

Echo

I DOUBT THEREFORE I MAYBE

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 39 #40 • March 12, 2025 • www.echo.net.au



Could have been much worse?

DV charges against Cr Lyon withdrawn

Photo & story David Lowe

Criminal charges against former Byron Shire mayor and current councillor, Michael Lyon, were withdrawn in Tweed Heads Court House on Tuesday.

Appearing via video link before Magistrate Lisa Stapleton, Shaun Croner of the DPP said that the charges of contravention of an Apprehended Violence Order (AVO), and stalk/intimidation (both dating from October 21, 2024) were being withdrawn.

Police prosecutors in court appeared unprepared for this decision.

'It was on the order of Magistrate Stapleton that all four charges were dismissed,' Mr Lyon's lawyer John Weller told *The Echo*.

'An Interim AVO is still in place with condition 1 only.'

As for the AVO matter itself, Magistrate Stapleton deferred that matter until March 17. She noted that the AVO remains in legal effect at this stage.

Michael Lyon chose to say nothing to the media.

The Echo has sought comment from the DPP about why all charges were dropped.



Cr Michael Lyon, pictured right, outside Tweed Heads Court House with his lawyer, John Weller.

South Wall at Bruns was heaving with the swell and plenty of onlookers as Tropical Cyclone Alfred approached. Photo Ziggi Browning
► See more photos of the local Tropical Cyclone Alfred experience in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au/tropical-cyclone-alfred-in-pictures

With the threat of further flooding now dissipated, an enormous cleanup job lies ahead in the aftermath of Tropical Cyclone Alfred (TCA).

Beaches in Northern NSW and South East Qld have been severely eroded, and the extensive damage to roads and other infrastructure will again test local government finances.

Power outages affected more than 300,000 homes and businesses across both states. Essential Energy said on Tuesday morning that there were 'just over 7,600 homes and businesses without power, mainly

in the Northern Rivers region.'

Houses and cars have also been damaged, primarily by falling trees and floodwaters.

Byron's 120km/h gust

Byron Bay recorded the highest wind gust at 120km/h.

On Wednesday last week, the warning of a category 2 cyclone hitting the region was made well in advance, including fears that it would coincide with abnormally high tides on Friday.

Three evacuation centres were established in the Byron Shire by the NSW Department of

Communities and Justice (DCJ): Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club; Ocean Shores Country Club and the Cavanbah Centre (Ewingsdale Road, Byron Bay).

On Wednesday, SES advised Belongil residents to prepare for evacuation. On Thursday, Billinudgel and The Pocket residents were advised to evacuate before 9pm.

On Friday, as the storm's impact grew close, power lines went down, impacting 43,000 north coast homes and businesses. SES directed Mullumbimby, South Golden Beach and Ocean Shores residents to evacuate before 8am Saturday. The

M1 was closed from Ewingsdale to Chinderah, and schools also closed.

Council staff said power outages affected the majority of their sewer pump stations and some sewage treatment plants were running on generators. Mullumbimby residents were asked to be mindful of their water use, as the town's water treatment plant was unable to process water 'because of high turbidity in the water in Lavertys Gap weir'.

On Saturday, three Norfolk pines in Byron Bay were removed under Council staff instruction, owing to
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Fresh off the plane and into a storm

Photo & story Jeff Dawson

Chinese visitors, Zhixidia and Chaoping Li, arrived into Sydney on March 4 to pick up their camper van, and were on their way to Cairns when Cyclone Alfred hit.

While they have limited English, they had GPS navigation.

When they were diverted from the M1 at Ewingsdale on Friday, the GPS took them through Mullumbimby, and told them the nearest fuel was at Crabbes Creek.

OS evac centre

Their story was translated by Ocean Shores resident, Crystal Croft, who was a Chinese speaker sheltering at the Ocean Shores Country Club evacuation centre.

A woman at the Crabbes



Chinese visitors, Zhixidia and Chaoping Li.

Creek Store guided them to the Yelgun rest area.

Chaoping Li, a retired geography teacher said, 'Another woman, who had lived in Shanghai, asked us how we were. We told them we were okay, but had no water.'

'She took us to the Ocean Shores Country Club

evacuation centre, where we were offered hot showers and breakfast. We are so humbled by the generosity and friendliness of everyone we have met here.

'We have heard a lot about Byron Bay, and are keen to go and see what it's all about.'

Register to vote! It really does count

Aslan Shand

Five years ago, young people were marching in the streets demanding change – across the globe, they were coming together in climate marches that were impacting politics around the world.

Marginal seat

Greens councillor Elia Hauge, the youngest Byron Shire Councillor to be elected, told *The Echo*, 'It is your way to have direct power over not only our political system, but especially the laws that impact you. This is particularly the case in a marginal seat like Richmond in the upcoming

federal election. Your vote will make a difference.'

'Key issues that keep coming up are housing and climate change when I speak to young people. Registering to vote is one clear way that people can make change and let politicians know what they want.

'It is important to remind anyone who has moved here that they need to change their address to vote in this marginal seat.'

Avery, who says they would vote Labor if they could, says that voting should be opened up to anyone from 16-years.

'I don't see any significant changes from 16 to 18 in

young people's understanding,' they told *The Echo*.

'I think voting should be open to 16-year-olds who want to vote, it shouldn't be compulsory, but there are many young people who are very aware of the issues that will impact their future.'

'We are the ones who are going to be most affected by the choices that politicians are making today and we should have the right to voice our opinions,' added Avery.

Once the election is called, there will only be a short time to enrol – so get onto it today. If you are 18, or will be 18 at the next election, you can enrol to vote at www.aec.gov.au/enrol.

Federal heritage protections rejected

Paul Bibby

Byron Council's attempt to protect the character of Federal Village by introducing formally zoned heritage protections have received a negative response from landowners in the town and may now be abandoned.

In June last year councilors voted to begin the process of creating a Heritage Conservation Area in Federal, as a way of ensuring that buildings of particular significance did not lose their character through renovations, additions or other changes that break from tradition.

22 sites pegged

The 22 sites in the conservation area, along with an additional 24 sites sprinkled around the town, would have been subject to a particular heritage zoning that would have made such works unlawful.

However, when Council released its draft plans to the community for feedback, the response from Federal residents was a resounding 'no'.

Forty-five public submissions were received during the 28-day exhibition period and the vast majority did not support the proposed heritage conservation area, nor the additional listings.

The draft plan will come back before Council this week, with staff recommending that it be abandoned.

'The main reasons for objection included, but are not limited to; concern the property was not worthy of heritage listing; cost of maintenance; complexity



From page 20 of the upcoming March 13 meeting agenda.

of seeking approval for minor work such as painting; concern about impact on property values; and concerns regarding the community consultation process,' Council's land use planner, Cameron Theissen, said in his report on the issue.

'Thirteen landowners specifically objected to the establishment of a Heritage Conservation Area, and three were in support.'

Council has a policy of not including properties in heritage conservation areas if the owner is not in favour of the move.

This is done to, in the words of staff, 'remove any perception that Council is imposing a heritage listing on a property without the support of affected landowners.'

Not only are most of the private landowners not in favour of having their properties heritage listed, but those responsible for the public sites included in the proposal have objected as well.

'It is recommended that the listing of the proposed Crown Land sites be removed from the planning

proposal owing to land zoning conflicts and the existence of an Aboriginal Land Claim on one of the sites,' Mr Theissen said.

Federal Park and tennis court

'Council-owned Federal Park and tennis court are also removed from the planning proposal at the request of Council's Manager Open Spaces and Facilities.'

Given the objections of the various owners and agencies involved, staff have recommended that councilors abandon the planning proposal.

Should this happen, formal, legal protection of Federal's heritage would rely on the current Byron DCP, which sets out a 'Heritage Character Area' that includes many of the town's oldest houses.

This imposes some planning controls on these areas but they are significantly less stringent than those that would apply if a formally zoned heritage conservation area were to be introduced.

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Clean up underway after Tropical Cyclone Alfred

► Continued from page 1
them being unstable. One tree was in Jonson Street and two were in Apex Park, near the Byron Bay Surf Club.

Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye told *The Echo* on Tuesday, 'What was clear to me through this is that it's our local services and service providers that were able to respond best and who know our community best, our local businesses that were open throughout, or quick to open, and there's definitely some lessons to be learnt about that in emergency disaster response going forward'.

Dodged a bullet

'We dodged a bullet in many ways, and when you see some of the surrounding rainfall levels and wind speeds, if they had hit us, and they could have, we would've seen a lot more damage and the flooding of course would've been a lot worse.'

'We still have people without power and there is likely to be some damage to infrastructure, but having those early warnings meant that people were more prepared both physically and mentally for the event.'

Preparation

'Council were also able to prepare by clearing drains, filling up the reservoir and ensuring our works sites were as prepared as possible.'

'The improved communications through levels of government, agencies, the Bureau of Meteorology, and between the states has been welcomed, as has the swift response.'

'One of the shining lights in this has been our community resilience networks (CRNs), CHUBs and THUBs. These are models that need to be expanded and better resourced going forward,' Cr Ndiaye added.



On Tuesday morning, two musos met at Byron's Railway Friendly Bar to bid farewell to the iconic fig tree, which toppled during Cyclone Alfred. Surfing legend Rusty Miller (percussion and harmonica) and award-winning filmmaker, Barry Ferrier, played their very first gig at The Rails in 1982. Rusty said, '[Publicans] Tom and Cath Mooney should be commended for providing local musos with a unique venue for great local music, seven days a week, from the early '80s'. 'Tom and Cath planted the tree in 1990', said Dee Tipping, who was part of the Byron Bay town centre committee in the '90s. The Rails' licensee, Bradley Hill, added that after advice from several arborists, the regretful decision was made to remove the tree for safety reasons. But he assured concerned locals that efforts will be made to replace the Weeping Fig (*Ficus Benjamina*) with a mature tree. Photo Jeff 'Holding My Beer Since 1986' Dawson



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Greens outline disaster insurance plans

The cost of insurance and the behaviour of insurance companies looks set to become a major political issue in the wake of Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Insurers have declared Alfred an 'insurance catastrophe', which means priority should be given to those making a cyclone-related claim.

When asked by a reporter in Lismore this week, Labor Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said, 'We'll hold insurance companies to account' while urging them to do 'the right thing' by

making eligible payments immediately.

Earlier this year, Liberal opposition leader Peter Dutton was threatening the industry with state intervention if they didn't lift their game, a position quickly undermined by his own shadow ministry.

Last month, Greens candidate for Richmond, Mandy Nolan, helped launch the Greens new national policy on insurance, which would require coal, gas, and oil companies to contribute more to the reinsurance pool, to help cover the cost

of increasingly frequent climate-fuelled disasters.

She said, 'The Northern Rivers has among the most costly and least affordable insurance premiums in the country, with widespread local outrage about the behaviour of companies since the catastrophic 2022 floods'.

'The Greens have a clear and costed policy to make polluters pay, and reduce the cost of insurance for everyone else,' says Nolan.

'While people are struggling to pay massively increased bills, insurance

companies made mammoth profits last year, and CEOs are walking away with major increases to their pay packets,' says Ms Nolan.

'The Greens say they plan a raft of insurance reforms, including removing stamp duty from house and car insurance, tougher rules forcing insurance companies to explain premium costs, one-off grants of up to \$20,000 to all single-dwelling households in high-risk flood or cyclone zones to subsidise the costs of flood-proofing the house, and forcing polluters to pay,' she added.

Senate report highlights underfunded councils

A new federal government Senate report has highlighted the worsening skills and funding crisis facing local governments right across Australia.

Australian Services Union (ASU) National Secretary, Emeline Gaske, said of the Senate's *Interim Report into Local Government Sustainability*, 'The roads we rely on, the community halls where people gather, the libraries and childcare centres that families depend on are all under threat'.

'Despite local governments being the backbone of Australian communities, they were being set up to fail'.

'As the nation surveys the

damage from Cyclone Alfred and its impact on local infrastructure, the funding crisis affecting local government has been brought into sharp focus'.

'Particularly in emergencies, local governments are the lifeblood of our communities. They provide diverse essential services such as environmental management, childcare, libraries, waste collection, road maintenance, and emergency response'.

She said the ASU and local government members have known these issues for a long time.

The report is available at www.aph.gov.au.

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Can Bruns hold the weight of new gym's expansion?

Paul Bibby

Should the new gym in Brunswick Heads be allowed to increase its capacity, despite not having completed parking arrangements at its busy Tweed Street location?

This is the question facing councillors at this week's planning meeting.

Last year, councillors granted approval to Voglet Pty Ltd for a boutique gym and cafe at a 38 Tweed Street – a central spot where parking is in high demand.

In granting this approval, councillors took the somewhat unusual step of giving the owners of the business permission to begin operating the gym and cafe prior to implementing the new parking arrangements that had been agreed upon as part of the development.

The parking arrangements included the creation of 29 parking spaces on nearby Fingal Street.

Permission to operate prior to the introduction of the parking arrangements was conditional upon the gym's operation being limited to 20 patrons at any given time.

The owners are now requesting the removal of this 20-patron limit so that the business can operate at full capacity.

In documents accompanying the application, they state that the current restriction on patronage significantly impacts the gym's financial viability.

'Operating at 50 per cent capacity reduces the potential earnings by half, rendering the business unable to cover essential expenses, including staff wages, rent, and loan repayments,' planners hired by the owners state in the documents.

'Unfortunately, this would result in the gym being financially unsustainable until the completion of the carpark.'

'The owner of the building is committed to completing the required roadworks.'

'We trust that Council understands the importance of this adjustment to ensure the survival of a community-oriented facility, particularly given the substantial investments already made to comply with Council requirements.'

However, Council staff and a number of those living near the gym do not feel that removing the 20-patron cap is the best thing for the local community.

In their report on the matter, staff said that the owner was yet to submit the relevant paperwork in relation to the parking works it has promised to undertake.

The Council planner who completed the report in relation to the development, Jordan Vickers, said, '...the applicant has not in shown in good faith their commitment to meet the consent requirements, given the peculiarity of the soft opening arrangements granted by Council in the first place.'

A community objection letter submitted in relation to the modification application further states that surrounding residents have experienced adverse noise, parking, and traffic impacts since approval of this consent, despite the limited operation.

'We object to the modification regarding the operation of the gym, because we are already experiencing noise and parking and traffic issues,' said the objector, whose name has been withheld in accordance with Council policy.

'Cars are constantly parked illegally in Slessor Lane, deliveries are blocking the lane, cars are blocking the footpath, the increased traffic in Slessor Lane is causing issues with drivers going in both directions with no way of passing, residents cannot access the lane safely on foot or by car with increased traffic (and it is not local residents speeding up and down the lane looking for a parking spot).'

Staff say that there have also been other complaints made to Council in relation to the traffic and parking situation in and around the development since its opening.

Staff recommend refusal

They have recommended that the application be refused, arguing that allowing the development to operate without proper parking will have adverse impacts on the amenity of the neighbourhood and the built environment.

They further argue that the full-scale operation of the business without sufficient parking is not in the public interest, and will create an undesirable precedent.

'The lack of compliant parking provided for the development does not provide a good planning outcome ... and, in particular, the orderly and economic development of land and promoting good design and amenity of the built environment,' Mr Vickers said.

'It should be noted that conditions of consent are imposed to control and regulate the operation of an approved development.'

