



Sustainability liftout feature in this issue!

Chaos as road upgrades roll out at The Saddle Road

Mullumbimby Road works now planned till October

Hans Lovejoy

With up to six months of major road works about to begin for the busy road from Uncle Toms to Mullumbimby, it emerged at last week's Council meeting that neighbouring The Saddle Road residents were not adequately informed of plans to temporarily divert around 5,000 vehicles per day past their homes.

There are approximately 13,000 vehicles movements on Mullumbimby Road every day.

Originally expected to take four months, Council's website now says the work will start in May and finish in October. Additionally, they will now, 'seal and maintain The Saddle Road to accommodate the increase in traffic' for temporary outbound Mullum traffic.

In emails provided to *The Echo*, residents were aghast at plans to widen the gravel on The Saddle Road ready for bitumen, along with the planned removal of large established trees that are close to the planned road expansion.

Developer advantage?

Questions have also been raised as to where the roadwork funds have been sourced from, and whether the roadwork provides an financial advantage to developers that are proposing large greenfield developments in the area. Such developments require infrastructure contributions such as road upgrades.

Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye told *The Echo* she is asking staff for a community information session, which will 'serve to inform

impacted residents about proposed infrastructure works and provide an opportunity for direct dialogue with Council staff.'

Additionally, the adopted cycle-way plans for Mullumbimby Road are not part of the upgrades, and a funding application for a roundabout at Uncle Toms has been rejected. Cr Ndiaye told the chamber at last week's meeting the roundabout is 'critical for The Saddle Road [urban housing project] to go ahead... It's a 'real setback to the whole process.'

The Saddle Road resident Kirsty Nugent addressed Council at Thursday's meeting, calling for a pause on works owing to a lack of consultation as there would be around 5,000 vehicles going past her home daily, whereas presently there are around 30.

Council's Infrastructure Director, Phil Holloway, told Ms Nugent via email that he agreed to temporarily pause the works.

Yet he said, 'low hanging or significantly encroaching vegetation' required removal, 'In order to facilitate the safe movement of heavy vehicles on The Saddle Road while the road is being used as an alternative access route as part of the Mullumbimby Road upgrade.'

She replied, 'trucks should never be directed down this road, which is not an arterial road and is still a rural, residential road'.

'We asked for traffic calming on our road, not paving or widening'.

Ms Nugent told Cr Ndiaye via email, 'This road has been identified

► Continued on page 2

Rain or shine, we remember



After 27 years in the Australian Army, Tex Saunders wasn't about to let a little Mullum rain ruin his parade or the flag raising. Tex worked as an electronics engineer, and reached the rank of Warrant Officer. He served in Afghanistan six times, as well as Iraq and East Timor. Tex now rides with the Veterans Australia Motorcycle Club. Photo Eve Jeffery

The following is part of a speech by Byron High School captains Max Hochgrebe and Daniela Berti-Carrab. They spoke at the Byron ANZAC service on April 25, 2025.

As we gather here today on ANZAC Day, we honour the courage, sacrifice, and dedication of all the soldiers of Australia and New Zealand who have served and currently serve in our military.

But although ANZAC Day brings to mind images like the battlefields of Gallipoli and trench warfare, we must not forget to also acknowledge the soldiers involved in peacekeeping operations around the world. This day is not just a remembrance of the past, but a

celebration of the enduring spirit of our servicemen and women who have committed themselves to the cause of creating and upholding global peace.

Since their military involvement in the Vietnam War in 1970, Australia has deployed over 65,000 military personnel to over 50 peacekeeping missions around the world.

These brave individuals have served in some of the world's most challenging environments, in places where conflict and instability threatened the lives of millions.

From the jungles of East Timor to the conflict zones in the Balkans, their role was not to fight, but to protect and rebuild, each mission a testament to our nation's commitment to upholding international

peace and security.

But peacekeeping is not only about the absence of war – it's about the presence of stability, dignity and hope.

Our service personnel engage with local communities – helping to rebuild infrastructure, support education, provide humanitarian aid, protect elections and train local forces.

And in doing so, they have carried forward the ANZAC spirit. These acts, though less visible than combat, are powerful demonstrations of compassion and service.

They show the world that the Australian spirit is not only defined by bravery in battle, but also by our willingness to lend a helping hand in times of need.

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Who's who in the political zoo? ► p4

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How much more of the two-party nonsense? ► p15

Treats for your mum ► p37

Fancy a show? We've got it covered in Seven ► p40

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Human cost of floods captured on film

From the production of *When the River Rose*. Photo Yellow Fox Productions

Paul Bibby

A locally-made film exploring the social impact of the 2022 floods in Lismore is being launched this week, with several local screenings taking place.

When the River Rose, directed by Catherine Barker and featuring Kate Stroud, follows five community members impacted by the disaster, three years after the event.

Ms Stroud, a local artist and flood survivor, speaks with each of the survivors, exploring the ongoing challenges of rebuilding and the lasting effects on their lives.

The film aims to shed

light on the social impact of the floods and to encourage proactive approaches to climate disaster mitigation by governments.

'For two months after the flood I was in Sydney,' Ms Barker said in a recent social media post.

'For two months I watched what was happening on television. The thing that got me was the lack of understanding of how extreme the situation was. For me I just felt that the human element had been taken out of it, the understanding of the social impacts.'

'That's been my primary focus in the film, to ensure

that it's not just about the main event, it's about the rebuild and the challenges people had and are still having.'

When the River Rose premiered at Lismore Regional Gallery on Tuesday night, and will also be screening on May 1 at the M-Arts precinct in Murwillumbah, before returning to Lismore for a third screening on May 8 at the Star Court Theatre.

The film will then be shown at festivals across the country, and the world, in the coming months.

For more information and to book tickets go to: <https://linktr.ee/whentheverose>.

Mullumbimby Road works now up to six months

► Continued from page 1 as one of the most ecologically diverse in the Shire, and is identified as a wildlife corridor for 14 endangered species. The ridge contains the single most significant Aboriginal heritage complex in the Byron Shire.'

'I note there is no email or phone number for Samuel Frumpui, the project manager on the unaddressed letter mail dropped to us.

'This is completely inconsistent with the consultation taking place for the Byron town centre drainage project, where they have been given up to a year's notice and the project manager is going door-to-door in consultation, seeking input, and emailing plans. Please act now to stop this environmental destruction and complete loss of amenity for residents.'

Resident Mathew O'Reilly told *The Echo*, 'Council has on repeated occasions publicly agreed that The Saddle Road would not be used as access for the new Saddle Road residential precinct. They have instead indicated the developer (Brandon Saul) would need to construct their own roads servicing the development.'

'The Saddle Road is the

oldest road in Byron Shire. It has stayed essentially the same for over 150 years since the local Arakwal Aboriginal people used it and then the earliest cedar loggers.

'Council appears to be using monies they received for flood and cyclone damage, along with drainage grants, to fund the vegetation removal, road-widening and sealing of The Saddle Road.

'There are parts of Byron Shire severely impacted by the 2022 and 2025 storms which desperately need road works and drainage works to be carried out. But instead, Council is using public money on a road which needs no storm repair or drainage works.

Zero consultation

'The implication is that Council is misspending public funds to benefit the private rezoning and development of residential lots along The Saddle Road and McAuleys Lane.

'There has been zero community consultation on the proposed work and some landowners and residents were only informed as recently as last week.

'Council staff have

asserted that no Review of Environmental Factors (REF) was required because the vegetation works are considered "emergency works". Locals can attest that no emergency works have been needed after Cyclone Alfred, as local residents all worked together to remove fallen trees and vegetation from the road directly after Cyclone Alfred.

'There is the appearance that Council is using the excuse of emergency works to justify not doing environmental assessments.

'This has allowed them to remove High Environmental Value (HEV) vegetation along The Saddle Road with no environmental assessments taking place. It is noticeable that Council has only removed native trees along The Saddle Road, and has not removed any camphor laurel or invasive tree species.

'Council has required local residents to prepare road safety audits for The Saddle Road when approving local DAs, but it does not appear Council has undertaken its own road safety audit when they intend to redirect up to 5,000 vehicles per day along The Saddle Road', added O'Reilly.



Photo: Daniel Parsons/DCCEEW

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A rare insight into emergency pod living

Hans Lovejoy

Further to the April 9 story on the eviction of a 74-year-old man from the Bayside Brunswick Heads emergency pods, *The Echo* has been told he has been allowed to return until the June 27 eviction deadline.

This comes as a great relief not only to Dirk Skelton*, but also the woman he cares for, who also resides at the pod village.

The Reconstruction Authority (RA) announced the closure of three pod villages across the region, including the Bayside pods, with Labor MP Janelle Saffin promising she would do everything she could to rehome those impacted.

Dirk, who is recovering from knee surgery and has other health issues, told *The Echo* he was forced to move to Ocean Shores emergency accommodation before the cyclone, and then Ballina emergency accommodation after the cyclone, despite telling RA he was a carer for a fellow pod resident, Trish Bowie.

Ms Bowie told *The Echo* she suffers depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and that the removal of Dirk was traumatic for her.

Both Dirk and Trish wanted the public to know that they felt let down by their local politicians, but were grateful that Dirk had been allowed back, albeit only for a few months.

Trish stated, 'I am also Dirk's carer through Carers' Gateway. I assist Dirk with physical things, that don't impact my OCD, when he is



Dirk Skelton. Photo Eve Jeffery

in extreme pain'.

All of the claims around the health issues of Dirk and Trish are supported in a letter by local GP, Dr Francisco Perello.

Dr Perello said he was concerned that 'Dirk was having to look for suitable accommodation with his current health condition'.

Additional letters from his physiotherapist and surgeon also confirmed Dirk's condition.

MPs ignore pleas

In an email to local MP Justine Elliot on March 17, Dirk asked to remain at the pods for two months, as he recently had left knee replacement and subsequent left hip complications.

He said, 'Also, I am not in a position financially, mentally or otherwise to actually move - and with nowhere to go!'

'I am also a carer for an acquaintance in the village who has a mental disability,

'OCD' which is an anxiety disorder, and depression, so is even more distressed than usual with me not being nearby.

'This has become a matter of urgency, particularly since the recent cyclone event'.

Dirk and Trish say there was no reply from the Labor MP Justine Elliot's office after their calls.

When asked, Mrs Elliot told *The Echo*, 'For privacy reasons, I don't disclose information about specific constituent enquiries to my office, but people know they can count on me to pass any such enquiries about the temporary housing in Bayside, Brunswick Heads directly to Minister Janelle Saffin and the Reconstruction Authority for their attention and response.'

'I understand the RA is working with Community Housing Providers to find more permanent, secure accommodation options for impacted pod village residents where the private landowners of the Bayside, Brunswick Heads property have not granted an extension for the temporary housing to continue on their land'.

Promised call-back

Dirk also says that Lismore Labor MP, Janelle Saffin, did not reply to his plea for help, despite

promises of a return call.

Ms Saffin's office told *The Echo* she could not comment on individual constituent matters for privacy reasons, but reassured *The Echo* that her team had made representations on behalf of all residents of the Bayside temporary housing village in Brunswick Heads who had reached out for assistance.

She said, 'We've offered people clear and consistent advocacy, escalating their issues on a case-by-case basis to the NSW Reconstruction Authority and Homes NSW who are working on plans to get everyone the stable, long-term housing that they need and deserve'.

Isolated let down

Trish added, 'We were hoping local MPs would do their job - instead we were forced to navigate this by ourselves. We were left feeling isolated and let down.'

'It's good that RA have the done right thing, yet the people here at the pods are still very worried for their future. Looking for rental properties is hard given there isn't much available.'

■ RA declined to comment on the matter when asked.

*Dirk Skelton was incorrectly named Dirk Bandist in the original April 9 story.

Assange's father speaks, May 2

John Shipton, the father of persecuted whistleblower Julian Assange, is back to speak in Mullum, on May 2.

Known for his passionate diplomacy for his son, organisers say he will bring, 'great news about Julian and the international campaign to have journalists free to express opinions other than the imperial narrative'.

Co-organiser Wayne Smith says 'John has travelled all over the world, meeting presidents and ministers from Mexico, India, Europe, USA, China and Australia.'

'John recently attended the BRICS summit in Kazan, Russia. The 'BRICS plus' nations are Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa,



Julian Assange's father, John Shipton.

who have been joined by Saudi Arabia, Iran, Indonesia, Egypt, UAE, and Ethiopia.

'John will also speak about the fate of Dan Duggan and David McBride, who are languishing in Australian gaols for questioning the war machine.'

Shipton will be speaking at the Byron Community College in Mullum from 4pm on Friday, May 2.

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A closer look at the ten people who think they can

Hans Lovejoy

As we head into the final week of the federal election campaign, let's take a closer look at the ten candidates seeking your vote for the House of Representatives (lower house).

The locally-elected MP is accountable to the federal Richmond electorate (Tweed, Byron and Ballina shires).

For the Senate vote, see *The Echo's* guide on page 12.

The following House of Reps candidates are numbered in the order you will see them on the ballot.



Greens: Mandy Nolan

Mandy Nolan is a comedian, author, artist and activist. For more visit mandy4richmond.com.

Her website says, 'I've lived, worked and raised

my kids in the Northern Rivers for three decades. I know what people are going through. If you're struggling to afford rising mortgages and rents, grocery prices or even seeing a doctor, you're not alone.'

'We've had the same MP for 20 years and things are tougher than ever. If we keep voting for the same major parties we can't expect anything to change.'



Labor MP: Justine Elliot

As a former Qld police officer, Mrs Elliot has been the local member since 2004.

For more info, visit www.justineelliott.com.au.

She says, 'I'm proud to be a local, fighting to get a fair share for our community from Canberra. As your local MP, I've delivered more than \$2 billion for local

roads, schools, services and community groups.'

'I'm also proud to be your strong voice in the Albanese Labor government, delivering cost-of-living relief, action on climate change, affordable housing, and so much more.'



Independent: Kevin Loughrey

Retired military veteran and business man, Kevin Loughrey, previously ran for the 2023 NSW election for the seat of Ballina (Byron and Tweed shires).

He gained 3,710 votes, or 7.8 per cent of the vote, which was the fourth-highest, after Greens, Labor and the Nationals.

While Loughrey is standing as an independent, he also says he is co-founder of Australians for Better Government (which is a

political movement, not a registered party). According to www.australiansforbetter.com, 'Kevin was a senior member of the National Party, but he has since joined the Libertarian Party'. The movement is headed by former Liberal and former NSW State Executive of One Nation, Steven Tripp.

Loughrey's website, www.kevinloughrey.com.au, contains lengthy essays around the government's mishandling of Covid and his arguments against the evidence around anthropogenic climate change.



One Nation: Ian Mye

Pauline Hanson's One Nation candidate is Bundjalung Indigenous man, Ian Mye. One Nation says Ian was born in Murwillumbah, grew up in Kingscliff and

is a truck driver. They say, 'He is passionate about our region becoming a centre for excellence in art, culture and sport as well as fostering community-based caring for country from an Indigenous point of view.'

According to www.onenation.org.au, their priorities are a Royal Commission into the management of the Covid-19 pandemic, pursuing 'a tax regime that ensures multinational businesses pay their fair share of tax, reducing immigration, and reforming family law and child support'.



Legalise Cannabis: Vivian McMahon

As a one issue party, Legalise Cannabis say, 'Cannabis should be treated in a similar way to alcohol and tobacco', and have a three stage plan to make it

legal. Its candidate, Vivian McMahon, 'worked at the HEMP Embassy in Nimbin for 18 years promoting cannabis law reform. Has also been an HIV/AIDS activist since 1985, and is a member of many HIV support groups'.

According to www.legalisecannabis.org.au, they advocate to 'protect and uphold civil liberties, privacy, human rights, personal freedoms, anti-discrimination/tolerance and compassion'



Trumpet of Patriots: Phillip Peterkin

If you like the policies of Donald J Trump, and would like similar policies in Australia, then Trumpet of Patriots is for you.

It's led and funded by mining billionaire Clive Palmer, who threw \$123 million at the last

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Community survey – have your say!

We're seeking feedback on Council's nine community halls in the Byron Shire.

If you've ever been to, hired or have a view on any of the following halls, we'd love to hear from you:

- Bangalow A&I Hall
- Bangalow Showgrounds – including Moller Pavilion and Scout Hall
- Brunswick Heads Memorial Hall
- Durrumbul Hall (Main Arm)
- Marvell Hall (Byron Bay)
- Mullumbimby Civic Memorial Hall
- Ocean Shores Community Centre
- South Golden Beach Hall
- Suffolk Park Community Hall

More information

Go to www.byron.nsw.gov.au/halls-survey and have your say.

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wrangle the deep state and represent your interests

► election under the now defunct United Australia Party.

Palmer's local candidate is Phillip Peterkin. His bio states: 'Growing up in the beautiful regions of Tyalgum and Uki, I have always felt deeply connected to our community.'

'My decision [to run] stems from a commitment to moving beyond the traditional Lib-Lab uni-party politics. I am convinced that we can achieve so much more, both economically and environmentally.'

For more visit www.trumpetofpatriots.org.



Nationals: Kimberly Hone

This is the second tilt at the federal seat for Kimberly Hone. As a Tweed councillor, she describes herself as

'a mother of three young daughters, a small business owner, and a committed volunteer.'

'My life has been about service – whether volunteering with the SES, supporting remote communities, or helping children with special needs through my work with the Department of Child Safety and the NDIS. Every role I've taken and every cause I've supported has been driven by my commitment to serving the community.'

The Nationals are campaigning on policies around low inflation (cutting wasteful spending), cheaper energy (more Australian gas, nuclear), affordable homes (investing in infrastructure, limiting migration, helping first home buyers), safer communities (tougher knife laws and higher bail in laws and deporting non-citizens who commit crimes), and better access to healthcare (Medicare guarantee, improved services across health sector).

For more info visit www.nationals.org.au.



Libertarian: Ian Willis

The Libertarian Party is headed by Craig Kelly, a former Liberal Party MP and former leader of Clive Palmer's United Australia Party (UAP).

The party's candidate is Ian Willis, and according to his bio, Willis was born outside Longreach in Western Qld.

'After several years working underground in WA mines, Ian travelled the world settling in the UK where he worked as a construction manager. As the President of the Queensland Strata Institute, Ian transformed it into an open, inclusive organisation, focused on ethics, and introduced a standard contract which clearly displayed all previously secret commissions.'

Ian is also a columnist with Rupert Murdoch's *Gold Coast Bulletin*, and 'has advised

the government on several occasions with the redrafting of strata legislation.'

After moving to Tweed, Willis is said to have transformed his home of 30 acres 'from a blank canvas into a verdant jungle'.

'In 2020, he was prohibited from crossing the Qld border to attend farmers' markets. Our freedoms were curtailed by our government. Thus, another freedom fighter was born.'

For more: www.lpnsw.org.au



Independent: James McKenzie

There is no online information available on James McKenzie's latest election campaign. He ran for the Tweed Council elections in 2024 and the NSW state election in 2023.

He told *The Echo* at the

time, 'I am running for the fourth time to expose that Wollumbin, Arakwal and Bundjalung National Parks are fake; that Bundjalung is a white man's fabrication, [and in] Yugambeh in QLD, there are two fake Nations in the one language group.'

'Aboriginal Affairs and Native title has utterly failed and the country is so stupid most are not aware.'

'Wollumbin was taken as the name of my family's peak and applied as a fake dual name to Mt Warning (Wulambiny Momoli).'



Gerard Rennick People First: Richard Curtin

Former Qld Liberal-National (LNP) senator Gerard Rennick, quit the party in 2024 after 'it become apparent that the Liberal

National Party was more interested in protecting the interests of the establishment than the people.'

Rennick now leads People First, and espouses libertarian policies, such as lower income tax, reduced immigration, streamlining the bureaucracy and reinstating the (Commonwealth) public bank and insurance office, as well establishing an infrastructure bank.

His party supports freedom of speech and supports 'coal, nuclear, gas and hydro'.

And do they like climate science? No – they say if elected, 'People First will remove all funding and references to climate change'.

People First candidate is Bogangar-based Richard Curtin, who was 'born and raised in the Irish republic into a working class family', according to his bio.

He says he has played and coached rugby union at first grade, and 'built a thriving and successful sub-contract business'.

More information at www.peoplefirstparty.au.

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- End unlimited mortgage & rent increases**, build public homes
- Put dental & mental health into Medicare**, make GP visits free
- End native forest logging**, protect the environment
- Tax billionaires & big corporations**, bring down the cost of living



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Meet the candidates – it's a wrap!

From left: James McKenzie, Mandy Nolan, Kimberly Hone's empty seat, Ian Willis, Michael Balderstone (representing Vivian McMahon), moderator Mia Armitage, timekeeper Aslan Shand, Richard Curtin, Ian Mye, Phillip Peterkin, Justine Elliot and Kevin Loughrey. Photo Eve Jeffery

Hans Lovejoy

Nine federal candidates for the May 2 election fronted up at the Byron Theatre on Monday night to make their pitch to voters.

