

Echo

THE CENTRAL HELIX OF BYRON COSMIC MELODRAMA SINCE 1986
The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 39 #46 • April 23, 2025 • www.echo.net.au



Captain's pic for blues

'We've had the highest attendance of any Australian festival since pre-Covid at 109,000 people – the third-biggest event we've done in the history of the festival... festivals are back!'

– Bluesfest Director Peter Noble

Punters such as these well-dressed sailors enjoyed glorious weather and music at Bluesfest, held at Tyagarah over the weekend. With big crowds enjoying local, national and international acts, Bluesfest Director Peter Noble says the festival will return for 2026. More pics on page 22. Photo Eve Jeffery

Crystal Wilkes

When I received a pass to Bluesfest 2025 in exchange for writing this review, it seemed like a great idea. Even better, my 13-year-old daughter would write it.

It would be a youthful perspective, with teen insights and young heartfelt observation. But as it turns out, the highlight for her was a new merch shirt, a \$40 handful of fried food, and seeing a wild koala in a tree as we entered the festival.

So the baton has passed to me

for a musical perspective.

Although many braved the full four days of the festival, Sunday was our day.

The last day of the 'last Blues Festival'. To be honest we nearly didn't make it. When I heard that parking and bus services were completely sold out, and that some festivalgoers had found themselves stranded, it all seemed a bit too hard. But to my surprise, and perhaps luck, we drove straight in and found a parking spot with no problem.

Families sprawled out on picnic

rugs, friends dancing like no one was livestreaming them, and a soundtrack of soul, funk, roots, and blues drifting amidst a tasty breeze of local food stalls.

Highlights

We made our way through the sea of camping chair gatekeepers into the Mojo tent for Kasey Chambers. I'd seen her perform at the Women in Music Awards last year, and was absolutely blown away, so I was keen to hear more.

But the highlight for me on this night was RY X. Dreamy, haunting,

and utterly hypnotic, his voice floated over the crowd like smoke. Completely captivating.

The night ended for us perfectly with CW Stoneking's signature old-world blues swagger. Followed by an easy, quick drive home.

Although many people are confused, or miffed, about being sold 'the last Blues Festival' who cares, as long as it continues?

I hope that the NSW state government sees fit to award grants to local homegrown festivals like our Bluesfest, in preference to other multinational conglomerate interests.

Byron to get entertainment precinct

Byron Bay's CBD will become the first NSW regional area to establish a trial Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) to 'promote and preserve its nightlife', says the NSW Labor government.

Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, John Graham, said in a media release, 'Byron's famous pubs, performance spaces and restaurants will be future-proofed as a nightlife precinct'.

He says, 'Special Entertainment Precincts (SEPs) allow councils to change trading hours and sound rules within a designated area to allow shops, businesses and local hospitality and entertainment operators to thrive, and protect them against neighbour complaints'.

'The Byron Bay precinct – bounded by beachfront Bay Street, Jonson Street and the rail corridor, with Middleton and Browning Streets – will protect the famous vibrancy of the town centre as the area experiences cost and real estate pressures.

Includes Northern, Beachy and Rails

'Within the precinct are time-honoured live music venues, the Backroom at the Great Northern Hotel, the Beach Hotel and The Rails.

'The Backroom has hosted The White Stripes, PJ Harvey and Paul Kelly, while Nirvana and Midnight Oil have played the Beach Hotel in the past, and The Whitlams and The Cruel Sea have played at The Rails'.

Mr Graham said, 'Enmore Road
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No such thing as a wasted vote ▶ p12

Give your home and garden an autumn refresh ▶ p18

Byron's arts and industry precinct full of surprises ▶ p24

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Sustainable House Day – open homes May 5

Sasha Mainsbridge

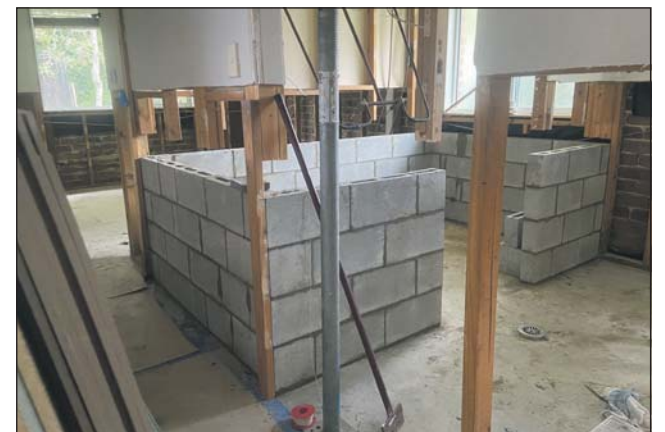
Why does it matter whether we ‘build back better’ after the floods or storms?

Insurers don’t do it voluntarily, so it must be okay if they say it’s not needed, right?

Apart from rebuilding my home after the 2022 floods, so that it will only need to be washed and dried after the next flood, I have been waiting for any level of government to start educating our communities about why we must rebuild resilient next time, or else we will all pay the price of inaction.

The ABC’s Climate & Regional Reporting Team published a detailed article on April 15 that tells it how it is. Ballina, then Tweed Heads South, are becoming the most uninsurable places in NSW.

If you own a home on a



Pictured is the brick fortress that stops Sasha’s bathroom from having floodwater get behind the waterproofing.

ground level slab in low-lying areas of the Northern Rivers, I urge you to come to my open home tour as part of the Sustainable House Day (SHD) program on Sunday May 5.

The next time you flood may well be the last time you have insurance money to allow you to rebuild

resiliently. I’m also on a panel talking about resilient rebuilding on SHD.

Head to mullumcares.org.au to book into these events and get more general flood-resilient information.

■ Sasha Mainsbridge is from Mullum Cares.

Labor councillor takes aim at residents over controversial development

Hans Lovejoy

Labor councillor Asren Pugh has taken issue with the Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) questioning of Council plans to develop 32 units and a commercial shop on a busy carpark in the town’s CBD.

He is asking councillors to reject their opposition at the upcoming April 27 meeting.

As previously reported, there is groundswell opposition to Council’s plans at 57 Station Street, given the poor process that surrounds it, a myriad of unanswered questions, and the potential flooding and visual impacts it will have upon the entrance to the town.

Divided Greens

The issue has divided the Greens, with local NSW MP Tamara Smith backing the residents calls and sponsoring a parliamentary petition to find a more suitable location, while Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye has backed the previous mayor and staff.

If approved, it will result in some of the units being used for Council staff accommodation.

The Echo asked federal Greens candidate Mandy Nolan whether she supports the plans.

She replied, ‘It’s fantastic that Byron Shire might finally see genuine affordable housing built that lasts in perpetuity. But I understand why residents feel development

often happens to them, not with them. We must ensure community concerns are heard. We need thoughtful planning that respects what makes this area unique while addressing practical issues like flooding impacts. These concerns deserve proper consideration’.

‘The housing crisis is out of control in Byron Shire, and we need to deliver real affordable housing. But we also need to bring the community along on this journey and give them a say in what that looks like so we protect what we all love about this place’.

Cr Pugh’s demands

In the upcoming agenda for the upcoming April 27 meeting, Cr Pugh seeks councillor support to reject ‘calls by the Mullumbimby Residents Group [sic] for politicians in Sydney to override the decisions of our local council to build affordable housing’.

He also wants Ms Smith to, ‘withdraw her sponsorship of the petition to NSW parliament... and instead support Council’s efforts to build affordable housing’.

Yet the MRA has previously said, ‘we want affordable housing – the chosen site is problematic and we have proposals for alternatives’.

The issue has not been discussed in public with the new councillors, who took office in September last year.

A public meeting convened by the MRA at the

Mullum Ex-Services Club on February 24 saw a packed room of residents upset at the lack of clarity around the project from councillors and the mayor.

Democratic rights?

MRA spokesperson, Vee Hunt, said residents are simply exercising their democratic rights under the NSW Local Government Act 1993.

‘This isn’t about opposing affordable housing or undermining Council authority’, said Ms Hunt. ‘It’s about ensuring proper consultation for a significant change to community infrastructure that many locals rely on daily’.

While Council maintains that community consultation will occur during the development application process, residents argue meaningful consultation should have happened before rezoning the land.

‘We all know housing affordability is a crisis,’ said long-time resident Chris Abrahams. ‘But solving one problem by creating another doesn’t make sense’.

Meanwhile, it is unclear if Council have sold the public land or not, despite a proposal for the rent to be in perpetuity.

Staff refused to disclose the sale price of the carpark, after former Greens councillor Duncan Dey asked for it during public access at the March 27 Council meeting. Staff say the sale of the public land is considered ‘commercial in confidence information’.

As part of Crystal Castle & Shambhala Garden's Awaken Autumn celebrations, families are invited to embark on a new Byron Bay hinterland adventure – the dragon egg treasure hunt.

Organisers say, 'Participants will set off on an engaging quest, uncovering 11 hidden clues scattered across key locations in the stunning gardens.'

'With a beautifully illustrated treasure map in hand, young adventurers will solve riddles, explore giant crystals, and discover sacred statues, ancient fossils, and other mystical wonders.'

'This interactive adventure also pays homage to one of Crystal Castle's most legendary attractions – the awe-inspiring dragon egg,



Hunting for dragon eggs at Crystal Castle are Billi, Teale and Remi. Photo Eve Jeffery

an enormous amethyst geode from Uruguay weighing an astonishing 10 tonnes, where visitors can sit inside and experience its

energy firsthand.

'Our goal is to create a magical and interactive experience that fosters curiosity, wonder and

appreciation for the beauty of nature,' says Toby King, General Manager.

For more details, visit crystalcastle.com.au.

Byron granted entertainment precinct by NSW Labor govt

► Continued from page 1 [in Sydney] became the first permanent SEP in December 2023, boosting night-time foot traffic, visitation and business revenue. The area was soon after named on Timeout's Top 20 coolest neighbourhoods in the world.'

Kickstart grant

'Byron Shire Council has received a Special Entertainment Precinct Kickstart grant of \$162,800 from the NSW government, which supports the local council to consult with operators and the community to determine new opening hours and sound rules.'

'The establishment of

a SEP then precludes the need for local businesses within its boundaries to go through the expensive and time-consuming process of submitting new development applications to trade later.

'Under the "eyes wide open" provision of the vibrancy reforms, which will take effect later this year, councils are also required to notify new property buyers, residents and businesses that they make an informed decision to live in a vibrant precinct,' Mr Graham added.

Trouble in the past

As a result of a booze-fuelled 2013 New Year's Eve, which attracted around

15,000 party-goers, local business and residents pushed back on the entertainment sector.

The *Echo* reported on January 8, 2013: 'While largely unhampered by violent behaviour, [New Year's Eve] saw a marked increase in visitor numbers and residents were clearly unhappy with the subsequent rubbish left behind, and the pressures it placed on the town's already stretched amenities.'

Reforms followed, which reduced trading hours and limited liquor supply for venues.

Byron Shire Council Mayor Sarah Ndiaye (Greens) welcomed the new trial.

'This is a unique opportunity to collaborate with our community – our artists, venues, businesses and residents – to shape a night-time economy that's vibrant, welcoming and truly reflective of Byron's creative spirit and coastal lifestyle.'

'With so much change over the past few years, this funding comes at the right time to support fresh ideas, local jobs and a safe, inclusive after-dark culture.'

'We want to create a night-time experience that not only supports our local economy but also celebrates the essence of Byron – its people, its stories and its unmistakable energy,' said Cr Ndiaye.

Bangalow redevelopment rejected on heritage grounds

Paul Bibby

An application to remove/demolish a single-storey 1920s home in the Bangalow Heritage Conservation area and replace it with two, two-storey houses with swimming pools has been refused by Byron Shire Council.

Under the application, which came before Council's last meeting, the owners of the federation-style home sought permission for the \$1.19 million development on 7 Leslie Street, Bangalow.

In their report on the application, Council staff noted that the existing home was 'not specifically listed as a heritage item', but remained a 'noted contributory building within the statutory Bangalow Heritage Conservation area (HCA).'

They also stated that the Statement of Heritage

Impact report submitted with the application was 'inadequate'.

Council's heritage advisor concluded that the proposed redevelopment was 'not supported, as it is in direct conflict with the adopted statutory policies framework to conserve the heritage significance, fabric, setting, and views of the Bangalow Heritage Conservation Area.'

Different view

However, speaking during the public access section of last week's meeting, the co-owner of the property, Carrie Christensen, expressed a different view.

'We would never ever have considered buying the property if we knew the house could never be removed,' Ms Christensen told the meeting.

'We exchanged contracts

to buy this house and three months later the owner of the house lodged a heritage application and did not inform us.'

These claims have been refuted by the former owner.

Ms Christensen said, 'Council did not notify us until two years later when the DA was already on exhibition.'

'At no point has Council told us that we could not remove the house, until the development application was listed.'

Heritage issue

But Ian Holmes from the Bangalow Community Association disputed the claim that the owners could not have known about the heritage issue.

'A competent surveying search would have conveyed to the new owners that it exists well within the

Bangalow HCA... and was therefore subject to significant heritage constraints,' Mr Holmes said.

He also said that the owner's offer to move the house to another site, either by selling or donating it, would not offer sufficient protection.

'[This] would destroy any semblance of heritage protection, because the heritage concerns both the house and its connection to place and history.'

A majority of councillors agreed with the arguments of Mr Holmes and Council staff, and voted to refuse the application on eight heritage related grounds.

They also voted to include the existing dwelling in the Bangalow Heritage Conservation Area. Two Greens councillors, Delta Kay and Michelle Lowe, voted against.

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Bird secrets found in colourful new art

Paul Bibby

The colourful paintings of local artist Valentina Di Blase always strike the senses – catching the eye with their vibrant colours and depictions of sub-tropical landscapes.

But with the Byron resident's latest exhibition, there are also messages hidden deep within.

Each of the eight paintings that make up 'Inner Light: Magic Birds of Australia' feature secret words or phrases of self-guidance and introspection. It is only when the lights go out that these messages emerge from the intricate detail of the birds depicted in each painting.

'The paints I used absorb light and come alive in the darkness,' Ms Di Blase says of her latest collection of works, which are currently on display at Otherworld in Byron Bay.

'So there's a shift from the initial pop and excitement of the colourful birds to a more



Valentina Di Blase. Photo supplied

contemplative experience in the stillness of the dark.'

This exploration of duality – light and darkness, visibility and concealment – is a feature of Ms Di Blase's work.

'I love exploring the inner world and the outer world and the connection between them,' she says.

'It means there is an opportunity for the viewer to deeply explore their own inner world or, if they want, to just appreciate the beauty of the natural world in the form of colourful native birds.'

Born and raised in Rome before moving to Barcelona to study illustration and graphic design, Ms Di Blase now calls Byron home.

She has exhibited both in Australia and abroad and is a familiar presence at several local community markets, where she shares her prints and illustrations with a wider audience.

'I love sharing my work with a wide audience,' she says.

Creative expression

'We're lucky to live in a place where people appreciate creative expression and a place where there is so much inspiration from the natural world.'

'Inner Light: Magic Birds of Australia' is currently on exhibition in the main hall at Otherworld alongside the works of fellow colourful local artist, Space Cowboy.

For more information visit <https://otherworld.live/>.

Greens announce festival support package

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

Following the news that there will be a Bluesfest in 2026, Senator Sarah Hanson-Young and Richmond candidate, Mandy Nolan, launched the Greens festivals support package at Bluesfest on Saturday.

The package is part of the broader arts package already launched by the Greens.

Bluesfest Festival Director, Peter Noble, was at the launch to support the announcement – Noble has experienced first-hand the lack of government support for his event in recent years.

Greens spokesperson for the arts, Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, said that festivals are in crisis.

'The Albanese government made some big promises to the arts industry when they were first elected. Almost three years on, and they have failed to deliver. A plan for the arts is nothing without the funding required to support the industry.'

'The Greens plan for supporting our festivals takes a holistic view of what the sector needs. This means



Greens candidate for Richmond, Mandy Nolan, and Greens Senator, Sarah Hanson-Young. Photo supplied

direct support in the form of grants, a review of the market failure in insurance for live events, a federal strategy for the sustainability of festivals across the country into the future and tax offsets for both venues and artists.'

\$20m in grants

The Greens say their policy will see an allocation of \$20 million a year in grants for festivals, including higher maximum grants and the ability to use funds for developing on-site infrastructure, from within the Greens' \$200m per year arts

funding commitment.

The plan would also see tax offset incentives with hosting live music and travel expenses.

Additionally the Greens propose '\$2m for a review to investigate the market failure of insurance in the live music industry and options to establish a government-backed insurance scheme'.

An artists living wage trial is also proposed. Greens Candidate for Richmond, Mandy Nolan, who is also an artist, says 'As a local Greens MP, I would push for this area to be a key site in any trial'.

NSW Labor spruiks its own festival package

It appears the NSW Labor government has responded to the Greens festival support package (see story this page).

In a media release on Tuesday, the Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, John Graham, said that his government, 'has stepped in to help five music festivals avoid the fate suffered by many others forced to fold since the pandemic'.

He said the first round of the Contemporary Music Festival Viability Fund, established in September 2024, has allocated a combined \$2.25 million of emergency

funding four festivals, including Bluesfest in Byron Bay.

Mr Graham said the fund was in response to the cancellation of festivals such as Splendour In The Grass, Falls Festival, Spilt Milk and Groovin' the Moo.

Fatal headwinds

'The fatal headwinds for music festivals are a result of changes in ticket buying behaviours, inflation, insurance, freight and currency exchange. The financial support of up to \$500,000 per festival aims to alleviate these pressures'.

Mr Graham said the funding package is working in combination with reforms to the Music Festivals Act, 'which is designed to reduce costs and prioritise health considerations in festival planning'.

He added the festival circuit is a vital part of the NSW live music industry which employs 14,000 people.

'Regional festivals also have a significant impact on local visitor economies, particularly in areas like the Northern Rivers which has lost two major festivals', Graham said.

'The feedback is that this fund has helped some of these festivals survive.'

Applications open from May 1 for eligible festivals to apply for funding on an as-needs basis.

Exploring a safe and adaptive future

Imagine Northern Rivers (INR) is launching its first series of workshops in the Byron Shire in early May.