Ousama is ready for work

Russell Eldridge

After their home and livelihood were destroyed by civil war, Ousama Bloudani's family have settled in Brunswick Heads.

Now he needs a job.

The Bloudani family were recently featured in a story in *The Echo*, which triggered offers of land for Ousama to grow vegetables and fruit.

But he needs permanent employment. Ousama is a highly-skilled cement plasterer and also has a wealth of knowledge and experience of growing fruit trees and herbs on his farm back in Syria.

The Bloudanis were granted refugee status by the United Nations and accepted into Australia under a government program known as Community Refugee Integration and Settlement Pilot.

Ousama, his wife, Walaa, and their daughters Sana, 12, and Ghina, 11, are being hosted for a year by the Mullumbimby Refugee Support Group. They are being financially assisted by Northern Rivers For Refugees.

'I just passed my driving



Ousama Bloudani. Photo supplied

test, and I have a car, so I'm ready to work,' said a beaming Ousama at his Brunswick Heads home.

Drivers licence

The drivers licence was crucial to the family because of the poor, and expensive, public transport system in the region. A return bus trip to the supermarket costs the family \$40.

The family has settled well into the area, with both girls thriving at Mullumbimby schools. Ousama has been improving his English skills rapidly since taking lessons at TAFE.

His dream is one day to start his own landscaping business. 'I can combine my gardening and building skills,' Ousama said.

If anyone can help, please contact Ousama on 0484 578 864, or the Mullumbimby support group convenor Delhove Blennerhassett 0434 007 276.

For more information on refugee settlement in the Northern Rivers visit www.nrfr.org.au or email communications@nrfr.org.au.

■ Russell Eldridge is from Northern Rivers For Refugees.

Midwife to improve maternal outcomes in PNG

Local Murwillumbah midwife, Carolyn Hastie, is one of seven Australians volunteering their expertise in Papua New Guinea (PNG) from April 7 till April 11.

Organised by Rotary International, Carolyn will work with local midwives to help improve maternal and neonatal outcomes.

Angela Stavrogiannopoulos from Rotary International, says, 'PNG has one of the highest [rates of] preventable maternal and neonatal deaths in the world, and The Rotary Club of Morialta (South Australia) and Port Moresby (PNG) in partnership with PNG Midwifery Society



Midwife Carolyn Hastie. Photo supplied

this time, Carolyn and the midwives are allocated a buddy, who they work with through varied means of communication over a 12-month period.'

'Carolyn is PhD qualified and has a national and international reputation as a role model and leader in midwifery education and practice. She had the pleasure and privilege of being one of the first AusAID midwifery education facilitators in PNG in 2011, and still has connections with midwives in Port Moresby.'

To find out more about what Rotary do, visit www.rotary.org/en.

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From me to you...
Thank you to everyone who helped out during Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Emergency services, ADF, SES, RFS, Essential Energy, telecommunications, NBN, public servants and everyday volunteers have made such a difference. The Federal and State Governments are on the ground and here to help.

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

Visit www.justineelliot.com.au/alfred or call me on (07) 5523 4371 for information on recovery support and financial assistance that may be available to you.

Free health advice is available via Healthdirect on 1800 022 222 and free mental health support can be accessed via the NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511.

Justine Elliot MP

Your Federal Member for Richmond

My Community Care Team and Community Care Van are out across the area providing support and assistance.

Please check my Facebook page for the latest updates.



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Authorised J Elliot, ALP, 107 Minjungbal Dr Tweed Heads South



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All applications are required to be lodged by **9 April 2025**.

For further information contact Chrissy Haslem on (02) 6642 9213 or go to reservemanager.crownland.nsw.gov.au

A short history on successive governments'

Hans Lovejoy

A government-funded study by coastal engineers into beach erosion from Byron Bay to Hastings Point warned of ongoing erosion 47 years ago, and urged governments to act to prevent further loss of property.

Strap yourself in people, and let's dive into what coastal engineers suggest governments should do to protect coasts, and whether they are taking the advice.

The 1978 study, entitled, *The Byron Bay - Hastings Point Erosion Study*, was supported with a foreword by then-NSW Deputy Premier, Jack Ferguson.

Erosion causes

Ferguson wrote, 'The study represents two years of intensive work by a team of coastal engineering experts who have succeeded in identifying the causes of the erosion. They have also outlined a range of options for combating the problem'.

The study warns that the 'erosion threat will ultimately cause serious economic and social problems for the entire Byron



The 1978 Byron Bay-Hastings Point Erosion Study.

Bay-Hastings Point region'.

It reads, 'The investigation has clearly established the existence of a serious long-term erosion trend in the area which is shown to be the result of a natural sediment imbalance, evidenced by more sand leaving than entering the region'.

'There is a growing body of evidence that a situation of long-term beach erosion exists not only in the Byron Bay area, but along much of the NSW coastline. The sand is not returning to the beach system after storms, and the loss of sand is not being compensated for by new sources of beach-forming material'.

Recommendations

The study recommends measures such as the 're-zoning of affected areas', as well as 'an assistance scheme aimed at re-establishing families, industries and public assets well behind the hazard zones'.

'An insurance scheme to cover landowners against erosion is another possible solution'.

As for engineering solutions, the authors write, 'Another method of dealing with the erosion problem is the construction of engineering works such as seawalls, groynes, offshore breakwaters and sand nourishment programs'.

'A well-constructed seawall can protect properties against the sea for many years, but will eventually cause a reduction in the beach width, ultimately causing protected areas to become a boulder coast, as has already happened in front of the surf club area at Byron Bay. Loss of the beach would seriously reduce the tourist potential of the area.'

'Groynes are structures built perpendicular to

the coastline.

'Groynes do not prevent erosion, but they can be used to transfer to elsewhere.

'They can stabilise a section of the coast, while maintaining a sandy beachfront.

'A long-term maintenance program would ensure continuing protection.

'Offshore breakwaters are structures built parallel to the shore outside the surf zone.

They form an artificial reef on which waves break and reduce wave energy attacking the beach.

'They may change the surfing amenity of the beach and cause major changes to the current systems resulting in increased erosion to the north.

'Sand nourishment is the mechanical placement of sand on a beach. Nourishment sand provides a reservoir to feed the demand for sand by waves, thus minimising the erosion of the foreshores. However, sand nourishment depends upon the availability of sand resources for continuous maintenance which can be moved without causing problems in another area'.

► Continued opposite



As part of their 'Year of Service' at Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School our Class 9 students embark on a meaningful journey of volunteering, personal growth and hands-on learning.

Byron Bay RSL Lifecare, where students build heartfelt connections with residents.

Byron Bay Herb Nursery, gaining valuable experience supporting people with disabilities.

Beach clean-up gaining knowledge of the need to look after our community.

A talk from Fletcher Street Cottage, hearing the needs of those living rough in our Shire.

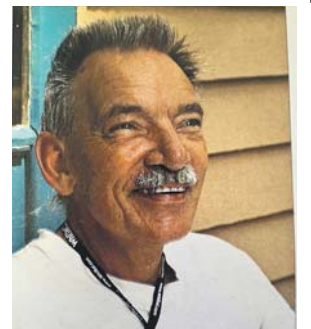
Five-day camp at Warrah Steiner Specialist School, working alongside carers and students with diverse needs giving help with hands-on projects to enhance the school.

Culminating in attaining their Duke of Edinburgh Award which recognises commitment, initiative and service to others.



Colin Davison

14.9.46 - 27.2.25



Colin passed peacefully in Byron Hospital. Loving husband to Dianne. Beloved father to Christiaan. Much Loved brother of Ian (dec) and Robert (dec). Brother-in-law to Warren Vout, Yvonne Clark (dec), Sarah Davison, Barbra Davison (dec). Uncle to Liane & Quita Davison, Craig Davison, Guy Robert Davison (dec), Bryan Davison, Lynn Blair, Lara & David Clark and families.

Colin was an Early Childhood Teacher at Mullumbimby Community Preschool for 40 years, where he loved sharing his knowledge of science, astronomy, history and art with the children and parents. A friend, mentor and scholar. Never an unkind word to anyone and a true gentleman to the end.

He will be so missed by us all.

We would like to thank our families, the many friends, neighbours and Mullumbimby Preschool staff and parents, who found the time for regular visits or offers of help and support over the past seven years. Thank you to Warren Vout, Trish Muir, Peter & Paula Bowles, Paul Guthrie, Cindy Soric, Elaine Stenner, Crangles & Reynolds families, Jenny Batson & Jeferson Franke for helping us navigate this journey through difficult times.

Thank you to Feros Care team: Eloise, Tess, Kyla, Kerry, Dale, Eve, Jethro - Physio, Paul & Gayle - O/T team. Your support and care of Colin and the family over the past year has been amazing. Anna Jones from Guide Dogs who worked with Colin for over seven years helping him adapt to living with sight impairment. What a difference you made to our lives with your expertise and advice.

THANK YOU to Dr Peter Bowles, Dr Rob Lodge & staff. Dr Bronwyn Hudson & staff for the wonderful care of many years. Dr Filipe Soares Rocha & nurses and staff at Meadows Medical Centre, doctors & nursing staff at Byron Hospital, Tweed Hospital & Murwillumbah Rehab Hospital. Craig, Dan & staff at Soul Pattinson Chemist and staff at Sullivan Nicolaidis Pathology Mullumbimby.

"It takes a village to raise a child", but this village also helped Colin keep up his spirits, gave him quality of life and showed love and support to the family over the past seven years.

THANK YOU

Private cremation. Ashes will be taken to sea when humpback whales are migrating.

lacklustre attempts at coastal protection

► From previous page

From protection to management

Coastal engineer and former Pittwater Council general manager, Angus Gordon OAM, was one of the authors of the study.

As a result of that study, Mr Gordon became involved in the drafting and implementation of the *NSW Coastal Protection Act 1979*, which was later replaced in 2016 by the *Coastal Management Act*. Mr Gordon was also involved with the formation of that law. At 78 years young, he has more than 40 years of experience with coastal engineering, coastal management and planning projects.

Mr Gordon told *The Echo* the only workable solution to erosion is not developing on coastlines or using sand nourishment programs, which are expensive. Such programs exist on the Gold Coast, for example.

He says *The Coastal Protection Act 1979*, for all its flaws, did place coastal and development protection at the forefront.

'Under that Act, there were



Angus Gordon OAM.
Photo supplied

also coastal panels, chaired by experts, which guided development and management. I was on this panel.

'In the late '80s, Byron Council adopted a policy of planned retreat.

'It was applied throughout different times, and included the requirement that coastal buildings be removable.

'But political changes within Byron Council made it unreliable as a policy, and it wasn't helped by the Land & Environment Court.

'The court championed some pretty dumb solutions with coastal management – they don't have expertise in the field or local knowledge.

'Another issue is the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979 (EP&A*

Act), which doesn't properly define natural hazards, and instead they are just taken note of. It treats everything as discretionary, or as a consideration, i.e. distance of setbacks for example'.

The EP&A needs a major review, Mr Gordon says, to define natural hazards.

Plans v programs

'When the *Coastal Management Act* was introduced in 2016, NSW governments moved away from being responsible for coastal management, leaving it to councils.

'Under the 1979 law, there were Coastal Management Plans (CMPs) which councils could develop.

'In the watered down 2016 Act, they are called Coastal Management Programs (CMPs). It was a long drawn-out fight with the department of planning, who wanted to get their way.

'To make the 2016 Act work, councils need a coastal State Environmental Planning Policy (SEPP), and it took two years before that was put in place.

'While Coastal Management Programs focus on

whole of embayment planning, the SEPP focuses on individual DAs, for example.

'In 2025, I am not aware of a NSW council that has an entire CMP in place. Newcastle has a partial one.

'Under the Act, the environment minister can override councils if they haven't completed their CMP'.

Additionally, Mr Gordon says state planning panels and local governments now decide coastal DAs, and often expert advice is missing from decision making.

'The only solution I see is the Californian model – they have a coastal commission which administers their Act. One here could help councils develop and implement council's CMPs'.

'By way of example, the recent introduction of a building commissioner in NSW has cleaned up the industry and made a positive difference.

'Is there a strategy for the coast of NSW? No, it's the SES', he added.

Asked whether dredging of rivers could alleviate flooding, Mr Gordon says it can, 'though sand builds up quickly at the river's ocean entrance'.

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

Parts of Lismore return home with caution

As parts of Lismore return home with caution, the NSW SES is advising Northern NSW communities to remain vigilant and continue to listen to advice from emergency services.

Man charged after trying to steal SES boat

A man faced court on March 4 after being charged for allegedly attempting to steal a NSW SES boat near Lismore.

Injured ADF members on Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred duty recovering

All 13 Australian Defence Force personnel injured in a truck crash near Lismore on an Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred mission are reportedly recovering well.

Burns Point Ferry closes due to cyclone

Due to the severe weather impacts of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, the Burns Point Ferry ceased operations until the danger had passed.

Disaster recovery agency doubles its executives

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.

Ballina Shire Council emergency update

Ballina Shire Council continues to monitor conditions across the Ballina Shire, identifying any emerging issues and prioritising repairs to ensure public safety and service restoration as they shift focus to recovery efforts.

Public Information and Inquiry Centre closes

They are reminding members of the public in flood-affected areas are reminded to avoid dangers such as damaged power lines and floodwater on roads as they return to their communities.

www.echo.net.au

Free CPR training empowering Cabarita and Pottsville



The first free CPR training was provided by the Cabarita Beach Pottsville Beach Lions Club on Monday, February 24. Photo supplied

Aslan Shand

Saving lives is the driving force behind the Cabarita Beach Pottsville Beach Lions Club's free CPR training that was first delivered on Monday, February 24.

Their pilot program was rolled out with 18 attendees and was inspired by an initiative of the Mildura Lions Club in Victoria.

'We first came across an article in the Lions International Magazine in August 2024 when Hands On Heart Australia was launched through the Mildura Lions Club and thus began our journey,' said Bill Brodie, President of Cabarita Beach Pottsville Beach Lions Club.

The Hands on Heart Australia was started by Graeme Tulloch who suffered a sudden cardiac arrest in 2014, and his friend Phil Kettle, one of Australia's most successful children's authors, whose brother had

lost his life to cardiac arrest.

Graeme's life was saved by the first person that stopped when he had his cardiac arrest who fortunately knew how to administer CPR. Together Graeme and Phil decided they would like to put back into the community and approached Mildura Lions Club who agreed to become involved in this community initiative.

Working closely with Angela Iazard First Aid Services Mildura the first free CPR course was offered to people in the Mildura and surrounding areas in May 2023. They are looking to have 1,800 people in basic CPR over three years.

Pottsville and Cabarita inspired

Inspired by this model the Cabarita Beach Pottsville Beach Lions are aiming to train an additional 300 individuals locally in basic

CPR over the next two years.

'Our goal is to empower our community with the skills and confidence to save lives,' said Mr Brodie.

'We will be focusing on year six children and youth as this is the generation that can make a difference.'

The training provider, Pacific Coast First Aid, will conduct face-to-face basic CPR and defibrillator training with no pre-course work required. This course is a non-accredited course.

'CPR awareness (including the performance of CPR) and the use of the Defibrillator have been identified as having a relatively low awareness in our community,' explained Mr Brodie.

A person suffering cardiac arrest or heart attack in public (or at home) is heavily reliant on bystanders providing potentially lifesaving CPR.'

Find out more here: <https://lionscbpb.org.au>.

