And then the Easter Egg Hunt took a very unexpected turn...

Echo



This week's curiosities:

Eat Drink Magazine
~ with this issue

Bluesfest liftout
~ see centre pages

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Byron Public welcomes new principal ~ *p4*
A way forward for Council and historical unapproved dwellings ~ *p8*
Remembering locals who served aboard the *Centaur* ~ *p17*
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With apologies to Lewis Carroll and Sir John Tenniel

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NORTHERN NSW SYDNEY CANBERRA PERTH

Dipping into Byron's rich history with Jan Dawkins

Paul Bibby

The birth of the Byron Community Centre in 1980 was a profoundly important moment in the history of the Shire – an event which shaped our community in ways which continue to be felt today.

But few who call Byron home these days know the story of how it all came about.

Last week, *The Echo* sat down with Jan Dawkins, one of the founding members of this iconic institution, to hear her story and learn about the centre's origins.

Ms Dawkins recalls that the need for the centre became particularly clear to her on a rainy afternoon in 1979, when her daughter said she was going to the Byron pinball parlour (known as 'The Rib Cage').

'The Rib Cage was okay, but it really wasn't the best place for a teenage girl to hang out,' says Ms Dawkins, who lived in Skinners Shoot at the time.

'There were quite a lot of older kids hanging out there, and some of them were into drugs and drinking.

'When I said that to her, she said something like "where do you want me to go then? There isn't anywhere else!"'

'The reality was that there wasn't anywhere else for young people to hang out in Byron Bay at that time, and it just seemed obvious to me that they needed somewhere to go that was fun for them but also safe.'

So Ms Dawkins decided to do something about it.

With other concerned locals, including Maggie Waddell, Karen McCarthy, Kitty Harris, and Maureen Craven, Ms Dawkins formed a small group whose goal was the creation of a Youth and Resources Centre.

They wrote a short letter to *The Byron News* publicly declaring their intention and calling for interested locals to join them.

Big response

The response was overwhelming.

'People started calling straight away,' Ms Dawkins says. 'A lot of people came to the first meeting, and by the third meeting, it was packed.'

Many of those who got involved were part of a sub-culture known as 'The Alternatives' – a loose collective who had come to the Shire during or shortly after the 1973 Aquarius Festival and made a life here.



Jan Dawkins had a central role in setting up the Byron Community Centre. Photo Eve Jeffery

'We all basically felt that there should be an alternative way of looking at life and of living,' Ms Dawkins said.

In complete contrast to the stereotypical view of 'alternatives' as lazy hippies, Ms Dawkins and her colleagues were extremely proactive and energised.

During their first few meetings, the group settled on a venue for the centre – the old Byron Bay Literary Institute on Jonson Street.

The site had already had many names and iterations by 1979, having hosted the Byron School of Arts and the town's first library back in 1895.

A much bigger two-storey building was completed in 1907, and for many decades this space was the focal point for the town, hosting a range of venues over the years including a dance hall, movie theatre, skating rink and a gym.

But by the late 1970s, the building was barely used, and in dire need of repair.

As such, it was a perfect site for 'The Alternatives' and their plans.

'A few of us joined the board of the Literary Institute and voted for the building to be made available for a range of activities for young people and the wider community,' Ms Dawkins recalls.

Free events

After returning the space to a functional state, Ms Dawkins and her colleagues wasted no time in organising free events for the community.

'We had Saturday morning activities for kids, jazz on a Sunday, a leather work class, pottery workshops – people would turn up and say, "I'd like to offer this" and it would go on the big chalk board out the front. People would roll past and see what was happening and then come back and drop their kids off.'

With the help of funding from Byron Council's parks and reserves committee, the old building was further refurbished and repainted.

And as the space changed, so did the services on offer.

The group quickly realised that there was a pressing need for services supporting the homeless, young people at risk, and affordable child-care.

Through a largely organic process, the Youth and Resource Centre became the Byron Community Centre – a hub that continues to provide activities, host events, and is a key provider of social services and education.

The centre was instrumental in setting up a youth homelessness refuge, an adult education school, which became the Byron Community College, and childcare services.

'We learned such a lot because in those early days none of us really knew how to organise something like this.'

What they did have was a philosophy of inclusion.

'Anyone who wanted to come along to the centre and say something or share something about what was happening in the community could do that,' Ms Dawkins says.

In the ensuing years, the Centre continued to expand and grow, with a new Centre. completed in 2003.

'We really weren't thinking too far into the future most of the time,' Ms Dawkins says, 'we just saw a need there and I think we were just the type of people who dived in and did things'.



Echo

Ballot locked in, now comes the pledges

The candidates pictured in the order – left to right – as they will appear on the ballot.



Greens
Mandy Nolan



Labor MP
Justine Elliot



Independent
Kevin Loughrey



Pauline Hanson's One Nation – Ian Mye



Legalise Cannabis
Vivian McMahon



Trumpet of Patriots
Phillip Peterkin



Nationals
Kimberly Hone



Libertarian
Ian Willis



Independent
James McKenzie



Rennick's People First
Richard Curtin

Hans Lovejoy

Buckle up peeps, the federal election is May 3, and there are ten candidates for the marginal Richmond electorate who are vying for your precious vote.

In last week's ballot draw, Greens candidate Mandy Nolan was first out of the bag, which means she has the advantage of being placed number one on the ballot.

To be a valid vote, all squares must be numbered consecutively from 1 to 10.

If voters simply number down the ballot, an advantage would be received by the higher candidates.

According to think tank www.australiainstitute.org.au, 'topping the ballot is worth about one percentage point. Maybe a little more in electorates with younger voters and where fluency in English is lower'.

While the main three parties – the Greens, Labor and the Nationals – traditionally attract the most votes, preferences will flow to them from minor parties and independents.

Libertarian line-up

The minor candidates and independents are dominated by policies that embrace the expansion of fossil fuels, cutting red tape, and freedom of speech.

Some of these parties could be described as 'libertarian' – which is a philosophy that advocates limited government intervention in the free market and private lives of citizens (independent Kevin Loughrey, Pauline Hanson's One Nation, Clive Palmer's Trumpet of Patriots, the Libertarian Party, and Gerard Rennick's People First).

It's very likely that their votes will flow towards the Nationals, as they have in the past.

The National Party is again represented by Tweed councillor and business coach, Kimberly Hone. Her party's primary vote declined by about 13.5 per cent in the 2022 election, compared to the previous 2019 election.

The Legalise Cannabis Party will likely preference the Greens, while the policies of Independent James McKenzie are, according to his previous candidacy, 'exposing that Wollumbin, Arakwal and Bundjalung National Parks are fake, [and] that Bundjalung is a white man's fabrication'.

Meanwhile, incumbent Labor MP Justine Elliot faces tough opposition from Greens candidate Mandy Nolan, who is again running for the seat.

Labor v Greens

In previous years, strong Greens votes in Byron Shire have led to preferences flowing to Labor, which has helped Mrs Elliot retain the seat since 2004.

The seat is considered marginal, given the vote difference is just 1.8 per cent between Labor and the Greens.

Claims that STRA owners 'rorting the system'

Paul Bibby

Hundreds of short-term rental accommodation (STRA) owners in the Byron Shire are 'blatantly rorting' the system by falsely claiming they are not required to register their properties, Byron Council has been told.

In a stinging submission during last week's Council meeting, Victims of Holiday Letting (VOHL) spokesperson, David Wallace, produced figures showing that more than 500 owners of holiday lets in the Shire had listed their properties as 'exempt from registration' on the Airbnb website.

This meant that they could effectively avoid complying with both the state government's short-term rental regulations and, crucially, the 60-day cap on holiday letting that applies across most of the Byron Shire.

'The March 11 data from [website] Inside Airbnb states that 507 short-term rentals in the Byron Shire claimed exemption from registration,' Mr Wallace said.

'This represents 20 per cent of Airbnb listings for the Shire.

'Further, there has been a 25 per cent increase in exempt listing in the last three months.

'This is illegal and blatant rorting.

'It's only those with an approved DA for visitor and tourist accommodation who are exempt, and only a handful of these advertise on Airbnb.'

Mr Wallace said that the AirBnB booking engine was aiding and abetting this rorting by accepting the exemption claims of STRA owners without undertaking any checks as to their validity.

No evidence required

'Airbnb is clearly requiring no evidence for exemption,' he said.

'This is despite the fact that, under the STRA code of conduct, it is an offence for a booking engine to advertise a STRA without a registration number, and penalties apply under the *Fair Trading Act*.

Mr Wallace said, 'Council should lobby the ministers for fair trading and planning to resolve this blatant rorting.'

The Echo contacted Airbnb around the claims but did not hear back by deadline.

The rorting claims raise further questions about the effectiveness of Byron 60-day cap on short-term holiday letting as a method for addressing the rental crisis in the Shire.

The cap, which came into effect for most of the Shire's non-hosted holiday rentals last September, was intended to disincentivise short-term holiday letting, and thus drive the owners to list their properties on the long-term market.

It applies across all of the Shire, except for two precincts in Byron Bay and Brunswick Heads, where un-hosted holiday letting is allowed 365 days of the year.

While the year-long rollout of the cap is not yet complete, there is little evidence to suggest that any headway has been made at this stage.

Australia's peak short-term rental accommodation industry group, ASTRA, released a report in February which found that 95 per cent of short-term rental owners surveyed said they would 'not move their properties into the rental market'.

However, it has been suggested that the findings of this report were not reliable because they were not based on rigorous methodology.









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GOOD FRIDAY 3pm — St Finbarr's Catholic Chruch, Tennyson Street, Byron Bay
EASTER VIGIL (Saturday) 6.30pm — St Finbarr's Catholic Chruch, Tennyson Street, Byron Bay
EASTER SUNDAY 9.30am — St Kevin's Catholic Church, Deacon Street, Bangalow

St John's Catholic Parish
Mullumbimby/Brunswick Heads

Holy Thursday
5.30pm – Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Mullumbimbi St Brunswick Heads

Good Friday
3pm St John's Church, Murwillumbah Road, Mullumbimby

Easter Sunday
8am St John's Church, Mullumbimby
9.30am Brunswick Heads, Lit of Word + Communion

"He is risen. Alleluia!"

Byron Public welcomes new principal

Miranda Burne



Byron Bay Public School's new principal, Mel Morris, with students. Photo supplied

It's not often you see a school principal playing handball with her students. But Byron Bay Public School's new chief does just that. And the kids are loving it.

Originally from Newcastle, and hailing from a family of teachers, Mel Morris is a highly experienced principal who's just taken the reins at Byron Bay Public.

And with public schools competing with private schools for funding and student numbers, the new principal is relishing the chance to show the community how her new school shines.

School funding

In the recent budget, the federal government announced an additional $400 million for public schools over the next four years. It's part of a promise to get schools back on track to the fairer funding model proposed by David Gonski over a decade ago.

The new funding will be tied to a raft of reforms in an effort to improve educational outcomes.

Implementing these reforms will be one of the many tasks for the new principal, who when she's not playing handball can be spotted chatting to parents at the school gate.

'Being a school principal is not for the faint hearted. It is a calling rather than a job,' says Principal Morris. 'Nurturing young minds and ensuring their wellbeing is a beautifully complex task, and the positive difference we can make in children's lives is immense.'

Morris thinks it's vital to develop the whole child, and sees it as a school's responsibility to be a centrepiece of the community. She plans to create greater opportunities for parent and community involvement in the school, and there's even talk of students writing columns for *The Echo*.

'My favourite part of our school, however, is our students – they are such a joy. It is a privilege to spend time with them each day,' says Morris.

From her first day at Byron Bay Public School earlier this year, students were surprised to find their new principal spending a lot of time in the playground.

They were even more astonished when Principal Morris started joining their handball games.

During a particularly close game, Mel eventually lost to Charlie in year four who said, 'I think it's pretty cool that our principal wanted to play handball with us. She was pretty good too and we are waiting for a rematch!'

How do we fix Byron's economic woes?

Paul Bibby

What do we want business in Byron to look like in a decade's time and how will we get there?

These are among the key questions that Byron Council must consider if it wants to develop a useful economic strategy, the Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce says.

Chamber President, Matthew Williamson, made the comments during last week's Byron Council meeting, where the attempt to develop an economic strategy once again came up for discussion.

More than two years after Council first resolved to develop a plan for supporting the local economy, it effectively went back to the drawing board again last week, following feedback that it's draft Business Industry and Visitor Economy Strategy (BIVE) was missing several key elements.

Previously, it was called The Enterprising Byron Economic Development Strategy (EBEDS).

'Strategy documents are, in part, a map to a destination,' Mr Williamson said during the public access section of the meeting.

'But what was completely absent from the previous draft was, in fact, a destination.

'What we would like councillors to come forward and talk about is what do they think Byron is going to look like in ten years' time vis-a-vis a business strategy.'

Mr Williamson also said that the strategy lacked an acknowledgment that many of Council's basic functions impacted business, including making and enforcing regulations, administering development applications (DAs), and building basic infrastructure.

'They were completely absent, and we'd like to know how we can have those elements included [in the strategy],' Mr Williamson said.

Who takes responsibility?

He said someone at the Council needed to take responsibility for its failure to develop a strategy and to support local business during the last term of Council.

'There's an opportunity cost from not having a strategy,' Mr Williamson said.

'We've got empty shops, we've got visitor numbers down, we've got lower occupancy rates. We've got a downturn in our local economy that's quite significant.'

'Would a strategy have helped? It certainly wouldn't have hindered. It's been two years and we've now got a proposal for another strategy.'

Missing elements

In their report on the latest draft strategy, Council staff acknowledged that the feedback in relation to the latest draft strategy was not favourable.

'A lot of the feedback suggests that the community viewed the draft BIVE as missing key elements that a comprehensive economic development strategy would have.'

'As a result of a review of submissions, and feedback from the business community, along with the need to respond to our changing economic climate, we have identified the need to adjust our approach to supporting and advocating for business and industry.

'This has led to the need to transition the BIVE to a vibrant economy strategy.'

Councillors voted unanimously to pursue this course.

The new strategy will reportedly provide a 'clear and comprehensive vision for a vibrant economic future in Byron Shire'.

The strategy will be supported by multiple sub-plans to provide for specific needs. These include a: Visitor Economy Action Plan, Business and Industry Action Plan, Events Action Plan and a Night-time Economy Action Plan.

Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said the revised draft strategy would be an 'opportunity to invigorate our economy in a way that supports us'.

'We can support business more as a Council, and I'm looking forward to doing that in this space, so that not just our brand but our story gets told.'

Echo

Make friends and influence people with the CWA

The Country Women's Association (CWA) of NSW are encouraging women to consider becoming involved in their organisation, with the 'Find Your Place' campaign running in April and May.

The Brunswick Heads CWA branch is getting right behind it, and is urging locals to get active.

Bruns CWA president, Mary Webb, told *The Echo*, 'The CWA of NSW is a group where you can become involved with so many different activities, from fundraising for your local community and broader causes, to helping set association policies that become part of a wider advocacy agenda'.



Brunswick Heads CWA branch members. Photo Eve Jeffery

Positive change

'Our branches are also places where women can find new friends, learn new skills and enjoy new experiences, and feel encouraged and empowered to advocate and achieve positive change for their communities.

'The CWA of NSW has achieved so much for women and children in regional, rural and remote NSW communities, which has been possible through a united and passionate voice, and we want to keep that voice strong into the future,' she said.

'This year already, the CWA of NSW has appeared before a number of inquiries, making multiple submissions on a range of issues, and meeting with NSW ministers and MPs'.

'Telecommunications, feral animal controls, affordable housing for older women and the state of maternity services in rural and regional NSW and the ACT are just some of the current advocacy priorities.

'Branches also have the opportunity each year to put forward policy motions to the association's state conference – this year in Wagga Wagga in May - where they are debated by delegates and if endorsed become official CWA of NSW policy. Beyond the branch level, members can also become involved at a state level in a variety of committees including agricultural and environmental, international, social issues, state cultural, state handicraft and the land cookery.'

To find out more about joining your local CWA branch, contact Mary at the Brunswick Heads branch: brunscwa@gmail.com.

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THE GREENS

Swimmers off to Sydney to represent region

Nine swimmers from Ocean Shores Aquatics have qualified for individual swims at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre at Homebush, Sydney.

They will represent their various schools from late March through to early May, and be looking to see where their efforts will rank them among NSW finest.

Coach Adrian Filipic told *The Echo* he could not be more proud of all his 30-strong squad.

He said, 'I always try to fabricate ways to bring the best out of them through challenges, encouragement, belief and praise'.



State swimmers front row: Orlando Blandford, Mali Stewart, Madison Harper, Tully Harper, Addison Cecil, Molly Boyle (missing are Tilly Klasterka, Kaia Roberts, Jack Matkavitch, and relay swimmer Ned Tutt). Squad swimmers back row: Valentino Blandford, Spike Stubbings, Jake Stubbings, Rocky Tobin, Felix Monty and coach Adrian Filipic. Photo supplied

Last season

'After 25 years as a coach, and 23 years of running a successful business with my wife Vanessa, we have seen some great results from both the teaching and performance coaching perspectives of swimming.

'As It will be our last season, and as we say farewell, we wish to thank all the parents, Byron Pool staff and management for their ongoing support and for always providing a safe and fantastic facility over this time.

'We are truly grateful for being embraced by a wonderful community, and have enjoyed our time enhancing the lives, and teaching life skills to so many', added Adrian.

Ever thought of being a firefighter?

Mullumbimby Fire and Rescue are looking to recruit a new on-call firefighter for the Mullumbimby 388 station.

The role involves being available to respond to fires quickly, by getting to the station and into the truck, to be on your way within about 15 minutes.

'We've got a really great team and our station is really family friendly,' said firefighter Kimberley Waldron.

Currently, the on-call Fire and Rescue NSW team at Mullumbimby is made up of two women and 13 men, and they are looking for a new team member to replace a retiring member.

> *'The job has given me the confidence that I can handle whatever life gives me'.*
>
> – local firefighter, Kimberley Waldron

'All training is provided,' said Kimberley.

Acquired skills

'You need to be an Australian resident or citizen and have a valid drivers licence. I'd never driven a manual vehicle before I became a firefighter, and now I can drive a 13 tonne manual truck,' she said.

'The job has given me the confidence that I can handle whatever life gives me. It is a great way to give back to the community. For example, when there are floods or fires you are out there helping people in need.'

If you are interested in becoming an on-call firefighter at the Mullumbimby Station you must have your application submitted by April 21. To apply, visit careers.fire.nsw.gov.au/jobs/search/search-page-regional-north.

38 large-lot DA back on exhibition

Hans Lovejoy

A 38 large-lot development applications (DA) near the busy Mullumbimby Road/Uncle Toms intersection has quietly been re-advertised on Council's website, with senior planning staff confirming at last week's Council meeting it was initially incorrect.

The proposal will have considerable impact on access into, and out of, Mullumbimby if approved, given there are already around 13,000 vehicle movements per day.

The latest public exhibition started on April 9 and ends on May 9 for the Community Title (CT), and the plans have again attracted strong criticism from neighbours, who engaged consultants to peer review the DA.

As previously reported, DA 10.2023.454.1 at 53 Mcauleys Lane came with a myriad of unanswered questions and issues, including traffic, where the applicant was relying on out-of-date data.

It was also referred to the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) to determine.

The proponents are wealthy local developers John Callahan and Tim Mundy, and their DA comes in 41 separate parts, containing hundreds of pages. The estimated cost for the 34.82ha subdivision/infrastructure works is $2,867,339 ex GST.

Cr Jack Dods was the lead design coordinator for the project at the time, and neighbour contact for the DA, yet neighbours say they were never consulted. Cr Dods has since distanced himself from the project, and has also recused himself from traffic planning committee meetings around planned works for the Mcauleys Lane and Mullumbimby Road intersection.

In summary, neighbours say the 'slightly changed' Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) within the latest DA is still unsatisfactory, despite requests for more information (RFIs) from Council.



A 38 large lot DA at 53 Mcauleys Lane (marked in red) is again before the public for comment, after Council planning staff failed to identify who the consent authority was. Image Google Maps

'There is no incorporation of increased numbers expected for The Saddle Road,' they said.

Issues as raised by neighbours

'The current proposed roadworks on the intersection favour the developers. It does not incorporate the approved Mullum Bruns cycleway.

'The promised second eastern bus stop, pedestrian and cycleways to the proposed site, are removed from DA plans and volunteer planing agreement (VPA).

'There is no Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment report, and questions remain unanswered around the Biodiversity Assessment. Many proposed lots also encroach in NSW Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) environmentally sensitive areas'.

The issue of why the DA was again before the public was brought up at the end of last Thursday's meeting by Greens mayor Sarah Ndiaye.

She tabled a status report on 'DAs with bodies like the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP)'.

Senior planner, Chris Larkin, said there were two reasons it needed to go back before the public for comment. He said, 'It came to our attention, by one of the neighbours, that we advertised it incorrectly, because originally we thought Council was the consent authority'.

'About six months into the assessment process, it turned out that the NRPP were the consent authority.

'And when it was pointed out to us around a month ago it had been advertised incorrectly – to make sure this application proceeded without the potential for a third-party challenge – we've had to re-advertise again.'

Intersection upgrade

Larkin said secondly, there was an 'amended planning agreement to do with the intersection upgrade'.

'That's all on exhibition, which we are required to do'.

When pressed by the mayor as to why it was referred to the NRPP, Larkin said there is a 'little sliver of land which is on the coastal zone, and, not that there are any lots down in that area, but my understanding is that then brought the NRPP into play'.

The Echo understands that rural-residential subdivisions with more than 25 lots trigger NRPP intervention as 'regionally significant development', and that staff also failed to refer the DA to the NRPP on those grounds.

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IMPORTANT COMMUNITY MEETING & SILENT DEMONSTRATION:

An onsite conciliation between Council and the developer is set for 24th April, commencing at 10.30am at 30 Chinbible Ave, Mullumbimby regarding his plans for 25 single-storey detached town-houses on a large block.

"Residents near the proposed development remain concerned about its flood effects. The high density of what is proposed, mixed with poor drainage and inadequate stormwater means the risk affects all of us nearby, forever. This is made even worse if the developer uses fill on the site"

The Applicant has appealed Council's deemed refusal of Development Application 10.2024.228.1 (PAN-451512), which seeks approval for the construction of **25 single-storey detached townhouses** on the large back block of **30 Chinbible Avenue, Mullumbimby**, over two stages. This includes associated landscaping, earthworks, infrastructure, and a strata subdivision. Additionally, there will be a **Torrens Title subdivision of 1 lot into 7 lots**, along with tree removal, demolition, and bushfire upgrades to the existing dwelling house. However, **the 25 dwellings are only for the back block**, and there are **further Development Applications expected for additional dwellings along Garden Avenue, potentially adding another 10 or more dwellings**. We are concerned that the developer is staggering these applications rather than allowing scrutiny of the entire development plan. This could lead to a much larger development than they are currently proposing.

We urgently need a show of **concerned community members** at the **Conciliation Conference on Thursday, 24th April 2025 at 10:30** AM, on-site at Chinbible Ave, Mullumbimby, to demonstrate our opposition to this development.
Your presence is critical to ensure the community's concerns are visible and cannot be ignored. Let's stand united to protect our neighbourhood from overdevelopment!

The Silent Demonstration

In response, the locals are organising a silent demonstration to show the strength of our opposition to this development.

DATE: Thursday 24th April 2025
TIME: 10.15am
LOCATION: On-site at Chinbible Ave.



Creating a way forward for Council and historical unapproved dwellings

Aslan Shand

Managing unapproved development is not a new challenge for Byron Shire Council (BSC), or other Northern Rivers councils.

The challenge is to do it effectively, and achieve positive outcomes for both Council and the people who have historically unapproved dwellings.

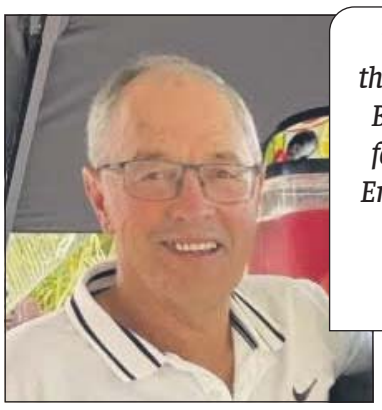
It is no simple issue, especially considering the history of alternative, intentional communities that developed in the region where there were no legal pathways for them to create the communities they envisioned.

'Historical communes and rural land sharing in the 1960s to 1970s developed with no, or few, approvals,' explained former BSC Planning Director, Ray Darney to *The Echo*.

'Prior to the 1968 Interim Development Order, and the 1988 LEP, there was a history of few approvals in rural zones, primarily they were for banana farms and sharefarms etc.'

The pressure to develop and set up a structure for multiple occupancies (MO) in Byron Shire and other areas came from the need to look at how to provide further housing and bring these types of communities into the legal structure of both state and local planning. It is a long journey.

Mr Darney brought many illegal dwellings through the approval system with BSC during his tenure as head of planning from 2004 to around 2015.



Ray Darney. Photo supplied

> *'Upgrades to a safe standard rather than demolition or meeting the current Building Code of Australia is the way forward, and the NSW Ombudsman's Enforcement Guidelines provides these options'.*
>
> – Former Council Planning Director, Ray Darney

'Compliance staff have a difficult job. We proactively went through a try to resolve many of the issues that are on those communes and rural land sharing over that period of time,' he said.

During the period of 2010–2012, BSC approved about 180 occupancies over about probably 20 sites across the shire.

'There are historical MOs from the hippie era; they're there, and they're long-term occupancies. Then you've got a culture in the Shire and some other shires of people doing illegal building works or unapproved building works.

'*The NSW Ombudsman's Enforcement Guidelines* (NSW OEG) allows discretion in dealing with unapproved development,' he explained.

'As staff noted to councillors in 2011, the NSW OEG for Councils allow for discretion in dealing with unapproved development matters. In particular, both the policy and the guidelines stress that particular circumstances of hardship affecting the person, the subject of a complaint, need to be considered in decision making. The discretion should not be determined by individual staff, but by Council or a panel with appropriate policy guidance.'

Mr Darney said the NSW OEG allows councils to look at a range of ways to move forward and provide pathways for approval to these historical dwellings.

Special consideration

'Many of these can be approved via a development application (DA). Long-term MOs need special consideration. If they [the houses] are a danger to the occupier, Council may need to serve notice to upgrade, but it is preferable to assist by directing a way forward to the upgrade. Buildings built 50 years ago will find it difficult to meet 2025 standards and it would be incredibly costly. Upgrades to a safe standard rather than demolition or meeting the current Building Code of Australia is the way forward, and the NSW OEG provides these options'.

'When we worked on this issue from around 2010, we recognised that some of the houses couldn't meet all requirements, so we looked at the onsite disposal (effluent), bushfire, and structural safety,' he explained.

'There's many, many farm houses that are constructed from probably 1919, 1920 onwards, in Byron and all over the west of NSW that have got no outright approvals. We don't go and pull those down. What we do is, if somebody's selling the block of land, or the farm, they can get a structural engineers certificate and a building information certificate that says the building is safe and that council is not going to take any action with regard to that building.

'For those houses that are already there, we certainly can't get 100 per cent compliant with the 2025 building regulations because the code has changed dramatically from 1960 and 1970 through to 2025. They need to meet the basic needs of effluent and water, structural safety, kitchen, showers, etc.

'That's what we did at the time, and that's why I believe you can get a certification from an engineer that the dwelling is not going to fall down. Then council building surveyors can have a look and say, they've got adequate toilet, shower, cooking facilities, etc, then the council has the ability, in my opinion, to be able to outright give a letter saying that they will allow that occupation.'

Time and trust

Mr Darney highlighted that the process took time and trust between BSC and the community to achieve these positive outcomes.

'We had meetings with the community to discuss the ways forward,' he said.

'We need to allow those past historical buildings to remain and be upgraded when that can be done safely. Council set the policy as to how far they're going to pursue any particular issue. Council should make it clear that action will be taken to discourage further structures being erected without needed approval, but give every assistance possible for the long-term house structures to be upgraded to an adequate standard. Council is able to give a clear policy on how to deal with these long-term rural occupancies and assist in a way forward.'