Imagine Northern Rivers is a partnership between Carmen Stewart (local futurist), Living Lab Northern Rivers, Ingrained Foundation, Northern Rivers Community Foundation, SEED Northern Rivers, Relocalise Northern Rivers and The Family Centre.

Co-organiser, Carmen Stewart, said the philanthropically-funded initiative will explore what regenerative, safe and adaptive futures could be like across the region.



Futurist Carmen Stewart. Photo supplied

She told *The Echo*, 'The workshops will engage residents, businesses, farmers, clubs and groups, resilience organisations, government workers and not-for-profits'. 'The Imagine workshop series will explore the future

(up to 2060) through the lenses of climate adaptation, housing, social wellbeing and connection, the natural environment and our economy.'

Defining new stories

'Imagine NR is all about defining new stories of what our shared future could be like – a better and safe future for us all.'

'The goal is to trigger new action by helping communities to set their sights on a shared vision', said Carmen.

For more information visit www.ittakesatown.org.au/imagine.

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9:15-10:00AM	WOMEN OF REGENERATION LUCY LEGAN, BECCA DARINI, FLAVIA
10:00-10:30 AM	SUSTAINABLE FOOD FUTURE - NORTHERN RIVERS WITH ADAM GUISE
10:30- 11:00AM	HERBAL COMMUNITY-SUFFICIENCY THE ELDER TREE
11:00-11:45 AM	MADDY MONACELLI SINGER SONGWRITER
12:00 -1:00 PM	WILD FERMENTATION WORKSHOP WITH SARA YAEL
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Justine Elliot

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
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-  **1 ELLIOT, Justine LABOR**
- 8 LOUGHREY, Kevin
- 9 MYE, Ian
- 3 McMAHON, Vivian Mac
- 10 PETERKIN, Phillip Byron
- 4 HONE, Kimberly
- 5 WILLIS, Ian Cherry
- 6 McKENZIE, James Ian
- 7 CURTIN, Richard



Labor 

A



1
LABOR

Step 2.

The Senate

Place a number **1** in box **A**. Then number the boxes as shown below.

D

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ANIMAL JUSTICE PARTY

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LEGALISE CANNABIS PARTY

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JACQUI LAMBIE NETWORK

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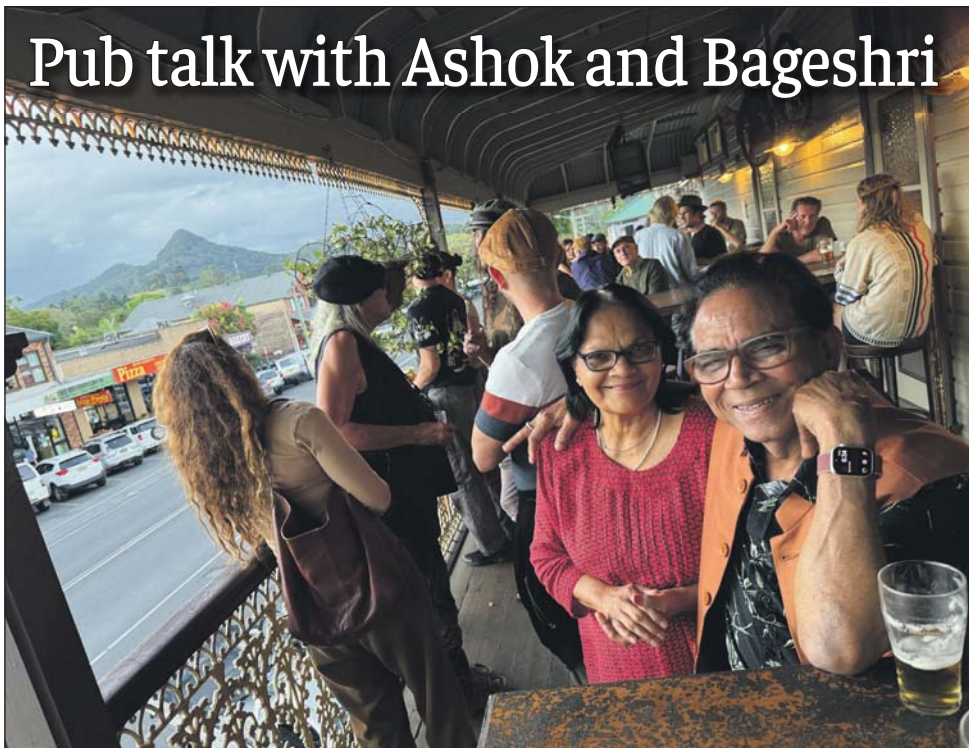
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THE GREENS

Remember: You must number at least 6 boxes above the line.

Authorised J Elliot, Labor, 107 Minjungbal Dr, Tweed Heads South NSW 2486

Pub talk with Ashok and Bageshri



Famous Indian author, poet and retired professor, Ashok Chakradhar and his wife Bageshri, who is also a renowned academic, were spotted in the Mullum Middle Pub recently. From Delhi, the couple told *The Echo* they have been visiting the region for years as their son lives in the region. Ashok said, 'I like being anonymous in another country'. Photo Hans Lovejoy

Wildlife warrior honoured with prestigious lifetime award

A renowned wildlife advocate who helped spearhead the campaign to end Japanese whaling in the Antarctic has been awarded the prestigious Peter Singer Lifetime Achievement Award.

The award by the Animal Justice Foundation (AJF) recognises decades of tireless work in championing animal rights.

His career spans more than 40 years, and throughout those years, he has highlighted the need for the protection of wildlife by making documentaries.

McIntyre said he was humbled by the award.



Mick McIntyre. Photo supplied

'One of my earliest memories is joining the Save the Whale movement as a teenager, and getting detentions in high school for selling badges and bumper stickers in the school grounds. It just seemed crazy to me that Australia was still killing whales.'

Whaling stops in '78

'I vividly remember in 1978, when the Malcolm Fraser government announced Australia would be putting a stop to whaling, and the recovery of this wildlife species has been a true environmental success story,' McIntyre said.

In the 1980s, the young filmmaker started his career, working on Hollywood films including *Mad Max* with Mel Gibson, and *Evil Angels* (the Lindy Chamberlain story) with Meryl Streep, while continuing to hone his skills as a documentary maker.

In 1992, McIntyre co-founded Whales Alive, developing an education and training program for whale watch operators and was invited by the United Nations to convene the first whale watching workshop in the

Pacific Islands in Tonga, which was contemplating a request by Japan to start commercial whaling of their humpback whale populations.

'Since then, Tonga has gone on to become one of the world's premier whale watching destinations,' said McIntyre.

This led to McIntyre investigating a new film.

'We spent five years traveling around Australia, gathering stories about kangaroos, speaking to landholders and whistleblowers from the commercial kill industry and witnessing for ourselves the brutal slaughter of our native wildlife.'

McIntyre co-directed *Kangaroo, a Love Hate Story*, which was released in 2018 to critical acclaim. This led to large corporates stopping the use of kangaroo skins and meat in their products.

'Back home in Australia, the release of the film was not so positive. We were labelled traitors and un-Australian,' McIntyre said.

McIntyre added it was this backlash that compelled them to establish not-for-profit org, Kangaroos Alive.

Echo bags on rainy days explainer

With readers asking why we are using newspaper bags that are not withstanding wet weather, *Echo* General Manager, Simon Haslam, says the problem was caused by trying to use a more compostable bag.

'We moved to the current bags because the EPA thought they were possibly more worm-friendly than our previous cornstarch bags, and could be put in green bins with vegetable waste, like Council caddy bags.'

'But our bag suppliers could not find a proper glue to keep the yellow bags as watertight as the previous green bags.'

'This makes them unsuitable for the paper delivery,

unfortunately, given our weather conditions.'

He said '*The Echo* is reverting to its previous industrial-compostable cornstarch bags, which should be put in the red bin.'

Cornstarch bags

'The paper should be recycled in the yellow bin.'

The new bags, which have a long supply time, should be in use soon.

Haslam adds, 'We also ask our delivery people to hold off their delivery until the radar and the forecast means that there is a sufficient forecast period between the end of their run, and rain, to enable people to pick up the papers from their drive'

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MAY 1

GOODFRIND TOMORROW'S FORECAST BRAVEDAISY VINTED VINEER

MAY 8

MAC THE KNIFE PLUS SUPPORTS

MAY 15

EARTH TO JOSH MIDNIGHT JAZZ CLUB JOE CONROY BAND

MAY 22

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MAY 29

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Emergency housing village on Council agenda

Paul Bibby

Land owned by Byron Council would be used to build an emergency housing village under a plan being proposed by Mayor Sarah Ndiaye, and her Green's colleague Elia Hague.

Under the plan, coming before this week's Council meeting, staff would prepare a report setting out possible sites for the village, infrastructure requirements and estimated costs.

The report would also

set out grant funding opportunities for the project, and potential management models, including partnership opportunities with local service providers.

In their written comments accompanying the motion, Cr Ndiaye and Cr Hague said with state and federal governments failing to deliver crisis accommodation in any meaningful way, responsibility for filling the gap had fallen to local government.

'This is particularly critical given the upcoming closure

of the Bayside Brunswick Heads pod village and the eviction of residents from these 27 dwellings,' they said.

'Successful models for a Dignity Village exist in Portland, Oregon, and Culver City, California, including designated safe spaces for people living in vehicles, places for rough sleepers to stay without fear of being moved on, and simple accommodations with shared facilities and access to support services.'

In their comments on the proposal Council's Director

of Sustainable Environment and Economy, Shannon Burt, and its Community Services Director, Esmerelda Davis, said there was a clear need for more housing options, including emergency accommodation.

However, they said any plan for an emergency village would need to incorporate skilled staffing and access to appropriate, trauma-informed support, flexible stay options to meet different needs, and clear pathways to other forms of housing.

Local Anzac Day activities across the Shire

Anzac Day, observed on April 25 each year, is a national day of remembrance in Australia and New Zealand.

It commemorates the anniversary of the landing of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) troops at Gallipoli, Turkey, in 1915 during the First World War.

This was the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces, and it became a defining moment in the national consciousness of both countries.

Bangalow

In Bangalow, a march will commence at 10.30am 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 11.10am.

Clunes

In Clunes, a commemorative service will begin at 9am in the main street and will conclude at 10am.

Byron Bay

A dawn service will be held from 5.30am at Memorial Gates, Byron Bay, which will be followed by breakfast at Byron Bay Services Club.

At 10.30am, there will be a march from Apex Park.

The main service will be held from 10.50am at the Memorial Gates.

Mullumbimby

A dawn service will commence at 4.30am, which will be followed by breakfast at the Mullumbimby

Ex-Services Club.

The Anzac Day march will commence at 10.40am from Apex Park to the Mullumbimby Cenotaph where the main service will commence at 11am. This will be followed by lunch and refreshments at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club. The Ex-Services Club is open to all.

Brunswick Heads

In Brunswick Heads, a dawn service will be held at 5am at the Cenotaph, Memorial Park. The public are asked to gather at 4.45am.

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Cr Hauge pushes for suspension of home demolition orders by staff

Greens Cr Elia Hauge has put a motion for the upcoming Council meeting asking staff to inform the public with the legal advice around enforcement action on unauthorised dwellings.

She is asking for councillor support at the upcoming April 27 meeting to make the legal advice public around 'a suspension of action on eviction notices and demolition orders during the period the enforcement policy is being reviewed, or 12 months (whichever is longer), and a corresponding extension for the orders and notices enforced under the new policy'.

As previously reported, a demolition order is in place for a multiple occupancy (MO) in Upper Main Arm, with long-term residents having 12 months to comply to building codes. The MO has been in existence since 1971 and is part of the counter-cultural movement of the time.

Councillors have sought to review the current enforcement policy since the compliance actions, yet the demolition order remains.

In the meeting agenda (available online), Shannon Burt, Director Sustainable Environment and Economy replied that the matters raised by Cr Hauge's motion (points 1-3) are addressed by an April 10 mayoral minute.

That mayoral minute was for 'a report 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'.

It is unclear what aspects of that report will be made public.

Unauthorised dwellings

Cr Hauge's motion also seeks a report 'potential models for regularising unauthorised dwellings that reduce or defer upfront development application (DA) costs'.

In reply, Ms Burt suggests councillors 'may prefer' instead, a confidential 'councillor workshop to further explore these options prior to a report'.

Ms Burt also suggests the 'discussions' for her proposed closed-door workshop. They include drafting a letter to the Minister for Housing, 'asking when the findings will be released, and the progress of our, and other, [short term rental accommodation] STRA-impacted councils, in NSW's requests for the registration fee for STRA to be increased, and handed over to councils to pay for compliance'.

Ms Burt writes, 'The workshop would allow Council to understand regulatory constraints, while exploring ways to support residents in a manner that complies with the current legal framework and financial implications for doing so'. She added Council have published on their website three planning pathways, 'where unauthorised dwellings are identified'.

'These pathways are guided by legislation and planning controls to ensure: appropriate construction standards; bushfire safety; and land and environmental constraints are applied consistently', she said.

Have your say on the future of hemp

Aslan Shand

The future of hemp in NSW is currently up for discussion, with the NSW government's draft NSW Hemp Industry Development Plan now open for public comment.

'I encourage the, now many, Northern Rivers hemp farmers to get involved with feedback for this plan for the future of the NSW hemp industry,' President of the Legalise Cannabis Australia Party (formerly HEMP) and Nimbin Hemp Embassy, Michael Balderstone, told *The Echo*.

Decades behind

'Australia has basically been left decades behind other countries who never stopped growing and harvesting hemp. We could easily have done the same if we didn't get so paranoid and sucked into America's war on weed. We now need major investment and support to catch up.'

With the global hemp market projected to grow, the proposed plan identifies where government, industry, and stakeholders can concentrate efforts to capitalise on opportunities for the



Model Amete wearing handwoven hemp, thanks to Mike and Maxine Shea from the Hemp Collective Byron and to David Lowe. Photo by Tree Faerie

local hemp industry.

'The draft plan proposes an industry vision to establish hemp as a mainstream crop and sustainable source of products in NSW,' the NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development said in a media release.

Hemp housing

Balderstone points out the significant opportunities for the hemp industry in a region that has proven that it has the right climatic conditions for the industry.

'In particular, I think we should be exploring hemp

housing, which has huge potential for our country as it has terrific fire-resistant qualities,' Mr Balderstone said.

'Currently, most hemp houses built in Australia are made from imported hemp, the same as most of our medical cannabis is imported.'

'Our climate is perfect for growing all types of cannabis which loves the sun and needs a lot less water than other crops like cotton,' he said. For more on the draft plan, visit www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/draft-nsw-hemp-industry-development-plan.

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Echo

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

Protesters against RA demolitions to rally outside Saffin's office

Protestors are gathering again today in Lismore against house demolitions under the order of NSW Premier Chris Minns.

Run over by caravan – Mooball

Around 5.30pm on Wednesday, April 16, a Westpac Rescue Helicopter was tasked by NSW Ambulance to a woman who was injured after being runover by a caravan at Mooball, southwest of Pottsville.

Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital a marginal Richmond seat favourite

The Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital has starred in two federal election campaign announcements in the marginal seat of Richmond, with both The Greens and Labor promising funds if they get the numbers in the 3 May election.

Lismore Cinema reopening this December

The Lismore Cinema is about to receive a reinvention, not just a refurbishment, and is due to reopen this December in time to show *Avatar: Fire and Ash*.

Man dies following assault, one charged – Kyogle

About 11am, Monday, 14 April, emergency services were called to a home on Irwin Street, Kyogle, following reports a man was injured.

Where to for farming?

The question is how does farming envisage its future, particularly for the fertile soils of the Northern Rivers that are so often subject to the challenge of housing growth.

Kyogle council votes for rates increases

The Kyogle Council has included increases to general and sewerage rates in a draft \$61.3 million budget on public display and available for comment.

www.echo.net.au

New podcast on the Richmond River

Recent fish kills in the Richmond River have once again highlighted the significant need for action to improve the health of the river.

Raising awareness of the issues, and exploring the vital role rivers play in our lives, the Richmond Riverkeepers have launched the new podcast *We Are The Riverkeepers* to celebrate and protect our waterways.

Hosted by renowned storyteller, author, and presenter Mel Bampton, this groundbreaking series invites listeners to reimagine our relationship with rivers – from the Richmond River to the world.

Each episode weaves together voices from across the community:



scientists, environmentalists, Traditional Custodians, artists, and everyday river champions. Together, they tell a story of connection, responsibility, and hope.

'If the rivers could speak, what would they say?' says host Mel Bampton. 'That's the question at the heart of *We Are The Riverkeepers*. You can listen on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and all major platforms or follow the links below.

- Read full story in *The Echo Online*: www.echo.net.au.
- podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/we-are-the-riverkeepers/id1807437249
- <https://open.spotify.com/show/3JYHN9rrPpBP43LCpbpGTq>

Kingscliff development declared state significant

NSW Planning Minister Paul Scully has declared as 'state significant' a development proposal in Kingscliff said to include affordable housing.

The applicant wants to build a mixed residential and commercial complex 'with provision of affordable housing' at 4-8 Bells Boulevard, Kingscliff, the declaration, signed 14 April, reads.

Land banking

Tweed Shire already has over 20,000 lots approved and waiting to be built. Council wants the approved

developments built but local councils have very few levers to compel developers to actually build their approved developments.

The Kingscliff project is one of fourteen listed as state significant. Most of them are in and around Sydney, and five are in rural regions.

State significant developments don't require all the usual local government approvals, instead gaining approval directly from the state's planning department.

Prepoll so you can enjoy MardiGrass in Nimbin on election weekend



There is a great time to be had by most at the annual Nimbin MardiGrass. Photo Jeff 'More-Grass-Than-Class' Dawson

The Nimbin MardiGrass and the federal election happen on May 3; join Antony Greenout in the very special MardiGrass Tally-Ho room as they keep track of polling, and look at the increase in the NSW Legalise Cannabis vote.

'Albo's called the election for the same weekend and we recommended voters use a prepoll before they come to Nimbin rather than crushing the polling booth at Nimbin on the Saturday,' said Michael Balderstone, president of the MardiGrass Organising Body better known as the MOB.