Driver rescued from floodwaters now charged with drink driving – Loftville

A man has been charged with middle-range PCA after being stuck in floodwaters south of Lismore.

About 9.15am on Monday, 10 March, police patrolling South Lismore in response to ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred were called to assist a driver at Caniaba Road, Loftville.

Officers attached to Traffic and Highway Patrol Command attended and

found a 55-year-old man had attempted to cross a flooded section of the road in a 4WD when the vehicle became stuck.

Breath tested

The man was assisted out of the water by Police Rescue and SES crews.

The man was subjected to a breath test at the scene which returned a positive result.

He was taken to Casino Police Station where he was subject to a breath analysis which returned an alleged reading of 0.086.

The 55-year-old man was issued a Field Court Attendance Notice for driving with middle-range PCA to appear before Lismore Local Court on Wednesday, 19 March.

His licence was also suspended.

Free legal help available for cyclone-affected residents

Legal Aid NSW lawyers say they are on standby to provide free legal help to people impacted by Tropical Cyclone Alfred in NSW.

Legal Aid's Disaster Response Legal Service (DRLS) can advise people about issues relating to insurance claims, tenancy problems, accessing disaster grants and payments, financial hardship, family violence and employment.

Disaster solicitor Ma'ata Solofoni said people impacted by severe weather events can get free legal advice about making an insurance claim. This includes situations where an insurer has declined a claim or where people are unsure if damage is covered by their policy.

'The earlier someone seeks legal advice, the better the outcome. We can assist by negotiating with insurers to resolve any issues with the claims process if your home has been damaged by recent

weather events. We can also provide advice on what people should do straight away and whether damage is likely to be covered,' she said.

'We often assist people who need immediate help accessing support such as temporary accommodation provided through their insurer, or help negotiating urgent repairs for their damaged rental property or challenging an eviction. We also help with advice about eligibility for disaster grants or payments, and we support people negotiating with employers if their work is affected.'

How to get help

Anyone needing legal help can call the DRLS Helpline on 1800 801 529 or visit the website. Legal Aid also has a specialist, mobile team available and ready to respond including lawyers based in the Northern Rivers and Coffs Harbour regions.

Are Ballina's pools too expensive?

David Lowe

Ballina's Council's last meeting saw a motion from Cr Simon Chate to review swimming pool admission prices, particularly for families, because of the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Margaret van Dommele made a deputation in support of the motion, saying that she learned to swim in a public pool as a child, and later became a champion junior diver as a result. She said that the 'much higher' price of pool entry today made regular visits impossible for many families, especially those with multiple children.

She noted that cheaper family passes were available at pools beyond Ballina Shire, such as in Goonellabah and Lismore.

Cr Chate described the current pricing regime as 'a weak spot' in Ballina's charging situation. 'We've currently got a family pass available for the annual and three-monthly pass, but our family pass is designed only for two adults and two children, or one adult and three children.'

'But what about our larger families? What about families with one or two adults and five or six children? The cost can be quite prohibitive.'

Cr Chate said he wasn't asking for reduced general costs, but for Council staff to review entry fees with a view to finding a cheaper alternative for larger families, all on the same Medicare card.

Amendment fails

Cr Therese Crollick supported this motion, but added an amendment to look at adding a monthly pool ticket option, saying that pool managers frequently reported public requests for this option. This amendment didn't find enough support to proceed.

Cr Eva Ramsey wanted to put on the record that Ballina's pools were already running at 'a huge deficit' and that fees needed to be structured to cover that, as well as maintenance costs. Cr Damian Loone made the same point.

Cr Simon Chate said it was not the responsibility of people with larger families to keep Ballina Council's deficit down. 'This is not on them... all of our ratepayers are paying rates.'

After further debate, Cr Chate's motion succeeded, despite the opposition of Mayor Cadwallader, Cr Simon Kinny and Cr Damian Loone.

Cr Phil Meehan did not attend the meeting.

Farmers donate organic produce outside supermarket



Adam said he drove up from Sydney with a boat in tow ready to help out in Lismore after Tropical Cyclone Alfred hit. He started by giving out fresh produce in Goonellabah.

Story & photo Mia Armitage

More essential supplies are expected to return to the Northern Rivers today after chronic shortages across the region ever since Cyclone Alfred's risks first became urgent late last week.

Supermarket shelves on high ground near Lismore in Goonellabah's three major supermarkets were again empty of most fresh produce including fruit, veggies, meat, dairy, eggs and bread on Sunday afternoon.

Help came in the form of free fresh produce given away outside Goonellabah's Coles supermarket late Sunday afternoon as the severely low-stocked store was due to close.

Sydneysider returns to Lismore to help

Adam, who declined to share his last name, said he drove up from Sydney with a boat in tow ready to help if needed.

He said he stopped at the organic Five Sixty Farms in South Gundurimba, halfway

between Coraki and Lismore, along the way, having met the farmers at the last floods in 2022 when he and others were helping them.

'This time I've been up here nice and early before the flood, hopefully,' the Good Samaritan told *The Echo* and Bay FM, 'we got up here to help here as many people as we could.'

Adam said he was thankful the weather event hadn't been as bad as in 2022.

The Five Sixty Farms usually sold produce at all the farmers' markets, he said, but they were cancelled over the weekend owing to the severe weather and associated alerts.

'We thought we'd better bring it here and offer it to the people for free,' Adam said, 'we don't want any money for it, we're just here to help the people.'

The Sydneysider gestured to the supermarket as he spoke.

'The people are in need there, you know,' he said, 'they've got nothing on the shelves, so what better place to do it?'

Boil water alerts lifted

After consulting with NSW Health, Tweed Shire Council advises that tap water is now safe to drink for all residents in Bilambil Heights, Terranora and Banora Point, effective immediately.

Testing confirms the water supply system is safe.

There is no longer a public health concern over the quality of drinking water, and it is now considered safe for all typical uses including drinking, preparing food and beverages, personal washing, dishwashing, laundry purposes and flushing toilets.

Tweed Shire Council has worked closely with NSW Health over the past several days to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.

To protect the health of the community, all broken water mains have been repaired and water quality tested.

Tweed Shire Council and NSW Health will continue to closely monitor the situation.



The boil water alert for Bilambil Heights, Terranora and Banora Point has been lifted. Photo supplied

Flush system

Before drinking water, residents should flush-out affected water from their pipes with running water for 2 to 3 minutes, including the tap most distant from their water meter, which is usually in backyards.

Residents are asked to share this notice with neighbours and friends.

Tweed Shire Council would like to thank residents and businesses for their patience and understanding while we worked to resolve this issue.

Do not approach fallen power lines

Essential Energy have received a number of reports of the community approaching fallen powerlines and is reminding everyone in Northern NSW to stay at least eight metres away from fallen powerlines. Assume that these power lines are live and very dangerous as the impacts of Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred continues to cause damage to the electricity network.

If you see fallen powerlines or any trees on the network, please call 13 20 80 to report the location. Approximately 42,600 homes and businesses were without power across various communities from Tweed Heads south to Grafton at various points throughout the cyclone.

Crews are continuing to work to cleanup, repair and

restore wherever it is safe to do so.

The biggest challenges to getting power back on will be rising floodwaters and swollen creek beds, fallen vegetation and mud slides impacting access roads.

Community internet hubs

Additional crews from across the Essential Energy network have travelled into the area to assist. Community hubs will be set up in the coming days to provide support to customers including access to charging for mobile devices and access to the internet.

For information about evacuation centres in your area, please visit the NSW SES website.

Local leading global climate scientist: we need to stop burning fossil fuels

Globally-respected climate scientist Dr Joelle Gergis told ABC RN Breakfast that the science has been predicting tropical cyclones would move further south, due to warming water temperatures.

'It's understood that we're going to see the drift of tropical cyclones further south as the planet continues to warm,' Gergis told ABC Breakfast. 'As a person that lives in Northern NSW, I was really concerned about that because obviously those areas aren't built to withstand those cyclonic conditions.'

'Seeing this unfold has been a bit of a living nightmare for me,' she said.

Joelle Gergis is a lead author on an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 2022 Report, an academic with the University of Melbourne,

and she lives in Pottsville. Gergis warned five years ago that tropical cyclones may move as far south as Northern NSW.

Her comments come on top of the prime minister telling a briefing on Cyclone Alfred on Friday that 'climate change is having an impact on our weather patterns' and 'the science tells us there will be more extreme and intense weather events'.

'The elephant in the room here is we are still not doing enough to genuinely reduce industrial emissions, here in Australia but also globally,' Gergis told the ABC. 'Right now the planet is warming because we are burning coal, oil, and gas. And until we turn off the tap - these problems are only going to get worse.'

'We need to really open our eyes and see we're in a situation now that we are facing really fundamental disruption to our society, as the climate continues to warm.'

'So we have to be really serious and start talking about the actual issue here. And that is the continuation of the burning of fossil fuels,' said Gergis.

With the Prime Minister visiting the Northern Rivers, Mandy Nolan, Greens candidate for Richmond, which runs from Ballina to Tweed Heads, has asked via social media whether, given the science, Labor will now stop approving new fossil fuel projects.

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The Byron Shire Echo
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Leadership in a crisis

David Lowe

While the national media was focused on the federal election announcement being delayed by Tropical Cyclone Alfred, for those of us who were close to the storm, it was striking to see how differently state and federal leaders handled this situation compared to their predecessors.

Arriving before the disaster, accompanied by proper resources, including the ADF?

This is pretty much unheard of, as far as the Northern Rivers and South East Queensland is concerned.

Labor NSW Premier Chris Minns, Minister for Emergency Services Jihad Dib, PM Anthony Albanese, Treasurer Jim Chalmers and local members are to be congratulated for the way they stepped up on this occasion.

The prime minister made an excellent speech as the cyclone approached, thanking the public servants and media for playing crucial roles in preserving public safety, along with the communities coming together to help one another across political and geographic borders.

‘On behalf of the Australian government, we have your back, and Australians have each other’s back at this important time as well.’

Liberal v Labor

It’s a far cry from Malcolm Turnbull showing up after the 2017 flood and pretending to scrub floors in Lismore, or Scott Morrison flying to Hawaii while the Black Summer fires were raging.

Opposition Leader Peter Dutton’s own electorate of Dickson was directly in the firing line of

Cyclone Alfred, but he decided to abandon the region shortly after attending an emergency briefing so he could fly to a Liberal fundraising event with hospitality billionaire Justin Hemmes in Vacluse.

Yes, this is the same billionaire who was caught and penalised for underpaying 14,000 employees last year.

While people like Jim Chalmers and the Greens’ Max Chandler-Mather were literally filling sandbags, the closest Peter Dutton got to the action was a Queensland radio interview in which he said he hadn’t taped up his windows yet.

Of course the traditional role of politicians at these times is to provide useful words and reassurance, not hold shovels or hoses. Unfortunately, Albo’s fine words ran out when a journalist had the temerity to ask the PM to connect the dots between Tropical Cyclone Alfred, a heating ocean and the worsening climate crisis.

Pressed on whether new emission targets would be released before the election, Albanese obfuscated and said, ‘I take climate change seriously, and my government takes climate change seriously.’

Unfortunately though, not seriously enough to stop approving coal and gas projects, which may have contributed to the Greens getting their best-ever result in the Western Australian election on the weekend.

The next federal election is due to be held on or before May 17.

■ David Lowe is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and photographer, and is part of Cloudcatcher Media.

The public good in times of private bad

Richard Jones

Cyclone Alfred would have been called Anthony until the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) wisely changed the name.

It’s unlikely Albo would have been happy to have his name associated with so much destruction.

It’s easy to imagine how much mischief his opponents would have got up to.

No one really expected we would be battered like this so soon after the previous disastrous floods.

Communities now barely recover from one only to be hit by another catastrophe. Will this become the norm?

One-in-a-hundred-year disasters are no longer that. The old rules have gone out the window.

Climate crisis denialists, including Peter Dutton, his team and the Murdoch media, will completely deny this latest tragedy has anything to do with global heating. He can’t deny insurance premiums are rising though.

He says ‘consumers are being ripped off’ and his populist answer is to break up insurance companies.

It is clear that global heating has contributed. Hotter seas have brought cyclones further south and further north as the tropics expand to include us.

Scientists say there will be fewer cyclones as a result of global heating, but they’re getting very intense.

The last one of any significance around these parts was 1974, and the damage from that was heartbreaking.

Cyclone-prone

Until now, we weren’t considered to be in a cyclone-prone zone, so dwellings have not been constructed to withstand such powerful storms, and the consequential damage is much greater than it was previously.

The cost of reconstruction is phenomenal and will undoubtedly cause insurance companies to reconsider whether they will even insure properties subject to repeated climate-caused disasters.

If they do, premiums may be beyond the reach of most householders.



‘Many properties will be completely uninsurable by private insurers, whose duty to their shareholders is to make a profit not look after the interests of private citizens.’

– Richard Jones

Many properties will be completely uninsurable by private insurers, whose duty to their shareholders is to make a profit not look after the interests of private citizens.

This in turn means banks won’t lend money to prospective buyers of such properties. Unless you have cash, you can forget it.

Anyway, who could afford to own a property they can’t insure?

The answer!

There is an answer to this.

Not so long ago, we had a Government Insurance Office in NSW. We had the publicly-owned Bank of NSW. Australia had the publicly-owned QANTAS and Commonwealth Bank too.

So, what happened? ‘Economic rationalists’ moved in. Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher were the arch proponents.

Suddenly, ‘private good, public bad’ became the mantra, and vast swathes of public properties and assets were privatised under the guise that private interests were more efficient than ‘government bureaucracy’.

Sadly, Australian governments of both political persuasions also adopted this neoliberalism and sold off public assets for no good reason.

The public good was set aside to further enrich the already wealthy. This attitude still prevails today both in Australia and overseas.

The absolute extreme example of this dogma is now being played out in America in the most brutal heartless way.

Elon Musk, who bought the election for Donald Trump, is now illegally slashing the jobs of hundreds of thousands of government employees in the name of reducing the American deficit, which currently stands at around \$36 trillion.

Any savings will be more than

offset by tax cuts for billionaires. It’s the same old story.

Peter Dutton is set to emulate harsh Trumponomics if he is given the chance. Right now, the polls indicate he has an even chance of taking the reins, albeit with the support of crossbenchers.

We’re due for an election within weeks, but Cyclone Alfred has wrecked Albo’s reported plans to call an election last weekend, and now he is in a real dilemma.

He could hardly announce an election when so many people are reeling in a state of shock.

Because of the new timing, he may be obliged to bring down a budget after all, which he seemed intent on avoiding. He would then have an opportunity to present a true Labor budget, with some significant reforms to be introduced in his next term, if he can get over the line with the help of Greens preferences.

Labor’s primary support is in the doldrums at between 24.1 per cent and 28.2 per cent. compared to the Coalition between 36.3 per cent and 40 per cent.

That’s a big gap, and it can only be closed with the help of the Greens, who are currently polling between 12.5 per cent and 14.2 per cent. ‘Others’, including teals, are between 20.3 per cent and 24.4 per cent.

It’s virtually guaranteed there will be a minority government.

Albo needs to pull the proverbial rabbit out of the hat to get over the line. He and his government would receive enormous public support if they were to announce in the budget the establishment of a federal Government Insurance Office, paid for by a wealth tax on billionaires.

Now that really would be a winner.