Have your say on the draft Place Plan for New Brighton, South Golden Beach and Ocean Shores

The draft Place Plan for New Brighton, South Golden Beach and Ocean Shores is a guiding document that describes the vision for these communities, for the next 20 years.

It includes priority actions relating to movement, environment, open space, village feel, community and resilience.

Come and talk to us in person:

Ocean Shores Community Centre
Tuesday 15th April, 3:30 pm – 6pm.

South Golden Beach Hall
Wednesday 16th April, 3:30 pm – 6pm.

New Brighton Farmers Market
Tuesday 29th April, 8am - 11am.

More information

Have your say on this draft via Council's website until 18 May:

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/nso-place-plan

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Echo

Lawson smashes leg, then state swimming comp

15-year-old Byron High student Lawson King has won medals at the recent NSW CHS State Swimming championships

The school's sports organiser, Kelley Caoyonan, told *The Echo,* he won sliver in the 50m freestyle, bronze in the 100m fly, and came fourth in the 100 freestyle, sixth in the 200m freestyle, and eighth in the 100m backstroke.

'It was an amazing result considering in July last year, he snapped his patella tendon while competing at the NSW CHS state athletics championships', says Kelley.

'He won Gold in the 14-year-old boy's high jump, and was jumping to see if he could finish with a higher jump… and then… snap. He underwent surgery and rehab. What an amazing comeback!'

Kelley also added that the year 12 raffle is now on offer, which aims to raise money for their formal.



Swimming champ, Lawson King. Photo supplied

Greens pledge free university and TAFE

The Greens say they have a plan to make university and TAFE free for students around the country, something that was previously the case for many Australians.

Labor Prime Minister Gough Whitlam introduced free uni degrees in 1974, and by 1989, Labor PM Bob Hawke began to re-introduce uni fees.

The Greens say the Parliamentary Budget Office estimates free uni and TAFE would cost $46.5 billion over the forward estimates.

The Greens say this would be paid for by taxing the big corporations, a previously-announced Greens' policy which would raise $514 billion over the next decade.

The Greens say, 'When the prime minister studied for a Bachelor of Economics at the University of Sydney, he paid a total of $0 in fees. A student starting the same degree today is facing nearly $51,000 in debt by the end of a three-year degree – a debt that will only increase with indexation'.

Skyrocketing fees

'The costs of degrees and qualifications have skyrocketed, with the average student debt for people in their 20s doubling in less than 20 years.

'In 2023–2024, the Australian government collected almost five times more from students ($5.1b) than from petroleum companies through the Petroleum Resources Rent Tax (PRRT) ($1.1b).'

The office of Greens candidate, Mandy Nolan, claims incumbent Labor MP Justine Elliot received free education for her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Queensland.

Justine replied to *The Echo*, 'I was disappointed to see the Greens political party present further untrue claims about me, as I did in fact contribute financially to my degree.'



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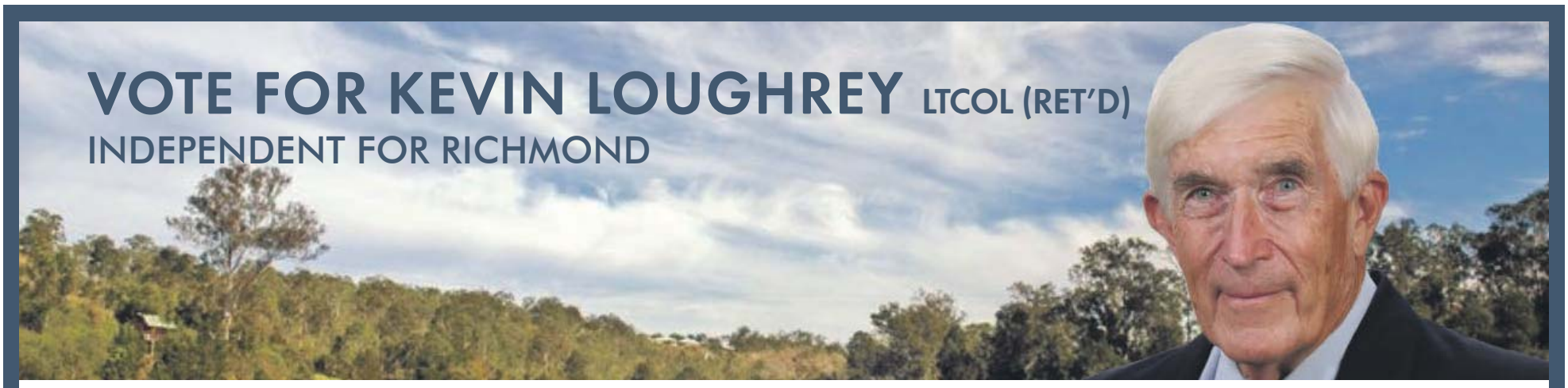
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4. **Halt unbridled Immigration.** It's making home ownership unaffordable & destroying our society.

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Authorised and printed by Kevin Loughrey, KEITH HALL, NSW 2478 Mob:0416 276 624 E: kevinl@kevinloughrey.com.au

Compliance report to be prepared over Upper Main Arm raids

Hans Lovejoy

A report will be prepared by Council staff around compliance actions against a small community of residents in Upper Main Arm, located behind Mullumbimby.

As previously reported in *The Echo*, a demolition order has been placed on a multiple occupancy (MO), which is shared land managed by a company.

Council's general manager, Mark Arnold, has given the landowners 12 months to comply to building codes, while waiving Council's $650 admin fee.

After considerable debate and input from senior staff, councillors voted to ask for the report.

Crs Lyon, Pugh and Dods against transparency

Conservative Crs Michael Lyon, Asren Pugh (Labor) and Jack Dods voted against, with Crs Lyon and Pugh making their case against informing the community on the matter via a report.

The mayoral minute by Sarah Ndiaye asks to receive 'a report at the next available Council meeting on the current compliance action at Upper Main Arm, including a clear, chronological overview of events, as well as an outline of the legal framework and any relevant advice on enforcement provisions'.

The Echo understands the report will contain a public summary, but also include a confidential component.

The mayoral minute reads, 'The report will be prepared in accordance with relevant guidelines for councillor involvement in enforcement matters, while giving due consideration to legal, privacy, and regulatory requirements'.

Acknowledging that she was not across the details, Cr Ndiaye sought support for the motion by saying there was a 'lot of opinion and misinformation' on the matter.

While Cr Ndiaye initially said there had been no response in nine months from landowners, she later acknowledged that some landowners had engaged with Council staff.

Former mayor, Cr Lyon, led the charge for not interfering with the actions of staff and keeping it from the public eye. He asked, 'Why are we doing this in a public way?'

He said he 'backed staff' with their actions against the long-term residents and said the matter was private.

But Cr David Warth said, 'This is not about *The Echo* or community, it's about all councillors getting across the issue and working it out – so we can be in the same page'.

Cr Ndiaye challenged Cr Lyon around his handling of a previous compliance action that became public when he was mayor, but he played it down as 'one person'.

He said while no report was made public, he did admit to 'calling them out in public'.

'Anyway, we don't need to go over that again', he said.

Cr Pugh agreed with Cr Lyon, and called *The Echo*'s reporting 'disingenuous', and not 'interested in resolving the matter, but wanting to sensationalise'.

Cr Pugh was concerned that with more public discourse around the matter it would be, 'another trigger for the people involved', and that, 'It will not be resolved through public debate, only sensitive engagement with staff'.

Greens Cr Elia Hauge told the chamber it was important the matter was kept public.

'It's not just these people, it's others around the Shire who are not receiving clear information [around compliance]. We need to balance the sensitivity and privacy and we need to be transparent around our decision making'.

'The public should be brought along on the journey around the legal framework'.

GM's role questioned

Last week's comments to *The Echo* by Dean of Law at SCU, Professor David Heilpern, were also put to general manager Mark Arnold.

While Arnold told a MO resident via a letter he had no powers to intervene with compliance staff, Professor Heilpern said there were legal provisions that allowed it.

Arnold defended his comments by saying he was, 'not in a role to second guess or to say [compliance staff] are wrong', although he eventually said intervention was 'possible', yet implied it could create liability for Council.

Arnold said in the long-term, 'it could be agony for the organisation'.

It also emerged that a previous panel for compliance and the public to sort their differences out was abandoned years ago.

Council's legal counsel, Matt Meir, was also asked around liability issues and said it depended on the case, and that court cases had been decided on merits of liability.

Before the vote, Cr Ndiaye said she didn't know who was right, referring to Professor Heilpern or Council staff.

A compliance review is also underway, with all councillors previously acknowledging the current policy does not reflect community expectations.

Youth crime prevention program funded

Byron Youth Service Inc. (BYS) has been allocated $500,000 to provide youth crime prevention programs through the Youth Empowerment Program.

BYS runs youth programs at its HQ behind the Byron Bay courthouse and skate park. The office for Labor Richmond MP, Justine Elliot, told *The Echo* the money has now been provided to BYS.



Christian Tancred, General Manager of Byron Youth Service, with Justine Elliot MP and Byron Shire Councillor, Asren Pugh. Photo supplied

Ages 10 to 17

In a statement, Mrs Elliot said the recurring federal program, 'provides funding for programs for youth aged 10 to 17 who are engaged in, or at risk of becoming engaged in, criminal or anti-social behaviour. This investment will make a positive impact on the lives of young people by promoting connections between at-risk youth, youth workers, families, schools and the community, and help to break cycles of crime and anti-social behaviours'.

'Labor's funding for BYS will support vitally important youth crime prevention programs, including individual support for young offenders, seminars in schools addressing issues such as consent and risky-driving, school holiday activities, and so much more,' said Mrs Elliot.

She said the funding commitment, 'is in addition to $293,323 delivered to BYS in 2024'. The Youth Empowerment Program grant outcomes were published on March 4.

The office of Greens candidate Mandy Nolan questioned whether the funding 'constitutes a net increase in funding towards youth crime prevention, or simply a continuation of similar funding levels towards the BYS via one of grants, instead of recurrent funding that seems to always occur a month or so before an election'.

Chilli scoops Pan American Championships

Raz Harel

18-year-old local BJJ phenom, Chilli Harel, is the 2025 Pan American Champion.

The Pan Ams is one of the four major international events and the second most prestigious after the World Cup. The event was held last week in Orlando, Florida, spanning over five days, with more than 5,000 competitors from across the globe.

Chilli, who won the event in the juvenile division in 2022, competed this time in the adult division, and managed to collect the gold medal in his category, competing in a 45-man bracket against some of the best in the world. Chilli trains at The Academy in Byron Bay, and is next set to compete at the World Championship in Long Beach, California, at the end of May.



2025 Pan American Champion, Chilli Harel. Photo supplied

■ Raz Harel is from The Academy Byron Bay.

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EPA investigates massive sewage discharge

Approximately 929,000 litres of sewage was discharged into Byron's stormwater system between February 12 and March 19, say Council staff, which has prompted the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) to investigate.

In a media release, staff say they are working with the EPA.

'Council believes the issue occurred when a contractor working on a sewer upgrade in Byron Bay accidentally diverted a sewer bypass into the stormwater system'.

'Staff immediately began checking the stormwater system in Byron Bay to ascertain the extent of the discharge and extract any sewage from the stormwater pipes in the town centre and at the Cowper Street outlet.

'Extensive water testing was done to see if there had been any discharge to the ocean via Clarks Beach or Belongil Creek and all results at the time indicated there was no spill although it is impossible to determine if this was the case for the duration of the discharge.

Not a public risk

'While water quality testing did not reveal any risks to the public, or impact on the environment, ongoing monitoring will continue while the EPA investigates the incident. There are ongoing investigations with the contractor to find out how the accident happened and to make sure it does not happen again'.

Christopher Soulsby, Manager Major Projects, said, 'No one wants to see an incident like this happen, and we accept that the community will be very concerned'.

'Council sincerely apologises for this incident, and we will do everything we can to make sure it does not happen again,' he said.

Economics as if people mattered

Organisers of 'Economics as if People Mattered' say the event is 'a timely evening of ideas, insight and grounded discussion – challenging the systems that prioritise profit over people, and exploring what an economy built on care, equity and sustainability could look like'.

Genuine progress?

They say, 'Dr Ronald Colman, who developed the "Genuine Progress Indicator", has spent decades shifting how we define success – moving beyond GDP to measure what really matters to communities and the planet'.

He will be joined by comedian and politician Mandy Nolan and facilitated by journalist Mick O'Regan.

Organisers say, 'As the world reels from climate shocks, housing stress and escalating geopolitical tensions, this conversation couldn't be more relevant. What would it mean to design an economy that genuinely serves people and the Earth?'

April 23 event

The event is on April 23 at Coorabell Hall. Doors open at 6pm and event starts at 7pm. Tickets at the door.

Free community garden workshops at Wards

There has been a change of guard at Wards Landscape Supplies, with the businesses being acquired, and further developed, by the Mullum Coop.

To celebrate, Mullum Coop and Wards invites the local community to participate in a series of free, hands-on workshops to enhance garden skills and embrace sustainable practices.

Organisers say it's for seasoned gardeners and also those just starting out.

The next free community workshop at Wards is Friday, May 23, where you can find out all about the best plant selection for the Northern Rivers. It will be followed by a 'Know your tools – secateurs and loppers workshop' – on Friday, June 13.

Both start at 10am.

'The workshops are designed to provide practical advice, encourage environmental responsibility, and foster a sense of community among participants,' say organisers.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

MONDAY 28th APRIL
6–8pm, BYRON THEATRE



Bay FM's Mia Armitage with Echo editors Aslan Shand and Hans Lovejoy

Hosted by Bay FM and *The Echo*

Hear from the federal candidates for Richmond: Justine Elliot, Mandy Nolan, Kimberly Hone, and maybe more.

Candidates will answer questions settled prior to the event from members of the public and community groups.

Do you have a question for the candidates?

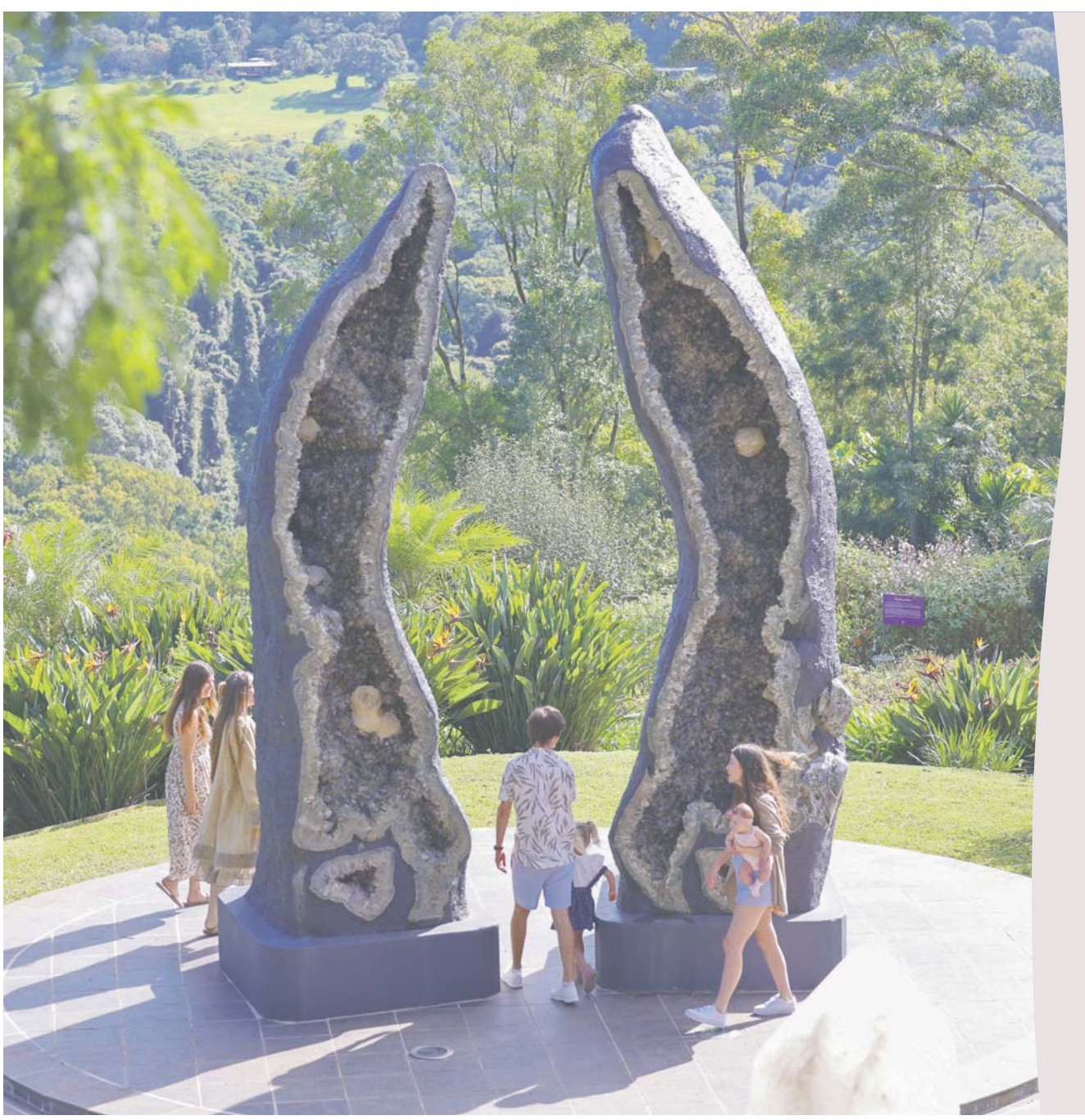
Email communitynewsroom@mail.com up to TWO questions for a chance to be heard on the night.

Time is strictly limited as this event is to be live broadcast by Bay FM 99.9 FM and audio streamed at bayfm.org.

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News from across the North Coast online ▶

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Protesters in Sydney as Lismore squatters face court

Squatters in the Lismore and Mullumbimby homes bought back by the NSW Reconstruction Authority were facing the Supreme Court in Sydney on Friday, April 11.

NSW Nationals leader comes out in support of 'no mining' for Clarence catchment

The Clarence Catchment Alliance (CCA) have been pushing for the protection of the Clarence River Catchment from mineral mining for many years and with the recent support of the NSW Nationals leader Dugald Saunders they say they are one step closer.

Rural Women's Gathering coming to Lismore

Registrations are now open for the annual Rural Women's Gathering on Saturday, October 25 in Lismore. Organised with support from the Rural Women's Network, the theme for this year's program is 'Connect to the Heart'.

Get ready to Meet the Candidates: 28 April, 2025

Candidates are getting ready in the marginal federal seat of Richmond for the 2025 live broadcast Richmond Meet the Candidates forum hosted by Echo Publications and Bay FM Community Radio.

Frustrated by banks closing their doors in your town? What are the options

Over the years local towns have watched as big banks have closed their doors in their local communities moving many of their services online. This leaves many people without access or a human to touch base with to get their banking done.

Landmark report plots future for creatives

The arts sector in the Northern Rivers is a unique and beautiful organism. Woven deeply into the fabric of our community, it is a key attraction for visitors, a major employer of locals and – most importantly – a prism that reflects the colourful spectrum of who we are.

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Ballina crew rescues foilboarder swept out to sea



Foilboarder all smiles after rescue. Photo supplied

Volunteers from Marine Rescue Ballina negotiated large swells on the Ballina Bar on Sunday (April 13) to rescue a male foilboarder who was swept out to sea during the outgoing tide.

Marine Rescue NSW Inspector John Murray said NSW Police Marine Area Command tasked Marine Rescue Ballina with the mission just after 12pm, Sunday.

Swept out to sea

'Because of the rough conditions on the bar, Marine Rescue NSW vessel Ballina 21 was deployed for the mission. Ballina 21 is a highly-manoeuvrable rapid-response jet boat'.

With conditions against him, the foilboarder was unable to return to shore and was being swept further out to sea.

'Within ten minutes of getting on the water, the volunteer crew on board Ballina 21 located the foilboarder approximately one kilometre east of the north wall. Members from Surf Life Saving NSW arrived on the scene simultaneously in an Inflatable Rescue Boat (IRB) and retrieved the man from the water before transferring him to the Marine Rescue NSW jet boat.

'The IRB requested the Marine Rescue NSW crew return the man to shore because conditions on the bar were too dangerous for their vessel. The man was extremely lucky. The conditions were quite challenging, and the Marine Rescue NSW jet boat was the ideal vessel for the mission.

'The foilboarder was taken on board Ballina 21 and returned to Shaws Bay. He was uninjured,' said Inspector Murray.

Marine Rescue NSW is a volunteer-based, not-for-profit professional organisation dedicated to keeping boaters safe on the water and supporting local communities.

■ Max the foil boarder from Ballina has contacted *The Echo* and said 'I'd love to thank the amazing woman who called 000 and stayed with me from the shore. I'd be really happy to connect and say thanks, please reach out via *The Echo*!'

Appeal to locate wanted man – Woodburn

Police are appealing for public assistance to locate a wanted man around the Lismore and Woodburn areas.

Thomas Cochran-Byrnes, aged 19, is wanted on an outstanding warrant related to alleged domestic violence offences in the Woodburn area.

As inquiries continue, officers attached to Richmond Police District have released an image of the man to help locate him.

Cochran-Byrnes is described as being of Caucasian appearance, with medium build, brown hair and brown eyes.

He is known to frequent the Lismore, Goonellabah and Woodburn areas.

Anyone who sees him is urged not to approach him but to call Triple Zero (000) immediately. Information is managed on a confidential basis. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.



Thomas Cochran-Byrnes, aged 19. Photo NSW Police

Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital opens at Wollongbar

The Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital (NRWH) is officially open and treating its first patients, marking a historic moment for native animal care across the region.

Located on Lindendale Road in Wollongbar, a short drive from Lismore and Ballina, the facility says it is the first dedicated 'bricks-and-mortar' wildlife hospital in the Northern Rivers (the mobile Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital is a separate operation).

Purpose-built to provide urgent, specialised care for sick, injured, and orphaned native wildlife, the Wollongbar hospital is expected to treat around 5,000 animals each year, brought in from all seven local government areas.

'This is a dream come true for the region – and for every injured animal that now has a better chance of survival,' said NRWH Chair Madeleine Faught.

Already saving lives

Even before opening, the NRWH team had begun treating wildlife in collaboration with Vitality Vetcare, operating out of a temporary clinical space in Bangalow.

Over the past fortnight, they've cared for more than 40 native animals, including two rose-crowned fruit doves (a threatened species), a noisy pitta, a golden whistler, a white-faced heron, rainbow lorikeets, white-headed pigeons, tawny frogmouths, an eastern long-necked turtle, a blue-tongued skink, coastal carpet pythons, a ringtail possum, a mountain brushtail possum, black flying foxes and grey-headed flying foxes.



An injured bird being treated at the recently opened facility. Photo supplied

Easing pressure

The hospital says it will also ease pressure on local vets, who often treat wildlife pro bono, and on wildlife rescue groups already stretched by a record number of calls for help.

The facility is equipped to care for all species of native wildlife – from marsupials and reptiles to birds and flying foxes – and was developed in close consultation with wildlife carers and organisations.

'This hospital isn't just about treatment – it's about research and regional resilience. Our pathology centre will help identify and respond to the illnesses threatening some of Australia's most iconic species,' said Dr Megan Kearney.

An official opening event will be held in the coming weeks.

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

Opposition to greyhound 'death track'

Animal Liberation has confirmed its intention to vigorously oppose any development by the Tweed Heads Coursing Club Ltd (THCC) to build a new mega-sized greyhound complex at Chinderah in the NSW Tweed region.

According to Lisa Ryan, Animal Liberation's Regional Campaigns Manager, 'This first early step is to provide the THCC with the planning criteria they need to prepare, to enable them to lodge a formal development application (DA), including an environmental impact statement.

'We have known for several years about the THCC's intentions, and their previously aborted and failed attempts to lodge a DA through the Tweed Shire Council (TSC), and their subsequent failed attempt through the state government's major projects department.

'The difference this time is the THCC has basically significantly increased the project value to exceed $30m with the full proposal's estimated costs tipped at $61.6m to make it tick the box to qualify for consideration as a state significant development by throwing in some extras,' that Lisa Ryan described as 'two new death tracks and a dumping facility for discarded industry greyhounds.'



Greyhounds racing. Photo Animal Liberation

Animal Liberation says the volume of public money gifted to the NSW greyhound racing industry in recent years includes:

• $22.4M in regulator funding for the Greyhound Welfare and Integrity Commission (GWIC) FY23-24.

• $8M betting tax given to the industry FY23-24.

• $11.3M Capital Grants Program (tracks) 2018-22.

• $60M land tax exemption 2022-24.

'We don't need or want new greyhound death tracks, we want to see this gambling-fuelled dog killing industry shut down permanently, and public money being invested where it is most needed for community good and wellbeing,' said Lisa Ryan.

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



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Echo

The Byron Shire Echo

Volume 39 #45 • April 16, 2025

Vote for nobody. Nobody is perfect.

The federal electorate of Richmond (Tweed, Byron and Ballina Shires) apparently tops the nation for high-risk properties impacted by climate change, according to a new report by www.climatecouncil.org.au.

Climate Council is a publicly-funded body that includes 'influential experts, powerful communicators and passionate advocates'. Respected climate scientist and author, Dr Joëlle Gergis, is a fellow of the organisation, and has spoken locally.

The new Climate Council report, which dropped on Tuesday, says nearly a third (28.88 per cent) of all Richmond properties are at high risk of riverine flood, surface flood and bushfire. Overall, the report claims two million properties are in the 'firing line'.

Claims of climate-induced chaos by academics will no doubt be dismissed by a cohort of minor parties running for the May 3 election (see page 3).

While the term 'libertarian' or 'right-wing populists' could apply to them, if politics has done anything in recent years, it has become 'up and down' rather than 'left and right'.

Given these parties/independents appear to share very similar values and aspirations, *The Echo* asked Pauline Hanson's One Nation candidate, Ian Mye, what is the point of difference between his party and the rest.

His regional campaign manager replied that One Nation 'started the real drift away from the coalition when it became obvious that the Libs/Nats were no longer the party of Menzies centred on limited government, small business and rewarding personal initiative and effort'.

'The Nats don't bat for the struggling farmers, and seem to be more city based. Libs, Nats and other parties were happy to see our car industry and small farmers go down. They don't value even an Australian passport as demonstrated by their abandoning of Julian Assange'.

The One Nation campaign manager continued with their stance against 'excessive immigration', which of course is a playbook for libertarians.

Another talking point for One Nation was nation building with dams. They added, 'We encourage a more dirigiste [state controlled] approach to the economy to safeguard the wellbeing of the Australian public as opposed to the current 'market forces' laissez faire corporate welfare regimen'.

So the question around a point of difference between One Nation and the other smaller parties, it seems, is not much.

Original libertarians

One Nation started in 1997 and could be considered the original Aussie libertarian/right-wing populist party. It erupted into our culture with the cult of Pauline Hanson.

She was quick to surround herself in unedifying controversy and the media loved it.

But if you dig a little, there are other blotches on the party's history (and no political party is perfect).

This month alone, serious allegations emerged regarding the financial management of the NSW branch of One Nation. Two MPs, Rod Roberts and Mark Latham, resigned from the party, claiming that officials had improperly funnelled state funds into federal party accounts.

It's a party that for 28 years has faced multiple allegations and scandals related to corruption, financial mismanagement, and chaotic internal party governance.

It's just worth considering if you think bucking the system is what is needed on May 3. Such parties don't seem to offer much in the way of stability within their own party, so can they be trusted to act on our behalf?

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Trump's tariffs are not a local liberation

Helena Norberg-Hodge



'While Trump talks tough on trade, the real threat isn't foreign nations. It's the global corporate system that has hollowed out our economies, weakened democracy and deepened inequality'

– Helena Norberg-Hodge

While Donald Trump talks tough on trade, the real threat isn't foreign nations. It's the global corporate system that has hollowed out our economies, weakened democracy and deepened inequality.

