers' tastiest offerings!  
FREE Issue #7, Summer 2024 - Echo

Get in touch now to be a part of the  
Eat Drink Easter magazine.  
Call 6684 1777 or email [adcopy@echo.net.au](mailto:adcopy@echo.net.au)

# Magic Murwillumbah



Murwillumbah is a town that reflects the diversity of its people who create this dynamic and culturally distinctive town.

Celebrating three years of recovery following the devastating 2022 floods, and as Cyclone Alfred approaches, locals know they have built a resilient and supportive community that is ready to face the challenges ahead. From the work on stormwater and drainage to the development of M-Arts, the rail trail, the Regional Art Gallery and the Tweed Regional Museum this is a town and region that takes the chance to excel and celebrate culture and opportunity.

Recently the town has seen the completion of Industry Central, the new business precinct in South Murwillumbah. The precinct is now ready for the six flood-prone businesses that have so far been successful in being granted land as part of the land swap at the site.

Surrounded by the beautiful Big Scrub rainforest, Wollumbin Mount Warning and being the gateway to the Nightcap Ranges National Park Murwillumbah is the place to enjoy beauty and begin a wonderful adventure.

## PLONK!

**Murwillumbah Theatre company presents Plonk!**

Vineyard owner Heather Watson hatches a plan that in her final handful of years of life, she will have a little fun promising various people they will be her sole beneficiary in return for a reduction in their current wages. Each person involved is sworn to secrecy.

When all five are invited to a gathering, Heather is murdered by one of them in her bedroom.

Detective Harman has the job to try and unravel the clues. Revelations of a secret romance are discovered, along with the true identity of who is to inherit the vineyard... but who is the murderer?

**Showing at Murwillumbah Civic Centre on March 7,8,9,14,15,16,21,22,23.**

**Tickets at [murwillumbahtheatrecompany.com.au](http://murwillumbahtheatrecompany.com.au)**

## SUNSHINE SUGAR

Made from sugarcane grown in the Tweed Valley region of Northern NSW, Sunshine Low GI Sugar is 100% Australian and all natural.

Low GI sugar is a natural sweetener that is more slowly digested, absorbed and metabolised – resulting in a lower and slower rise in blood glucose that keeps you feeling fuller for longer.

Sunshine Low GI Sugar is made using the Nucane™ process. Developed in Australia, this process ensures the naturally occurring and beneficial antioxidants are retained during the milling process that turns sugarcane into sugar crystals. It contains just one ingredient, 100% natural cane sugar, and has no additives or preservatives. Rich in naturally occurring minerals such as calcium, magnesium and potassium, it is suitable for all diets including gluten-free, vegan and vegetarian.

[sunshinesugar.com.au](http://sunshinesugar.com.au)

## TWEED REGIONAL AQUATIC CENTRES

**Make the most of the last couple of months of the warmer weather!**

The slide and dive is running every weekend at the Murwillumbah pool: Slide 10am to 3pm and dive boards 12pm to 1pm. Plus every day for the QLD and NSW Easter school holidays from Monday April 7.

**Learn to swim and squad**

Learn to swim lessons and squad sessions are getting busy across the three centres. Come in, meet the friendly staff and book in to improve your swimming skills this summer.

[trac.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://trac.tweed.nsw.gov.au)

**Open 7 days a week from 10am to 3pm  
Tumbulgum Road, Murwillumbah  
02 6670 2750**

**MURWILLUMBAH THEATRE COMPANY**

# Plonk!

By arrangement with Stagescripts Ltd

Written by Colin Barrow  
Directed by Bryanne Jardine

7-23 March

[murwillumbahtheatrecompany.com.au](http://murwillumbahtheatrecompany.com.au)

Tickets online or at door  
Contact 0417 205 526

## Sunshine Low GI Sugar

**Sunshine Sugar**

Grown and made in the Tweed Valley, our Low GI Sugar is 100% Australian and all-natural.

**LOW GI SUGAR**

ALL NATURAL, WHOLESOME, GMO-FREE RAW SUGAR 1 kg

**The Healthier Alternative**

[www.sunshinesugar.com.au/low-gi](http://www.sunshinesugar.com.au/low-gi)

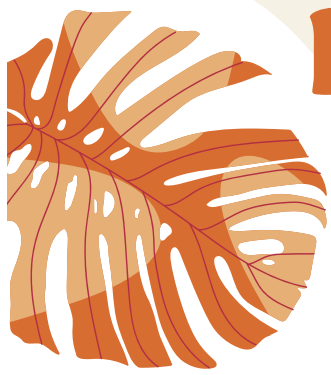
**TRAC**  
Tweed Regional Aquatic Centres

**Tweed Regional Aquatic Centres  
Murwillumbah, Tweed and  
Kingscliff Centres**

Murwillumbah outdoor 50m pool and Toddler pool are open.  
**The slide and dive is running every weekend: Slide 10am - 3pm and Dive boards run 12pm - 1pm. Plus every day for the QLD and NSW Easter school holidays from Monday 7th April.**

Open 7 days a week.

Please see website for opening times:  
<https://trac.tweed.nsw.gov.au/Home>



# Magic Murwillumbah

## CRYSTAL CREEK RAINFOREST RETREAT

A romantic couples retreat, nestled amongst 250 acres of pristine rainforest, Crystal Creek Rainforest Retreat is located within the beautiful Northern Rivers of NSW, just 50 minutes from the Gold Coast airport. 13 luxurious villas and lodges are individually positioned throughout the private estate, carefully hidden amongst the contours offering incredible rainforest and mountain views and providing the utmost in privacy and seclusion. Each of the well-appointed cabins hosts spacious lounges, king-size beds, soft 800 thread count linen, couples' spa baths and cozy log fireplaces.

Explore 8km of stunning walking trails, passing ancient trees, flowing mountain-fed creeks and glistening rock pools, all bathed in musical birdsong. Unwind with a pampering massage and finish off the day at the wine bar and lounge.

**201 Booka Rd, Upper Crystal Creek**  
**02 6679 1591**  
[relax@ccrr.com.au](mailto:relax@ccrr.com.au)  
[www.ccrr.com.au](http://www.ccrr.com.au)

## TWEED REGIONAL MUSEUM

The Tweed Regional Museum invites you to an enchanting evening of creativity. Join Kirsten Devitt from Each To Own for a delightful Dino Charm Jewellery Workshop on Friday March 14 from 5.30 to 7pm.

In this hands-on workshop, you'll have the opportunity to craft your own unique necklace, bracelet, and earrings. As you work, sip on a refreshing drink from our friends at Husk Distillers. Kirsten, one of our beloved local artisans, will guide you through the process, ensuring a memorable and charming experience.

All necessary tools and materials are provided. With limited spots available, gather your friends and secure your tickets soon. The cost is \$40, and the workshop is suitable for participants aged 18 and over. Head to the museum's website to book.

[museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au)

## TWEED RIVER TIMBERS

Tweed River Timbers is an Australian-owned wholesale and retail company using locally-sourced timber species. Their services include saw milling, kiln drying, sanding and dressing and supplying DIY timber products. They specialise in custom timber bench tops, vanities, tables and shelving. Tweed River Timbers also create timeless, one-off bespoke pieces from sustainable products including lamps, bird-feeders and coffee tables.

**0428 454 504**  
[sales@tweedrivertimbers.com.au](mailto:sales@tweedrivertimbers.com.au)



Services offered by  
**Tweed River Timbers**  
include:



- Saw Milling
- Custom timber benchtops, vanities, tables, shelving, bird feeders and more.
- Kiln Drying timber
- Timber sanding and dressing
- General timber sales
- Wholesale and Retail

[sales@tweedrivertimbers.com.au](mailto:sales@tweedrivertimbers.com.au)  
or call Peter on 0428 454 504.

**HOW TO DRAW A DINOSAUR**

Find out what's new at the Museum in 2025, including Mini Museum Explorers Thursdays 10-10.30am.

**TWEED REGIONAL MUSEUM**  
Visit our website

**Crystal Creek**  
RAINFOREST RETREAT

**CRYSTAL CREEK RAINFOREST RETREAT**

A luxury couples getaway, specialising in romantic escapes and rejuvenating holidays. Just 13 elegant cabins, bungalows and lodges individually hidden amongst 250 acres of stunning ancient rainforest, offering the utmost in privacy and seclusion. Featuring plunge pools, log fireplaces, couples' spa baths, floor to ceiling windows and spectacular rainforest views. Located just 45 minutes from Gold Coast Airport.

[www.ccrr.com.au](http://www.ccrr.com.au) • 02 6679 1591 • [relax@ccrr.com.au](mailto:relax@ccrr.com.au)

# Magic Murwillumbah

## BULAN BURUGAA NGALI EXHIBITION AT TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY

Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali Exhibition is a momentous homecoming of ancestral heritage, touring Bundjalung lands in the Northern Rivers. This reclamation project, presented by Arts Northern Rivers and curated by Kylie Caldwell, presents nine ancestral woven objects on loan from the Australian Museum, alongside new work by contemporary Bundjalung, Yaegl, Gumbaynggirr, and Kamilaroi (Gamilaroi) artists who have drawn from their great grandmothers' wisdom to breathe new life into ancient weaving traditions.

Bulaan Buruugaa Ngali Exhibition is on display at Tweed Regional Gallery until April 27.

**Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre**  
**Open: 10 am–4 pm (Wed–Sun) | Free admission**  
[gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au) | [@tweedregionalgallery](https://www.instagram.com/tweedregionalgallery)

## KNIT HAPPENS

Knit Happens is a vibrant haven for knitting and crochet enthusiasts, nestled in the heart of Murwillumbah at Shop 3, 132 Murwillumbah Street. This charming store offers a treasure trove of high-quality, sustainable yarns, threads, and tools that inspire creativity and eco-conscious crafting.

From easy knitting and crochet patterns to an array of books and magazines, Knit Happens caters to both novices and seasoned crafters. With a commitment to quality and sustainability, Knit Happens is the go-to destination for all your knitting and crochet needs. Creative Kids Vouchers are happily accepted.

**Shop 3, 132 Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah**  
**0408 321 209**  
[www.knithappens.com.au](http://www.knithappens.com.au)

## PEDALS AND PICNICS

Explore by bike, picnic in style, discover the Northern Rivers Rail Trail with Pedals and Picnics! Glide along on two e-bikes and a DIY Picnic complete with a grazing box, or indulge in a Destination Picnic where everything is expertly arranged for you.

Perfect for birthdays, corporates, couples, and families. Your experience ensures a memorable, delightful day amidst stunning landscapes on the trail.