Nationals candidate, Kimberley Hone, was unable to attend, owing to a family emergency.

Moderator Mia Armitage and timekeeper Aslan Shand (from BayFM and *Echo*, respectively) kept the candidates' replies within time limits.

Overall, there was, thankfully, minimal disruption from the audience, and candidates were given an opportunity to canvas their policies and answer questions put to them by the public, albeit in a very short time frame.

Independent James McKenzie, a farmer from Tweed, opened the evening with: 'You have all been lied to', and launched into his claims that Bundjalung is a white man's fabrication.

With five libertarian

candidates on stage, they repeated similar talking points around government incompetence, including Covid mismanagement, as well as a \$1.3trillion government debt. Immigration was also blamed for the cost-of-living and housing crises.

The science around climate was also challenged, yet both Greens candidate Mandy Nolan and Labor MP Justine Elliot reaffirmed their support of the science.

The candidates were asked how they would address reducing climate impacts such as flooding and fires.

Many agreed that the region's rivers and creeks are full of silt that, if cleared, would flow and drain quicker.

Incumbent MP Justine Elliot told the room there was a 'clear choice between Opposition leader Peter Dutton and us. We delivered tax cuts, energy rebates, free TAFE. We reduced HECS and boosted Medicare.'

Mandy Nolan said she

wanted to, 'break the entitlement of the two-party system, adding she wants to 'push Labor to act', and make corporations pay more tax.

Points of agreement

Points of some agreement included the banning of gambling ads, and political donations from gambling corporations. All candidates also seemed to agree that a bill of rights, or improving human rights, should be pursued at a federal level.

Michael Balderstone, representing Vivian McMahon from the Legalise Cannabis Party, made arguments throughout the night that many problems of the world could be solved by legalising cannabis.

■ The meet the candidates night was hosted by BayFM and *The Echo*. Thanks to the candidates for appearing, and a special thanks to Joanne Langton for helping to organise.

Alternative regulatory pathways for unauthorised dwellings

Paul Bibby

Byron Council is set to explore alternative, and more affordable ways for the owners of unauthorised dwellings to bring their homes into the mainstream planning system.

The move, passed by a bare majority of councillors at last week's meeting, is Council's latest attempt to resolve the complex conundrum presented by the thousands of unauthorised dwellings sprinkled across the Shire.

This problem has been highlighted by the furore over a multiple occupancy (MO) in Upper Main Arm, where the owners of unapproved dwellings are facing 'stop use' and 'demolition orders' from Council.

At last week's meeting, Greens Cr Elia Hague and Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye moved that Council should explore ways that the owners of unauthorised dwellings like these could be brought into the regulatory fold without facing prohibitively high development application costs.

Complex issue

The costs associated with regularising unapproved dwellings often make the process extremely difficult (if not impossible) for the owners of these dwellings, some of whom are long-term residents with very limited means whose houses were built half a century ago.

Among the alternative models that will be considered to either reduce or defer these costs are staged payment plans for development application (DA) fees, and no-interest loan programs or hardship provisions to assist vulnerable residents.

With the Greens' motion successfully passed,

councillors will consider these alternatives at a special workshop in June and then decide on what steps can feasibly be taken to address the issue.

Importantly for the owners of unauthorised dwellings who are currently in Council's sights, councillors also resolved to explore the possibility of suspending action on demolition orders in relation to unauthorised dwellings while a review of Council's enforcement policy is being undertaken.

Legal advice sought

However, councillors stopped short of actually introducing such a suspension. Instead they decided to request a quote for legal advice in relation to the legal feasibility of such a move.

Cr Hague told the meeting that Council needed to consider its policy on unauthorised dwellings in the context of the worsening housing crisis.

'When we're talking about evicting people and demolishing their homes, we need to bear in mind that we're doing that in the context of a really severe housing crisis, and the fact that options for finding safe, secure, appropriate, affordable housing in our Shire are incredibly limited,' Cr Hague said.

'I think it's important that we are approaching enforcement and compliance from a place of care and compassion.

'We need to address safety and environmental and public health risks, while doing everything to keep people in their homes, providing them with the resources to navigate what are really complex bureaucratic systems and really expensive processes.'

Cr Hague's motion passed by a bare majority of five votes to four, with independent councillor David Warth joining the four Greens councillors in the final vote.

Cr Dods, Pugh, Lyon, Swain against

Among those opposed was Deputy Mayor Jack Dods (independent), who said the issue was being used as a political football and should have been dealt with via internal meetings.

'We have to be honest and clear in understanding that there are going to be instances where there are unapproved, unauthorised, illegal developments and dwellings in this Shire that are not compliant,' Cr Dods said.

'And they need to be brought into compliance, and that's an expensive process unfortunately, but that's what happens when planning regulations and rules are not complied with.

'I appreciate that these sites are old and have long histories and are part of the counterculture movement.

Let staff deal with it, says Cr Dods

'But I think there are considerations here that are beyond the scope of what we can get out of this motion and really do need to be dealt with by compliance staff.'

But Cr Hague countered that the people in the Upper Main Arm MO, and others like them, were not able to bring their homes, which they had lived in for decades, in line with current requirements.

'I think we have a real responsibility to do everything we can to keep people in their homes,' Cr Hague said.



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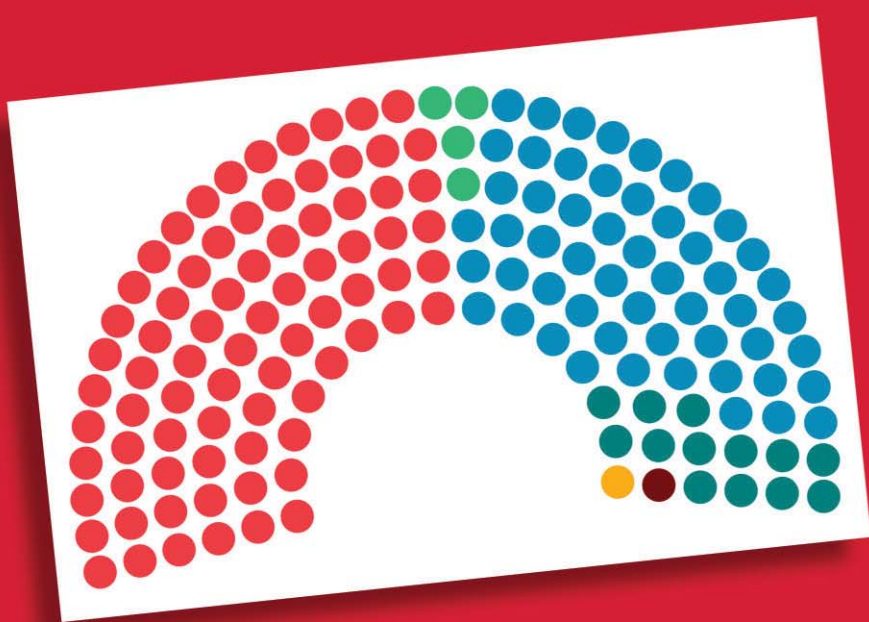
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Court conciliation for Sked v Council

Hans Lovejoy

Residents are standing firm against plans by developer Callum Sked, who is proposing 25 tightly packed homes at 30 Chinbible Street, Mullumbimby, near the town's showground and on low lying flood-prone land.

With accusations by Sked that Council failed to determine the DA(s) within the statutory timeframe, he has taken the matter to court.

Last Thursday saw conciliation onsite between Sked and Council, along with their lawyers, which is the first requirement of court proceedings.

Resident Kate Walsh told *The Echo* there were close to 70 people at Friday's conciliation. And while no councillors were present, former Cr Duncan Dey did attend.

In 2019, Sked proposed a similar, albeit smaller, high density DA on unstable, slip-prone land in Ocean Shores, and faced stiff opposition from residents. Despite taking Council to court over a 'deemed refusal' and winning, Sked has yet to develop anything on that site.



Residents next to a large 25 dwelling proposal say if approved by the courts, would increase flooding risks and impact on their ability to insure their homes. Photo Eve Jeffery



Developer Callum Sked

Court, Peter Walsh, met residents and heard from speakers who had concerns regarding flooding, the intensity of the development and that a softer, greener approach would be a better outcome for the site.

List of objections

A resident has engaged retired Council planning director, Ray Darney, to outline the objections. They include excessive bulk and scale, inadequate drainage solutions, a lack of open space and inadequate flood evacuation access.

Mr Darney told *The Echo*, 'The Commissioner of the Land and Environment

that give Mullum some of its country town feel'.

Mr Darney wrote in his objection, 'The style of development proposed is completely at odds

with the neighbouring housing estates, and particularly the courts concept... It is acknowledged that housing is imperative, and that dwelling density needs to increase, but this needs to be done in a sensitive and compatible way.'

Poor example for future growth

'The cookie-cutter design for 25 parallel houses is at odds with the neighbourhood. If this is the new vogue of housing required for Mullumbimby, it sets a poor example of style for the future growth of housing'.

Mr Darney asked Council

'Our new Council should be leading the way in future-proofing our communities against the increasing number of extreme weather events. This is not an incompatible goal with providing housing, and it needs to be done right'

– Resident Kate Walsh

to reject the DA when it was exhibited last year, and said the applicant needs to redesign the proposal, among other things, to ensure 'there is no fill on the site to mitigate future flooding and stormwater run-off, and to ensure that the internal road width for the proposed 25 houses is wide enough for vehicle parking and wide enough for emergency exit during a flood event'.

Resident Kate Walsh added, 'If there is even a one inch increase in flood-waters owing to this development, dozens of previously flood-free homes in west Mullumbimby will be inundated'.

Masterplan

The proposal also does not appear to accord with the town's Masterplan, which states, 'Housing will need to creatively seek opportunities for diversity to be delivered, but this will need to be balanced with the fine-grain, human-scale streetscapes

Mullum carpark housing units thrashed out in Council

Hans Lovejoy

Independent Cr David Warth was the key voter at last week's Council meeting, in favour of sending a letter to local Greens MP Tamara Smith, 'requesting that she withdraw her sponsorship of a petition to NSW Parliament by the Mullumbimby Residents Group (MRA) and instead support Council's efforts to build affordable housing'.

Labor Cr Asren Pugh has taken issue with residents who are asking Council look for a different location for 'affordable housing' than a busy Mullum carpark.

Yet MRA has consistently said it does not oppose affordable housing – the petition says alternative

options should be explored.

Additionally, they say there was a poor process surrounding the project, something that the former mayor, Cr Michael Lyon, seemed to accept at the meeting.

He conceded that there are legitimate concerns from neighbouring businesses and a 'Rising tide of people against', but said claims that 'it doesn't have broad support is wrong'.

During morning access, MRA's Vee Hunt and former Greens councillor Duncan Dey spoke, saying there was no consultation around the sale of the public land.

Vee referred to the Suffolk Park community, 'who demonstrated overwhelming negativity to the installation

of traffic lights... They provided evidenced-based arguments against Council's decision, which has now been overturned.'

After Hunt and Dey spoke, they were aggressively crossed-examined by Crs Pugh, Lyon and Dods. The pair were lectured by the three councillors around the lack of housing and were accused of not doing anything about it.

Meanwhile, the MRA have pointed to *NSW Local Government Act* section 47 around the requirement for various forms of community consultation.

Ms Hunt said, 'We're simply asking that these legal frameworks be respected'.

The Echo asked Council staff why they did not

provide the community with any consultation around the rezoning/sale of the 57 Station Street carpark.

They replied, 'While s47 applies to land classified as community land, the land situated at 57 Station Street is classified as operational land'.

During debate, Greens Cr Elia Hauge said it was, 'Obvious the community had not been taken on the journey.'

'And to quote Cr Lyon, "There are legitimate concerns". It's our job to address the concerns. MRA think it is out of Council's hands, and they have a right to go to their MP. A good MP will listen to their community.'

'To my knowledge Tamara Smith has never said she is opposed to the project'.



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All applications are required to be lodged by **23 May 2025**.

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

Safe place for car sleepers to be explored

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council could create a designated space for people sleeping in their cars in a bid to provide safety and some basic amenities for this part of the Shire's growing homeless community.

The option was raised by Greens Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, at last week's meeting, where councillors voted in favour of exploring options for emergency housing accommodation on Council-owned land.

Under the plan, staff will prepare a report setting out possible sites for emergency housing accommodation, along with 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.

Speaking in relation to the motion, Cr Ndiaye said the project might include creating a safe carpark so that those sleeping in their cars could do so with a greater degree of safety and access to basic amenities.

'It can be as simple as

having a place where people can park at night and there's security lights and a toilet and some services and everyone's got to be out by 8am,' Cr Ndiaye said.

The meeting heard that a similar idea was currently being trialled in Newcastle through the 'Car 2 Home' project.

Car 2 Home model

Car 2 Home involves a designated underground car park space that provides a safe place to park and sleep, and offers access to facilities like bathrooms, kitchens, and a laundry.

Support workers are also available to connect clients with other services.

'The need is critical and our own Council carpark has essentially come to be one of these spaces by itself anyway,' Cr Ndiaye said.

Previous Council plans went nowhere

Cr Ndiaye acknowledged that this was not the first time Council had explored ways to use its land for emergency accommodation.

'This issue has a long history,' she said.

'It went nowhere because every time it came up people said "yes, it's a great idea, we just don't want it anywhere near our house".'

'Since then, the situation has worsened, I would say quadrupled. It's a nightmare. We're all working really hard to get the delivery of social housing, public housing, key worker housing and so on.'

'But in the meantime, we are faced with a crisis that is clearly visible if you walk around this building or pretty much anywhere else in the Shire.'

In response to a question from Labor councillor Janet Swain, Council's Director of Sustainable Environment and Economy said Council had explored such options in the past.

'There's been numerous processes Council has done, both before me and during my time here, to look at land that we own, other lands through different processes... basically looking at what land in the right location has the right services and with the right zoning,' Ms Burt said.

'A lot of work has been done, so we're just pulling it all together and that will become part of a workshop.'

Supporting essential services

Marine Rescue Cape Byron are holding a 'May Day' fundraising throughout the month of May.

Cape Byron Unit Commander, Mike Goodwin, told *The Echo* that while they receive a bare minimum of government funding, they rely on donations from the public.

'As a NSW sponsored organisation, our primary aim across the state is mainly coastal, and to save lives on the water,' he said.

'Our vollies are at ground level, and we man stations from Point Danger to Eden.'

'Our local units also operate out of Bruns and Ballina.'

'Cape Byron is our radio station base, as the elevation gives us a phenomenal range.'

'We also work with surf clubs and other organisations.'



Volunteer James with Unit Commander, Michael Goodwin, Marine Rescue Byron Bay. Photo Eve Jeffery

Vollies welcome

Goodwin says rescues can range from a tinny out of fuel to a mayday situation - 'hence the play on words for the fundraiser', he says.

Vollies are always

welcome, he adds.

To get involved, visit www.capebyron.marinerescuensw.com.au, email capebyron@marinerescuensw.com.au or phone 6680 8417.

DV recovery program on offer

A free domestic violence recovery program for women is being provided at the Murwillumbah Community Centre on Thursday's from 10am till 12pm until May 29.

It is called 'Women Out of (his) control Workshops', which 'celebrates resilience and shifting trauma gently through creativity for any woman who has experienced abuse'.

All ages welcome. Social worker and coordinator, Dr Kate Costigan, is the contact for bookings, and she can be reached on 0400 000 968 or kcostiga@gmail.com.



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Authorised by A. Croft for The Greens NSW. 19a/1 Hordern Place Camperdown NSW 2050.

Echo

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

Time to restore the Tuckean Swamp?

Cr Kiri Dicker is bringing a motion to Ballina Council's meeting this week to do something about one of the key causes of the recent mass fish kills in the Richmond River.

Finding out about how to make a difference to the health of the Richmond River

The Richmond Riverkeeper baton has been handed on from Professor Amanda Reichelt-Brushett to OzFish's Zoe White and the new podcast *We Are The Riverkeepers* has been launched in the wake of the devastating fish kills.

What is the future of hemp in NSW?

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.

Where to for farming?

For an adventure into agriculture and an understanding of resilience, it is important to remember that farming isn't just a hobby.

Make friends and influence people with the CWA

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

Man charged after allegedly ramming police car during pursuit

A man has been charged with multiple break and enter offences after he allegedly rammed a police car during a pursuit near Kyogle this month.

www.echo.net.au

Free DV abuse recovery program in Murwillumbah

A series of workshops for women who have experienced domestic violence (DV) abuse are running from now until the end of May.

WOW, The 'Woman Out of (his) control Workshops' are about celebrating resilience and shifting trauma, gently, through creativity. All ages are welcome.

Fully funded (free to

participants) the workshops are happening at the Murwillumbah Community Centre in Nullum Street, each Thursday from 10am to 12 noon until 29 May. People are welcome to join at any time.

For bookings or further information, please contact facilitator Dr Kate Costigan on 0400 000 968 or via email: kcostiga@gmail.com.

Low-flying aircraft checking Ballina and Lismore flight paths

Ballina and Lismore residents may see an aircraft flying unusually low next week, as the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) carries out flight path safety checks.

'The checks are being conducted by CASA to validate amended instrument approach procedures at

Ballina Byron Gateway and Lismore Airports and ensure they operate safely,' said a CASA spokesperson.

The checks of the approach procedures will be carried out on Wednesday 30 April.

A Cessna Conquest twin engine turbo-prop will be used to carry out the safety checks.

Yacht rescued off Fingal Head at Cook Island



The boat ran aground off Fingal Head at Cook Island. Photo Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service

Two people in their 50s were rescued in the early hours of Tuesday, 22 April from a yacht that had run aground on Cook Island, off the coast of Fingal Head.

The NSW Water Police had attempted to rescue the male and female on board but were unsuccessful due to the rocks.

A Westpac Rescue Helicopter was tasked at around 3am to Cook Island, by which time the yacht was taking on water.

The helicopter was able to rescue both people. They were airlifted to an oval at Kingscliff to meet an awaiting ambulance, they were suffering from mild hypothermia.

Eight Lake Ainsworth beaches restored

Beach repairs and protection work have been completed at Lake Ainsworth at Lennox Head with 1,200 tonnes of imported sand.

The project shored-up eight beaches around the lake and retaining structures were installed to protect the foreshore from rising water levels during heavy rain.

The tannin-soaked, fresh-water lake in Lennox Head is a popular spot for a variety of recreational activities including swimming, kayaking, sailing, fishing, bushwalking, picnics, BBQs, dog walking and bird watching.

The project will also protect the health of the lake by reducing the amount of soil and runoff that flows into the water, which can contribute to algae growth and impact native vegetation.

The beach restoration project will improve access, safety, and amenities at Lake Ainsworth and the revitalised sandy banks will give families easy access to the water. Alternatively, they



1,200 tonnes of sand was imported for the eight beaches around Lake Ainsworth. Photo supplied

can admire the picturesque waterway from nearby grassy knolls installed as part of the project.

'The erosion mitigation work and beach nourishment plan will not only protect the beautiful lake but make it safer and easier for locals and visitors to access the foreshore,' Minister for Lands and Property, Steve Kamper said.

Lake Ainsworth also hosts a unique sensitive ecosystem that is home to over 100 species of birds, endangered

melaleuca forest and a diverse array of aquatic plants.

'The upgraded beaches, new retaining structures, and revegetation efforts will not only enhance the visitor experience but also safeguard this unique ecosystem. This vital project will help protect Lake Ainsworth and ensure it remains a favourite destination for locals and visitors alike,' said Ballina Shire Mayor Sharon Cadwallader.

New amenities block for Nimbin's Peace Park

Member for Lismore Janelle Saffin was joined by Lismore Mayor Steve Krieg and members of the former Nimbin Advisory Group (NAG) to officially open the newly constructed accessible amenities block at Peace Park in Nimbin.

The NSW government provided \$400,000 for the amenities block.

This new facility has been designed to meet the needs of a diverse range of users, and features an accessible toilet/changeroom with shower, and single toilet cubicle to service the skate park, playground, Nimbin Rainbow Walk and surrounding areas, as well as an accessible toilet/changeroom with shower to service Nimbin Pool users.



Lismore Mayor Cr Steve Krieg and Lismore MP Janelle Saffin shared the ribbon-cutting duties with Nimbin resident Sue Edmonds. Photo supplied.

Mural

Nimbin artist Julie De Lorenzo has been commissioned to create a mural artwork for the building.

Julie is currently working with the project team to finalise details prior to commencing soon.

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



Did you know **bowel cancer** is the second biggest cancer killer in Byron and Ballina?



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Do you know how to make your vote count?

Federal election, Saturday 3 May 2025

It's important that you understand how to vote correctly.