You'd be forgiven for thinking, after last week's announcement from Donald Trump, that America was finally waking up to the perils of globalisation.

The president's latest volley of tariffs has been framed as a kind of economic 'liberation', a long-overdue break from foreign dependence, designed to bring industry and self-reliance back home. To some ears, this may even sound like common sense.

After more than four decades studying the impacts of global trade, however, I can say with deep conviction that this isn't the kind of liberation we need.

Most mainstream commentators still treat it as an economic inevitability, or at worst, a slightly bumpy road to prosperity.

The truth is far more troubling.

Our deepening dependence on distant supply chains and multinational corporations has not only weakened local economies, it has undermined democracy itself, hollowing out communities, accelerating ecological breakdown, and disempowering people in both the global North and South.

Theatrical gesture

In that context, Trump's tariffs may look like a course correction, but they're not a serious response to the underlying crisis. They're a theatrical gesture, a band-aid stuck over a deep wound made worse by decades of deregulation and corporate privilege.

The real threat is from stateless global corporations that operate above the law. Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) clauses in 'free trade' treaties enable corporations to sue governments simply for trying to protect their citizens or the environment.

From Germany to Thailand, companies have been winning pay-outs for lost profits after countries dared to ban toxic mining, raise minimum wages or restrict harmful chemicals.

Nation states v corps

Recently, Australian mining company Energy Transition Minerals began suing Greenland for up to $11.5 billion – roughly ten times the country's annual GDP – over its 2021 decision to ban uranium mining. This corporate overreach makes a mockery of democracy.

And while Trump may talk tough about 'protecting American workers,' his administration's record tells a different story. Just last year, $1 billion was cut from two USDA programs that supported local food purchasing.

At best, tariffs like Trump's may reduce some of the most absurd types of global trade, where goods are shipped halfway around the world for no clear reason beyond corporate profit.

The US, for instance, has been importing over a million tonnes of beef annually, while exporting roughly the same amount.

We cannot, however, mistake this kind of slapdash protectionism for a vision of economic renewal.

If anything, it distracts us from the real work of rebuilding local economies in a way that is thoughtful, inclusive and ecologically grounded.

True economic localisation is about more than borders and tariffs. It's about reweaving the fabric of interdependence at the community level, supporting local food systems, small businesses and place-based education. It's about reinvesting in the real economy: soil, water, biodiversity and human care. Perhaps most importantly, it's about challenging the structural power of multinational corporations that currently dominate our economic lives.

The future lies in localisation, not as a return to isolation but as a path toward connection and renewal.

This path is already being walked. From Byron Bay to Bangalore, people across the world are rediscovering the power of local. They're forming food co-ops and tool libraries, building community energy projects and launching regional investment schemes. They're choosing to support their neighbours over distant shareholders. Localising reduces emissions and creates meaningful jobs not by increasing consumption, but by replacing fossil fuel-intensive systems with human-scale ones, relying more on people and less on polluting technologies.

It also helps rebuild a sense of belonging. When we shorten the distances between production and consumption, we rebuild trust, reciprocity and care. These are the foundations of real prosperity.

If we're serious about liberation – economic, ecological, or psychological – we must target the system that allowed global corporations to overrun our lives in the first place.

That means re-regulating trade, revoking corporate privileges, and empowering communities to meet more of their needs closer to home.

Now that would be a policy worthy of the word liberation.

■ Helena Norberg-Hodge, director of Local Futures and co-founder of the International Forum on Globalisation, will speak at Thriving in Uncertain Times on Saturday, April 26, from 2.30 to 5pm at Marvell Hall, with Damon Gameau. Tickets: relocalise.org/events.

Echo

The Byron Shire Echo

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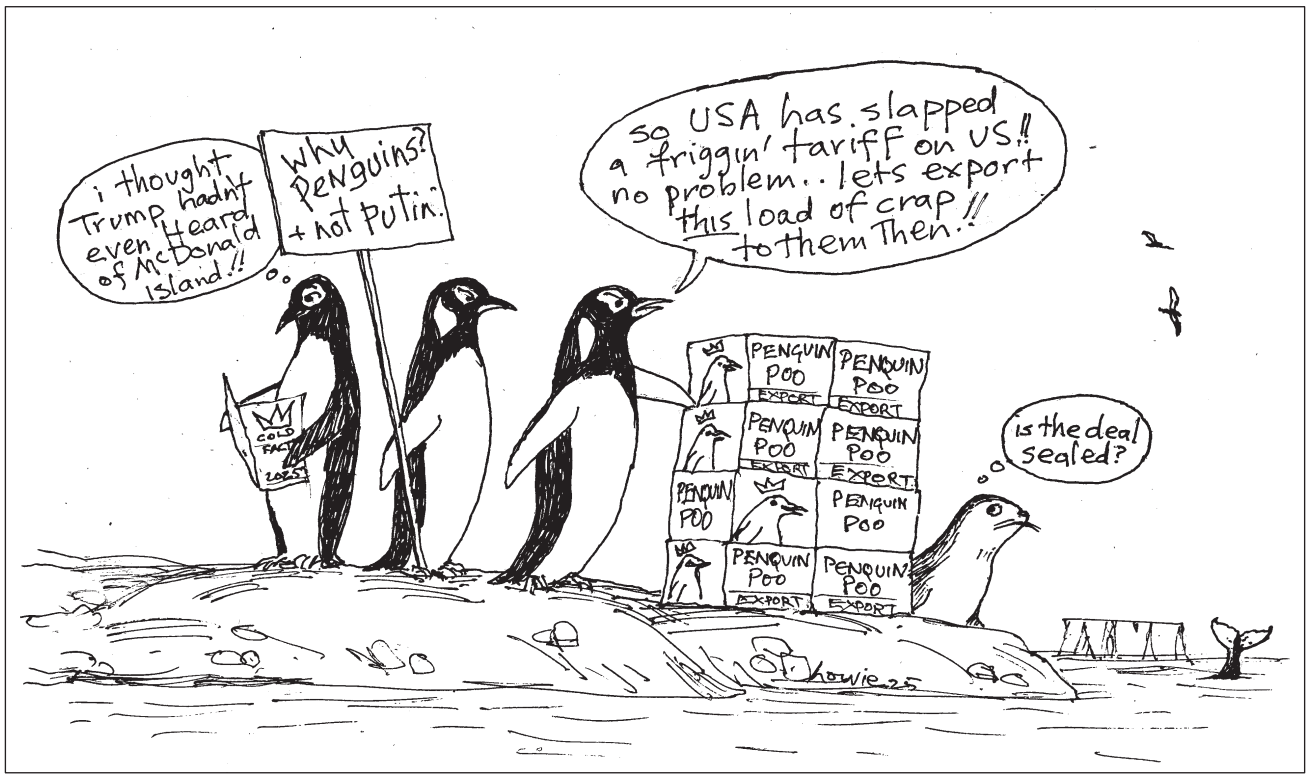
The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.

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

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

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Cartoon by Howie Cook

Vale Richmond River

On March 3, Craig Copeland of Ozfish held a very informative seminar about the recent fish kill in the Richmond River and the blackwater that caused it.

Blackwater occurs when water covers vegetation, which rots and then with following hot days produces an anaerobic condition that deoxygenates the water and suffocates aquatic and marine life.

The reclamation of wetlands, by the use of flood mitigation procedures, (drains and barrages) changes water flows and the natural filtration by wetlands.

Along with silting from erosion, chemicals from farming, and residential sewage, weeds (especially coral trees) and acid sulphate soils, we have killed the Richmond River!

Once it was a healthy habitat for fish, oysters, and multiple smaller invertebrates, and, who knows what damage has been caused offshore, from those immense plumes of dirt!

First were the timber getters, then pioneer farmers clearing the Big Scrub but they probably didn't realise the damage they were causing for the future.

Today, they would not recognise the drain that was once a pristine, healthy river and wetland system.

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

Richard White
East Ballina

Demolition scrutiny

Thank you Mayor Sarah for proposing a public report regarding the issuing of demolition orders to a multiple occupancy (MO) in Upper Main Arm, and to Elia, Delta, Michelle and David Warth who supported. The orders do require scrutiny.

This isn't just my view, the NSW Ombudsman's Enforcement Guidelines for Councils states 'activities need to be open to scrutiny. Councils are answerable for their decisions on why they took action. This should be transparent to the general public'.

Council states they have 'effective decision making and community leadership that is open and informed' to 'enhance trust and accountability'. The report will define if that's genuine.

The defence of the actions, on the grounds of legal requirements for compliance and to avoid liability, fail to address the guidelines direction to initially seek other options and to show respect and consideration of the hardship and stress involved.

The opposing councillors revealed no awareness of the need for accountability regarding the issuing of orders for the demolition of residents' homes, some have lived here for 50 years, in one of the oldest intentional communities in the country.

Yes, it's our hippy roots, an integral element of Byron's unique character. Now, those who retreated from mainstream society to live simply are under threat of losing their homes. This is shocking.

The report and legal advice will hopefully explain how this progressed.

Jan Barham
Broken Head

Main Arm home demolition

As a shareholder of the Kohinoor multiple occupancy (MO) I have been appalled and shocked at the Byron Shire Council compliance staff's eagerness to use the threat of home demolition.

Shouldn't demolition orders be a last resort, used sparingly with an understanding of the severe implications on the receiver?

Why is my family home being threatened to be knocked down or fined for not knocking it down when I have had no direct communication from Council staff and, as far as I know, no Council staff have even come to look at our house and land. Some neighbouring shares were inspected and the whole community was then threatened with a demolition order.

I believe it is a misuse of the power given to compliance staff to be acting like this [writing a letter to the MO that, amongst other things, threatened home demolition] and seriously needs review by Byron councillors.

Anonymous

Solution to traffic

In recent weeks there has been a lot of concern about the problem in Suffolk Park of making a right turn from Clifford Street to go towards town. A traffic light was proposed, but then rejected.

In Ewingsdale we have a similar problem. Drivers in McGettigans Lane who want to turn right and head to town on the main road (Ewingsdale Road) have difficulty because they are blocked by drivers coming from the right. Just like the Suffolk Park drivers, they need a gap in the traffic.

A possible solution is 'gap creation'. Drivers on the main road coming from town, as they pass the Cavanbah Centre, can simply slow down a bit. This will create a gap, as the drivers ahead of them draw away. When this gap reaches McGettigans Lane, some right turners will be able to make their turn.

Some of us Ewingsdale

▶ **Continued on next page**

Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

Anglican Parish of Byron

Easter Service Times 2025 *Holy Week*

ST THOMAS' BRUNSWICK HEADS
6pm Thursday 17 April - Maundy Meal
7.30am Easter Day Sunday 20 April - Holy Communion

ST MARTIN'S MULLUMBIMBY
9am Good Friday 18 April
9am Easter Day Sunday 20 April – Holy Communion

ST PAUL'S BYRON BAY
9am Good Friday 18 April
9am Easter Day Sunday 20 April – Holy Communion

ALL SOULS' BANGALOW
9am Good Friday 18 April
9am Easter Day Sunday 20 April – Holy Communion

02 6684 3552 ▪ office@byronanglicans.org.au
www.byronanglicans.org.au

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Just a country drive away!
Info/stallholders phone 0487 329 150 UkiButteryBazaarMarket

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THU 17 APR	TRILLA
FRI 18 APR	PINK ZINC 6.30PM - 9.30PM
SAT 19 APR	PAPERLANE
SUN 20 APR	HAYLEY GRACE TRIO
MON 21 APR	STEPHEN LOVELIGHT
TUES 22 APR	DAVID FOGARTY
WED 23 APR	INO PIO

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▶ **Continued from page 15**

drivers, if we happen to be coming from town during peak hours, have started to use this trick of gap creation, to help our neighbours and friends trying to make the difficult right turn. Maybe something of the sort would work in Suffolk Park too.

Meanwhile, I hope other drivers on Ewingsdale Road will be patient with us Ewingsdale folk if we slow down for the couple of hundred metres between Cavanbagh and McGettigans Lane.

Charles MacFarland
Ewingsdale

House demolition

To those with decision-making power in the recovery process for the Northern Rivers:

My name is Lucia Schulz. I am a previous owner and resident of 5 Baillie Street, North Lismore. Myself and my partner were participants in the buyback program and lived in Baillie Street from 2019 up until December 2024.

I am writing in response to the notification (shared by nearby residents) of the intended demolition of several houses on Baillie Street. The notification specifies that the homes are unsuitable for relocation and therefore will be demolished in the weeks to come.

This decision greatly shocks and angers me.

The notification does not explain the reasons why the homes are unsuitable for relocation. If the reason is asbestos, this is required to be removed safely prior to demolition anyway. If the reason is structural integrity, this seems certainly false for at least two of the homes, which are raised up on, and supported by, steel posts and beams. I walked past these homes every morning for the past few years and appreciated their integrity compared to many others, my previous home included. Nearing the peak of the 2022 flood event, I was rescued by the SES from the verandah of one of these steel-stilted homes while my own was underwater.

Can you please share the specific details that explain the unsuitability of these homes for relocation?

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

Lucia Schulz
Nimbin

Trump personal gain

While the world is reeling under Trump's tariffs, leaders of countries hit with tariffs are tied up considering what on earth to do to try to negotiate with Trump.

Predictably, stock markets have crashed around the world including in the US. A massive crash to some.

Mark my words, the real (subversive) reason Trump has done the whole tariff business is nothing more than a business trick to enable him and his cronies to buy stocks and shares at an all-time low.

Their values will double once Trump reconsiders the tariffs. Which will double his wealth in a flick of the pen.

Mark my words – he will lift the tariffs once he has completed buying the stocks and shares at bargain prices as this is the real reason for his tariffs.

The world leaders, and everyone affected worldwide, are so caught up in the crisis Trump has created, that no-one is paying attention to this most basic purpose of his – his wealth.

Margrette Young
Dorroughby

My ideal candidate

It is confusing times and I am hoping *The Echo* can simply tell us who to vote for, rather than gaslighting us into a decision. Quite simply can you advise who is the best local candidate that will encourage vaccination mandates?

Also, which candidate is going to champion climate change because we should all have some form of anxiety about the future?

I'm not sure about the Greens though, they seem confused for they protect the sharks and not the dolphins and also, the Greens seem to be happy spraying Roundup on our beaches, very odd.

We need a candidate who will demand government mandates on new RNA injections, government mandates on new digital currencies, GovID, and ideally a candidate who can see the value in the government controlling our spending habits because people are clearly not qualified enough themselves to buy the right things to stop 'global boiling'.

The other talking point is obviously we need a candidate who will stem the toxic masculinity in society. Also, a candidate who will promote gender diversity in our schools, and give our children more options in their adolescence and youth. Please advise who this candidate is, as I will vote for he/she/them/they/it as I no longer trust the mainstream news.

Andrew Crockett
Myocum

Byron potholes

Ratepayers live in wonder as to what happens with the exorbitant amount of money they pay in rates.

Well how about this for a laugh, and it's on the ratepayers. A private company retarring yet another stretch of road unnecessarily? Leaving the only pothole in koo wee, and a big hole directly opposite, to return and fix at a later date?

For more money on a special service I bet? While other roads, like New Brighton Road are literally dangerous, and damages cars on a daily basis.

I have heard of some councils being made liable for damages. Maybe we should be testing out this theory it might get our rates spent more realistically.

The mind boggles as to who makes these decisions and why they are made.

The worker I spoke to just laughed and said you're in Byron Shire, it's a joke. Too much money – well how about that?

Anyone that has rung Council about blocked drains, inaccessible footpaths, or potholes, or illegal camping, actually just about anything, they gets told Council doesn't have the funds? Or they get put on the 'unreasonably persistent' list.

In my opinion there are way too many overpaid imported chiefs with a care factor of 0 and not enough Indians.

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

Sharon Kelly
Ocean Shores

'Reclaiming' the town centre?

There is little doubt that impending drainage works in the town centre of Byron Bay are necessary. Past flooding there is testament to that, and the closure of some local businesses with concomitant flood damage and some loss of trade. As well as the inconvenience when services such as a local bank close for several weeks, and the post office for a shorter time.

However, I'm sceptical that many so-called 'locals' will rush to 'reclaim their town centre' as the spokesperson in *The Echo* (April 2) article is quoted as saying.

The stated aim of 'pedestrian priority' sounds fine; but I suspect this will not be so in reality.

Not all residents will share my opinions, but I feel the town has sacrificed itself to tourism, developments, and expensive 'boutique' commerce. The place is a 'dog's dinner' of mostly unattractive developments. What character it may once have possessed as a town is more or less gone.

I would further add that so long as the unregulated and irresponsible use of bicycles, e-bikes, scooters, and skateboards continues on footpaths and pedestrian areas, their often-intimidating presence will detract from any relaxed comfortable pedestrian usage.

I realise that this will be decried, but I feel the markets have become excessive. I do not see why they shouldn't have been asked to take a break rather than sending them back to the beachfront, where they just engulf the area. I now try to avoid town when they are there.

It always reminds me of Shylock (a part I always wanted to play) in *The Merchant of Venice*, where his divided laments veer between his lost daughter and his lost ducats. The local administrators seem to hope they can somehow keep or regain the beauty, but it's the 'ducats'...

David Morris
Byron Bay

Representation

Proportional representation is supported by the Greens. It is clearly in their platform. Strangely and surprisingly, in two important recent televised public meetings Adam Bandt and Max Chandler-Mather did not mention that at all. This is truly puzzling because the voting public is growing very tired of the adversarial debate between major party leaders. Moreover, proportional representation would give the Greens far more seats than the four for their 12 per cent public support in 2022. Let me quote what Dr H V Evatt wrote when the ALP introduced proportional representation in 1948 for the Senate, a move also supported by the Liberal Party.

'It is the fairest system and the one most likely to enhance the status of the Senate.' (Commonwealth Parliamentary Debates, 16 April 1948, p. 965). 'It enabled small parties and independents to gain representation in the Senate, providing a place in the federal parliament for a wider expression of community viewpoints.'

Klaas Woldring
Nambucca Heads

Pod living or affordable housing

It's interesting to read Mayor Ndiaye talking about continuing the pod living arrangements, if possible here in Bayside.

In pod village living we have to consider the mental health of those residents. I have spoken to many who have had no choice but to live in these temporary structures. The fact that the pods have not been constructed for long-term living means they were hastily designed and placed in close proximity to the other pods. The walls are not soundproof and I have been told that not just the sounds of others' TVs, toilets, and showers are heard. The sounds of others' arguments, and those suffering from mental illnesses, are impacting on their closely-placed neighbours.

More than half of the pods have leaked and are not constructed for strong winds.

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

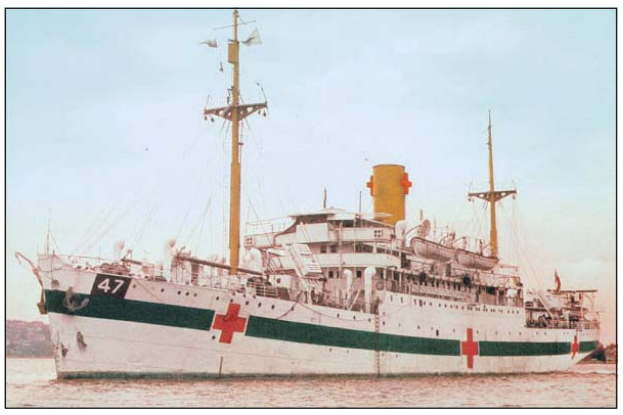
Annie Radermacher
Brunswick Heads

■ We received more letters than we could print. Please see *The Echo Online*: www.echo.net.au/letters for more letters.





Private Kevin Francis Hogan and Private Owen Patrick McGuire



A rare colour photo of the *Centaur*. Photos supplied



Kevin Francis Hogan.



Owen Patrick McGuire.

Byron Bay Historical Society

Many people are aware of the Japanese attack, in May 1943, on the Australian Hospital Ship *Centaur*, but few perhaps realise that a number of war dead and survivors were from the Northern Rivers. The *Centaur* was sailing to Port Moresby to transport non-combatant personnel heading for a tour of duty in New Guinea, and embark casualties from the Buna and Gona campaigns.

Torpedoed off the coast of Queensland, the strike occurred shortly after Japanese submarines sank vulnerable district merchant shipping on the North and Mid North Coast of NSW. *The Limerick* lost two of its crew off Cape Byron when falling behind a convoy due to engine trouble. Two days later, *Wollongbar II* lost 32 lives, a shocking number at the time. The dead included the ship's captain, Charles Benson, who was well known in the Bay and a member of the masons' Lodge Cavanbah.

When the *Centaur* was sunk, 268 lives were tragically lost: hospital ship medical staff; the 2/12th Field Ambulance Unit; and Merchant Navy crew. Only 64 survived, most trapped below deck at 4.10am when the torpedo struck. Two of these casualties were born locally, in 1920, within weeks of each other: Kevin Francis Hogan and Owen Patrick McGuire.

These young dairy farmers were of Irish Catholic descent, joining the AIF contemporaneously in November 1942. Attached to the Australian Army Service Corps (AASC), they were two of 19 ambulance drivers aboard the *Centaur* before it was sunk. Drivers from Casino and the Tweed, John O'N Moran and Basil Colefax, also drowned.

Northern Rivers living

Kevin came from one of the earliest district pioneering families. His grandfather James Hogan had emigrated from Ireland with his brother Patrick, the future Member for Richmond in the New South Wales Parliament and Member of the Legislative Assembly for almost a decade. Active in timber, insurance, other substantial businesses and politics, Patrick Hogan came to spend most of his time in Sydney (Kevin Hogan, federal MP and Member for Page, is not a descendant of the family).

James selected 640 acres at Coopers Creek in 1884. A dairy farmer on extensive property, he was assisted by his older sons until the farm was managed by the youngest, Martin Timothy, the father of Kevin. Pioneer James' grandson continued to work on the land maintaining the family tradition.

Sadly, Kevin's life was marked by tragedy before he joined the AIF. When he enlisted he was already a widower. Esme, his wife, had died in 1941 alongside the couple's newborn daughter. He perished before his 23rd birthday. Kevin's mother by now lived at Broken Head. As next of kin, she received condolences from Buckingham Palace: 'The Queen and I offer you our heart felt sympathy in your great sorrow...'. Ellen Savage, *Centaur*'s sole surviving nurse, also sent her sympathies. Kevin is commemorated on the WW II pillar at the Byron Bay Memorial cenotaph.

Born in the Bay along with his older brother James Peter, comparatively little is known of Owen Maguire other than that their grandparents arrived on the South Coast of NSW after emigrating from Ireland. They are not related to the prominent McGuire pioneers who were timber getters in the Northern Rivers. What we do know is that several members of the family served in the AIF during the First and Second World Wars.

Owen's father was John Michael McGuire. His brother, also named James Peter, died at Ypres in 1917. John and his wife appear to have arrived in the Casino area from Shoalhaven around 1916 whilst adding to their family of ten children. They moved around the districts, with infants born in Berry, Kangaroo Valley, Byron Bay, Bangalow, Kyogle and Casino.

Unmarried, whether Owen worked on Casino land owned by his parents, or not, is unknown. Upon enlistment, he registered his birth at Byron Bay, listing his occupation as farm labourer. Two of Owen's brothers also served in the AIF, where at least one of them, Sapper James Peter, was at Port Moresby. Corporal Robert Michael's career has not been confirmed. After Owen's death was announced, the *Northern Star* reported him as a 'native of Byron Bay', qualifying that 'he had lived with his parents and family at Tatham for a considerable period before he enlisted'. Owen is commemorated on a war memorial panel at Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney.

Hospital Ship the *Centaur* was converted from a refrigerated freighter that formerly carried passengers, cargo and livestock. Whilst we remember the sacrifices of the services this coming Anzac Day, let us remember too those of the Merchant Navy who supported them and an Australia, 'in peril', during its 'darkest hour' in the Pacific War theatre.

Lest We Forget.

■ If any local families believe their ancestor served the Merchant Navy please contact BBHS at: president@byronbayhistoricalsociety.org.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

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Open Daily | 12pm – late
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Enjoy hinterland views, stunning sunsets and signature cocktails showcasing local distilleries and breweries.

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Open 7 days
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Dinner: 5.30 to 9pm
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Dinner 5–10pm
Book
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Serving $3 oysters

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www.northbyronhotel.com.au

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

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Main Street

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Menu, more details –
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18 Jonson Street
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Menu and more details
@mainstreet_burgerbar

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Add chips and a drink, just $5.

BYRON BAY (continued)

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HAPPY HOUR: 3pm–5pm daily

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Thur & Fri nights from 3pm
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Now open Thursday and Friday nights for tacos and cocktails from 3pm!

New Mexican-themed all-day menu just dropped featuring a mix of Mex and Empire classics.
HAPPY HOUR: Thursday and Friday 3–5pm with $15 margaritas and $7 cerveza.
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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

lizzijjackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.





Byron Farmers Market – where real farmers provide real food



Market manager Tom Carey

Byron and Bangalow Farmers Markets are two of the longest-running farmers' markets in Australia, and while much has changed since the first market was held in Butler Street Reserve more than 22 years ago, one important factor has remained the cornerstone of the market's ethos – its authenticity.

Market manager Tom Carey says the markets were started by half a dozen passionate local farmers who wanted to be able to sell their produce directly to the public and support the region's small-scale farming industry.

'Those first farmers fought really hard to get the markets going and, in doing so, they put regulations in place to safeguard the market's authenticity and set the groundwork for the market to grow over the years,' Tom says.

'They set the market up as a not-for-profit organisation and, as the market grew, formed a committee made up of farmers to run it. They wanted to protect the market's integrity into the future so they established a constitution that would govern how the market was run.

'At the core of that constitution, then and now, is to offer our community genuinely locally-grown produce. This means that our farmers can only bring produce they grow themselves – so no reselling of produce is permitted at our markets, and this is important as it is what sets us apart from supermarkets.'

Tom says that not all farmers' markets around the country have such strict guidelines about provenance, but Byron and Bangalow Farmers Markets have always been unwavering on that point.

'Every member that joins the market is audited when they apply and agrees to trade by these terms,' he says. 'This includes an on-farm visit by an auditor and ongoing audits every couple of years. This provides our customers (and fellow market members) assurance that the fresh produce they are buying at our markets is actually grown by the stall selling it.'

Tom says this also means that the market may not have all produce available year-round and that it emphasises the importance of eating by the seasons.

'Luckily, in this area we can grow a wide range of produce, but not everything is in season all year. So, by shopping at our farmers' markets you get to appreciate what's in season and eat locally-grown food when it is at its best and supposed to be eaten – as nature intended.'

■ Byron Farmers Market is held every Thursday morning from 7am to 11am at Butler Street Reserve, and Bangalow Farmers Market is held every Saturday morning from 7am to 11am in Piccabeen Park.



Fresh produce at Byron and Bangalow Farmers Markets

Catering with a personal touch and a great sense of humour

A Chef's Pocket Catering offers a unique diversity of food-inspired services. Andres and Franco source the best local ingredients to create wonderful experiences – from Peruvian to Japanese, Thai and Italian, Andres and Franco can help you create a memorable time providing the best food for any type of gathering.

'What sets us apart is our commitment to customisation,' they say. 'We don't believe in boring classic meals during catering. We take the time to understand your vision, your guests, and your vibe. Then we bring it all together with flawless execution – from setup to clean-up.'

Behind A Chef's Pocket is a team of passionate chefs with, together, more than 25 years of experience in hospitality. They bring not only professionalism and delicious food, but also a personal touch, and a sense of humour.

Let them turn your next gathering into something unforgettable. With A Chef's Pocket Catering service, you're not just hiring a caterer – you're getting a creative chef, a culinary storyteller, and a dedicated team that will take care of all aspects around the food.

■ A Chef's Pocket at achefspocket.com. Phone +61 405 811 433 or +61 452 580 046.





Andres and Franco from A Chef's Pocket **Andres is the tall one…**



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

LETS GO SURFING

Join Let's Go Surfing for an awesome time surfing or stand up paddle boarding these holidays. They offer private and group lessons and tours for all ages, as well as kids only lessons.