■ Richard Jones is a former NSW MLC and is now a ceramist.



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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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Remembering Cyclone Zoe, 1974

I was living at the end of Middle Pocket when Zoe hovered off Gladstone, with a big wet tail blowing easterly gales off the ocean for over a week. More than 1,500mm of rain fell in Byron Shire in just three days!

We had to scream to be heard above the sound of rain drumming on our corrugated iron roof. The creek outside became a raging torrent and washed three metres of riverbank away, taking our road bridge made from tallowwood trees and ironbark sleepers with it.

A week after the worst of it, we hitched a ride to town on the back of Lenny Philip's Bedford truck.

The entire Billinudgel valley was a vast orange lake, with only the top of white posts marking where the road was. Standing on the back of the truck was like being on the bridge of a ship, with a long V-shaped wake stretching for hundreds of metres into the flooded properties on both sides.

These lucid impressions remain with me as clearly as the days they happened.

Michael Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek



The SES recommends if you can't get bags full of sand to protect your property, bags full of cash will work just as well. Photo Jeff 'Money Bags' Dawson

Attacks lack nuance

I really value *The Echo*. A big thank you to all the drudges. I've even chipped in lousy \$5 a month through PressPatron for years.

Part of your role is to hold power to account. It appears that you generally do so by presenting a glass-half-empty view of Byron Shire Council. This might be less effective than balance, but not sweating nuance must make it easier to get the paper out each week.

I'm not here to change your general tone towards Council, nor defend Council or any particular project, but calling councillors 'clowns' and 'bozos' only undermines your paper's authority and reach.

If you think you see a 'real time collapse of political integrity' (such melodrama!) then ad hominem attacks only add to it. We should all beware of our tendencies towards cheap mockery, ideology, and tribalism.

Our world is complex and challenging, so it's inevitable we'll disagree. But let's try to do so with respect, reasonable compromise, and cooperation. May cool heads, kind thoughts and wise words prevail – and if you think they're missing, then lead by example and produce a paper that we can all continue to value.

Charlie Hewitt
Lennox Head

Mullum hospital site

My wife and I have lived in Mullumbimby for 20 years. Many like us have come from somewhere else but in the process have left our families and old friends behind. Some of us have reached an age when we wish to downsize to a retirement village but, because there are none in Mullumbimby, have had to move elsewhere. This is surely regrettable.

Part of the hospital site could be set aside for a retirement village and this would tie in with the existing Catholic nursing home on the site. Retirement village developers could be invited to submit expressions of interest to test the market. If there was an interest in establishing one in Mullumbimby, the sale of this part of the site could be offset against the cost incurred by Council in dealing with the asbestos contamination at the site.

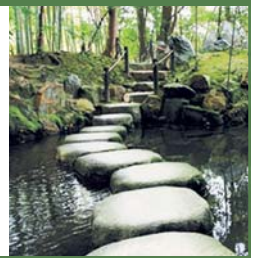
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FRI 14 MAR	PAPERLANE
SAT 15 MAR	HILLBILLY SKANK
SUN 16 MAR	ALLY PALMER DUO
MON 17 MAR	GUY KACHEL
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– Shirley Chisholm

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► **Continued from page 11**
This will reduce or eliminate the need to recover costs from the balance of the site. This in turn will reduce the cost of low-cost housing by reducing or eliminating the land component from the overall cost. This will enable rents to be lower thus satisfying the requirement of low-cost housing.

The retirement development should include a level of nursing which could be integrated with the higher level of care at the Catholic nursing home which, I understand, was suggested by them. Linking these facilities is surely good planning.

I welcome feedback to this scheme.
Chris Abraham
Mullumbimby

Vote for our kids' future

Our children are looking to us. They see the fires, floods, and rising heat and ask: will our adults act in time?

Right now, the answer isn't good enough. Since coming to power, Labor has approved 32 new coal and gas projects (!) and our local MP Justine Elliot has failed to stand up for real climate action. The only party taking a firm stand against new fossil fuels is the Greens.

This election, we have a simple but powerful choice: vote for a liveable future. Voting for urgent climate action protects the places we love, the water we drink, and the future our kids deserve. It's one of the most meaningful ways to create real change.

Let's also talk to our friends, neighbours, and community about why this matters. The wellbeing that

comes from knowing we're doing everything we can for our children is priceless.

Our kids are counting on us. Let's show them that when they asked us to act, we listened.

Shamila Millard
Goonengerry

Another Wategos mega-mansion?

Why? Why seek to clear protected littoral rainforest, excavate up to eight metres into the hillside to build two dwellings with multiple rooms and swimming pools which will probably only be used for a few weeks a year?

Why pools when you have a perfectly good beach close by? Isn't that the whole point of living near the ocean?

And why Wategos? Why not buy multimillion-dollar mansions that have already been constructed somewhere else?

And last but not least, why add financial burden to the Byron Council in the form of exorbitant legal fees, when that money could be used for much-needed essential services?

Mary Flaskas
Goonellabah

Answers

I have asked numerous questions of the Byron Shire Council's (BSC's) executive staff and engineering without getting any real answers, let's try again.

What is the annual cost of exporting BSC's landfill to elsewhere and the total cost of this to date?

Myocum quarry, just metres away, is no longer being used as a quarry and would be ideal for a landfill site. Has this site been considered for landfill?

Also, regarding the inflow infiltration occurring in the sewer gravity mains on the eastern side of Mullumbimby and throughout the CBD. How long will it be before action is taken to fix this problem? The current plant at Brunswick Valley has overflowed the treatment plant's confines during rain events on numerous occasions. These plants do not like being hydraulically overloaded. The infiltration problem is not going to improve, it will continue to worsen. What is being considered to alleviate this problem?

Water and Sewer had a contractor in Mullumbimby for the last five years who was supposedly meant to reline the problem mains. To date has there been evidence shown to confirm any of the real problem areas were relined successfully?

Alan Dickens
Byron Bay

A cautionary tale

I used a local electrician to install a new stove recently and he provided me with a handwritten invoice for \$310 which I paid by bank transfer.

However, I misread the 6 for an 8 on his account so my funds went to an unknown recipient. My bank tells me it is unable to recover my money. I have to wear the loss. Both banks – mine and the recipient's – are aware of the recipient's BSB / account details. Why is it beyond their capacity to alert the account holder to my mistake and seek to reverse the deposit? As for my eyesight, I've gone ahead and had the cataracts removed. Still, I'm 77 and \$310 is not nothing.

Paul Rea
Coorabell

Cyclones, elections and climate change

With Cyclone Alfred bearing down on South East Queensland and Northern NSW it's opportune as we enter the leadup to the 2025 federal election, to raise yet again the issue of climate change.

Sadly, the world is far off track from achieving the much-heralded target of zero net emissions by 2050, despite the fact that global production of wind and solar energy in 2024 produced 15 per cent of the world's electric power.

The International Energy Agency calculated in 2021 that greenhouse gas emissions would need to decline 40 per cent from 34 to 21 gigatons by the end of 2023 for the world to have any chance of reaching the 2050 zero target. However, the scoreboard for those three years shows emissions went up ten per cent, (not down) reaching 37.4 gigatons.

A gigaton is one billion tons of CO₂, so 37.4 gigatons equals 37,400,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide pumped into our atmosphere, trapping heat and causing planet warming.

The scientifically-measured planetary temperature increase from 1900 to 2024 is between 1.1 and 1.3C, which is enough to melt polar and mountain ice sheets, causing the release of gigatons of fresh water into the world's oceans. Scary stuff! That changes the temperature and chemistry of ocean currents and the ripple effect: bush fires, loss of marine life, cyclones, etc.

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

Terry Sharples
Tweed Heads

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Mullum car park development continues to raise ire of locals

Station Street DA

I attended last week's meeting about the proposed 57 Station Street development, which Council says will (might?) include 32 units for social and affordable housing, plus some shops but no parking or public toilets. Council says it is working on alternative spaces for car parks and other community uses, and apparently has made good progress in getting access to sections of the rail corridor, which is great news.

The meeting was informative about the development, especially in regard to how little is known about it. It was also informative that all councillors I heard speak were not open to listening to the concerns of all residents.

Councillors portrayed the current position as having been arrived at after community consultation, seemingly considering Council meetings as community consultation. If there was community consultation, the current community concerns show the consultation was ineffective.

Councillors said it had taken five years to get the Station Street proposal to its current stage and sought to use that as a reason now to not properly consider other sites. There is broad community support for social and affordable housing on other sites. It seems everyone expects and supports the old hospital site to be developed as social housing. There seems to be broad community support to consider redevelopment of Council's car park – a bigger site with better access – but which Council says is unacceptable, mostly so Council has flexibility for its own future development needs.

Rather than forcing the Station Street proposal on the community, Council could readily generate great community support and goodwill, and deliver a better outcome with more housing, by reviewing the use of the Council car park site.

I did not hear anyone in the meeting speak against the need for social and affordable housing, or indeed housing in general. I did hear many people talking against opaque

decision-making processes and against poor urban design.

With proper community consultation and considered urban planning, development of social and affordable housing in our community can be a model for success. We want and need social and affordable housing, as part of a welcoming and vibrant community. Forcing a poorly-designed outcome on the community is akin to snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

Paul Cholakos
Montecollum

Councillors not listening

Two weeks ago I attended the residents' meeting regarding the proposed Mullumbimby affordable housing development (on public land) bordering several local businesses.

I was saddened to witness some of the councillors berating the residents for expressing their views on this proposal. The current proposal will see its ONLY access onto a laneway frequented by commercial vehicles, the proposed residents living with poor ventilation and light, inadequate parking lots allocated for future residents, the loss of our public car park, the concerning loss of access for the businesses bordering this car park, the need for one metre of fill, and the obvious loss of local amenity. I could go on.

Frankly a clear alternative is the parking lot beside the Council chambers. This proposal can either be built above the retained car park on land which is well ventilated and has a lot of natural light, or built on this site and car parking can be provided for Byron Shire Council staff on the proposed parking areas near the rail line. When this was raised at the meeting as an alternative to the current proposal, Mayor Ndiaye said that this would require solar panels being moved (!) and that Byron Council may also wish to expand the Council building in the future – and so this option was not considered. This astounded me as there is clearly sufficient space for both this proposed

residential development and for Council's possible future expansion.

Bronwyn Morris
Montecollum

Up in the air!

Letters in *The Echo* (March 5) criticising the conduct of councillors at the February 24 meeting concerning the proposed development at 57 Station Street were on the money. I witnessed the disgraceful behaviour of three particular councillors and suggest an apology to the residents would be appropriate.

Particularly galling was the way in which the residents were berated and demeaned by councillors for 'not understanding the housing crisis' and being 'privileged house owners'. Neither claim was a useful contribution to the discussion and instead served to inflame an already fractious atmosphere.

I suggest most residents are well aware of the housing problem and fail to understand why the significantly larger Byron Shire Council car park has been dismissed as an option to address it. Especially as its larger area could allow a greater impact than 57 Station Street, with fewer planning and traffic difficulties and adverse effects on businesses.

It's now up to the Northern Rivers Local Planning Panel to assess the development application (DA). Once the DA is on public exhibition (probably this month or next) submissions can be made. I would ask people to use this as a means of airing their feelings. My hope is that the panel will take account of the many flaws and difficulties associated with the 57 Station Street site and reject the DA. The mystery is why Byron Shire councillors did not, and have supported this site to bring us to where we are now!

I urge councillors to swallow their pride; retain 57 Station Street as a car park and instead consider their own car park to address the housing crisis to a much greater extent than their chosen site would allow, without all the incumbent problems.

Steve Bellerby
Mullumbimby

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Beyond cruelty in public policy – how kindness and compassion can create impact

Richard Hil

Upheaval, chaos, disruption. These are just a few of the words being applied to the Trump administration's barrage of policy changes. For a lot of observers, the pace and scale of these changes feel like a category 5 cyclone, packing immense destructive power and sending people running for cover – or to the streets and courtrooms.

Radical right-wing ideology

What's clear is that many of Trump's policies are being driven by a radical, almost revolutionary ideology courtesy of the right-wing think tank, the Heritage Foundation.

It's a ragbag of incoherent thought-mush and naked prejudices aimed at upending every aspect of American life, as well as the international order.

It's being egged on by Steve Bannon's mantra of 'muzzle velocity', a strategy designed to overwhelm, confuse and quash all political opposition. The general idea is to enact as many changes in the shortest timeframe as possible, thereby keeping opponents on the back foot. And it works. At least in the short term.



Sue Wareham, President of the Medical Association for Prevention of War. Photo supplied

In Australia, with the federal election nearly upon us, many are wondering whether a Dutton government will mimic Trump's shock and awe strategy.

We'd like to think that government policies are formulated in the best interests of citizens, and that such policies are based on rational, carefully thought-out decisions – and that they will cause minimal harm.

Robodebt

If only. We know that many government measures are about wanting to appear strong and tough, and/or simply to appease an angry electorate.

It's no surprise that resulting decisions can inflict great harm on those impacted. Think about Robodebt, refugees. Consider too the plight of the Palestinians and



Emeritus Professor Stuart Rees, founder of the Sydney Peace Foundation. Photo supplied

the federal government's refusal to name the Gaza horror as genocide. Think of the continuing support for the fossil fuel industry and the fact that wealth inequality is widening in Australia, with around three million people under the poverty line.

Not all this can be sheeted home directly to the government, but the failure to act is as bad as deliberate legislative cruelty.

Kindness and compassion

On 20 March, Emeritus Professor Stuart Rees, founder of the Sydney Peace Foundation and one of Australia's most prominent peace campaigners, and Dr Sue Wareham, President of the Medical Association for Prevention of War will discuss how kindness and compassion rather than cruelty can inform policy making.

They outline why this is important, and how moral principle might take precedence over pragmatism and self-interest. There's a case here for political courage: arguing your case based on what you actually believe and the values you espouse.

If kindness and compassion, based upon human rights and international humanitarian law, guided policy making would we have refugees languishing on prison islands or Indigenous people continuing to suffer terrible privations? I doubt it.

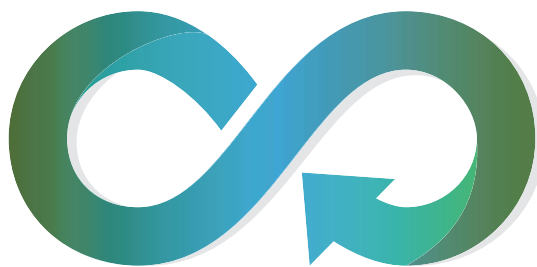
Stuart and Sue will speak to *Beyond Cruel: Ensuring Kindness and Compassion in Public Policy* at the M-Arts, Murwillumbah, 20 March. Doors open at 5.30pm, main event starts at 6.45pm. Food and drinks are available.

■ For tickets visit: www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1355007.

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.



Supporting local businesses keeps the local economy circular and strong.

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*!



KEEPING THE HYPE OUT OF HYPERLOCAL SINCE 1986

Former mayor battled to 'Save the Tweed'

The former long-serving mayor of Tweed Shire, Max Boyd AM, has laid bare the decades-long struggle he, other councillors, and the community fought to stop corruption and over-development of their shire.

The 91-year-old Mr Boyd retired in 2008 after serving as one of three administrators of the shire appointed by the state government in 2005, following an inquiry. The inquiry led to the council's sacking after it found the ruling majority were 'puppets of developers'.