[pedalsandpicnics.com.au](http://pedalsandpicnics.com.au)  
**F: [pedalsandpicnics](https://www.facebook.com/pedalsandpicnics)**  
**@[@pedalsandpicnics](https://www.instagram.com/pedalsandpicnics)**



**BULAN BURUGAA NGALI EXHIBITION**  
...we weave together

22 February – 27 April 2025



This touring exhibition is an Arts Northern Rivers project, in partnership with Grafton Regional Gallery and presented by Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre, and Lismore Regional Gallery. This project was made possible by the Indigenous Visual Arts Industry Support Program, the NSW Government through Create NSW, the Dobbell Exhibition Grant Program, funded by the Sir William Dobbell Art Foundation and managed by Museums & Galleries of NSW, and the Australian Government Regional Arts Fund.

**TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE**



The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is a Tweed Shire Council Community Facility and is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.  
Open Wed – Sun, 10am – 4pm DST | 2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah | [gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au](http://gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au)



**Knit Happens**

**YARN & THREAD, TOOLS & NOTIONS,  
BOOKS & MAGAZINES, CLASSES &  
WORKSHOPS, PRIVATE LESSONS**



Knit Happens brings the world of yarn right to your doorstep, from the locally sourced, sustainable materials of Australia to the globally celebrated yarns that have inspired crafters around the world.

Shop 3/132 Murwillumbah St, Murwillumbah  
0408 321 209  
[www.knithappens.com.au](http://www.knithappens.com.au)



*Pedals and Picnics*

**Ride and Picnic The Northern Rivers Rail Trail**  
[www.pedalsandpicnics.com.au](http://www.pedalsandpicnics.com.au) PH 0401000460

# Northern Rivers Women in Business

## Celebrating International Women's Day 2025

### Celebrating our achievements by Aslan Shand

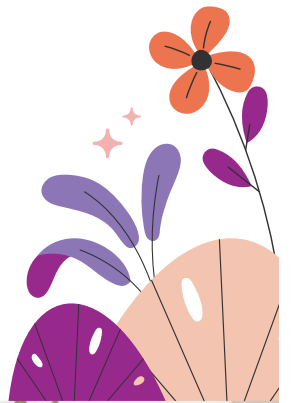


With three women standing for the upcoming federal election in the seat of Richmond it is important to recognise that women in Australia only gained the opportunity to vote and the right to stand for federal election in 1902.

International Women's Day is a celebration of this and the many other achievements women have fought for – the opportunity to work, own land, inherit their own money and assets, vote, be paid an equal wage to men, have the right NOT to be beaten by their husbands or partners – these are just some of the changes that women have achieved in recent history. Many of these things I take for granted, others, like equal pay and equal representation across all areas of the workforce, or freedom from domestic abuse we are still fighting for.

It is easy to disregard many of the achievements we have made as women, but take a moment and reflect on what it would be like not to be able to earn, and keep, your own money. What would it be like to not have a voice and vote in the upcoming election. What would it be like if your husband was legally able to rape and beat you and you had no way to either leave him or stop him?

Remember the freedom to be independent, to have our own opinions, to earn our own money, may be things we take for granted today – but they are just some of the amazing achievements we as women, often supported by men, have managed to achieve. Let's keep fighting for the rights of all women and men to be equal together.



#### Jacinta McEwen Om Healing

Jacinta McEwen ND has been practising the healing arts for over 35 years, working individually as well as facilitating workshops, lectures and healing circles in Australia and overseas. Initially trained as a nurse, she went on to become a naturopath, herbalist, massage therapist, yoga teacher and Ayurvedic consultant.

Jacinta is a founding partner in the thriving organic herbal dispensary, Mullumbimby Herbals. She now offers in person and online Ayurvedic and naturopathic consultations and treatments from her healing centre Om Healing in Goonengerry.

Using pulse, tongue, and eye assessment, Jacinta individualises a health programme just for you.

Jacinta runs workshops, and lectures, on a range of health-related topics including women's health, Ayurveda, yoga, and natural first-aid. She has a passion for spiritual growth as well as for physical and mental wellbeing. As a mother and grandmother Jacinta keeps a fresh outlook on life and brings this inspiration into her practice.

02 6684 9422 • 0422 387 370  
[www.omhealing.com.au](http://www.omhealing.com.au)

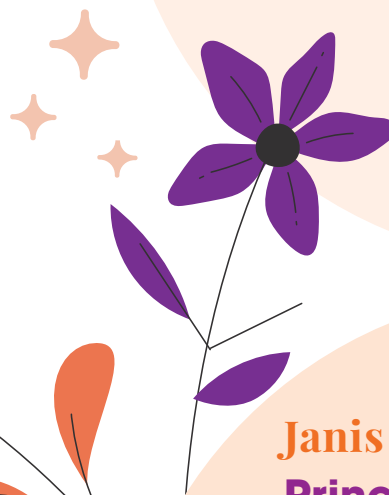
#### Tahlia Ward and Yasmina Cross No Bones

Tahlia and Yasmina built No Bones from the ground up, transforming their vision of plant-based dining into one of Byron Bay's most loved restaurants. Since 2018, they've been on a mission to prove that sustainability and indulgence can go hand-in-hand, creating dishes that excite vegans and non-vegans alike.



Running a business isn't always easy, and as women in hospitality, they've faced their share of challenges. But through resilience, creativity, passion and an unshakable belief in what they do, they've built more than a restaurant - they've created a community. Balancing growth, motherhood, and their dream of a greener future, Tahlia and Yasmina continue to push boundaries, proving that small, conscious choices can create big change and plant-based dining is the future.

[www.nobones.co](http://www.nobones.co)



#### Claire Harding Barefruit Marketing

Claire Harding is the co-founder of Barefruit Marketing (with hubby, Evan), a full-service creative agency delivering effective campaigns for brands across the Northern Rivers and beyond.

With a successful UK ad agency career behind her, Claire launched Barefruit 13 years ago, to work with people and brands that inspire, excite, and do good.

While paying clients keep the agency running, Barefruit prioritises pro-bono and charity work for causes that align with their values, whenever they can. As a mum, Claire champions a flexible, supportive workplace with a strong work/life balance: 'culture and relationships matter most to me.'

'When hiring a new team member or taking on a new client, my gut instinctually leads the way-and it's usually spot on,' she says. Claire is a founding board director of children's charity Rafiki Mwema. When she's not fundraising or crafting campaigns, you'll find her at the gym or spending time with her family and friends.

1/144 River Street (Riverwalk Arcade), Ballina  
[barefruit.com.au](http://barefruit.com.au)

#### Janis Perkins Principal and Licensee, Real Estate of Distinction Byron Bay



A distinguished name in Byron Bay's luxury property market, Janis Perkins has spent over two decades representing the region's finest rural and residential real estate - beachfront estates, waterfront retreats, and high-end apartments. Her reputation for delivering exceptional results and an elevated client experience has earned her a place among the industry's top performers, along with award-winning recognition.

Beyond real estate, Janis is a passionate advocate for gender equality, championing equal decision-making opportunities and closing the gender pay, earnings, and pension gaps - critical steps in the fight against women's poverty.

Renowned for her integrity, expertise, and unwavering dedication to her clients, Janis approaches every transaction with a commitment to thoughtful consultation, ensuring premium outcomes and long-lasting relationships.

0438 841 122 • [janis@reodbyron.com.au](mailto:janis@reodbyron.com.au)

**Justine Elliot**

**Your local MP and the Assistant Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence**



The Albanese Labor Government has kept up the momentum to make women's lives safer and more equal. We've expanded paid parental leave to 26 weeks and we're paying superannuation on it too. We're also making childcare cheaper and delivering a three-day universal childcare guarantee. We're delivering over \$500 million for women's health, including PBS listings for oral contraceptives and menopause hormone therapies, more bulk billing for IUDs, and opening new endometriosis and pelvic pain clinics. We've invested over \$4 billion towards our goal of ending violence against women and children, as well as introducing ten days' paid family and domestic leave and building more places of refuge for women and children, including right here on the North Coast. I'm proud to part of the first federal government in history that's majority women, and with your support I can continue to accelerate action for the women of Australia.

07 5523 4371 • [www.justineelliott.com.au](http://www.justineelliott.com.au)  
[justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:justine.elliott.mp@aph.gov.au)  
 107 Minjungbal Drive, Tweed Heads South



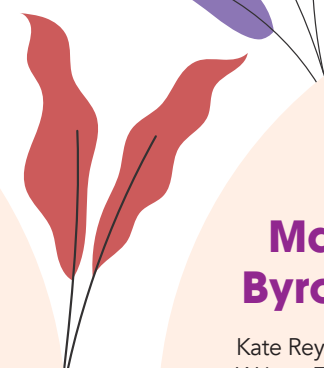
**Yasmin Dulley**  
**Byron Family Law**

'International Women's Day honours the remarkable achievements of women who have overcome barriers and defied expectations. Let us honour the progress we have made and recommit ourselves to the work that remains to be done. Together, we can create a world where every woman has the opportunity to thrive and succeed.'

Principal Solicitor and Director of Byron Family Law, Yasmin is proud to be part of this legacy. She is among the countless women inspiring the next generation of female leaders making a positive impact in our community by breaking-down barriers across every discipline and advocating for social justice.

Yasmin is the newly appointed President of the Far North Coast Law Society. She is the proud mother of three young children, has a business in fashion archiving, a pilot's licence, and is a member of the Australian Army Reserves.

18 Parkes Avenue, Byron Bay  
[www.byronfamilylaw.com.au](http://www.byronfamilylaw.com.au)



**Kate Reynolds**  
**Marketing Manager**  
**Byron Writers Festival**



Kate Reynolds is the Marketing Manager for Byron Writers Festival and the host of Book Club on Paradise FM, a weekly on-air book club presented by the festival.

Originally from Melbourne, Kate moved to Ballina with her family, pursuing her freelance voice acting and writing work, but when an opportunity arose to join Australia's largest regional literary festival, Kate couldn't resist. She is proud to be part of an inspiring all-women team, and finds great motivation in the incredible work they do together. Kate also values the family-friendly work environment, which allows her to balance her professional role with being a mum to a (very active!) toddler.

She's excited about the upcoming Byron Writers Festival authors visiting in August, and sharing their stories and conversations. With a deep passion for literature, Kate is grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the festival's mission while working in such a supportive and dynamic environment.

[www.byronwritersfestival.com](http://www.byronwritersfestival.com)

**#InspireInclusion**



**The Echo**

As we celebrate International Women's Day, it's essential to acknowledge the incredible women who contribute to our community in countless ways. At the *Echo*, women play a pivotal role, from investigative reporting to editing, design, sales and beyond. Their dedication ensures that the *Echo* is published with integrity, passion, and an unwavering commitment to the local community.