'The clash of the two events has created a highlight in the MardiGrass program with Jeremy "Joe" Buckingham, the NSW Legalise Cannabis MP bringing his increasingly famous "Into The Weeds" podcast to town and joining Antony Greenout in our very own Mardigrass Tally-Ho room.'

33 years and rolling

This year will be the MardiGrass's 33-year celebration and will provide a great range of speakers and entertainment.

'Special speakers who

have never been to MardiGrass before include Dr Michael White flying up from Adelaide who is Australia's expert on the dreaded RDT, roadside drug testing. Dr Patrick Keyser fresh from touring America, Emily Rigby founder of Australian Cannabis Cultivators, a crew from Cymra our local legal cannabis farm who specialise in growing organically in the ground, another big crew from Entheogenesis Australis, and still more,' said Michael.

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

Over 40,200 homes and properties at serious risk from climate change in Northern Rivers

Aslan Shand

The recent report, *At Our Front Door* by the Climate Council highlights where

homes and businesses are most at risk from climate-fuelled flooding, bushfires, tropical cyclone winds, coastal inundation, and extreme wind.

Confrontingly, two Northern Rivers electorates make it into the top ten federal electorates that are most at-risk from climate extremes. In fact, the electorate of Richmond, which includes Tweed, Byron and Ballina shires ranks number one with 31,564 high-risk properties and the electorate of Page, that includes parts of Ballina, Lismore, Richmond Valley, Clarence Valley shires ranks number five with 18,636 high-risk properties.

'The climate crisis is literally at the doorstep of Australian households, as worsening extreme weather driven by climate pollution risks their greatest asset: the home,' explained Climate Councilor and economist Nicki Hutley.

'We keep getting hit by

disasters in Australia and that's driving insurance bills through the roof, but we cannot insure our way out of this crisis.'

'The numbers show us that climate change is not a far-off future event: it threatens entire communities today,' said Climate Valuation founder Karl Mallon.

'Most alarmingly, our analysis has identified 86 critical climate risk zones requiring urgent and major government interventions, such as flood levies, buy-backs or other measures. It is imperative that decision-makers at all levels look seriously at the stark statistics presented here and work to address questions head-on: what adaptation action are all levels of government going to take now to protect our vulnerable communities? And, how will this be financed?'

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



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Festival of the Stone headliners

Stone & Wood has unveiled this year's lineup for Festival of the Stone, to be held on Saturday, June 14 at the brewery's HQ in the Arts & Industry Estate.

Along with the live music, beer and food, there will be the annual unveiling of Stone & Wood's latest batch of Stone Beer – all while raising funds for Byron's Fletcher Street Cottage.

The live music line up

includes WA indie-rock duo Old Mervs, award-winning singer-songwriter Josh Pyke, The Belair Lip Bombs, Newcastle post-punk quintet Dust, and Gen Z powerhouse Felony.

Fundraiser

Damian Farrell, Manager of Fletcher Street Cottage says, 'Every day at Fletcher Street Cottage, we see the impact of the local housing

crisis and rising cost of living firsthand. The support from Festival of the Stone helps us provide vital services – hot meals, showers, laundry, advocacy and now our Women's Emergency Relief Fund – to individuals and families who need it most. Together, we're building a stronger, more compassionate Byron.'

Visit www.stoneandwood.com.au for more info.

Mullum Plant Fair on this Saturday

The Mullum Plant Fair is on this Saturday, April 26, after being delayed by Cyclone Alfred. It will be held at the Mullum Showgrounds from 9am till 2pm.

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

'The Mullum Plant Fair will showcase a diverse array of plants, with a special focus on native plants and also showcasing rare, medicinal, vege seedlings, and fruit tree favourites.

'There is also a full program of talks, workshops, music, and kids activities, too. The event will provide attendees with the perfect opportunity to enhance their home gardens and green

spaces. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just starting, there will be something for everyone to discover, and there is always something to learn.

'You are invited to be a part of growing our communities' love for plants and increasing their connection to thriving food gardens and native ecosystems', they said.

For more information, visit mullumseed.org.au.

Labor pledges \$2 million for Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital



Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital crew with Cr Asren Pugh and MP Justine Elliot. Photo supplied

A reelected Labor government will deliver \$2 million for the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital, says incumbent federal Labor MP, Justine Elliot.

She says, 'Opened in 2020, Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital operates seven days a week, and has treated more than 9,000 native animals, including hundreds of threatened species'.

'Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital is the North Coast's only licensed, all-species wildlife hospital and operates inside a custom-built semi-trailer, making it Australia's only mobile wildlife hospital. It can be deployed during natural disasters to treat impacted wildlife.

'Labor is taking strong action to better protect and recover our native wildlife and this commitment will help do just that. Labor listens and Labor acts – that's why a reelected Albanese Labor government will deliver

this \$2 million election commitment for the expansion of operations at the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital.

'Consistent with past practice, election commitments will be delivered in line with Commonwealth Grants Rules and Principles,' Mrs Elliot said.

Important work

'I want to thank the whole team at Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital for their important veterinary work rehabilitating native animals and leading the way for wildlife protection across the North Coast.

'Only a reelected Albanese Labor government will deliver funding to better protect our native wildlife here on the North Coast. The choice is clear at this election.

'You can always count on me, and now I'm asking for your vote to keep delivering for our community and, to build Australia's future, Ms Elliot said.

Elders' hub April 26

The next Elders' Hub meeting will be on Saturday, April 26, starting at 9.30am, say organisers.

'The presentation begins at 10am, and will be given by Bobbi Allan, a well known mindfulness and meditation teacher. Her presentation is called 'Calming the heart-mind in turbulent

times'. Bobbi will open with a guided meditation, and follow with a short talk and open a discussion on the subject', say organisers.

'Everyone is welcome, and please come before the meditation begins'.

The hub is located in the Gordon Street permaculture yurt, Mullumbimby.

Can't make it on Election Day?



If you can't vote on Saturday 3 May, you may be eligible to vote early.

All Australian citizens aged 18 years and over are required by law to vote.

So, if you can't make it to a polling place on election day, you may be eligible to:

- vote early at an early voting centre, or
- apply for a postal vote.

If you're travelling, working or will be outside the electorate where you're enrolled on election day, you can vote early.

To check early voting options and eligibility, visit aec.gov.au/early

Your vote will help shape Australia.



To learn more
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13 23 26





The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #46 • April 23, 2025

No such thing as a wasted vote

It's tedious so much misinformation is disseminated during elections.

I've heard the same lie about 'wasted votes' since I first stood for the Australia Party in the 1972 federal election. That saw a genuine Labor Party elected under the dynamic leadership of Gough Whitlam.

He made more radical reforms in his first hundred days – with Deputy Lance Barnard – than the Albanese government achieved in its first thousand days.

There was a lot of catching up to do. Labor had been out of power since 1949.

In the '72 election, I stood in the 'safe' seat of Mackellar on Sydney's northern beaches, held by Billy Wentworth.

I was trying to get elected to save the forests of Myall Lakes being destroyed by sand mining.

It was an almost impossible task, but I received 11.7 per cent of the vote, sending the seat to preferences for the first time.

Today Mackellar is held by Teal independent Dr Sophie Scamps after 73 years of Liberal representation.

During the '72 campaign, people said, 'I would vote for you if I thought you had a chance of getting in'. I replied, 'If you voted for me, I would have a chance!'

Voting for me was regarded as a 'wasted vote' as I was standing for a minor party.

It's one of those lies propagated by major parties to deter voters from supporting minor parties.

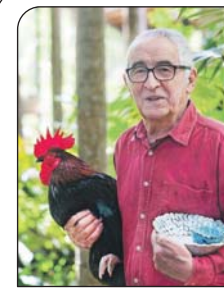
The lie still works.

The first-past-the-post voting system, where the candidate with the highest number of votes wins, and no preferences are distributed, leaves a large number of voters effectively disenfranchised.

This system is still used in the UK, Canada and America and old British colonies.

The more democratic preferential voting system was introduced into Australia in 1918.

Some voters are not aware that if they vote for a small party and their candidate is eliminated, their second vote is passed on at full value to their next choice.



'Some voters are not aware that if they vote for a small party and their candidate is eliminated, their second vote is passed on at full value to their next choice.'

– Richard Jones

Woot woot, grant me this

With a sigh of relief, Bluesfest was a success. Yippie!

And the weather was splendid (It's been raining constantly otherwise for years, it seems).

Director Peter Noble, his crew, and all the vollies again put on a great event – it's not just the best music sourced from around the globe that makes it iconic, but putting on such an event requires highly tuned organisational skills.

And lots of experience.

As most local small business know, the area is really in need of a boost, especially given the exit of Splendour and Falls and sale of the North Byron Parklands in Yelgun.

The NSW government and federal Greens each have a festival policy – see page 4.

One is currently being rolled out at a state level by Labor, while the other is a federal Greens plan to woo local creatives with a trial for a living wage for artists, along with loads of tax incentives to foster the festival and live music scene.

Fun fact – former Labor PM Paul Keating once floated the idea of a living wage for artists, which is something France does quite well. Yet Keating was booed for the idea by the non-creatives.

Like many of his grand policies, it sank as the long, uncreative and boring Howard years subsequently took hold, and wrecked the housing market.

Moral hazard

The thing about protectionist policies – in other words – propping up sectors that would normally fail under 'free market' conditions – is that it can potentially become a 'moral hazard'.

This means that businesses or industries may take excessive risks or operate inefficiently, knowing

that the government will rescue them if things go wrong.

Bank bailouts, subsidies for fossil fuel corporations are all moral hazards, yet those who defend them and administrate them (the governing class) argue they are essential services.

They believe the world would collapse unless we, the taxpayer, propped up the one percent's enormous, unprecedented profits.

What sort of society is being engineered when governments make *all* of the private sector reliant on grants and handouts?

Is it state-run corporate-communism?

When governments become deeply involved in funding and managing sectors that struggle, it risks moving away from a democratic role and becomes all-powerful.

A concentration of power is never a good thing, ever. It leads to reduced accountability, and the suppression of dissenting voices.

Yet there are times when protectionism is vital.

During Covid in the early 2020s, the federal and state governments (Liberal PM Morrison and Liberal NSW Premier Berejiklian) wrecked the arts and academic sector.

It appeared on purpose, and even personal, considering other sectors were protected. Many artists relied upon cash jobs, and therefore were ineligible for JobKeeper as they could not prove their income.

So now, are artists supposed to feel grateful that there are grants to keep them in a job?

You would assume the bankers and miners are happy about their protections and tax incentives.

Whatever the answer is, it's not providing governments with even more power over us.

Hans Lovejoy, editor



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1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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Ocean Shores boardwalk

Regarding the proposed Ocean Shores boardwalk, which wishes to push through the Marshalls Creek Marine Reserve, an ecologically protected area: cyclists wish to ride here, fishermen want to fish here, boaties wish to moor their boats here, jet ski riders want to ride here, dog owners want to walk their dogs here, and property owners want to remove trees so they can view the river.

It is precisely because these activities are prohibited that this area remains so attractive.

Warwick Porter
Ocean Shores

Pothole pox

I am very much aware that I live in an area where anti-vaxers abound but I just want to emphasise that I am not one of them, and to that end I am writing to urge Byron Shire Council to vaccinate Middle Pocket Road against the outbreak of Pothole Pox that is occurring along the road, before it spreads to other roads in the Shire.

This definitely requires the vaccine to be used as



there are large lesions (open wounds) breaking out along the road verges and pothole pustules are popping up all along the middle of the road.

I know that the vaccine

works, I have witnessed it in action, a quick injection of the vaccine, hot mix, bitumen, or tar (there are different pharmaceutical names for similar vaccines) fixes the problem very quickly and stops it from spreading.

Councillors, this is a wonderful opportunity, with a properly managed vaccination program we can rid Byron Shire of this virus. Let's start in Middle Pocket and if we treat it like small-pox was treated 40 years ago we could remove Pothole Pox from the world.

It could be 'Today Middle Pocket - Tomorrow the World.'

Ray Linabury
Middle Pocket

Prevention or politics

'When you treat a damaged child like an animal, they will behave like one - and if you want a monster, this is how you do it.' - Children's Court President Hylton Quail, February 2022.

Labor and the Liberals are disturbingly aligned on youth justice. On February 21, 2023, the Queensland Labor government, alongside the then-Liberal state government, blocked UN inspectors from accessing detention centres. Why? No excuse is good enough.

We know Peter Dutton's backwards stance - but regionally, the LNP says almost nothing at all. Meanwhile, Labor's approach is riddled with contradictions. Their latest campaign promotes a \$500,000 investment in youth crime prevention, yet in August 2024, they cut funding for diversion programs. Now they expect applause for more surveillance cameras?

This isn't prevention - it's politics.

Most incarcerated youth are on remand, not yet convicted of a crime. We're condemning young people to a cycle of incarceration in a system that breeds reoffending. It's well documented: repeat offending is often a failure of the system itself.

Shouldn't prison funding depend on the success of preventative and rehabilitative programs - both inside and outside custody?

Coral Larke
Ocean Shores

Letters to the Editor

■ Send to Letters Editor Aslan Shand, fax: 6684 1719 email: editor@echo.net.au Deadline: Noon, Friday. Letters longer than 200 words may be cut.

Letters already published in other papers will not be considered. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters edited for length will be able to be read in full (if a reasonable length) in *The Echo* online at: www.echo.net.au/letters.

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

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Democracy on edge

2025 election: a challenge to candidates for the electorates of Richmond and Page.

The Hon. Tony Fitzgerald AC KC developed a set of principles, or charter of governance, for those in public office, or candidates for public office, viz,

1. To act honourably and fairly and solely in the public interest;
2. To treat all citizens equally;
3. To tell the truth;
4. Not to mislead or deceive;
5. Not to withhold or obfuscate information to which voters are entitled;
6. Not to spend public money except for public benefit; and
7. Not to use your position or information gained from your position for your benefit or the benefit of a family member, friend, political party, or other related entity.

Voters are increasingly losing faith in democracy and believe some politicians do not behave honourably and with integrity, and that they act duplicitously.

'To abandon facts is to abandon freedom. If nothing is true, then no one can criticise power, because there is no basis upon which to do



The Hon. Tony Fitzgerald AC KC. Photo www.hrlc.org.au

so. If nothing is true, then all is spectacle. The biggest wallet pays for the most blinding lights.' – Timothy Snyder, *On Tyranny* (2017).

Increasingly, it is believed, democracy, equality, and equity are losing out to entrenched elitism and privilege.

An email has been sent to candidates for the electorate of Page inviting each to publicly endorse the Fitzgerald Principles prominently on their websites during the 2025 federal election (websites are nominated as these are designed for hosting content and information rather than social media platforms which are designed for user interaction and sharing).

For candidates to publicly commit to the Fitzgerald Principles, and to act on them, would

assist in restoring public trust and faith in politics. Not to do so would illustrate an individual candidate's disdain for integrity in politics and thus undeserving of public office.

Robert Cameron
Corndale

Start of Byron Community Centre

I recently had the pleasure of sitting on my deck and chatting to Paul Bibby about my experience of the start of the Byron Community Centre 45 years ago.

At the time there was a movement of people from the cities to the country, to the Northern Rivers, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and other rural areas. They were loosely termed surfies, hippies, alternates and so on, generally by other people.

In my memory there was never a formal group called 'The Alternatives' as appears in the article, nor was the Byron Community Centre called the Youth and Resource Centre.

It was for many decades called The Literary Institute, then the Byron Community Centre, which helped set up the Youth Activities Centre (YAC) in Byron Bay as well as many of the facilities and

social benefits available today.

My thanks to Paul for his patient listening to my rambling recollections of a very exciting time and to *The Echo* for continuing to widely represent the community, its interests, and concerns.

Jan Dawkins
Ocean Shores

Team Albo

Justine has won Richmond for Labor seven times. However, the ballot positions this time have Justine's nemesis Mandy Nolan (Greens) in the number one spot with Justine coming in number two.

Team Albo has a tough choice to make. They can change the ultimate decision of who wins Richmond by changing the Labor 'How-to-Vote-Cards' and this is important because Albo cannot afford to have the Greens blocking supply, to his next government – much better to deal with the Teals.

Terry Sharples
Tweed Heads

Government lies

While the PM may like to try and deceive the country with half truth and lies about weapons sale to Israel, the facts revealed last week by the ABC, which have been called out for months

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► by the Greens, reveal that Australia does indeed manufacture components for drone technology which are sent to the US for assembly, then on-sold to Israel.

So the question for Labor (and Coalition) voters is, are you happy being complicit in the Israeli genocide? This is the reckless, unconsidered AUKUS in action.

And when will the government call on our 'so called' partner to uphold the International Criminal Court and arrest the Israeli PM as the EU has called for?

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

Gaza double standards

I write with disbelief at the silence surrounding young Australians who have travelled to Israel to join the Israeli Defence Force (IDF), taking part in a war many now call a genocide.

It is illegal for Australians to travel and fight for the Russian military in Ukraine – yet those enlisting with the IDF are given a free pass. Why the double standard?

The government frames Israel's actions as 'self-defence', but Gaza is not a military power. It is a sealed, devastated territory home to two million civilians – most of them children. This is not a war between equals. It's a humanitarian disaster.

We must think seriously about the consequences – not just for the people of Gaza, but for Australians who return carrying trauma and moral injury. The cost is real and long-lasting. Some Australians have even lost their lives.

If it's criminal to fight for one foreign power, why is

it tolerated with another? Our laws – and our morals – shouldn't shift depending on political alliances.

We need consistency, not complicity. This isn't just about foreign policy. It's about political convenience – and the human cost it hides.

Fiona Sullivan
Mullumbimby Creek

Fanariphobia

To the bemused people consulting Google, the heading to my letter (April 9) should have read 'Fanariphobic vision'. Fanariphobia is a fear of traffic lights. Along with pertussis, and now measles, there are too many unfortunate outbreaks in this Shire – all with the potential for tragic outcomes. There is no vaccine but an effective therapy was recommended by a recent correspondent:

'Liz, NOW I understand the Clifford Steet exit hoo-ha, having lined up for some time today then risked shooting out and turning right, dodging fast traffic to and from Byron, Whew!

Then came home and read your great letter in *The Echo*. I can only shake my head at the incompetence and lack of care by Byron Shire Council.