Mr Boyd has just published his autobiography, *Saving Paradise – The Tweed Under Siege*, in which he details the turbulence that flowed from the numerous probes and inquiries the NSW government conducted because of council controversies and community unrest over unpopular, rampant development.

Developers from the so-called 'glitzy' high-rise Gold Coast and elsewhere were drawn to the picturesque Tweed 'honey pot' with its unspoiled 30-kilometre coastline just down from Surfers Paradise.

But with mega profits over

land deals came corruption and political shenanigans, which Mr Boyd, other councillors, and community groups tussled with all the way.

In his 145-page book, Mr Boyd also details his life growing up in the Tweed Valley on his family farm at Dulguigan, where he still lives with his wife Marguerite, as well as the legacy he left for the Tweed Shire after his 44-year-long stint as a leader.

He was first elected to council at the age of 30 in 1964 but sadly just three years later succumbed to a rare ailment he was born with, Buerger's Disease, which led to the amputation of his lower right leg.

But he bravely faced that challenge with determination and, despite the disability, continued his farming activities, and worked as a tourism officer / Tweed travel centre manager for two decades, while continuously serving as a councillor.

In his book, Mr Boyd looks extensively into the background of council politics and what led to the several corruption inquiries which preceded the sacking of council.

The cover of the book

features two controversial high-rise tower projects which Mr Boyd said 'stood out like sore thumbs among the low-rise structures dominating the Tweed landscape'.

The 25-storey Seascape tower and 27-storey Pinehurst were approved by Tweed Shire Council in 1981, 'sparking community unrest as they were seen as the tip of the iceberg for looming Gold Coast glitter-strip style of high-rise canyons'.

'The approval process was cloaked in secrecy and several years later it would emerge how widespread the skullduggery was, involving members of parliament, some councillors and questionable developer consultants,' Mr Boyd says in his book.

In late 2004, the state government set up an inquiry led by Emeritus Professor Maurice Daly, after it received a growing number of complaints about councillor dealings with developers.

The inquiry, Mr Boyd said, 'unmasked' the seven members of the ruling conservative council faction 'as imposters who acted as puppets of developers'.

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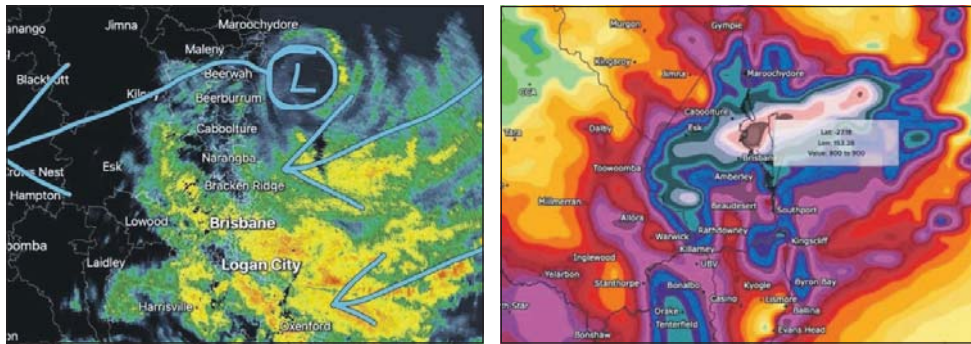
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Waiting for the great leap forward



Illustrations of global warming: the colourful weather maps of Tropical Cyclone Alfred.

Emma Briggs

As I anticipate my first encounter with a tropical cyclone, I find it hard to sit still and thoughts swirl through my mind like the winds in the storm. Waiting for the gale to start and the rain to bucket down, I keep thinking about the cognitive dissonance of these times and the insane 'realities' we are asked to accept every day.

We seem to have transitioned from denying the weather is changing, through denying that humans are to blame for it, to resigning ourselves that it is inevitable. What happened to trying to prevent the vast amount of suffering that we are unleashing on ourselves and all other living beings? Why aren't we doing every possible thing in our power to protect our home and survive?

Consequences of burning fossil fuels

As I write, the water temperature is 26.6°C in Byron Bay and 26.9°C in Brisbane, and it is these elevated temperatures, plus the lack of an upper trough of cold air, that are causing Cyclone Alfred to intensify instead of abate as it approaches land. The world is laying out the consequences of burning fossil fuels before us in a way that could not be clearer.

It might seem on the surface as if our beloved leaders are finally considering planning to take some sort of action to mitigate global heating, but it doesn't take much digging to discover their words are meaningless and their deeds are hollow.

Global climate science institute Climate Analytics released a report last year showing that current Australian government policies will lead to CO₂ emissions increasing by 50 per cent over the next decade. The report predicts that by 2035 Australia's fossil fuel exports, along with domestic CO₂ emissions, would consume nine per cent of the remaining global carbon budget to limit warming to 1.5°C.

Australia is a high emitter of CO₂

While governments pretend that, like taking food from someone else's plate, exports somehow don't count, Australia remains one of the highest per capita emitters in the world. Last year The Australia Institute found that subsidies to fossil fuel industries had increased by 31 per cent to reach \$14.5 billion.

According to the report, 'Australia is not taking serious action on climate change. Instead, the majority of its governments continue to subsidise the fossil fuel industry and greenwash their poor climate policies.'

All of these distressing statistics are presented to us as practicalities of the modern world and simple facts of life.

Sometimes I feel crazy and extreme in this society, but deep down I know it is an entirely reasonable desire to live in a world without food and water shortages, ever-increasing heat and devastating natural disasters occurring nearly every week.

In the upcoming election, the mainstream narrative tells us that we have to choose between a party that has just approved four new coal mines, with many more in the pipeline, or one that is trying to distract us with a nuclear fantasy that won't be operative for 20 years, while they increase coal production and cap renewable energy.

Time to change the vision

I can't accept this version of reality. We don't have to go along with a story so full of plot holes and logical fallacies. It is both possible and urgently necessary to change the narrative and create a future worth living for. We need to vote as though our existence depends on it, and we need to take immediate action to protect this world, our home.

■ Emma Briggs is the Convenor, Byron Environment Centre.

Urgent changes needed to Early Drug Diversion program

It has been a year since the Early Drug Diversion Initiative (EDDI) came into effect in NSW and advocates have highlighted a number of ways the program can be improved.

The EDDI came into effect on 29 February last year with the aim to address some of the harms caused by our unfair drug laws.

'Unfortunately, the implementation of EDDI has been a disappointing missed opportunity, many people had hoped for better for those they love who are living with drug dependency,' Alice Salomon, Uniting NSW. ACT's Head of Advocacy said.

'Any positive change to the way we approach drug use and dependency in NSW is always welcome – but we know that the chance for diversion through EDDI is being delivered unevenly across the state.'

Equitable program needed

'Preliminary data shows that EDDI is more available for those who use cocaine or MDMA and those who aren't First Nations, making EDDI a system that favours those with privilege. People who would be more likely to be able to afford a lawyer are also more likely to receive diversion rather than a court date.'

'So instead of creating pathways to treatment for people who are experiencing drug dependency, EDDI has continued to treat the people who could benefit most from that approach as criminals, with all the harm, shame and stigma that goes with that.'

'It's clear that NSW needs evidence-based, equitable



People caught with small amounts of drugs can be diverted to a health-based program.

and inclusive diversion programs which will result in better outcomes for people. This means all people should be eligible to access them, including First Nations people, those without means, younger people and people with prior convictions,' Alice said.

From 29 February to 11 August 2024 the diversion rate for the state was 6.4 per cent according to an assessment of the program by the Drug Police Monitoring Program, *How is the Early Drug Diversion Initiative going?* via University of Sydney. That saw a 8.2 per cent diversion rate in the Tweed/Byron Police District and a 2.7 per cent diversion rate in the Richmond Police District that covers Ballina and Lismore regions.

Race, age or privilege shouldn't determine diversion options

'A fairer diversion model should also have no or low fines and no limit to the number of times a person can be diverted. A limited number of 'strikes' could exclude a person experiencing drug dependency – someone who is more likely to benefit from a health and welfare response.'

'Let's be clear, everyone,

no matter where you live, your race, which drug is in your pocket or your life circumstances, should have access to a health and welfare response. They should be able to be diverted away from the criminal justice system through the EDDI scheme for possessing a small amount of drugs for personal use.

'The vast majority of the community, as revealed in survey after survey, supports this approach,' Alice said.

'We are hopeful that the NSW Drug Summit report will, amongst other important measures, recommend that the government address the inequity of access to EDDI.'

'It will also look at whether the penalty for drug possession should be changed to either a caution or diversion to an escalating health and welfare response should the circumstances indicate that this could be helpful,' Alice said.

Samantha Lee, Supervising Solicitor at Redfern Legal Centre said: 'Just a week after the NSW Drug Summit, I had two clients charged with minor drug possession. They were issued with Court Attendance Notices, even though they had no criminal record and the amount of drugs involved was so low that a diversion should have been the first course of action.'

'Instead, my clients face a lengthy and stressful court process.'

'I hope that, in the end, they can avoid a conviction and a criminal record, which could have detrimental consequences for their work and travel opportunities,' Samantha said.

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MULLUM PLANT FAIR

The Mullum Plant Fair is postponing to late April due to the impacts of Cyclone Alfred. Many of the nurseries are still cut off, so to plan for the best event possible, it's best to move to a time when we've all recovered from its impacts.

The Mullum Plant Fair is a haven for plant-passionate people, gardeners, and eco-conscious communities seeking a day of inspiration, education, and sustainable living.

Keep an eye out for updates! Come support recovering local businesses and enjoy delicious food, drinks, talks, and something for the kids too. A chance to revive your garden with beautiful natives, fruit trees, and ornamentals while learning about what is great for growing in our region!

Date: Likely last Saturday in April
Location: Mullumbimby Showgrounds
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RICHARDSON MURRAY FAMILY LAWYERS

Richardson Murray Family Lawyers is a leading family law firm based in Byron Bay, renowned for its exceptional legal services and commitment to supporting clients through challenging family matters. With extensive experience in divorce, child custody, property settlements, and domestic violence cases, the firm's team of dedicated professionals ensures clients receive personalised and empathetic legal advice. Known for their expertise, integrity, and results-driven approach, Richardson Murray offers tailored solutions to resolve disputes efficiently, whether through negotiation or litigation. Their deep understanding of the complexities of family law, combined with a compassionate approach, has earned them a stellar reputation in the region.

Richardson Murray Family Lawyers is the go-to choice for those seeking trusted legal counsel in Northern NSW.

42 Parkes Avenue, Byron Bay
info@richardson-murray.law
www.richardson-murray.law



BUILDING WEALTH, EMPOWERING LIVES

Meet Alana Pincombe from Viridian Advisory, located in the scenic Northern Rivers region of NSW. Growing up in country Victoria, Alana cherishes the warmth of small communities something she's found again by the coast and the hinterlands.

With over 15 years of experience in financial services, she uses her expertise in financial planning, combined with a genuine, caring approach, to create tailored strategies for young families and retirees.

Collaboration is essential to success: Alana partners with accountants, lawyers, brokers and other specialists across Viridian's network to deliver holistic advice, covering all her clients' needs.

Beyond the everyday, Alana works with the Cancer Council Pro Bono Program, reflecting her dedication to giving back. Her mission? Providing life changing financial advice, one guided step at a time.

apincombe@viridianadvisory.com.au
0491 204 142
www.viridianadvisory.com.au



Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BANGALOW



Bangalow Tuckshop

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

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

BILLINUDGEL



Rosefina's Mexican

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

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

BYRON BAY



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 Liquor Merchants

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

'Byron's boutique bottle shop'

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

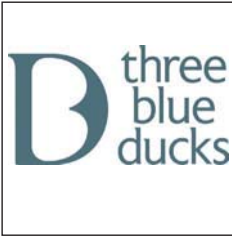


Main Street

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.



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.

BYRON BAY (continued)



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.



Forest Byron Bay

Open 7 days
Breakfast: 7.30 to 10.30am
Lunch on Verandah from 12 to 3pm
Dinner: 5.30 to 9pm
crystalbrookcollection.com/
byron/forest

Rainforest views, farm to table dining and a menu showcasing the best of Northern Rivers produce. Forest Byron Bay offers fresh, seasonal dishes and crafted cocktails.

Unwind with Golden Hour, 4 to 6pm Tuesday to Saturday, or enjoy house-made pasta with wine for Pasta Thursday.

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.

WOLLONGBAR



Bonito Peruvian

@bonitoperuvian
www.bonitoperuvian.com.au
10/54 Simpson Ave,
Wollongbar
02 6628 3111
Open Wed / Thurs: 3pm to late
Fri / Sat: 12pm to late

Experience the bold and vibrant flavors of Peru at Bonito Peruvian in Wollongbar, where traditional recipes meet modern creativity. From fresh ceviche and anticucho skewers to savory ají de gallina, every dish is crafted with authentic ingredients and passion.

Pair your meal with a classic pisco sour and enjoy a true taste of Peru in a warm, inviting atmosphere.

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

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Find more tasty morsels at
Echo.net.au

The Good Life



Resilience amidst havoc: Summit Organics' autumn bounty



Resilience a necessity for Tania and Rod Bruin from Summit Organics.

Cyclone Alfred's relentless deluge has once again tested the mettle of our local farmers, with floods disrupting local supply chains and threatening their hard-earned harvests. Yet, amidst the chaos, their resilience shines. Summit Organics, a beacon of proactive adaptation, demonstrates how farmers are forging ahead. Despite the challenges, their autumn stall overflows with the fruits of their labour.

Summit Organics offers a vibrant array of seasonal produce. Their climate-controlled greenhouses, a testament to their foresight, ensure a steady supply of fresh, leafy greens. Expect crisp lettuces, robust kale, and an assortment of Asian greens, all thriving despite the downpour. Root vegetables, like sweet carrots, earthy beetroot, and pungent radishes, offer grounding flavours. From fresh coriander to fragrant mint, aromatic herbs add zest to autumn dishes. Add a touch of vibrant beauty to your space with their exquisite flowers.

This bounty is no accident. Summit Organics' investments in infrastructure, including expanded dams, protective hail nets, and soil nourishing, all reflect their commitment to sustainable farming. They understand that adaptation is not a choice, but a necessity. Their dedication ensures the continuity of our local food supply, even in the face of extreme weather. So, when you visit their stall, remember the farmers' unwavering dedication and appreciate the fresh, organic produce that graces our tables, a testament to their resilience and hard work.

You will find Summit Organics at the New Brighton Farmers Market every Tuesday from 8am to 11 am and at the Mullum Farmers Market every Friday from 7 am to 11am.

■ Check our websites to see updates on whether the markets are open during extreme weather conditions.
www.mullumfarmersmarket.org.au
www.newbrightonfarmersmarket.org.au

The perfect low sugar breakfast, featuring Australian macadamias

If you're looking for a nourishing way to start your day, look no further than the humble macadamia nut. They are not only delicious, but pack a punch when it comes to their health benefits.