JUST SOME OF THE WOMEN OF THE ECHO

The women of the *Echo* offer resilience, creativity and leadership to the organisation. Whether in the workplace, at home, or in their communities, women shape the future through their actions, big and small.

For International Women's Day 2025, the *Echo* stands in solidarity with women around the world, advocating for equality, justice, and opportunity for all. The journey toward gender equity is ongoing, but with each step forward, we grow stronger together. Let's continue to uplift, support, and amplify women every day.

**#AccelerateAction**

These six remarkable women From MANA Real Estate share how they're breaking barriers and accelerating progress for women in real estate, proving that when supportive environments meet determined action, transformation follows.



## Julie-Ann Manahan Founder and CEO

Leaving a national franchise to start my own brand was bold, but was largely driven by a desire to create a more inclusive environment for women in real estate. This rewarding journey has allowed me to build a value-aligned brand

while mentoring other women, reinforcing my belief in taking risks for meaningful change.

My advice to young women entering real estate: believe in yourself. The industry is challenging, but persistence and confidence are essential. Find inspiring mentors, ask questions, and stay adaptable in this evolving landscape. Those open to new approaches will thrive. Remember to support other women - together we'll create a more inclusive environment.

I envision an industry that fosters inclusively where women feel empowered to lead through mentorship programs, flexible work arrangements, and encouragement to step into influential positions.

Julie-Ann  
0411 081 118



## Wendy Rosenbaum Licensee-in-Charge MANA Murwillumbah

Accelerating positive change for women in property starts with collaboration rather than competition. I believe that when women support each other and agents work together

instead of viewing each other as competitors, we create a stronger industry that better serves our clients.

This perspective was particularly valuable during my years running a commercial franchise, where I was often the only woman. While there were initial surprised looks at conferences and client meetings, I found that once I demonstrated my expertise in commercial real estate, many male clients actually preferred working with me.

For young women considering this career today, I understand it can feel intimidating - especially in such a public-facing industry. My advice is to find a mentor whose values align with yours. Having someone who can guide you through the industry from the inside out not only builds your knowledge but, importantly, helps develop the confidence to succeed.

Wendy R  
0437 709 993



## Simone de Beer Marketing Manager

In my experience, accelerating positive change for women in the property industry starts with visibility and opportunity. It's about championing women as leaders, whether that's seeing more female auctioneers, sales agents, or property managers taking centre stage.

At MANA, we actively celebrate women's achievements and ensure we're creating pathways for growth, like mentoring younger women entering the field. I've found that women's groups and networking play a big role in this. I attend a women's business group focused on building relationships, sharing experiences, and discussing workplace challenges. It's inspiring to hear how women in other industries handle similar situations.

Simone  
02 6680 5000



## Nicki Rein Office Administrator

In my experience, making positive change for women in real estate starts with the basics - how we're treated and respected in the workplace. While I'm lucky at MANA, I've worked in places where people assumed a man could do the job better, especially when it came to handling complex situations. But here's the thing about real estate - it's all about people and emotions, from the nervous first-home buyer to the stressed-out seller.

I tell young women thinking about joining real estate to definitely go for it. You learn so much about the whole buying and selling process, and working at MANA has shown me how different things can be when a company truly values its people, regardless of who they are.

Nicki  
02 6680 5000



## Debra Stoker Reception/Sales Administration

Making the switch from hospitality to real estate opened up so many doors for me to learn and grow. The best part is being surrounded by such a supportive team at MANA - they really encourage me to aim higher and push myself. Our director Julie-Ann shows us how to balance work and life while still giving our best to clients, and she's always looking for ways to improve how we do things.

What I love most is that everyone brings their own unique skills to the team. So, for anyone thinking about joining real estate, I say go for it! If I can make the change and thrive, what's stopping you? Sometimes all it takes is that positive push to take on a new challenge.

Debra  
02 6672 4477

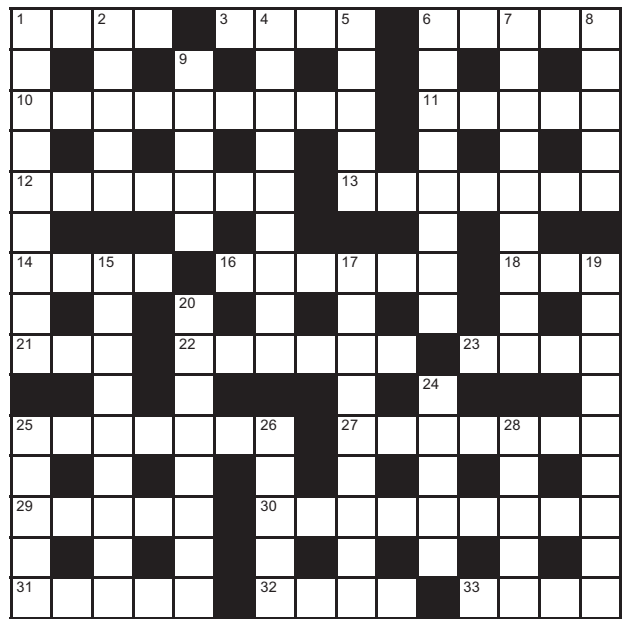


## Tayla Hunter Property Manager

Working in property management has shown me that accelerating change for women in real estate happens when supportive environments meet determined action. At MANA, I've experienced first hand how mentorship and equal opportunities create momentum for professional growth. Rather than facing the barriers many women encounter in this industry, I've been encouraged to take the lead on challenging projects and develop my expertise with confidence.

What makes a difference is having both experienced agents and successful colleagues who actively champion my progress rather than just passively supporting it. For young women entering real estate, finding a team that actively dismantles traditional barriers while providing genuine guidance can transform your career trajectory.

Tayla  
0428 883 815



**Cryptic Clues**

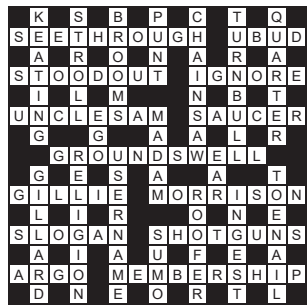
- ACROSS**
- Buyer upset when sauterne finally turned out to be a red (4)
  - Buck has Stetson, perhaps made to fit Romeo (4)
  - Emboldened to stash antique (5)
  - Among others, she appears at church with judge (9)
  - Tedium of *Echo* upset nun, Irish at heart (5)
  - What's left of beaten armies? Ultimately, humiliation (7)
  - Pet nerd trained to act (7)
  - A hit, a palpable hit! When stripped, that hurts! (4)
  - Composition for tuba enralls learners? Not quite (3,3)
  - Muscles half missing (3)
  - Moneys returned to cover standard unit in Asian nation (3)
  - Random person ditched saris in abnormal rainy season (6)
  - Albo's gone rogue, dumping RBA centrist into the bargain (4)
  - Comedian gets drink - about time, as well! (7)
  - Tom boxes naked at floor show (7)
  - Is Charlie in party at nightclub? (5)
  - Unsettling auspices surround the origin of nuclear power (9)
  - King caught in sting? Go away! (5)
  - Pusher gets stuff past head of police (4)
  - Executive aide interrupts magistrate with unwanted correspondence (4)

- DOWN**
- Theatre company about to mount new presentation of Shakespeare's penultimate poetry (9)
  - Wax flower (5)
  - Sultan Aly unfairly a target of abuse (4,5)
  - Weak-minded individual wept egregiously over Rex (5)
  - False trope about *Echo* team leader turning up at musical (8)
  - Scandinavian, squeezing top of Cher's booty, called out in 29? (5,4)
  - Diana's naughty nymph (5)
  - Show Frenchman at old contest (5)
  - Solicitor is painting satyr's head on queen (9)
  - Porcelain snake swallowing head of newborn echidna finally sold off (4,5)
  - Limited opportunity to restrict Republican period in office (5-4)
  - Battles a terrible outcome: rebel leader caught in officers' quarters (8)
  - Gorge on cooked bass and yabby tail (5)
  - Aspects of raita, French fries etc (5)
  - Youngster accepts work at temporary shop (3-2)
  - Approach hoist (3-2)

**Quick Clues**

- ACROSS**
- Precious red gemstone (4)
  - Male deer (4)
  - Of a bygone era (5)
  - Say words aloud (9)
  - Boredom from lack of excitement (5)
  - Leftover parts or remnants (7)
  - Act as if something is true (7)
  - Expression of sudden pain (4)
  - Nearly or almost completely (3,3)
  - Stomach muscles, informally (3)
  - Strong desire or craving (3)
  - Nobody in particular (6)
  - In addition or as well (4)
  - Comedy performed on stage before a live audience (7)
  - Entertainment in a nightclub setting (7)
  - Dance music genre of the 1970s (5)
  - Great power or influence (9)
  - Leave quickly and abruptly (5)
  - Baby carriage (4)
  - Unwanted electronic messages (4)
- DOWN**
- Regularly performed works (9)
  - Flourish or thrive (5)
  - Fairground game target (4,5)
  - Annoying or insignificant person (5)
  - Light opera with spoken dialogue (8)
  - Venue for social dancing (5,4)
  - Water nymph in Greek mythology (5)
  - Screen art (5)
  - Door-to-door seeker of opinions or data (9)
  - Fine tableware (4,5)
  - Lasting only a brief period (5-4)
  - Officers' dining area on a ship (8)
  - Deep, immeasurable chasm (5)
  - Lateral parts of something (5)
  - Appearing suddenly or unexpectedly (3-2)
  - Period leading to an event (3-2)

**Last week's solution #44**



# Why we need to listen to the wisdom of our elder women



**W**e need to value and learn from the stories of older women. This week sees International Women's Day and Seniors' Week intersect. I reflected on the themes for both, with Seniors' being 'Time to Shine' and IWD being 'Accelerate Action - to collectively forge a more inclusive world for women'. It occurred to me that it is the older generation of women who have forged our path, many of them doing the work but missing out on the end results of their activism and courage. That makes me a little sad. I hate to think that our matriarchs are overlooked or forgotten. We have so much to learn from their stories.

On February 20 this year, local resident Kate Smorty died. It was just shy of her 97th birthday. Many know her for her activism in the fight for Feros (now George's Cottages) where a group of 11 seniors led the charge and they won. I guess you could say they found their time to shine! A friend told me that not long before Kate died she smiled and said, 'They thought they were getting rid of us, and we got rid of them!' It's not often the little people get a win. Especially when they're in their 90s.