Lessons include all equipment and expert instruction in small groups, and provide education, maximum fun, and safety for your kids. They cover the basics from warm-up to paddling, catching waves and standing, while also catering to intermediate and advanced students. Kids also learn important surf and safety rules including info on rips, tides, sandbanks and waves.

Open 7 days 8:30am–4:30pm
Shop 5, 11 Fletcher St, Byron Bay
@letsgosurfingaustralia
02 6680 9443
www.letsgosurfing.com.au

BETTER BY BIKE

Get the kids off their screens and into nature! With super-comfy e-bikes, this ride is sure to be the highlight of the holidays. Families can explore lush rainforests, discover quaint villages, and ride through abandoned rail tunnels. The whole family is sorted with infant seats, tow-behind bikes, and chariots for kids or pets.

Lunch packs are also available. Choose pick-up from your accommodation or meet at their Murwillumbah Railway Station shop – the start of the trail. They will make your day the best day ever! Call or book online today.

www.betterbybike.com.au
info@betterbybike.com.au
0408 444 858



BALLOON ALOFT

Offset this year's Easter Egg binge with a healthy, fun, family hot air balloon adventure! These school holidays are the perfect opportunity to get active and outdoors with the kids, do all the things you've been excited about since summer. Rise early and see the sun wash over the Northern Rivers, which is lusher and greener than ever. Whether with friends or family, your hot air balloon experience is guaranteed to be a good time together and includes a relaxed breakfast afterwards at the Three Blue Ducks restaurant at The Farm, Byron Bay.

Book your spot now at
www.balloonaloft.com

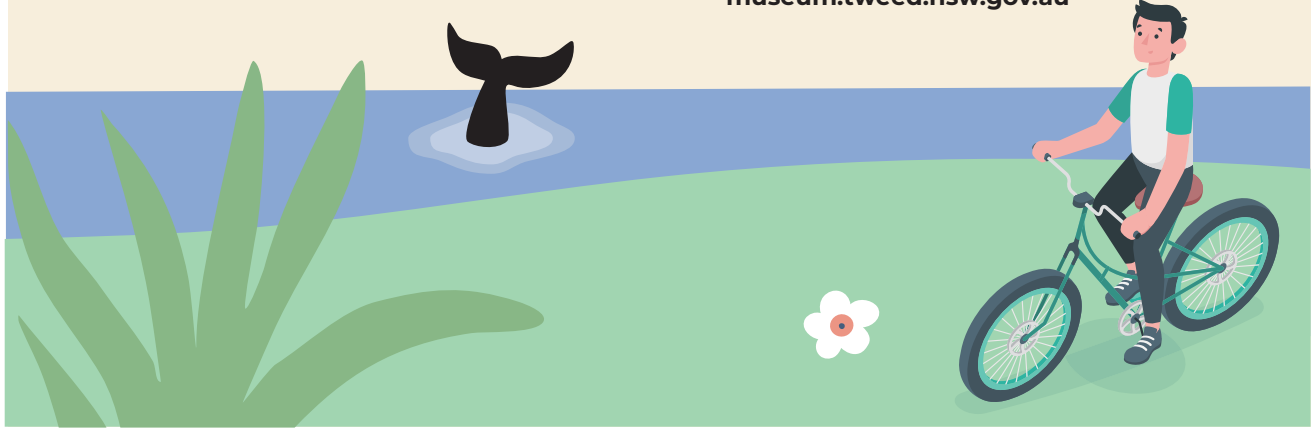
TWEED REGIONAL MUSEUM

Explore all things dinosaurs these holidays in a series of fun workshops and performances at the Tweed Regional Museum.

Build your own wacky toy dinosaur in their dino mash-up workshop. Create colourful dino-charms in a jewellery workshop with designer Kirsten Devitt. Join the family fun of a Jurassic Joe performance and meet live native animals (and some dinosaur cousins) with Wild Rangers.

2 Queensland Rd, Murwillumbah
02 6670 2493
museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au











SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

EXCITING VACATION CARE AT RAINBOW REGION KIDS

Looking for an action-packed school holiday program? Rainbow Region Kids offers fun-filled excursions like cinema trips, rock climbing, and more! Their Vacation Care program keeps kids entertained, active, and engaged with exciting activities, themed days, and adventures.

Their program is affordable, government-subsidised, and run by experienced educators in a safe and welcoming environment. Whether your child loves arts and crafts, sports, or thrilling excursions, there's something for everyone!
Bookings open now – spots fill fast!
Locations: Mullumbimby, Alstonville, Wollongbar, Lismore, Dunoon, Kyogle and Casino

www.nrcg.org.au/RRK
or call 0429 640 075 for more information!

OTHERWORLD

OtherWorld is an immersive playground for the senses where technology and art collide. Experience over 20 interactive exhibits from local and international artists, including the only 360 VR cinema dome in NSW, featuring special school holiday films. Check out their brand new exhibits incorporating the latest in AI technology and light. Fun for all the family. Don't miss out on this extraordinary journey into the world of immersive art. Kids under 3 are free. Annual family passes also available.
Book now at www.otherworld.live

102 Jonson Street, Byron Bay



IMMERSIVE EASTER EGG HUNT

This Easter, magic meets the metaverse at OtherWorld Gallery in Byron Bay with a one-of-a-kind Immersive Easter Egg Hunt!

More than the usual chocolate bunnies, this is an art-fuelled treasure hunt where young explorers dive into the fantastical world of augmented reality to uncover hidden gems by globally renowned artist, Space Cowboy.

Kids will search through the gallery, following clues to uncover miniature images of Space Cowboy's AR masterpieces tucked away in unexpected places. Each hidden 'egg' reveals a clue, and a digital surprise, as artworks spring to life through AR technology, turning each discovery into a moment of wonder.

Find all the bunnies, solve the puzzle and receive an Easter gift.

Whether your child is an aspiring artist, a tech whiz, or simply loves a good adventure, the OtherWorld Immersive Easter Egg Hunt promises to be a joy-filled, brain-tingling day out unlike anything else this Easter season. Discounted tickets for locals.

Tickets at www.otherworld.live.
102 Jonson Street, Byron Bay







SCHOOL HOLIDAYS



KIDS COOKING CLASSES

The North Byron Hotel (NBH) is thrilled to host more fun and interactive kids' cooking classes this school holidays! Running every Wednesday and Thursday from April 16 to 24, these hands-on classes offer little chefs the chance to get creative in the kitchen. Wednesdays will focus on making delicious pizzas from scratch, and Thursdays are all about crafting homemade gnocchi. While the kids are busy cooking up a storm, mums and dads can unwind and relax in the beautiful NBH garden with a drink and a tasty nibble. These popular classes have always been a hit, and the NBH team is excited to bring them back for another round of culinary fun!
Register now to secure your child's spot and join in on the fun.

northbyronhotel.com.au
61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay
02 6685 6500

SPAGHETTI CIRCUS HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

Come and enjoy one, two or three days of circus fun with Spaghetti Circus. Holiday workshops will be held on Tuesday 22, Wednesday 23 and Thursday 24 April at Spaghetti's premises at Mullumbimby Showground. Children can pick their own circus adventure! Classes include tightrope, big tramp and mini tramp, German wheel, tissu and trapeze, acro balance, circus games, hula hoops, juggling, and much more. Half-day sessions for children aged 4-6 years are $50 from 9.30am to 12.30pm, and full-day sessions for 7-14 years are $75 from 9.30am to 3.30pm. Early drop-off is available from 8.30am (at an additional cost).

Active Kids vouchers accepted
places are limited
www.spaghetticircus.com

BEYOND BYRON E BIKES

Looking for an unforgettable adventure this school holiday break? Beyond Byron E Bikes offers a fantastic way to explore the beautiful Northern Rivers Rail Trail with rides designed for ultimate comfort and fun.

They cater to families by providing options such as kids' e-bikes, tag-a-long attachments, baby seats, and even dog trailers for furry companions.

Riders can enjoy the stunning natural scenery and take leisurely breaks with plenty of delicious options along the way. With an easy online booking system, reserving an adventure is a breeze.

www.beyondbyronebikes.com.au

ACRYLIC PAINTING WORKSHOP

Looking for a fun and creative school holiday activity in Ocean Shores? Your kids will love this hands-on acrylic painting workshop!

In this exciting session, kids will explore bright abstract layers using splashes, textures and even finger painting. They'll create vibrant, free-flowing backgrounds full of personality. Once the paint dries, they'll turn those layers into a colourful flower bouquet masterpiece.

Led by skilled hands, this workshop is all about fun and learning new techniques. Your child will leave with their own unique artwork and a huge sense of pride! Perfect for young artists aged 6 and up.

Date: April 23
Times: 9-11am / 3-5pm
Bookings: 0432 436 843



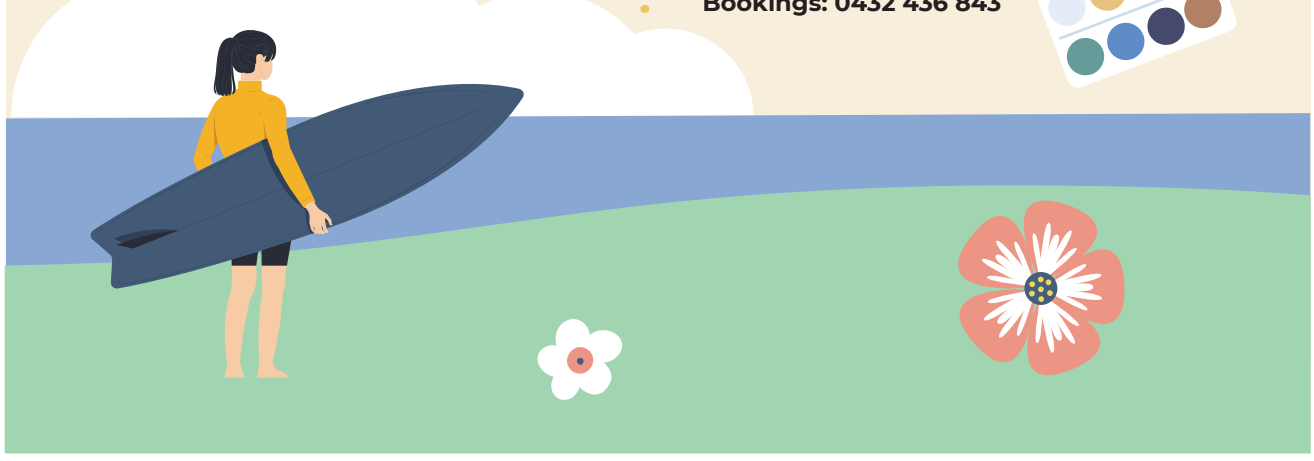
Acrylic painting
workshop for kids!

Looking for fun school holiday activities? Look no further!

Dates: April 23
Times: 10-12am | 3–5pm
Cost: $40 per session
Ages: 6+
Bookings: 0432 436 843

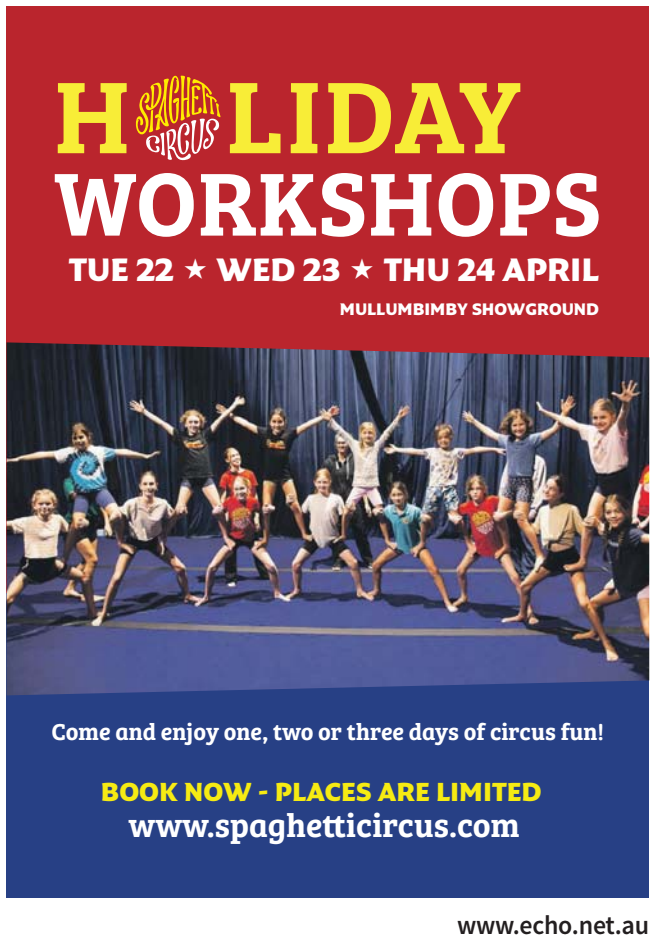
LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE

Home Studio - Ocean Shores











Inside: a chat with RAG'N'BONE MAN

36TH ANNUAL BYRON BAY BLUESFEST

A CELEBRATION OF BLUES N'ROOTS MUSIC & BEYOND 2025

12 PAGE LIFTOUT!

THIS EASTER WEEKEND!

Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th April

Byron Events Farm, Tyagarah, Byron Bay

Echo

Melbourne Ska Orchestra is the BOMB!

It wouldn't be Bluefest if their wasn't something totally fun on the menu and this year, the Melbourne Ska Orchestra is the delivery boy for that pizza – if you want more than your fare share of good times, head to the MSO end of town!

Having turned 21 last year MSO is now a mature and responsible band, but it doesn't look like they're getting sensible any time soon. Formed in 2003, Melbourne Ska Orchestra is a musical force with a difference, with up to 26 members, and featuring some of Australia's finest musicians. Led by the charismatic Nicky Bomba the orchestra is more than just a band – it's an electrifying live experience.

The Echo caught up with **Nicky Bomba** very late at night and things got silly!

How many Bluesfest have you guys done?

Six I reckon. Our first real, proper one was in 2010 or 2009 or something.

It must be a logistical mission to get you all up here on time and sober. How does that work?

Lots of medication, meditation and frustration – haha. Actually, everybody in the band understands the beast that it is, and as a result, we all have a bit of a respect and understanding. It's a bit like a soccer team that travels – you just have to be professional about it. We've got a really good team after all these years – still, things pop up, but it's a bit like a family. We've been doing it for so long that when we get together it's just like old friends catching up again

If it's a beast, does that make you the beast master?

The beast and beat master. It's like I'm the master of ceremonies in a circus a lot of the time, but there's a lot of beautiful spontaneity that happens in the band, which is why I love playing. Even though it's a big unit, everybody is on the same page as far as our energy and our connection with an audience. It's really important for us to make that human-musical connection. That really is why we do what we do. we want to elevate the vibe. Make the moment a better moment, and for people to walk away with something that's kind of a bit special.

Are MSO musicians working musicians outside of the orchestra?

Pretty much everyone is either professional, playing live in other bands, or teaching, or three of them actually run complete music programs in a couple of different schools. It's a very, very active, energised and creative bunch of people. And then, like at the moment, we're recording a new album, and the hardest thing is what songs to say 'no' to because there's such a body of work that's been presented.

What's your current ear worm?

There's a song that I'm doing with the orchestra called 'Spring In My Step'.

What sort of things are you drawing on for inspiration at the moment?

Well, the new album is, it's called *The Ballad of Monte Loco*. It's a kind of fictional spaghetti western film that we're writing a soundtrack for. So that's how we're just doing things that are kind of in that world. Being inspired by the concept that we have of this album is a really good writing brief actually, it makes it easier.

Are you having enough fun?

I'm always having fun. I think I've tapped into the wonder of life, and how beautiful it is. We all leave this mortal coil at some particular point. So, what do we do? Well, I just get as much joy in as I can.

▸ Get YOUR dose of joy with Melbourne Ska Orchestra who are playing on Saturday and Sunday.



In this guide: Full playing schedule, performer highlights + MORE!

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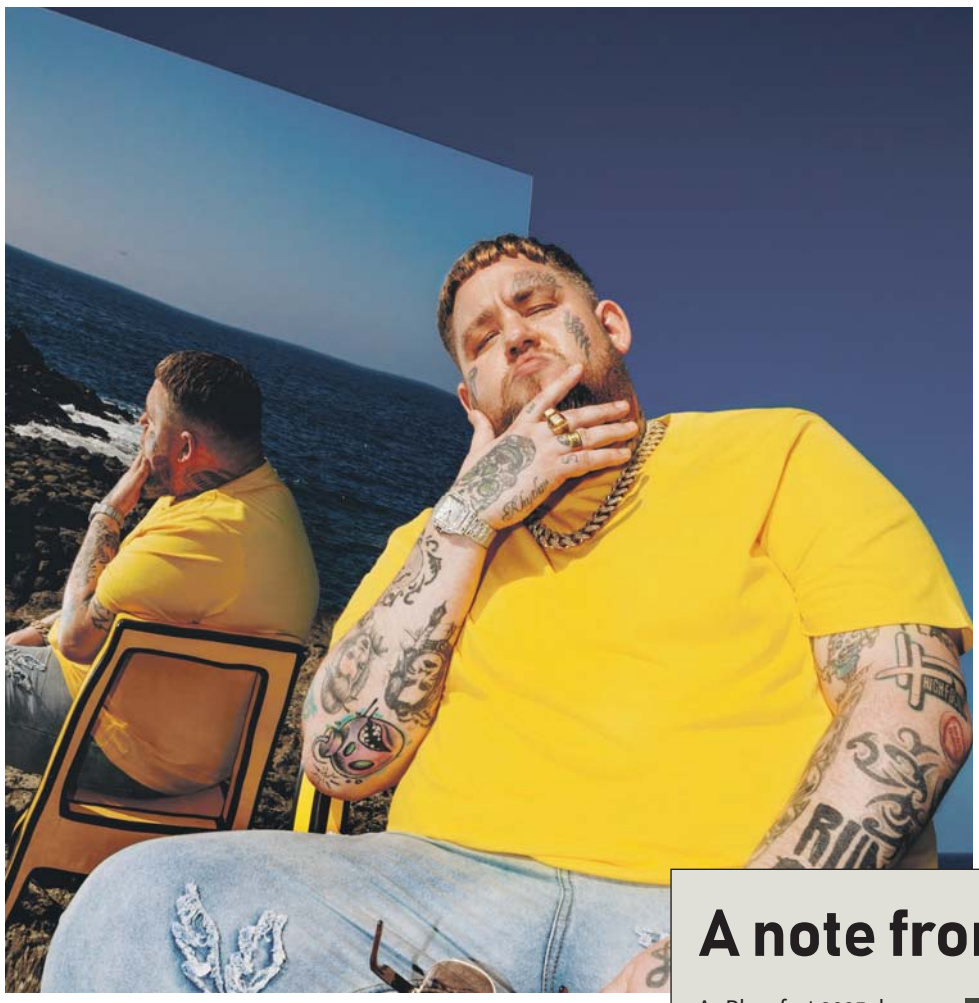
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Interview with Rag'n'Bone Man

Known to the world as Rag'n'Bone Man, Rory Graham burst onto the music scene in 2016 with his breakthrough hit 'Human', a track that masterfully blended traditional blues with hip hop and introduced listeners to his powerful baritone voice.



The success of 'Human' was monumental, earning Graham widespread acclaim and propelling his debut album of the same name to 4x platinum status in the UK.

Since his debut, Graham has continued to build on his success with high-profile collaborations with artists such as Gorillaz, Logic, Calvin Harris, and Pink, who joined him on the emotive single 'Anywhere Away From Here'.

His latest collaboration is an interview with *The Echo*'s entertainment editor which they did last week via Zoom:

When I'm a rich and famous rock star, I'm not going to do interviews. It must be awful having to say a lot of things over and over again?

Well, you know what? I actually quite enjoy it. Apart from there's now and again, ones where it does seem like you are you answering age-old questions – but, you know, it keeps your mind active.

I can see you are in your music room, where is that and what time is it?

It is about 8.30am and yep, I am in my studio, in my garden, in Sussex.

This is your second Bluesfest – what did you like about the last one?

I think, meeting a lot of artists that have been going there for a long time.

You're bringing us some new music?

Yes, a new album – new material to play in the set. Also some the old songs as well, because, I think you just feel a little bit like you're doing something new and the old songs don't feel kind of so stale anymore. There's kind of a new sound that comes with a new album and I generally try and bring the old songs into that sound a little bit. So we just change the arrangement maybe a little bit so that it feels kind of glued together. It just makes it feel a little bit more exciting.

What's your current ear worm?

Do you know what it is? There's a new Linkin Park song. It's very 2000s kind of emo – it's Linkin Park, but there's just some other melody that is very infectious.

What sort of things are inspiring your work at the moment?

I've just started kind of writing stuff in the mind for what I'm going to do next. I think kind of up until now, I've always written very personally, and I've written about my own situations – heart on the sleeve kind of stuff. And when I first started trying to write new songs, I was struggling a little bit to dig deep enough to find those subjects. So I feel like I've been people watching a bit more, listening to other people's situations, and maybe just being a bit nosy and trying to figure out if I can write from that perspective – sometimes your own life is maybe not inspiring enough. So that's what I'm going for at the moment.

Are you sick of doing 'Human'? (Personally I love it).

I go through periods where I think 'Oh God, not that again', but in the next breath, when I play it and I see the reaction live and then I don't feel that anymore. I kind of feel nothing but gratitude, really.

What's great about Bluesfest?

Well, I think for me, from someone who has gone to a lot of festivals in my life, particularly in the UK, so many of the festivals here are so sort of based on chart success. Bluesfest is really open to everybody, yeah. And although it's called 'Bluesfest, it's very eclectic. Hopefully I'll get to spend more than one day, that's always hard when it's a festival that we actually really want to be at, from a fan of music's perspective, you know? Hopefully we'll get to see some people.

Are you having enough fun?

Yeah, 100 per cent. I love this as much as I did, if not more, than I did when I first started. I kind of thought I'd get tired of touring, but I just don't, and I just I want to be on the road as much as possible. Obviously, I miss family when I'm away, but being on stage is still the thing that I love the most.

Are you getting any more ink?

It's weird you say that because my missus has literally just gone down today to get a new tattoo. I'm a bit jealous.

■ See Rag'n'Bone Man and maybe some new ink on Easter Sunday at Bluesfest.

A note from the Festival Director



As Bluesfest 2025 draws near, the atmosphere feels electric. Whether you've been part of the journey since the early days, or are joining us for the first time, I want to warmly welcome you to this incredible celebration of music, community, and connection.

Now in our 36th year, Bluesfest continues to grow, not just in size, but in spirit. What began as a humble gathering has become a world-renowned event, where artists from across the globe and music lovers from all walks of life come together under the Byron sky.

This year, something truly extraordinary is happening on **Friday**, a guitar and blues masterclass that is unlike anything else in the country. We're proud to host the legendary **Steve Lukather** of Toto, one of the world's most revered guitarists.

George Thorogood will bring his *Bad to the Bone* swagger, while **Gary Clark Jr**, Grammy-winner and modern blues icon, delivers his signature mix of fiery guitar work and soul-stirring vocals.

But it doesn't stop there. We're also welcoming **Tom Morello**, a true innovator who's reshaped modern rock with every note he plays. Add in rising stars like **Christone 'Kingfish' Ingram** and Australia's own **Taj Farrant**, and Friday becomes an unmissable day for anyone who loves music that moves the soul.

With just days to go, it's time to get festival-ready. Lock in your tickets, plan your journey, and prepare for a truly unforgettable Bluesfest. See you there!

Peter Noble OAM,
Festival Director

Visiting the Byron Shire with a four-legged friend?

BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

Here's what you need to know:

- Keep your dog on-lead at all times, unless you're at one of our eight off-lead exercise areas.
- Where are our dog friendly locations? Find out about dog areas and off-lead etiquette in Byron at: www.byron.nsw.gov.au/dog-exercise-areas

Help us protect our precious wildlife and stunning natural environment – don't spoil us, we'll spoil you.



02 6626 7000 • www.byron.nsw.gov.au

So many great acts...

Where else to start than at the beginning?
Read on for many of this year's standout acts.









OCEAN ALLEY

Following the success of their fourth album, *Low Altitude Living*, Ocean Alley has continued their meteoric rise, selling over 160,000 tickets across Australia, the UK, Europe, North America, and New Zealand in 2023 and 2024 alone. The album debuted at #3 on the ARIA Albums Chart and #5 on the NZ Top 40 Albums Chart. As they continue to expand their devoted following, they are poised to leave an indelible mark on the global music scene for years to come.

Thursday at Crossroads

TONES AND I

Tones And I, an inimitable vocalist, clever lyricist, and inventive producer, has redefined the scope of pop music with her unique and unpredictable anthems. Bursting onto the global stage in 2019 as a busker from the Mornington Peninsula in Australia, she quickly became a sensation with her breakout hit 'Dance Monkey'. With over 12 billion streams and five ARIA Awards to her name Tones And I has solidified her place as a global pop powerhouse.

Thursday at Crossroads

CHRISTONE 'KINGFISH' INGRAM

Grammy-winning guitarist, vocalist, and songwriter Christone 'Kingfish' Ingram has swiftly emerged as the defining blues voice of his generation. Hailing from Clarksdale, Mississippi, Kingfish has taken his electrifying blues sound from local juke joints to stages around the globe.

Thursday and Friday at Mojo

MAOLI

Hailed as Hawaii and Polynesia's No. 1 independent commercial recording artist, Maoli, has captivated audiences worldwide with infectious sound and remarkable talent. Fronted by Glenn Awong, the band formed in 2007 and has since toured extensively across the US, New Zealand, Australia, and the South Pacific, spreading their unique blend of island-inspired music.

Thursday and Friday at Crossroads

NORTH BYRON HOTEL

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY 20TH APRIL

FROM MIDDAY



EASTER EGG HUNT / KIDS ARTS AND CRAFTS FACE PAINTING / PONY RIDES
LIVE DJ'S / OPEN SKIES BBQ / AND MORE

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TOM MORELLO

Grammy-winning, Harvard-educated, Rock and Roll Hall of Fame-inducted artist, songwriter, and activist Tom Morello is living proof of the transformative power of rock'n'roll. Known for his innovative guitar solos and thunderous chords, Morello is a groundbreaking artist both in his solo career and as an original member of the rock bands Rage Against the Machine and Audioslave – two acts responsible for multiple Grammy Awards and a combined 30 million albums sold worldwide.

Thursday and Friday at Mojo

BUDJERAH

Coodjinburra artist Budjerah's rise over the past two years has been nothing short of meteoric. With two acclaimed EPs and collaborations with artists like Pnau and May-a, he has earned recognition for his soulful voice and dynamic performances. Guided by mentor Matt Corby, Budjerah's evolution as an artist is clear, and his ambition to deliver arena-worthy shows inspired by Usher and Beyoncé is palpable. Armed with his new band and a string of accolades, including APRA and *Rolling Stone* nominations, Budjerah is ready to cement his place as one of Australia's most exciting performers.

Thursday at Crossroads, Friday at Delta

HERE COME THE MUMMIES

Here Come the Mummies (HCTM) is a high-energy eight-piece funk-rock band with a twist: they're 5,000-year-old Egyptian mummies with a singular focus on bringing their, 'Terrifying funk from beyond the grave' to life. Their infectious grooves and enigmatic personas have made them a phenomenon across North America, with fans enthralled by their electrifying performances and mysterious backstory. Whether they're reincarnated Grammy-winning studio musicians or cursed souls from ancient Egypt, one thing is certain – HCTM know how to bring the funk.