On election day you need to complete two ballot papers:

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- a large white one for the Senate.

On the green ballot paper you are voting for a representative of your local area or electorate in the House of Representatives.

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Don't worry if you make a mistake. Just ask for another ballot paper and start again.

Green ballot paper – number **every box** in the order of your choice

Sample ballot paper

White ballot paper – you can choose to vote either above or below the line

Sample ballot paper

EITHER

Vote above the line
Number **at least 6 boxes** for parties or groups, in the order of your choice.

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Number **at least 12 boxes** for individual candidates, in the order of your choice.

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Authorised by the Electoral Commissioner, 10 Mort Street, Canberra

The good, the bad, and the hmmm...

The Echo's Senate voting guide for the 2025 federal election

Ziggi Browning

The unwieldy Senate ballot paper can be a bit tricky to navigate with its many obscure political parties that may sound benign. The savvy voter knows that sinister agendas may lurk beneath the happy labels. Herewith is the information you need to shunt

the nasties all the way down the preferences order where they belong. Naturally we all have our own bias and ideas on what constitutes a good or bad offering in politics. This far-from-perfect guide is written from the point of view that environmental sustainability and social equity are of utmost importance. A healthy planet, a cohesive society that gives

the unfortunate a helping hand, separation of church and state, less of an extreme wealth divide – these things we think would be nice. So, if you're more of a 'let-it-rip' economic rationalist, or a 'don't tread on me' libertarian, then this might not be the guide for you. In this election there are six NSW Senate seats up for grabs. The likely

outcome in NSW which we had at the last two federal elections is there will be 3–3 left-right split with two Labor, one Greens, two Liberals and one Nationals. But it's possible that other minor parties may bump either the Greens or the Nats for the last spot. One Nation or Legalise Cannabis may be an outside chance of bumping the Nats.

So, if you want to vote like there's no Planet B, here's *The Echo's* Senate guide. Our hot tip is that you go further than the minimum of six groups when voting above the line, and number *all* the groups marked GOOD above all the ones marked BAD. The ones labelled HMMM are a bit hard to get a read on and fall somewhere in the middle.

A: Labor – GOOD (needs crossbench encouragement to do better)
The lesser of two evils, if you like your politics binary.
They say: A democratic socialist party with the objective of the democratic socialisation of industry, production, distribution and exchange, to the extent necessary to eliminate exploitation and other anti-social features in these fields.
Preferences: Greens, Legalise Cannabis, Lambie, Animal Justice, Fusion

B: Unnamed on ballot (Socialist Equality Party Australia) – HMMM
Trotskyists – long live the revolution!
They say: The Socialist Equality Party is the Australian section of the International Committee of the Fourth International, the World Party of Socialist Revolution founded by Leon Trotsky in 1938.
Preferences: Personal choice

C: Australia's Voice – HMMM
A new party formed by Fatima Payman after she left the ALP over their weak stance on the war in Gaza. Centrist and populist, some okay policies but light on detail.
They say: Here to fight for you, not the corporations, not the lobbyists, just everyday Australians who deserve better.
Prefs: Big parties last, then personal choice

D: FUSION | Planet Rescue | Whistleblower Protection | Innovation – GOOD
A conglomeration of niche progressive parties: Science Party, Pirate Party, Secular Party, Climate Emergency Action Alliance and Climate Change Justice Party.

Attempting to combine social equity and ethical conduct with a free-market and personal liberty.
They say: The Fusion Party strives for a free, fair, and innovative society for current and future generations, with meaningful work to meet the critical social and ecological challenges of our times. Fusion's approach is to empower communities and to foster deliberative democracy across our society.
Preferences: Minor progressive parties, liberty parties, Labor, Greens

E: Family First – BAD
Right-wing Christian nutters.
They say: Promoting family, life, faith, freedom, enterprise and subsidiarity.
Preferences: Far-right

F: Pauline Hanson's One Nation – BAD
'I don't like it.' Standing up for racist bigots since 1996.
They say: We defend our constitution and stand up against global agendas for the individual rights and fundamental freedoms of all Australians.
Preferences: Far-right

G: Animal Justice Party – GOOD
Vegans.
They say: Core values of kindness, equality, rationality and non-violence.
Preferences: not yet specified

H: Australian Christians – BAD
More far-right-wing Christian nutters.
Preferences: Far-right groups

I: Libertarian / HEART / Gerard Rennick People First – BAD
A mish-mash of libertarians, anti-vaxxers and right-wing economic rationalists. So far-right they've fallen off the traditional political scale into a hard-to-define new category.
They say: Patriotic Australians who share a common vision for our country, less taxes and more freedom.
Preferences: Family First, One Nation, Aus Christians, Trumpet, Coalition

J: Legalise Cannabis Party – GOOD
Harmless hippies who like pot.
They say: Advocates for law reform, personal freedom, and the many benefits of cannabis legalisation.
Preferences: Animal Justice, Fusion, Indig Aus, Sust Aus, Greens

K: Sustainable Australia Party – Universal Basic Income – HMMM
Blaming immigration for our problems. Policies are generally socially progressive and for environmental protection.
They say: An independent community movement with science and evidence-based policies – not left- or right-wing ideology.
Preferences: Personal preference

L: Indigenous – Aboriginal Party of Australia – GOOD
For an Indigenous voice IN Parliament.
Preferences: Not yet specified

M: Trumpet of Patriots – BAD
MAGA wannabes. Clive Palmer's strategy for keeping the mining industry poorly regulated and under-taxed.

They say: 'Enough is enough! We will drain the swamp!'
Preferences: Far-right, Libertarian, Lambie


N: Liberals/Nationals – BAD
Your everyday neoliberals, capitalists and corporate sycophants.
Preferences: Christians, One Nation, Libertarian, Lambie

O: Jacqui Lambie Network – HMMM
Jacqui Lambie's reelection campaign went national this year.
Preferences: Personal preference

P: Citizens Party – HMMM
Economic nationalists lacking social policies.
They say: Take back economic and national sovereignty!
Preferences: Personal preferences

Q: Socialist Alliance – GOOD
Let's topple the imperial capitalist elites comrades!
They say: Anti-capitalist, activist party with branches across Australia putting people and planet before profit.
Preferences: Greens, Indig Aus, Aus Voice, Legalise Cannabis, Animal Justice, Labor


R: The Greens – GREAT!
Ecological sustainability, grassroots participatory democracy, social justice, and peace and non-violence are excellent principles which guide their policies.
They say: By voting 1 Greens and putting Labor second, you can keep Dutton out and get Labor to act.
Preferences: Indig Aus, Animal Justice, Socialist Alliance, Legalise Cannabis, Labor




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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.
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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High School English Teacher
Temporary 7 Weeks (LSL Cover) -
2025 Monday 12th May - Friday 4th July

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Thank you

To the kind and thoughtful person who found, and handed my wallet in to Byron Police Station on Saturday evening, a huge and appreciative thank you.

Rosie Bookallil
Mullumbimby

NSW doctor shortage

Like many, I am horrified by the Dickensian and dangerous working hours for doctors in NSW public hospitals. ('Urgent prep underway as doctor strike looms', *Echo* April 7).

The new Tweed and Byron hospitals are a valuable asset for a fast-growing population across the region.

Bad budgeting by the NSW health minister has left us out in the cold, with a deficit of doctors! A shortage of doctors means longer wait times and life-threatening outcomes over the long winter months ahead.

Bring our new state-of-the-art hospitals up to a level playing field, meaning parity with other states; currently earning 30 per cent higher wages than NSW, and remedy the working conditions of doctors immediately.

NSW police fine truck drivers for unsafe hours on the road – doctors are expected to perform neurosurgery after ten hours on the job.

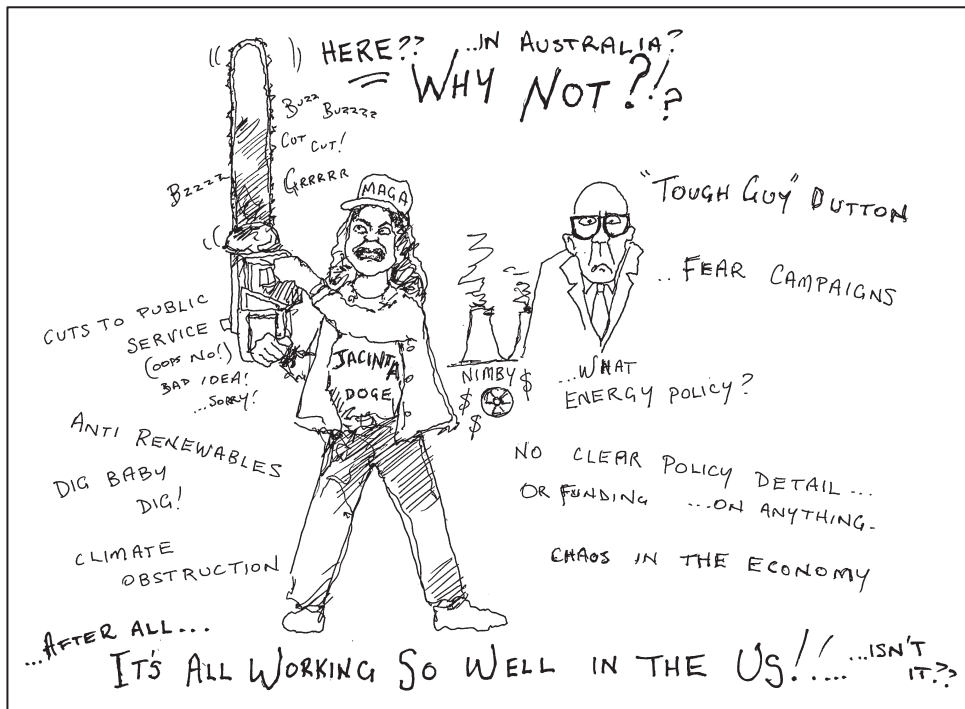
Minister Ryan Park, it's time to listen to our doctors, take the prescription now!

Hedda Whitfield
Pottsville

Council questions MRA rights

In the Byron Shire Council (BSC) meeting (April 24) the democratic rights of the resident group Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) were questioned.

Cr Pugh requested the



Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

MRA opposition to the proposed housing development on the CBD carpark at 57 Station Street be withdrawn. He went as far as to request for BSC to lobby state MP Tamara Smith to withdraw her support of the e-petition to the NSW Legislative Assembly she is sponsoring on behalf of MRA.

During the meeting Cr Dods posed the question regarding the alternative site at 70 Station Street (BSC carpark) put forward by MRA. He asked 'would MRA be comfortable in delaying the affordable housing project another five years if a new site was accepted over the one supported by Council?'

He claimed the planning that has taken place for 57 Station Street has been extensive and would have to be repeated for a new site. My response to this is that MRA would not be responsible for 'wasting another five years'. It is Council that would have wasted so much time by supporting a site that is so

problematic, and having so many seemingly insurmountable issues.

I will be astonished if the DA for 57 Station Street is approved. And, yes, MRA would accept a further delay if the final housing development ends up providing more genuinely affordable housing in a way that is acceptable to residents, planning regulations, and with minimum disruption to our town.

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

Steve Bellerby
Mullumbimby

MOs

Thank you, Ray Darney, for your clarity in looking at this matter. We are fortunate in this local government area to be allowed to have rural land-sharing communities under certain conditions so that we can live in nature in this beautiful natural environment.

Byron Council's 1998 Rural Settlement Strategy set up

the basis for environmentally responsible closer settlement in our rural areas. To expect older intentional communities to retrofit to the 1998 guidelines is difficult, however access, building structure, and effluent disposal are baseline considerations.

The conflict that Council has in assessing this is that if they approve dwellings for occupancy then Council takes on liability. This, in my opinion, is based on insurance and the perceived idea that everyone needs insurance. Potentially, for various reasons, people don't want to take out insurance.

More recently meeting Council conditions of consent for rural land-sharing communities has become a sticking point. Council conditions of consent for the overall MO community must be satisfied prior to getting development approval for individual dwellings. To date this process has been cumbersome and

► **Continued on next page**

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Is an entertainment precinct what Byron really needs?

■ The Byron Central Hospital (BCH) branch of the New South Wales Nurses & Midwives Association (NSWNMA) has members who have had the unfortunate experience of working on night duty for many New Year's Eve 'celebrations' that put the original Byron District Hospital (BDH) nursing staff, the present BCH, and the town in general, under great stress.

We wonder at the decision of a Byron special entertainment precinct (SEP) and have some questions, particularly to the Byron Shire Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye.

Sarah has made many comments regarding the positive nature of the SEP. The branch would like to know whether if she and the Byron Shire councillors considered:

1. The infrastructure impost, particularly for the staff at Byron Central Hospital and other public services like police and ambulance
2. Analysing the history of the New Year's Eve debacles of the past and the reasons reform was sought.

The *Echo* (April 23, 2025) mentions the 2013 NYE as a low point and the reforms required to address the obvious problems. Given the fact the consumption of alcohol is a key factor of the SEP, has the Byron Shire Council sought guarantees from the NSW government to increase staffing for BCH, police, and ambulance during the trial period?

It is concerning that our Mayor Ndiaye believes increasing the availability of alcohol, and the possible increase of alcohol consumption associated with this SEP to be 'the essence of Byron'.

Really, Sarah? History tells us that increased availability of alcohol has led, in the past, to an increased need for health-related assistance.

Historically, BCH NSWNMA branch has had to fight tooth and nail every year for increased staffing during the 'schoolies' and holiday periods as visitor numbers have never been included when funding is allocated to the hospital. If this SEP is to be all year round, it is imperative that these factors be considered, particularly in light of the present NSW Labor government's attitude to safe staffing of these public services.

We look forward to the public consultation on this ill-advised idea.

Elizabeth McCall and Cherie Mincham
BCH NSWNMA branch

■ Byron Bay families and their local emergency services, should be sceptical of the spruiked virtues of new 'vibrant' 24-hour, night-time precincts (*SMH* 19/4/25).

These precincts entail increasing late-night trading hours of licensed premises (despite their compliance records) and other exemptions, heavily weighted in favour of the powerful alcohol lobby.

In 2022, a government-appointed committee chaired by Mark Latham MLC, trialled the removal of Newcastle's modest life-saving alcohol harm reduction conditions.

The trial's outcomes of reported increases in profits were lauded by the NSW government and industry. However, less well publicised were the earlier stern

warnings from senior public health officials and police, and the subsequent 60 per cent increase in violence and the 100 per cent increase in drink driving offences arising from the Latham trial (<https://tinyurl.com/t4cm7vj9>).

Newcastle after midnight on Wednesdays and weekend nights is returning to a more dangerous, excessively noisy, lawless, and drunken place. Local residents are effectively locked out from any genuine say on matters likely to adversely impact on the safety and liveability of their neighbourhoods.

I recall the Byron community has been remarkably knowledgeable and resilient to protect its folks from alcohol-related harms and the misuse of power. I had the opportunity to assist the Byron community in 2013 and I trust the good, peaceful citizens of Byron aren't mesmerised and misled by the same 'vibrancy' tune.

Tony Brown
Newcastle

■ I was both dismayed and angered to see the recent pronouncement by the so-called Minister for the Night Time Economy (que?) regarding the state government's edict to make Byron Bay a 'trial' for further extending the late-night opening of venues and legalising the continuation of amplified noise well into the early hours.

As if it weren't bad enough already. And the enthusiastic spruiking of it all by the current mayor further grated.

All this guff about the area's brilliant artists needing an outlet and the need for the town to be seen as some

sort of 'vibrant' centre to gratify the desires of international and local visitors, is so much obfuscation and dissembling of the real matter. It is money. It is a stated admission by the Council's leader that they are going to look after the commercial interests and, tacitly, to appease the liquor lobby.

The noise factor at night has been growing steadily worse; and venues have been granted later licensing hours. The current situation is quite bad enough without making it worse; and when these developments are concluded, doubtless they will contribute their additions.

The recent article in the *SMH* (April 19) about this prospective change in Byron Bay, which seemed to me to be suspiciously like a promotion rather than a news item, spoke of the 'whingers and whiners'. That is, those who have the temerity to object to this assault of amplified noise. I can guarantee that most who talk (insultingly) of those who complain are unaffected by such noise. Most who make these decisions don't live here.

The state government seem to have cash to splash out to help commercial interests that don't need it. But they are oddly missing in action when it comes to helping the homeless and the local flood victims.

I first heard the expression, 'The dollar talks and the bullshit walks' in America years ago from a disgruntled resident who was looking to leave. He asked me about Australia. I assured him that we had the virus here also.

David Morris
Byron Bay

▶ Continued from page 13 allows Council to say there is a measure of failure in setting up rural land-sharing communities, thereby voiding the allowance of further investigations into rural closer settlement.

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

Boyd Warren
Main Arm

Bangalow DA

I believed the Byron councillors worked for the people they represent, how foolish of me. If Council wants to 'heritage list' any properties they should buy them from the owners.

All of the homes within the Bangalow Heritage Conservation Area are worthless,

nobody buys a heritage-listed house, why would you when some folk seem to believe it is their duty to do something that will fuck up other people's lives. The arrogance of the heritage-listing system is head spinning.

A Hunter
Bangalow

Trump Mark 2

People all over the world are trying to come to terms with, and make sense of, what was 'politics, and business as usual,' since the election of Trump. It's easy to tune out and disengage from the reality, but underscoring all the chaos, and uncertainty is a world in crisis on many fronts.

This is not the time to retreat and despair, quite the contrary. It is incumbent

on all conscious people to recognise their humanity and rise up collectively in concerted action, whatever their persuasion.

Trump is presiding again over the narcissistic mantra 'Make Amerika Great Again,' a harking back to inward-looking and regressive politics, where economic nationalism and right-wing populism are being thrust on the world with disastrous consequences.

Identifying the underlying causes is critical, and key for understanding of why humanity is in this parlous state.

Instead of reverting to parochial nativism and nonsensical slogans, we must critically analyse the motivations that drive this ugliness and construct an inclusive alternative 'from

below,' where people and the environment are central for our collective future survival.

The people who are pushing these agendas are not your average person, but people who occupy and wield real power and political influence for their own self-interest – the super-rich oligarchs. Australia has its own home-grown oligarch issue, especially the relationship between the Australian Liberal/National parties and Australia's richest woman, amongst many others.

Do we want a continuation of the same, an accountable political system that serves the majority, or one that serves just the select powerful few?

Boyd Kellner
Newrybar

How much more of the two-party nonsense? There is an alternative!

Dr Klaas Woldring

Climate change is real. One only has to consider the serious floods in Northern NSW and Queensland to realise that. Increasingly, voters realise that maintaining the image of yesteryear as representatives of two economic classes in society is merely reflecting the past.

Important additional aspects of the political reality are the rights and political competence of women and, of course, the environment movement, formerly hardly directly represented. The result is a much greater complexity to be expressed in democratic practice and major party platforms.

Evolution

A tendency to dream up hardly achievable energy projects, primarily to present stark alternatives colours this situation. Just how democracy fares within an electoral system that perhaps suited former economic class systems is a vexed question. The 'evolve' theory has reached its limits quite some years ago in Australia. The notion that the country has

a thriving liberal democracy, recently still claimed by several academics and also by the *Strengthening Democracy Report* (2024), is not supported by the reality.

Several other academics and journalists have earlier suggested political system alternatives, even before the sacking of Gough Whitlam in 1975, now half a century ago, without practical results.

The reality is that the political system basically has not changed much at all since WWII and is now no longer fit for purpose. That also applies to the Constitution. The Republic Referendum failure, the Voice Referendum failure, often the federal system and the electoral system for all lower houses of Parliament in particular are evidence of stagnation. If the ALP scores a small win in the 2025 federal election, they should look for a bold leader, preferably a woman with environmental credentials. The Greens have proportional representation in their platform. Why are they not campaigning for that policy?

The federal home affairs minister aimed to present a positive *Strengthening*

Democracy Report pointing out in several ways that Australia's record in promoting and maintaining democracy has been among 'the best in the world'. However, there is also a serious underlying concern 'that all is not well'. That actually seems to be the very rationale for that report altogether.

Questions remain

But it falls seriously short of explanations why all is not well and what solutions may be found to fix the mounting problems. Certainly, the growing decline in the vote for the major parties in the last five or six federal elections presents evidence galore. However, the difficulty of new political actors fairly gaining ground in the existing system is not discussed. In particular the lack of female representation in the Liberal Party and the serious electoral discrimination against the Greens are missing.

The proportion of the public who consider democracy important in Australia is said to be over 80 per cent. Also, the need for much better civics education is stressed

without an assessment of the consequences in the last 50 years. Earlier, a very extensive 2003/4 government report about the Republic Referendum failure already made that very clear. However, the decline continued. Obviously civics education need to be expanded and highly rewarded.