I met Kate around four years ago. She sent me an email about an idea she had. She wanted to have local landmarks and facilities all renamed with Indigenous names with a small English translation so we could start to learn the language. It's not every day you get an email from a progressive woman in her 90s with clever ideas about inclusion, so I answered. We started an email exchange and I was invited for morning tea in Kate's cottage.

We drank tea and ate biscuits, and although the conversation was around her initial idea, it wasn't long before she started telling me the story of her life. I won't give the specific details here as they were private, but I wanted to share the spirit of what she said. I tell this with the permission of her daughter.

Kate had four children. She was a clever academic woman, living in a marriage that she described as coercive. Although that language wasn't around then. There were no options for women to leave unsafe or unhappy marriages back then, and she felt disempowered and controlled. And sad. She didn't want her kids to grow up in that atmosphere - she desperately wanted change but didn't know how. She felt trapped.

She told me of a day, when she found the courage. She was at a low point, but she'd found meditation and had started to really understand the power of going inward, when there is nowhere in your life that feels like it belongs to you. To save Kate, she'd gone deep to truly find her.



**I felt honoured to be in the presence of such wisdom. To understand the sacrifices and hardships of the women who came before me.**

She'd travelled to the beach, sat on a rock and stared at the sea. For hours. She told me that when she went home she'd found this incredible sense of power. She was no longer frightened. She left the marriage. She didn't own a home, so she became responsible for the income needed for a rental. She got a job and brought up her kids as a single mum. Before there was child support, or benefits. Before there were long day care centres or after school care. But she did it. And she did it well. It was something she was immensely proud of. Something that should be celebrated.

This was a long, remarkable story told over a few hours. Both of us were in tears a few times, although Kate was quite stoic, it might have been just me. I was eating

biscuits with this fierce but gentle feminist. A woman who had found her voice when there was no one but her to hear it. That kind of strength is humbling.

We talked about domestic violence. About how the laws have changed. And sitting there that day I really understood how far we had come. And as Kate pointed out, how far we still have to go.

It was one of the most beautiful conversations of my life. I felt honoured to be in the presence of such wisdom. To understand the sacrifices and hardships of the women who came before me. To understand that my story is just a stitch next to theirs on our big freedom tapestry, and the picture, well, it's not finished yet.

Vale Kate Smorty. Thanks for your quiet and gentle, fierce and fabulous life. And thank you for sharing your remarkable story with me. And the biscuits.

This IWD I will think of you, that mother of four at the lowest point of her life, standing alone looking out to sea, calling on the wind and the sea. And in that moment finding connection and courage, witness to the greatest power source of all: nature. That is wisdom.

■ 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

**With Venus retrograde in Aries and communicator Mercury also in the straightforward sign of blunt utterances, no need to wonder how people feel. They'll be telling you...**



PISCES THE FISH

**ARIES:** With Venus retro in your sign, what's this week's good news? Articulate Mercury in Aries helping you express what needs to be said, though best do this before Mercury retrogrades next week. But in these dark times, as Aries Vincent Van Gogh observed: 'Still, a great deal of light falls on everything.'

**TAURUS:** Your guiding planet Venus slows down every 18 months or so to allow us to recycle old partnership stories into more workable, contemporary scripts. This week's Venusian power outage in its most no-nonsense placement suggests an eyes-wide-open reality check on relationships personal, public and professional.

**GEMINI:** This week's feisty energy could ignite altercations that zap your time, energy and future prospects, so pause before you post and take the time to refine your message. With Jupiter spending its last months in your sign for over another decade, this is an important time to nurture influential supporters.

**CANCER:** You're likely to be supersensitive to this week's undercurrents, so if you just want to withdraw and focus on closest connections, that's perfect. Take time out anyway to let thoughts settle and the cosmic currents guide you where you need to go, and what you need to say. Ready, set, slow...

**LEO:** If people disappoint, which can happen when Venus retrogrades in a touchy fire sign, resist feeling neglected or rejected by someone you've helped. Instead take an unblinking look at your past ways of dealing with similar situations, then dive into the compassionate understanding available this week.

**VIRGO:** With your mentor planet Mercury in its most audacious and outrageous placement, this week's communications can be visionary and innovative. So have talks and schedule discussions this week, because next week's retrograde phase is known to ignite fiery, dragonish rants calling for your best flame proof accessories.

**LIBRA:** This week your prima planet Venus in go-slow mode could damp down some of the tempestuous, impulsive energy of her transit through Libra's opposite sign on the astro-wheel. But there could still be moods, sulks and inner child tantrums - some of which might even be yours.

**SCORPIO:** With Venus retrograding in a feisty fire sign, best to avoid a dogmatic approach. Then what? The celestial force is with you to let go of old ways of doing things that aren't getting the results you want and try something different. Oh, and very important this week to keep your temper in check.

**SAGITTARIUS:** With conversations direct and action-driven, you'll enjoy this week's fast-paced exchanges with a diverse pool of people. Just be careful to thoroughly research any expansive plans before giving them the go-ahead, because this month supports pressing the pause button before committing to impulsive choices.

**CAPRICORN:** Capricorn is regarded as the provider sign, and if this week activates that admirable side of you, be aware that any tendency to be too insistent in your approach might attract pushback. On the other hand, creative exercise of your trademark Capricorn patience could produce some highly satisfying results.

**AQUARIUS:** Venus in impatient mode finds it hard to keep cool in this week of snap judgments and hasty conclusions. The first solution that occurs isn't necessarily the best, so double-check your facts. And with people both irritating and over-sensitive, it might not be advisable to speak your mind.

**PISCES:** With the celestial trifecta of the sun, Saturn and Neptune in Pisces for most of March, you are this month's undisputed star. And with Venus activating unexpected comebacks, some kind of blaze of glory rerun or recognition for who you are, or what you've done is on this week's star cards.

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# SEVEN

seven days of entertainment

## Eclectic Selection

### WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



✿ Indie folk and roots singer-songwriter **Josh Lee Hamilton** has a smooth and warm sound that will endear you with his honest and heartfelt songs that tell stories of love, struggle and faith. There is a sense of optimism as you listen to his music, while his songs authentically navigate troubles and challenges from his own story.

**Wednesday from 5pm at the Treehouse, Belongil. Free show.**



✿ **Cass Eager** is a Soul/R&B singer with a sound that embodies old-school cool with bold, sexy optimism. Her sound takes its cue from a vintage sonic swagger à la Amy Winehouse and Sharon Jones, and when you press play you'll want to be sipping cocktails at your favourite lounge bar in LA, or at The Rails, with best friends and lovers alike.

**Friday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show.**



✿ A singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist, **Chris Aronsten** plays guitar, mandolin, fiddle, harmonica, and spoons. There is no shortage of energy in his show with original songs and selected covers from his extensive folk and blues repertoire. He blends the songs with fiddle tunes, American-style bluegrass flat-picking on guitar, and instrumentals on mandolin.

**Monday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show.**



✿ **Ziggy Alberts** has built his career on unwavering independence, resilience, and a deep commitment to his craft. From busking on Byron Bay's streets to sold-out world stages – all as a solo act – his journey has always been about direct connection with his audience.

**Tuesday from 7pm at the Hotel Brunswick, Brunswick Heads. Tickets \$92.90 from moshtix.com.au.**



✿ Designed to mesmerise and enthrall, the **Ocean Film Festival World Tour** showcases a three-hour celebration of our oceans, comprised of sublime footage taken above and below the water's surface.

**Thursday and Friday at 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House, Brunswick Heads. Tickets from \$24 at brunswickpicturehouse.com.**



✿ Raised on brown snake venom and moonshine, **Burning Hands**, the legends from Byron Bay perform traditional Delta and Chicago-influenced roots and dance music from a forgotten time.

With guest **Sam Buckley** they feature raw harmonica, virtuoso guitar, and a cooking rhythm section with double bass and drums – these musicians are deeply rooted in the blues tradition.

**Sunday from 2.30pm at the Ballina RSL Boardwalk. Free show.**



✿ **Hashimoto's Cactus** is just three guys – **Stephen Lovelight**, **Michael DiCecco**, and **Hans Lovejoy**, who have nothing better to do on a Saturday night, than bedazzle you with their slick riffs, sick, hip drifts, and thick grits.

**Saturday from 7pm at The Billinudgel Hotel. Free show**



NEXT WEEK

AN EVENING WITH **CAT POWER SINGS DYLAN**  
 THE 1966 ROYAL ALBERT HALL CONCERT

**THE GREEN ROOM AT THE HOME OF BLUESFEST - BYRON BAY THURSDAY 13 MARCH**

PRESENTED BY LOVE POLICE TOURING

# SEVEN



## It's all about Bob

Almost 59 years to the day, Bob Dylan's most memorable moment in music history will be celebrated when **Cat Power** performs Dylan's fabled and transformative 1966 Royal Albert Hall Concert set.

Dylan's powerful concert, seen in the capital cities of Australia in April 1966 and then a month later at the Manchester Free Trade Hall was THAT performance, which saw Bob Dylan switch from acoustic to electric midway through the show, drawing passionate fury from an audience of folk purists and forever altering the course of rock 'n' roll.

In Cat Power's own rendition of that historic event, the artist otherwise known as Chan Marshall has inhabited each song with equal parts conviction and grace and a palpable sense of protectiveness.

Released as a live album in late 2023, *Cat Power Sings Dylan: The 1966 Royal Albert Hall Concert* features classics like 'It's All Over Now, Baby Blue', 'Just Like Tom Thumb's Blues' and 'Just Like A Woman' as well as covers from Dylan's seminal album *Blonde on Blonde*.

Cat Power, and her band, bring her spellbinding performance honouring her hero to Australia this February and March in a historic moment, returning, reliving and reforming a pivotal moment in music history.

**See this great show on Thursday, March 13 at the Green Room, Byron Bay – tickets at [moshtix.com.au](https://moshtix.com.au).**

## Connect your business to 10,000 loyal locals

BayFM sponsorship is the trusted way to reach buyers in Byron and beyond. Whether you sell solar or fix molars, we'll work with you to write, produce and broadcast messages that cut through to your particular market. Contact Lachie on [sponsorship@bayfm.org](mailto:sponsorship@bayfm.org) about our competitive rates and fast turnaround or head to [bayfm.org](https://bayfm.org)



## Paco Lara's Duende

The acclaimed Spanish flamenco guitarist **Paco Lara** will tour NSW and the rest of Australia with *Duende*, the recently released, self-produced album of original compositions.

Paco's performances always inspire and capture the imagination of Australian audiences. This show presents a stunning live performance of flamenco guitar with a fusion of music, song, and flamenco dance, performed by Lara and his talented ensemble.