Playing all four days





CROSSROADS

21.30 - 23.00 OCEAN ALLEY
20.00 - 21.00 TONES AND I
18.30 - 19.30 MAOLI
17.00 - 18.00 BUDJERAH
15.30 - 16.30 VELVET TRIP
14.45 - 15.00 WELCOME TO COUNTRY

MOJO

22.00 - 23.00 TOM MORELLO
20.30 - 21.30 CHRISTONE 'KINGFISH' INGRAM
19.00 - 20.00 TAJ FARRANT
17.30 - 18.30 NEAL FRANCIS EXCLUSIVE
16.00 - 17.00 DON WEST

DELTA

22.30 - 23.30 HERE COME THE MUMMIES EXCLUSIVE
21.00 - 22.00 CIMAFUNK EXCLUSIVE
19.30 - 20.30 MELODY ANGEL EXCLUSIVE
18.00 - 19.00 NAHKO
16.30 - 17.30 PIERCE BROTHERS
15.00 - 16.00 ELECTRIC CADILLAC



MELODY ANGEL

Melody Angel is a dynamic blues-rock artist, often described as a cross between Tina Turner and Jimi Hendrix. With a voice that channels Turner's soulful power, and guitar skills reminiscent of Hendrix's electric energy, Angel brings a magnetic presence to every stage she graces. Deeply rooted in Chicago's blues legacy as the cousin of blues legend Otis Rush, she infuses her music with both heritage and innovation.

Playing all four days

TAJ FARRANT

Australia's guitar prodigy has captured the attention of music lovers worldwide with his extraordinary talent and captivating performances. Born in 2006, Taj Farrant rose to fame on social media where his impressive covers of popular songs showcased his unique style and technical prowess. Despite his young age, he has already collaborated with several notable artists and earned recognition for his contribution to the music industry. His passion for music and dedication to his craft are evident in every note he plays.

Thursday, Friday and Sunday

ELECTRIC CADILLAC

An Indonesian blues-rock band, based in Jakarta, Electric Cadillac's sound has been characterised as a hybrid of blues, Chicago blues mixed with soul, funk and energised rock, combining blues guitar, a powerful voice (you won't forget for your entire life), deep blues and jazz piano groovy basslines and a beat and groove that keeps the whole thing together.

Thursday at Delta, Saturday at Jambalaya

CHRISTOPHER CROSS

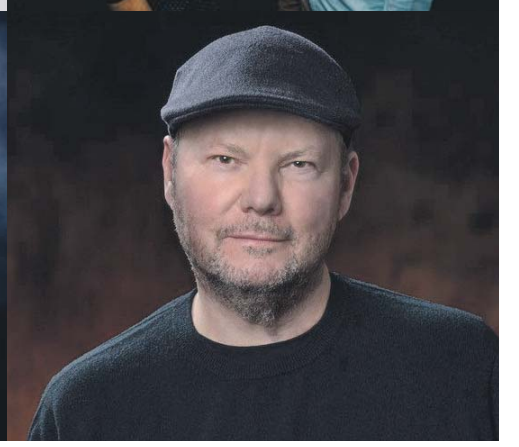
Christopher Cross burst onto the music scene in 1980 with his self-titled debut album, making Grammy history by sweeping the big four awards: Record of the Year and Song of the Year for the iconic 'Sailing', Album of the Year, and Best New Artist. Over his four-decade career, Cross has sold over 10 million albums and earned five Grammys, an Oscar, a Golden Globe, and five top-10 singles, solidifying his place among music's elite.

Friday at Crossroads



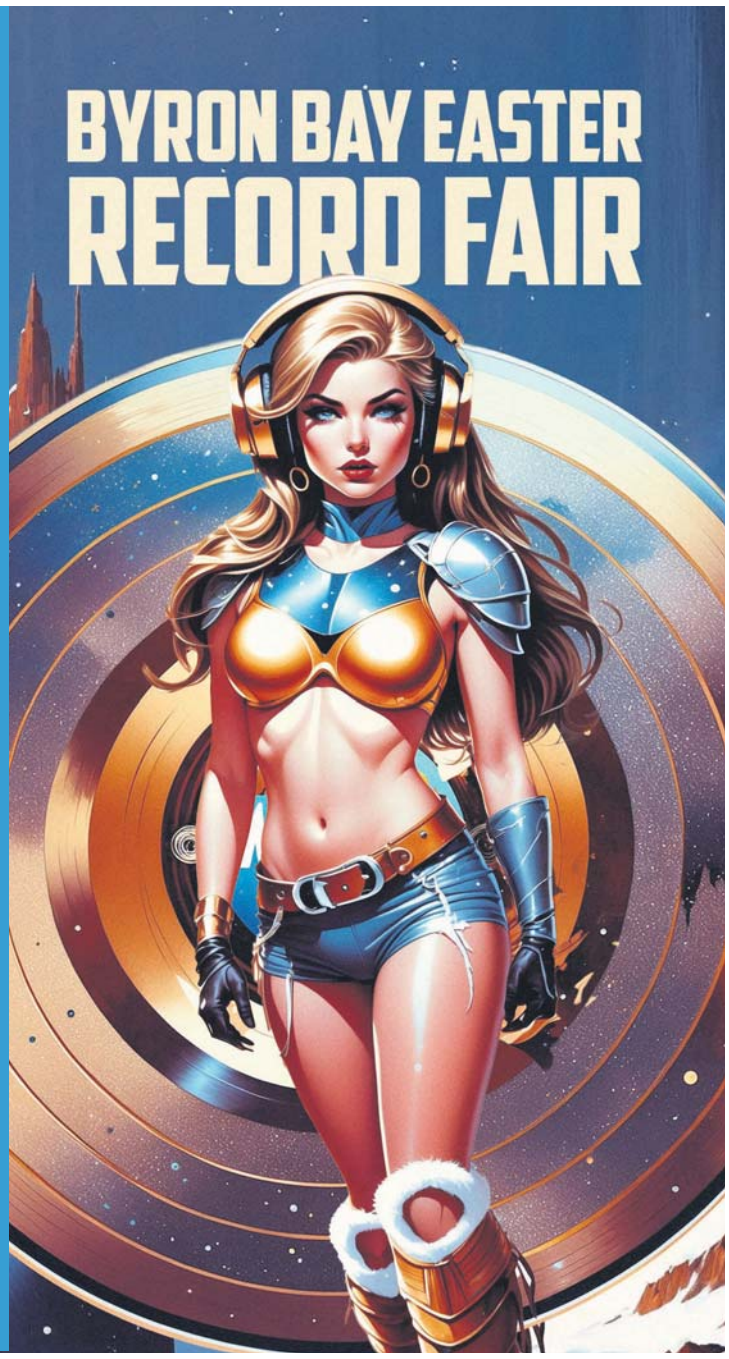






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TOTO

You only have to hear the name Toto and your brain autojmatially responds '… Rosanna yeh!' – Toto continues to reach monumental milestones in 2025, cementing their legacy as one of the most enduring and beloved bands in rock history. Toto's influence extends beyond their own records, as the band's members have contributed to countless Grammy-winning albums across genres. Together, they continue to captivate audiences worldwide, proving that Toto's music transcends time and trends.

Friday at Crossroads

THE STEELE SYNDICATE

Winners of the 2024 Bluesfest Busking Competition, The Steele Syndicate is a funk-rock powerhouse that delivers a live experience like no other – think rock meets horns in an explosive fusion that leaves no room for still feet. With no backing tracks in sight, this Brisbane-based octet showcases world-class musicianship and a relentless onslaught of anthemic funk-rock brilliance. Their genre-bending sound guarantees an unforgettable time.

Friday at Jambalaya

GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS

'That's all pretty good for the first 50 years,' says George Thorogood with a laugh. 'But we keep working harder, digging deeper and playing stronger. Now it's time to go back out there and do some serious rockin.' Serious rockin' will always be what they do best. And for 2025, they will bring the guitar-slinging, amp-blasting, roof-shaking rock party like never before.

Friday at Mojo

GARY CLARK JR

Anyone who has listened to a Gary Clark Jr album or watched the four-time Grammy Award winner perform live knows that he's a gifted multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and performer. 'Blues will always be my foundation,' says Clark. 'But that's just scratching the surface. I'm also a beat maker and an impressionist who likes to do different voices. I've always loved theatre and being able to tell a story'.

Friday and Saturday at Mojo

THE BEARDS

After bidding farewell in 2016 with a massive farewell tour, legendary Australian propaganda rock band The Beards are reuniting exclusively for Bluesfest 2025. Formed in 2005 with a singular mission to ignite a global beard revolution, the South Australian four-piece became a beloved mainstay of the Australian live music scene. Known for their musicianship, signature humour, and interactive live shows, The Beards built a large, devoted following by performing songs about one topic – beards.

Friday and Saturday at Jambalaya

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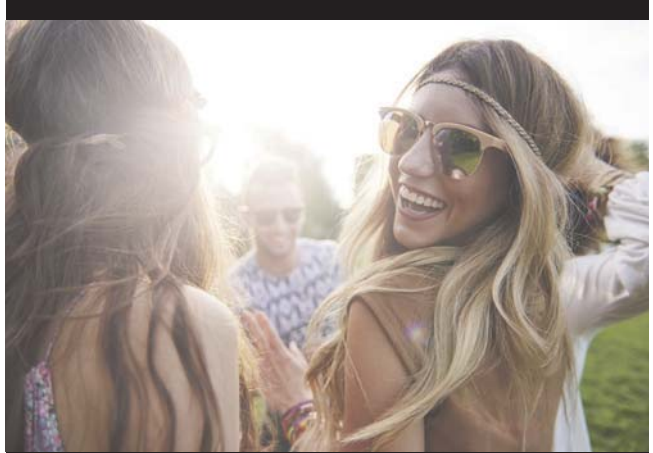
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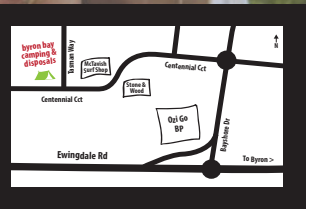
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CROSSROADS

22.00 - 23.30 TOTO
20.30 - 21.30 CHRISTOPHER CROSS
19.00 - 20.00 MAOLI
17.30 - 18.30 BRAD COX
16.00 - 17.00 FANNY LUMSDEN
14.30 - 15.30 ASH GRUNWALD
13.00 - 14.00 PIERCE BROTHERS

MOJO

21.45 - 22.45 GARY CLARK JR
20.15 - 21.15 TOM MORELLO
18.30 - 19.45 GEORGE THOROGOOD & THE DESTROYERS
17.00 - 18.00 CHRISTONE 'KINGFISH' INGRAM
15.30 - 16.30 TAJ FARRANT
14.00 - 15.00 MARC BROUSSARD
12.30 - 13.30 MELODY ANGEL EXCLUSIVE

DELTA

22.00 - 23.00 HERE COME THE MUMMIES EXCLUSIVE
20.30 - 21.30 CIMAFUNK EXCLUSIVE
19.00 - 20.00 BUDJERAH
17.30 - 18.30 ALLISON RUSSELL
16.00 - 17.00 NEAL FRANCIS EXCLUSIVE
14.30 - 15.30 VELVET TRIP
13.00 - 14.00 ROSHANI

JAMBALAYA

22.30 - 23.30 THE CALIFORNIA HONEYDROPS EXCLUSIVE
21.00 - 22.00 LACHY DOLEY GROUP
19.30 -20.30 THE BEARDS
18.00-19.00 NAHKO
16.30 -17.30 FOOLS
15.00 - 16.00 THE MEMPHIS THREE
13.30 - 14.30 THE STEELE SYNDICATE 2024 BUSKING OVER 18 WINNER
12.00 - 13.00 THE ROYALS 2024 BUSKING GROMMET WINNER

ASH GRUNWALD

Renowned for his electrifying live performances, Ash Grunwald has inspired a generation with his signature blend of blues and roots. Known for his 'surf by day, jam by night' ethos, Grunwald has become a festival favourite, delivering high-energy shows filled with gritty guitars and foot-stomping rhythms. As both troubadour and storyteller, he's captivated audiences across Australia, selling out venues with his dynamic stage presence.

Friday at Crossroads and Saturday at Jambalaya

ALLISON RUSSELL

Grammy-winning artist Allison Russell is a masterful storyteller, weaving powerful narratives through her music that resonate deeply with listeners. A self-taught singer, songwriter, poet, activist, and multi-instrumentalist, Russell has redefined modern artistry since the release of her first solo album just three years ago. Her work, from the soul-stirring *Outside Child*, a celebration of survivors' joy, to the expansive and liberating sounds of *The Returner*, has established her as one of the most vital voices in contemporary music. Russell's artistry transcends expectations, affirming her place as a trailblazer in the 21st century.

Friday, Saturday and Sunday





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XAVIER RUDD

One of the Australian music industry's most enduring talents, Xavier Rudd has spent over 20 years touching lives with his uplifting, socially-conscious music. From his 2002 debut album *To Let*, fans were drawn to his incredible multi-instrumental abilities and his deep commitment to social and environmental activism. Over the years, Xavier's live performances have evolved from full band and trio setups to his current internationally acclaimed one-man band showcase, a complex and immersive experience that highlights his unparalleled artistry.

Saturday at Crossroads

CROWDED HOUSE

For more than four decades, Crowded House leader Neil Finn has been on an evolving, winding journey. Crowded House's mid-eighties hits like 'Don't Dream It's Over' and 'Something So Strong', combined with albums like *Woodface* and *Together Alone*, set the standard for the period's erudite jangle-pop while always pushing the band's art forward.

Saturday at Crossroads

VANCE JOY

Australian singer/songwriter Vance Joy burst onto the global music scene with his 2013 hit 'Riptide', a ukulele-led anthem that quickly became a worldwide classic. Known for his intimate yet anthemic songwriting, Vance Joy has proven himself as a unique and powerful voice in modern music. His songs, a delicate yet celebratory mix of folk and pop, capture the essence of everyday experiences, making them universally relatable and deeply personal for listeners worldwide.

Saturday at Crossroads

THE CAT EMPIRE

Aussie icons The Cat Empire kicked off 2023 with a revitalised lineup, as Felix Riebl and Ollie McGill continued to lead the charge, preserving the vibrant energy and exhilarating musicality that fans know and love. The Cat Empire's electrifying performances have captivated sold-out audiences across Europe, the UK, North America, and Australia. This year, they embarked on a massive 40-date world tour, including a standout set at Glastonbury Festival.

Saturday at Mojo

MISS KANINNA

A proud Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung, Kalkadoon, and Yirendali woman, Miss Kaninna is a Naarm-based (Melbourne) First Nations artist hailing from lutruwita/Tasmania. Bursting onto the scene with her debut single 'Blak Britney' in May 2023, the rapper, singer, and songwriter has quickly become a powerful voice of punk and protest in Australia. Raised on the shores of Bruny Island, Miss Kaninna has been commanding stages from a young age, blending the storytelling traditions of her ancestors with her own experiences as a young Black woman on stolen land.

Saturday at Mojo and Sunday at Crossroads

MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA

Formed in 2003, Melbourne Ska Orchestra is a musical force with a difference, boasting up to 26 members and featuring some of Australia's finest musicians. Led by the charismatic Nicky Bomba (John Butler Trio, Bomba, Bustamento), the orchestra is more than just a band—it's an electrifying live experience. Known for their explosive and infectious performances, Melbourne Ska Orchestra has wowed audiences worldwide with their dynamic take on ska, seamlessly blending energetic rhythms with show-stopping musicianship.

Saturday Mojo, Sunday Delta

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CROSSROADS

21.30 - 23.00 CROWDED HOUSE
20.00 - 21.00 VANCE JOY
18.00 - 19.30 XAVIER RUDD
16.30 - 17.30 RY X
15.00 - 16.00 ALLISON RUSSELL
13.30 - 14.30 WILSN
12.00 - 13.00 CLARENCE BEKKER BAND FEAT ERIC STANG AND FRIENDS

MOJO

22.00 - 23.00 HERE COME THE MUMMIES EXCLUSIVE
20.30 - 21.30 THE CAT EMPIRE
19.00 - 20.00 GARY CLARK JR
17.30 - 18.30 MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA
16.00 - 17.00 BJ THE CHICAGO KID
14.30 - 15.30 MISS KANINNA
13.00 - 14.00 19-TWENTY

DELTA

22.30 - 23.30 THE CALIFORNIA HONEYDROPS EXCLUSIVE
21.00 - 22.00 MARC BROUSSARD
19.30 - 20.30 C.W. STONEKING
18.00 - 19.00 HUSSY HICKS
16.30 - 17.30 FOOLS
15.00 - 16.00 SWEET TALK
13.30 - 14.30 THE MEMPHIS THREE

JAMBALAYA

22.00 - 23.00 THE BEARDS
20.30 - 21.30 FANNY LUMSDEN
19.00 - 20.00 ELECTRIC CADILLAC
17.30 - 18.30 CLARENCE BEKKER BAND
16.00 - 17.00 ASH GRUNWALD
14.30 - 15.30 KIM CHURCHILL
13.00 - 14.00 MELODY ANGEL EXCLUSIVE
11.30 - 12.30 LOCAL AREA HIGH SCHOOL SHOWCASE

C.W. STONEKING

C.W. Stoneking is an Australian-American singer, musician, and recording artist known for his genre-blending sound that fuses early 20th century blues, jazz, gospel, and folk influences. Stoneking has earned a devoted international following. His distinctive blend of musical traditions creates a sound entirely his own – his music is a testament to his unique ability to reinterpret and revitalise vintage genres while crafting something new and deeply original.

Saturday at Delta and Sunday at Jambalaya

WILSN

The Geelong-born Shannon Busch, known to her fans as WILSN, is a powerhouse vocalist whose voice commands attention with its blend of classic soul and contemporary flair. After moving to Melbourne to study jazz at the prestigious VCA she drew inspiration from legendary soul and jazz singers like Billie Holiday, Etta James, and Aretha Franklin. WILSN's music pays homage to these greats while infusing her own personality and modern sensibilities into each track, creating a sound that is both timeless and fresh.

Saturday and Sunday at Crossroads

KIM CHURCHILL

Hailing from the coastal town of Merimbula, Kim Churchill has made waves as a gifted songwriter and performer, previously crowned Australia's National Youth Folk Artist of the Year and nominated for Roots Act of the Year at the National Live Music Awards.

Saturday at Jambalaya and Sunday at Delta









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CROSSROADS

22.30 - 23.30 HILLTOP HOODS
20.45 - 22.00 RAG'N'BONE MAN
19.15 - 20.15 RODRIGO Y GABRIELA
17.45 - 18.45 CIMAFUNK EXCLUSIVE
16.15 - 17.15 MISS KANINNA
14.45 - 15.45 BJ THE CHICAGO KID
13.15 - 14.15 WILSN

MOJO

21.30 - 22.45 CHAKA KHAN
19.45 - 21.00 MISSY HIGGINS
18.15 - 19.15 JOHN BUTLER
16.45 - 17.45 KASEY CHAMBERS
15.15 - 16.15 19-TWENTY
13.45 - 14.45 NEAL FRANCIS EXCLUSIVE
12.15 - 13.15 ROSHANI

DELTA

22.00 - 23.00 MELBOURNE SKA ORCHESTRA
20.30 - 21.30 HERE COME THE MUMMIES EXCLUSIVE
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17.30 - 18.30 ALLISON RUSSELL
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13.00 - 14.00 KIM CHURCHILL

JAMBALAYA

22.30 - 23.30 TAJ FARRANT
21.00 - 22.00 C.W. STONEKING
19.30 - 20.30 LACHY DOLEY GROUP
18.00 - 19.00 MELODY ANGEL EXCLUSIVE
16.30 - 17.30 SWEET TALK
15.00 - 16.00 ERIC STANG
13.30 - 14.30 2025 BUSKING OVER 18 WINNER
12.00 - 13.00 2025 BUSKING GROMMET WINNER













HUSSY HICKS

Hussy Hicks, winners of the 2024 GCMA Live Act of the Year, have spent the last decade captivating audiences with their distinctive fusion of folk, blues, country, and roots. Renowned for their creative drive and boundary-pushing artistry, this Australian powerhouse duo has earned their reputation as festival favorites both at home and abroad. With their innovative sound and magnetic live performances, Hussy Hicks are unstoppable – if you haven't yet hopped on board, now's the perfect time to join the journey.

Saturday and Sunday at Delta

KASEY CHAMBERS

Kasey Chambers is an Australian country music icon whose distinctive voice, heartfelt lyrics, and world-class performances have made her one of the most popular and acclaimed artists of her generation. Widely credited with bringing Australian country music into the mainstream, Chambers has earned 14 ARIA Awards, 24 CMAA Golden Guitars, and 10 APRA songwriting awards. Known for her authenticity and dedication to her craft, Kasey continues to inspire fans around the world with her timeless music and unwavering passion.

Sunday at Mojo

CHAKA KHAN

Chaka Khan is a living legend whose music and influence have shaped the soundscape of the past 50 years. Inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2023, she has earned ten Grammy Awards and captivated audiences worldwide with her seamless fusion of pop, soul, jazz, gospel, and funk. From her groundbreaking work with Rufus and their hit 'Tell Me Something Good' to her solo classics like 'I'm Every Woman', Chaka's unmatched vocal talent and fearless artistry have cemented her as an icon. Chaka Khan's ability to transcend genres, break barriers, and uplift hearts has made her a timeless figure whose influence only grows stronger with time.

Sunday at Mojo

HILLTOP HOODS

Hilltop Hoods stormed back in 2023 with their latest single 'Laced Up', following a massive 2022 that saw them perform six sold-out arena shows and release hits 'Show Business' ft Eamon and 'A Whole Day's Night' ft Montaigne and Tom Thum. Making Triple J's Hottest 100 history with the most song entries in the countdown, their tally now stands at 23. With a legacy that includes 1.6 billion streams, ten ARIA Awards, and over 75 platinum accreditations, Hilltop Hoods are a force in Australian music. As they gear up for their next chapter, their influence on hip hop and Australian music remains unrivalled.

Sunday at Crossroads

JOHN BUTLER

John Butler stands as one of Australia's premier alternative songwriters and storytellers, with a career marked by #1 charting albums, platinum records, and multiple ARIA Awards. Butler's rich catalogue of hits, including iconic tracks like 'Zebra', 'Better Than', and 'Ocean', has cemented his place in the global music scene. Known for his high-energy live performances, Butler has graced some of the world's most iconic stages and festivals, from Glastonbury and Coachella to Fuji Rock and Red Rocks Amphitheatre. Butler continues to evolve with new instrumental and beat-driven albums reminding fans why he remains one of the world's finest singer-songwriters and musicians.

Sunday at Mojo

RODRIGO Y GABRIELA

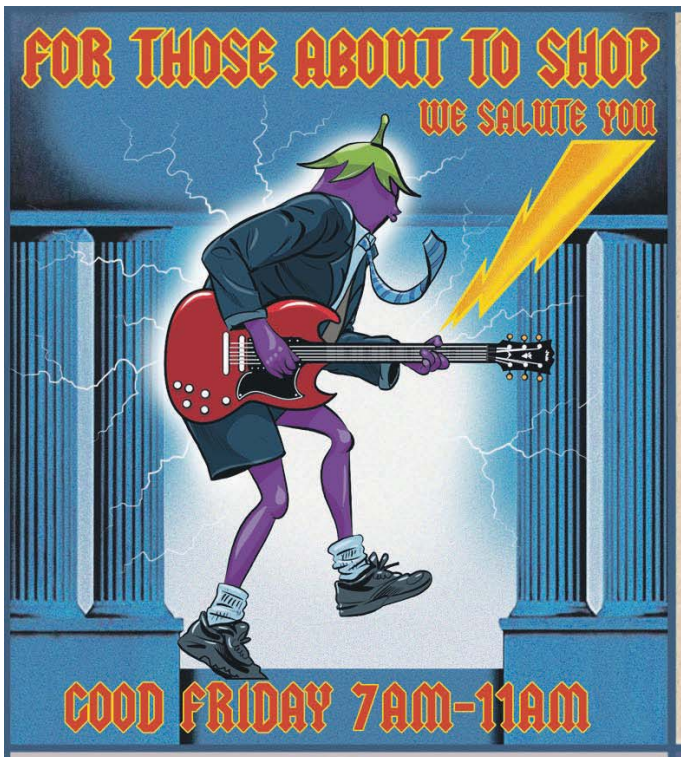
Rodrigo y Gabriela, the Grammy-winning guitar duo, have captivated global audiences with their unique blend of classic rock and heavy metal influences. Starting as buskers on Dublin's Grafton Street, they quickly gained recognition for their electrifying live performances and released their debut album *Re-Foc* in 2002. Over the years, they've continued to push musical boundaries with acclaimed albums like *Area 52* (featuring a Cuban orchestra), *9 Dead Alive*, and their Grammy-winning *Mettavolution*.

Sunday at Crossroads





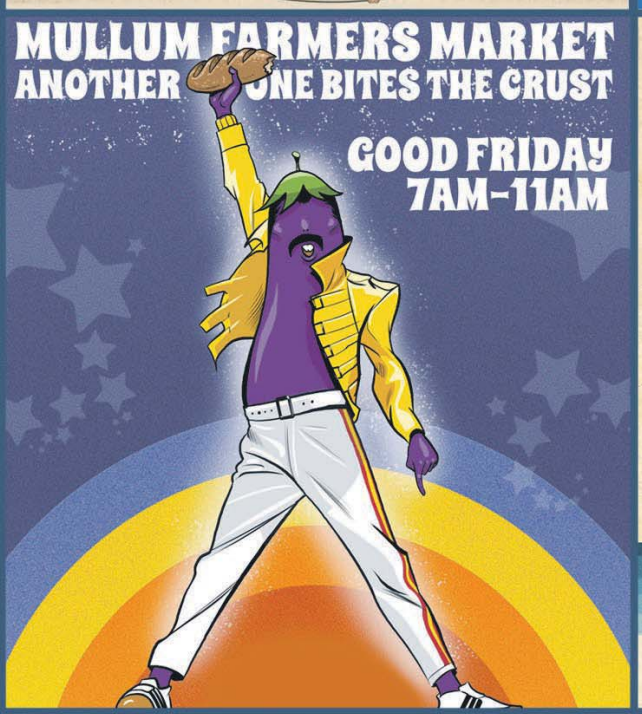




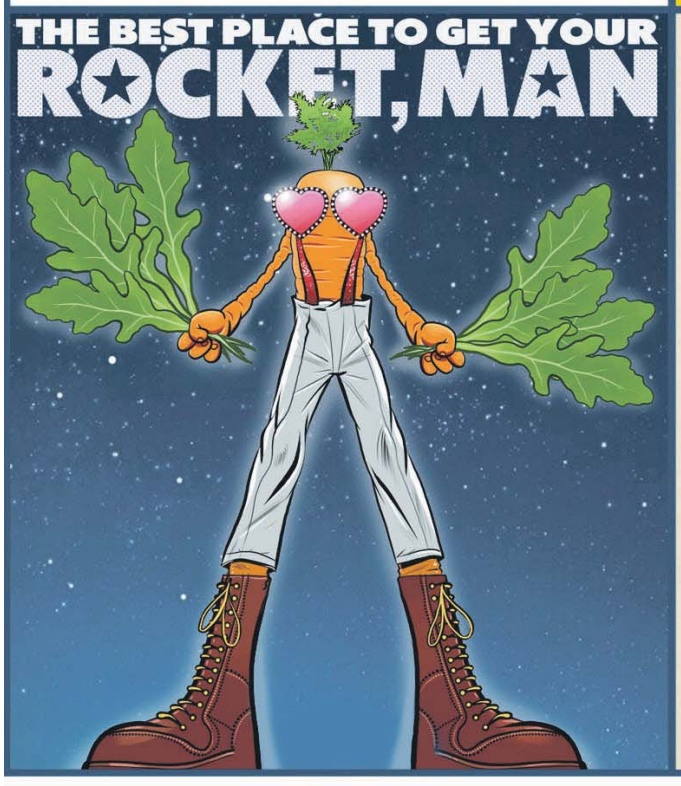
















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Interview with Ash Grunwald

Playing two home turf shows on the weekend, Ash Grunwald has inspired a generation with his signature blend of blues and roots. Known for his 'surf by day, jam by night' ethos – also the title of his first book – Grunwald has become a festival favourite, delivering high-energy shows filled with gritty guitars and foot-stomping rhythms. If you're looking for blues at Bluesfest, he's your first stop. Last week Ash spoke to *The Echo* on his return home from a very long tour.