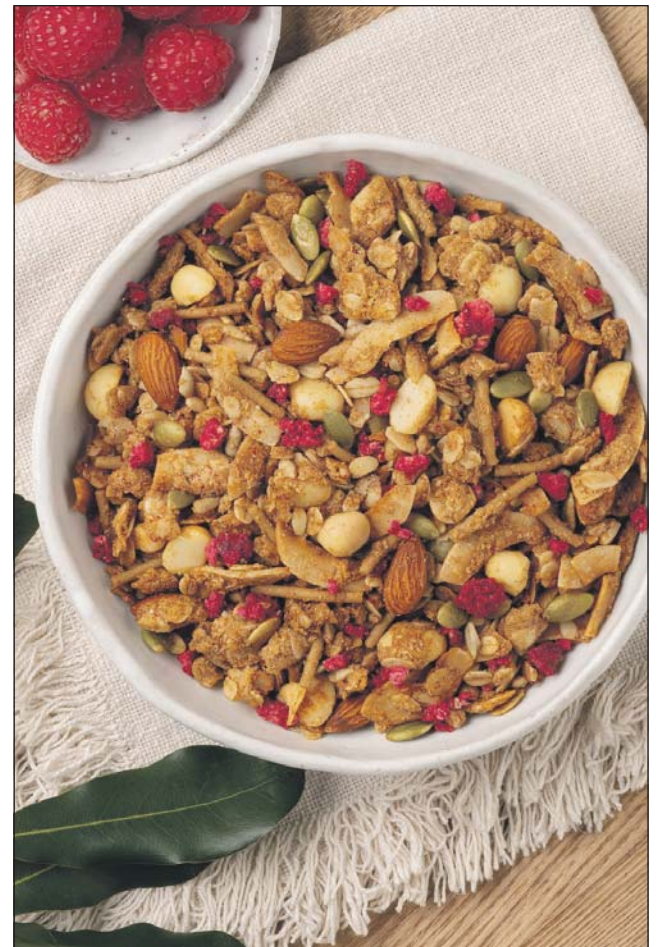
Macadamias are rich in healthy fats, fibre, and protein—three essential nutrients that help keep you feeling full and satisfied throughout the morning. Their high mono-unsaturated fat content supports heart health, while the fibre aids digestion and promotes gut health. They are an excellent choice for those following low-GI, keto, or low-sugar diets.

But the real magic happens when you pair macadamia with a low sugar breakfast. Eating a breakfast that is high in quality fats and protein, and low in refined sugars, helps to stabilise your blood sugar levels without the post-breakfast sugar crash. This is especially important for starting your day on the right foot.

Introducing Brookfarm's NEW Low Sugar Macadamia & Raspberry Granola

This premium low sugar granola is naturally low in sugar and packed with Australian macadamias and tangy raspberries delivering flavour as well as a wholesome crunch from nuts and seeds.

Unlike traditional granolas that often rely on added sugars or artificial sweeteners, Brookfarm's granola offers a healthier alternative with no artificial sweeteners. With only 1.6g of sugar per serve, it delivers a satisfying crunch. It's made with a blend of 18 all-natural ingredients, all lightly toasted in rich, nutty hazelnut butter and Australian macadamia oil.



What's more, this granola delivers an excellent source of fibre packed with 7.2g per serve, which helps support digestive gut health. It's also vegan, with no preservatives or additives and Australian made in Byron Bay, making it a wholesome Australian breakfast choice.

■ Shop now online at brookfarm.com.au and in your local independent grocers and health food stores.

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COFFEE SHOP

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Monday – Saturday
Shop 6/108 Stuart Street
Mullumbimby.
@bimbi_coffee_shop
ALLPRESS ESPRESSO

Authentic Vietnamese cuisine

Open 7 days 11:30am – 8:00pm.
72a Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby.
4/16 The Terrace, Brunswick Heads.

Pink Lotus
VIETNAMESE RESTAURANT

pinklotusfood.com.au
@pinklotuseatery

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Indulge yourself with the Northern Rivers' tastiest offerings!

EASTER EDITION BOOK NOW!

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

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

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 12-18 March, 2025
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 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
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 W: echo.net.au/entertainment

seven

seven days of entertainment

Eclectic Selection

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



✿ An Australian band that needs little introduction, **Wolfmother** is taking over 'Live at the Pines' in Brunswick Heads, bringing their signature rock energy – with special guests The Colliflowers, and Off Judy.

Friday from 6pm at the Hotel Brunswick. Free show

✿ Popular Byron Bay entertainer, **Jon J Bradley** delivers live, engaging and energetic party music from pop and retro-rock alternative classics. Jon's earthy acoustic tunes, vocals with warm harmonica add the final touches to his rhythmic guitar.

Wednesday from 7.30pm at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show



✿ Singer, songwriter and both acoustic and electric guitarist, **Joe Dabron**, under the influence of Jeff, Jimi and Johnny (Buckley, Hendrix and Cash) creates a mix on the alternate side of rock, folk, country and blues. Dabron is equally at home performing his original tunes or cranking out a set of covers in his own style.

Thursday from 6pm at the Metropole, Lismore. Free show

✿ **Leigh James** sings and plays guitar effortlessly, as if music was as natural to him as breathing – he has a keen ear for the right sound for any venue, he's a true professional with a sparkling talent including four Dolphin Awards on his kitchen cupboard.

Saturday from 4pm at the Bangalow Hotel. Free show

✿ **Karl S. Williams** and **Sally Wiggins** make music that is steeped in delta blues, gospel and old-time folk, with poetic sensibilities that call to mind the classic singer-songwriters of yesteryear. Together they are liberated to lean into the music, playing with space and silence as much as notes – veering effortlessly from acoustic intimacy to fuzzed out garage blues.

Sunday from 3pm at Pearce's Creek Hall. Tickets from \$20 at humanitix.com/au



✿ **Mala** is a classical Indian music experience featuring visiting artists **Suchismita** and **Debopriya Chatterjee** from Mumbai. Daughters of esteemed musician and composer parents, they gravitated towards learning the Bansuri flute, firstly from Pandit Bholanath Prassanna, then from the incredible Bansuri Master Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia.

Sunday from 3pm at the Mullum Civic Hall. Tickets from \$40 at humantix.com – search 'Flute Sisters'



The vaginas mean business

After nine years of sold-out performances, this year's diverse collective of some of Byron Shire's powerful, creative women and people with vaginas, will present personal, professional, or political stories to inform, educate, entertain, and support, from Thursday this week in Brunswick Heads.

Funny, sad, challenging, and celebratory, with creator and **MC Zenith Virago**, the *Vagina Conversations* is a more contemporary evolution of the *Vagina Monologues*, bringing a courageous fresh, local flavour to our community.

Vaginas are the most powerful body part on the planet. Giving pleasure, giving life, experiencing pain – desired and exploited every day.

This event is part of the One Billion Rising V-Day global revolution to end violence against women following the Main Beach V-Day protest – the *Vagina* performers use spoken word, dance, music, song, and comedy, to share their personal, professional, and cultural experiences, to inspire and empower themselves and others.

All proceeds from the shows go to the Mullum Women's Resource Service Escape Fund and the Tweed DVIRC Impact Fund, supporting local women escaping intimate partner and family violence, financing women in crisis to pay for emergency needs, keeping women and children safe. The shows have already raised over \$123,000.

The *Vagina Conversations* start Thursday and run until Sunday at the Brunswick Picture House in Brunswick Heads. This show is suitable for patrons 14 years and up. Doors open at 6.30pm and the vaginas start at 7pm. Tickets are \$45/\$35 from brunswickpicturehouse.com.

PACO LARA (SPAIN) PRESENTS:

DUENDE FLAMENCO SHOW

Saturday 22nd March 7:00pm

TICKETS:

www.eventfinda.com.au/2025/duende-flamenco-show/brunswick-heads

BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

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 about our competitive rates and fast turnaround or head to bayfm.org



THE IMPERIAL HOTEL THE IMPERIAL HOTEL THE IMPERIAL HOTEL THE IMPERIAL HOTEL

MANDY NOLAN LIVE

FRIDAY MARCH 28 730PM

TICKETS \$20 - HOSTED BY MATTY B

WITH JOHN PEACOCK + GRACE HOGAN

the COMEDY COMMUNE

THE IMPERIAL HOTEL THE IMPERIAL HOTEL THE IMPERIAL HOTEL THE IMPERIAL HOTEL



It's the Festival of the Stone – music, community, tradition

Stone & Wood is hopping with excitement to announce the much-anticipated return of **Festival of the Stone** for 2025!

This beloved event, now in its 11th year, will take place on **Saturday, June 14** at the **Stone & Wood brewery** in Byron Bay, bringing together music, community and the age-old tradition of brewing, with the tapping of Stone & Wood's annual batch of Stone Beer.

Following the sold out 2024 event that featured Dan Sultan, Beddy Rays, The Beefs, Verge Collection and more, Festival of the Stone 2025 is set to deliver another unforgettable day of top-notch Australian talent, freshly poured brews and delicious bites from local food vendors. Best of all, it's for a great cause, with proceeds supporting Fletcher Street Cottage.

The latest statistics on homelessness in NSW reveal that the Byron Shire has the highest rate of locals sleeping rough in the state, even higher than the City of Sydney. In 2024, 348 rough sleepers were recorded across the region, marking a 16 per cent increase from February 2023. Festival of the Stone 2025 is proud to support Fletcher Street Cottage and help raise funds for their vital support hub.

Stone & Wood's Stone Beer is an annual, limited-edition winter brew, and a homage to ancient brewing traditions. Crafted with precise care and the finest local ingredients, this bold and distinctive beer features select Australian malts and a unique brewing process. Inspired by traditional methods, the brewers add heated stones directly to the brew kettle, infusing smoky caramel nuances that add depth and complexity to the beer. Resulting in a rich and satisfying porter with aromatic notes of brewed coffee, rich dark chocolate and subtle hints of smoked barley, creating a perfectly balanced and complex flavour profile.

Don't miss out on the celebration of the year, and all for a worthy cause! Mark your calendars and join us in the Bay at Festival of the Stone 2025. Keep an eye on the website and socials for lineup announcements and access to the first ticket releases.

Festival of the Stone – Saturday, June 14, 2025
Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay (Cavanbah)

Intrepid
PRESENTS THE 36TH
ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE
FRENCH FILM
FESTIVAL 2025
7 MAR - 2 APR
PALACE BYRON BAY & BALLINA FAIR
AFFRENCHFILMFESTIVAL.ORG

seven days of entertainment

GIG GUIDE

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

WEDNESDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **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**

THURSDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DONNY SHADES DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KANE MUIR & THE HOWLERS**
- THE EAGLE ROOM, BYRON BAY, 7PM **GROOVE SESSIONS FEAT. KWASI BRUNI**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – JON SHORTER & SHANE PARRY + SAM WHEAT & BODHI ACTON**, 8PM **DESTRENDS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **INO PIO**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE VAGINA CONVERSATIONS #10**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 6PM **JOE DABRON**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**

FRIDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PAPER LANE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **LIFE IS A MYTH + JEROME WILLIAMS BAND**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **THE INNERMOST LIMITS OF PURE FUN**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4PM DJ **DAVID BANGMA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **SAMRA – DREAMVIBES B2B, POTENTIA B2B, RAINBIRD – FRAKTAL FAERIE – ERGOFLUX**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – JON SHORTER & MICK BUCKLEY + SAM WHEAT & BODHI ACTON**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7PM **O.R.B**

- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **WOLFMOTHER + THE COLLIFLOWERS AND OFF JUDY**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE VAGINA CONVERSATIONS #10**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM DJ **PAPA BITCHO**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEE WITH JESS**
- LENNOX ARTS COLLECTIVE 5.30PM **'FLOW' EXHIBITION OPENING**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **MATT BUGGY**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **NATHAN KAYE COLLECTIVE**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10AM **MORNING MELODIES WITH TOMMY MEMPHIS**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **MUIREANN BRADLEY AND JON MUQ**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **WOLFIE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**

SATURDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE HILLBILLY SKANK**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **LUKE PAULEY, 154 DUO**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **SCREENING – WILDING**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1PM DJ **MR NICE + DJ IAIN YES**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & SAM WHEAT + JOHN HILL & JON SHORTER**, 8PM **ANDY V + KANE MUIR**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **THE TYLER DURDENS + DJ CRISTINA GUIJARRO**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **THE VAGINA CONVERSATIONS #10**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM DJ **JAX FAE**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7PM **OZ LATIN BROTHERS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **LUKE PAULEY, 4PM LOTUS FUNDRAISER – FEAT. LESH, DANI, RIA LISTIC, ROB SYDNEY, GRAEME CHAPPLE, JASON LEWIS**

- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **BEATDUSTA**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **VARGAS BLUES BAND**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **SIMON BOLT**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MR TROY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 5PM **DIRE STRAIGHTS EXPERIENCE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6PM **MEL SCARLETT**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 7PM **CC THE CAT**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2.30PM **MELBOURNE CELTIC FESTIVAL**

SUNDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ALLY PALMER DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **GOODRICH**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM DJ **AFRODESIA**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 2PM **YAZMINDI**
- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM **YULLI'S OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCOR**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & BODHI ACTON**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 6PM **DAVE POWER**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **ROUND MOUNTAIN GIRLS + ANDY JANS BROWN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM **THE VAGINA CONVERSATIONS #10**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM DJ **LAINIE GODIVA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC**
- MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL 3PM **DEBOPRIYA & SUCHISMITA CHATTERJEE & SHEN FLINDELL**
- CLUB LENNOX 3PM **EPIC**
- LENNOX HOTEL 3PM **THE MUMBLERS**
- PEARCES CREEK HALL, PIERCES CREEK, 3PM **KARL S WILLIAMS, SALLY WIGGINS & ASHLEIGH BO**

- LENNOX PIZZA 5PM **KIERAN LARKEY**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT. HUBCAP STAN & THE SIDEWALK STOMPERS**
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA, 3PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **MANDY HAWKS BAND**
- UKI MARKET 8AM **LEOPARD ZEBRA TIGER WITH SUPPORT ZAC CRACKALAKA, EMPRESS KATIA, ANYA + SHEY**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2.30PM **TAYLOR – A TRIBUTE TO ERA**

MONDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **GUY KACHEL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARK USHER**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – BODHI ACTON & DIZZY J**

TUESDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ADAM HARPAZ**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – JON SHORTER & SHANE PARRY**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **ROGER DAVY & ADAM BARTLETT**

WEDNESDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MILO GREEN**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 5PM **KYLE LIONHART**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **INO PIO + DJ OREN SELECTA**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – JOHN HILL & JON SHORTER**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY AND JAM**
- LENNOX PIZZA 6.30PM **OPEN MIC**