Paco Lara has toured internationally alongside some of the greatest artists and maestro legends of flamenco in Spain. In 2017 he migrated to Australia from Jerez, the heartland of flamenco in Spain. His style (halfway between traditional and contemporary flamenco) contributes to the increased popularity and understanding of this musical genre in Australia. This has proven especially true in NSW where the artist resides. Lara has enjoyed considerable success since the 2021 Andalusian Guitar Tour to the Sydney Opera House and the Adelaide Guitar Festival, and has toured nationally with a constant succession of shows around the country since then.

In 2022 Lara commenced touring *Duende* with the official album of the same name launched in early 2023.

*Duende* is entertaining and popular, with Lara's flamenco guitar mastery showcasing his talent at the top of the Australian contemporary music and performance scene. He will share this passion through his mesmerising masterful skills and techniques on the flamenco guitar and 'with impressive and elegant articulation'.

*Duende* transports audiences to Southern Spain with the virtuoso guitarist accompanied by a multicultural and dynamic ensemble. Performers include guest flamenco dancer, **Deya Miranda Giner** and **Byron Mark** on piano and percussion.

Recognised as the most prominent flamenco guitarist living in Australia, Paco Lara and his troupe are a world-class musical and cultural experience not to be missed!

**Saturday, March 22, at 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House – tickets at [brunswickpicturehouse.com](https://brunswickpicturehouse.com).**

## THE BANGALOW THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS COME FROM AWAY

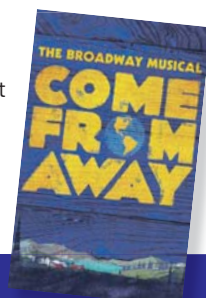
A folk-rock musical with an Irish pulse and soaring harmonies!  
**AUDITIONS ARE NOW OPEN!**

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

- 6 male-identifying and 6 female-identifying actors (20-70 yo)
- Ability to speak in a Newfoundland accent and American accent.
- All ages, and backgrounds—we want a cast that reflects the real world!
- Singing ability is a must!

**AUDITIONS CLOSE Friday 21 March 2025**

For more information go to [www.bangalowtheatre.com.au/auditions](https://www.bangalowtheatre.com.au/auditions)



## Wow, it's truly March Madness!

**Brunswick Picture House** is launching a packed program for autumn with some amazing shows in little Brunswick Heads.

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 this **Saturday and Sunday**.

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, with special guest artists **Deya Miranda Giner** and **Byron Mark** – on **Saturday, March 22**.

Logie-winning actor **Rob Carlton** is bringing his 5-star, award-winning hit, *Willing Participant* to Bruns – in this one-hour storytelling show, Rob tells four true stories: sexual taboos, big lies, deep heartaches, and blind hope. With stories from his 20s to his 50s, this world-class storyteller reminds us what it is to feel alive; you'll laugh and cry and laugh again, and leave in love with the world – on **Sunday March 23**.

It 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 is doing two shows on Saturday and Sunday, March 29 and 30.

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 – on **Thursday March 20**.

Just mention the name *Vagina Conversations* and many of 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 **Thursday, March 13, to Sunday, March 16**, dates are on track to sell out.

**Tickets for all shows at [brunswickpicturehouse.com](https://brunswickpicturehouse.com)**



INTERVIEW



Vanessa Larry Mitchell is one very funny chick, who has spent the last few years dancing around the globe with her internationally-acclaimed show *Teardrops on my Dildo* – and as much as she loves to perform *Teardrops*, the door is starting to close on that show and it's time to move on to part two in the Mitchell saga, *Lube Me Alone*.

As she prepares to perform her last few of the old, Mitchell is very much looking forward to the door opening on the new.

She has one of her final *Teardrops* performances in Mullum this Friday before heading off on a little tour of Australia and then a big, little international tour, including Dublin, Belfast, Amsterdam, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Manchester and Liverpool – and at some point in that time, space and geography, *Teardrops* will quietly fade out and *Lube Me Alone* will loudly stomp in. Mitchell will hit the ground running on her return to Oz and she'll appear in Brunswick Heads near the end of May.

Seven caught up with Vanessa last week to see how she's letting go.

WHEN ONE DOOR CLOSES...

**Are you feeling a little bit split at the moment, having the old and the new tumbling around inside of you?**

Yeah – I don't know why I'm doing this. I love *Teardrops* so much I don't want to stop. I'm not a 'known' performer still, so there's loads of areas that I haven't tapped into. I've been touring that show for four years now, and I just love it. I love performing it, and I love the message that's kind of within it.

I'm taking the old show back over to the UK in April and then I'm going to just start doing the new show to places that I've already been before. It'll work kind of as a sequel.

**Are people coming back to see *Teardrops* that have seen it before?**

Yeah, yeah. There was one lady on the weekend that, I think that was her fourth time that she'd seen me, so she saw the new show, and then two nights later, came and saw the old show again that she'd already seen twice – people bring their mates back with them. A lot of women bring their daughters now, I get a lot of daughters and mothers. I think this feels empowering for them.

**It doesn't sound like you're getting tired of *Teardrops*?**

No. No! I thought I would, but it's gotten funnier and better, even more punchy than it ever was. It's still essentially the same show it's just got more little bits.

**You're not thinking of retiring it at any time soon?**

I think in Australia, I will have to – but then, I don't think it's going to be put to bed forever. I think it'll be

one of those shows that might make a resurgence, almost like a flashback to that chapter of life. I don't think the content is going to get old anytime soon.

You know, with *Lube Me Alone*, when you have your second child, you have that feeling of like, 'oh no – what if I don't love this baby as much as my first baby?' And that's how I felt. I felt like, I don't think I can ever write a show that I'm going to love as much as *Teardrops*. So I was really reluctant to even get started writing on it. And then once I finished writing it and did the trial shows, I loved it, you know, I love it. And it's going to get better. It almost takes things to a further level than *Teardrops* does.

**Are you having enough fun?**

Yeah, I have so much fun on the road.



***Teardrops on my Dildo* will be performed by Vanessa Larry Mitchell at the Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby on Saturday, May 10 at 7.30pm, get tickets from <https://drillhalltheatre.org.au/teardrops-on-my-dildo>**

PACO LARA (SPAIN) PRESENTS:

**DUENDE FLAMENCO SHOW**

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 7:00pm

TICKETS:

[www.eventfinda.com.au/2025/duende-flamenco-show/brunswick-heads](http://www.eventfinda.com.au/2025/duende-flamenco-show/brunswick-heads)

**BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE**

18+ RECOMMENDED

VANESSA LARRY MITCHELL —

**TEARDROPS ON MY DILDO**

\*\*NEW DATE\*\*

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DRILL HALL THEATRE  
MULLUMBIMBY  
[drillhalltheatre.org.au](http://drillhalltheatre.org.au)

★★★★★ Kids in Adelaide  
★★★★ The Scotsman  
★★★★★ Fringe Feed  
★★★★ Theatre Scotland

**BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE**

A love letter in song to Shane McGowan, Sinead O Connor, Nick Cave, Bowie, Radiohead & more

LIVE MUSIC

**CAMILLE O'SULLIVAN**

**LOVELETTER**

"WHEN SHE SINGS IT'S AS THOUGH HER BREATH IS SOAKED IN PARAFFIN – ONE SPARK, AND THE WHOLE ROOM WOULD IGNITE"  
★★★★★ DAILY TELEGRAPH

"HYPNOTIC"  
★★★★★ THE INDEPENDENT

"AN ARTIST AT THE TOP OF HER GAME PUSHING HERSELF TO BE BETTER AND TRUSTING US TO KEEP UP. IT'S THRILLING TO WATCH"  
★★★★★ THE SCOTSMAN

"DANGEROUSLY FRAGILE... AN EXCEPTIONAL VOICE"  
★★★★★ EDINBURGH EVENING NEWS

SAT 8 MAR @ 7PM  
SUN 9 MAR @ 6PM

**brunswickpicturehouse.com**

# SEVEN

## CINEMA



FLOW

### The Bangalow Film Festival is here!

Here's what we have all been waiting so long for – the return of the **The Bangalow Film Festival (BFF)** with a star-studded fifth season.

Some of Australia's most acclaimed directors and actors will be joining us from **March 6 to 16** – eleven days to remember.

The extraordinary line-up of guests includes **Warwick Thornton, Rolf De Heer, Gary Sweet, Aaron Pedersen, Mark Leonard Winter and Molly Reynolds**, with more to be announced.

The 2025 program will feature over 20 exclusive premieres of international and Australian critically-acclaimed feature films and award-winning documentaries, plus various special screenings and Q&A sessions, a career spanning lunch conversation with director Rolf De Heer (*The Tracker, Ten Canoes, Charlie's Country*), live performances, and a two-day program of industry panels presented in partnership with the Byron Writers Festival and Screenworks.

Organisers say, 'the festival will open this Thursday bringing a touch of red carpet glamour to Bangalow. Join us in your best fashionista look for the Australian premiere of the movie (*Milano: The Inside Story of Italian Fashion*).

'Bring your best self, enjoy an aperitivo and have your photo taken by a professional fashion photographer as we kick-start another amazing festival.

'The festival's opening night is supported by Treney, Sunglass Hut and Byrncello along with all of our incredible festival partners.

'Ticket holders along with the general public are invited to join us in the Film Festival Lobby Bar, with Common People Brewing Co, Ink Gin, and Husk Rum providing refreshments plus all your favourite movie snacks and more.

'Show your wonderful ongoing support of the festival by purchasing tickets and celebrating the magic of film, ensuring the BFF continues to bring storytelling to life.'

The 2025 program features two Oscar winning films. The awards, held earlier this week, saw *Flow* win Best Animated Feature and *No Other Land* take home the statue for Best Documentary Feature.

To keep up-to-date with all of the events and the festival program, visit [www.bangalowfilmfestival.com.au](http://www.bangalowfilmfestival.com.au).