PS what is fanariphobic vision? Google doesn't know.

Liz Levy
Suffolk Park

Two-party system

We have a chance at this election to break the two-party system. By voting for independents and the Greens, we can support the formation of a minority government – one where power is shared, decisions are more transparent, and politicians are held accountable

to the people, not corporate interests.

Here in the Richmond electorate, that means a choice between the Labor Party and the Greens.

The Greens candidate, Mandy Nolan, has been a tireless advocate for our community for more than 20 years – long before entering politics. From domestic violence support, homelessness, and affordable housing, to environmental protection and Indigenous rights, Mandy has shown up, listened, and acted.

Some have expressed concern to me over her views during the pandemic, particularly around lockdown mandates and vaccinations. I understand these concerns – we won't always agree with every stance a candidate takes. But this election is too important to let disagreements over a single issue prevent us from voting for the bigger change we so desperately need.

Greens preferences flow to Labor. A vote for Mandy/Greens is a vote for integrity, and a sustainable future – not business as usual. She's controversial to some, yes, but she is also into making billionaires and corporations pay their fair share of tax, ending native forest logging, real climate action, lifting Job Seeker above the poverty line, building social housing, getting dental and mental health care into Medicare.

Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater. Seize this once-in-a-generation chance to break the two-party system, keep Dutton out and get Labor to act. Power to the people.

Lisa Sandstrom
Brunswick Heads

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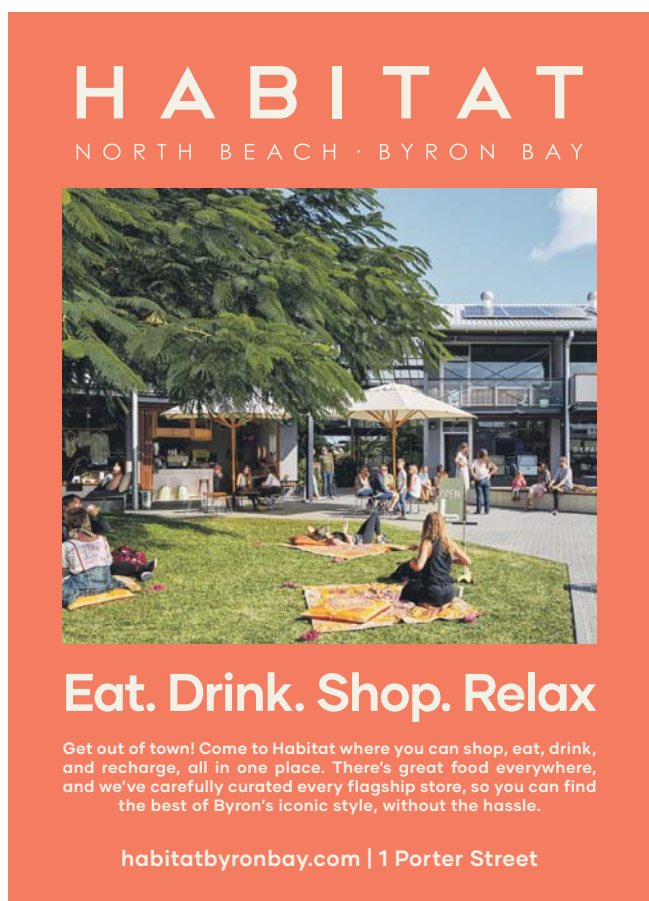
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What was missing from the 'leaders' debate

David Lowe

Last week's televised debate between Anthony Albanese and Peter Dutton confirmed what many voters already suspected: Dutton remains unfit to lead, and Albo is no Gough Whitlam.

The event marked a rare appearance for the Coalition's top dog on Australia's national broadcaster, the ABC, but the future of that venerable and battered institution – of crucial importance as a counter to billionaire-controlled media, especially in rural and regional areas – was one of a number of major topics that were kept firmly off the agenda of this TV debate, moderated by David Speers.

Which other elephants remained unacknowledged?

Big issues

1. The Great Barrier Reef. This jewel of Australia and the world is threatened on multiple fronts by the policies of both major parties. The reef has just been hit by its sixth major coral bleaching event since 2016. The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority says the main culprit is marine heatwaves, courtesy of the climate crisis. Record rainfall has also caused damaging runoff.

Peter Dutton lives in Queensland, but apparently his local underwater wonder is out of sight, and mind, as far as he's concerned. Labor has thrown some money at the problem while continuing to subsidise coal and gas production.

Across the country, Australia's other World Heritage-listed reef Ningaloo has recently been hit hard by bleaching from extreme, unprecedented heat stress.

Anthony Albanese needs to do well in Western Australia this election, but for him and his state counterpart, this apparently means appeasing wealthy mining interests, Indigenous heritage and tourism be damned.

WA's unique environment is expendable. Too bad, so sad.

2. Gaza? Crickets all round from David Speers, Anthony Albanese and Peter Dutton.

3. Wealth inequality. Speers attempted to get the politicians to discuss tax breaks for investors, negative gearing and the capital gains discount, but Albo only wanted to talk about the supply side of the housing issue, while Dutton attempted to use the question to entrap the prime minister in a 'gotcha' about whether or not the government had officially engaged Treasury officials to model changes to negative gearing and capital gains tax. What could be worse than that?

Economists have suggested the policies of both major parties are likely to push prices up even further, aiding the investor class, of which these men are clearly a part.

4. Treaty and truth telling. Neither leader had anything to say about these issues, which were the second and third big requests emerging from the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*.

Albanese's position appears to be



Elephant in the room. Image Cloudcatcher Media

that he tried his best with the Voice referendum and failed, end of story, while Dutton preferred to talk about school attendance rates and Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, who worked on behalf of Dutton, Gina Rinehart and others to destroy the Voice campaign, and is now apparently intent on doing the same to the Australian public service, in the vein of Elon Musk's DOGE.

5. Corruption. This was a central issue of the last federal election, leading to the establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Commission, a secretive and ineffectual organisation that has pleased no one but the corrupt politicians it was supposedly created to deal with.

Political corruption wasn't mentioned at all in the ABC debate. Sadly, this doesn't mean the problem has been magically cured.

6. Gambling and gambling advertising. Crickets again, although the death toll from online gambling is steadily rising, and poker machines continue to wreak havoc. Australians are now losing a staggering \$25 billion a year to this 'industry', which preys particularly on the poor and the disadvantaged.

The ALP have tinkered with the edges of the problem and the Coalition have been equally useless, although prominent members of both parties have claimed to care about gambling issues in the past.

7. Climate change. On the night of the debate, perhaps not wanting to hurt Gina Rinehart's feelings, Peter Dutton refused to say whether he 'believed' in the science of climate change. Did he believe in gravity or the Easter bunny? Sadly, David Speers didn't ask him. Apparently unable to

look out the window or read a graph, Mr Dutton said this was purely a matter for scientists. Nuclear power though, well that's entirely different.

With Australia in the firing line for ever more disastrous climate catastrophes, this nonsensical position alone should disqualify Dutton for political leadership of any kind in 2025.

The morning after, he appears to have woken up remembering all those seats lost to the teals last time and reversed his position, but the damage was done. This is what happens if you limit your media appearances to the crazy right-wing echo chamber for years, and then emerge blinking into the light.

Where the hell are ya?

Anthony Albanese's hypocritical position on climate is equally untenable, of course, just like his position on AUKUS, where both leaders are in furious agreement that Scott Morrison's most toxic legacy should be preserved at all costs, no matter how crazy the occupant of the White House.

The latest opinion polls show Dutton sagging and Albanese maintaining his position, with an increasing number of voters heading towards the minor party exits as they see more of the uninspiring fare on offer from the big parties.

If this trend is maintained, Australia is heading for minority government (a very normal thing in many parts of the world), and Peter Dutton might have to go back to property management.

The federal election will be held on Saturday, 3 May.

■ Catch David Lowe every Monday in *The Echo Online*: www.echo.net.au.



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Peas, snow peas and broad beans are a winter treat. The climbing varieties will give you a greater yield, but there are dwarf ones too.

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Ocean Swim Classic is back, May 4

The 38th Byron Bay Ocean Swim Classic 2025 is back, and will be held on May 4.

Secretary and Treasurer, Tim Tetley told *The Echo* that last year, the Winter Whales had around 900 swimmers compete.

He said, 'Entry for the swim is online, and registration commences at 7am on Sunday, May 4 at the east side of the Byron Bay Surf Life Saving Club'.

Two comps

There are two swim comps. The first is Byron Bay Property Sales Ocean Swim Classic (marked in red on the photo) and is approximately 2.2km from Wategos Beach to Main Beach.

The Classic is a buoyed course from the start area, around The Pass and across the Bay to Main Beach.



The Byron Bay Ocean Swim Classic race, as depicted at www.byronbayoceanswim.com.au.

The second is the Byron Bay Chocolate Co Dash.

This swim course is run prior to the main swim (marked in yellow on the photo).

This shorter distance swim starts from Clarkes

Beach, along Main Beach, and is designed as an introductory swim for novice ocean swimmers, and also for children who are good swimmers from age nine.

For more info visit www.byronbayoceanswim.com.au.

Newcomers contest ladies championships

Kristine Pryor

On Tuesday, April 15, six ladies went out onto the green at Brunswick Heads Bowling Club, with the express intent that three of them would be the eventual winners of the triples final championship.

The game started with Sherril's team commanding a great lead, with the score being 10 to zero by the fourth end.

Comeback

After a short break, owing to a passing rainstorm, Judy's team started to make a good comeback with one end taking four bowls.

The games continued with one team getting their bowls closest to the kitty, and then the other reciprocating.

But in the end, there could only be one winning side.



From Left to Right: Sherril Pearce, Lisa Fitzmaurice, Kristine Pryor. Photo supplied

Sherril's team had gotten a few more good shots in that enlarged the scoring distance, with the finishing score being 31 to 17.

There were some very good plays by all members, and the end result was not indicative on how close the game really was.

Let it also be known, that it was Kate's first year of

playing, and Judy's first time as a skip.

So congratulations go to Kristine Pryor (lead), Lisa Fitzmaurice (second) and Sherril Pearce (skip), with a worthy mention to Kate Baker (lead), Sharon Allen (second) and Judy Smith (skip).

■ Kristine Pryor is the Bruns Bowling Club publicity officer.

Heart of Dance takes it up a notch



The Heart of Dance teachers and crew. Photo supplied

One of the country's most awarded dance schools has just announced two community events.

Lennox Head's Heart of Dance, who last year won the World Dance Masters Line Dancing Championships in the UK, were named Australian Line Dance Club Champions and Australian Line Dance Club of the Year through the

Line Dance Association of Australia in January.

The school says it is hoping to repeat their UK win next year, and is inviting the broader community to some fun events to help get them there.

Team of 45 dancers

Kerren Kernaghan and a team of 45 dancers, parents and teachers are hosting a

'paint and sip' at the Heart of Dance Studio on May 3 from 2 – 4pm. To book, call Kerren on 0431 634 313, or email heartofdance2@gmail.com

Also a free event – Country Arvo on the Greens at the Lennox Bowlo – will be held on May 10 from 4pm–6pm.

'There will be dance displays, a Mother's Day raffle and line dancing for everybody', says Kerren.

Election 2025 – who is running for the senate?

Australia has two houses in federal parliament – the upper house (Senate) and lower house (the House of Representatives).

Local MPs are elected to the lower house to represent the electorate, while senators are elected to represent the state they are elected to. All states have equal representation in the chamber. Every state is represented by 12 senators, each with six-year terms, as opposed to three year terms for the lower house. The territories are represented by two senators each and they face re-election at every general

election. The current number of federal senators is 76.

According to academic website, www.theconversation.com, 'Winning a majority in the Senate has no bearing on who forms government (it's the result of the lower house – the House of Representatives – which determines this). It does, however, make it easier for the government to pass bills to become law if it enjoys a majority in this chamber'.

Major parties running Senate candidates include the Labor Party, the Liberal-National Coalition, and the Greens. Minor parties

running candidates federally are One Nation, United Australia Party (UAP) (contesting seats in select regions), Australia's Voice (a new party established by former Labor senator Fatima Payman), People First Party (founded by former LNP senator Gerard Rennick).

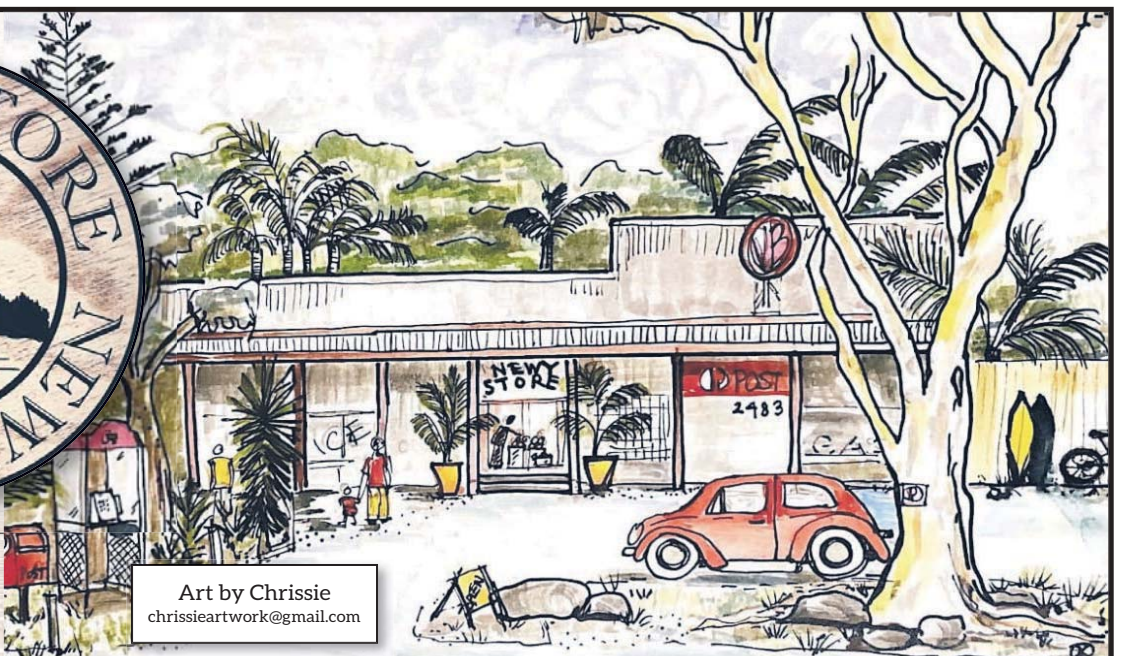
Other smaller parties contesting Senate seats include Socialist Alliance, Legalise Cannabis Party, Family First, Sustainable Australia, Australian Citizens Party, FUSION Party, HEART Party, Libertarian Party and Trumpet of Patriots (Clive Palmer).

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Good Taste

Eateries Guide

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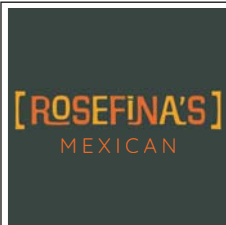


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Mon-Thurs: breakfast & lunch
Fri-Sun: breakfast,
lunch & dinner

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

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



Roca Byron Bay

Open every day
from 7am - 10pm
14 Lawson St, Byron Bay
(02) 5642 0149
@rocabyronbay
www.rocabyronbay.com.au

Latin Fusion all-day dining

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

Available daily from 2:30pm to 5pm.



Horizon Rooftop

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 7 DAYS
Horizon Rooftop, Hotel Marvell
4 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
Open Daily | 12pm - late
NO BOOKINGS REQUIRED
Call: (02) 6685 7385
@horizonbyronbay

Welcome to Horizon, Byron's newest rooftop bar.

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

LENNOX HEAD



Lennox Pizza

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

Views, Brews, Cocktails, Beats, and Eats!

Live Music Friday, Sunday.
Bookings essential.

Head to lennoxpizza.com
Follow on Insta: @lennoxpizza

MULLUMBIMBY



The Empire

20 Burringbar St, Mullum
(02) 6684 2306
Mon-Fri 8am-3.30pm
Sat & Sun 8am-2pm
Thur & Fri nights from 3pm
FB/Insta: EmpireMullum
www.empiremullum.com.au

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. ¡Está estupendo!

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 aji de gallina, every dish is crafted with authentic ingredients and passion.

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

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.



Aurum pop-up winery cellar door

Award-winning local Byron winery, Aurum, is opening for tastings of their premium dry wines made from local Northern Rivers honey - and no, they are not sweet!

No headaches, no hangovers, no grapes! Just great, naturally made wines, that taste as good as traditional wine and champagne, but that are better for you, and more sustainable!

A world's first, created right here in Byron. Aurum has also just won 'Champion Show Mead' at the Australian National Mead Awards, and is listed in The Australian Financial

Review's 'Top 20 Drinks of the Year 2024'.

Head to Newrybar Village to discover the full range of award-winning local Aurum wines, meet the maker with a guided tasting led by Byron Bay winemaker Louis Costa, and optional canapé pairings (until sold out) curated by an award-winning French Michelin Chef. The cellar door will be open this Saturday, April 26 at Newrybar Hall, from 10am to 4pm, and then on May 10, 24 and 3.

■ For more info, visit www.aurummead.com or @aurummead on Instagram.

The Good Life

Mullumbimby Farmers Market: the heart of our community



Every Friday morning, under the canopy of trees at the Mullumbimby Showground, something truly special comes to life. A buzz of conversation, the aroma of fresh coffee and just-baked pastries, and the rhythm of local musicians set the scene for one of the Byron Shire's most loved weekly gatherings. This is more than a market – it's the heart of the community.

Set in stunning natural

surrounds, the award-winning Mullumbimby Farmers Market is a place to reconnect with your food, your farmers, and your neighbours. The atmosphere is relaxed and welcoming, filled with music, laughter, and the scent of seasonal produce. There's a dedicated kids' space where children can play while parents shop or catch up with friends, and a strong sense that this is where the community truly gathers.

Breakfast here is a celebration of global flavours – seven food stalls offer something for everyone: Indonesian meals, French crepes and pastries, vegan delights, Taiwanese dumplings, Japanese hand-rolled sushi, fresh fruit juices, locally-harvested cane juice, matcha, great coffee, gluten-free muffins and breads, ready-made meals, and beautiful flowers. It's everything you

could want, all in one delicious, vibrant place.