Change needed

What is missing in the democracy report is a discussion of what exactly could be or should be improved, and how. Presumably this is left to the political parties, political academics, and writers. The declining status of the major parties, reflected in their low percentage of the vote and the growth of Independents and minor parties, suggests that the need for major change is urgent indeed.

The need for bold action really is now, and far beyond further debate. The recent publication of *Evolving of Democracy* (2024), the title of a series of several articles, still suggests a preference for gradual democratic improvement. How realistic is that really? If anything, evolution has been blocked since

1975 and that has much to do with the principal electoral system, based on single member districts. Strangely, the role of the Senate is not discussed at all.

Reflects voters

However, the ALP actually changed the electoral system of the Senate by introducing a system of proportional representation in 1948. This was a major improvement in terms of democratic government for years to come, supported actually by both major parties. Prime ministers of both the conservative Coalition and the ALP at times have complained about this but the reality is that it forced the major party in government to present legislation that would be sufficiently acceptable to the much more representative Senate. In short it actually saved Australia from the worst effects of the two-party system.

Prior to 1948 the 'first past the post' and the group preference systems used for electing senators meant that all Senate seats in any state could be won by candidates of the same party. The *Commonwealth Electoral Act of 1948* provided

for the adoption of a system of vote-counting known as proportional representation.

The result has been that the membership of the Senate is now a truer reflection of the voters' support for the different political parties.

Dr HV Evatt said that, 'the fairest system and the one most likely to enhance the status of the Senate is that of proportional representation.' (*Commonwealth Parliamentary Debates*, 16 April 1948, page 965).

Proportional representation has enabled small parties and independents to gain representation in the Senate, providing a place in the federal parliament for a wider expression of community viewpoints.

The ALP has claimed that its election system should be fair. It may have a grand opportunity to demonstrate that by appointing a Committee of Inquiry to consider electoral system change. Meanwhile, the Greens' policy of proportional representation should be the winner in this election.

■ Dr Klaas Woldring is a retired A/Prof of Southern Cross University.

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Byron Tri contested in strong rips and... sunshine!



Crew from last weekend's Byron Bay Triathlon. Photo supplied

Deborah Fuller

What a weekend it's been in Byron Bay!

With a week of torrential downpours leading up to Saturday, we were all gearing up for swimming in choppy waters, cycling while squinting through rain goggles, and possibly running through a series of puddles that could rival Lake Ainsworth!

It did make me question why we pushed so hard for the event to move from May to April - hmm!

But, as they say, 'The sun always shines on triathletes!' Some of us woke up very early to greet the competitors in transition with bleary eyes and more caffeine than is probably considered healthy, only to find that the skies had cleared.

Actual sunshine

Yes, folks, it was actually sunny! Someone must have pulled a favour from the weather Gods because we

went from 'potential disaster' to 'Instagram paradise' in record time.

The swim course went through more changes than a contestant on a reality dating show, all thanks to the moods of the tides and currents.

Disappearing buoy

We couldn't help but feel a tad nervous - after all, we were just one strong wave away from being swept down the beach like beach towels on a breezy day, desperately paddling in a mad race to reach the buoy and watching it disappear into the distance.

However, the swim starter imparted some fantastic advice on how to tackle the challenge of reaching that elusive buoy, and we were off.

A massive thanks to our fantastic volunteers who worked tirelessly on Saturday afternoon/evening and Sunday: Abbey, Andy, Ashleigh, Becky, Benz, Claudia, Ian, John, Kaye, Kylie, Larissa, Margaret, Marco,

Tasha, and Will. You guys deserve gold medals just for this.

The atmosphere at the event was fantastic. Competitors of all ages and skill levels gathered to push their limits, cheer each other on, and celebrate the spirit of triathlons.

And lastly, a big thank you to Christie and Richard for hosting our club after-party at their beautiful property. It was a brilliant finish to a successful and triumphant day.

Qualifying event

This year's triathlon was a special one, as it hosted the NSW Sprint Championships, and served as a World Qualifying Event for the standard distance.

Jaime Cascajares was first overall for the 750m swim, 20km cycle and 5km run.

For full results, visit www.byrontribl.com/post/from-rain-to-glory.

■ Deborah Fuller is from the Byron Bay Triathlon.

Preferential voting – an explainer

In Australian elections, we use a preferential voting system where voters rank candidates on ballot papers in order of their preference.

If your preferred candidate doesn't get enough votes to win, your vote will go to your next preferred candidate.

100 per cent control

This system gives you 100 per cent control over where your vote goes, and if done correctly, ensures your vote is not wasted even when your first choice is not successful.

In the upcoming federal election, you will be given two ballot forms to complete.

One is a smaller green form used to elect a candidate as a Member of Parliament (MP) to represent your local area in the House of Representatives.

This vote not only selects your MP, but also goes towards electing the Prime Minister (PM).

Majority v minority

In Australia, we don't vote directly for who we want as the PM. There are 150 seats in the House of Representatives, and the PM is elected when a party gets more than 50 per cent of the seats in the House of Representatives.

This is called a majority government.

If a party can't quite get 50 per cent of the seats they may rely on support from other parties or crossbench MPs to form government.

This is called a minority government and happened in 2010, when Labor had to share power with Greens

and independent MPs to get enough seats.

The second ballot is a large white form used to elect members to represent your state in the Senate. There are 76 members in the Senate made up of 12 members from each state and two for each territory.

On the green ballot you must number every single candidate in your desired order from your most favourite to your least favourite.

Number '1' being your most favourite. On the white ballot, you must choose between one of two options. You must either number at least six candidates above the line, or at least 12 candidates below the line, in sequential order of preference.

It is essential you fill each form out correctly or it will be ruled informal, i.e. not be counted at all.

For a candidate to be elected in a preferential voting system, they must gain support from more than half of the voters.

All the '1' votes are counted for each candidate and if they get more than 50 per cent of these first preference votes they are immediately elected.

If no candidate gets more than 50 per cent of the votes in the first count, the candidate with the fewest votes is excluded from the

count. If the candidate you voted '1' for is excluded then the candidate you numbered '2' will be given your vote.

This process continues in rounds until one candidate has more than half the total votes and is declared elected.

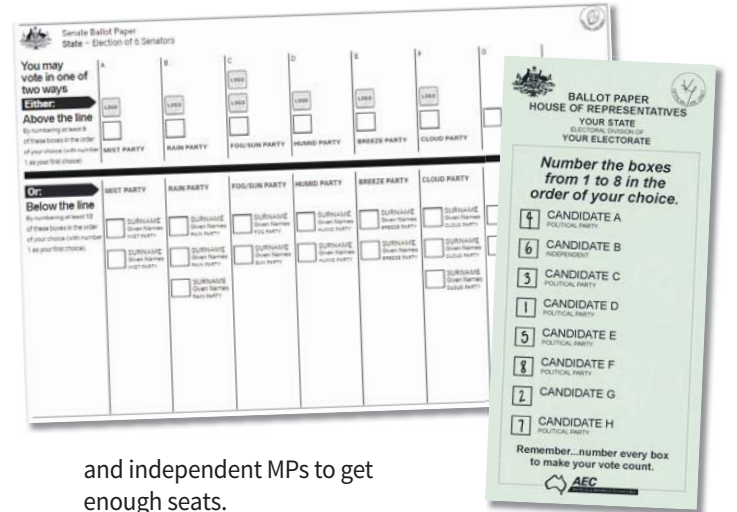
This preferential system allows you to place a smaller party or independent candidate first, and never risk your vote being wasted.

Putting a smaller party or independent as number 1 sends a message to politicians about what policies or issues are of priority to you, and may encourage the major parties to change their own policies to reflect that.

The 'How to Vote' cards handed out at polling booths are simply a recommendation of how a candidate would most benefit from your preferencing your vote.

A candidate or party do not have control over your preferencing, and cannot redirect your vote to someone else. You have 100 per cent control of who you choose, and in what order.

Voting is a powerful opportunity to let our politician know what matters most to you and remember with preferential voting there is no such thing as a wasted vote!



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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 'Top 20 Drinks of the Year 2024' in the Australian Financial Review wine awards.

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 on Saturdays at Newrybar Hall from 10am to 4pm, on May 10, 24 and 31.

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



Northern Rivers Food Harvest Festival opens with celebrity chef Katie White

Katie White will attend the Mullum Farmers Market on Friday, May 2, as the Harvest Festival gets underway

Beloved SBS chef and cookbook author Katie White has returned to the Northern Rivers—and she's kicking off this year's Northern Rivers Food Harvest Festival with flavour and flair. On Friday, May 2, Katie will be at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market, running her own stall and showcasing recipes from her latest cookbook, *The Seasonal Vegan*.

Katie's food is a celebration of seasonal produce, shaped by her time abroad and the influence of her French partner. While best known for her plant-based creations, she'll be serving up a range of vibrant vegetarian dishes at the market, offering something fresh and delicious for everyone. Signed copies of her cookbook will also be available on the day.

Raised on a farm in rural Australia, Katie's culinary passion began in a childhood mud kitchen. Since then, she's become one of the first to complete Le Cordon Bleu's Plant-Based Culinary Arts diploma, opened a cooking school in the Byron Bay hinterland, and earned national acclaim for her joyful, nourishing approach to food.

Katie will also be leading a series of hands-on cooking classes at the Harvest Hub at the Moller Pavilion (Bangalow Showgrounds) on Saturday, May 3, from 11am to 4pm. For private group bookings or future classes, you can contact her directly at katie@bykatie.com.au.

Now in its ninth year, the Northern Rivers Food Harvest Festival is a month-long celebration of the



Celebrity chef Katie White is not to be trifled with. The author of cookbook *The Seasonal Vegan* will be at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market for the opening of the Northern Rivers Food Harvest Festival this Friday, May 2.

region's food, producers, and community. Visitors can enjoy farm tours, tastings, meet-the-maker sessions, and more.

Katie will appear alongside chef and farmer Paul West of *River Cottage Australia* during the festival's Harvest Hub weekend – one of many exciting opportunities to connect

with local food heroes.

Make sure to catch Katie bright and early at Mullumbimby Farmers Market on May 2 – delicious things await between 7am and 11am!

■ For the full Harvest Festival program go to the website: www.harvestfestival.org.au

Discover the spirit of the rainforest



The cellar door sits on the Brook family farm – a working macadamia orchard surrounded by regenerated subtropical rainforest.

Tucked away in the green heart of the Byron Bay hinterland, Cape Byron Distillery offers more than just world-class spirits (such as Brookies gins, and Cape Byron whiskeys) – it's a place where nature and craftsmanship come together. For those seeking a meaningful escape, or a unique way to entertain visiting friends and family, their cellar door is open and ready to welcome you.

Open Thursday to Sunday from 10:45am to 6:00pm, the cellar door sits on the Brook family farm – a working macadamia orchard surrounded by regenerated subtropical rainforest. Over the past 30 years, more than 40,000 trees have been planted there, creating a thriving ecosystem that now inspires the very spirits they produce. On one of their Rainforest Tours & Guided Gin Tastings, you'll walk the trails, touch and taste the botanicals used in their gin, and experience firsthand how the environment shapes every bottle.

You can also experience a Whisky Tour, where you'll explore the barrel rooms, learn about the distillery's

whisky journey and enjoy a guided tasting with the exclusive opportunity to fill your own bottle straight from the cask.

Book online to enjoy a guided tasting of the award-winning Brookie's gin and Cape Byron whisky, or reserve a table to sit on the balcony, take in the views, and enjoy a cocktail or two.

At Cape Byron Distillery, they say their commitment to sustainability is at the heart of everything they do: 'As a proudly B-Corp certified distillery and Australia's only B-Corp certified whisky distillery, our cellar door is where this ethos truly comes to life – through immersive experiences, storytelling and genuine hospitality. Whether you're a long-time local or new to the region, we invite you to slow down, reconnect with nature and taste the spirit of the rainforest.'

Private tastings and group bookings are also available for those looking to celebrate a special occasion.

■ Bookings via www.capebyrondistillery.com

Eat Drink magazine out now

Your free guide to the Northern Rivers' tastiest offerings



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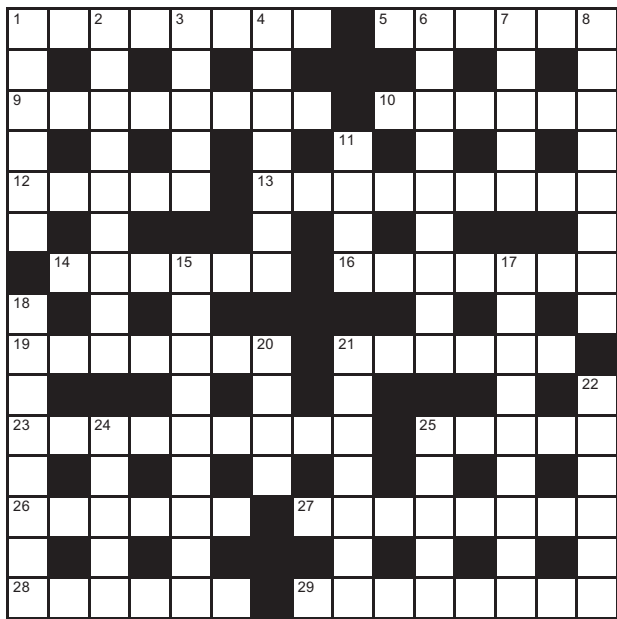
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For more info, please visit: www.paddockproject.com



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. Stephen King's earliest characters appear in novel posted to work areas (8)
5. Co-op's hoping to incorporate Vinnies maybe (2,4)
9. Versace's wrecked by crack (8)
10. Relaxed sort of worker (6)
12. Senior blowing top off beer (5)
13. Superhero clothes promiscuous lover in red (9)
14. Bullet train's beginning to speed to railhead (6)
16. See 1 Down
19. Describe old money (7)
21. Sinister echoes ending up in sobbing (6)
23. Fund head quits during Depression in Australia (4,5)
25. Very best blended oil in mayo (5)
26. Old superhero originally a bit of a looker, by God! (6)
27. Schedule a big hit at reading circle (4,4)
28. Long article on hero misbehaving in subcontinental city (6)
29. Outlaw traps Atom, who traps wife, who's a superhero (8)

DOWN

- 1/16. Alien trails pervert to superhero (6,7)
2. Drivers should be aware of this issue, which restricts parking to a light carriage (5,4)
3. Article within article about *Macbeth*, perhaps (5)
4. After conflict at station women are cut off (7)
6. Deciduous growth in earth, possibly short water grass (5,4)
7. Time on island with heavenly beauty (5)
8. Foolishly sleep in before Romeo brings beer (8)
11. Increasing sign of irregular pulse, lacking energy (4)
15. Messenger holding shirt and uniform is one who designs dresses (9)
17. Silly blooper in Northern Mexico's capital - that's OK (2,7)
18. Father keeps English kitty for superhero (8)
20. Guy, one that doesn't go off point (4)
21. Possibly pornographic objects are found in papal court, including love charms - at last! (7)
22. London tower, using British capital, being rebuilt (3,3)
24. Process read out by judge (5)
25. Crooked request we concocted (5)

Quick Clues

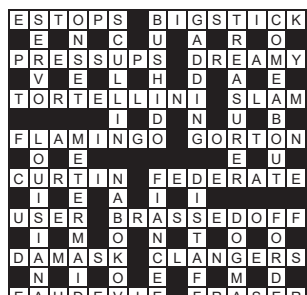
ACROSS

1. Computers and stationery are often placed on these (8)
5. Charity-run second-hand store (2,4)
9. Deep fissure in a glacier or ice sheet (8)
10. Relaxed and informal in style or manner (6)
12. Nostalgic tune from a bygone era (5)
13. Fierce, stocky carnivore of North American forests (9)
14. Projectile that leaves a visible path (6)
16. Unfamiliar or out of the ordinary (7)
19. Explain or elaborate on in detail (7)
21. Causing an uneasy feeling (6)
23. Colloquial term for Australia (4,5)
25. Garlic-flavoured mayonnaise (5)
26. Ancient Egyptian god of the afterlife (6)
27. Regular gathering to discuss literary works (4,4)
28. Capital of Pakistan's Punjab region (6)
29. Superhero with bat-like abilities (8)

DOWN

1. Medical practitioner (6)
2. Area where police monitor vehicle velocities (5,4)
3. Scottish nobleman, equivalent to an earl (5)
4. Period immediately after a conflict (7)
6. Large deciduous tree with maple-like leaves (5,4)
7. Beautiful maiden of the Muslim paradise (5)
8. Pale lager beer originating in Bohemia (8)
11. Mathematical symbol for addition (4)
15. Designer of high-fashion clothing (9)
17. Casual expression of willingness or agreement (2,7)
18. Wisecracking Marvel antihero (8)
20. Informal term for a man (4)
21. Unusual or intriguing objects (7)
22. Famous clock tower in London (3,3)
24. Determine the mass of an object (5)
25. Crooked or not in alignment (5)

Last week's solution #52



A Welcome Thank You

Mandy Nolan

Why do some people struggle with Welcome to Country?

It's a cultural ritual performed to honour the land where an event or gathering is being held.

It recognises that you are meeting on the land of First Nations peoples. Last I checked, even if you are born here. Or your dad was born here, and his dad. And his dad's dad. Well, at some point if you are not Indigenous then your family arrived, and while you're a few generations here, you're not a first people. But that's okay because you are welcomed.

Being welcomed is actually very beautiful. It makes me feel more connected to this place – not less. It actually feels like inclusion. And if we're very quiet, and we allow the space, sometimes we can learn something new about somewhere we have lived and be enriched. Loving this country means understanding her story. The story that came before the colony. The story that came even before people.

I love the ancient story of this place. I love to hear the names of the land where I live or where I am visiting. I love to hear the cultural stories of how rocks have formed. Of the animals that danced in the Dreamtime. Of giant rainbow serpents or turtles or goannas. Of the story that made this place. I like to be reminded to care for Country. That it is my duty too. I like to be reminded that you cannot own Country, that we are caretakers. Not shareholders.

So on Anzac Day, when hecklers booed Welcome to Country at an Anzac Day dawn service in Melbourne, it became clear we still have a long way to go. ANZAC Day is about respect. Welcome to Country is about respect. It's not competing. It's complementary. It made me feel very sad. And ashamed. Who gets up at dawn to behave that way?

I can't imagine how this impacts the Aboriginal community. I think of how this makes Indigenous veterans feel. Or Indigenous kids who hear their elders and their cultural traditions disrespected on the national stage.

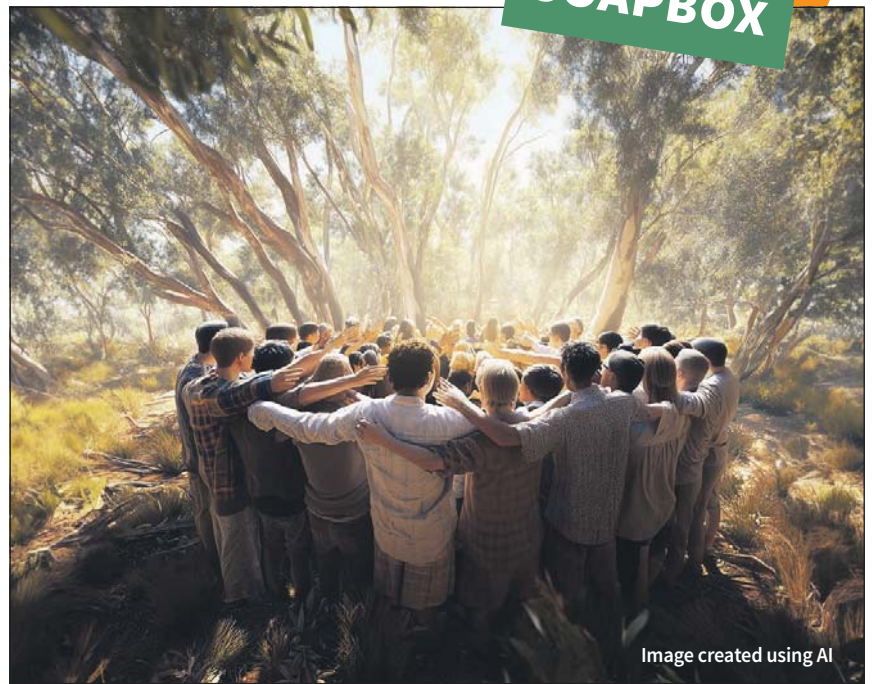


Image created using AI

ANZAC day is about respect. Welcome to Country is about respect. It's not competing. It's complementary.

Why? Those acts of racism are divisive. And I know the majority of Australians and their political leaders felt the same – that this was not okay.

We need to be better than that. Because right now, in this country, First Nations children and young people are imprisoned at 26 times the rate of non-Indigenous children and young people. Indigenous people are more likely than non-Indigenous people to die in custody. While Aboriginal people are 3% of the adult population, and 8% of 10-17 year-olds, they are more than 30%

of the adult prison population, and 50% of youths in detention. Many experience significantly poorer health outcomes, are more likely to live in poverty, and don't live as long as non-Indigenous people. This is the long tail of colonisation. It's brutal. And the gap isn't closing.