Ash, how many Bluesfests have you performed at?

10! This will be number 11.

What is something memorable about your last show at Bluesfest?

Well last time, it being my tenth Bluesfest, I recorded an album called *The Bluesfest studio sessions*. That was with my three-piece at the time, those gigs were special. I still think that first one back after Covid was the most special though – owing to the weird laws of the time some people couldn't make their shows at Tyagarah and other people had to sit-in with each other's bands. I got to front Chain for a couple of songs. Then I was playing with Josh Teskey in our duo – AND doing my own band thing. So it was fun!

Do you have new music for this show?

Yeah, I've got a new song called 'Glide' I'm doing all the time, and the single before that was called 'Feeling Better', so I'll be doing that too.



Are you bringing a band this time?

I'm solo – I've been touring the country doing my one-man band, that's how I started at Bluesfest so I thought it fitting that I end it like that.

What are you loving about playing music at the moment?

I've been having the time of my life lately just leaning into the solo thing and trying to perfect my craft through touring extensively.

What is your current earworm?

Hahaha, Pete and Bas. Have a listen. They're too 75-year-old pommy geezers who are the best rappers you've ever heard in your life!

Are you having enough fun?

I try to keep my froth levels high in life. If they drop, I make dramatic changes.

Is there anyone you are looking forward to seeing at Bluesfest?

Rag'n'Bone Man – I'm addicted to his voice and I cover his song 'Human'. But, this lineup will be one to remember.

I know you were born 'down south' but does Bluesfest feel like a home town show for you?

Yes it does feel like a home town thing and that's awesome because I'm originally from Melbourne and to play Bluesfest was my dream, because it literally combined not just blues and roots, but also quite bluesy, actual blues, with the whole vibe of Byron Bay and surfing was peaches and cream for me. It was a dream to play the festival. I used to travel up to Byron in the late '90s and loved it, and to think I've ended up playing ten of them and called this area home for the last 16 years, is quite amazing – it's not lost on me and it's something that I really appreciate.

Do you have any special guests for this show?

Well, yes, very special – special for me because I am going to get my daughter Sunny up to sing a song with me. A little Bill Withers classic. It represents something really significant to me to have the next generation coming through – as I possibly play my last Bluesfest – it's very special.

■ Ash Grunwald plays Friday and Saturday at Bluesfest.

Getting to the festival

www.bluesfest.com.au/getting-to-bluesfest

SHUTTLE BUSES

The following services are correct as of 15 April and are subject to change.

SUFFOLK PARK, BYRON BAY: Shuttle buses will run approximately every 40–60 minutes (subject to traffic). Thursday buses start 1pm. Friday, Saturday and Sunday buses start 11am. Buses stop at the Shell Service Station, Suffolk Park; Ingenia Holiday Park, Broken Head Road; Byron Bay Bus Exchange (Butler Street); Belongil Fields. **Return ticket: $25**.

MULLUMBIMBY, BRUNSWICK HEADS: The Thursday shuttle will depart Mullum at 5.15pm. Friday, Saturday and Sunday buses will run from 11am till 12.30am approximately every 40–60 minutes. Buses stop at Stuart Street Newsagency, Mullumbimby; Park Street Bus Zone, Brunswick Heads. **Return ticket: $25**.

BILLINUDGEL, OCEAN SHORES, SGB, NB: The Thursday shuttle will depart Billinudgel at 4pm. Friday, Saturday and Sunday buses will run from 12pm till 3pm approximately every 60 minutes. Buses stop at Billi Bakehouse; Balemo Drive (motel end); Shara Boulevard SDA Church; South Golden Beach Shop; New Brighton Shop, Orana Road top roundabout, Ocean Village Shopping Centre. **Return ticket: $25**.

BANGALOW: The Thursday shuttle will depart at 4.30pm. Friday, Saturday and Sunday buses will run from 12pm till 3pm approximately every 30 minutes. Buses stop at the Station Street Bus Stop. **Return ticket: $25**.

Services also run **north to Kingslciff and Kirra** (tickets **$60 return**), and **south to Lennox Head and Ballina** (tickets **$50 return**).

PARKING

The festival car parks, in the north and south of the site are accessible from Tanner Lane and Yarun Road. There is an area set aside for disabled parking. Pre-book parking online as there will be limited facility to purchase on site.

Pre-paid parking will cost $25 per single day.
3-day parking is $60 plus fees. 4-day parking is $80 plus fees.
Tickets are available to purchase via **www.bluesfest.com.au/tickets**.

Don't park on the local road network around the Bluesfest site. Council parking rangers will be on patrol throughout the weekend.

PICK UP AND DROP OFF AREA

The pick-up and drop-off area is at the south gate entrance.



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Wonderfully Weird

Mandy Nolan



I have always been a weird girl. In fact, I have made my career out of it.

It's something I embrace now, but it caused me great pain in my younger years. I remember how painful it was not to be like other people. To be taller, or shorter, or to think differently, or to experience the world in ways that were seen as deviant to the norm. I could feel my difference. It wasn't something you could see. It was the wrong runners. What my mum put on my sandwiches. It was my scabbed knees. My tallness. Me.

When I was 15 I was playing basketball for Queensland. I was in Perth at the National Championships and our team had a day off. It was decided that we should go to the movies. As the daughter of a single mum who lived on the widow's pension, I had never travelled before, so being in Perth was exotic. I had spent almost a week inside a basketball stadium, the idea of being inside a cinema seemed to be wasteful of this wonderful opportunity to explore our surroundings. I suggested that we get the train to Freemantle, or that we go to the gallery, or a museum. The team manager was a woman in her 40s who clearly didn't like me. She found me difficult and didn't appreciate the challenge. She'd decided that we girls would like to go see *Flashdance*. I told her I didn't want to go. That I didn't want to see *Flashdance*. That I was happy to stay behind and maybe go to a park and read a book.

Well that was enough for her, she lost it. I copped this massive rampage where she yelled, 'Everyone else wants to see *Flashdance*. What's wrong with you? You're not like the other girls. Mandy Nolan you are a freaky weird girl.' I didn't argue back. I quietly took the abuse. Those words pierced my skin, and they confirmed everything I had often thought about myself. That I wasn't the same. That something about me was wrong or shameful. I still remember how much I cried. How humiliated and powerless I felt.

Later that day I sat in the cinema and I watched *Flashdance*. I cried in the dark. The enjoyment of everyone else just confirmed that feeling of isolation and aloneness. Even now I can't hear that theme song without the flush of shame settling on my body. It's definitely my trigger song.

> **Well that was enough for her, she lost it. I copped this massive rampage where she yelled, 'Everyone else wants to see *Flashdance*. What's wrong with you? You're not like the other girls.**

I sometimes think comedy was my therapy – it was how I took charge of shame. That if I exposed myself, then no one could expose me. In an unexpected way it made me start to love my dark places. To appreciate that as I grew up, the sad little girl with the crooked fringe who'd survived domestic violence and poverty and the death of her father, who'd navigated the pity of strangers and the inner catastrophe of my very public loss, learned to laugh at the hard things. Eventually. It was a survival tool. What doesn't kill you, definitely makes you blonder.

So now, when I hear people speak unkindly to young people it triggers me. Careless words from an adult can become part of a young person's marrow. It's not just ok to be different, it's awesome. Being weird used to be my shame but now it's my super power.

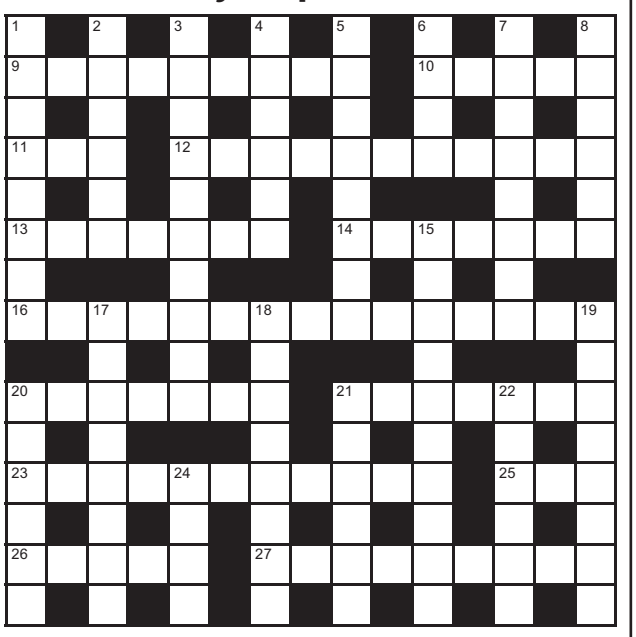
I now embrace my weird girl. In fact, I love her. And I know that it's the weird girl in me that others love too. Mostly. I hope that other people get to love and enjoy their weird girl selves.

There's probably a weird kid in your family. Maybe it's you. Maybe it's that darling baby who just won't sleep.

Michael Franti sang: 'All the freaky weird people make the beauty of the world'. So it must be true. Weird, isn't it!

■ Mandy Nolan's Soapbox column has appeared in *The Echo* for almost 23 years. The personal and the political often meet here; she's also been the Greens federal candidate since before the last federal election. *The Echo*'s coverage of political issues will remain as comprehensive and fair as it has ever been, outside this opinion column which, as always, contains Mandy's personal opinions only.

Crossword by Stephen Clarke #51



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

9. Handsome Yankee said to follow Rapunzel maybe (5,4)
10. GBS has maiden over old instrument (5)
11. Penny leaves aristocrat with short instrument (3)
12. Social activity between soup and main? (11)
13. Understanding contemporary way of expressing despair takes time (7)
14. File extension built around copper causes blow up (7)
16. If not of sound mind, scrambled mnemonics spot on (3,6,6)
20. Short book about new city in California (7)
21. Acorn artificial intelligence fashioned into an instrument (7)
23. Italian food Mark devoured in Lille (11)
25. Instrument at high volume but not f (3)
26. Ensemble of musicians in motet coordinating turns (5)
27. Mysterious sorcerer surrounds daughter with instruments (9)

DOWN

1. Issue of *Echo* on Friday to be on union (8)
2. ACDC starting to cut records about guns (6)
3. Spooner's high-pitched instrument used by office workers (6,4)
4. Knocking heel on tasteless stuff (3-3)
5. Makes new arrangement by dropping principal cellist at twenty-seven (8)
6. Bandidos loth to hoard capital (4)
7. Perform with bear exposed (5,3)
8. Current mother turns on father in Paris (6)
15. Spotted at Queens, going up and down in town house (4-1-5)
17. A vintage novel plot (8)
18. Devious spy about to tweak instrument (8)
19. Lead powder, a substance with magical property – for Ziggy! (8)
20. Impression of heavy weight switched on atomic particle (6)
21. Old rooster stops lesson at the beginning – a sign of the times! (6)
22. Molecule, of which an unspecified quantity is central to the genesis of iodine and radium (6)
24. Little bit of Jupiter's moon at aberration (4)

Quick Clues

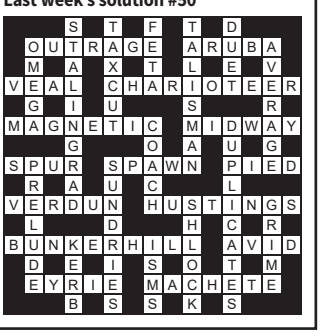
ACROSS

9. Whimsical story often involving magic and mythical creatures (5,4)
10. Medieval double-reed wind instrument (5)
11. Diminutive term for a four-stringed Hawaiian instrument (3)
12. Communication or dealings between individuals or groups (11)
13. Deep understanding or perception (7)
14. Burst or detonate violently (7)
16. Disordered in thought (3,6,6)
20. Short novel or long short story (7)
21. Small egg-shaped wind instrument (7)
23. Ribbon-shaped pasta (11)
25. Pear-shaped stringed instrument popular in Middle Eastern music (3)
26. Musical ensemble of eight performers (5)
27. Simple wind instruments with finger holes (9)

DOWN

1. Outpouring of emotion or words (8)
2. Upper arm muscle (6)
3. Group of office workers sharing clerical duties (6,4)
4. Sound of rapid knocking (3-3)
5. Arranges or organises again (8)
6. Scandinavian capital city (4)
7. Execute a task (5,3)
8. Unit of electric current (6)
15. Small second residence in a city (4-1-5)
17. Plan and direct a course or route (8)
18. Ancient stringed instrument played by plucking (8)
19. Romantic notion of celestial magic (8)
20. Vague idea or concept (6)
21. Indicating the hour on a timepiece (6)
22. Molecule with the same atoms in a different arrangement (6)
24. Tiny amount or degree (4)

Last week's solution #50



STARS BY LILITH

This week's hot astral goss is Mercury joining the sun, Neptune and Chiron in fiery Aries, while feisty Mars blazing into Leo adds extra heat in the celestial kitchen...



ARIES THE RAM

ARIES: Enjoy the glorious finale of this year's Aries season as Mercury joins the sun, Chiron and Neptune in your sign, and your ruling planet Mars charging into the sign of passion and radiance switches on your personal fairy lights to showcase your unique shine and genuine nobility of spirit.

TAURUS: With ringmaster Mars conducting this week like a global talent show, it would be easy to overstep boundaries without realising. The preventative? Let Venus in her most intuitive mode guide you gently through rapid developments which may require leaving parts of your former self behind for the latest upgrade.

GEMINI: Your ruling planet Mercury striding into its most inventive, impetuous and enthusiastic mode could have you bubbling with effervescent ideas and witty repartee – but also quick to make assumptions which may not be in your best interests. Remember you're an air sign, and take a breath before reacting this week.

CANCER: You've figured out by now that doing the same thing over and over only yields the same old results. This week Mars, in a daring mood, encourages you to colour outside the lines and try some new tactics. If they don't succeed, well, making mistakes is the fastest way to learn.

LEO: Of the four elemental categories in astrology, fire is the one most strongly associated with creative inspiration, and when Mars flames into Leo on April 19, your personal heat will be palpable. Take advantage of this two-month fire-stoking transit to get harder and more difficult stuff done.

VIRGO: This week's Mercury expresses in plain vernacular that things aren't necessarily what they seem and there's usually more to the story, so stay tuned for more revelations, more developments. Meanwhile, it's worth reconsidering, perhaps from a tough love point of view, certain beliefs which just aren't helpful anymore.

LIBRA: This week rambunctious Mars barges into live out loud, look at me mode, while Venus is at her most sensitive, subtle and intimate. Meshing these differing energies and making an art of their interplay is this week's Libran balancing act. How? As always, let Venus take the lead.

SCORPIO: As Mars struts into his most dramatic placement, an emotion-intensifying Mars/Pluto face-off could bring leadership issues, dummy spits or showdowns. Finding common ground may be challenging with both planets in stubborn fixed signs uninclined to compromise. Which makes your wisest strategy slowing down, saying little, observing a lot.

SAGITTARIUS: This week's planetary pattern looks like a provocative psychological battlefield in which it might be easy to snap and lose your cool. Sagittarians' biggest challenge will be not reacting impulsively, no matter how tempting that may be, especially during late week moon in your own fiery sign.

CAPRICORN: With Mars energising your zone of permanent bonds and shared resources for the coming couple of months, it's worth clarifying any misunderstandings so you can keep moving ahead with ease. Longevity is always Capricorn's goal, so treat each person and activity as carefully as you would any investment.

AQUARIUS: Changes that have been on their way are now speeding up, and this week a piece of information or insight could move the goalposts. As dancing on shifting sands becomes the trending choreography, Mars sending a blast of charisma into your partnership department sees you looking like quite the expert.

PISCES: Your mentor planet Neptune, in the charged-up sign that inspires bold action, is your positive signal for a new cycle of change. Fortified by the North Node in Pisces for 2025, this makes the invitation to pursue your life path impossible to resist, and gives you the determination to do it.

health & healing

Bangalow & Ballina Remedial Massage

Remedial massage is safe and effective for everybody and has many benefits for the body, mind and emotional states. It promotes health and physical wellbeing; relieves stress and tension; strengthens immune system and circulation; manages muscular pain; improves flexibility, range of movement and rehabilitation after injury; improves emotional states; relieves neck and back pain and other musculoskeletal dysfunctions; and much more!

Bangalow and Ballina Remedial Massage therapists are committed to the highest standard of care in all of their treatments. Treatments are reasonably priced as they believe massage should be part of everyone's lifestyle.



Book online. Gift vouchers available.

0499 490 088
bbrmassage.com.au
@bbr_massage

Kate Messenger - Kinesiology & Energy Psychology

Your body is an incredible database that stores records of every experience you've ever had, and Kinesiology is a remarkable modality that can access all parts of this database. Using gentle biofeedback muscle testing, Kate communicates with your physical body, sub-conscious mind and energy systems, tapping into this database in a very precise and targeted way – identifying the root cause of your issue, and utilising the most appropriate therapeutic techniques to free your innate healing capacity, allowing you to move towards health and wellbeing on all levels.



Kate can work with you around physical and emotional issues, trauma, stress release, pain relief, posture and flexibility, fears and phobias, sabotage programs, compulsive behaviours, enhanced performance, brain integration, and more!
Contact her for a free discovery call.

Mullumbimby
katemessengerkinesiology.com.au
@katemesseger_kinesiology | 0413 003 301

The Health Lodge

The Health Lodge is Byron's evolving wellness hub, where optimum and complex wellbeing is understood, not just treated. Their nationally-renowned team of integrative doctors has special interests in mothercare, queer and minority communities, mental health, nutrition and biological dentistry. The growing team of Allied health practitioners deliver naturopathy, psychology, nursing, functional breath training, chiro, Chinese medicine, bioresonance, hypnotherapy, occupational therapy. Recently launched all-inclusive medical retreats offer a collaborative team approach for curated wellness stays, in the comfort of regenerative yet affordable luxury lodgings. The cherry on top is Australia's first medicinal-grade, chlorine-free, hydro-thermal spa with all the treatments and trimmings. See the doc, drop an IV infusion, book a colonic, soak, cold plunge, massage, all under one roof! Perfect for Mother's Day!



thehealthlodge.com.au
02 6685 6445
74-78 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay

Grove Psychology Clinic

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

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

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



Contact them now to enquire or make a booking.

02 6685 8032
admin@grovepsychologyclinic.com
grovepsychologyclinic.com/

Bangalow Headache Clinic

At Bangalow Headache Clinic they treat headaches and migraines, jaw pain, clicking, grinding and locking, as well as vestibular disorders and dizziness.

Michael has done extensive studies and exams, in both Australia and Europe, involving the head, neck and jaw. He has completed advanced vestibular competency training with the Northern American leaders in this area.



At Bangalow Headache Clinic they quite often find an overlap between headache and dizziness and/or headache and jaw problems.

If you experience jaw pain, locking or clicking, headaches, migraines or vertigo, call the clinic on 0475 757 510.

72 Byron Street, Bangalow
www.bangalowheadacheclinic.com.au

Protect Your Smile

Playing impact sports without a mouthguard puts your teeth, jaw and gums at serious risk. At Byron Bay Denture Clinic, the Protect Plus + Custom Mouthguard is expertly crafted by local dental prosthetist Troy Fraser, offering a precise fit for maximum comfort and protection.



Custom-made in a fully-equipped Byron Bay lab, these mouthguards help prevent injuries like broken teeth, cut lips, jaw fractures, and even concussions. Unlike generic versions, they're tailored to your bite - ensuring better protection and easier breathing.

Research shows custom mouthguards can reduce oral injuries by up to 60%. Choose a locally-made solution that lets you focus on your game with confidence.

Protect your smile - play smart with a Protect Plus + Custom Mouthguard.

02 6685 8744 | 8/14 Middleton Street, Byron Bay
byronbaydentureclinic.com.au

Byron Community College

Term 2 classes are starting soon! It's never too late to learn about health and wellness, and this term Byron Community College is offering over 20 health & wellbeing courses – including reflexology, face yoga, self-help for anxiety, massage introduction, reiki and more!

Looking to take your skills further? Enrol in the CHC43315 Certificate IV in Mental Health*, starting April 28. This 30-week, nationally-recognised qualification empowers you to support individuals experiencing mental health challenges with empathy and care.



Enrol now and take the first step toward a rewarding and purposeful career. Learn. Grow. Thrive – with Byron Community College.

*This training is subsidised by the NSW Government.

Byron Community College - RTO: 90013

www.byroncollege.org.au
02 6684 3374

Dr Sam Gartland

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



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

Life Medical Mullumbimby
02 6680 2486 | 113 Stuart St, Mullumbimby
lifemedicalmullumimby.com.au

health & healing

A Sanctuary for Wellbeing & Nature's Beauty

Nestled in the Byron Bay hinterland, Crystal Castle & Shambhala Gardens is a magical sanctuary full of giant crystals spread over five hectares of lush subtropical gardens.

Stand between the 5.5 metre high Crystal Guardians, step inside a 120-million-year-old Amethyst 'Dragon Egg' Cave, and marvel at the 20-tonne Enchanted Cave.

Wander through regenerated rainforest and the sacred Crystal Labyrinth.

Touch the Kalachakra World Peace Stupa, a project blessed by His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Your day-pass includes inspiring experiences like the Crystal Singing Bowls (12pm and 3pm), Crystal Meditation (1:30pm) and a Guided Tour (11am).



Enjoy nourishing vegetarian food at the Lotus Cafe and explore Castle Jewels for unique crystal treasures and artisan jewellery.

Open every day 10am – 5pm.
Closed Good Friday.

02 6684 8111 | 81 Monet Drive
Montecollum
info@crystalcastle.com.au
crystalcastle.com.au

Destiny Skin & Laser Clinic

Beauty meets precision at Destiny Skin & Laser Clinic, a beacon of advanced skincare and aesthetic treatments, with a strong commitment to enhancing natural beauty through cutting-edge laser technology.

Their clinic offers a comprehensive range of services, including laser hair removal, skin rejuvenation, and treatments for pigmentation and acne scarring. They pride themselves on their personalised approach, tailoring each treatment to meet the unique needs of their clients.

Their team of experienced professionals is dedicated to providing a safe, comfortable and effective experience. They use state-of-the-art equipment and follow the highest standards of care.



At Destiny Skin & Laser Clinic, they believe in empowering their clients to feel confident and radiant in their skin. Book your consultation today and discover the transformative power of laser treatments.

02 6621 6699
45 Molesworth Street, Lismore
lismoredestiny.com

Move Freely, Live Fully



With over 20 years as a soft tissue therapist specialising in complex foot pain and biomechanics, Nathan Montgomery brings world-class expertise to Northern Rivers Podiatry Byron Bay. Known for his down-to-earth approach and clinical precision, Nathan blends hands-on experience with cutting-edge tech – including 3D-printed orthotics and advanced pressure plate gait analysis – to deliver truly personalised care. Whether it's persistent foot pain, postural imbalances, or sports-related injuries, Nathan's deep understanding of movement and muscle function gets to the root of the problem.

The result? Improved strength, better balance, and a renewed confidence in every step. Discover how expert foot care can elevate your whole-body wellbeing.

Northern Rivers Podiatry Byron Bay
02 6619 2939 | 10/6 Marvell St, Byron Bay
northernriverspodiatry.com.au

Dental Implants & Aesthetics



Dr. Sergi Miralles, an expert in advanced aesthetic dentistry and full-mouth rehabilitation, brings 20 years of experience to Dental Implants & Aesthetics. With advanced knowledge in complex restorative treatments, Dr. Miralles has extended his services to the Northern Rivers community, providing locals with access to high-quality care that previously required travel to major cities. His patient-centred approach focuses on restoring smiles and confidence through cutting-edge procedures like All-on-X implants and hand-crafted porcelain veneers.

Alongside Dr. Franck Page, who handles the surgical aspects, Dr. Miralles is committed to improving oral health and quality of life for patients at Byron Bay and surroundings. For consultations or more information, contact Dental Implants & Aesthetics on (02) 5643 9213.

For consultations or more information:

02 5643 9213
9/9 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay
dentalimplantsgoldcoast.com.au

SAVE THE DATE

byron healing

www.byronhealing.com.au

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

Myofascial Release Part 1

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: 16-18 May
Time: Fri 5pm - 9pm, Sat & Sun 9am - 6pm
Address: Mullumbimby campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au
(02) 6684 3374
customercare@byroncollege.org.au

Digest Your Best

Held by Byron Community College
Date: 17 May
Time: 9am - 4pm
Address: Byron campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au
(02) 6684 3374
customercare@byroncollege.org.au

Self-Help For Anxiety

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: 6 x Fri, 23 May – 27 Jun
Time: 11am - 1pm
Address: Mullumbimby campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au
(02) 6684 3374
customercare@byroncollege.org.au

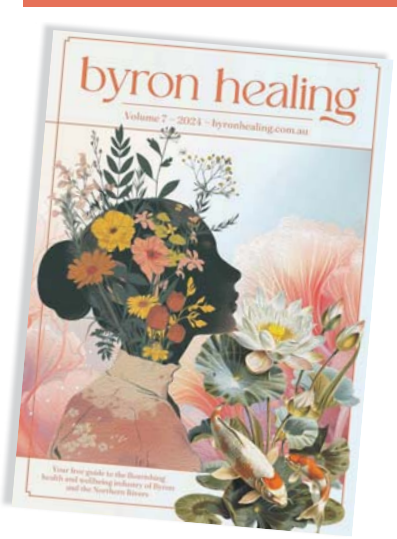
Reflexology

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: 2 x Sat, 31 May –7 Jun
Time: 10am - 3pm
Address: Mullumbimby campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au
(02) 6684 3374
customercare@byroncollege.org.au

Vagus Nerve & Cortisol Toning

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Sat, 28 Jun
Time: 10am - 1pm
Address: Mullumbimby campus
Contact: byroncollege.org.au
(02) 6684 3374
customercare@byroncollege.org.au

byron healing magazine out now



MULLUM ON THE MAP



A WORD FROM THE CHAMBER

Mullum Chamber of Commerce & Community recently held a sold-out breakfast for International Women's Day. It was a great success.

We are following up with another Cancer Council breakfast next month. Details will follow shortly.

Along with Creative Mullum, the Just Jugs exhibition will be held on May 2, 3 & 4 at the Civic Centre. Be sure to support our local artists.

We commence our regular meetings with Council this week, with some important issues on the agenda, including: improving the bus stop surrounds and safety behind the post office; the Mullum High School safety issues; Mullum Primary School safety and surrounds; the shambolic state of the Mullum Railway Station and Station Master's Cottage at the town entrance; Rail Trail update; and bike track to Mullum Industrial Estate.

We welcome all to our monthly meetings.

mullumbimby.org.au

1. DEVINE QUALITY MEATS

Devine Quality Meats is proud to be Mullum's local butcher. With over 30 years of dedicated service, they remain committed to providing premium quality meat and personalised service to the community.

02 6684 2015
devinequalitymeats.com.au



2. BREAKFAST AT THE PADDOCK

The Paddock offers great coffee, fresh croissants, breakfast cups, and bacon, egg & halloumi rolls. Easy parking and stunning gardens make it the perfect morning stop.

Contact: Karen at paddockworkready@gmail.com or on 0400 348 209



3. STEWART'S MENSWEAR

Stewart's invites Blues Festival visitors to shop local in Mullumbimby for festival fashion essentials. Just 20 minutes from Byron Bay, discover stylish, high-quality clothing and accessories for every music lover.

02 6684 2148
stewartsmenswear.com.au



4. SON OF DRUM

An inspiring range of world instruments, shamanic flutes, percussion and sound healing tools. Loved by locals, it's a 'must-visit' for anyone with an interest in music. New didgeridoos just in!