Visitors to the area are warmly welcomed – if you're holidaying nearby, skip the supermarket and come shop like a local. This is the perfect spot to stock up on fresh produce, meet the growers, and experience the region's true spirit.

The market is built on strong values, local food, sustainability, education, and connection. With school programs like 'Grow Your Own Lunchbox', seed swaps, workshops, and a goal of becoming a zero-waste event, this isn't just a weekly market – it's a movement. It's a weekly festival, a celebration of food and community otherwise known as the Mullum Vibe!

■ Mullum Farmers Market is open every Friday from 7am to 11am, rain or shine, including public holidays, at Mullumbimby Showground, Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby.

High tea at Tweed River House



Escape the busy pace of everyday life and experience an elegant high tea at the award-winning Tweed River House on Friday, 2 May.

Nestled on the banks of the Tweed River in Murwillumbah, this colonial-style plantation manor seamlessly blends old-world charm with modern hospitality, offering an unforgettable dining experience.

For \$90 per person, guests will delight in a beautifully curated high tea menu featuring ocean trout gravlax with lemon myrtle labneh, beef tartare on sourdough, and delicate lobster mini-rolls. Sweet indulgences include apple tartlets, banana parfait with

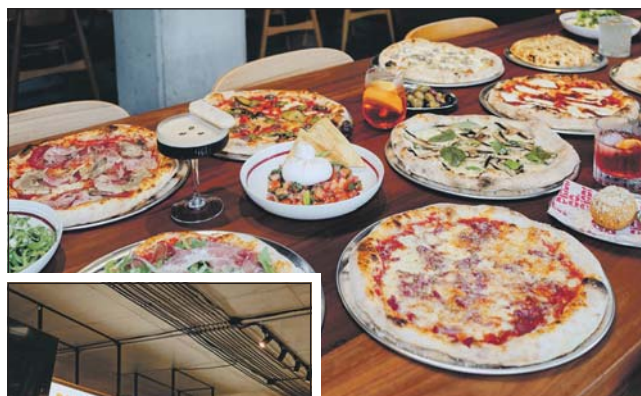
gold wafer, and a rich Snicker peanut financier, all paired with Bastion Lane Coffee or Mayde Organic Tea.

High tea will be served in the grandeur of the colonial-style dining room under chandeliers and pressed metal ceilings.

Awarded a Chef Hat by the 2025 *Australian Good Food Guide*, Tweed River House is a must-visit destination for those seeking exceptional cuisine and timeless elegance.

■ Bookings essential.
Tweed River House
131 River Street, South Murwillumbah
02 6672 5269
tweedriverhouse.com.au

A slice of Italy in Byron Bay: Piada Co. opens its second home



hours, starting with a lunch service from 10am to 4pm featuring their signature piadinas – crisp, warm flatbreads folded with everything from fresh mozzarella and rocket, to house-made spreads and prosciutto. From 4pm till late, the venue shifts gear into dinner mode with artisanal pizza, fresh pasta, and a bar menu that includes a tight list of curated wines and cocktails.

And if you drop by in the late afternoon? The Sundown Social Club, running daily from 4pm to 6pm, is the perfect way to transition from day to night – with spritzes in hand and a spread of signature street eats straight from the kitchen, it's easy to imagine you're on the Adriatic.

For those craving Piada Co. from the comfort of home, takeaway and UberEats are available – same bold flavours,

just packaged to go.

What hasn't changed is the heart of Piada Co. – a menu built on fresh ingredients, and the convivial spirit of Italian dining. It's modern, yes, but not overthought. Simple dishes done well, served in a space that invites you to stay a little longer.

'Byron has such a strong sense of place and community,' Edwards adds. 'We wanted to create something that felt local from the start – somewhere you can drop in for a quick lunch or settle in with friends for a few hours.'

Just a little off the beaten path, Piada Co. feels like it's always belonged here.

■ Piada Co
Suites 26-29, 1 Porter St,
Byron Bay
piadaco.com.au

Tucked into the creative buzz of Byron Bay's dynamic Habitat precinct, there's a new Italian street food spot that's quietly becoming a local favourite. Piada Co., the cult-followed Burleigh Heads eatery known for its thin, hand-rolled piadinas

and laid-back charm, has opened its doors in Byron – and it's bringing much more than just flatbreads.

The new venue channels the energy of a modern Italian piazza with a distinctly coastal Australian twist. It's casual but considered, with bold flavours, a warm vibe, and a sense of community at its core. 'We've always believed in bringing people together over simple, great food,' says Bree Edwards, co-founder of Piada Co. 'With this second location, we're not just expanding – we're evolving.'

The Byron outpost offers a broader menu and longer



Open 6am – 12pm
Monday – Saturday
Shop 6/108 Stuart Street
Mullumbimby.
@bimbi_coffee_shop
ALLPRESS ESPRESSO



NORTH BYRON HOTEL

ANZAC DAY

FRIDAY 25 APRIL

Lest We Forget

TWO UP
AUSSIE BBQ SPECIAL

WIN A MEAT RAFFLE

SUPPORTING LEGACY VETERANS

& LIVE ENTERTAINMENT FROM 12PM

\$25 BUCKET OF BEER

NORTHBAYRONHOTEL.COM.AU



FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE
EVERY THURSDAY
3:00 – 6:00pm
In the heart of the city,
on the steps of the Con.
Keen St. Lismore

THE PADDOCK FARM TOUR

FOUR INSPIRING TOURS
ONE MISSION: A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

TOUR DATES:
10 MAY
12 JULY
13 SEPTEMBER
9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Join us and be part of a movement that connects people, nature, and food for a more sustainable future!

Tickets \$25



For more info, please visit: www.paddockproject.com

Bluesfest 2025!



Eve Jeffery

It's always fascinating being a photographer at Bluesfest – and people's eyes light up and they ask you if you need help carrying your bags, when you tell them what you do – people have visions of me sitting back sipping champagne with George Thorogood and Chaka Khan (I wish).

If you've seen the photographers in the pit,

you'll notice that they're usually only there for three songs and then they're shuffled out to another stage to shoot another three songs.

There's a lot of walking and a lot of hard work, but I have to say, after taking my camera to Bluesfest since 2005, just as much as shooting the artists, it's worth it for hanging out with the other hardworking photogs, swapping stories and admiring each other's work and catching up on the gossip!

Photos of Bluesfest 2025 by Eve Jeffery:

1. Captivating songstress, Allison Russell.
 2. Here Come The Mummies were a big hit.
 3. Fans in the front row feel the vibe. 4. The Queen of Funk, Chaka Khan. 5. Tom Morello's chunky rock riffs were on point. 6. Toto took the late-stayers back to Africa. 7. George Thorogood & The Destroyers packed out the Mojo.

8. Peter Noble and the Cystic Fibrosis crew. 9. Vollies make the festival world go round. 10. Shredster, Taj Farrant. 11. Kasey Chambers. 12. Colour-coded punters tried not to lose each other in the throng. 13. Rag'n'Bone Man. 14. Vance Joy. 15. The friendly bunch of minders backstage. 16. The smiles don't lie. 17. Tones and I.

► More Bluesfest pics online: www.echo.net.au/blue-skies-shining-on-bluesfest-2025



Standing Down From Stand-Up

Mandy Nolan

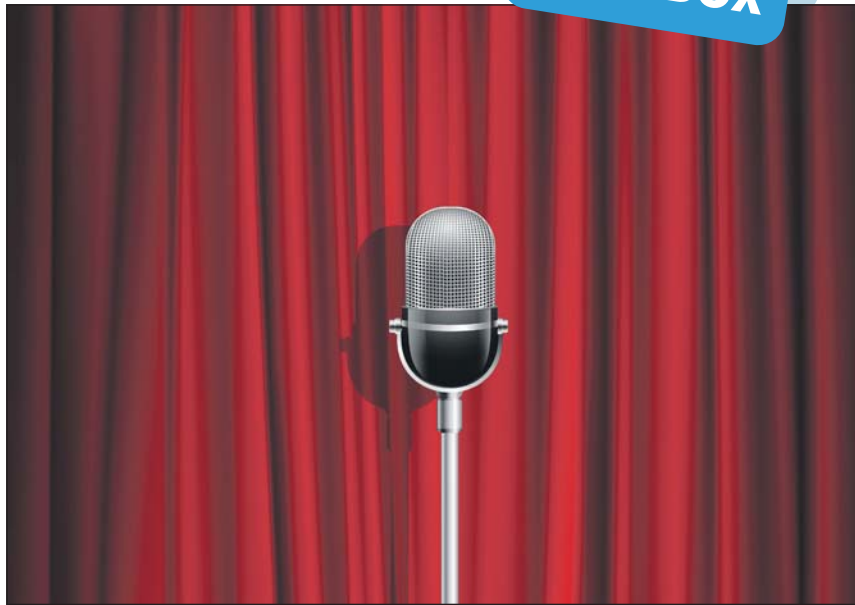
I never meant to become a comedian. It was an accident. Just something I could do. To be honest I never meant to become a mother either and I had five kids. It seems my pathway in life is to take the unintended one.

My comedy career started in the mid '80's as part of a uni revue, I did a comedy monologue and then someone in the audience booked me for a gig. I was funny. I didn't realise at the time. It was just how I saw the world. My trauma survival strategy turned out to be stand-up training! I love that about life. Nothing is wasted.

Back in the '80's in Australia, stand-up comedy wasn't a big thing like it is now, and in Brisbane when I started there was only the occasional room in a dive bar where you could get up and do five minutes. I got my stage time at poetry nights at the Story Bridge Hotel. Poetry audiences had a generosity that your regular pub crowd didn't have. And by the time I was on they were so glad I wasn't a poet, I could have yodelled and they would have been happy. So in those rooms I had these moments of thinking I was brilliant when I was probably well below average. It didn't matter, that tiny self-belief sustained me.

When I started it was tough. I mean, brutal. Now, for new comics, the worst thing that happens is no one laughs at you - I've had to console newbies who are devastated by a quiet room. When I started out you'd leave the stage bleeding. I've had obscenities chanted at me, I've had men expose their genitals, I've been followed into the carpark, I've been hit in the head with a beer can. It was terrifying. But I didn't stop. I decided early on that they wouldn't beat me. Women's voices needed to be in this space, and just by turning up I was making a difference. That's what I told my 19-year-old self as I cried on the bus on the way home. But every time something shitty happened I told myself that I was stronger, that I'd survived as bad as it could get, and that gave me a strange kind of freedom.

There weren't many women on the scene when I started performing, in fact I rarely shared a bill with any women. The men never spoke to me backstage. They drank beers and smoked, and made jokes.



When I started it was tough. I mean, brutal. Now, for new comics, the worst thing that happens is no one laughs at you - I've had to console newbies who are devastated by a quiet room.

I sat quietly on a chair and looked at my notes. Like a complete amateur. I wasn't cool, or composed, or popular. I was just bloody persistent.

Audiences groaned when I was introduced. It was like a performance extreme sport. But every now and then I'd crack through, and that was enough for me. I was intrigued. One day I wanted to walk into a room, step on stage, and be able to capture a crowd. I couldn't imagine walking on without every joke written out word for word. Being able to speak without verbatim reciting. I was in awe of those who seemed to just put their drink down, walk out and kill. I was still writing my ideas in Texta on my arms. I was still sick with fear.

But it happened. I got better. More women turned up. More diverse cultures. There is often this statement that the woke agenda has killed comedy. As a woman who has had to take the stage after a bunch of fat girlfriend gags, hateful mother-in-law tropes and good old rape jokes I can only say, 'that's bullshit'. Our comedy scene has got so much better. You have to be smart. On point. And backstage, well it's a lot more welcoming. Our industry has grown, and there's a greater sense of inclusion and support. I love that.

And now I stand backstage with my arms unmarked by Texta. I have no list of ideas. Just years and years of experience. And I can do what I thought I would never be able to do. Take a crowd for an hour, and make them laugh. Without a set plan.

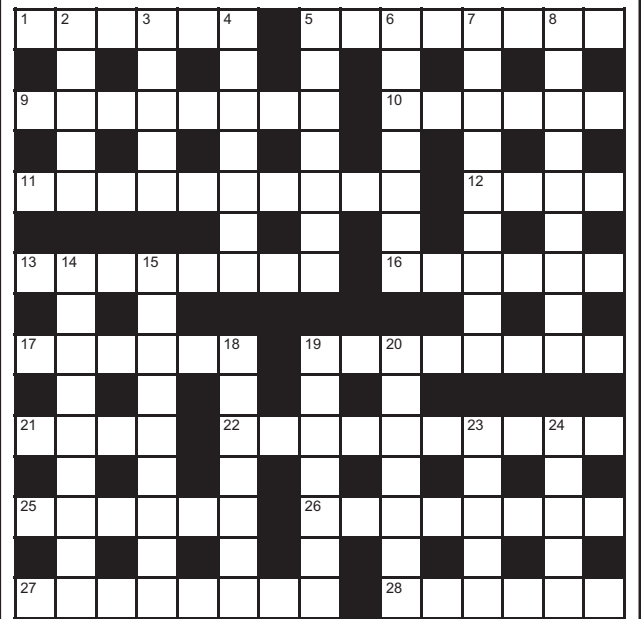
That's what persistence does. This year is my 40th year as a stand-up comedian. It's also my last. I'm stepping back. Stopping stand-up. And when I do, I will leave a space for other voices to fill the space.

Maybe there's a sad little girl, right now, sitting in her room trying to make sense of her world, who will be the next big comedy sensation. I certainly hope so.

■ 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

#52



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Echo* seconds Mark in return to legal action (6)
- Giant queasy about troll's first threat of violence (3,5)
- Exercises with youngsters, around about six and seven initially (5-3)
- Lost in pleasant thoughts? Foolish, my dear (6)
- Pasta and cake trendy crook sent back (10)
- Vilify faith one has abandoned (4)
- Wader afire with love (8)
- Thug maintains right to be PM (6)
- Dog can be PM (6)
- Tennis great, about to quit, ordered tea for syndicate (8)
- Employer, one who takes drugs (4)
- Angry officers point to shed (7,3)
- SMH crossword writer with obscure material (6)
- Big mistakes cause rage among principals of Crossword Lovers' Society (8)
- Liquor with pronounced bouquet to go into competition (3,2,3)
- PM is far out to sea, lacking a direction (6)

DOWN

- Fuel provider finally takes over management (5)
- Start with working group (5)
- PM wrong to seize pick (7)
- Ex-president takes vow of warriors' conduct (7)
- Wandering around, using good supplementation (7)
- Reuters article edited by registered finance officer (9)
- Happen to arrive at a contest (4,5)
- Deviant liaison, involving a uniform, in Dixie state (9)
- Sea creature, keeping in time with *Echo*, is one who provides a service to motorists (5,4)
- Novelist to capture fine old verse (7)
- Intended bank bans November *Echo* (7)
- Diversity and Inclusion employee on the side of females (7)
- Pursue mother with principles (5)
- PM supporting Diversity and Equity (5)

Quick Clues

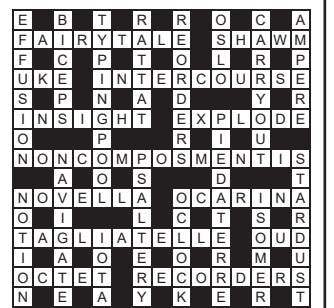
ACROSS

- Legally prevents taking action (6)
- Theodore Roosevelt's foreign policy approach (3,5)
- Exercise that strengthens chest, triceps and shoulders (5-3)
- Lost in pleasant thoughts (6)
- Ring-shaped pasta with filling (10)
- Forcefully shut (4)
- Pink wading bird (8)
- Australian PM, 1968 to 1971 (6)
- WWII-era Labor Prime Minister (6)
- United into a single political entity (8)
- One who utilises a product or service (4)
- Extremely annoyed or fed up (7,3)
- Reversible patterned fabric (6)
- Embarrassing mistakes or gaffes (8)
- Strong, clear fruit brandy (3,2,3)
- Liberal PM who replaced Gough Whitlam (6)

DOWN

- Petrol station (5)
- Beginning or start of an event (5)
- Depression-era Labor Prime Minister (7)
- Samurai code of conduct (7)
- Roaming about in search of pleasure (7)
- Government finance minister (9)
- Change direction, especially in sailing (4,5)
- Bayou State of the USA (9)
- Young Gold Coast lady who wards off parking fines (5,4)
- Russian-born author of *Pale Fire* (7)
- Woman engaged to be married (7)
- Female side of a family (7)
- Set of principles laid down as absolute truth (5)
- Briefly served as PM after death of 17 (5)

Last week's solution #51



STARS BY LILITH

This week we wish happy birthday to our sensible, sensual Taurus friends and family, whose earth-friendly sign encourages us to embrace eco-supportive choices, sustainable companies and brands that respect our planet...



TAURUS THE BULL

ARIES: Mercury in your impetuous, impulsive sign is inventive, quick on the trigger, impatient with delays and could definitely benefit from being more organised and thoughtful. This week's move to a steadier-paced rhythm suggests you'll get best results from slowing down and factoring in more indulgent, treat-yourself moments.

TAURUS: Currently in your collaboration corner, Venus, the guiding planet of Taurus, puts group activities top of this week's menu, so enjoy celebrating your annual season in the sun. And Neptune's sign change advises that it's time to let something go so something new and beautiful can grow.

GEMINI: With Venus currently in your career corner, it's worth checking where your professional image might benefit from a new polish, anything from updated branding to rejigging your personal presentation style. And you'll need to back your usual charm with facts and figures to close this week's deals.

CANCER: Cardinal sign Cancerians are natural leaders who tend to take on executive roles, sometimes to the detriment of their well-being. Whether or not this is true of you, Neptune's new cycle inspires a recalibration, a calling to realign your work with what you really came here to do.

LEO: Neptune currently activating your majesty's sector of advanced learning issues a once-in-a-lifetime invitation to experiences that expand your mind and spirit towards service where you can use your special gifts expressed through media, education, healing or the arts to shine and inspire others.

VIRGO: With Venus, diplomat of the zodiac, in emotional mode, and your ruler Mercury at its bluntest and most straightforward, be especially cautious about offering constructive criticism, which could be taken as judgmental. Verbal tact is necessary this week, which shouldn't be hard for your naturally courteous sign.