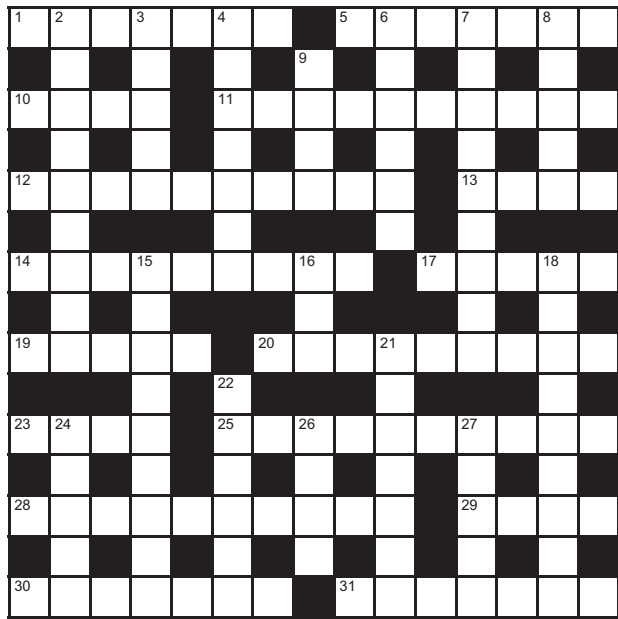
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Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Notice given by magazine to drop nearly everything and take a break (7)
- Audio series finished covering overdose by cult leader (7)
- Militant group is encircling Southern India (4)
- Transport worker, following Trump's lead, arrived deranged around eleven (4,6)
- Plague finds once prominent Republican holding strange-looking list (10)
- Philosopher has Kafka's original article, *On Territory* (4)
- Bliss over begonias' opening in flower (9)
- Money gets Yankee excited (5)
- Dug around for stuff (5)
- Angry about journalists getting small quarters (9)
- Think aloud about once stable housing (4)
- Work, going on a long time, put up at entertainment venue (5,5)
- Psychotherapist announced contemporary dance at film (10)
- Dramatically divisive king in aeroplane (4)
- One has misrepresented poets about oxygen atom (7)
- Courage displayed by Rex - you little ripper! (7)

DOWN

- Beginning to record *Echo* in debate on shame (9)
- Start with working group (5)
- Snake fighter's bishop taken by rook (7)
- Large numbers of dogs have no power (6)
- Work well on broken bat, one used for online inducements (9)
- Back in monster numbers (5)
- Conductor on show in taxonomy (4)
- Spooner's part in pain in penitent's clobber (4,5)
- Fierce anger in Ireland when *Echo* is banned (3)
- Spooner's costly time in clandestine power structure (4,5)
- Cleaner quit boxing a politician (7)
- Fictional pirate ready for a casual meeting (6)
- Those changes to beliefs (5)
- Aristocrat assaulted 29 (4)
- Baby bird old women tolerated (5)

Quick Clues

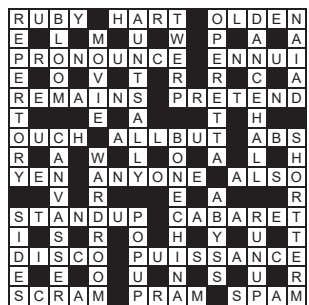
ACROSS

- Postpone or suspend a meeting (7)
- Digital audio series for listening (7)
- Extremist militant group in the Middle East (4)
- Chauffeur for hire (4,6)
- Widespread deadly disease (10)
- German philosopher of the Enlightenment (4)
- Diverse genus of flowering plants (9)
- Lustful (5)
- Sturdy cotton twill fabric (5)
- Single-room dwelling (9)
- Row of converted stables as dwellings (4)
- Venue for musical theatrical performances (5,5)
- Tightly encase in plastic film (10)
- Shakespearean king driven to madness (4)
- Variant form of chemical element (7)
- Intensely disliked or despised (7)

DOWN

- State of poor reputation or dishonour (9)
- Beginning or early stages (5)
- Venomous snake with tail segments (7)
- Large amounts or quantities (6)
- Sensational online content to attract views (9)
- Rear part of a ship or boat (5)
- Domesticated cattle used as draft animals (4)
- Self-imposed discomfort or penance (4,5)
- Intense anger or wrath (3)
- Alleged secret power structure within government (4,5)
- Hair-cleansing liquid or foam (7)
- Casual romantic encounter (6)
- Guiding beliefs of a person or group (5)
- British nobleman above viscount (4)
- Young or small owl (5)

Last week's solution #45



The Party Faithful

Mandy Nolan

When you're the PM, or you're at the very least polishing your bald nog, wearing a suit and lining up for the top job, here's a tip gleaned from recent history. Don't go to Hawaii in a bushfire. And definitely don't go to a party in a cyclone. Especially a swanky Vacluse fundraising party for the Liberal Party when your electorate (the people WHO ELECTED YOU, i.e. technically your employers) are facing the prospect of losing everything. People don't like it. It makes them feel like you don't care. I have to admit, it does look a lot like you don't care. Hey, isn't Dickson a super marginal seat? Ooh, not a good time to leave, buddy.

Last week we found out, just as our former Coalition PM doesn't hold a hose, Dutto doesn't fill a sandbag. And filling sandbags is exhausting work. Anyone who's filled one knows. We're talking sand, Peter not uranium. No one wants a bag of uranium at their door, because we know nuclear isn't the answer. It shouldn't even be the question. It had me wondering why no one has asked party-hard Dutto how his fantasy reactors would go in a cyclone. I don't know if you've ever sandbagged a nuclear power plant, but it's next level. Takes this weather event from catastrophic to radioactive.

Sneaky little Peter thought no one would notice him at Justin's party house. I mean the guy throws some crazy lavish shindigs. Some of them go for 40 hours. You need more than a cup of tea to party that hard. And it's a glorious sweaty wonderland. Beautiful people wearing tiny clothes. DJs pumping the tunes. Stuffed toys in the plush room. It would have been the most wicked Lib fundraiser ever. I imagined Pete in his tiny pants sucking a Chupa Chup, a fist pumping in the air - not Elon-style, doof-style - to the heavy-driving bass. The man who would be king.

I don't know how this could have happened. Didn't Scomo pay \$200,000 for his MPs to do empathy training? Hasn't he learnt how to do concerned and listening eyebrows? Sad face for the poor? Caring hands for his electorate?



...just as our former Coalition PM doesn't hold a hose, Dutto doesn't fill a sandbag.

Maybe climate change has also caused this terrible compassion drought. The desert where good people do nothing.

So what exactly were they raising money for at the \$100 million waterfront mansion owned by billionaire Justine Hemmes? Wow, when you think of all the people trying to save their overpriced rentals, their modest three-bedroom brick homes, their duplexes, their nursing homes, their one-bedroom converted garages, it makes being at a fricking mansion feel downright cruel. Maybe what they should have raised money for is some new political advisors. Ones that say: 'Don't go Dutto. Feel the FOMO. Fill a sandbag'.

Put on the hi-vis. I mean, isn't this the time when politicians who don't do anything remotely dangerous, or even physical, put on the hi-vis? Isn't this time to put on the serious danger hi-vis polie cosplay outfits? The optics darling! The optics! Oh dear, maybe that's how he got sprung. Did Dutto wear the hi-vis to Hemmes' big Lib donor doof? Is that how he was spotted? In the hard hat and the fluro going crazy on the dance floor?

Instead of packing sacks with sand, was he seen stuffing them full of billionaire cash? Enough sacks of money to sandbag a parliament house, to stop ethics and social justice getting in at the next Fed election? Keep the billionaires safe Pete. Keep them safe. Because if Peter Dutton's decision to go to a Liberal party fundraiser told us anything it told us this: he doesn't stand with his electorate, the average Joe, the single mum on struggle street, he stands with billionaires. No amount of money can undo that truth.

■ 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

As if Venus retrograde in fiery Aries wasn't challenging enough, she's joined on Friday by Mercury, information and communication influencer, for the first of three annual retrogrades. Add a full moon eclipse and don't expect a dull week...



PISCES THE FISH

ARIES: With Venus and Mercury retrograde in your sign, it could take your best efforts to stay focused on the positive this week. Try not to be overcritical of anyone, especially yourself, during this week's judgy full moon eclipse. Take it easy, take time out. Don't rush. Breathe, relax, be kind.

TAURUS: This week's retrograde and eclipse energies support downsizing and/or decluttering, along with getting some healthy routines in place, though keep these simple and achievable. Take life slow and steady, and at full moon, tune in and give yourself a dose of nature's enduring beauty, tranquillity and renewal.

GEMINI: Gemini's astro-boss Mercury has a short attention span this week, and its signal-scrambling retrograde cycle can multiply misunderstandings, skew schedules and bring people from the past back for another round. The good news? Your mission is to find that wherever you can. Even better, there's plenty around.

CANCER: This week's moon news features a full lunar eclipse on March 14, activating your sector of health, routines and service. Use this clarifying energetic to check how well your daily habits are supporting you, and to finesse the details of your life from workflow, to nutritional input, to overall wellbeing.

LEO: A full moon eclipse rocking your money zone for the first time since 2016 could bring clarity about moving forward - or not - with a financial venture. And since this is also an astrologically enhanced week for an honest life edit, some surprising and eye-opening realisations might surface on this week's menu.

VIRGO: Virgo full moon on March 14 is your annual date to celebrate your achievements, whether that's streamlined systems, sensible health regimes and/or helpful service to others. And, taking advantage of the lunar eclipse, to gently direct your persistent perfectionista towards ever more creative and enjoyable ways of managing responsibilities.

LIBRA: This week's desperately in need of Libran diplomacy, so conduct discussions with empathy and courtesy so people feel heard and understood, and others can see how it's done. Be sure to reward yourself by spending some quality time near, or preferably in, water, whether ocean, pool, bath or spa.

SCORPIO: Venus retrograde always offers a chance to bid love stories, or friendship sagas that have run their course, a fond farewell. Or alternatively, as this week's star-mix suggests, give them a radical revamp. Yes arguments might flare, but they'll clear the air. Just try not to burn bridges.

SAGITTARIUS: Both Venus and Mercury reversing in your self-expression sector constitute one of your premier foot-in-mouth transits, so edit before uttering this week. And use this golden opportunity to refine your communication style from verbal equivalent of blunt instrument to inspirational mouth music, which you can do better than anyone.

CAPRICORN: This week's full moon in a compatible fellow earth sign supports programs dear to Capricorn hearts: breaking projects into actionable steps, installing efficient systems, volunteering, organising digital spaces, refining eating routines, streamlining work schedules to reduce stress, and even more important, enjoying fun times with your homies.

AQUARIUS: Venus and Mercury rogue in your connection zone suggest revisiting and resolving any issues in your friend circle. Eclipses tend to activate turning points via sudden events, necessitating a change of direction, and this week could find you considering, maybe even test driving, an unexpected new offer.

PISCES: Venus and Mercury in go-slow mode in your money zone extend a valuable opportunity for Pisceans to reassess, address and reset financial affairs, during which it's advisable to have your discernment filters on their most eyes-wide-open settings. Take a break from helping others at full moon and treat yourself.

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

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

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa

Prepayment is required for all ads.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

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

TO LET

LOCAL REMOVAL

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

BALLINA SELF-STORAGE UNITS

Secure. From \$22p/w. Ranging from 10–44 m3. Across 3 locations. 66867011

WANTED TO RENT

I'M LOOKING to rent a secure single garage in central Byron Bay to store a small vehicle. Please call Ed 0418660063

TRUCK HIRE

OLD MATE WITH A UTE FOR ANYTHING

0427 854 011

POSITIONS VACANT

AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION OFFICER

Byron Shire Council is currently seeking an Agricultural Extension Officer, to encourage and promote best practice, sustainable primary production in the Byron Shire, with a goal of maximising food security and environmental resilience. Apply today!
More information:
byronshire.applynow.net.au/jobs/
BYR896

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

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

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

LEGAL SECRETARY/ADMIN (p/t) 12-15 hrs p/w. Byron CBD law migration. Great rate. Apply tyndallcolawyers@gmail.com



High School Lab Technician

Advertised on Page 10 in this Issue
Position Description and Application Process
www.Capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

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

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

MUSICAL NOTES

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TUITION

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Experienced Professional Trainer
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• Illustrator

contact@thinkblinkdesign.com
www.thinkblinkdesign.com

TREE SERVICES

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HART TREE SERVICES
20 years local experience
• 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding
• Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat
Fully insured • Free quotes
0427 347 380

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES
• Arborist • 15" Wood Chipper • Stump Grinder • Fully Insured
Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas
6681 3140
Mobile 0417 698 227

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

GARAGE SALE

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

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

PROF. SERVICES

DENTURES

LOOK GOOD
FEEL GOOD

Free consultation. SANDRO 66805002

Family Day Care Ocean Shores

SPOT AVAILABLE

Wednesdays 9am–3pm

Over 2YO

Call NRCS: 02 6686 7799

Text Daniela 0432 436 843

Registered with NRCS | Child Care Subsidy available for families | Limited spots - Get in touch today!

HEALTH

COUPLES COUNSELLING

Restore emotional connection; shift reactivity. Beautiful space in Bangalow. www.samadeeplisting.com

Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

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Julie Wells

Anne Goslett (nee Mannix)

Dip.Som.Psych, Clinical PACFA Reg.

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9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay

KINESIOLOGY & ENERGY PSYCHOLOGY

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- Emotional First Aid
- Trauma healing
- Stress & pain relief
- Posture & flexibility
- Fears & phobias
- Sabotage programs
- Enhanced performance
- Concentration & focus + much more!

Kate Messenger
0413 003 301

crystalsanddreaming.com.au

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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
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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**



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Kitchen Hands -
- Retail Assistants -
- Drivers and Co-driver -
- Community Support Assistants -

MDNC is in needs of dedicated volunteers to be part of a big loving family. All skill sets welcome.

Contact Sylvia - Volunteer Coordinator
Mon-Fri
6684 1286

COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH FREE

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

EVERYONE WELCOME

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

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Proposed termination of Strata Scheme No. 30624 being property situated at 1 & 2, 3 Hastings Road, Bogangar NSW 2488.

Notice is given of an intention to apply to the Registrar General for an order terminating the above Strata Scheme and the consequent winding up of the Owners Corporation, pursuant to section 142 of the Strata Schemes Development Act 2015 (NSW).

Any person having any claim against the Owners Corporation of the above Strata Scheme or any estate or interest in or claim against any of the lots comprised in the Strata Scheme is required, on or before 2 April 2025, to send particulars of the estate, interest or claim to

SP Garrett Lawyers, Suite 4, 130 Jonson Street, Byron Bay NSW 2481 or PO Box 580, Ballina NSW 2478



Osho Enlightenment Day Celebration

Saturday 15th March 5pm
Live music Nataraj dance
Meditation 5pm
6pm. Osho Video
7pm. Dinner with friends

Call Shahido
0427 845 533

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

The Minky's Playing Live

www.mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au
Cnr Stuart and Myokum St Mullum

No dogs please



PETS



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 petsforlifeanimalshelter.net



Meet Kia!

Striking, sweet and a little sassy. Kia is a confident and calm cat with a lush coat and full tail. Desexed, vaccinated, microchipped and parasite treated, she's ready

for her forever home. Call NRAS 66811860 or email shelter@nras.org.au



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: 941000028968305



Dylan, (DOB 01/06/2020, Desexed, Mastiff X, M/C # 900113001715319) will be a great addition to any adult family seeking a lively companion! His enthusiasm for games and activity suggests he'd be a perfect fit for a household that enjoys staying active and engaged with their pet. Potential adopters who are seeking a canine companion should spare a thought for Dylan. Location: Murwillumbah Contact Yvette on 0421 831 128. www.friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/

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

After that wild weather & evacuating our cats from the shelter, we now know that Daisy, our scaredy cat, did amazingly well in a home environment. Even though it was just a few days, she allowed herself to accept chin rubs! If anyone has a quiet home without other pets or small children, Daisy would love to join you!