02 6684 1742



5. HEMP CULTURE

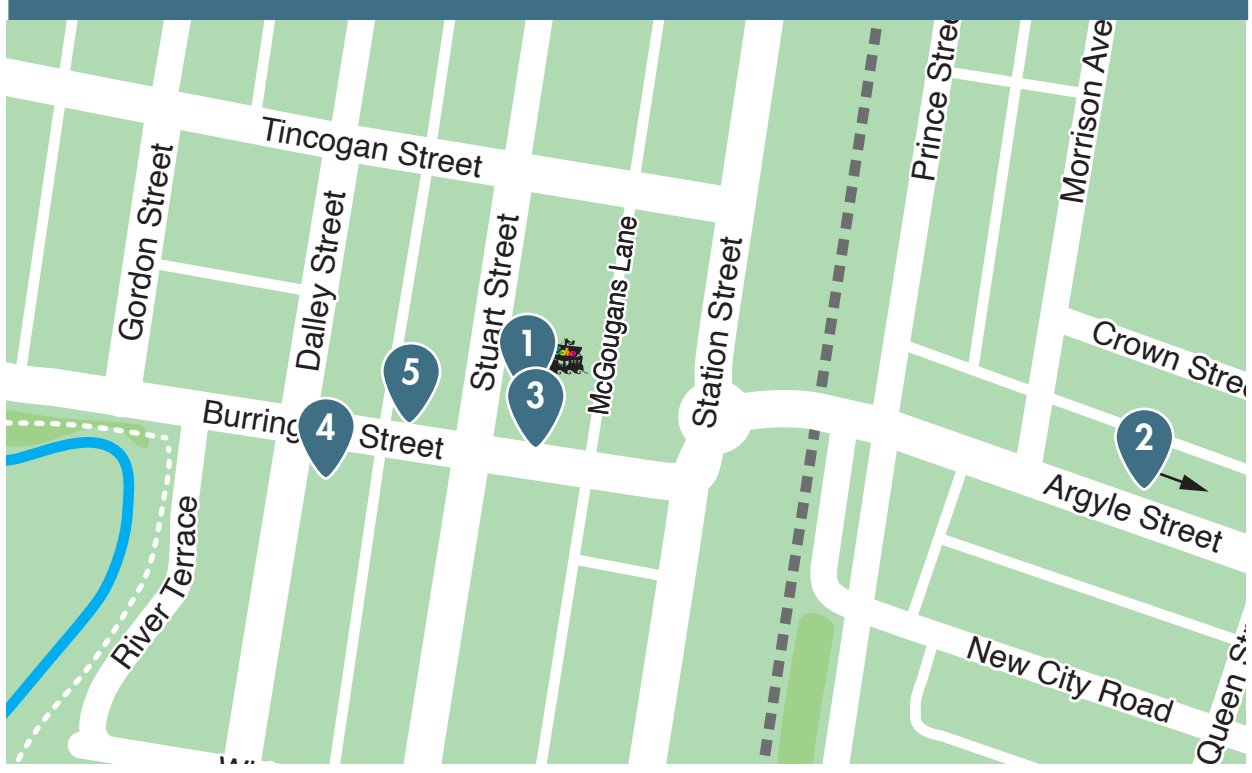
This week Hemp Culture is offering 20% OFF STORE-WIDE in celebration of 420. Make a positive impact on the planet while enjoying some serious discounts. Offer ends April 20.

hempculture.com.au
@hempculture_au



1. **Devine Quality Meats** • 64 Stuart Street
2. **The Paddock Project** • 64 Argyle Street
3. **Stewart's Menswear** • 52-54 Burringbar Street
4. **Son of Drum** • Shop 1/31 Burringbar Street
5. **Hemp Culture** • 40 Burringbar Street

MULLUMBIMBY CBD



Volume 3945
16–22 April, 2025
Editor: Eve Jeffery
Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday
Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
P: 02 6684 1777
W: echo.net.au/entertainment

seven

seven days of entertainment



Mullum Root's stellar line-up

The inaugural **Mullum Roots Festival** has revealed its much-anticipated program for 2025, headlined by iconic Australian acts **The Waifs** and **Jeff Lang**. The exciting line-up also features favourites such as **Emily Lubitz**, **JB's Blues Breakers**, **The Versace Boys**, **Shane Howard**, **The Soul Movers**, and many more.

The festival will take place across **multiple venues in Mullumbimby** on **July 12 and 13**, offering two full days of exceptional live music and celebrating the best in original songwriting and performance.

In response to strong demand, single day tickets are now available, alongside full weekend passes, via the festival website: **www.mullumrootsfest.com**.

Festival Director Lou Bradley says: 'We're so excited to share the full program and incredibly proud of the calibre of artists who'll be lighting up our stages in July. We're keeping this first festival small and sustainable, with capped ticket numbers to ensure a relaxed, friendly experience for artists, audiences, and local businesses. We can't wait to welcome everyone to Mullum!'

Adding to the festival's fun and flair are two themed highlights. 'We're especially looking forward to **Psychedelic Saturday** at the **Civic Hall**, where Ellis D Fogg's legendary light show will accompany performances from **Robert Forster**, **Dog Trumpet**, and **Tamam Shud**. Then on **Hootenanny Sunday**, we turn up the twang with a country-leaning line-up including **Claire Anne Taylor**, **Clelia Adams**, **Rod McCormack**, and **Felicity & Josh**. Bootscooters welcome!' says Lou.

Festivalgoers can hop on the 'Love Bus' to travel between venues including the Civic Hall, the Bowlo, the Ex-Services Club, and the Courthouse Hotel, where performances will run from late morning into the night.

Tickets are selling fast – secure yours now at www.mullumrootsfest.com.





Eclectic Selection

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Thundering roots-rock, sun-baked blues, hilarious tales and beatbox world groove – **Nathan Kaye** is much more than your contemporary one-man band with roaring vocals, ball-tearing lap steel slide guitar-playing, funky didge-blowing, and body-popping. He's a human beatbox freak with wit and spirit.

Wednesday from 6pm at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay. Free show



A night spent with **Jimeoin** is not only funny, but full of handy tips. Jimeoin will teach you how to make your bed with very little effort, how to prank your partner and get away with it, and how to talk dirty in a nice way…

Thursday at 7.30pm at Byron Theatre Tickets: byroncentre.com.au.



Known for their infectious blend of rock, pop, funk, and soul, typically assembled as a dynamic four-piece ensemble, Pink Zinc thrills audiences with their diverse set list and captivating performances. From classic rock anthems to funky grooves and soulful ballads, this versatile band has a knack for setting the stage on fire and getting everyone on their feet.

Friday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show

Gritty, powerful vocals and driving acoustic guitar, **Greer Sullivan** uplifts audiences, singing straight from the soul and bringing new energy to old crowd favourites from all genres, whilst drawing inspiration from her love of country music.

Saturday from 5pm at Kingscliff Beach Bowls Club. Free show

Animal Ventura is brainchild of Byron Bay-based singer-songwriter **Fernando Aragones**. Growing up playing punk and reggae in noisy garage bands in Southern Brazil, Aragones ventured to Australia where the eclectic sounds of the Sydney music scene beckoned.

Sunday from 4pm at the Bangalow Hotel. Free show

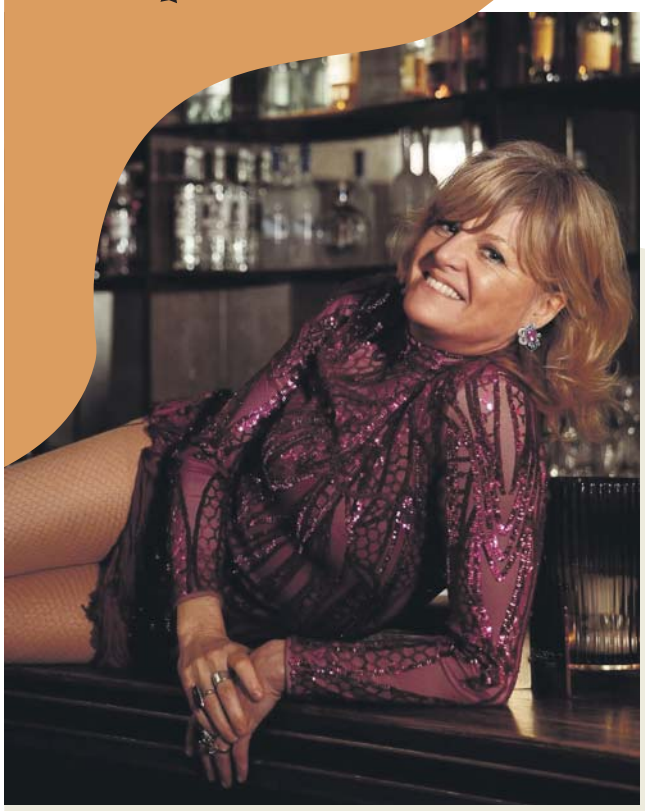


Stephen Lovelight plays faithfully in the style of Robert Johnson and Skip James, pushing his voice and guitar ever in the direction of some kind of facsimile of truth – not always pretty, but always very sweaty – he means what he says even if not saying what he means.

Monday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show

Marshall Okell is a solo show full of hillbilly disco, and foot-stomping, good old-fashioned, Aussie beer drinking music. Swampy mojo working sounds and a lot of charismatic humour – a raw, honest, dirty blues sound that grabs you by the throat and then soothes you with a sweet, honey-tasting musical medicine.

Tuesday from 7pm at The Northern, Byron Bay Free show



Exquisitely perverted

From Berlin basements to **Brunswick**, **Amelia Jane Hunter** unleashes comedy, kink and chaos.

Award-winning, wickedly original, and seriously funny! Chartering a span of freedom and the unstoppable adventures of a 50-year-old woman chasing the perfect lighting and sausage condiment – ***Exquisite Pervert*** is a comedy cabaret inspired by the basements of Berlin, beauties of Barcelona, and one woman's quest to reignite the power and purpose of love.

'This is a tour-de-force of defiant attitude, a clarion cry to be proud of who you are and not be confined by convention' - *Chortle* 2024.

Originally from Australia, Amelia now lives and loves between Berlin and Barcelona.

Described by *Time Out UK* as, 'A brilliant tour de force of laughter-filled mischievous comedy', Amelia is riveting, ribald and completely uncensored. A trained actress and comedian with solo shows that have earned her comedy awards, bad dates and sold-out crowds worldwide.

Winner of Thessaloniki Fringe Festival 2024, Melbourne International Comedy Festival Awards, Sydney Comedy Festival Directors Prize, Edinburgh Fringe Total Theatre Award and former Northern Territory bushwalking guide, Amelia returns to Australian stages with a show about the joys of corrupting, kink and compassion.

'On stage she is a force of nature: confident, in-your-face and opinionated. She prowls the stage like a caged animal as she tells her tales of a world that restricts such a free spirit. It's wonderful to witness her storytelling in person: using poetic language so that all are rapt, only for her to floor us with a hysterical comment as a punchline. It's akin to snarky footnotes scrawled in the margins of a classy novella' - Squirrel Comedy, Australia.

'She's empowered in every aspect of her untamed life, lived to its fullest' - *Chortle* UK.

For one night only – Thursday, April 24 at 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House.

Tickets from brunswickpicturehouse.com.





Award-winning vocalist Emma Pask

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium (NRC) is thrilled to welcome award-winning Australian vocalist **Emma Pask**, who will be performing again as part of the NRC 2025 visiting artists program on **Friday, May 2.**

Well known for spending the last 20 years by the side of jazz virtuoso James Morrison, Emma Pask has firmly established herself as one of this country's favourite voices in jazz. As James himself has said, 'Many singers sing jazz songs, but when you hear the real thing, it's a totally different experience. Emma is the one who inspires others to want to sing jazz.'

Emma is sure to delight as she interweaves storytelling through timeless, swinging jazz standards, upbeat Latin rhythms, tender ballads and of course some raucous blues.

Emma will be joined by the incomparable **Kevin Hunt** on piano. Kevin is a leading player on the Australian jazz scene and has been since the late '70s.

Having been an integral part of the Don Burrows band for many years, along with fronting his own trio, Emma finds Kevin's unique approach to the piano fascinating, and with his incredibly supportive accompaniment both Emma and Kevin have the chance to shine individually yet complement each other perfectly.

This is your chance to catch one of Australia's finest voices up close and personal in the beautifully intimate setting of voice and piano.

Anita Bellman, Executive Director of the Northern Rivers Conservatorium said, 'Emma is such an incredible singer and joyful, playful performer and we're so excited to see her again. We feel especially honoured as Emma and Kevin will be 'christening' the newly built stage, our beautiful Concert Room.'

For bookings please head to https://events.humanitix.com/emma-pask-duo.

Friday, May 2 from 7pm at the NRC Concert Room, Lismore.

For enquiries email admin@nrcac.edu.au or telephone the Conservatorium on (02) 6621 2266.



In harmony

The Women in Harmony Vocal Workshop with Imogen Wolf of Northern Rivers Conservatorium is a beautiful, immersive experience – if you love to sing, or even think you might, come and experience the uplifting, healing power of singing with other women. Guided by spirited and inspirational singing facilitator Imogen Wolf, before you know it you'll be singing simple songs from around the world in beautiful harmony.

Northern Rivers Conservatorium Concert Room on May 10 from 11am to 12.30pm.

Cost $20 / $15 concession

Bookings essential, tickets from humanitix.com.au

Ages 16+, women (cis/trans) and non-binary folk welcome – wheelchair accessible.



Nine years and getting better

Nine years ago, **the Brunswick Picture House** opened on Good Friday with ***Cheeky Cabaret*** and ***Lil' Cheeky*** and they haven't looked back.

We know, we know – we talk about Cheeky a lot, but after opening last week and seeing the whoops and screams of shock and delight from those who attended, this is REALLY the one you don't want to miss.

We won't reveal too much about this particular cast, but trust us when we tell you, you're about to see things on the stage you have never seen before.

The final show is on **Easter Sunday** at **6pm**. Limited front-row posh table seats are available.

We can't let the adults have all the fun. Their **all ages *Cheeky*** is **back on Easter Sunday** at **2pm**. You'll get family-friendly circus fun with a lot of comedy and a good dose of inspiring hijinks and surprise. Perfect for the whole family.

Has garbage got a bad rep? ***Absolute Trash*** is an iconic and ironic celebration of all things garbage – take yourself out for a trashy night of incredible circus, foolery, and sparkling garbage. One show only on **Saturday, April 26** at **7.30pm**.

Get ready to welcome an ***Exquisite Pervert*** to Bruns – Amelia Jane Hunter's huge international comedy cabaret hit charters the unstoppable adventures of a 50-year-old woman chasing the perfect lighting and sausage condiment, inspired by the basements of Berlin, beauties of Barcelona and one woman's quest to reignite the power and purpose of love. **Thursday, April 24** at **7pm**.

Bachelor Girl's award-winning and much-loved debut ***Waiting for the Day*** is one of the most critically-acclaimed Aussie pop/rock albums to come out of the late '90s. Don't miss out on this special 25th anniversary celebration of career-making songs and stories, live on **Saturday, May 2** at **7pm**.

The 'House kicks off May with the return of Cha Cha Bang's embodied burlesque spectacular – ***Wild Women***. This is not just a burlesque show. This is an experience. A striptease spectacular like no other – sacred, embodied, and dangerously sexy. This one's sold out every single time. **May 2, 9 and 10** at **7pm**.

And that's just the next couple of weeks! Watch out for ***An Evening Without Kate Bush***,the return of *Kinky Drawers*, Cherry Vinyl in *Coober Pedy's Last Showgirl*, and new shows from Luke Heggie, Vanessa Larry Mitchgell and Tom Gleeson – **coming in May and June.**

Tickets for all shows at brunswickpicturehouse.com.

Women in Harmony

With Imogen Wolf



If you love to sing or even think you might, come and experience the uplifting, healing power of singing with other women.

Imogen is a spirited and inspirational facilitator, committed to spreading the joy of singing and harmony.

Women (cis/trans) & non binary folk welcome!

Saturday 10th May

11am - 12.30pm

NEW DATE!

$20 / $15

NRC Concert Room, 152 Keen St, Lismore

events.nrcac.edu.au

Northern Rivers Conservatorium

lismore women's festival

2025 MULLUM ROOTS FESTIVAL

12-13 JULY



A boutique music festival set in the village of Mullumbimby.

THE WAIFS

SHANE HOWARD | DOG TRUMPET | ROBERT FORSTER

DAVID BRIDIE | JEFF LANG | CLAIRE ANNE TAYLOR | TAMAM SHUD

FELICITY URQUHART & JOSH CUNNINGHAM | ROD McCORMACK

EMILY LUBITZ (TINPAN ORANGE) | THE SOUL MOVERS (WITH MURRAY COOK)

KINGFISHA | ELLIS D FOGG | JOEY'S COOP

JONNIE GOES TO CHURCH | BERNIE HAYES | LOU BRADLEY

TOPAZ LYON | VERSACE BOYS | JIMMY DOWLING

HUBCAP STAN AND THE SIDEWALK STOMPERS | ELLEN BRIGGS

CLELIA ADAMS | THE IMPRINTS | JB'S BLUES BREAKERS

WILD THYME | TROMBONE KELLIE GANG | SOUL'D | THE LOVE BUS

Plus many more to come.

LIMITED TICKETS

WWW.MULLUMROOTSFEST.COM

Stayne Wood Echo BYRONBAY.COM

GIG GUIDE

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



James Guppy's survey

James Guppy's new exhibition, ***Now and Then***, showcases a series of recent paintings presented alongside a selection of works from his archive that have been curated by Christine Willcocks.

In many ways this exhibition serves as a continuation of the travelling survey of James' work, *Seduction and Subversion* organised by the Tweed Regional Art Gallery in 2009. *Now and Then* takes off where that initial exhibition finished.

As is usual with Guppy's work, the span of subject matter ranges large – from a deepening anxiety for our ravaged environment, to the nature of love, friendship and intimacy and his strong allergic reaction to 'men in suits'. There is a fine collection here of surreal and absurdist detail with the virtuoso technical skills he is well known for. James Guppy brings together a dazzling array of works from his private collection, together with newly painted wild, dark sea paintings.

Opening event on **Thursday, April 17** from 5.30pm to 7.30pm, with Susi Muddiman OAM opening the exhibition.

Artist talk on **Saturday, April 19** from 11am to 12 noon (gallery will be open until 1pm).

Easter opening hours: Good Friday, April 18 from 10am to 1pm, Saturday, April 19 from 10am to 1pm, Monday, April 21 from 10am to 1pm.

Exhibition runs: on all other weekdays until Friday, May 2 from10am to 3pm.

BSA Project Space: 112 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

WEDNESDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OOZ**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- TREEHOUSE, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **JOE CONROY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **INO PIO**, 8PM **MARSHALL AND THE FRO, KANE MUIR & THE HOWLERS AND SAM BUCKLEY BAND**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: MITCHELL DORMER & SHANE PARRY**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- LENNOX PIZZA 6.30PM **OPEN MIC NIGHT**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **JAM AND CURRY OPEN MIC**

THURSDAY 17

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TRILLA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **TIAGO FREITAS + SUNNY LUWE**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **JIMEOIN**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JORDAN MAC + DJ QUENDO**, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: MICK BUCKLEY & BODHI ACTON + JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**, 8PM **DAVID MCREDIE + RHYS COVENTRY**
- OTHERWORLD, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM **KWASI BRUNI + DJ MEXSHIKA**
- KELP BAR, BALLINA, 6PM **JAY & LYNDEY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **CALLUM CREELMAN**
- BYRON SCHOOL OF ART, MULLUMBIMBY, 5.30PM **EXHIBITION LAUNCH – NOW AND THEN – JAMES GUPPY**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 5PM **THE RUBENS**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **RHETT MORROW + INO PIO**

FRIDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PINK ZINC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **THE FERAMONES**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4.30PM **DJ DAVID BANGMA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **BARRY MCLAY DUO**, 7PM **DUELING PIANOS: SAM WHEAT & MICK BUCKLEY**
- LENNOX HOTEL 2PM **JASON DELPHIN + SAM BUCKLEY**
- REFLECTIONS, LENNOX HEAD, 3PM **JOE CONROY**
- CLUB LENNOX 6PM **JOE CONROY**, 7PM **JOE CONROY**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **KAFFENE**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7.30PM **LISA HUNT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **THE DIRTY CHANNEL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ LOST BOY LUDO**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ PEACH**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEEE WITH JESS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **WILL MASSEY & THE FLOODLIGHTS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **MERLIN**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **NOAH ROBERTSON**

SATURDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PAPER LANE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **DAVE MC CREDIE**, 5.30PM **DJ SPIT, LITTLE FRITTER & WONGO, SHIMMY, CLUB MECHANICS & KIRA SUNDAY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KANE MUIR DUO + BULLETPROOF TRIO**, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: SAM WHEAT & MICK BUCKLEY + JON SHORTER & BODHI ACTON**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 6PM **THE HILLBILLY SKANK**
- LENNOX HOTEL 3PM **YAZMINDI + OUTBACK ROAD**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **CATH SIMES**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **THE DETECTIVES**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **MESCALITO BLUES + DJ HIPS LIKE HONEY**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 4PM **CHEEKY CABARET,** 7PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ JASON DIGBY**
- THE CHANNON TAVERN 7PM **JOE CONROY**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **CINNAMON SUN**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **PHIL & TILLY**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **JIMEOIN**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **GREER SULLIVAN**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **GUY KACHEL**

SUNDAY 20

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HAYLEY GRACE TRIO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **LISA HUNT + THE VYBEZ BAND**
- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM **YULLI'S OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ISAAC FRANKHAM + DJ KIRA SUNDAY**, 7PM **PINK ZINC + LEMON CHICKEN**, 7PM **INO PIO**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: JOHN HILL & JON SHORTER**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 5PM **JOE CONROY**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- LENNOX HOTEL 3PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS + NATHAN BERETTA**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT FBI**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **THE LYRICAL + DAN HANNAFORD**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 2PM **LIL' CHEEKY**, 6PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ DARLAN**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 5.30PM **WAY OUT WEST**
- UKI MARKET, 8AM TO 2PM **MARTIN LARTIGAU, THE BIG BLUE**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **UNCLE BOB**
- M-ARTS, MURWILLUMBAH, 1PM **JOE CONROY & LUKE BENNETT**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 3PM **PINK ZINC**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2PM **JON J BRADLEY**

MONDAY 21

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JOCK BARNES**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **LEE HARRIS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARK USHER**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: JON SHORTER & MITCHELL DORMER**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **LUKE BENNETT**

TUESDAY 22

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAVID FOGARTY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BLEXUS**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **LEE HARRIS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: BODHI ACTON & MITCHELL DORMER**

WEDNESDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **INO PIO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DEVU**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **JAM AND CURRY OPEN MIC**

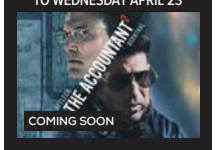
WEDNESDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **INO PIO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DEVU**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **JAM AND CURRY OPEN MIC**



PALACE CINEMAS
BYRON BAY · BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY APRIL 17
TO WEDNESDAY APRIL 23





SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

NEIL YOUNG: COASTAL (M)
SPECIAL EVENT
Thurs: 8:00PM

THE BLUES BROTHERS (M)
CULT VAULT
Mon: 6:00PM

TINA (M)
GOLDEN MEMBER PREVIEW
Wed: 1:00PM

FAMILY FILMS

A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG)
Daily except Thurs: 11:15AM, 1:30PM, 2:45PM, 3:45PM, 5:00PM, 6:00PM, 7:15PM. Thurs: 11:15AM, 1:30PM, 2:45PM, 3:45PM, 5:00PM, 6:00PM

DISNEY'S SNOW WHITE (PG)
Daily: 12:30PM

DOG MAN (G)
Daily: 10:30AM, 1:40PM, 3:40PM

FLOW (G)
Daily: 1:20PM

ALL FILMS

BLACK BAG (M)
Daily: 10:30AM, 8:30PM

BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY (M)
Daily: 4:50PM

DEATH OF A UNICORN (MA15+)
Daily except Mon: 7:30PM

DROP (MA15+) NFT
Daily: 2:20PM, 3:50PM, 6:00PM, 8:15PM

LOVE OF AN ICON: THE LEGEND OF CROCODILE DUNDEE (PG)
Daily: 8:15PM

SINNERS (MA15+) NFT
Daily except Thurs, Wed: 1:00PM, 4:30PM, 8:00PM. Thurs: 1:00PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM. Wed: 10:30AM, 4:30PM, 8:00PM

SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE (M)
Daily: 10:50AM, 12:40PM, 2:45PM, 5:50PM

THE AMATEUR (M)
Daily except Wed: 10:30AM, 1:00PM, 8:00PM. Wed: 1:00PM, 8:00PM

THE CORRESPONDENT (M) NFT
Daily: 11:10AM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (M)
Daily: 10:50AM, 2:50PM, 7:15PM

THE PENGUIN LESSONS (M) NFT
Daily except Mon, Wed: 10:45AM, 3:15PM, 5:45PM. Mon: 10:45AM, 3:15PM, 7:20PM. Wed: 10:30AM, 3:15PM, 5:45P

WARFARE (MA15+) NFT
Daily: 10:40AM, 12:45PM, 6:20PM, 8:30PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG)
Daily: 10:15AM, 12:30PM, 2:45PM, 5:00PM

DEATH OF A UNICORN (MA15+)
Daily except Thurs, Sat: 4:50PM. Thurs: 4:30PM

DOG MAN (G)
Daily: 10:00AM, 12:10PM

DROP (MA15+) NFT
Daily except Thurs, Sat: 2:50PM, 7:10PM. Thurs: 2:20PM, 7:10PM. Sat: 5:10PM, 7:10PM

HARVEY (G)
MATINEE MEMORIES
Sat: 12:15PM

NEIL YOUNG: COASTAL (M)
SPECIAL EVENT
Thurs: 8:00PM

THE AMATEUR (M) NFT
Daily except Thurs, Sat: 12:10PM. Thurs: 10:00AM. Sat: 2:30PM

THE CORRESPONDENT (M) NFT
Daily except Thurs: 2:15PM, 6:50PM. Thurs: 12:45PM, 5:30PM

THE KING OF KINGS (PG) NFT
Daily except Thurs: 10:00AM

WARFARE (MA15+) NFT
Daily except Thurs: 4:45PM, 7:10PM. Thurs: 3:20PM, 6:50PM

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Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:
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PUBLIC NOTICES

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

Community Consultation
HABITAT • STAGE 5
5 Penny Lane
BYRON BAY

Bayshore Development Pty Ltd will soon submit a Development Application* to Byron Shire Council concerning land bounded by Wallum Place, Gallagher Street and Easy Street at Habitat in Byron Bay for the construction of a mixed-use development proposed to comprise:

- Ground level – On-grade parking, commercial premises, park, storage, services and back of house facilities;
- Level 1 – 37 shop top housing apartments, a landscaped podium, swimming pool and resident amenities; and
- Level 2 – 41 shop top housing apartments.

This project is intended to proceed in place of the approved Mixed Use Development DA 2020.87 comprising Commercial, Retail and Tourist Accommodation over three (3) levels with basement carparking.

Community members wanting to view plans can do so from Wednesday 16 April at: **plannersnorth.com.au/portfolio/habitat-stage-5/**

Meetings with the team creating the proposal are also available.

When: Monday 28th April 2025, 3 to 6pm, or at other times by appointment**.

Where: **HABITAT Meeting Room 1** Porter Street Byron Bay

To book a meeting, provide feedback, or for any other questions, please **email:** consultation@plannersnorth.com.au

* This DA has not yet been lodged
** All feedback should be provided by 29th April 2025
consultation@plannersnorth.com.au

ROAD IMPACTS
Byron Bay Triathlon
Saturday 27 April 2025

Impacted between 4am-12pm
Bay St between Fletcher St/Middleton St, Lawson St between Fletcher St/ Massinger St, Middleton St between Bay St/ Lawson St

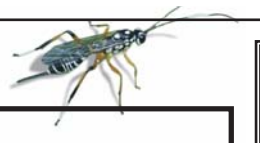
Impacted between 4am-11am
Middleton St between Lawson St/Kingsley St, Middleton Ln between Kingsley St/Ruskin St

Impacted between 5am-11am
Marvell St between Middleton St/ Tennyson St, Tennyson St between Marvell St/ Browning St, Ruskin St between Middleton Ln/ Tennyson St, Kingsley St between Cowper St/ Middleton St, Bowning St between Tennyson St/Cowper St, Browning St between Johnson St/Tennyson St

Impacted between 6am-10am
Bangalow Rd between Browning St/Broken Head Rd, Broken Head Rd between Bangalow Rd/ Beech Drive North

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: BYRONTRI.ORG/ROADS OR CALL 02 8507 0796

BYRON BAY TRIATHLON EST. 1997



Geographical Names Act 1966

The Geographical Names Board is seeking public comment on a proposal by *Byron Shire Council* to name the following:

Brunswick Heads Beach for a beach that extends from the southern breakwater of the Brunswick River to the northern boundary of the Tyagarah Nature Reserve in the suburb of Brunswick Heads.