Yet First Nations communities still share their culture with us. They still share beautiful Welcome to Country ceremonies with us. They still share belonging. Share story. I would say that is profoundly generous. I would say that is humbling. I would say that is remarkable.

As a non-Indigenous Australian I would like to say thank you. Ironically, when you say 'thank you' to someone the response generally is 'You're welcome'. I hope we still are.

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

STARS BY LILITH

As the combined force of four planets – Chiron, Neptune, Mercury and Venus – in fiery Aries meets stubborn Taurus energetics in this, and coming weeks, something's gotta give. And could it be you...?



TAURUS THE BULL

ARIES: Vibrant Venus, with her red dress on, in Aries is bold, confident and raring to go. Same goes for enthusiastic, entrepreneurial Mercury also in your sign, so best use May's grounding energy to secure a stable base and get workable plans in place for bringing those exciting new ideas to life.

TAURUS: In physical astrology, Taurus rules the throat, and this year's portal is now open for you to speak your truth and share your values. Best birthday present to yourself? Taking you-time every day, even a few minutes, to ditch devices, step away from routine obligations and breathe into inner calm.

GEMINI: May's energetic upsurge in your sector of social groups, known in traditional astrology as the house of joy, is about networking: Gemini's superpower. So be open to fortuitous opportunities that come your way, but also very aware that others may be moving at a much slower tempo than you.

CANCER: This month's planetary pattern shifts your focus from personal reinvention to sensible organisation. Take advantage of this practical magic to structure your days with well-planned schedules that keep you on track with everything from the way you nourish your body to simply having realistic expectations.

LEO: With Mars pumping up the volume in Leo, you'll make every invite sound like the must-attend event of the season. But Mars can also escalate drama and overstatement. There's nothing wrong with a little poetic license, but too much bedazzling the truth is likely to attract backlash.

VRIGO: After April's fast and furious interactions, May's planetary speed slows to a steadier, more productive, Virgo-friendly pace. And while 100% concentration is natural to you, without regular focus shifts, this can narrow your perspective so you miss opportunities. Schedule in pleasure pauses and small joy breaks.

LIBRA: In the taking care of business month of May you're quite likely to find glitches and hitches which seemed insoluble becoming manageable, workable, even potentially positive. Plus love planets Mars and Venus in show-off fire signs are calling for an overhaul of whatever's become a bit monotonous or ho-hum.

SCORPIO: Red planet Mars in its most glamorous and theatrical placement during May calls for adding a big dash of flair anywhere life has got a bit predictable or vanilla. So shake up any stagnant habits or stale behaviours. Dress up for everything, not just special occasions. All occasions are special.

SAGITTARIUS: Taurus season energises your zodiac zone of work and wellness, making May Sagittarians' month for putting healthy habits in place and finding ways to make daily tasks more efficient and enjoyable. Mars in your sector of personal growth gives entrepreneurial ventures and educational pursuits a high-octane boost this week.

CAPRICORN: With the sun and managerial Mercury in their most practical placement, May's earthy energies are Capricorn-compatible. Think tactics and strategies, because you'll save time, money and energy with advance planning. Crunch numbers and work through estimates for what has potential to go the distance and be profitable as well.

AQUARIUS: Aquarius is a collaborative sign, and Pluto, beginning its annual, five-month retrograde here suggests the possibility of power plays disrupting team efforts. But this transit can be a blessing in disguise if you release the pressure valve and gear down to a less stressful, slow and steady, phased approach.

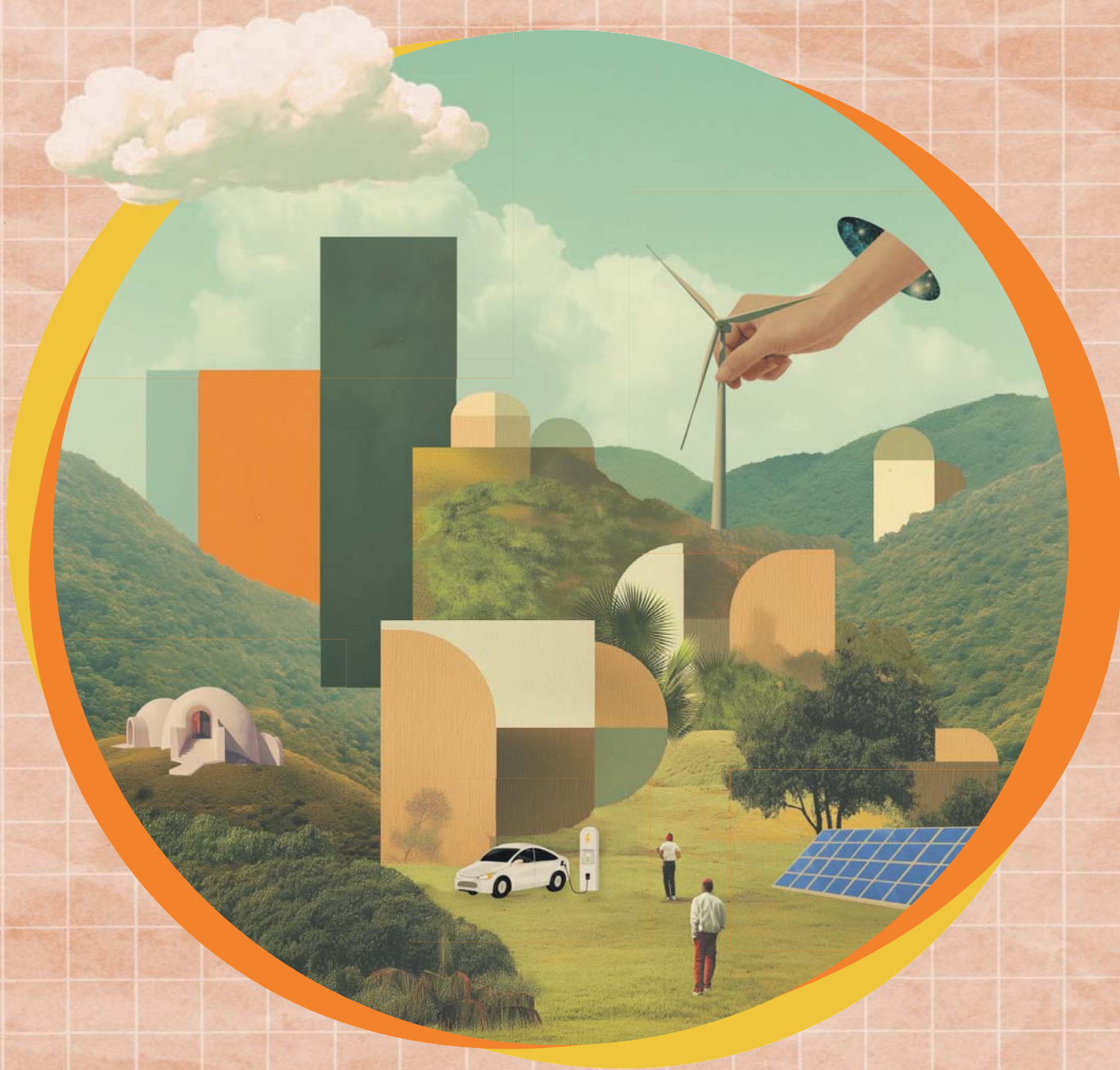
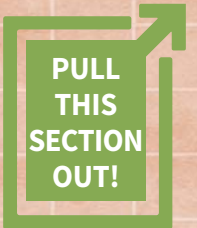
PISCES: Neptune and Saturn finally winding up their long residency in your sign see May's planetary perambulations bringing the fish tribe a welcome degree of sweet relief as pressures ease, complications unravel and life's possibilities brighten with this month's Venus and Neptune shining creative vibes into your money zone.

2025

SUSTAINABILITY

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VOL 17, 2025



Echo

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Sustainability 2025

– an *Echo* supplement

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Some Sustainability 2025 highlights:

- ▶ **Smart tech for a hot planet: how AI is powering climate action** p5
- ▶ **Why are nuclear reactors illegal in Australia?** p6
- ▶ **Achieving a sustainable future for logging and timber production** p12
- ▶ **Reclaiming our sustainable future – be regenerative** p14

Choosing our future story

Aslan Shand – editor

There is no doubt that the future will challenge us all in ways we don't expect, particularly when it comes to a changing climate.

We are already seeing the impacts of climate change locally with floods, fires, and droughts, as well as globally with unprecedented fires and flooding around the world in recent years.

Temperature records continue to be topped again and again, with the global average temperature for the most recent ten-year period, from 2014 to 2023, estimated to be the warmest ten-year period on record according to the United Nations.

The science is clear that the changes we are seeing are a result of human activity from cutting down trees to the burning of fossil fuels.

According to NASA's Earth Observatory, 'air temperatures on Earth have been rising since the Industrial Revolution'.

'According to an ongoing temperature analysis led by scientists at NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS), the average global temperature on Earth has increased by at least 1.1° Celsius since 1880. The majority of the warming has occurred since 1975.'

At the Earth's north and south poles this temperature rise is happening at a faster rate than the global average.

The Arctic, the north pole, has warmed by approximately 3°C in the past half-century due to 'arctic amplification'. This is primarily caused by the melting of sea ice which exposes darker ocean water and therefore increases the absorption of solar energy rather than reflecting it. This in turn is leading to higher temperatures, that in turn leads to glaciers and ice sheets melting and adding water to the ocean and therefore higher sea levels with global average sea levels having risen 21–24 centimetres since 1880. As part of the continuing cycle this then leads to more frequent and intense severe weather events as we've seen locally and globally.

Action is needed, now. It is not just the action of individuals, it is the action of nations and action globally that is needed. It is no one thing that any person or government can do that will halt climate change, it is the myriad of actions that we take collectively that will create change, reduce emissions and ensure that there is a planet that humans can inhabit.

Humans are capable of extraordinary achievements and it is this that we must all tap into to

push forward to create change. It is every tree planted, it is every choice we make not to burn fossil fuels, it is every vote we cast that makes a difference. It is our story, we are the ones creating it as we take every significant and insignificant action in our lives.

The science is clear, the actions we need to take to cut climate changing emissions are there – some more palatable than others – the question is how are we going to encourage each other and our governments to make the changes we need to for a better future for ourselves and those we have brought into this world?



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For over 25 years, Rainforest Rescue has been on a mission to protect the under-protected rainforests of Australia. Now, we must focus on increasing the resilience of fragile habitat as extreme weather and invasive species threaten Nature's future.

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Discover how rainforest action is biodiversity and climate action at: rainforestrescue.org.au



Rainforest Rescue is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission ABN 61 086 885 154

Climate reality in Paris – how to make change?

Dr Sian Grigg

Al Gore was in Paris two weeks ago. Me too. I was excited like a fan girl – and reminded of my age – those younger than 40 had no idea who I was talking about. It is 25 years since Gore lost the US presidential election to George W Bush. How different the world might have been. While Iraq and Afghanistan no longer dominate headlines, Ukraine, Gaza, wild weather and record temperatures now compete with crazy pronouncements from the White House. Was 2000 a turning point? Could Al Gore's election have led us into a brighter and more sustainable future? We will never know, but as the elders say, the best time to plant a tree is 25 years ago; the next best time is now.

Al and I

In any case, from 28-30 March both Al and I were in Paris for the Climate Reality Training. He was running it, I was participating (along with 800 others, including my 23-year-old son). It is ten years since the historic Paris Agreement aiming to limit global warming to 1.5°C. I guess Al, me, and everyone else were asking ourselves the same question: what do we do now? Now that the planet has already warmed by 1.5°C.

Since 2000 Gore has built an

organisation giving climate activists the basic science. Following the logic that if people understand the science, they will act accordingly. This is a battle I'm sure he thought could be won in 25 years. It is clear the battle is far from over. Despite all this the enthusiasm in the room beneath the Louvre was palpable. Day one, subdued and serious, people sat through an overlong presentation of the state of the climate today (Al is a confirmed science nerd). Day two there was cheering, wolf whistling, and standing ovations for climate negotiating heroes Christiana Figueres and Laurence Tubiana. By Sunday morning it felt like a huge climate mass. Filled with hope that the exponential curve of solutions (huge investment in renewable energy, the Exponential Roadmap for Natural Climate Solutions) can catch and outpace the exponential curve of destruction (while coal burning has plateaued, oil and natural gas consumption continue to rise).

It's not just about science

A partial answer to our collective question became clear. Since 2015 behavioural scientists have shown that it is not about the hard science, i.e. the physical reality. Things now rest on the human sciences,

the so-called soft sciences. It sounds easier (no maths) but it's actually really difficult. Even when we understand the physical science, why can we not divert ourselves from the trajectory that sends us off the cliff? The human brain is an extraordinarily skilled denial machine.

Cognitive dissonance is possible for a long time

The world is too complex for us to take it all in, so we've become experts at taking the bits we need to survive and make our way (with a big emphasis on improving or maintaining our social status). The job of saving the planet now lies with the sociologists, the psychologists, and the political activists. And perhaps the green marketing experts, who combine all this to encourage action from us individually, that will then spur the collective. How to encourage the ultimate social animal, individually and collectively, into planet positive action?



Top: Al Gore presenting his Climate Reality Training in Paris in March. Photo supplied Right: Dr Grigg with other attendees. Photo supplied

Doom and gloom do not spur action, merely denial or despair. Hope that the battle can be won is what really engages people. That can be fuelled by focusing on all the extraordinary things that are already happening. The exponential curve of solutions. And by joining the fight, not just individually as I have always done, but collectively. That was the big takeaway from Paris 2025. I'm now officially an activist who is joining a group.

Saviour Trump?

Bizarrely the Trump administration may be an unlikely contributor to slowing or pausing the growth of greenhouse gas emissions. There

have been two pauses in the last 25 years. One following the 2008 global financial crisis (GFC), and the second in 2020-2021 during Covid. Economic growth is the main driver of emissions growth, and Trump's tariffs may be as big a shock to the world economy as the GFC and Covid. Might Trump be nature's way of forcing us to slow down?! Truly a mind-bending thought.

■ Dr Sian Grigg: PhD Macquarie University 2000-2005. Dr Grigg studied the development of a simple ocean-atmosphere-sea ice model of the Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation (AMOC) to investigate long-term climate variations.

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Whole of system approach needed for construction

Aslan Shand

There is a real need for housing that is affordable, but there is also an essential requirement to create housing that reduces climate emissions.

The global 'building value chain is responsible for 37 per cent of total carbon emissions' according to World Economic Forum (WEF) and Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and the industry needs to press forward with a wide range of initiatives and ways to reduce emissions that impact climate change. This means that action needs to be taken both globally and locally to ensure that the need for housing and construction is met whilst not driving up emissions.

'The most obvious and immediate area of impact is in the way we design and construct our buildings. The materials we use matter, as does where they come from and how they are implemented in the built environment,' says the WEF and BCG.

From recycling materials from the construction industry, looking at new materials and ways to build, to where we build, and building for the future changing environment

it is important to look at the whole cycle from construction to destruction of housing.

Recycling materials from existing construction sites is a significant challenge and needs government support to facilitate effective regulations to ensure the safe use of recycled materials as well as ensuring recycled materials can efficiently reenter the construction system.

Another key element that needs to be considered in recycling of building materials is the distance they travel from their source site and the level of processing that is required for them to reenter the construction process. The less resources needed to transport and process recycled material, the more effective the reduction in climate emissions.

The 2022 article by the European Union on 'Recycling residential building materials: opportunities and limitations', highlights that improvements in collection and recycling 'could enable greater use of materials from reclaimed sources in the future'.

'They report that a combination of accelerated decarbonisation and urban mining could lead to a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050'.

Alternative materials

Looking for new or alternative materials and how they are being processed and utilised is an area of growing innovation. The use of 3D printing and hempcrete are just some of the innovative ways to approach building and construction that are being explored.



The BioHome3D is a proof-of-concept 3D printed house.

The BioHome3D is one example of a 3D printed home that has been developed by using wood waste with corn starch to create pellets that can then be used to print a home.

According to the ABC researchers at the University of Maine's Advanced Structures & Composite Center they are looking to use the 1 million tons of woodwaste from sawmills in Maine to produce a 100 per cent renewable house. The house can be broken down and turned back into pellets to be reused.

The importance of using local materials is a key part of reducing climate emissions and for a region like the Northern Rivers, products that utilise mud to hemp are potential game changers.

President of the Legalise Cannabis Australia Party (formerly HEMP) and Nimbin HEMP Embassy, Michael Balderstone has highlighted the potential use of hemp in the building industry in the Northern Rivers and is encouraging locals to engage with the draft NSW Hemp Industry Development Plan that is open for feedback via the Have your say website until Monday, May 19, 2025.

'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. I don't know of one mill in the country that processes hemp into cloth for example. The potential for high protein hemp seed production is another industry still in a fledgeling state.'

Sustainable House Day

Coming up on May 4 and 5 is Sustainable House Day (SHD) that looks at housing across the country that utilises a range of sustainable materials as well as building practices that ensure the housing is resilient in the face of local conditions such as floods, and the local environment.

Sasha Mainsbridge from Mullum Cares is both opening her house as part of Sustainable House Day and presenting on a SHD panel talking about resilient rebuilding.

According to a recent report *At Our Front Door* by the Climate Council Ballina, and Tweed Heads South, are becoming the most uninsurable places in NSW.

'If you own a home on a 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 SHD program,' said Sasha.

Changing the way we tackle construction, at an individual and industry level, is a key part of how we move forward with sustainable housing and reducing climate emissions with a whole cycle approach being needed to account for all the costs in the building construction cycle.

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Smart tech for a hot planet: how AI is powering climate action

Dr Willow Hallgren

As the impacts of climate change crash down around us – megafires, record floods, brutal heatwaves – it's easy to despair. But amid the climate chaos, a new and potent ally has emerged: Artificial Intelligence (AI).

AI, simply put, refers to computer systems that can mimic human intelligence – learning from vast amounts of data, spotting patterns humans miss, and making lightning-fast decisions. No longer science fiction, AI is now helping us understand, predict, and even fight back against climate change in myriad ways. And while it's no silver bullet, its role is growing more important with every passing year.

In Australia, where bushfire seasons have become a terrifying, almost annual trauma, scientists at the University of South Australia have developed AI that can detect smoke from space (<https://tinyurl.com/uccwae9u>). Normally, satellite images are slowly beamed down to Earth for analysis – losing precious hours. Now, with AI packed inside tiny satellites, smoke can be spotted almost instantly, allowing firefighters to act before small fires explode into deadly infernos. Seconds count in a fire.



A generative AI depiction of a cube satellite constellation above Earth, created by UniSA lead researcher and geospatial scientist, Dr Stefan Peters.

This breakthrough could mean the difference between a small grassfire and another Black Summer.

Elsewhere, AI-powered drones are rewriting the story of reforestation (<https://tinyurl.com/bdeebytb>). In countries including Australia, Mexico, and Brazil, drones equipped with smart seed-dispersal systems are mapping landscapes, identifying ideal spots for native species, and firing thousands of seed pods into the ground daily – even in rugged, dangerous areas unreachable by human planters. Not only does this supercharge carbon sequestration, it helps preserve

biodiversity by rebuilding shattered ecosystems. It's not a replacement for traditional reforestation – it's a critical, high-speed ally in a planet-wide rescue mission.

AI is also starting to transform city life. Google's Project Green Light helps cities optimise traffic lights, cutting stop-start driving and slashing emissions from idling cars at intersections by up to 10 per cent (<https://tinyurl.com/34nx4tr>). Less congestion, less pollution – a rare win-win. Meanwhile, in Chile, national energy authorities are using AI to simulate clean energy grids, modelling in minutes what used to take months.

And up in the skies, AI is tackling the overlooked problem of aircraft contrails – the wispy streaks behind planes that trap heat and are responsible for about one-third of aviation's contribution to climate warming. A partnership between Google, American Airlines, and Breakthrough Energy used AI to predict when and where contrails would form (<https://sites.research.google/contrails/>). Pilots on 70 test flights tweaked their routes based on AI forecasts, cutting contrail formation by 54 per cent. A big win for climate action, and a big loss for conspiracy theorists.

But AI's reach goes even further. It's being used to predict deadly heatwaves, speed up the integration of renewables into national grids, and automate robots to monitor reservoir health in South-East Queensland (<https://tinyurl.com/ujf4fmx9>).

AI is also helping us adapt to climate change by making massive, complex scientific knowledge more accessible – through initiatives like ChatClimate, which links AI systems to the latest IPCC reports. These tools are critical for cutting through misinformation and helping people, governments, and businesses make better decisions. Of course, there's a catch. Training

large AI models is an energy-hungry process. Some estimates suggest that training a single AI model can pump out as much carbon dioxide as five cars do over their entire lifetimes. Whether AI becomes part of the solution or part of the problem will depend on the choices we make – urgently and deliberately.