LIBRA: Your cosmic custodian, body-conscious Venus, is currently in the most organised part of your chart. Which is also your wellness zone, so give your attention to any physical issues that may require it. And revamp your exercise and eating routines without sacrificing beauty or quality as only you can do.

SCORPIO: Neptune activating the service-oriented sector of Scorpio life is about to reignite your passion for any work that's begun to feel flat, ho-hum or uninspiring. This could mean anything from switching careers to restructuring daily routines in a more nourishing and satisfying way, infusing imagination into the everyday.

SAGITTARIUS: As earthier energies bring a less labile, more stable, Venusian vibe to the last days of April, Archers can make the most of this by enjoying the arts, getting out into nature and getting physical. With Venus situated in your home zone, maybe engage the family in planting a garden.

CAPRICORN: Your practical sign thrives on structure, so the next few weeks in a fellow earth sign, and your personal sector of self-expression, suit Capricorns down to the ground. There's plenty of practical magic operating, but with others unusually sensitive, be discreet in your speech, texts and social posts.

AQUARIUS: Neptune's finally left your finance sector after 13 years; now it's in your communication zone, so ready, set, connect! This transit invites you to explore new synergistic possibilities: let short trips and spontaneous getaways link you with like-minded souls through retreats, festivals or workshops.

PISCES: If life has felt a little unstable lately, this week's down-to-earth Taurus transit settles it from wilder to milder, offering opportunities to reground yourself via a slower, steadier approach to achieving your goals. Even better, love planet Venus in your sign makes you a total affection magnet.

BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE



1. NORTH BYRON HOTEL

North Byron Hotel is a meeting place for friends and families to get together and indulge in sustainable Northern Rivers produce, and local musical talents. Showcasing the best of the rainbow region, the sun-drenched garden welcomes locals and holidaymakers for restaurant-quality food at pub prices. Check out the website for a jam-packed events calendar, fit for the whole family.

61 Bayshore Drive
02 6685 6500
www.northbyronhotel.com.au



2. BODHI LIVING

Bodhi Living showcases a carefully curated collection of furniture, homewares, rugs and lighting, sourced both locally and globally. They have introduced a range of collections designed in-house, including sofas, dining tables and seating using natural and sustainable materials such as rattan and wood. The brand encapsulates the freedom of spirit, and the soul of the individual, as represented through their home.

Shop 1/18 Centennial Circuit
www.bodhiliving.com.au
IG @bodhi.living



3. BYRON BAY CAMPING AND DISPOSALS

Make the most of these beautiful days for all those fun outdoor activities. Byron Bay Camping and Disposals have most of your bait and tackle needs, with brands in store like Okuma, Zman, Halco, Platypus and Jaz lures. They also have a huge range of snorkelling and spearfishing gear for those who prefer spending their time in the water.

1/1 Tasman Way
www.byron-camping.com.au
0439 212 153



4. MR VINTAGE

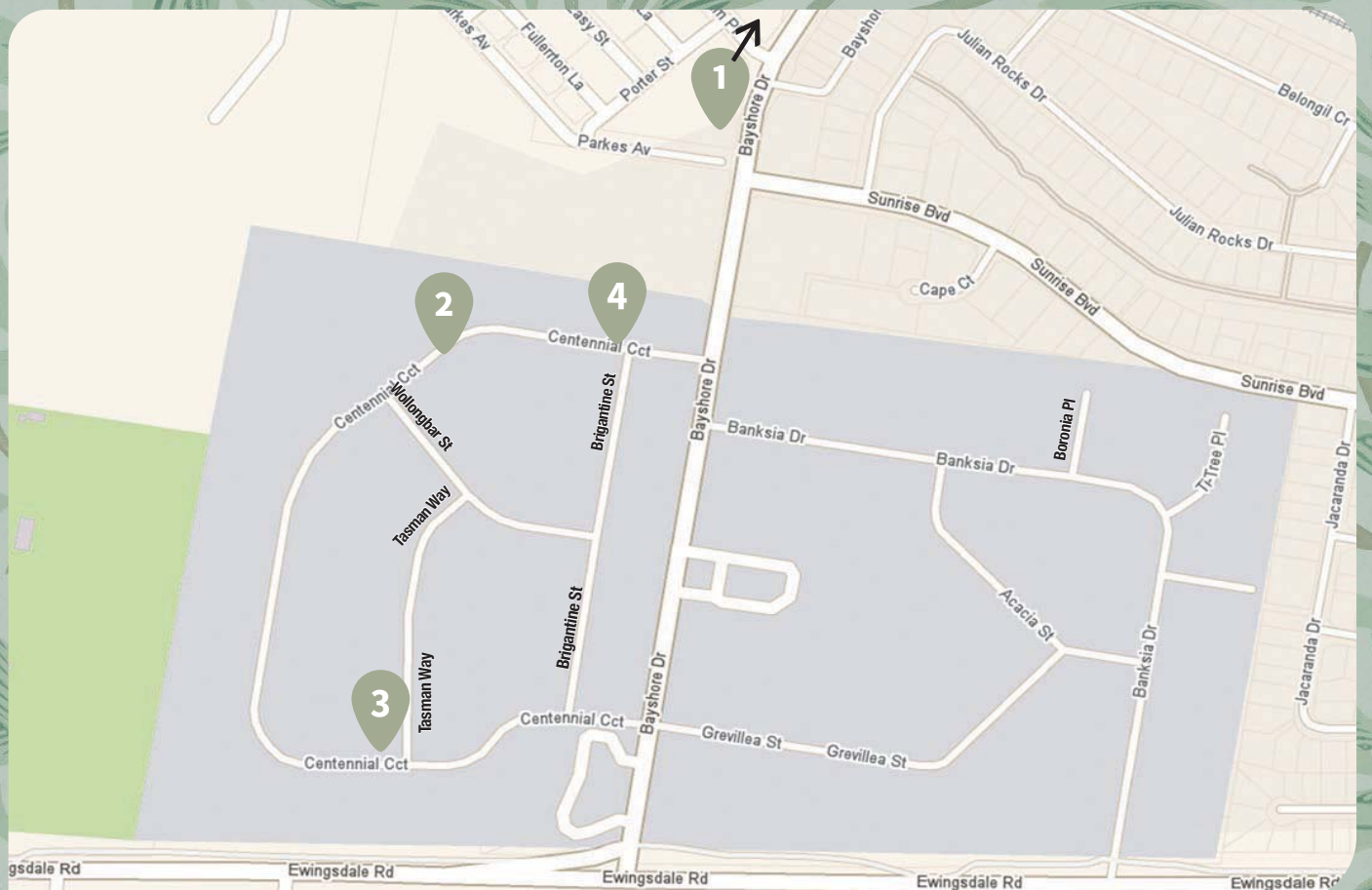
How you dress is representative of your personality. You are unique, one in seven billion, born out of the death of a star.

Life's too short to wear boring clothes. Recycled and vintage clothing sourced from around the world.

3/6 Centennial Circuit
02 6680 8640
@mrvintageaustralia

BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE

Creative, small-batch, hand-made, state-of-the-art, artisan, innovative, ethical, imaginative, hyper-local, leading-edge, quality, EXPLORE premium, master, handcrafted, accomplished, cutting edge, organic, designer, eclectic DISCOVER ingenious, beautiful, unique, sensational, avant-garde, original, visionary, inspirational, expert, brilliant, gifted, ahead of the curve. YOU wonderful, compelling, THERE experiencing, witnessing, engaging. NOW.



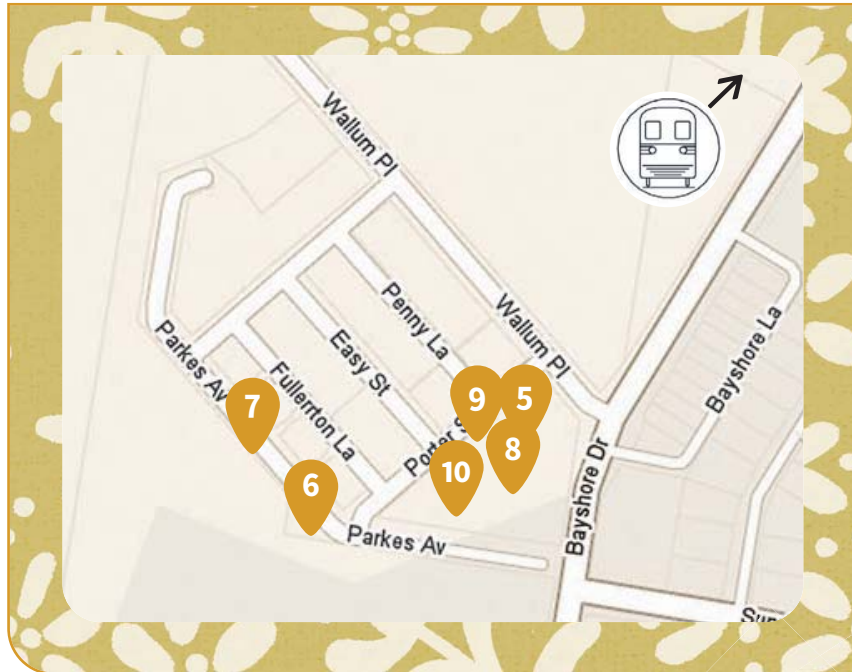
HABITAT PRECINCT



HABITAT

Get out of town! Visit Habitat where you can shop, eat, drink, and recharge, all in one place. They've carefully curated every flagship store, independent boutique and fashion label, so you can find the iconic style you'd expect from Byron, hassle-free.

Plus, they've got all your favourite health and wellness studios and good food galore.



Habitat is a cleverly designed village in Byron Bay, where you can live, work and play, all in one place.

Over 20 years in the making, Habitat combines the best of old-school Byron (community, creativity, respect for the environment) with the latest in design and thinking (renewable energy, car sharing, hybrid live + work spaces) along with plenty of bars and good times, it is a little oasis within one of the most beautiful places on Earth.



5. ARCAA

Visit Arcaa to discover the latest collection of timeless and versatile pieces, made from sustainable, lightweight fibres of organic cotton and natural linen. The boutique also offers a curated selection of accessories, jewellery, gifts and lifestyle products.

Open Mon-Fri, 9.30am-4pm and Sat, 9am-3pm, or shop anytime by visiting the online store.

Shop 10, 1 Porter Street
@arcaa_movement
arcaamovement.co



7. RICHARDSON MURRAY LAW

Practicing exclusively in family law, Richardson Murray offers legal advice and guidance in matters of separation, divorce, parenting arrangements and property settlements. With considerable experience in all matters of relationship breakdown, including domestic and family violence, Richardson Murray are known for their compassionate approach and commitment. Their dedicated team aims to deliver the best possible outcomes for clients.

42 Parkes Avenue
www.richardson-murray.law



9. HABITAT WORKSPACE

A modern co-working space for freelancers, start-ups and small businesses. Choose from 34 lockable 'pocket offices' or 12 open plan desks, with shared meeting spaces, conference room, kitchen, welcome area and mailboxes. Plus, enjoy easy access to Habitat's on-site gyms, cafés and 25m pool. A smarter, more affordable way to work in an upscale setting that's still relaxed.

Building B1, 1 Porter Street
habitatbyronbay.com
(02) 6694 3244



6. BYRON FAMILY LAW

Byron Family Law is a boutique family law firm established in Byron Bay. Through collaborative and resolution-focused practices, they support clients to separate more kindly and to rebuild following divorce or separation. They work in collaboration with local counsellors, conveyancers, accountants, mediators, and health and wellness professionals to support you and your family to not only survive but thrive following a separation.

18 Parkes Avenue
02 6687 2774
www.byronfamilylaw.com.au



8. SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY BYRON BAY

Driven by quality buyers, extensive reach, and a fresh approach, Sotheby's International Realty Byron Bay team of experienced agents stand as the market leader. Whether maximising the value of your property or helping you find your next home, the Sotheby's team offer personalised service and expert guidance, delivering a seamless experience and exceptional results throughout your real estate journey.

37-38/1 Porter Street
02 6610 9892
byronbaysir.com.au



10. HABITAT BARBERSHOP HAS NOW REOPENED !

Same location, next door to Mr Simple.

The shop has been refurbished into a gallery style space, also being used as a collaborative art space for local artists to show their work.

41/1 Porter Street
Taking online bookings or walk in appointments.
@habitatbarber_shop
9am-5pm Tuesday to Friday and Saturday 9am-3pm



seven

seven days of entertainment

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Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
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W: echo.net.au/entertainment

Eclectic Selection WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



✿ **Kwasi Bruni** is an Afro-Cuban big band project led by bassist Barry Hill and Colombian ex-pat pianist Camilo Losada.

Expect a night of high energy dance music, salsa, son, and mambo, paying homage to the music of Cachao Lopez, and other great Latin jazz and salsa big bandleaders of the '60s and '70s.

Sunday from 3.30-7pm at Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club

Tickets \$25 from mullumexservices.com.au

✿ Two screenings this week will give movie-lovers a one-off chance to revisit films by renowned Byron filmmaker **Richard Mordaunt**, whose groundbreaking works explore community activism, art, and civil rights.

Friday at 6pm and Saturday at 1pm, at the Byron Theatre
Tickets \$25 from byroncentre.com.au

✿ Born the son of a preacher, **Dan Hannaford's** love of music started with listening to hymns, and by his teens he found rock & roll and formed his first punk band straight out of high school. Since then he has earned a reputation as one of the hardest working, independent solo musicians on the East Coast.

Friday from 2pm at the Byron Bowlo
Free show

✿ With his comical, heartwarming and inspiring perspective on life, **Tim Woodz** creates stripped back storytelling folk songs that contribute to the ever-evolving Australian experience – he's like a jazz croner at an aussie BBQ, which we all know, makes no sense.

Saturday from 4pm at the Bangalow Hotel
Free show

✿ **Absolute Trash** is a celebration of all things garbage – incredible circus, a bin chicken with big dreams, and performers more flexible than the government's idea of sensible climate policy.

Saturday at 7.30pm at the Brunswick Picture House, Brunswick Heads
Tickets from \$30 at brunswickpicturehouse.com



✿ **Guy and Nicci** are an acoustic duo passionate about bringing soulful covers to life – their curated set list includes a mix of cruisy pop, soul, and country tunes, with a warm, harmonious sound.

Sunday from 5pm at Lennox Pizza, Lennox Heads
Free show



✿ Music brought them together in 1971 and their songs are the soundtrack of our lives – Manilow magic meets the Divine Miss M is a show with **Laura Doolan, George Harvey** and the **Greg Doolan Band**. Join them for a rollercoaster ride through the two of music's greatest careers.

Tuesday at 11am in the Twin Towns Showroom, Tweed Heads

Tickets from \$10 at twintowns.com.au



On borrowed time

After a lifetime of performances, **Carl Cleves**, songwriter/author/troubadour, will be going out with a bang, as he both launches his new album *On Borrowed Time* and says farewell to his friends and fans at the Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby on Saturday.

Carl will be accompanied by a stellar selection of friends that are featured on the album: **Parissa Bouas, Rochelle Wright** and **Laurel Cohn** on vocals, **Dan Brown** on keys, **Stu Eadie** and **Elliott Orr** on percussion, **Rod Coe** on double bass and **Kamal Engels** on fretless bass.

Written over two years of health challenges that saw him seesaw between hospitals and recuperations *On Borrowed Time* is testimony to Carl's vivid, creative voice and a fearless unburdened vitality. A reminder that we should be supporting elders as artists, for the stories they tell shine a light on, and represent issues, faced by a large part of our community, who often feel invisible.

The subject matter is broad: survival songs, romantic love declarations, celebrations of life, a lullaby in Portuguese, the challenge of aging and mortality, the heartrending pleas of refugees, and the rage at our world of greed, all in a stream of poetry, wit and humor.

As with previous work, this acoustic collection comes in an idiosyncratic range of styles: folk, blues, jazz and Latin feels. *On Borrowed Time* resonates with depth and authenticity. It is some of his best, most profound work.

'What an absolute treat it is. So rich with poetry, wisdom and beauty. A timeless and classic piece of art – very refined – complexity made effortless – in the same league and world as Bob Dylan, Roy Orbison, Johnny Cash and Serge Gainsbourg but like all of them – truly unique. This is the real cool – the stuff the rest of us strive for – honest, sincere, laugh-out-loud funny, touching, heartfelt, true, wise, poetic and beautiful,' – Andy Jans-Brown.

Carl Cleves album launch and farewell concert is on Saturday from 7pm at The Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby.

Tickets from <https://www.stickytickets.com.au>.

BAYFM PRESENTS
AIR WAVES
SATURDAY 17 MAY 2025
BANGALOW BOWLO
KIRIN J CALLINAN
LOOSE CONTENT
VERSACE BOYS
THIRST TRAP
CASEY MAY AND THE LOVERS
STATLUCKY
DOORS 4PM 18 PLUS
OZTIX
NSW Sound NSW Dayth AMRAP CBAA



Tom Burlinson is Still Swingin'

Tom Burlinson is coming to Ballina in a sensational salute to the masters' vocal swing.

This dazzling, energetic show presents a montage of swing classics made famous by the great superstars Tony Bennett, Sammy Davis Jr, Nat King Cole, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin and Frank Sinatra, through to hits of the hugely successful modern favourites – Harry Connick Jr and Michael Bublé.

Tom created the acclaimed theatrical production, *Frank – A Life in Song*, a celebration of the music career of the legendary Frank Sinatra, which played highly successful seasons at premier venues around Australia and overseas.

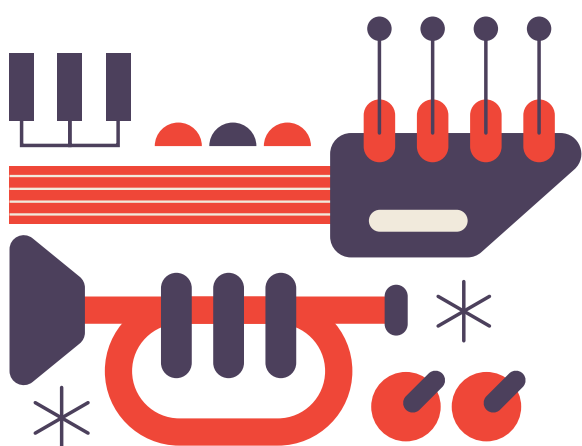
Now he has explored the renowned achievements of other stars of the genre and chosen their best songs to perform, as well as some Sinatra classics, and timeless standards.