# GIG GUIDE

seven days of entertainment

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

### WEDNESDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SUNSTONE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 5PM **JOSH LEE HAMILTON**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **INO PIO**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – DIZZY J & JON SHORTER**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY AND JAM**
- ELTHAM HOTEL **NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**

### THURSDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **THE GIN BUGGS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **CLOSE COUNTERS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN + DJ QUENDO**, 8PM **NEPTUNE**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – SAM WHEAT & DIZZY J + JON SHORTER & BODHI ACTON**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **JOSH HAMILTON**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6PM **MICK DALEY**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 5.30PM **SCIENCE IN THE PUB**

### FRIDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **CASS EAGER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 9PM **42 BAND**
- BYRON THEATRE 5PM **TIME TO SHINE: A CELEBRATION OF SENIORS WEEK**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATTY ROGERS**, 8PM **RESIN DOGS**, **TRIPLE NIP**, **DJ COCO VARMA & DJ DAVE DOGG**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – JON SHORTER & MICK BUCKLEY + BODHI ACTON & SAM WHEAT**

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **OCEAN FILM FESTIVAL WORLD TOUR**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM **DJ PAPA BITCHO**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **JOCK BARNES**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **FAT ALBERT**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **YOLAN**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6PM **KAZYA K**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB 8PM **THE FAB FOUR**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **PHIL GUEST**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **BLACKBOI**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **ALANAH STONE**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **FERNY FAIRWAY + THE DANDY'S**, **BLIND CORNERS**, **MERMAID WATERS**

### SATURDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TIAGO FREITAS + MADISON KAT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & SAM WHEAT + JON SHORTER & BODHI ACTON**, 10.30PM **POLY & CO**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 6PM **INO PIO**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **THE WHISKEYS + BENNY D WILLIAMS + DJ JOEL POPPINS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CAMILLE O'SULLIVAN**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM **DJ DAN**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 7PM **HASHIMOTO'S CACTUS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **TWO TEARS IN A BUCKET**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **DJ FRXSTY**

- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **TURTLE BOY DUO**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM **DJ DONNY**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **PISTOL WHIP**
- THE QUAD, LISMORE, 9AM **LISMORE WOMEN'S FESTIVAL**, 3.15PM **THE FLASH BANG MOB**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **MARK CROTTI**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE FAB FOUR**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7PM **WOMEN LIKE US**

### SUNDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TRILLA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **LISA HUNT**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 2PM **GRACE**
- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM **YULLI'S OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX BOWEN**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & BODHI ACTON**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **THE LONESOME BOATMAN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **ASHA JEFFERIES + YAZMINDI + FINOJET**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **CAMILLE O'SULLIVAN**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ ABEL TORO**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **HENRY WEST**
- CLUB LENNOX 3PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- LENNOX HOTEL 3PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- LENNOX PIZZA 5PM **JOE CONROY**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT. BURNING HANDS + SAM BUCKLEY**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **PENNY'S GROOVE**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA, 3PM **HAYLEY GRACE**

### MONDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **AKOVA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARK USHER**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – JOHN HILL & BODHI ACTON**

### TUESDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – JOHN HILL & JON SHORTER**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **ZIGGY ALBERTS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **FOREVER EVERLY**

### WEDNESDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BILL JACOBI**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 5PM **INO PIO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **DAN HANNAFORD**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – JON SHORTER & BODHI ACTON**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY AND JAM**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 5PM **IRISH FOLK JAM**

**PALACE CINEMAS**  
BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES  
THURSDAY MARCH 6  
TO WEDNESDAY MARCH 12

**BLACK BAG**  
COMING SOON

**MICKEY 17**  
NOW SHOWING

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

**PALACE BYRON BAY**

**SPECIAL SCREENINGS**

**CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON**  
Daily: 6:00PM

**EVERY LITTLE THING**  
Sat: 3:45PM, Sun: 1:30PM

**JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR LIVE**  
Sat, Sun: 1:00PM

**FAMILY FILMS**

**10 LIVES**  
Daily: 10:50AM

**FLOW**  
Sat, Sun: 1:10PM

**THE LOST TIGER**  
Thurs, Fri, Mon, Wed: 1:15PM

**ALL FILMS**

**ANORA**  
Daily: 12:45PM

**A COMPLETE UNKNOWN**  
Daily: 3:10PM, 8:00PM

**BABYGIRL**  
Daily except Sun: 8:15PM, Sun: 5:30PM

**BECOMING LED ZEPPELIN**  
Thurs, Fri: 7:30PM

**BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY**  
Daily except Sun: 11:00AM, 3:40PM, 5:45PM, 8:20PM, Sun: 3:20PM, 5:45PM, 8:20PM

**CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE NEW WORLD**  
Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:00PM

**CONCLAVE**  
Thurs, Fri: 12:45PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, Sat, Sun: 3:00PM, 6:00PM, Mon: 3:30PM, Tues, Wed: 3:30PM, 6:00PM

**HARD TRUTHS**  
Daily: 11:15AM, 1:30PM, 3:40PM, 5:45PM

**I'M STILL HERE**  
Thurs, Fri, Tues: 2:40PM, 5:30PM, Sat, Mon, Wed: 2:00PM, 5:30PM, Sun: 4:45PM, 7:50PM

**INSIDE**  
Thurs, Fri, Mon, Wed: 3:10PM, 8:10PM, Sat, Sun: 8:10PM, Tues: 1:40PM, 8:10PM

**MICKEY 17**  
Daily except Sun: 10:45AM, 3:30PM, 6:30PM, 8:15PM, Sun: 10:45AM, 3:40PM, 6:30PM, 8:15PM

**ONE OF THEM DAYS**  
Daily except Sun: 1:30PM, 6:10PM, Sun: 11:20AM, 7:00PM

**SPIT**  
Daily: 10:50AM, 1:00PM, 6:00PM

**THE BRUTALIST**  
Daily: 1:40PM

**THE LAST JOURNEY**  
Daily: 11:00AM

**THE LAST SHOWGIRL**  
Daily except Thurs, Fri: 8:30PM, Thurs, Fri: 10:45AM, 8:30PM

**THE MONKEY**  
Thurs, Fri: 5:20PM, Sat, Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:50PM

**THE SEED OF THE SACRED FIG**  
Thurs, Fri: 11:20AM, 3:15PM, Sat, Sun, Mon, Wed: 10:45AM, Tues: 11:20AM

**WHITE BIRD**  
Daily except Thurs, Tues: 10:45AM, Thurs: 10:45AM, 6:30PM, Tues: 11:00AM

**BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS**

**A COMPLETE UNKNOWN**  
Daily except Sat, Sun: 1:15PM, 7:15PM, Sat: 7:30PM, Sun: 6:30PM

**BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY**  
Thurs, Fri: 10:30AM, 12:20PM, 7:20PM, Sat: 10:30AM, 8:00PM, Sun: 10:30AM, 12:15PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:30AM, 7:20PM

**FLOW**  
Sat: 10:45AM, Sun: 10:15AM

**HARD TRUTHS**  
Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:15AM, 5:10PM, Sat: 10:15AM, 5:20PM, Sun: 10:15AM, 5:00PM

**MICKEY 17**  
Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:10PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM, Sat, Sun: 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 7:00PM

**SINGIN' IN THE RAIN (1952)**  
Sat: 1:00PM

**SPIT**  
Daily except Sat, Sun: 3:00PM, 5:10PM, Sat: 3:10PM, 5:50PM, Sun: 2:50PM, 7:10PM

**THE LAST JOURNEY**  
Thurs, Fri: 3:00PM

**THE LOST TIGER**  
Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:15AM, 5:20PM, Sun: 12:30PM

**It's Free! to post your gig in the Echo Gig Guide**

It will appear in the paper, the online gig guide and on Bay FM  
email [gigs@echo.net.au](mailto:gigs@echo.net.au) with the details

# ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

## CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

### PHONE ADS

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

### AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

**Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby**

### EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

**classifieds@echo.net.au**

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

Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

## DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

## RATES & PAYMENT

### LINE ADS:

**\$17.00 for the first two lines**

**\$5.00 for each extra line**

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

**Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa**

Prepayment is required for all ads.

## CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

Echo Classics also appear online:  
[www.echo.net.au/classified-ads](http://www.echo.net.au/classified-ads)



## IN MEMORIAM

In loving memory of  
**Dorset Campbell-Ross**  
1952 – 2024



Loved and cherished always by his family and friends.  
*'So I throw the windows wide and call to you across the sky.'*

## PETS

**Amber** is in need of a quiet & patient home. Amber is not a huge fan of other cats and she takes time to warm up to people. She's been making good progress at the shelter but really needs a home where she can be the only one and be able to fully relax. She'll blossom!



To meet Amber & 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: R251000222

## Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



**MAXI**  
Handsome 7-month-old male Kelpie x Bull Arab 'Maxi' is an exceedingly sweet natured boy. He is very responsive to directions and corrections, is quite submissive and excellent with other dogs. He will no doubt be a mix of very active combined with chilled affectionate couch potato. Maxi would suit life on a property/farm or would be the most charming companion for someone with an active lifestyle with time to exercise and train.  
**Please contact Shell on 0458461935.**  
**MC: 94100028968305**

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## PROF. SERVICES

### DENTURES

LOOK GOOD

FEEL GOOD

Free consultation. **SANDRO 66805002**

### HEALTH

#### COUPLES COUNSELLING

Restore emotional connection; shift reactivity. Beautiful space in Bangalow.  
[www.samadeeplisting.com](http://www.samadeeplisting.com)

### KINESIOLOGY

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

### HYPNOSIS & EFT

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

### HYPNOSIS & NLP

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

### Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby  
**0401 926 090**

## KINESIOLOGY & ENERGY PSYCHOLOGY

Mullumbimby

- Physical & emotional issues

- Stress & pain relief

- Posture & flexibility

- Fears & phobias

- Sabotage programs

- Enhanced performance

- Concentration & focus

+ much more!

**Kate Messenger**  
**0413 003 301**

[crystalsanddreaming.com.au](http://crystalsanddreaming.com.au)

## TRADEWORK

## Septic Waste Removal Summerland Environmental

The Liquid Waste Specialists!

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

## TREE SERVICES

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



20 years local experience

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

Fully insured • Free quotes

**0427 347 380**



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

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas

**6681 3140**  
Mobile 0417 698 227

## GARAGE SALES

## Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

**0408 210 772**

## FOR SALE

### MIELE WASHERS

Dryers and dishwashers available at Bridglands Mullumbimby. 66842511

## ARCHIBALD'S CHEAP QUARRY PRODUCTS

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

## WANTED

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

### TREE FERNS

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

## CARAVANS

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

## TO LET

**SPACIOUS, FREE-STANDING STUDIO** in rural setting. 2kms from Mullum. Available 10am–4pm, Mon–Fri. \$50 per day. Call 6684 3342

### LOCAL REMOVAL

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

### BALLINA SELF-STORAGE UNITS

Secure. From \$22p/w. Ranging from 10–44 m3. Across 3 locations. 66867011

## WANTED TO RENT

I'M LOOKING to rent a secure single garage in central Byron Bay to store a small vehicle. Please call Ed 0418660063

## POSITIONS VACANT

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

**LEGAL SECRETARY/ADMIN (p/t)** 12-15 hrs p/w. Byron CBD law migration. Great rate. Apply [tyndallcolawyers@gmail.com](mailto:tyndallcolawyers@gmail.com)

### TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

Flexible work hours – perfect 2nd income  
Email [operations@byronbaytaxi.com](mailto:operations@byronbaytaxi.com)

### DRIVERS AUTHORITY & ABN?

Byron Bus Company is looking for drivers, please call 0490 183 424 for ongoing casual work.