Tyagarah Beach for a beach that extends for approximately 6.3kms, defined to the north by the boundary of the Tyagarah Nature Reserve and to the south by the mouth of Belongil Beach. The beach stretches through the suburbs of Brunswick Heads, Tyagarah and Byron Bay.

The Geographical Names Board is seeking public comment on a proposal to amend the extent of the following assigned names:

Belongil Beach for a beach that extends for approximately 2.8kms from Belongil Creek to the rock groin at Main Beach near the intersection of Jonson Street and Bay Street in the suburb of Byron Bay.

Main Beach for a beach that extends from the rock groin at the southern extent of Belongil Beach to Clarkes Beach. The beach stretches for approximately 950 metres along the shoreline near the intersection of Bay Street and Jonson Street to the northern extent of Massinger Street, in the suburb of Byron Bay.

The proposals can be viewed, and submissions lodged on the Geographical Names Board website at gnb.nsw.gov.au from 16 April to 16 May 2025. Alternatively, written submissions can be mailed to the Secretary, Geographical Names Board, 346 Panorama Avenue, Bathurst, NSW 2795.

In accordance with Section 9 of the *Geographical Names Act 1966*, all submissions lodged may be subject to a Government Information (Public Access) application and may be viewed by a third party to assist the Board in considering this proposal.

Narelle Underwood
Chair

LT0389

For more information: visit gnb.nsw.gov.au
346 Panorama Ave, BATHURST NSW 2795

MULLUM MAGIC TOASTMASTERS
Is looking for new members. We provide a friendly, supportive environment for people to learn to express themselves with confidence.

Meetings are 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month from 6:30-8:30pm at Presbyterian Church, 104 Stuart St, Mullumbimby.

Visitors are most welcome.
Call Neil on 0415 271 761 for information.

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FULL BODY MASSAGE
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- Arborist • 15" Wood Chipper • Stump Grinder
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20 years local experience
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Fully insured • Free quotes
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WANTED

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

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

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We buy, sell & consign.
All makes & models.
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2 FREE STANDING HOUSES ON ONE BLOCK IN GOONELLABAH. https://www.domain.com.au/8a-8b-jennifer-place-goonellabah-nsw-2480-2019800564 OR mobile 0429023402

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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

TO LEASE

OFFICE SPACE CBD Mullum $220pw Txt 0403663284. Not for residential tenancy.

BANGALOW CLINIC ROOM avail weekends $80 per day. Furnished, aircon, internet, incl. outgoings Lea 0409178965

POSITIONS VACANT

EXPERIENCED GARDENER / groundsman to work on acreage. Perm / casual hours. Ph 0407180661

BLACK SHEEP FARM OILS
seeks a part-time Customer Support & Stock Manager. 3 mornings pw in Murwillumbah. Duties: stock ordering, packing, customer service and essential oils. Must be organised, confident, willing to learn. Call or SMS Yari on 0401925747.

GARDENER NEEDED. My 1.7 acre Ewingsdale sanctuary requires a gardener and plant whisperer for regular weeding, watering and tidying. 3-4 hrs/wk. Must have ABN. Equipment supplied. Ph Artemis 0432788843

CANE SEASONAL TRUCK DRIVERS
wanted! HC or MC licence holders for the Condong, Broadwater or Harwood NSW sugar mill areas. Contact Wendy. Keel@sctlogistics.com.au with a resume or 0409568795, or apply direct at **seek.com.au/job/82948461**

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@byronbaytaxis.com

POSITIONS VACANT

BANGALOW

The Echo now has a contract position to insert, fold, bag (wet weather) & deliver ***The Echo*** to the following areas:

***

BANGALOW (1100 papers)

***

This includes 300 deliveries to shops in the main street area, as well as home deliveries, and can be done comfortably by one person, although it's easier with someone to help on on days with lots of inserts and wet weather. The successful applicant(s) will have an ABN, a covered area in which to work, and a reliable vehicle and, to make it more profitable, live within a short drive of the distribution area, Bangalow. They will collect the papers, if not earlier from the truck, in Mullum around 8.30am on Wednesday morning and have delivered all the papers by 5pm on Wednesday. On some weeks, for example to avoid home-delivering immediately before it rains, it might be possible to deliver first thing Thursday morning, so ideally this would suit someone who is somewhat flexible with their time. Suit mature, semi-retired or stable person/couple with a strong throwing arm for throwing the papers to residential premises.

Email simon@echo.net.au
or phone 0409324724

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AUSTRALIA

Now hiring.
See ad on page 17
of this paper
for details.

LOVE GARDENING?
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ARCHIBALD'S CHEAP QUARRY PRODUCTS

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

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MULLUM 23 Grevillea Ave, Fri and Sat from 8am. Quality vintage clothes, craft and treasures.

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Sat Apr 26th. 8am–1pm. 38 Alison Ave, Lennox Head.. 0416052876. Cash only Local growers. 200+ of flowering size.

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

MUSICAL NOTES

GUITAR STRINGS, REPAIRS
Brunswick Heads 66851005

ONLY ADULTS

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34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late. In & Out Calls. 66816038. Ladies wanted Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

KRYSTAL ADULT SHOP
Large variety of toys and lingerie
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66856330

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

SUN, MOON & TIDES – TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (April)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
16	W	6:04 17:27	19:07 8:43	0956 1.26; 2233 1.65	0415 0.53; 1537 0.41
17	TH	6:05 17:26	19:51 9:40	1030 1.18; 2312 1.61	0459 0.57; 1607 0.47
18	F	6:05 17:25	20:41 10:37	1110 1.11; 2357 1.56	0547 0.62; 1642 0.53
19	SA	6:06 17:24	21:37 11:30	1200 1.05	0647 0.66; 1727 0.60
20	SU	6:06 17:23	22:37 12:20	0052 1.51; 1311 1.01	0759 0.67; 1830 0.65
21	M	6:07 17:22	23:40 13:04	0201 1.50; 1440 1.04	0910 0.64; 1959 0.67
22	TU	6:07 17:21	13:44	0315 1.53; 1559 1.14	1011 0.56; 2125 0.63
23	W	6:08 17:20	0:44 14:20	0419 1.59; 1700 1.27	1100 0.47; 2236 0.55
24	TH	6:09 17:19	1:49 14:54	0515 1.65; 1753 1.43	1143 0.36; 2337 0.45
25	F	6:09 17:18	2:54 15:27	0605 1.69; 1842 1.60	**1222 0.27**
26	SA	6:10 17:17	4:00 16:01	0652 1.68; **1930 1.75**	0033 0.37; **1300 0.20**
27	SU	6:10 17:16	5:09 16:37	0739 1.63; **2015 1.87**	0127 0.31; **1338 0.17**
28	M	6:11 17:15	6:21 17:19	0825 1.54; **2102 1.95**	**0221 0.29**; **1416 0.17**
29	TU	6:12 17:14	7:35 18:07	0912 1.42; **2150 1.97**	0317 0.31; **1457 0.21**
30	W	6:12 17:14	8:49 19:02	1000 1.30; **2240 1.94**	0416 0.35; **1539 0.28**

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

FUNERAL NOTICES

Mavis Nellie Cupitt nee Rice

In loving memory of Mavis.

Late of Reserve Creek, Ocean Shores and Bupa Pottsville.

Passed away peacefully on Friday 4th April 2025.

Aged 92 Years.

Dearly loved Wife of George (dec).

Loved Mother and Mother-in-law of Kevin & Ann, Valda & Bruce and Jeff & Judy.

Cherished Nan of Bryan, Marsha, Christopher, Elizabeth, Kylie, Kristy, Belinda and their partners.

Loving Great Nan to Seventeen and Great-Great Nan to One.

Loved Sister of James (dec).

Family and friends are warmly invited to attend Mavis' Funeral Service to be held at the All-Saints Anglican Church, Murwillumbah on Thursday 17th April at 10am.

McGuiness Funerals

Murwillumbah (02) 6672 2144

In Loving Memory of

LEONARDOS ALIDENES

23.01.1944 – 13.04.2025

*

Leo passed away peacefully surrounded by love.

Deeply loved husband of Maria (dec), and father of Katrina, Nick & Michael.

Loved father-in-law of Erin and cherished Pop of Oli & Leo.

*

An invitation is warmly extended to all to attend the funeral service at Mullumbimby Cemetery on Thursday 24th April 2025 commencing 10.30am.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS
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PETS

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



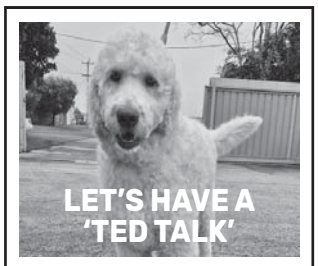
MAXI

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



Myles is a 4 month old, Mastiff/Staffy. This lovely natured pup would make a great family dog. Myles is doing well in the training program and hopes his new owner will continue his education.
991003002698956
Location: Murwillumbah
For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128
Interested? **Please complete our online adoption expression of interest friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/**

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

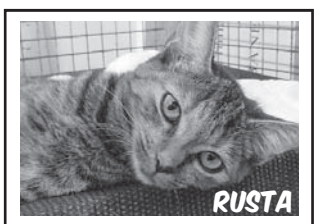


LET'S HAVE A 'TED TALK'

3-year-old Labradoodle D1119 Ted is ready to find someone who will be devoted to helping him explore the world and build his confidence. Ted would suit a home with someone with dog experience to see him successfully navigate new experiences and will thrive with ongoing training and love.

#R251 00 00 60
T: 6681 1860 E: shelter@nras.org.au
W: www.nras.org.au

NRAS Northern Rivers Animal Services



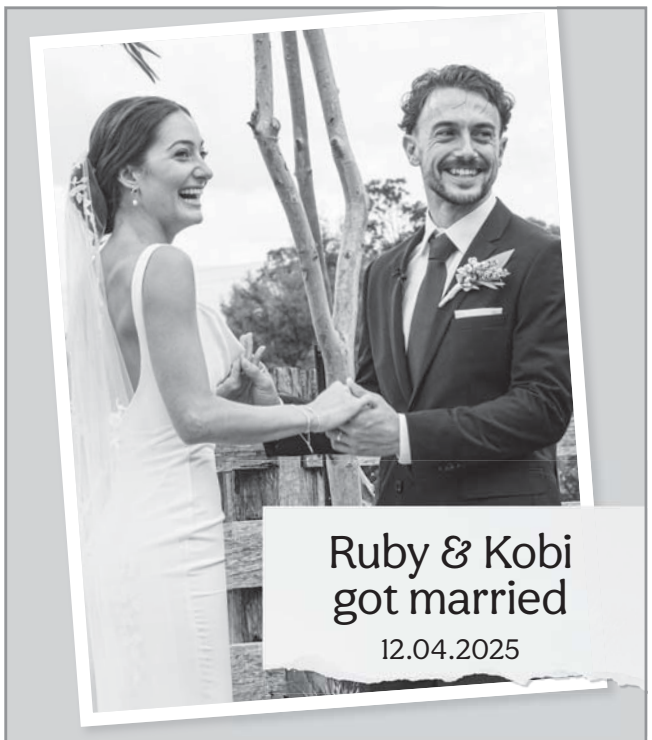
RUSTA

Meet Rusta, a 4.5 month old kitten with lots of energy, just dying to get into a fun loving new home! She's a beautiful rusty coloured tabby, with a very soft coat. Rusta loves attention, playing and running around like a crazy girl, then happily settles down for a rest. Desexed and vaccinated, ready for a loving 'furever' home!
Microchip 953010007017 58

PETS for LIFE ANIMAL SHELTER

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petsforlifeanimalshelter.net

CONGRATULATIONS



Ruby & Kobi got married
12.04.2025

The beginning of infinity and beyond.
From your family, friends and all the BVSD dancers.



MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	**Brunswick Heads**	0418 400 415	
1st SUN	**Byron Bay**	02 6685 6807	
2nd SUN	**The Channon**	02 6688 6433	
2nd SUN	**Chillingham**	0428 793 141	
2nd SUN	**Coolangatta**		
2nd SUN	**Tabulam**		
3rd SAT	**Mullumbimby**	02 6684 3370	
3rd SAT	**Murwillumbah**	0415 328 672	
3rd SAT	**Salt Village Market, Casuarina**		
3rd SUN	**Federal**	0433 002 757	
3rd SUN	**Uki**	0487 329 150	
3rd SUN	**Ballina**	0422 094 338	
4th SAT	**Evans Head**	0432 275 765	
4th SAT	**Kyogle Bazaar** kyoglebazaar.com.au		
4th SUN	**Bangalow**	02 6687 1911	
4th SUN	**Nimbin**	0475 135 764	
4th SUN	**Murwillumbah**	0415 328 672	
4th SUN	**Coolangatta** (in a 5 Sunday month)		
5th SUN	**Nimbin**	0475 135 764	

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

Each TUE	**New Brighton**	0424 168 672
Each TUE	**Organic Lismore**	
Each WED	**Murwillumbah** 7-11	0415 328 672
Each WED	**Nimbin** 3-6pm	0418 940 653
Each WED	**Newrybar Hall** 4-7pm	
Each THU	**Byron** 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each THU	**Lismore** 2.30-6.30pm	0459 309 223
Each FRI	**Mullum** 7-11am	0424 168 672
Each FRI	**Evans Head** 2.30-6.30	0428 291 068
Each SAT	**Bangalow** 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each SAT	**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**

PLANT SALE

BYRON PALMS NURSERY

SAT 18/4 SUN 19/4
8.30AM TO 2PM

100 WOODFORD LANE, EWINGSDALE

PALMS AND CYCADS

CONTACT PAUL 0412 724 001

ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

Deadline: For additions and changes is **12pm Friday**

Line ads: $99 for 3 months or $340 for 1 year prepaid

Display ads: $70 per week for colour display ad.
Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.
Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high.
New ads will be placed at end of section.

Contact: 6684 1777 or adcopy@echo.net.au



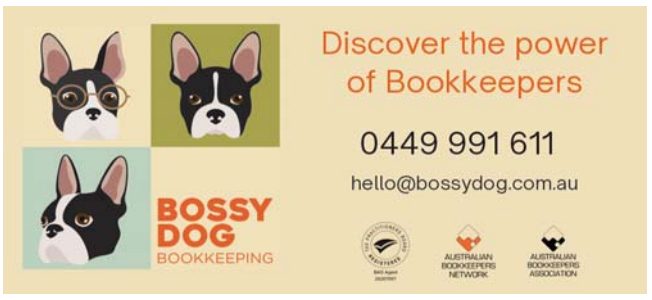
www.echo.net.au/service-directory

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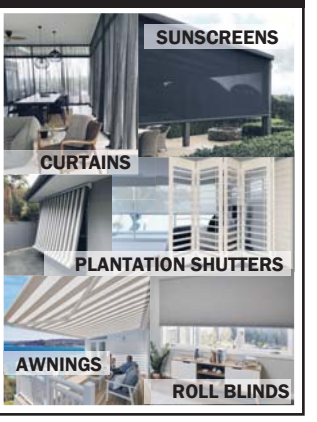
BARBER SHOPS

PENSIONERS THURSDAY $25: 6 Brunswick Tce Mullum.....**0421 679015**

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• **DEPT OF FAIR TRADING:** A licence is required for all residential building work where the reasonable market cost of the work to be done (labour and materials) exceeds $5000 (including GST).

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Building Trades continued on next page

BUILDING TRADES (continued)

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HAVEN BUILDING All aspects of building. Lic 326616C..... **0432 565060**

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CARPENTER / JOINER 30 yrs experience. Prompt efficient service. Fully insured. Other licensed trades avail, incl plastering/painting. 24/7 Emergency 4WD vehicle call-out avail. Lic 43794C. **0423 500693**

BUILDER Extensions, maintenance, new homes, insurance, landscaping Lic19953Q..... **0403 458177**

SEA LION BUILDERS: All Building Works / Maintenance Lic #243734C. ..... Ph **0407 351720**

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Bush Regeneration

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- Native forest recovery
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- Cheap Custom Cabinets

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Three additional cottages – one with three bedrooms, three bathrooms, fabulous views, outdoor area for entertaining, carport for two cars perfect for in-laws or Airbnb or to run a business from. Two additional cottages all with their own footprint – huge entertaining areas join two of these cottages together, pizza ovens.

In addition, a large purpose-built vegetable garden with raised beds and potting sheds. Tractor sheds, machinery sheds, storage areas. A large, mature orchard all irrigated, hundreds of ornamental/native trees planted. A large stable for horses and two smaller for goats/horses.

Plenty of fenced paddocks for horses/goats. Sealed road, school bus stop at the front gate.

The farm is set up for a family and a business onsite, or for a young family with in-laws living on the same farm – the cottages could all be run as Airbnb as well.

There is also a 100-acre river frontage property next door, which can be available to purchase. With even more spectacular views, a large brick three-bedroom house, two baths, verandahs all around the house, vegie gardens and orchards – currently agisting cattle.

Sweet Water Farm and the next-door property purchased together offer a golden opportunity for a retreat, resort, or wedding venue not far from spectacular beaches. This area is close to Sydney – 4.5 hours door-to-door – and is now attracting lots of people who might have once looked in the Byron area but now want somewhere a little less developed with spectacular scenery and unlimited opportunities for development.

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The main house

Set on 26 acres of undulating lush country that overlooks the mighty Macleay River on the mid coast of NSW, the main house is master craftsman built from local timbers with handcrafted details and has sweeping spectacular views never to be built out or flooded.

This African-inspired lifestyle retreat with huge entertaining areas – all with views – has three bedrooms, large living areas, a huge butler's pantry, is surrounded by irrigated native landscaped gardens, and an 18m lap pool within a walled garden close to the main house. There is also a 6-car carport.

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Three additional cottages, all with their own footprint

One cottage has three bedrooms, fabulous views, outdoor area for entertaining, pizza ovens, carport for two cars – perfect for in-laws or Airbnb or to run a business from. Huge entertaining areas join two of these cottages together.

In addition:

- Large purpose-built raised-bed vegetable garden and potting sheds.
- Tractor sheds, machinery sheds, storage areas.
- A large mature orchard all irrigated plus hundreds of ornamental and native trees planted.
- A large stable for horses and two smaller for goats/horses.
- Plenty of fenced paddocks for horses/goats.
- Sealed road, school bus stop at the front gate.

The current owners also own 100 acres next door, also with river frontage and spectacular views, with a large brick three bedroom house, veggie gardens and orchards – currently agisting cattle. With both properties purchased together there is a golden opportunity for a retreat, resort, or wedding venue – it's just 4.5 hours to Sydney with spectacular beaches and now attracting lots of people who might have once looked in the Byron area but now want somewhere a little less developed, spectacular scenery with unlimited opportunities for development.

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3 | 3 | 2 | 2
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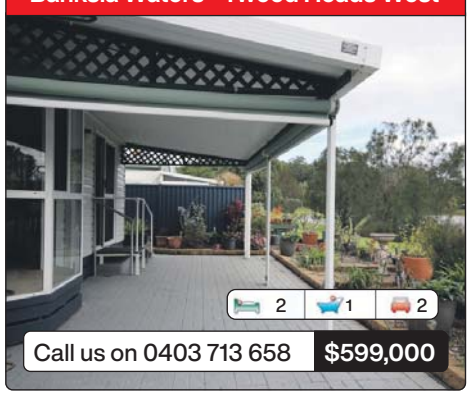


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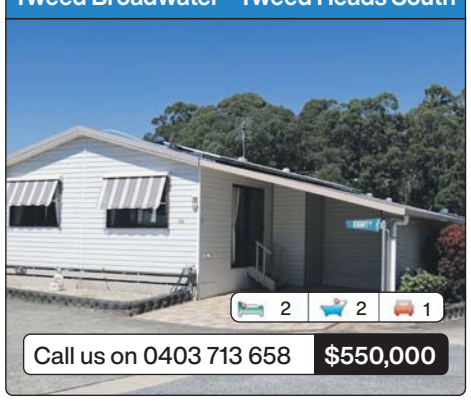
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- 2/2 Shamrock Ave, Banora Point. Sat 10–10.30am
- 3/4B Chitticks Lane, Fingal Head. Sat 11–11.30am
- 17/83 Gollan Dr, Tweed Heads West. Sat 11–11.30am
- 305 Casuarina Way, Kingscliff. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 10 Vintage Lakes Dr, Tweed Heads South. Sat 12–12.30pm

Dodds Real Estate

- 11 Campbell Street, Bangalow. Sat 10–10.30am
- 4 Wattle Place, Bangalow. Sat 11am–11.30am
- 2/28 Blackwood Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 11.30–12pm
- 25a Lismore Rd, Bangalow. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 29 Lismore Rd, Bangalow. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 108 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 2–2.30pm

First National Byron Bay

- 5/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Wed 11–11.30am
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Wed 11.30am–12pm
- 17 Blue Horizon Drive, Lennox Head. Wed 1–1.30pm
- 637 Booyong Road, Booyong. Wed 1.30–2pm
- 23A Gordon Street, Byron Bay. Wed 2–2.30pm
- 7 Glendale Crescent, Ocean Shores. Thurs 9–9.30am
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11–11.30am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Thurs 12.30–1pm
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Thurs 1–1.30pm
- 22 Offshore Avenue, Skennars Head. Thurs 1–1.30pm
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Thurs 1.15–1.45pm
- 480 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby Creek. Thurs 2–2.30pm
- 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 2–2.30pm
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 9–9.30am
- 5/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 7 Azolla Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 10.45–11.15am
- 135 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 11–11.30am
- 325 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 1 & 2/57 Acacia Avenue, Goonellabah. Sat 9.30–10am
- 145 Moylans Lane, Empire Vale. Sat 9.30am–10am
- 40 Lindsay Avenue, Wardell. Sat 10–10.30am
- 91 Patchs Beach Road, Patchs Beach. Sat 10.15–10.45am
- 1149 River Drive, South Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am
- 89 Bundara Park Road, Tuckombil. Sat 11am–12.00pm
- 2c Fletcher Street, Broadwater. Sat 11.15–11.35am
- 5/25 Crane Street, Ballina. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 14 Fieldcrest Place, Lennox Head. Sat 12.15–12.45pm

McGrath Byron Bay

- 1 Putta Place, Ocean Shores. Thurs 1.45–2.15pm
- 7A Wattar Court, Ocean Shores. Thurs 2.30–3pm
- 1035a Hinterland Way, Bangalow. Sat 9–9.30am
- 25 Bay Vista Lane, Ewingsdale. 9.30–10am
- 179 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.15–10.45am
- 4 Staghorn Court, Bangalow. Sat 11–11.30am
- 55 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am–12pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick

- 11 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 3/15 Jarrett Street, Ballina. Sat 9.30–10am
- 4/9-11 Mullumbimbi St, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30am
- 26 Phillip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10–10.45am
- 7B Hart Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30–11am
- 1a Kulgun Court Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 2431 Coolamon Scenic Dr, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.30–12pm
- 26 Pandandus Court, Brunswick Heads. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 41 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 577 Humpty Back Road, Pearces Creek. Sat 2.15–2.45pm

Ruth Russell Realty

- 4/9-11 Mullumbimbi St, Brunswick Heads. Thurs 10–10.30am
- 4/9-11 Mullumbimbi St, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30 am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.45 am
- 41 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.30–1.15 pm

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BRUNSWICK HEADS MEMORIAL HALL

Fingal Street





Will it be the last Blues Fest? While there would be many thousands of fans hoping not, the big tops are now being set up at the Tyagarah site for the April 17 kick off. On the bill are Crowded House, Toto and Hilltop Hoods. For full line-up visit www.bluesfest.com.au. Pictured are some of the hard working vollies. Photo Eve Jeffery

All federal candidates are invited to a meet the candidates evening, to be held at the Byron Theatre on April 28 from 6 till 8pm. *The Echo* and Bay FM have again partnered for the event, which will be live broadcast on BayFM 99.9. There are ten candidates in total (see page 3). Richmond is a marginal seat – who will you preference? Get informed!

■■■■

Congrats to Shearwater student Aimee Green, who was selected for state-wide exhibition for 2024 HSC students in Design and Technology, Industrial Technology and Textiles and Design.

■■■■

There are draft guidelines around Council meetings, that if adopted, could censor a councillor if they are rude to members of the public. Cr Michael Lyon's aggressive berating of Byron Chamber of Commerce president, Matt Williamson, at last week's meeting comes to mind. And it's not the first time the former mayor hasn't been able to control his temper. It's all on audio, folks, at www.byron.nsw.gov.au.

■■■■

Local activist filmmaker David Bradbury has taken on the cosy two-party system, and is in Sydney, standing as an independent in the safe seat of Prime Minister Anthony Albanese (Labor). He says the two-party system is 'corrupt and rigged', and 'is not serving the basic needs of ordinary Australians'.

■■■■

Australian company FOODiQ Global will attempt to grow the first mushrooms in orbit, *The Guardian* reports. 'Chief executive, Dr Flávia Fayet-Moore, described mushrooms as a "perfect space crop", citing their fast growth, ability to be eaten raw and nutritional value'.

■■■■

Hot take on Trump – US political comedian Bill Maher says he had dinner with the wanna-be autocrat and said The Don was quite charming, reasonable, and interested in what Maher had to say. Maher had Trump's former advisor Steve Bannon on his show, who said Trump is planning to hike taxes on the uber-wealthy to restore the middle class. What the?



Local legend and Guinness world record holder, Chayne Hultgren, better known as The Space Cowboy, has a new exhibition that blends storytelling, colour, chaos, and cutting-edge augmented reality (AR) tech. His works are on display at Byron Bay's OtherWorld. He told *The Echo* the works are inspired by the White Rabbit from *Alice in Wonderland*, reimagined as a symbol of slowing down and second chances.

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ANZAC DAY 2025

RSL NSW

The price of liberty is eternal vigilance
'LEST WE FORGET'

Byron Bay Sub-Branch

An invitation is given to one and all to attend the
Dawn Memorial Service 5.30 AM
Breakfast Served at the Services Club 6.15 AM

Main Service

Assembly for the March is at the Beach Hotel at 10.15 AM
March off 10.30 AM
10.45 AM Service Commences at the Memorial Gates
On completion free soft drinks will be served at Services Club

ANZAC Day Luncheon

There will be a special Luncheon at the Services Club
Commencing 12.30 PM cost $20.00 pp
For RSL Sub Branch Members & their Guests also for Serving and Ex Serving Members of the Armed Forces
25th April 2025

RSVP 18th April 2025

Bangalow Sub-Branch

The Bangalow RSL Sub-Branch warmly invites the community to join Anzac Day commemorations on Friday 25th April 2025.

Main Service

In Bangalow, a march will commence at 10.30 AM from the Bangalow Hotel proceeding down the main street to the Bangalow RSL Hall, followed by a short ceremony honouring the service and sacrifices of our servicemen and women
The service will conclude at about 11.10 AM

Clunes

In Clunes a commemorative service will begin at 9 AM in the main street and will conclude at 10 AM

Mullumbimby Sub-Branch

The Mullumbimby RSL Sub-Branch warmly invites the community to commemorate Anzac Day 2025 on 25th April 2025

Dawn Service

Dawn Service will commence at 4.30 AM which will be followed by breakfast at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club

Main Service

The Anzac Day March will commence at 10.40 AM from Apex Park to the Mullumbimby Cenotaph where the Main Service will commence at 11.00 AM

This will be followed by lunch and refreshments at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club
The Ex-Services Club is open to all