Still Swingin' truly has one great song after another and most of the musical arrangements in the show are based on the originals, providing instant recognition for fans of the style.

Accompanying Tom on stage, as always, will be a fabulous jazz band including some of Australia's best musicians.

Sunday at 2.30pm in the Ballina RSL auditorium.

Tickets: ballinarssl.com.au.



Thursdays are spangled

Live and local: Spangled Thursdays bring the noise to The Northern, and Byron Bay's live music scene just got a serious midweek upgrade.

Introducing **Spangled Thursdays** a brand new weekly event taking over **The Northern every Thursday night**, in proud partnership with Spangled Drongo Brewing.

This collaboration is all about celebrating the sounds of the Northern Rivers while pouring some of the region's finest independent brews. Spangled Thursdays aim to shine a spotlight on the incredible talent in our own backyard, giving both emerging and established artists a platform to tear up the stage in one of Byron's most iconic venues.

Each week you can expect a fresh lineup of killer local acts, hand-picked to bring high energy and great vibes to your Thursday night. The music is loud, the beers are cold and the atmosphere is unbeatable, whether you're a die-hard live music fan or just looking for a new spot to kick back with friends.

To keep things spicy, Spangled Thursdays also includes weekly giveaways featuring free merch, gig tickets and prizes from some of your favourite local legends. It's all about creating a space where music lovers and beer fans can come together to celebrate the best of Byron Bay culture.

So grab your mates, rock up to The Northern and start your weekend early with Spangled Thursdays. Because supporting local music and local beer? That's something worth raising a glass to.

Spangled Thursdays – every Thursday night at The Northern with free entry.

Live music. Independent beer. Pure Byron energy.

Are you a local band keen to be part of it?

get in touch: entertainment@thenorthern.com.au.



From Tamworth to the bay

Guy Kachel had an idyllic entry into the world of music. Born in Tamworth, he was raised on the banks of the Peel River. The landscape was a fertile ground for his imagination. Seeing this rustic world change, as Tamworth developed into an inland city, and friends grew into sometimes troubled adulthoods, provided insights for the artistry that later powered his career as a performer.

His paternal grandfather, an itinerant harmonica duellist, gave him his first guitar at 15. However, bereft of musical guidance Guy progressed no further than the riff to 'Smoke on the Water' until, as an apprentice electrician, he struck up a lifelong friendship with Lawrie Minson, who went on to become one of the country's best-known journeyman musicians. Minson coaxed him through the rudiments of guitar and transplanted a love of hillbilly guitar picking, and such southern-rock stalwarts as the Ozark Mountain Daredevils.

After many years experiencing the life of a troubador, Guy found himself drifting east to the Byron Shire where the fertile tropics energised his creative talents. He started writing songs, cathartically, about his past, Tamworth, the fate of his peers – and ultimately, himself.

You can catch Guy at The Rails in Byron, for free, on Monday from 7.30pm.

GUMBO

26/04/25
SATURDAY
DURRUMBUL
HALL
(5KMS TO MULLUMBIMBY)
6PM TILL MIDNIGHT
18+ EVENT

LOST KEYS (LIVE GUITAR + DRUMS)
FRAKTAL FAERIE
COAST & OCEAN (LIVE)
CINNAMON SUN (LIVE)
EMPTYCASE
UNVEILED DANCE TROUPE

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CARL CLEVES

ON BORROWED TIME

ALBUM LAUNCH

FAREWELL CONCERT

ON BORROWED TIME

SAT 26 APRIL - 7PM

THE DRILL HALL THEATRE

MULLUMBIMBY carlclevess.com

GIG GUIDE

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

CINEMA



Not one for the kiddies

With more fake pimples on one cheek than she's ever had in her entire real life, gorgeously talented **Jenna Ortega** – who we love in *Wednesday* – plays Ridley Kintner, a teenager, who with her father encounters a real-life unicorn, when they run it over.

Written and directed by **Alex Scharfman**, the filmmaker's audacious debut feature film *Death of a Unicorn*, is an absurdist horror-comedy that delivers wickedly dark humour, and over-the-top gory spectacles, with an unexpected punch of understated sweetness.

The film follows Elliot Kintner (**Paul Rudd**) and Ridley, who accidentally hit the baby unicorn while enroute to a crisis management summit with Elliot's boss, Odell Leopold (**Richard E. Grant**), and his family. When Ridley touches the copse's horn, she experiences strange cosmic visions, which Elliot abruptly stops after he bludgeons the creature with a tire iron (remember the 'not for the kiddies' part?)

Shortly after their arrival at Leopold's estate, Ridley discovers that the unicorn's blood has cleaned away the acne on her face (insert I-told-you-so emoji), and Elliot's vision has improved, and his allergies are gone. Leopold seizes the unicorn, which is 'mysteriously' alive again, and his scientists discover that the creature is endowed with supernaturally curative properties, which Leopold seeks to exploit. However, as they delve deeper into their research, the unicorn's un-fairy-tale-like parents arrive and begin to slaughter, one by one, those involved in the exploitation of the dead (again?) creature.

This has some fun stuff, but the annoying vegan in me isn't so sure – unicorns are animals too y'know...

WEDNESDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **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**

THURSDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JON J BRADLEY DUO**
- BYRON THEATRE 6PM **BRIGHT LIGHTS APRIL 2025 PERFORMANCE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **INO PIO + DJ QUENDO**, 7PM **TV MISERY**, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: MICK BUCKLEY & DIZZY J + JON SHORTER & BODHI ACTON**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **JAM NIGHT**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7PM **THE BIG GIG COMEDY NIGHT FEAT. DUSTY RICH + ODETTE NETTLETON & FI WELLS – MC MANDY NOLAN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **OOZ**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **AMELIA JANE HUNTER**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6PM **BLUEGRASS JAM**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **KANE MUIR**

FRIDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **THE WHISKEYS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **JUKE JOINT**
- BYRON THEATRE 6PM **RICHARD MORDAUNT – A FILM RETROSPECTIVE**
- BYRON BOWLO 2PM **DAN HANNAFORD + DJ LONGTIME AND WARDY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KANE MUIR DUO**, 8PM **SEASIDE, OFF JUDY, HEAD SEND, AND POLY & CO**, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: SHANE**

PARRY & DIZZY J + JON SHORTER & BODHI ACTON

- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **SURVEY STREET BAND**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **BEN & VIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 5PM **ANDY V**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ VINYL DAN**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ ELKEMIST**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEEE WITH JESS**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN 5.30PM **MUSIC OPEN MIC NIGHT**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MR TROY**, 6.30PM **PHIL GUEST**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BLAKE EVANS**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **JEROME WILLIAMS**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 10AM **SHANE PETERS**

SATURDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **JOSH LEE HAMILTON + ANDY V + 42 BAND**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **RICHARD MORDAUNT – A FILM RETROSPECTIVE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **HAYLEY GRACE**, 8PM **KURIPALA REACH**, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: MICK BUCKLEY & JOHN HILL**
- LENNOX ARTS COLLECTIVE 1PM **EXHIBITION OPENS 'SEASONS' KAI GECOS-THORNDRYCRAFT**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **MILO GREEN**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **ADAM GARDINER**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **POLY & CO**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 6PM **TIM WOODZ**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ LUDO**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7PM **CARL**

CLEVES FAREWELL CONCERT & CD LAUNCH

- DURRUMBUL HALL GUMBO, 6PM **GUMBO**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **THE JUNGLE GIANTS + BEN WHITING + DJ JOELIE POPPINZ**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7.30PM **ABSOLUTE TRASH**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **THE SWAMPS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BEN WHITING**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL**
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 7PM **RAW ORDIO**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2.30PM **TOM BURLINSON**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 7.30PM **THE JACKS**

SUNDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SUNSTONE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **CINNAMON SUN DUO + JOHN DIGWEED + SIMON VUARAMBON**
- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM **YULLI'S OPEN MIC**
- OTHERWORLD, BYRON BAY, 3.30PM **KWASI BRUNI**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SAM BUCKLEY**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: SHANE PARRY & DIZZY J**
- CLUB LENNOX 5PM **TIM STOKES**
- LENNOX PIZZA 5PM **GUY AND NICCI**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT JAMIE ASHFORTH BAND**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **ROHIN KNIGHT AND SHEM AITKEN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 3PM **MOOD SWING AND CHEVY BASS**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **OPEN MIC**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7PM **MAMBO DE MULLUM NO 4**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 3PM **OPEN MIC**

- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **STOCKADE**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 5.30PM **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 3PM **RAMJET**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 6PM **PAT & FAYE SHORTT**

MONDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **GUY KACHEL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARK USHER**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: BODHI ACTON & MITCHELL DORMER**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 12PM **TOMMY MEMPHIS + MIKE WINKWORTH**

TUESDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAMIEN COOPER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **AKOVA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: MITCHELL DORMER & JON SHORTER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **MANILOW MAGIC MEETS THE DIVINE MISS M**

WEDNESDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SARAH GRANT DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **SCREENING – NT LIVE: DR. STRANGELOVE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: JON SHORTER & MICK BUCKLEY**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **JAM AND CURRY OPEN MIC**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 5.30PM **SCREENING: 'ROOTS SO DEEP' AND Q&A**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY – FEAT DUSTY RICH**

It's Free! to post your gig in the Echo Gig Guide



It will appear in the paper, the online gig guide and on Bay FM
email gigs@echo.net.au with the details

PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY, BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY APRIL 24
TO WEDNESDAY APRIL 30

THUNDERBOLTS: COMING SOON

THE ACCOUNTANT: NOW SHOWING

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

- NEIL YOUNG: COASTAL (M) LAST SCREENING: Fri: 8:30PM
- NT LIVE: STANLEY KUBRICK'S DR. STRANGELOVE (C) NFI: Thurs, Sun: 6:00PM. Mon, Tues: 1:00PM
- PINK FLOYD AT POMPEII - MCMLXXII (PG): Thurs: 8:00PM. Sun: 4:00PM
- ROYAL BALLET: ROMEO AND JULIET (C) C: Sun: 1:00PM. Wed: 11:00AM
- STELIOS (M) NFI: Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:10PM
- THUNDERBOLTS* (PG) NFI SNEAK PREVIEW: Wed: 6:30PM
- TINA (MOTHER) (M) NFI: Fri, Sun: 3:45PM. Sat: 3:20PM
- WILD AT HEART (R) B: Mon: 6:00PM

FAMILY FILMS

- A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG): Daily: 11:00AM, 1:50PM, 3:00PM, 4:00PM, 5:10PM, 6:10PM
- DISNEY'S SNOW WHITE (PG): Daily: 11:10AM
- DOG MAN (G): Daily except Thurs: 10:45AM, 12:50PM, 1:30PM. Thurs: 10:45AM, 12:00PM, 1:30PM
- FLOW (G): Daily: 11:00AM
- ALL FILMS
- BLACK BAG (M): Thurs, Sun, Mon: 8:40PM. Fri: 6:20PM. Sat: 6:00PM. Tues: 4:00PM, 8:20PM. Wed: 8:20PM
- BRIDGET JONES: MAD ABOUT THE BOY (M): Daily: 10:45AM
- DEATH OF A UNICORN (M) NFI: Daily except Thurs: 8:30PM. Thurs: 3:45PM, 8:30PM
- DROP (M) NFI: Daily: 1:20PM

LOVE OF AN ICON: THE LEGEND OF CROCODILE DUNDEE (PG)

- Mon: 11:00AM. Tues: 6:20PM
- SINNERS (M) NFI: Daily except Fri, Sat: 1:00PM, 7:20PM. Fri: 1:00PM, 7:50PM. Sat: 1:00PM, 7:30PM
- SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE (M): Daily except Thurs, Sun: 3:30PM, 5:45PM. Thurs: 12:50PM, 3:30PM, 5:45PM. Sun: 6:00PM
- STARWARS: REVENGE OF THE SITH (20TH ANNIVERSARY) (M): Thurs: 11:00AM. Fri: 7:30PM. Sat: 7:45PM. Sun: 5:15PM
- THE ACCOUNTANT 2 (M) NFI: Daily except Sat: 2:15PM, 5:00PM, 7:45PM. Sat: 2:15PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM
- THE AMATEUR (M): Thurs: 10:45AM, 3:45PM, 8:15PM. Fri, Sat, Tues, Wed: 11:15AM, 3:45PM, 8:15PM. Sun: 11:15AM, 3:45PM, 8:30PM
- THE CORRESPONDENT (M): Thurs: 1:10PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM.

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (M)

- Daily except Thurs: 10:45AM, 3:50PM, 7:15PM. Thurs: 3:50PM, 7:15PM
- THE PENGUIN LESSONS (M): Thurs: 1:15PM, 5:45PM. Fri, Tues, Wed: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 5:45PM. Sat: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 5:45PM. Sun: 10:45AM, 1:15PM, 5:45PM
- UNTIL DAWN (M) NFI: Daily except Sun: 3:30PM, 6:15PM, 8:20PM. Sun: 3:45PM, 6:15PM, 8:20PM
- WARFARE (M) NFI: Thurs, Fri: 11:10AM, 1:20PM, 8:30PM. Sat: 10:45AM, 1:20PM, 8:30PM. Sun: 11:00AM, 3:40PM, 8:30PM. Mon: 1:20PM, 3:50PM, 8:30PM. Tues: 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 8:30PM. Wed: 2:00PM, 4:10PM, 8:30PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

- A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG): Daily except Wed: 10:30AM, 12:45PM, 3:00PM, 5:15PM, 7:30PM. Wed: 11:30AM, 1:45PM, 4:00PM, 7:30PM
- ASTREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (PG) MATINEE MEMORIES: Sat: 2:15PM
- DOG MAN (G): Daily: 10:00AM, 12:10PM
- DROP (M) NFI: Daily: 5:00PM
- THE ACCOUNTANT 2 (M) NFI: Daily except Sat: 2:15PM, 7:00PM. Sat: 12:30PM, 7:00PM
- THE AMATEUR (M): Daily except Sat: 12:30PM
- THE CORRESPONDENT (M): Daily except Sat: 10:00AM, 5:00PM. Sat: 10:00AM, 5:15PM
- THUNDERBOLTS* (C) SNEAK PREVIEW: Wed: 6:30PM
- WARFARE (M) NFI: Daily except Sat, Wed: 3:00PM, 7:30PM. Sat: 3:10PM, 7:45PM. Wed: 3:00PM

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

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

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

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LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

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Prepayment is required for all ads.

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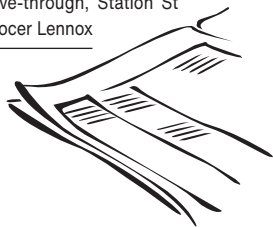
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If you live in Newrybar, Lennox Head or Ballina, but outside our current home delivery area, you can pick up an Echo from many locations, including: Newrybar Providore Newrybar; Richies IGA Ballina, Ballina RSL, One Stop Shop Ballina, Ballina Golf Club East Ballina, Brighton St Takeaway near the Shawsy, Seagrass Lennox, Lennox pub drive-through, Station St Grocer Lennox



PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF TWEED BYRON LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL EXTRA-ORDINARY LAND DEALING APPROVAL MEETING

DATE: Friday 9th May 2025

TIME: 12.00pm

VENUE: Minjungbal Museum & Cultural Centre, Tweed Heads South

Agenda:

1. Open Meeting & Acknowledgement
2. Apologies
3. Sale of Lot 198 in DP 1018939, being Lot 198 Hammond Drive, Clothiers Creek NSW 2484
4. Close Meeting

At this meeting, it is proposed the members will decide whether or not to approve of the land dealing, after being asked to consider the impact of the proposed land dealing on the cultural and heritage significance of the land to Aboriginal persons.

All enquiries should be directed to Tweed Byron LALC's office during business hours.

Authorised: Tweed Byron LALC Chairperson

Contact: 07 5536 1763

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The Liquid Waste Specialists!

- Septic tank cleaning
 - Grease trap servicing
 - Oily Liquids
 - Portable toilet hire
 - 24 hour service
- 6687 2880**

TREE SERVICES

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

HART TREE SERVICES

20 years local experience

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

Fully insured • Free quotes

0427 347 380

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

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

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas

6681 3140
Mobile 0417 698 227

TUITION

Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Tutor

- Photoshop
- Indesign
- Illustrator

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www.thinkblinkdesign.com

COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH



FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

EVERYONE WELCOME

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

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall



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



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.



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

Contact Sylvia - Volunteer Coordinator Mon-Fri 6684 1286

ROAD IMPACTS Byron Bay Triathlon Sunday 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



HEALTH

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

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Relax, Revive, Restore. Techniques in Swedish, Remedial, Sports, Deep Tissue, Relaxation, Full Body & ASMR or combination. 60 minutes from \$55. Mark 0448441194

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Contact Alex
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alexandra.biro@gmail.com

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ARCHIBALD'S CHEAP QUARRY PRODUCTS
Road base, gravel, blue metal and metal dust. ALL SIZE DELIVERIES.
Phone 66845517, 0418481617

WANTED

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

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

GARAGE SALES

ORCHID SALE
Sat Apr 26th. 8am-1pm. 38 Alison Ave, Lennox Head. 0416052876. Cash.
Most flowering size. Natives, Vanda, Paphs, Den, Oncid, Coel, Encyclia, Milrt, Eria, Brassia etc

MULLUM 23 Grevillea Ave, Fri and Sat from 8am. Quality vintage clothes, craft, treasures and plants.

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal
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CARAVANS
We buy, sell & consign.
All makes & models.
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SHORT TERM ACCOM.

MULLUM pref mat fem/cple, cat-lover to caretaker/rent f/f hse, solar h/water. 19/5 to 17/7, no kids/pets, n/s, Sgle \$250pw cple \$280pw plus bills, incl Wi-Fi. 0432623165

SHARE ACCOM.