Fortunately, solutions exist. Running AI models on renewable energy, streamlining algorithms to use less computational grunt, and processing data directly on satellites or devices rather than in massive data centres are strategies already being deployed.

The bottom line is clear: in the fight against climate change, time is short, the risks are vast, and the need for action is overwhelming. Having AI in our arsenal could make a real difference – if we use it wisely. AI offers speed, precision, and the ability to detect patterns too complex for the human mind. But it can't summon political will, or moral courage. That part is still – and always will be – up to us.

■ Dr Willow Hallgren is an earth-system scientist who studies the impact of climate change on ecosystems and biodiversity and the climate.

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Why are nuclear reactors illegal in Australia?

Belle Budden

Clean, renewable energy is critical to creating a sustainable future. Nuclear energy is low in emissions and is often debated as a solution to finding a source of renewable energy. This debate is driven by a powerful lobby group who have vested financial interests in the expansion of the nuclear industry. Australia has the largest deposit of uranium in the world comprising 28 per cent of the world's uranium. Australia generated \$1.2 billion in export earnings from uranium in 2023-24 (Minerals Council Australia).

It is currently illegal in every state and territory to build nuclear reactors so nuclear power would require legislative change. As a naturally curious person, I'm keen to explore why nuclear reactors would be illegal if they are such a sustainable solution.

Nuclear waste

Nuclear energy creates the most dangerous form of radioactive waste, which Australia has currently no safe storage facility for. Radioactivity is emitted by nuclear waste until it decays into more stable forms, which can take hundreds of thousands of years. The US Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) warns that high-level waste will remain dangerous for at least 10,000 years.

Two of the world's biggest nuclear accidents – the Fukushima nuclear disaster (2011) and the Chernobyl disaster (1986) – were responsible for the release of a significant amount of radioactive isotopes into the atmosphere. This created huge consequences for people and the environment. This has impacted hundreds of thousands of people and contaminated large areas of land. To this day wastewater is still an ongoing issue with the Fukushima disaster.

All of Australia's operating uranium mines have a history of leaks, spills, and accidents. (Australian Conservation Foundation). We are already living with the impacts of coal and gas on the environment and adding widespread radioactive waste is an acceptable risk to Country and communities.

Mining uranium pollutes our air, soil, and water and the ecosystems they support. Open cut mines have

a large footprint on Country and require large quantities of water that become radioactive tailings dams.

Radioactive waste is classified as low, intermediate, and high level. Exposure to high-level radiation can damage the genetic and reproductive systems of plants, animals, and people. Nuclear waste only becomes safe after it decays. For high-level waste, this can take hundreds of thousands of years.



Power in your hands. Painting Belle Budden

That means the waste must be disposed of and stored for a very long time.

The development of nuclear power requires the development of nuclear waste facilities. Australia currently does not have a clear national approach to the temporary storage and permanent disposal of the existing nuclear waste. Nuclear waste from hospitals, universities, research labs, mining, and defence sites is stored at more than 100 sites across the nation (Australian Strategic Policy Institute).

Governments in Australia have tried for decades to build low and intermediate level waste dumps and storage facilities across multiple sites, predominantly in remote Aboriginal communities. Every proposal has been stopped by community, political, and legal opposition. No one wants to live with nuclear waste.

Caring for Country

Aboriginal people have felt the brunt of the nuclear legacy in Australia from the atrocities of

nuclear testing, to living with uranium mines on Country to fighting proposed international waste dumps. Caring for Country includes stopping the spread of radioactive waste and the risks of contamination.

The greenwashing of nuclear power is a half-truth and leaves out the significant issues of nuclear mining and nuclear waste from the story. Nuclear waste is dangerous to Country and community and all life within. The climate instabilities we are experiencing at increased frequency would become catastrophic with the compounded risk of increased nuclear waste. Nuclear power stations are fuelled by uranium which, like coal and gas, is not a renewable resource. Australian renewables are already creating tens of thousands of jobs while creating a zero-carbon, affordable energy systems providing energy to large scale industrial projects, businesses and homes.

■ Belle Budden is a local dubay of Wakka Wakka descent. 'Living off country I pay my respect to the Arakwal people and the wider Bundjalung people of this land,' says Belle.

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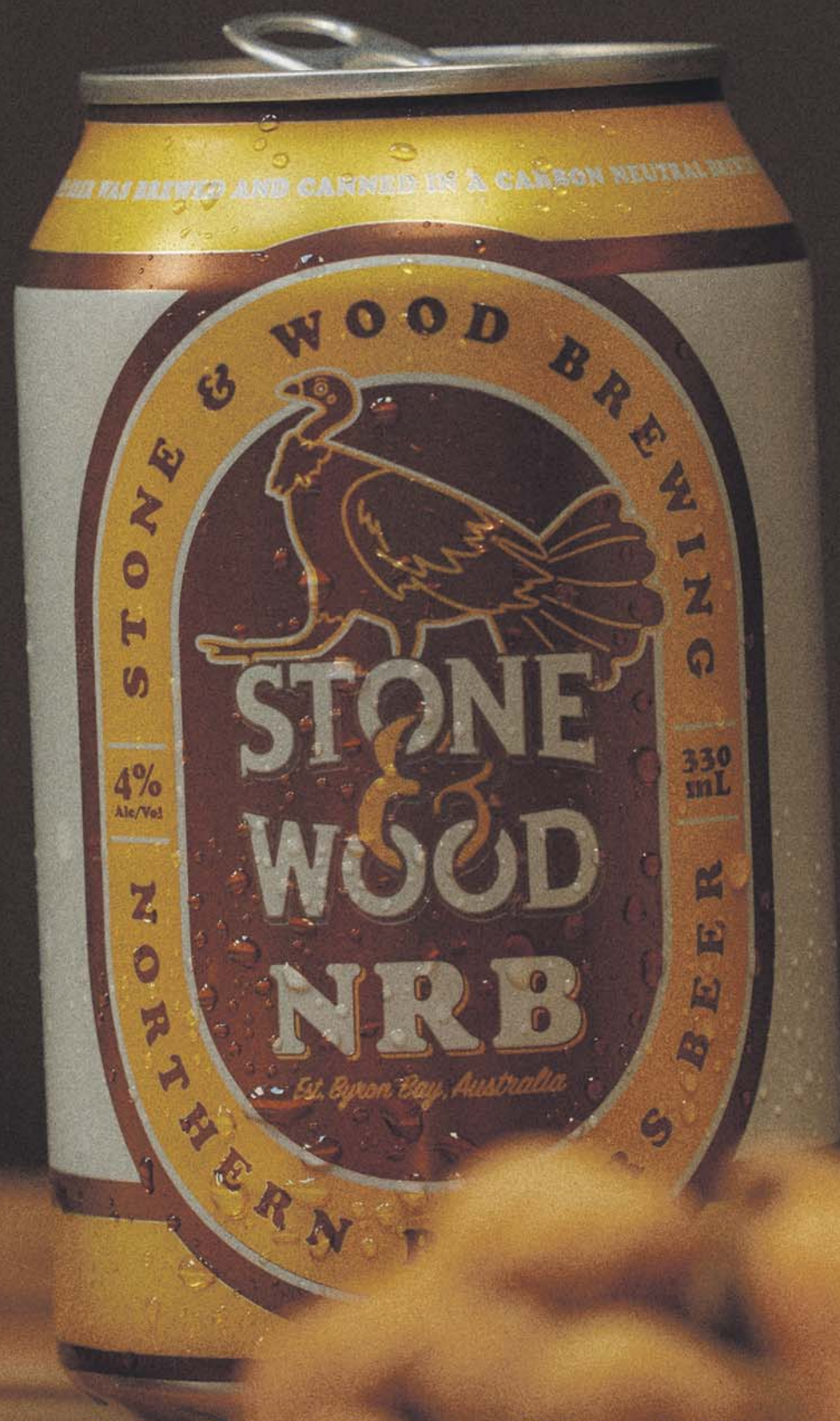
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Drive change! Rethinking our relationship with cars

Mandy Nolan

Does a green future have cars in it? Maybe. And, maybe not. Well at least, maybe not as many.

When it comes to sustainability, we have to admit that one of the big drivers of climate change causing emissions is us. Drivers. Particularly those of us still in cars wedded to the fossil fuel industry.

The automotive industry is a major driver of biodiversity loss and desertification. And it's not just on the road crunching the kms, cars consume energy before they even hit the road. Glass, steel, rubber, plastic, paint and batteries contribute to the footprint of even the most eco car before she's ready to roll.

So how do we embrace sustainability and movement?

There's two solutions that spring to mind. Electrify, and rethinking how we do car ownership.

Ok, take a breath. This is just an exercise. First of all, you need to close your eyes and say 'I am not my car. My car is not an extension of my ego in the world. It is a means to get from A to B'.

How'd that go? For some people, the car is more. It's freedom. But

is it? If we could get from A to B without the impost of personal ownership, without costly pink slips or greens slips and rego, speeding fines and parking limitations, wouldn't that be freedom too?

Old school ride share

Like what if we shared cars? If we didn't have to garage or service or upkeep vehicles. What if we just used what was available?

There's lots of ride share services in busy, inner city areas now where parking is at a premium and public transport is so good it doesn't make sense to own your own vehicle. GoGet and versions of that seem to have some traction, but I'll admit it's not like having your own car. You can't leave your gym bag with your stinky shoes in there. And for regional dwellers, we're nervous about the car in your street ever actually being in your street.

I didn't own my first car until I was in my 30s. I walked everywhere. I lived in walking distance of the shop. I pushed my baby in a stroller, I lugged shopping, and occasionally, when it was raining, I thumbed a lift. That's old school ride share. The other day a lovely woman stopped me and said, 'I used to pick you up hitching with your two little girls. Its great to see



Sustainable thinking is around planning. It's about understanding what it takes for you to get somewhere, and how much energy you use to get there.

how well you are doing now.' Yep. I have a car.

We've gone from owning one car per household to owning one car per legal driver. Car ownership has become a rite of passage for adulthood. Great for the automotive industry, but not great for the planet. Can we rethink how we use our vehicles? Can we go car free? At least one day per week? It makes a difference.

Earlier this year we bought an electric vehicle (EV). It's our second car. I currently drive a 4-cylinder 4WD. But my husband and I decided that if we went electric we'd be able to choose to use it for shorter trips. It has a range of

around 400k, less when you are on the open road. Most EVs use braking to top up battery charge and get more range. Another disadvantage for us regional folk who spend a lot of time on the open road. I mean, who would have thought peak hour could serve a purpose!

Thinking ahead

Having an EV has made us rethink how we move. And one of the key drivers when it comes to sustainability and making more environmentally-conscious decisions is around behaviour change. You have to think about where you are going. What time of day it is. What the traffic will be like. How far it is. Where the recharge

stations are. Sustainable thinking is around planning. It's about understanding what it takes for you to get somewhere, and how much energy you use to get there.

Like many people we have solar, but we don't have a battery, so we use the long charge in the day at home – because it's free! And it's not pulling from the grid. It's enormously satisfying. You can check out your car's charge status on your phone! I was in bed with my husband the other night and he whipped out his app to show me the charge status. He could actually turn it off from bed. It was truly arousing.

I sometimes imagine our carefree, car-free future. Self-driving, on demand, EVs. Walking and bike paths. Public transport.

Where one day someone asks 'what's a garage?'

People will laugh at the idea that we actually kept machines in specially built rooms in our homes.

'You mean homeless people slept on the street while cars had a whole room? That's crazy!'

Maybe the first step to transport sustainability is to start changing our thinking, instead of just starting our car.



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LET'S BREAK IT DOWN

Maxine and Daniel are considering a 5.28kW solar system, supplied and installed by ProSolar for \$6,937. The federal government discount for this system is \$1,938 (at time of publishing). This brings their system cost down to \$4,999 saving them \$1,850 per year enabling them to pay back their investment in 2.98 years!

Alternatively, the same system can be financed for \$27 per week. This can be an attractive way to reduce your bill and put the money you would normally pay your power company into your very own power system on your rooftop.

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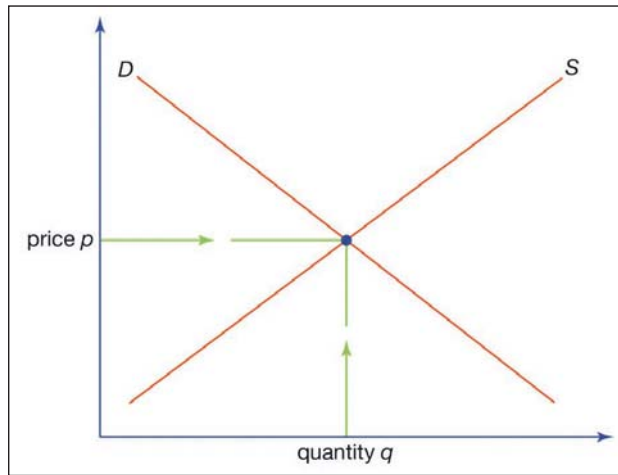
Who's going to pay for energy and how much?

Aiden Grandsimon

With the Australian federal election imminent, voters are being inundated by the usual flood of photos showcasing campaign stunts – smiling politicians holding babies and wearing high-vis vests – galvanising a certain amount of our collective focus. Whilst this pre-election drama fills the newscycle, the real world policy implications are always serious and could lead to dramatically different outcomes. On April 6, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese alongside Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chris Bowen, revealed Labor's recent energy policy.

The policy

The program consists of a \$2.3 billion subsidy for solar-powered home batteries to store more efficiently the country's current solar capacity. Based on analysis by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, this rebate could save a household with existing rooftop solar \$1,100 from their yearly power bill, and



A graph of supply versus demand. Source: Britannica Money

\$2,300 for houses installing a new solar and battery system (ALP, 2025).

If Labor retains power, this rebate scheme will be introduced from July 1, 2025 and would be offered via the existing small-scale renewable energy scheme.

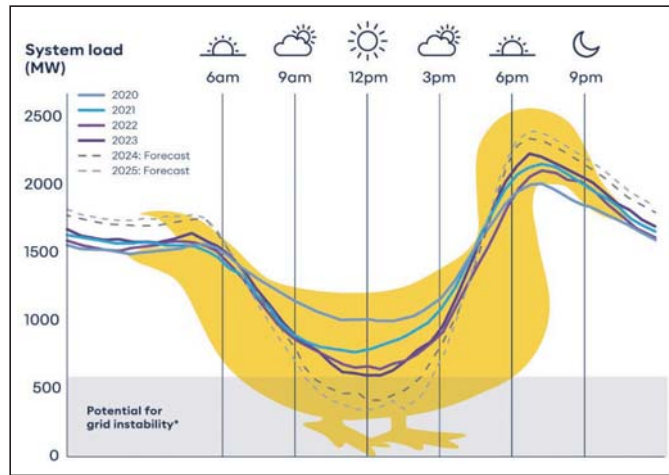
The case for

According to the Clean Energy Council's General Manager, Con Hristodoulidis, this policy would help households overcome one of the principal limitations with home batteries, which is their cost.

'The upfront cost of purchasing a battery averages around AU\$14,000 and has been a barrier to entry for many homeowners who want to generate even further savings on their energy bills. Our data shows that less than five per cent of households with rooftop solar panels currently invest in battery storage,' said Hristodoulidis (Heynes, 2025).

The opposition

The current critique and opposition to this policy is defining the



The Duck Curve. Source: synergy.net.au

program as essentially a 'regressive tax' that would, as the name suggests, disproportionately negatively impact lower income households.

National Director of Energy at St Vincent de Paul, Gavin Dufty, said this about Labor's proposal: 'Renters and people in apartments who won't be able to get these assets might end up underwriting home owners or home purchasers who have got wealth.'

He then continued, 'Most people without solar, you're

probably paying in green schemes and other stuff about ten percent of your bill.' (Mercer, 2025).

Liberal party leader, Peter Dutton, also remarked: 'I think you're talking about higher income families being in a position to pay for that. I just don't know that the next-door neighbour who can't afford to pay for that battery is going to subsidise the battery for me, or for you, on higher incomes.' (Heynes, 2025).

Opinion

The supply and demand model that is taught in every high school economic class defines certain clear things. One of them is that, if demand decreases and supply either stays the same or increases, prices fall.

Combining this with the 'duck curve', which tracks the energy consumption from households over a regular day, we can understand why a Labor spokeswoman can confidently claim 'the scheme aims to bring down power prices across the board by reducing demand for electricity at peak times in the evening when power prices spike as solar leaves the system.' (Mercer, 2025).

It is difficult to argue that allowing stored solar power, that has been accumulated across the day when demand for power is low, to be used in the evenings when the demand is high, would not, at least somewhat, decrease energy prices.

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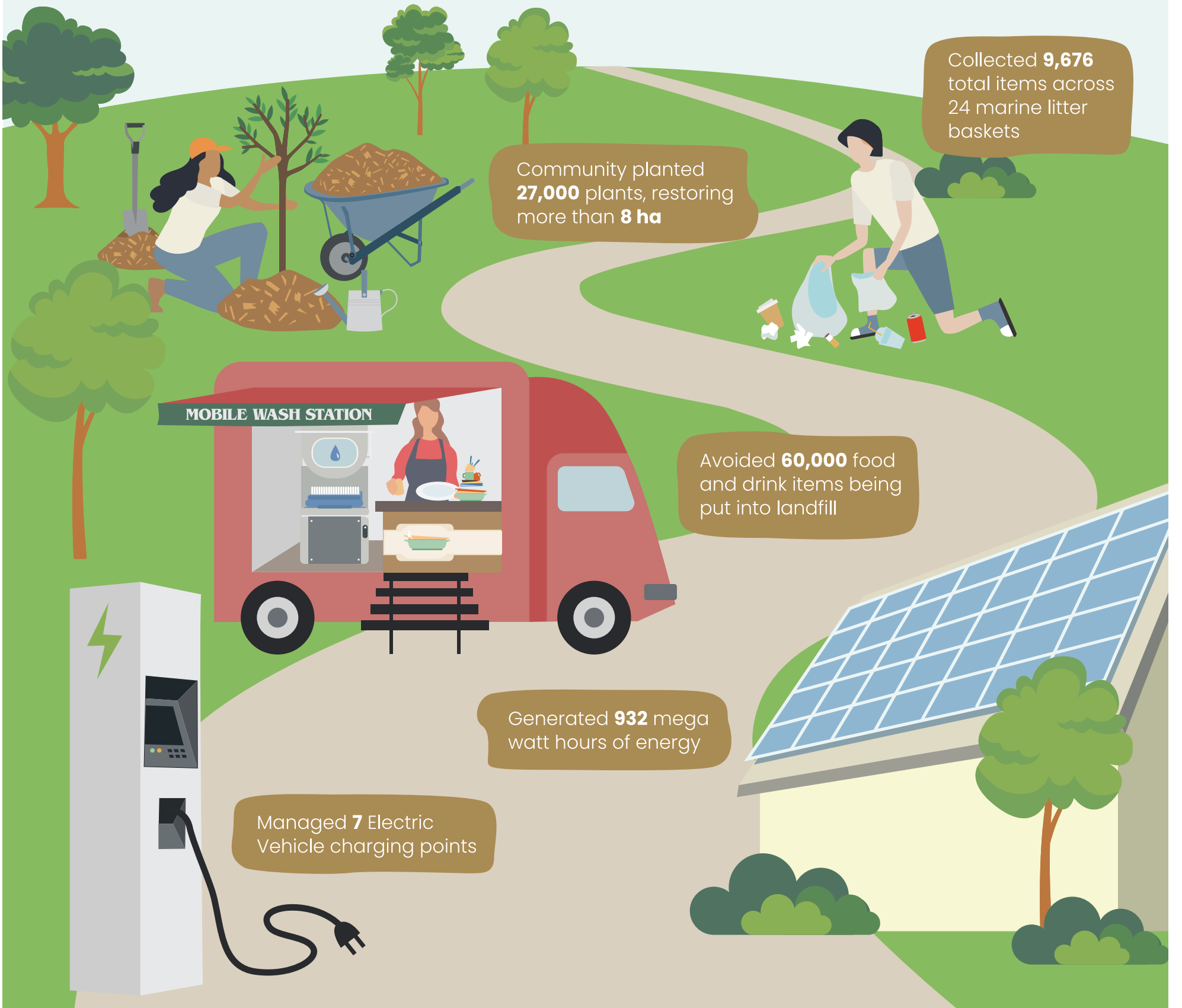
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Achieving a sustainable future for logging and timber production

Aslan Shand

There is no denying that trees have a significant role to play in the future of sustainability, but so does the role of managing, developing, and planning how trees are utilised for carbon capture, the environment, construction and other timber-based industries.