## WORK WANTED

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

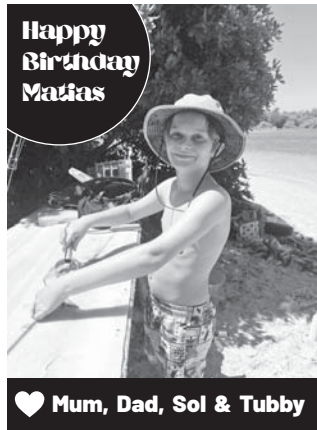
## TUITION

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

## Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Trainer  
• Photoshop • Indesign  
• Illustrator  
[contact@thinkblinkdesign.com](mailto:contact@thinkblinkdesign.com)  
[www.thinkblinkdesign.com](http://www.thinkblinkdesign.com)

## BIRTHDAYS



♥ Mum, Dad, Sol & Tubby

## MUSICAL NOTES

**GUITAR STRINGS, REPAIRS**  
Brunswick Heads 66851005

## DEATH NOTICES

### WAKEFIELD, Olive

18.5.1933 – 2.3.2025  
Loving wife to Keith (dec.)  
Much loved mother to Michael and Christine  
*Peacefully at rest.*

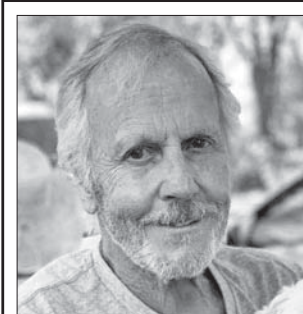
Private cremation  
VINCENT FUNERALS - NW TAS

## CHRISTOPHER MARK WITHELL -WITH-

18.8.56 to 26.2.25



Passed away peacefully at home surrounded by good friends after a long illness.  
*At peace.*



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Peter Quinn, of South Golden Beach, New South Wales, on 22 February, 2025.

Peter was the beloved husband of Sue Quinn, cherished father of Rachael and Matthew, father-in-law of Glen and Eleonora and respected member of the community. His warmth, kindness, and sense of humor will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

A private memorial service will be held on 6 March at Billinudgel and a small commemoration will be held on 8 March in South Golden Beach.  
*Rest in peace, Peter. You will always be in our hearts.*



## SUN, MOON & TIDES – TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Mar)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
5	W	6:40 19:14	12:06 22:38	0103 1.62; 1305 1.27	0716 0.51; 1905 0.38
6	TH	6:41 19:13	13:15 23:28	0204 1.58; 1402 1.10	0838 0.62; 1957 0.47
7	F	6:41 19:11	14:21 23:28	0319 1.54; 1527 0.99	1016 0.65; 2110 0.55
8	SA	6:42 19:11	15:21 02:25	0445 1.54; 1714 0.99	1150 0.61; 2240 0.57
9	SU	6:43 19:10	16:26 1:27	0558 1.58; 1830 1.06	1255 0.54; 2359 0.52
10	M	6:43 19:08	16:56 2:30	0657 1.63; 1923 1.16	1340 0.47
11	TU	6:44 19:07	17:34 3:32	0744 1.67; 2006 1.26	0058 0.45; 1415 0.42
12	W	6:44 19:06	18:07 4:32	0824 1.69; 2044 1.34	0145 0.39; 1446 0.38
13	TH	6:45 19:05	18:36 5:29	0859 1.69; 2117 1.40	0224 0.35; 1515 0.35
14	F	6:45 19:04	19:03 6:24	0930 1.66; 2150 1.45	0300 0.34; 1541 0.34
15	SA	6:46 19:03	19:29 7:18	1000 1.61; 2221 1.49	0336 0.35; 1605 0.33
16	SU	6:47 19:02	19:56 8:10	1028 1.55; 2252 1.52	0411 0.39; 1630 0.33
17	M	6:47 19:00	20:24 9:03	1056 1.46; 2325 1.54	0447 0.44; 1654 0.35
18	TU	6:48 18:59	20:54 9:58	1124 1.36; 2359 1.53	0525 0.51; 1719 0.39
19	W	6:48 18:58	21:29 10:53	1155 1.26	0607 0.58; 1746 0.44

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

# Classifieds

## PETS continued



**MYLES**

Myles is a 4 month old, Mastiff/Staffy X. This lovely natured pup would make a great family dog. Myles is doing well in the training program and hopes his new owner will continue his education.  
#991003002698956  
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/](http://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/)  
Visit [friendsofthepound.com](http://friendsofthepound.com) to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.  
ABN 83 126 970 338



**LEYLA**

Leyla has been in a loving foster home, but now needs a loving 'forever' home! With a very gentle and sweet personality, she's a little shy at first, but happy to stay close to her human. She loves her head stroked and responds well to verbal communication. Leyla will thrive in a peaceful environment. A perfect age of 4 years, desexed and vaccinated, could this sweet girl be for you!  
Microchip no. 97810108347853  
Please make an appointment 0403 533 589 • [Billinudgel@petsforlife.net](mailto:Billinudgel@petsforlife.net)

**Meet Mandy!**



#R251 00 00 60  
Sweet Staffy mix pup ready for a life of love and adventure.  
61 Piper Drive Ballina  
[nras.org.au/adoptions](http://nras.org.au/adoptions)  
Ph 6681 1860



**ONLY ADULTS**

**BALLINA EXCLUSIVE**  
34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late.  
In & Out Calls. 66816038. Ladies wanted  
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

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

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

**MONTHLY MARKETS**

1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415	<b>FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS</b>
1st SUN Byron Bay	02 6685 6807	Each TUE New Brighton
2nd SUN The Channon	02 6688 6433	Each TUE Organic Lismore
2nd SUN Chillingham	0428 793 141	Each WED Murwillumbah 7-11
2nd SUN Coolangatta		Each WED Nimbin 3-6pm
2nd SUN Tabulam		Each WED Newrybar Hall 4-7pm
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370	Each THU Byron 8-11am
3rd SAT Murwillumbah	0415 328 672	Each THU Lismore 2:30-6:30pm
3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina		Each FRI Mullum 7-11am
3rd SUN Federal	0433 002 757	Each FRI Evans Head 2:30-6:30
3rd SUN Uki	0487 329 150	Each SAT Bangalow 8-11am
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338	Each SAT Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)
4th SAT Evans Head	0432 275 765	Each SAT Uki 8am-1pm
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar <a href="http://kyoglebazaar.com.au">kyoglebazaar.com.au</a>		Each SAT Lismore 8:30-11am
4th SUN Bangalow	02 6687 1911	Each SAT Wadeville 8am-12pm
4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764	Each SAT Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr
4th SUN Murwillumbah	0415 328 672	Each SUN Ballina 7-11am
4th SUN Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)		
5th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764	

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

**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, flooding... 132 500  
**BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE** Primary rescue..... 6685 1999  
**BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER**..... 6685 0148  
**BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL**..... 6639 9400  
**BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS**..... 6622 7022  
**NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE** (Mullumbimby) ..... 6684 1286  
**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** 24 hour crisis line..... 1800 656 463  
**LIFELINE**..... 131 114  
**MENSLINE**..... 1300 789 978  
**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** 24 hours ..... 1800 423 431  
**AL-ANON** Help for family and friends of alcoholics ..... 1300 252 666  
**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** Meets daily ..... 6680 7280  
**NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE**..... 6687 2520  
**HIV/AIDS - ACON** Confidential testing & information ..... 6622 1555  
**ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)** ..... 6622 1881  
**NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS**..... 6628 1866  
**KOALA HOTLINE** ..... 6622 1233  
**WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service**... 6628 1898

# Community at Work

## On The Horizon

### DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Email copy marked 'On The Horizon' to [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au).

#### Bangalow community

The next general meeting for the Bangalow Community Association (BCA) will be held on Tuesday, 18 March at 7pm, at the Men's Shed, 1 Deacon Street (off Station St carpark). All 2479 postcode dwellers are invited to attend the BCA meeting and discuss currently active Bangalow development and infrastructure matters. Informed feedback from an engaged and collaborative community helps to achieve significantly better outcomes for our village, so come along and join the conversation.

#### AIR

The next meeting of the Australian Independent Retirees (AIR) will be held on Friday, March 7 at the Ballina RSL Club, 1 Grant Street, Ballina at 10am, socialising from 9.30am. The guest speaker will be Patricia Wilson, accompanied by Lynne Pramana who will discuss the workings of Pimlico Ballina District Museum. Fee of \$5. Enquiries contact the President, Jill Huxley on 6686 8958.

#### Mullumbimby CWA Honours Life Member

Mullumbimby CWA is celebrating Elna Bostock's remarkable 60 years of membership and her recent Life Membership Award, the first in the

branch's 80-year history. Elna has been a dedicated member since 1964, holding multiple roles, including President, Secretary, and Handicraft Officer. The branch also honours the memory of Betty Byrnes, a valued Branch Patron, who recently passed away. Members catered for her funeral and formed a Guard of Honour in recognition of her service. Betty's paintings and handcrafted works were treasured by many. Mullumbimby CWA meets on the second Wednesday of each month, and Handicraft Mornings are held on the fourth Wednesday from 9:30am to 11:30am.

#### Chair yoga at Byron Bay Library

As part of NSW Seniors Festival 2025, Byron Bay Library presents Chair Yoga for seniors. This easy yoga covers all movements based around a chair and is perfect for anyone with joint or mobility issues. Session 10.30 till 11.30am on Friday, March 14. Bookings essential 6685 8540 or online [www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au).

#### Prostate Cancer Support

The next meeting of the Northern Rivers Day Prostate Cancer Support Group is to be held on Wednesday, March 12, 10am until 12 noon at the Alstonville Plateau Sports Club,

Deegan Drive, Alstonville. Men previously and newly diagnosed with prostate cancer are urged to join with the group to experience the personal cancer stories told which give a great opportunity for all to share, learn and benefit from each other. Partners and carers are also welcome as family are very much involved with the process and treatment of those with this diagnosis. Enquiries phone Bob Corney 0493 075 612.