MULLUM TALLOWWOOD rooms: lge \$300pw or med \$250pw for working quiet person or couple. Ph 0408547654

TO LET

COOPERS SHOOT new 1brdm modern cottage. Ensuite, double carport, aircon, sea views \$650pw Ph 0439871485

LOCAL REMOVAL

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

BALLINA SELF-STORAGE UNITS

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

TO LEASE

BYRON industrial warehouse upstairs studio, large floorspace. Clean, lots of light + balcony. \$575pw. Txt 0424906036

OFFICE SPACE CBD Mullum \$220pw Txt 0403663284. Not for residential tenancy.

BANGALOW CLINIC ROOM avail weekends \$80 per day. Furnished, aircon, internet, incl. outings Lea 0409178965

POSITIONS VACANT

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

EXPERIENCED GARDENER / groundsman to work on acreage. Perm / casual hours. Ph 0407180661

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

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED
Flexible work hours - perfect 2nd income
Email operations@byronbaytaxi.com

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

Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School
High School English Teacher
Temporary 7 Weeks (LSL Cover)
Advertised on back page, 40.
Position description and application process www.Capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

FREE RENT FOR PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Self motivated and discreet person or couple with experience in and love of property maintenance, organic gardening and/or regenerative landcare preferred. Would suit semi-retired. 14 hours per week plus daily pet care in exchange for private 1BR cabin in bush setting close to Brunswick Heads. Not suitable for pets or children as unfenced and high decks. No drugs, no smoking/vaping. Please send summary of experience to brunslandcare@gmail.com

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MUSICAL NOTES

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

LOST & FOUND

FOUND: green-rimmed glasses near New Brighton beach on Monday morning 21 April. Text only to 0434728375

ONLY ADULTS

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DEATH NOTICES

Maureen Patricia (Collins) Hodges "Maudie"



Loved and adored by her husband, Jim, her children, grandchildren, siblings, nieces, nephews and many friends. Maureen was a dedicated midwife and RN for 50 years, the last 20 in the Northern Rivers region. She cared for countless women with compassion, skill, and unwavering care. Her legacy lives on in the many lives she touched, the generations she helped bring into the world and those for whom she cared.

A devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunty and friend, Maureen will be remembered for her generosity, strength, and quiet wisdom, and for her particular sense of humour.

Maureen passed away at home cared for by her husband and surrounded by her children and grandchildren. In accordance with her wishes, she was farewelled in private with no funeral to be held. Her family invites those who knew and loved Maureen to honour her memory in their own way, suggesting a donation to Australian Breastfeeding Association in recognition of her lifelong commitment to the care of mothers and babies.

Her family would like to thank the many family members and dear friends that supported and loved them and Maureen during this difficult time. They would especially like to thank Dr Adam Chakos, Dr Kevin Fagan, the many wonderful staff at Lismore Liver Clinic and John Flynn Private Hospital and the Specialist Palliative Care Team.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF GODELIEVE MARIA MYERS

With heavy hearts, we share the passing of our beloved Godelieve, who left us peacefully on Easter Sunday - a holy day that felt so fitting. It's as though she chose this moment to let go, surrounded by love.

Side by side with David for over 50 years, cherished mother to Zac, Jake, and Tom, and adored Oma to Tahjen, Moses, Willa and Hunter. Godelieve was a surrogate Oma to many and a guiding light to all who knew her, spirited, and endlessly generous.

Stylish, colourful and iconic, Leify was a friend to many and devoted to her siblings. All were deeply fortunate to have had her in our lives. Her presence, her voice, and her unwavering love will live on in each of us.

An informal send-off will be held on the shores at Clarkes Beach, Byron Bay, Monday 28 April at 10am, with a memorial service to follow in Melbourne at a later date.

Though we grieve, we also celebrate the beauty of her life and the legacy she leaves behind.

Godelieve, you are in our hearts, now and always.
Nothing is absolute. Everything changes, everything moves, everything revolves, everything flies and goes away.
Frida Kahlo

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (April/May)	DAY/MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
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
1	TH	6:13 / 17:13	9:58 / 20:04	1051 1.18; 2332 1.85	0519 0.42; 1624 0.38
2	F	6:13 / 17:12	11:00 / 21:10	1150 1.09	0625 0.48; 1715 0.49
3	SA	6:14 / 17:11	11:52 / 22:16	0030 1.75; 1302 1.05	0731 0.53; 1819 0.59
4	SU	6:14 / 17:10	12:35 / 23:19	0133 1.64; 1425 1.06	0836 0.56; 1939 0.67
5	M	6:15 / 17:10	13:11 / 04:35	0239 1.56; 1540 1.13	0936 0.56; 2101 0.69
6	TU	6:16 / 17:09	13:42 / 0:18	0341 1.51; 1641 1.23	1026 0.53; 2213 0.68
7	W	6:16 / 17:08	14:10 / 1:15	0435 1.48; 1730 1.34	1107 0.50; 2313 0.64

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415	FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS
1st SUN Byron Bay	02 6685 6807	Each TUE New Brighton 0424 168 672
2nd SUN The Channon	02 6688 6433	Each TUE Organic Lismore
2nd SUN Chillingham	0428 793 141	Each WED Murwillumbah 7-11 0415 328 672
2nd SUN Coolangatta		Each WED Nimbin 3-6pm 0418 940 653
2nd SUN Tabulam		Each WED Newrybar Hall 4-7pm
3rd SAT Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370	Each THU Byron 8-11am 0414 595 169
3rd SAT Murwillumbah	0415 328 672	Each THU Lismore 2.30-6.30pm 0459 309 223
3rd SAT Salt Village Market, Casuarina		Each FRI Mullum 7-11am 0424 168 672
3rd SUN Federal	0433 002 757	Each FRI Evans Head 2.30-6.30 0428 291 068
3rd SUN Uki	0487 329 150	Each SAT Bangalow 8-11am 0414 595 169
3rd SUN Ballina	0422 094 338	Each SAT Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)
4th SAT Evans Head	0432 275 765	Each SAT Uki 8am-1pm 02 6679 5438
4th SAT Kyogle Bazaar kyoglebazaar.com.au		Each SAT Lismore 8.30-11am
4th SUN Bangalow	02 6687 1911	Each SAT Wadeville 8am-12pm
4th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764	Each SAT Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr
4th SUN Murwillumbah	0415 328 672	
4th SUN Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)		
5th SUN Nimbin	0475 135 764	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

ZENTHAI SHIATSU

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Step into a nurturing session to let go, restore balance, and reconnect with your body's natural flow (1hr, 1.5hr, or 2hr sessions available)

Contact Alex: 0421 921 538
alexandra.biro@gmail.com

The Apotheca: 110 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby

Also, check out our Sunday Community Events held twice a month, ideal for couples or friends to relax together: tinyurl.com/zenmullum

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 adcop@echo.net.au



www.echo.net.au/service-directory

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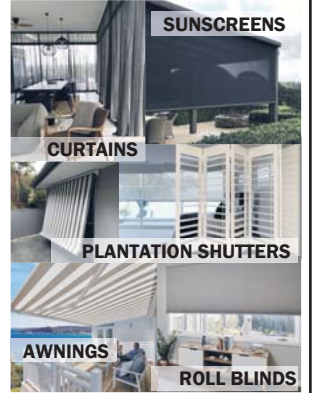
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Building Trades continued on next page

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Property Insider

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10 Kendall Street, Byron Bay | A superb beachside sanctuary of Hamptons-inspired design


The auction for this spectacular property is being held on Thursday, May 1 at 2.00pm onsite

A lifestyle paradise unlike anything else on the Byron Bay market, this impressive residence could just as easily be a Balinese villa or beachside resort in an exotic location. It's been perfectly customised for entertaining, with glamorous interiors and spectacular landscaped gardens with private swimming pool amid tropical surrounds. Currently operating as the 'Cove Collective' luxury short-term accommodation, consisting of five self-contained studios, along with a two-bedroom cottage, the property is an established business earning excellent annual returns. It sits in an expansive 1,012sqm corner allotment with dual frontage and R3 medium-density zoning, giving purchasers many future options for development or dream home potential (subject to council approval). Step outside onto the large alfresco deck and you can entertain in complete privacy and enjoy lovely outlooks over the pool, landscaped gardens and sun terrace. There's even a steam bath, sauna, and off-street parking for up to six cars. A peaceful sanctuary is the result, close to the heart of Byron Bay, with village cafes, restaurants and nightlife, as well as the golden sands of Belongil Beach within easy strolling distance from the front door.

- A truly unique sanctuary on a prime 1,012sqm corner allotment
- Spectacular 7-bedroom, 6-bathroom home of Hamptons-inspired design
- Currently operating as a successful short-term luxury accommodation
- An established business earning significant annual returns from day one
- Expansive decking, swimming pool, sauna, and landscaped tropical gardens
- Light and airy interiors feature versatile living and entertainment areas
- R3 medium-density zoning offering future development potential (STCA)
- Dual access, double carport and off-street parking for up to six cars
- Within footsteps to Belongil Beach, stroll to the heart of Byron Bay


For more information, please contact Brad Rogan, Sotheby's International Realty Byron Bay – 0420 529 112





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The current owners moved from Sydney 18 years ago to begin their dream of living on land near the coast with a river providing water for growing and livestock. They found their dream property on a gentle sloping hill with incredible views over a river, never to be built out – 20 mins from Crescent Head beach, on a tarmac road, 10 mins from town, an irrigation licence, and just 30 mins to an airport in Port Macquarie.

Between them they had the dream and the skills to develop the property into something very special and unique, building houses, cottages, sheds and the masterpiece, a beautiful home on the edge of the river. For 13 years they grew 7 tons of certified organic garlic a year on the farm with the help of woofers. All the hard work is done!

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.

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.
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- A large mature orchard all irrigated plus hundreds of ornamental and native trees planted.
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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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PRICE | Contact Agent
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2691M²

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PRICE | Contact Agent
OPEN | Wed 23rd April 12 - 12:30pm
Sat 26th April 10 - 10:30am



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27 ROSES ROAD, FEDERAL



Beautifully Updated 1920s Cottage in Sought-After Federal

3 beds 1 sofa 2 baths 1 car

963M²

- North aspect with abundant natural light, high ceilings and polished timber floorboards
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- The kitchen and living areas flow effortlessly onto a large covered deck
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PRICE | \$1.5M - \$1.65M
OPEN | Wed 23rd April 12:30 - 1pm
Sat 26th April 10:30 - 11am



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7 AZOLLA PLACE, SUFFOLK PARK



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3 beds 1 sofa 2 baths 1 car

528M²

- Located in a quiet cul-de-sac, just a short walk from Tallow Beach
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PRICE | \$1.79M - \$1.9M
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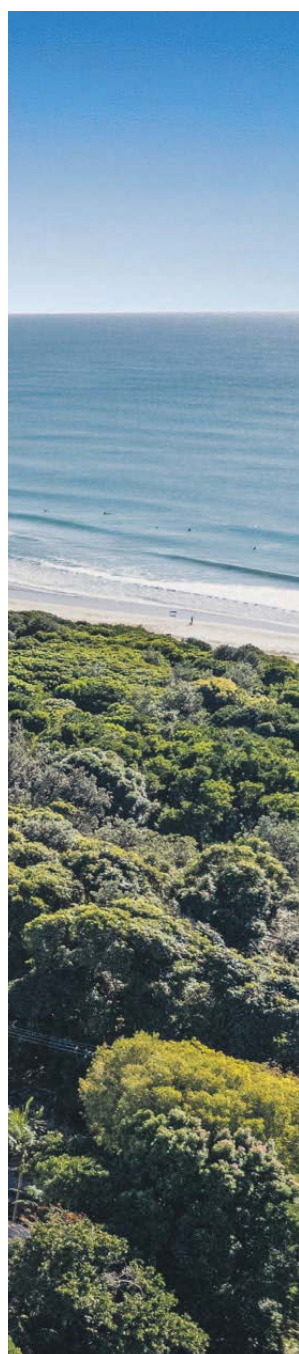


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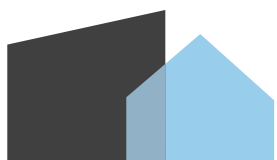
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- 1/51 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 14 Rush Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 845 Fernleigh Road, Brooklet. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 465 Uralba Road, Lynwood. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 135 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 1145 Friday Hut Road, Binna Burra. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 147 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 1.30-2pm

Mana Re

- 7 Kallaroo Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-11am
- 6 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 11-11.30am
- 38 Banool Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 14 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1/71 Orana Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 1-1.30pm

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick

- 3/16-18 Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.45am
- 10 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.45am
- 26 Phillip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.45pm

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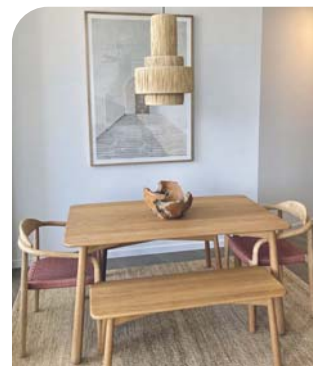


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Ray White Rural Bangalow

- 204 Eureka Road, Eureka. Sat 11-11.30am

Ruth Russell Realty

- 4/9-11 Mullumbimbi Street Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 41 Prince Street Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am
- 73 New City Road Mullumbimby. Sat 12.30-1.15 pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 13 Remnant Drive, Clunes. Sat 9.15-9.45am
- 480 Booyong Road, Nashua. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 831 Binna Burra Road, Federal. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 35 Riverside Drive, Mullumbimby. Sat 12.15-12.45pm
- 19 Marshall Street, Ballina. Sat 1.30-2pm

New listings

First National Byron Bay

- 496 Myocum Road, Myocum

Mana Re

- 1/71 Orana Road, Ocean Shores
- 14 North Head Road, New Brighton
- 6 North Head Road, New Brighton
- 7 Kallaroo Circuit, Ocean Shores

North Coast Lifestyle Properties Brunswick

- 1839 10 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach - Contact Agent
- 7b Hart Court, Ocean Shores- Contact Agent
- 4/19 Oceanside Place, Suffolk Park - Contact Agent
- 14 Park Street, Brunswick Heads - Contact Agent
- 4/9-11 Mullumbimbi Street, Brunswick Heads - \$1,175,000

Ray White Rural Bangalow

- 204 Eureka Road, Eureka



www.echo.net.au/ofi

Open for Inspection

Byron Bay Property Sales

- 162 Hulls Road, Crabbes Creek. Sat 10am

Dodds Real Estate

- 11 Campbell Street, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 4 Wattle Place, Bangalow. Sat 11.00-11.30am
- 2/28 Blackwood Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 25a Lismore Rd, Bangalow. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 29 Lismore Rd, Bangalow. Sat 12.30-1pm

First National Byron Bay

- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Wed 11-11.30am
- 17 Blue Horizon Drive, Lennox Head. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 135 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 27 Roses Road, Federal. Wed 12.30-1pm
- 22 Offshore Avenue, Skennars Head. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 637 Booyong Road, Booyong. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 5/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Thurs 12.15-12.45pm
- 14 Rush Court, Mullumbimby. Thurs 1-1.30pm
- 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 7 Azolla Place, Suffolk Park. Thurs 2.15-2.45pm
- 5/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/19 Marvell Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 11/31 Hayters Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 23 Prince Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 17 Blue Horizon Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 27 Roses Road, Federal. Sat 10.30-11am

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MULLUMBIMBY SHOWGROUND

While there are ten candidates for the May 3 election, the independents and minor parties have been quiet when it comes to media releases. Labor and the Greens are in overdrive. Come on, you lot of radical individuals who have the same platform, ideas, conspiracies, denials and values – where’s ya shared manifesto and policies? (Legalise Cannabis Party excepted).

■■■■■
In unrelated news, The US announces 13 billion per cent tariffs on China. No wait, it’s 73 quintillion per cent. Oh hang on, it’s now eleventy gabilion per cent. Or was it 29 brazilian per cent or 35 dodecagorillion per cent?

■■■■■
Has anyone in local Labor quietly mentioned to councillor Asren Pugh that there is an election on, and the optics around trying to squash the free speech of residents seeking better outcomes makes Byron Labor appear to the left of Genghis Khan? See page 2.

■■■■■
The Betoota Advocate’s summary of the Liberal Party campaign: ‘Dutton realises that running an election is much harder than crushing the hopes and dreams of Aboriginal elders’.

■■■■■
Vale Pope Francis, aka Jorge Bergoglio, who died on Monday. Devout Catholic and NSW Premier Chris Minns, paid homage to the pontiff in a media release: ‘As an archbishop, he would catch the bus around Buenos Aires. And as pope, he said no to the official limousine, and instead travelled across Rome in a blue Ford Focus’. Now that is a rags to rags surrounded in riches story.



Ella, Brendy and Jen are founders/organisers of Queer Ball Byron Bay, a LGBTQIA+ event to be held at Playground on May 3. Organisers say it is growing bigger than ever after six years. ‘The event is always jam-packed with live musicians, performers, and artists, making it a night of high-energy entertainment and bold self-expression’. Photo supplied

Reuters reports, ‘New Zealand government’s minority party introduces bill to define gender as biological’.

■■■■■
Greens candidate Mandy Nolan’s team described ‘Historic scenes at the polling station at Murwillumbah on the first day of pre-polling’, as local nurses dressed in scrubs, handed out how-to-vote leaflets for Mandy. Previously, they had done so for Labor. The office of Nationals candidate, Kimberly Hone, added, ‘The National party built the largest regional hospital in NSW, at Tweed Shire. That is our commitment to health’.

■■■■■
Comedian Larry David has taken aim at fellow comedian Bill Maher’s recent dinner with Trump. In a *New York Times* op-ed, David mocked Maher as if he was invited to dinner with Hitler in 1939. David concludes with: ‘Two hours later, the dinner was over, and the Führer escorted me to the door. “I must say,

mein Führer, I’m so thankful I came. Although we disagree on many issues, it doesn’t mean that we have to hate

each other.” And with that, I gave him a Nazi salute and walked out into the night’.

MEET THE FEDERAL ELECTION 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.

Entry free / by donation.

Registrations soon at byroncentre.com.au.



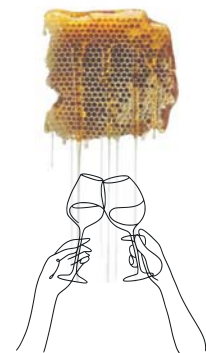
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