A significant issue for NSW has been the decisions around the effective management of native forest logging alongside sustainable plantations to meet the wide range of needs in the community. Trees and logging supply timber and jobs alongside the needs of the environment both in relation to maintaining adequate native forests to support other species as well as the long-term, environmental health of the planet.

The NSW Forestry Commission claims that it provides a vital source of timber for local industries and jobs, supports regional economies, and helps manage and maintain the health and biodiversity of state forests.

However, according to the NSW Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) in its triennial analysis and report of

the government-owned logging company Forestry Corporation of NSW, in 2024 the NSW 'native logging industry is not "economically viable" and the state government should consider shutting it down after 2028 if its prospects do not improve,' reported the ABC after they gained access to the report through freedom of information laws.

The question is how effectively can timber production be moved from native forest logging to plantation timber, and what is required to achieve this?

According to ecologist Dailan Pugh 'log yields from native forests have declined by around 80 per cent over the past 20 years, and will continue to do so'.

'The 1.7 million hectares of Australian plantations currently provide 90 per cent of Australia's sawlog production, with most coming from pine plantations. Hardwood plantations already provide about 40 per cent of hardwood sawlogs. Some 87 per cent of the logs removed from the 0.68 million ha of hardwood plantations are exported as woodchips, so there is plenty of scope to continue to increase



A surfboard made from sustainable plantation timbers.

the production of sawn timber from existing plantations. When combined with increased domestic manufacturing of engineered timber products it is apparent that it is easy to complete the transition to plantations,' he said.

Time and planning

One of the biggest challenges of the timber industry is time – while to some degree growing timber is a matter of 'plant seed and water' at the end of the day it takes time to grow trees, at least 30 to 40 years to produce sawn timber – therefore long-term planning is key.

Most commercial plantations have been aimed at short rotation crops (<15 years) for woodchips, however Mr Pugh has highlighted that this is changing with Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) being earned for longer rotations, resulting in increases in sawn products.

'Given that the sale of sawlogs obtained from public native forests does not even cover the cost of cutting the trees down and transporting them to the mill, ending logging of public forests will remove this subsidy and make growing trees more profitable. When combined with ACCUs it will be increasingly profitable to grow trees,' said Mr Pugh.

Sustainable plantations

'If the aim is to establish ecologically sustainable plantings there are some basic requirements: only planting on cleared land, preparing a property management plan to identify areas suitable for timber plantings, excluding commercial plantings from wide buffers around creeks and wetlands, steep slopes, and other sensitive areas, planting a variety of local species from

local genetic stock, and applying selective harvesting.'

Jobs

Mechanisation, efficiency and the introduction of more manufactured timber products has seen a continuing drop in the number of jobs, with employment in the NSW forestry sector falling from 23,792 in 2006 to 15,800 in 2021, which equates to a loss of 7,992 jobs over 15 years. Currently around 1,000 jobs are now reliant on logging public native forests.

'Ideally, a good farm forestry plan should include areas planted for environmental purposes, including providing habitat, enhancing linkages to facilitate animal movements, restoring broad stream buffers, and protecting steep and erodible slopes,' explained Mr Pugh.

'Rather than competing with large-scale industrial plantations, for small-scale growers it would be best to focus on speciality timbers to supply niche markets. In this region speciality rainforest timbers offer good long-term prospects. The group Subtropical Farm Forestry have been facilitating plantings for years.'

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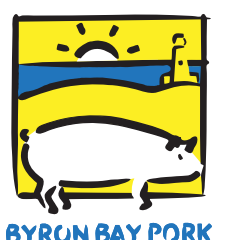


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What's in a hat?

David Lowe

Akubra was in the news last year when the iconic Australian hat company was bought by Andrew 'Twiggy' Forrest and his ex-wife Nicola. But some important facts went missing in the media hoopla.

What makes Akubras so great is the rabbit fur felt. You need 12 rabbits to make an average hat, more for a bigger one like the Sombrero popularised by 'bush tucker man' Les Hiddins.

As the hat company expanded, and travelled from its origins in Tasmania to Sydney and then Kempsey, introduced rabbits were also spreading in plague proportions, so it made sense to turn them into something useful. During the Great Depression, rabbits kept many families alive.

After myxomatosis was introduced in 1950, and then calicivirus in 1996, Australian rabbit populations crashed, which meant Akubra had to start sourcing pelts from overseas. The last time they made any data publicly available, in 2014, all their rabbits were being farmed and 'processed' in places like France, Ukraine and Belgium, countries with even worse animal welfare laws than Australia.

Making matters worse, only the soft belly fur of the rabbits is suitable for making hats.

Up rode the squatter

My association with Akubra started in 1986, when my sister gave me a lovely charcoal grey Squatter. This is a remarkable, somewhat obscure style of hat, light but firm, cool in summer and warm in winter.

The hat is uniquely shaped to its owner's personality, initially with steam, and then less intentionally via whatever happens next. After a few years, it gets too saggy and holey to be useful except as a stage prop, then you need to buy another one.

I've had a series of them. Once I had a black Squatter, which was somehow too black, and another time a brown one. I wasn't too sad when I accidentally left that hat on top of a car.

Occasionally, the company has tried to lure the likes of Gina Rinehart by making red and blue versions.

You can't just walk into a shop and buy a Squatter, even from the shop closest to the Akubra factory. You

need to order it, well in advance. These things are custom made, by hand, and they're not cheap. With so much invested in the hat, it's not surprising that many Squatter wearers become lifelong adherents.

When I became a vegan, I kept wearing these hats, long after I'd ditched the cheese, leather shoes, wallet and belt. After decades, the Squatter was woven into my identity, and become a blind spot, even though I knew how they were made.

Then and now

In the past, almost everyone wore a hat in Australia, long before

anyone had heard of skin cancer or vegans. If you went out of the house without a hat, then you weren't properly dressed. Akubra became a behemoth as they supplied thousands of slouch hats to the Australian Army (they still have the contract). That's an awful lot of rabbits.

When fashions changed, fictional characters like the Man from Snowy River and Crocodile Dundee kept Akubra alive, with the iconic hats even featuring in the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympics. Somehow, Akubra and Australia had become the same thing.

Invasive pests weren't all they had in common. The two legends had somehow melded.

Now, people who don't like being confronted by their own hypocrisy in the mirror can choose from a growing range of vegan headwear alternatives, including cork, woven palm, hemp, artificial felt products, and hats made from mycelium.

Next time you're looking for a hat, check out the cruelty-free, sustainable alternatives.

If I can ditch the bunny Akubra, anyone can!



Above: David Lowe models the Squatter. Photo Cloudbatcher Media
Right: The Australian Army still wears the Akubra.



ballina climate
ACTION
Leading change together

Ballina Shire Council's **Climate Change Policy** sets more ambitious targets than the NSW and Australian Governments to achieve rapid emissions reduction by:



reducing our operational greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero emissions by 2030



using 100% renewable electricity for our operations by 2030

see what Council has achieved so far at
ballina.nsw.gov.au/climate-change-action

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**WE WANT A FUTURE WHERE WILDLIFE
DEATHS ARE RARE - NOT ROUTINE**



TAMARA SMITH MP
MEMBER FOR BALLINA



[Tamar Smith MP](#) ballina@parliament.nsw.gov.au tamarasmith.org.au [02 6686 7522](tel:0266867522)

Authorised by Tamara Smith MP, Member for Ballina. Funded using parliamentary entitlements.



Reclaiming our sustainable future – be regenerative

Jo Immig

People have become cynical about the idea of sustainability, and often use the term with ironic air quotes. It's understandable since it's become the go-to word to greenwash everything from cleaning products to dodgy government development approvals. Its original meaning has long been abused and lost, and we need to reclaim it.

Given the enormity of the challenges faced today though, it's not enough to just aim for sustainability anymore, we need to repair the enormous damage done and create regenerative lives if we have any hope of returning to sustainability.

Reclaiming sustainability

Ecologists have used the term sustainability for decades and its meaning is deeply embedded in nature. It is the capacity of ecosystems to maintain their essential functions and processes over the long term, ensuring the resilience and health of the natural environment to meet the needs of current and future generations, of all beings.

It wasn't until the United Nations World Commission on

Environment and Development published the *Brundtland Report* in 1987 that terms like 'sustainable development' and 'sustainable economic growth' came into common use. And that's when the rot set in.

Sustainability came to mean a three-way trade-off between the environment, society and the economy. It was as if making decisions from the place where those three circles overlapped would somehow magically result in sustainability. After decades of applying the three-pillar approach, it's demonstrably not working in any sphere.

Why doesn't it work? The global economy has become dangerously disconnected from both the social and bio-physical worlds. While the economy ultimately needs the resources of nature, nature sure doesn't need the global economy.

The linear produce-consume-dispose economy blows a gaping hole in the planet's capacity to sustain itself. With the dominant economic paradigm of maximising growth, profits and GDP, we keep on consuming resources and causing environmental degradation. It's like a cancer that eventually kills the host.

It disconnects us from our fundamental nature, leaving us vulnerable to ideas like transhumanism, whereby we think we can 'transcend' our biological realities. The disconnection makes



Regenerative practices create systems where resources are repaired and reused, and waste is designed out, creating self-sustaining and regenerative cycles.

us blind to the rights of other beings to even exist on the planet.

We've already shot well past the point of ecological sustainability since we are using resources faster than they can be replenished, causing depletion and pollution. The social and economic impacts of this overshoot are becoming more evident by the minute.

There is such inequality in the world that billions of us still don't even have the basic needs – of food, shelter, and clean water – being met. Meanwhile, in developed economies, the goalposts keep changing with rapid technological developments and

new 'needs' just keep accelerating.

Meeting the needs of current generations is difficult enough within this paradigm, let alone thinking about the future generations, or other species, as we gobble up the earth. Something has got to give.

The re-generation

Inspired by nature, regenerative ways of being give us enormous potential to create a net positive environment. If we engage with the world holistically and realise its interconnected systems, working with them, not against them, we stand a collective chance.

In ecological terms, regenerative refers to processes that restore and revitalise ecosystems, improving their health and resilience beyond just maintaining the status quo. We need to reverse environmental degradation to improve the overall system.

The same ideas can be applied to human ecosystems. Regenerative principles can be applied across all sectors and disciplines from design and architecture to agriculture. It needs systems approaches such as life cycle assessment and cradle-to-cradle design. These ideas aren't new. We already know how

to do them, but somehow, they got swept away in the tsunami of hyper-consumerism.

Regenerative agriculture is already well established and occurring in different parts of the world. Even here in the Northern Rivers Byron Shire Council is providing Regenerative Agriculture Grants. It's a great start. We just need to scale up, and fast.

Focusing on enhancing and restoring soil health, biodiversity, and ecosystem functions through agriculture also brings opportunities for renewed community connections, local economies, and food system fairness for all beings.

Regenerative practices create systems where resources are repaired and reused and waste is designed out, creating self-sustaining and regenerative cycles. With this kind of thinking we can get off the highway to hell and start creating mosaics of regeneration to seed the earth with this way of being and hopefully become sustainable one day.

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

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Climate reality: hope and physical reality

Dr Sian Grigg

All this talk of hope and engagement is great. A necessary shift from physics to the hard realities of human behaviour, and the equally hard fact that to spur action individually and collectively you need to harness the power of hope. Barack Obama knew it, as did Jesus. This isn't anything new! But it is kind of new in the climate science community. It feels like a concession to the woo woo. Even if it's necessary, people who've spent their professional lives checking and verifying and calculating and attempting to remove biases from their thinking have a hard time peddling false hope. It's a bit of a philosophical question, but given that all hope involves betting on the future in a world made up of interconnected, complex, dynamical systems, the future is inherently uncertain, and all hope could arguably be false hope.

Just how false is a question of the uncertainty involved in the climate model predictions. Climate scientists have made great efforts to calculate probabilities and error margins to accurately show the degree of certainty of any prediction (like for the weather forecast). Quantifying uncertainty is an effort to quantify hope (for a

sunny weekend for example). At the moment no-one is willing to state the odds of us reaching net zero by 2050, but we do know that if we reach this target it gives us a 50 per cent chance of maintaining warming at 1.5°C in the medium term. The uncertainty in the social, political, and economic systems determining emissions in the next 25 years is huge. This uncertainty is a good thing, in the sense that hope has a large part to play in the outcome. The solutions exist to reach our target of net zero by 2050. That we know. Hope is justified, but needs maintaining.

The cycle of hope

What can we do to foster hope in the face of such uncertainty? So we are inspired to take action, which then spurs more hope, more action and so on? Hope requires encouragement and proof of progress. Positive news is important – shouting out the achievements and clearly stating the progress that has been made. Australia is on track to reduce emissions by 42 per cent from 2005 levels by 2030. This is good news. Investment in solar and wind has grown exponentially in the last ten years. Also good news.

What happens, however, if we tackle emissions, flatten the curve,



Hope comes in all shapes and sizes.
Photo Brendan Kelly

start to get on top of the situation, but not sufficiently quickly to stop the wild weather?

There is an amount of warming already in the system. If emissions stop instantly temperatures would also level out pretty quickly. But this means temperatures stay stable, at the level they are at when net zero is reached. We don't go back down to pre-industrial levels. By the time we reach net zero we will be at higher temperatures and have more crazy weather. It then takes much longer for temperatures to fall back to pre-industrial levels once greenhouse gases and aerosol emissions have reached zero. So the generation that makes the changes (between now and 2050) is not the generation that will see the results (more like 2075-2100 and beyond).

Breathing space

I am not sure this is politically tenable. The Great Barrier Reef could still be bleached out of existence, heat waves will increase as will the wild weather, already stressed ecosystems may tip over the edge. The AMOC (Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation – the ocean currents currently keeping northern Europe warmer than Alaska) may slow and collapse (which is irreversible). These are not good outcomes, and don't encourage further hope and action. Like someone whose arteries are blocked with cholesterol, even if they start with healthier eating and a new exercise routine they may not avoid the worst outcome without a bypass operation. The bypass operation provides a solid fix, and buys them time to make the changes that will lead to a healthier future.

Is a bypass operation possible for the Earth? Is it possible to buy some time and what might that look like? The word is geo-engineering, and it has bad press. It is about as appealing as going in for a triple bypass. No-one wants it. But if it significantly increases the odds of a healthy planet post op?

What might we be able to do at a local level, a regional level,

Keep up
hope
and take
action

climaterealityproject.org
89percent.org

Find Your Tribe

Be brave, stay positive,
find your tribe: three
climate activists explain
how to get started
(*The Guardian*: <https://tinyurl.com/4fehpnb7>)

or even a global level to lower temperatures and calm the wild weather while we are reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the planet's general health? At some point a politician, pushed by societal suffering, will ask that question. And scientists must be ready with an answer.

In the meantime, get involved and let's try to collectively avoid the triple bypass. Join the fight!

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Piccabeen Park

Time is of the essence...



The time to speak up, act up and protest is now.
We are in a climate crisis!

HAPPY Mother's DAY



Paddock Project

Join the team at The Paddock Project for a relaxed, love-filled Mother's Day celebration surrounded by nature, family, flowers and great food. Enjoy free family Rainbow Yoga from 10-11am, live music, laughter and a joyful atmosphere. Bring a rug for a picnic or pre-order a delicious hamper from the kiosk (essential via Eventbrite). At 12pm, join their flower foraging session in the gardens. All ages are welcome to take part. Give mum a day to feel celebrated, cherished, and deeply loved. Book now on Eventbrite!

64 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby
www.paddockproject.com

Zócalo

Visit their Newrybar boutique, open daily, and browse their uniquely curated collection of women's clothing, jewellery, homewares and much more, from Mexico, Australia and beyond. You'll recognise brands like Spell, Nine Lives Bazaar, White Raven and Ottway, as well as discovering many more you may not be familiar with.

A portion of every sale helps to directly fund four charities in Mexico (where their other two shops are located) including a dog rescue, recycling center, children's medical fund, and a soup kitchen. Just by shopping with them, you help contribute to these charities! So shopping for your lady this Mother's Day automatically helps those in need!

17 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar
Or shop online at: shopzocalo.com
[@shopzocalo](https://www.instagram.com/shopzocalo)
hola@shopzocalo.com

North Byron Hotel

Celebrate Mother's Day at the North Byron Hotel with a laid-back lunch designed to make mum feel special. Choose from a \$45 set menu or enjoy a \$69 bottomless lunch, with two sittings available: 11:30am-1:30pm and 2-4pm. Enjoy the sounds of vinyl DJs, a complimentary gift for mum, and mimosas available all day. It's an easy, thoughtful way to spend the day - good food, relaxed atmosphere, and a little something extra to show mum how much she means.

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

Byron Bay Oyster Bar

Spoil mum with an indulgent afternoon of oysters and bubbles this Mothers Day at Byron Bay Oyster Bar. For \$79pp, enjoy bottomless natural oysters served by the dozen with classic dressings, and Prosecco poured by the glass in their sunny laneway setting. No bookings or set seating - just a relaxed, coastal-luxe experience made for celebrating. Whether you're treating mum, gathering the girls, or after a Sunday well spent, this is your sign.

Sunday 11 May | 11am-4pm
[@byronbayoysterbar](https://www.instagram.com/byronbayoysterbar) | Walk-ins only | \$79pp
Hotel Marvell, 4 Marvell Street, Byron Bay
02 6685 7385

NORTH BYRON HOTEL MOTHER'S DAY BOTTOMLESS LUNCH!

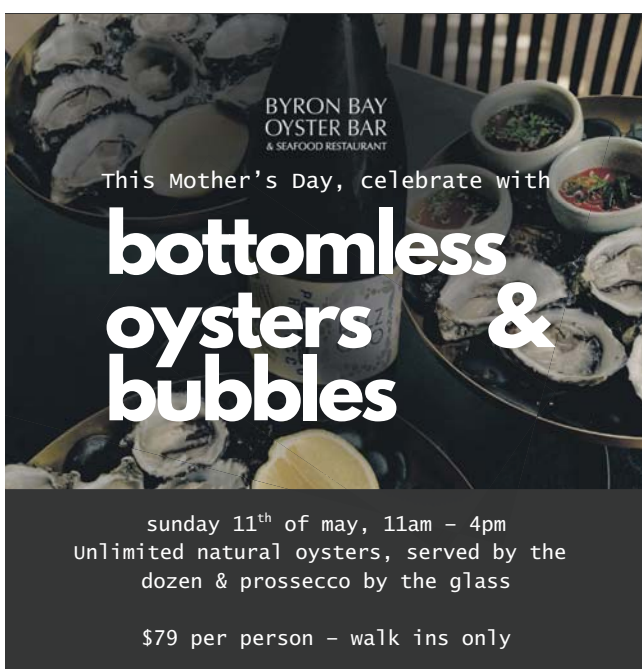


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This Mother's Day, celebrate with

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oysters &
bubbles**

sunday 11th of may, 11am - 4pm
unlimited natural oysters, served by the
dozen & prosecco by the glass

\$79 per person - walk ins only



Celebrate

Mother's Day

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Follow the QR Code to
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Happy Mother's Day



High tea at Azure Bar and Grill

This Mothers Day, Azure Bar and Grill at Elements of Byron invites guests to honour the mother figures in their lives with an unforgettable high tea experience on the stunning Azure Terrace. The afternoon promises refined indulgence with a beautifully curated selection of hand-crafted sweet and savoury delights. Guests will be welcomed with a glass of Louis Roederer champagne or a signature mocktail, followed by a tiered high tea featuring decadent treats such as lemon meringue tart with finger lime, Valrhona Gianduja cremeux, and warm buttermilk scones with Madagascan vanilla bean Chantilly cream. Live music and bottomless Byron Bay Tea create a relaxed, luxurious atmosphere — but the highlight? All attendees are entered into the draw to win a luxurious spa treatment for two at Osprey Spa.

Tickets: \$115 per person
Bookings are essential: [elementsofbyron.com.au/whats-on/](https://www.elementsofbyron.com.au/whats-on/)
 Treat mum to something truly special

The Book Warehouse

Let the staff at your local Book Warehouse shop help you find the perfect Mother's Day gift. There are so many beautiful books, art supplies, games and puzzles for your purchasing pleasure. Local businesses are the lifeblood that flow through our community and your custom means the world to them. The Book Warehouse staff are dedicated and knowledgeable booksellers who can advise on books or gifts, suggest greeting cards and make sure that your gift is just the right fit. Show your mum some love and support this locally-owned business.

Ballina and Lismore
[thebwh.com](https://www.thebwh.com)

The Byron Bathhouse

Celebrate Mother's Day at The Byron Bathhouse, Byron Bay's first medical-grade hydrothermal wellness centre. Enjoy a 90-minute bathhouse session with access to a chlorine-free magnesium pool, infrared saunas, cold plunge, and red light therapy, plus herbal tea and a cleansing scrub on arrival. Choose from relaxing treatments like massage, or book a private group session with a grazing table and healthy spritzers. Gift cards are also available. Treat mum to the ultimate wellness experience this Mothers Day!