#### Autism and neurodiversity

A free workshop on autism and neurodiversity is being run at the Byron Youth Service (YAC). Parents, carers, and people who work with youth are invited to a free half-day workshop with Jodi Rodgers (counsellor on the TV series 'Love on the Spectrum'), being held on Monday, March 17, from 1pm to 4pm, at The YAC, in Byron Bay. Workshop topics will include the latest insights on autism and neurodiversity; practical strategies for creating inclusive environments; and ways to increase communities capacity to understand and support neurodivergent young people. Bookings are essential. For more information or to book call Rosalie on 0431 524 044 or email [rosalie@bys.org.au](mailto:rosalie@bys.org.au).

#### Byron Book Fair

Friends of Libraries Byron Shire are once again holding their annual four-day Book Fair from Friday, July 11 to Monday, July 14. Donations of books of all genres are needed and always gratefully received, in clean

and good condition. Highlighting the need for children's books, art and limited editions to name a few. For more information and to donate call Janene 0407 855 022.

#### Free health event

Are you interested in improving your health and reducing your cost of living? Come along to the free self-sufficiency talk on Thursday, March 13 from 11am to 1pm at Fairy Hill Hall, 11560 Summerland Way, Fairy Hill. Further information contact: [jenjones660@gmail.com](mailto:jenjones660@gmail.com).

#### AGM Sanctuary Northern Rivers

The Annual General Meeting for Sanctuary Northern Rivers Inc will be held on Tuesday, March 11 at 6pm (gathering from 5.30pm) at the Church Hall, Cnr Rous Road and Pleasant Street, Goonellabah.

#### 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](http://worlddayofprayeraustralia.org) and [biblesociety.org.au/wdp](http://biblesociety.org.au/wdp).

## 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](mailto:editor@echo.net.au).

#### Bruns U3A

Lifelong learning for retired seniors in your third age. We enjoy a variety of interest groups. Tuesday forum, garden group, foodies, movie and lunch group, men's shed, French revisited, Scottish folk dance, mahjong, walkers and talkers, shabashi, table tennis, and chess. Interested? check out [brua.org](http://brua.org) or contact Denise on 0423 778 573.

#### 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](http://www.exitinternational.net) or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina & South Tweed) or Peter 0429 950 352 (Ballina).

#### 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](mailto:temcmahon15@outlook.com).

#### 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.mdcn.org.au](http://www.mdcn.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](http://www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au). **Byron Seniors Club:** [www.byronseniors.com.au](http://www.byronseniors.com.au). More info on **Community Services:** [www.byroncentre.com.au](http://www.byroncentre.com.au) Phone: (02) 6685 6807.

#### Low-cost or free food

**Food Box Thursdays** 9.30-11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **The Hub Baptist Church** in Ocean Shores has food relief available for anyone doing it tough, please contact us on 0434 677747 if you find yourself doing

it tough. No ID or Concession Card required. NILs referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details. **Liberation Larder** Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre.

#### 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](mailto:fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au), website: [www.byronrespite.com.au](http://www.byronrespite.com.au).

#### Alateen meeting

Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5-6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8-16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert's Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 [al-anon.org.au](http://al-anon.org.au).

#### ACA

Adult Children of Alcoholic Parents and/or dysfunctional families (ACA) help & recovery group meets in Lismore every Friday 10-11.30am, Red Dove Centre, 80 Keen Street. Byron meetings are on Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom - meeting ID 554 974 582 password byronbay.

#### Drug support groups

Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 - 30 meetings a week in the Shire - [www.aa.org.au](http://www.aa.org.au). Are you experiencing difficulties and challenges because of the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Learn coping skills and gain support from others. **Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings call 1300 652 820 or text your postcode to 0488 811 247. [www.aa.org.au](http://www.aa.org.au)



[na.org.au](http://na.org.au). Are you concerned about somebody else's drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** meetings held Fridays at 2pm by Zoom. 1300 252666 [www.al-anon.org.au](http://www.al-anon.org.au).

#### Support after suicide

StandBy provides support to people who have lost someone to suicide. They provide free face-to-face and telephone support and are accessible 24/7. Follow-up contact is available for up to one year. Find out more at: [www.standbysupport.com.au](http://www.standbysupport.com.au) or call 13 11 14. If you, or someone you are with, are in need of immediate support please call an ambulance or police on 000.

#### Volunteer call out

Support for New Mums Inc. a Northern NSW community program are recruiting volunteers in the Byron Shire. We offer a free of charge, home visiting program for mothers with babies. For more information email Deb: [newmums8@gmail.com](mailto:newmums8@gmail.com).

#### Carers' support

Mullumbimby Mental Health Carers' Support Group for family members and friends who have a loved one with a mental health issue. Meeting on 4th Thursday of each month 9.30am at the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre. Info: Susanne 0428 716 431.

#### Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, [mazzzerati2010@gmail.com](mailto:mazzzerati2010@gmail.com).

#### Older adult exercise

Chair-based older adults exercise classes run by a qualified instructor, that feel more like fun than exercise, are held every Thursday at 10.15am in the Brunswick Memorial Hall. Cost \$10. All welcome. Just show up or if you have any questions please contact Di on 0427 026 935.

## 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  
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 Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high.  
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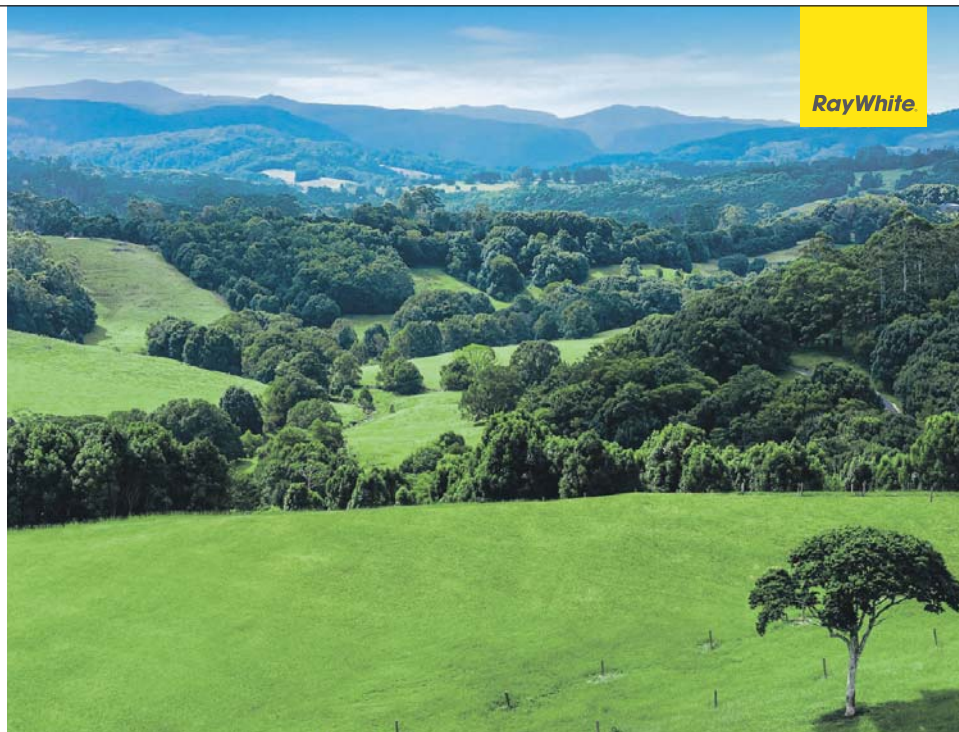
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- 16 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Fri 10–10.30am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 10.45–11.15am
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 11.30am–12pm
- 1 Driftwood Avenue, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 16 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 9–9.30am
- 346 Coorabell Road, Coorabell. Sat 9–9.30am
- 24 Swell Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 9–9.30am
- 55 Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30am
- 11/31 Hayters Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10–10.30am
- 5/43 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.30–11am
- 54 Carlyle Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.15–11.45am
- 325 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 11.30am–12pm

- 845 Fernleigh Road, Brooklet. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 49 Carlyle Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 135 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 1–1.30pm
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- 19 Marshall Street, Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am

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- 5/112 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 1/134 Alcorn Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 9–9.30am
- 13/41-43 Shirley 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
- 70 Foxs Lane, Tyagarah. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 355 Coopers Shoot Road, Coopers Shoot. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 70 Charltons Road, Federal. Sat 1.30–2pm

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- 35 Riverside Drive, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.45am–12.15pm
- 159 Tintenbar Road, Tintenbar. Sat 1–1.30pm

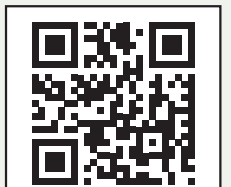
## New listings

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### Ray White Rural Bangalow

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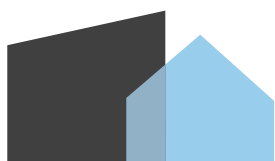
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A free Mullum workshop 'Your Life Matters' is on March 13 from 9.30am till 3pm at the golf club, and organisers say highly experienced facilitators will teach participants how to build resilience, manage emotions and recognise burnout. Call Quest on 1300 941 488 to register or visit [questforlife.org.au](http://questforlife.org.au).

The third annual Northern Rivers Economic Breakfast will be held on March 13 at Ballina RSL, from 7am to 9.30am. It is hosted by Business NSW, and tickets are available at [tinyurl.com/yay6ydwj](http://tinyurl.com/yay6ydwj).

'This week all 39 Australian universities ruled that any criticism of Israel could be considered antisemitic. Can you name me another genocidal state that it would be illegal to criticise in a history thesis? This is an authoritarian assault on anti-imperialism, on standing for humanity, on truth, and it was put through parliament by the Australian Labor Party's Josh Burns' - from David Milner's article, Nazi oligarchs have seized treasury control of an authoritarian White House and everyone seems kinda chill about it ([theshot.net.au](http://theshot.net.au)).

Stone & Wood has postponed their IWD event 'Shift the



The front room at Mullum's Civic Memorial Hall has become a new art space with six upcoming three-day art exhibitions planned. The first is being launched on the weekend of March 7-9. Artists can submit their art for Negative Space In Sculpture by March 15 at [www.3dayart.com.au](http://www.3dayart.com.au). Ceramists pictured clockwise from left; Jacqui Sos, Suvira McDonald, Jenn Johnson and Katie Pink. Photo Jeff 'In The Mud' Dawson

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Frame' owing to the weather forecast. The event will now take place on April 10.

The NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) will host an information session at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall for businesses to learn about the online Business Beyond Disasters program. It runs from 8.30am to 10am, on Thursday, March 6.

Ten years ago in *The Echo*, we reported that: 'A new not-for-profit charity that aims to work with women who are homeless or at risk of homelessness has just been established for Byron Bay'. Happy tenth birthday, SHIFT!

America is finally being run like a business! A business acquired by a private equity firm which is stripping it for parts before being liquidated.

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