To meet Daisy, 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 on 0436 845 542

Like us on Facebook! AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation Number: R251000222



SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (March)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
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
20	TH	6:49 18:57	22:09 11:50	1230 1.15	0656 0.65; 1817 0.51
21	F	6:49 18:56	22:55 12:47	1315 1.05	0759 0.71; 1856 0.58
22	SA	6:50 18:55	23:48 13:44	1421 0.98	0922 0.74; 1956 0.64
23	SU	6:51 18:54	14:37	0343 1.41; 1600 0.97	1056 0.71; 2128 0.66
24	M	6:51 18:52	0:47 15:26	0503 1.46; 1729 1.04	1203 0.62; 2257 0.60
25	TU	6:52 18:51	1:50 16:09	0608 1.56; 1831 1.16	1251 0.52
26	W	6:52 18:50	2:56 16:49	0700 1.67; 1922 1.29	0005 0.50; 1330 0.41

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

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Fundraiser - Liberation Larder

Get your ticket for a special event screening of the surf film classic 'The Innermost Limits of Pure Fun' and support our community. The film is playing on March 14 at 7:30 pm at the Byron Theatre. All profits for ticket sales for this event go directly

to help feed those in need via the community-run and volunteer-based Liberation Larder. Tickets at the Byron Theatre or at: <https://www.byroncentre.com.au/theatre-events/the-innermost-limits-of-pure-fun>.

GCAT

The Green and Clean Awareness Team's monthly Dunecare Day is on

Sunday, March 16 from 9am to 12 noon, meeting in front of the Beach Cafe at Clarkes Beach. We plant in the sand dunes from Clarkes Beach to Main Beach. From 12 noon to 1pm, enjoy a delicious free BBQ and be in the draw to win one of four excellent prizes. It's good fun. Inquiries to Veda 6685 7991 or Peter 0488 715 565.

AIR

The monthly meeting of the Australian Independent Retirees was cancelled last Friday due to the arrival of cyclone Alfred. This meeting will now be held on Friday, March 21 at 10am at Ballina RSL Club, 1 Grant Street,

Ballina. This will take the place of the committee meeting which is usually held on the third Friday of the month. Whether or not there will be a guest speaker, we yet have to determine, but if not, there will be cameos from the members present. Lunch will be at Cherry Street Sports Club after the meeting is concluded, as this is a regular booking there. A \$5 meeting fee will be charged to help cover the costs of the morning tea. All enquiries please ring Mrs Jill Huxley, President and Publicity Officer on 6686 8958.

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

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

Some of our services include:

Flood recovery support service: personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods.

Community support: food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.

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

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

Gulganii affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.

Orange Sky: free laundry service Monwon Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community

The Byron Community Centre provides community services

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads 0418 400 415

1st SUN Byron Bay 02 6685 6807

2nd SUN The Channon 02 6688 6433

2nd SUN Chillingham 0428 793 141

2nd SUN Coolangatta

2nd SUN Tabulam

3rd SAT Mullumbimby 02 6684 3370

3rd SAT Murwillumbah 0415 328 672

3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina

3rd SUN Federal 0432 275 765

3rd SUN Uki 0487 329 150

3rd SUN Ballina 0422 094 338

4th SAT Evans Head 0432 275 765

4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar kyoglebazaar.com.au

4th SUN Bangalow 02 6687 1911

4th SUN Nimbin 0475 135 764

4th SUN Murwillumbah 0415 328 672

4th SUN Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)

5th SUN Nimbin 0475 135 764

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

Each TUE New Brighton 0424 168 672

Each TUE Organic Lismore

Each WED Murwillumbah 7-11 0415 328 672

Each WED Nimbin 3-6pm 0418 940 653

Each WED Newrybar Hall 4-7pm

Each THU Byron 8-11am 0414 595 169

Each THU Lismore 2.30-6.30pm 0459 309 223

Each FRI Mullum 7-11am 0424 168 672

Each FRI Evans Head 2.30-6.30 0428 291 068

Each SAT Bangalow 8-11am 0414 595 169

Each SAT Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)

Each SAT Uki 8am-1pm 02 6679 5438

Each SAT Lismore 8.30-11am

Each SAT Wadeville 8am-12pm

Each SAT Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr

Each SUN Ballina 7-11am

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Please stick this by your phone

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

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

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.

Drug support groups
Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 - 30 meetings a week in the Shire - 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.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.

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

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 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.

Alateen meeting
Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5-6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking



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 New ads will be placed at end of section.
Contact: 6684 1777 or adcop@echo.net.au



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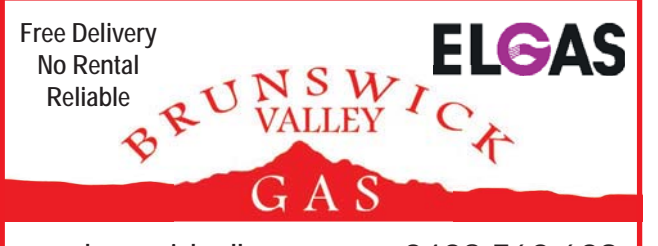
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Elders Lifestyle Group announces rebrand of 21 offices across NSW

Elders Lifestyle Group, a trusted name in property services, is excited to announce the rebranding of its 21 offices, spanning from Forster to Brunswick Heads, effective March 1, 2025 with the business now branded 'Lifestyle.'

This significant change marks the culmination of eight years of exceptional growth, reflecting the group's evolving vision and commitment to providing unparalleled property services to the communities they operate in.

Since its inception, the Lifestyle Group has experienced remarkable growth, expanding its footprint and reinforcing its reputation as a trusted real estate partner. With a dedicated team of professionals and a focus on exceptional client experiences, the company has consistently set new benchmarks in the industry.

The rebranding initiative represents a fresh, dynamic chapter in the Lifestyle Group's journey, reinforcing its continued commitment to offering outstanding experiences in real estate. With a 200+ workforce and 21 office

locations now unified under a bold new identity, the group will continue to offer the same high standard of service that clients have come to expect over the years. With over 8,000 properties under management, 500 holiday managements and transacting over 1,100 sales totalling \$830m in 2024, the exponential growth of the business has shaped a new and fresh way forward.

CEO & Founder, David Gray, expressed his excitement about the rebrand, stating, 'This is a celebration of the growth and transformation that the Lifestyle Group has undergone over the past eight years. As we enter this new chapter, we remain committed to our core values of embracing change, a growth mindset, a relationship focus, and thriving on energy. Our clients have always been at the heart of everything we do, and we are deeply grateful for their ongoing loyalty. We look forward to continuing to work with them and to making an even greater impact in the communities we serve.'

Jonathan Maggs, Lifestyle's Head of Brand & Client Experience, shared his enthusiasm about the rebrand's

significance, adding, 'Our refreshed brand identity represents more than just a new look - it's a reflection of our journey and our unwavering commitment to our clients. The new brand direction is designed to better connect with the diverse communities across our footprint while reinforcing the exceptional, personalised service that the Lifestyle Group is known for. We're excited to continue building relationships with our clients and strengthening our presence as a trusted partner in their real estate journey.'

understanding for a while now that we were rapidly growing to a size that no longer fit operating in a franchise model. As the Lifestyle Group evolved, it became clear that the time had come for us to establish our own identity. Our growth required something more unique - something that was distinctly ours.'

The Lifestyle journey began with the acquisition of Elders Port Macquarie in 2017 - now the group's headquarters - with this purchase including Elders Wauchope. In 2018, Dave added Elders

with three locations each in Camden Haven and the Macleay Valley. More recent acquisitions included Ballina and Lismore. Many other independent and franchise offices were rebranded as Elders Lifestyle Group, further strengthening their presence in the region.

'We are incredibly grateful for the unwavering support we've received over the past eight years,' said Dave. 'This rebrand is a testament to the growth and success we've achieved together with our clients, and we look forward to continuing our pledge to serve these wonderful communities with the same passion, dedication and expertise that has always defined our brand.'

Clients can continue to expect the same level of personalised service and professionalism that has made the Lifestyle Group a trusted leader in real estate.

For more information about the rebrand and the services offered by Lifestyle Group, visit lifestylegroup.com.au or contact your local Lifestyle office.

Website: lifestylegroup.com.au

Lifestyle.

David Gray also remarked about the group's exit from one of Australia's oldest real estate brands, 'Elders have been accommodating and professional in our parting of ways, and I wish them every success. I think there has been somewhat of an unspoken

Crescent Head, marking the beginning of what would soon be known as the 'Elders Lifestyle Group.' Over the years, the group expanded across the Mid North Coast and Northern NSW, acquiring additional Elders offices in Forster, Evans Head, and Grafton, along

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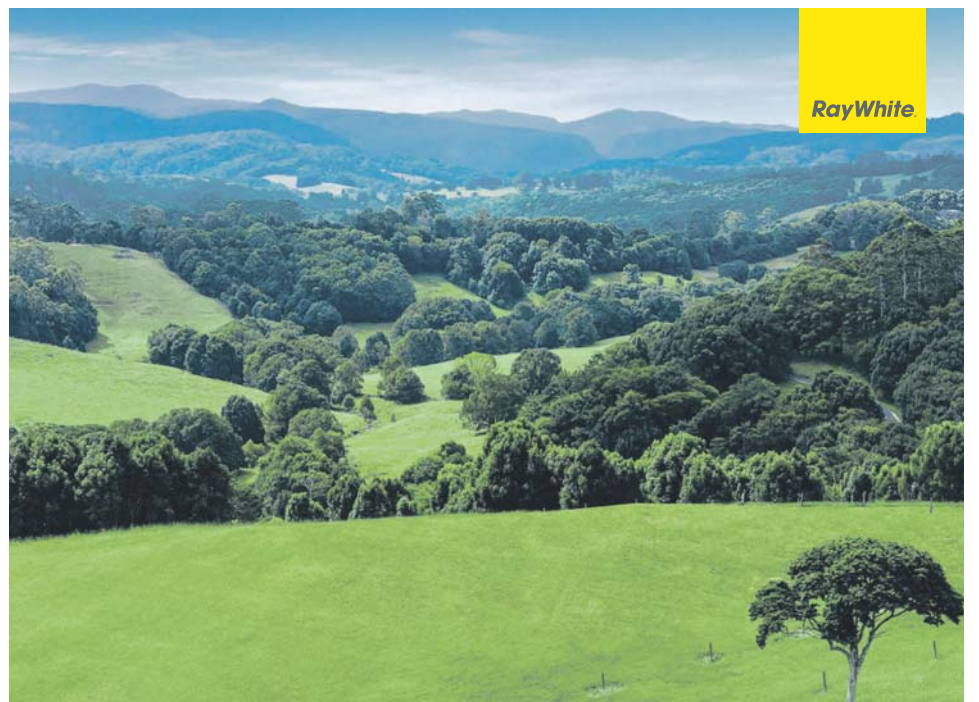
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David C Gray
CEO & Founder

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- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 10.45–11.15am
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 11.30am–12pm
- 24 Swell Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 9–9.30am
- 7 Glendale Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 55 Ruskin Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 16 Pine Avenue, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am
- 835 Federal Drive, Goonengerry. Sat 10–10.30am
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30am
- 30 Kendall Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 23 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am
- 845 Fernleigh Road, Brooklet. Sat 10.30–11am
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.45–11.15am
- 14A Beachside Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am
- 35 Avocado Crescent, Ewingsdale. Sat 11–11.30am
- 325 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 49 Carlyle Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 135 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 1–1.30pm

MANA Real Estate

- 55 Kyogle Road, Bray Park. Sat 9–9.30am
- 156 Byangum Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 10–10.30am

- 8 Kiyung Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1/50 Hall Drive, Murwillumbah. Sat 11–11.30am
- 8 Amarillo Drive, Murwillumbah. Sat 12–12.30pm

Ray White Byron Bay

- 5/112 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Wed 11–11.30am
- 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
- 9 George Street, Bangalow. Sat 11–11.30am
- 9 Bunjil Place, Byron Bay. 11–11.30am
- 7/68–70 Lawson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 15 Little Burns Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 7A Little Burns Street, Byron Bay. 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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- 84 Hinterland Way, Tintenbar. Sat 9–9.30am
- 32 Olivia Circuit, Lennox Head. Sat 10–10.30am
- 15 Muli Muli Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am

North Coast Lifestyle Properties

- 2/11 Miram Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 1 Ocean Avenue, New Brighton. Sat 10–10.30am

- 73a Kingscliff Street, Kingscliff. Sat 11–11.30am
- 7B Hart Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 3/15 Jarrett Street, Ballina. Sat 12.30–1pm

Ruth Russell Realty

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- 11 Garden Ave, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.45am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.30–1.15pm
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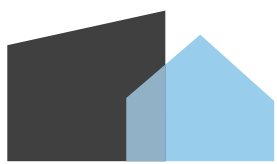
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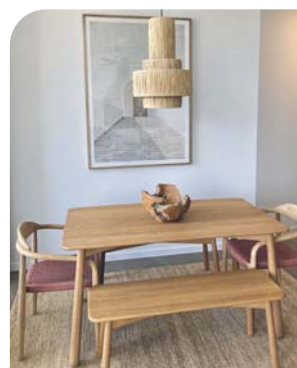
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BEDSRUS

Hands up councillors who still believe that building on floodplains is good planning? Perhaps disaster preparedness should be a focus? It should have been since 2022, and it's never too late to start.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
The Bangalow Film Festival has been postponed – with new dates to be announced. All tickets are transferable of course. For more info visit bangalowfilmfestival.com.au.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
You're fired. Wait, you're rehired. Email a list of things you've done today. Wait, forget it, you're fired again. Come back, your job was important. You're fired. Or hired. Come into the office. Wait, the office has no computers, go home. We are the department of US government efficiency, DOGE.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
As the cyclone approached, Liberal opposition leader Peter Dutton abandoned his electorate in Brisbane for a political fundraiser with hospitality billionaire Justin Hemmes in Vaucluse. PM Scott Morrison holidayed in Hawaii while Australia burned in 2019. See pages 10 and 21.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Local Michael Abboud has launched an off-grid capable First Aid Tablet (FAT), described as 'A lifeline for communities in crisis'. He says 'the FAT Kit is a rugged, all-in-one emergency device and kit that provides critical communication, navigation, and survival resources in the worst conditions. To find out more visit firstaidtablet.com.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Are you an aspiring mansplaining misogynist predator? Well, visit artist-exploiting app Spotify to get all of Andrew Tate's 'Pimping Hoes Degree' courses. It's true! As is the petition to get it removed.



Alexa snapped her two daughters, Darcy (7) and Bowie (5), while they waited for Alfred. Alexa and her family evacuated to Ocean Shores Golf Club from their South Golden Beach home.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Welfare payments have increased, reports AAP, with single pensioners receiving an extra \$3,913 each year, and couples to receive an additional combined \$5,902. JobSeeker payments will increase to \$5,038, with single parents, mainly women, set to be more than \$7,500 better off annually.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Four *Vagina Conversations* shows are planned from March 13 to 16 at The Brunswick Picture House. Now in its 10th year, organisers say 18 women have rehearsed for two months and will deliver incredibly diverse shows. All funds go to the Mullum & Tweed Domestic Violence Services'. See page 20.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Those impacted by the cyclone can apply for the Disaster Recovery Allowance* at servicesaustralia.gov.au/natural-disaster-support. A Personal Hardship Assistance Grant* for individuals and families is also available at www.nsw.gov.au/

cyclonealfredrecovery.
*Conditions apply.

■ ■ ■ ■ ■
Congrats to former Labor MP and coal and gas defender,

Joel Fitzgibbon, whose new Brickworks job pays him \$160,000 pa. Brickworks has ties to coal, according to www.reneweconomy.com.au.

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