74-78 Bangalow Rd, Byron Bay
0461 446 290
[thebyronbathhouse.com.au](https://www.thebyronbathhouse.com.au)

Pink Party at Byron Bay Golf Club

Celebrate the ladies in your life at the inaugural Pink Party hosted by Byron Bay Golf Club on Sunday, 11 May from 3-8pm. Enjoy pink-themed cocktails on arrival from Brookies Gin, anti-pasti platters from Bowerbird Dining, DJ Miss Renee Simone from 3-6pm, and DJ Pink Panther (Versace Boys) from 6-8pm. Floral decorations from Nikau Floral Studio will make for great photo opportunities with your girl gang. Pre-tickets cost \$45, which includes your first complimentary pink cocktail or mocktail, platters to graze on and

buy-one-get-one-free for a Cape Byron Distillery tour! \$10 from every ticket goes to Breast Cancer Awareness. Wear pink! Door prize for best pink themed outfit. All welcome.

<https://buytickets.at/byronbaygolfclub/1649305>
02 6685 6470
62 Broken Head Road, Byron Bay

THINK PINK!

Mothers Day

SUNDAY 11TH MAY
 3PM - 8PM

DJ RENEE SIMONE

..Complimentary pink Brookies cocktail on arrival.
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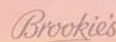


TIX: \$45 PRE | \$55 DOOR

\$10 DONATED TO BREAST CANCER AWARENESS FROM EVERY TICKET SOLD
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Mother's Day High Tea

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Live music. Bookings essential.

Sunday 11 May, 12.30pm

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WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



✳ Seven-time BAFTA Award-winner **Steve Coogan** plays four roles in the world premiere stage adaptation of Stanley Kubrick's comedy masterpiece *Dr. Strangelove* – this explosively funny satire, about a rogue US general who triggers a nuclear attack, is led by a world-renowned creative team.
Screening Wednesday at 1pm at Byron Theatre
Tickets \$22 (\$5 seniors with ID) from www.byroncentre.com.au

refined their sound over a decade and bring a unique musical experience to every show.

Saturday, at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show



✳ Award-winning Australian vocalist **Emma Pask** is heading to Lismore – she is sure to delight you as she interweaves storytelling through timeless swinging jazz standards, upbeat Latin rhythms, tender ballads and of course some raucous blues.

Friday at 7pm at the NRC Concert Room, Lismore
Tickets \$44 from humanitix.com



✳ This month's Kingy Comedy features **Dusty Rich**, a dynamic comedian known for his lightning-fast wit and spontaneous performance style leaving you in stitches. Dusty is a true original that you won't want to miss.

Wednesday from 6.30pm at Kingscliff Beach Bowls Club. Free show

✳ Step into the subconscious fantasies of the wild feminine with **Wild Women: Howl** – where desire, power, and raw sensuality awaken under the midnight moon. A world where Eros meets ritual, where movement becomes liberation, where the feminine howls free.

Friday 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House, Brunswick Heads

Tickets from \$44 from brunswickpicturehouse.com

✳ Jazz pianist and vocalist **Kyle Watson** returns to the **Lismore Jazz Club** with a powerhouse quintet, the **Jazz Warriors**, including **Govinda Abbott, Jesse Kupper, Peter Wilkins and Beat Gisler**, and it's likely the band will also be joined by some local special guests on the day.

Sunday from 2pm at the Lismore City Bowlo

Tickets on the door \$20/\$15 for Jazz Club members

✳ Over the last 20 years of gigging on the festival and blues circuit, **Dillion James** has rebirthed an energetic sound that encapsulates the tone of an earlier era. Keyboards binds melody and rhythm together, and like a real blues-man, has paid his dues performing and perfecting his craft on the road and at late night gigs.

Sunday Blues Sessions from 2.30pm on the Ballina RSL Boardwalk. Free show

✳ The four-piece dream team **Southwall** includes **Mark Heazlett, Toby Andrews, Matt Bone and Mat Akehurst** who have

Eclectic Selection

In Conversation with Colum

You are invited to an evening with Irish literary great **Colum McCann** – the **Byron Writers Festival** is honoured to present a major event with the internationally-acclaimed, award-winning Irish writer Colum McCann to discuss his latest novel, *Twist*, in conversation with ABC journalist **Mick O'Regan**.

A darkly epic novel about connection, disconnection and destruction from *The New York Times* bestselling, National Book Award-winning, Booker Prize-longlisted author of *Let the Great World Spin*, *Twist* is a meditation on the nature of narrative and truth from one of the great storytellers of our time.

The Byron Writers Festival is thrilled to welcome Colum to the Northern Rivers, all the way from his

home in New York City, for this exclusive event on **Wednesday, May 7**.

'A powerfully realist novel of men at sea... It speaks of the brokenness of our time, the successful and unsuccessful attempts at repairs, and the vulnerability of our world' – Salman Rushdie.

'One of our greatest storytellers' – Elif Shafak.

This event is on Wednesday, May 7 at 6:30pm.

Doors open at 5.30pm at the Bangalow A&I Hall, Station St. Arrive early to grab a Pocket Curry, beverage and settle in.

Books available for purchase and signing from The Book Room Collective. Tickets from humanitix.com.

byron ballet presents

The Sleeping Beauty

May 9-11th
 byrontheatre.com

b Special Event

Colum McCann In Conversation

7 May

Tickets → byronwritersfestival.com



Punk guide to the orchestra with Si and Gyan

Running **Museagency** recording studio in Byron, and known for his signature punk fantasia sound, **Si Greaves** has been sought out to produce and orchestrate for many great artists including **Gyan, Merryn Jeann, Dane Tucquet** and the emerging **Eva Diana**. All these performers, plus the **Little Tendrils** strings (**Tara Lee Byrne** and **Sue Simpson**) will join Si on stage at the **Drill Hall, Mullumbimby** on **Saturday** to provide a window into a sublime, beautiful world of orchestration from his outsider perspective.

Si has been an ubiquitous presence in the Byron underground music scene for some decades. He fronted grunge/noise bands like **The Mood**, that toured with **Sonic Youth** and **Dinosaur Jr** while

still performing classical guitar concerts, being a founding member of the **Byron Music Society**.

Gyan has her own international singing career with an **ARIA** award and more recently **Sydney Theatre** production and **CBCA** publishing awards shared with Si.

'Committed to the art of song performance orchestration and sound, Si is an inspiration and amazing collaborator' – DT.

'Late period Beatles with delicious instrumentation and just the right level of melancholy ... a tender ambience that wouldn't be out of place on a **Nick Drake** album.' – *The Sydney Morning Herald*.

Saturday at 4.30pm at The Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby. Tickets – humantix.com.

After the blues, comes the joy!

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink brings the beats on **Saturday** – **Cunning Stunts** invites you to the joy-filled May edition, where music, meaning, and movement converge for another night of magic in the shed.

This month's line-up is pure fire. Taking over the decks are **Lorna Clarkson** and **Iain Yes** – alongside the legendary resident duo, **Lord Sut** and **Dale Stephen**.

Making her shed debut is **Lorna Clarkson** – with more than three decades of dancefloor storytelling behind her, **Lorna Clarkson** brings a rare blend of depth, edge, and intuition to her sets. Her sound is a fearless fusion of electro, house, techno, jungle, hip house, disco, and more, crafted for the moment and shaped by the crowd.

Returning to the shed is **Iain Yes** – DJ, producer, and turntable trickster **Iain Yes** is back for his third **Nudge** appearance, and he's bringing a dancefloor-shaking, funk-fuelled house set with surprises galore.

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink is not just a party – it's a purpose-driven celebration where every beat helps drive positive change in our local community. Come early, stay late, and let **Saturday** be your dance-for-good date. But get your tickets now before they sell out.

This May and June, **Nudge Nudge Wink Wink** is raising funds for **Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre**.

Saturday from 4pm at the Billinudgel Hotel shed. Tickets can be found at https://bit.ly/Nudge_May3_TICKETS.

BFF 2025 Bangalow Film Festival

APRIL 30TH - MAY 4TH

WORLD CLASS FILMS
SMALL TOWN CHARM

BFF

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bangalowfilmfestival.com.au



seven



Williamson's divide

David Williamson's *The Great Divide* directed by Colin Elliott is a comedy with wise-cracking commentary on wealth inequality and human greed.

Golden sands, turquoise waters and a lush green golf course – Penny Poulter leads an almost idyllic life in one of Australia's best kept secrets, Wallis Heads. But when this hidden coastal gem is discovered by the ruthless and immensely wealthy Alex Whittle, ambitious plans to put the town firmly on the tourist map spark a bitter rivalry.

Can this human bulldozer, with money to burn, ever be stopped?

Through a half-century of powerful productions, David Williamson has been Australia's most prolific playwright. In *The Great Divide*, **Murwillumbah Theatre Company** presents his new topical satire.

The season runs from Friday, May 16 to Sunday, June 1 – both matinee and evening shows at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre Auditorium – with cabaret seating and BYO style. Tickets: www.murwillumbahtheatrecompany.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 BayFM AMRAP CBAA



Theatre-making with movement at its heart

Deborah Mills, the highly-qualified and internationally-experienced choreographer, director and teacher, reports that the first term of her 12-month **Embodied Theatre: Workshop-to-Stage** project has been a great success.

In collaboration with the **Lismore Theatre Company**, Mills is currently recruiting and welcoming new participants to **enrol** in the second term, starting **Tuesday, May 6**.

Drawing from Laban's Movement Analysis, the workshops have been exploring ways to express ideas and emotions focusing on the body, including experimenting with text and props.

One of the participants said, 'These workshops are the highlight of my week. The freedom to play and create bold new work is such joy. Each week is a collaborative experience, where all are valued for what they bring to the project.' Another said, 'It is a privilege to attend such a welcoming group.'

The working principles and process of these workshops give permission to explore and experiment freely, uninhibited by the fear of being wrong. Mills is excited by, 'the creative possibilities and discoveries that this

sense of play and openness brings to the making of dance-theatre.'

The development of material generated in the workshops will contribute to an original theatre work to be staged in **February 2026 at The Rochdale Theatre**.

Adults with an interest or experience in dance, theatre, physical theatre, movement exploration, improvisation, experimentation with props, scriptwriting/development and performance, are most welcome to join the second term and share in the fun of theatre-making.

Workshops are held every Tuesday night at The Rochdale Theatre, Goonellabah from 6pm to 9pm (starting May 6) and every third Sunday of the month at The Uniting Church Hall, 80 Keen St, Lismore, from 10am to 4pm (starting May 18).

Cost is \$75 per term (\$50 for LTC members).

To book a place or make enquiries, contact admin@lismoretheatrecompany.org.au or call 0406 399 842.

Bookings through Humanitix at <https://events.humanitix.com/embodied-theatre-workshops-term-2>.

DAVID WILLIAMSON'S
the great divide
DIRECTED BY COLIN ELLIOTT & DAVID THOMAS

16 May - 1 June
A biting satire about a developer with designs on a coastal community
MURWILLUMBAH THEATRE COMPANY
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The ballet beauty is asleep

Byron Ballet presents one of the world's most beloved tales, *The Sleeping Beauty* – Princess Aurora is cursed to die on her 16th birthday after a vengeful spell is cast by the powerful fairy Maleficent. The wisdom fairy comes to the rescue and softens the spell into a long, hundred year sleep.

Byron Ballet's original version brings new life into this classic tale by also expressing why Maleficent seeks revenge.

Byron Ballet's director, **Yvonne Hall**, says that after being inspired by the film *Maleficent* she began searching for suitable classical music. 'I was excited to finally find the most exquisite music by **Ravel** and **Dvorak** for the roles of Maleficent and her nature fairies. This worked well alongside Tchaikovsky's original score for the regal world of the palace.

'This story brings more depth into the ballet, and the audience can empathise with Maleficent's suffering. Like the

phoenix rising, she rises from the ashes and transforms, by the end of the story, into a stronger and more forgiving being.'

Hall says the story becomes a dramatic tapestry of love, betrayal and friendship. 'Children will love the favourite, well-known scenes of Aurora's christening with its elegant fairy dances and magical blessings, along with the stunning love duet between Aurora and the prince.'

This classical masterpiece features professional male guest dancers and the rising local talent of Byron Ballet's advanced dancers. *The Sleeping Beauty* is the perfect introduction to storytelling through music and dance, set within the warm intimacy of the Byron Theatre, it is an inspirational family ballet and a must-see for anyone who enjoys classical music and dance.

May 9, 10 and 11 at the Byron Theatre. Tickets on sale now from byrontheatre.com.

A message from the MOB

President of the **MardiGrass Organising Body**, better known as the **MOB**, **Michael Balderstone**, says there are absolutely first-class speakers on all aspects of the cannabis plant, and in fact on many other entheogenic plants, at this year's MardiGrass festival. 'The term comes from the Greek words "en" (in) and "Theos" (god), meaning "god within."

'Albo's called the election for the same weekend and we recommend voters use a pre-poll before they come to Nimbin rather than crushing the polling booth at Nimbin on the Saturday.'

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 to join **Antony Greenout** in our very own MardiGrass Tally-Ho room.

There's always plenty of comedy at MardiGrass – this year is the **30th Hemp Olympix** and by popular demand the **Growers Iron Person** event is on again. The **Joint Rolling** contests and **Bong Throw** and **Yell** are crowd favourites, as well as **Correct Weight** where contestants have to guess an ounce, or the **Dealers Nightmare** which tests your cool in a police raid.

It looks like a record-breaking line up for the **Kombi Konvoy** on election day which culminates in the **420 Stoner Blaze** protest. Everyone is encouraged to dress up and enjoy the main event, the **Rally for Cannabis Law Reform** on Sunday afternoon.

There are weed movies running all weekend at the Bush Theatre, and six stages for speakers and performers – including **Hussy**



HUSSY HICKS

Hicks, The Hoochers, Black Bird Hum, Lionheart Rebellion, the Oz Hip Hop Showcase, and the massive **High Vibes program** which includes **Elektropanda, Whompus, Creten, Organic Distortion** and **Coneheadz**.

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.

Tickets are on sale now at nimbinmardigrass.com, and have been the same price for years now, \$150 for a full weekend pass to all events plus three nights camping at the Nimbin Showgrounds with excellent facilities. Keep an eye on the website for program updates until the big weed weekend on May 2-4. Visit nimbinmardigrass.com/ program for more information.

'It really is time to legalise cannabis... the drug against wars!'

CUNNING STUNTS

nudge nudge Wink wink

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PUNK GUIDE

TO THE ORCHESTRA

SI & GYAN

LITTLE TENDRILS (STRINGS)

SPECIAL GUESTS | MERRYN JEANN DANE TUCQUET | EVA DIANA

DRILL HALL MULLUM

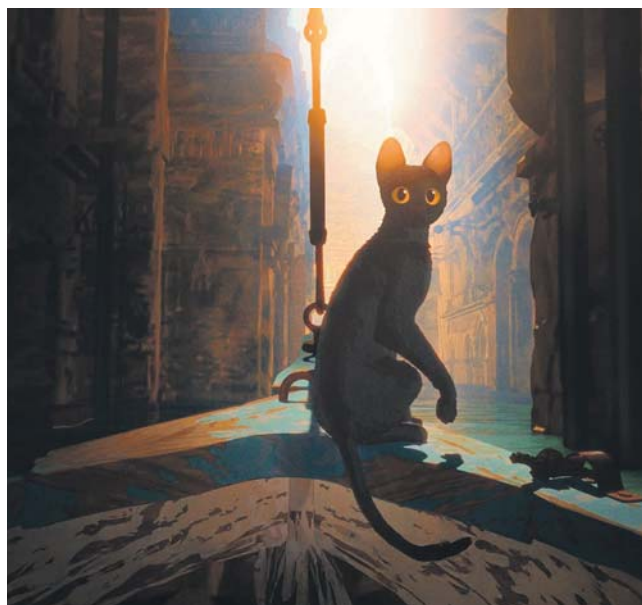
3 MAY | 4:30PM | HUMANITIX

GIG GUIDE

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



CINEMA



Go with the Flow

I actually can't say enough good things about this movie. I anticipated *Flow* eagerly and when it arrived, I was not disappointed. If there's one animated film you see in your life, this is the one.

The animation artwork itself is glorious, new and fresh and elegant. The themes and the concept are both riveting and enlightening. You don't need to understand the language of cats or dogs or capybaras or even ring-tailed lemurs, secretary birds, or whales, or even any human language – this story is spoken in colour and sadness, joy and inevitability and hope.

Winner of the Academy Award and Golden Globe for Best Animated Feature, *Flow* is a wondrous journey, through realms natural and mystical.

Cat is a solitary animal, but as his home is devastated by a great flood, he finds refuge on a boat populated by various species, and will have to team up with them despite their differences. In the lonesome boat, sailing through mystical overflowed landscapes, they navigate the challenges and dangers of adapting to this new world.

From the boundless imagination of the award-winning Gints Zilbalodis (*Away*) comes a thrilling animated spectacle, as well as a profound meditation on the fragility of the environment and the spirit of friendship and community. Steeped in the soaring possibilities of visual storytelling, *Flow* is a feast for the senses and a treasure for the heart.

You can literally take your entire family and your friends and neighbours to see this film and every single human will find a place to connect.

Screening this week at Palace Cinemas – palacecinemas.com.au.

WEDNESDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 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
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, BANGALOW FILM FESTIVAL
- 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

THURSDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, THE GIN BUGGS
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM SAM BUCKLEY BAND
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, BANGALOW FILM FESTIVAL
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM DAN HANNAFORD
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND

FRIDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, PINK ZINC
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM JEROME WILLIAMS & RAGGA JUMP
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM BYRON BAY TANGO FESTIVAL 2025
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4.30PM DJ ALICE Q
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM MOHILAA WITH JUMAN AND THE SEEDING
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, BANGALOW FILM FESTIVAL
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM THE BEAUTIFUL GIRLS 20TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR + NEIKO + DJ AROC

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM WILD WOMEN: HOWL
- MULLUM FARMER'S MARKET, MULLUMBIMBY, 8AM JOE CONROY AND TOBY ANDREWS
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ SALVE JORGE
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM KRAPEOKEEE WITH JESS
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM ANDREW & MAL
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM FAT ALBERT
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 8.30PM AUSTRALIA'S ULTIMATE GRUNGE SHOW
- NORTHERN RIVERS CONSERVATORIUM, LISMORE, 7PM EMMA PASK
- BUCKLEY'S CHANCE, ALSTONVILLE, 5.30PM JOE CONROY
- VARIOUS VENUES, NIMBIN, NIMBIN MARDIGRASS
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM PHIL GUEST
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM MIKE RUDD & TIM GAZE
- CABARITA BEACH HOTEL 6.30PM MARTIN WAY DUO
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM NATHAN KAYE
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM OOOZ

SATURDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, SOUTHWALL
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM CHRISTIAN PATEY & CINNAMON SUN DUP & FRANK BOOKER + TONY VELVET
- BYRON THEATRE 4PM BYRON BAY TANGO FESTIVAL – ASTOR PIAZZOLLA: THE FOUR SEASONS OF BUENOS AIRES
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM DJ MR NICE & DJ LIPPO
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, BANGALOW FILM FESTIVAL
- BANGALOW HOTEL 6PM INO PIO
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM SUPERCHEEZE
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM BACHELOR GIRL

- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM PUNK GUIDE TO THE ORCHESTRA WITH SI AND GYAN
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL NUDGE WINK WINK – DJS LORNA CLARKSON, IAIN YES, DALE STEPHEN & LORD SUT
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM NATHAN KAYE
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 6PM OOOZ
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM JB'S BLUES BREAKERS
- VARIOUS VENUES, NIMBIN, NIMBIN MARDIGRASS
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM CHRIS C
- 2 BROTHERS, POTTSVILLE, 5PM JOE CONROY
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM LUKE PAULEY
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM JASON DELPHIN
- SHEOAK SHACK, FINGAL HEAD, 6PM PACO LARA AND PAUL A. GEORGE
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM LIAM COOPER
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 6.30PM OFF JUDY, THIRST TRAP, RADIUM DOLLS, C.O.F.F.I.N

SUNDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, MOEBIUS
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM GOODRICH
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM DANI QUAYLE MUSIC
- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM YULLI'S OPEN MIC
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, BANGALOW FILM FESTIVAL
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM GARITH LINDSAY
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM LOONALOOP + KALAKARI
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM DJ MONSIEUR DIOP
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM SWAMP CATS OPEN MIC
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM TESSA DIVINE

- BALLINA MARKET 8AM JOE CONROY
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10AM THE BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB, BOARDWALK 2.30PM SUNDAY BLUES CLUB SESSIONS FEAT DILLION JAMES BAND
- 7 MILE BREWERY, BALLINA, 2PM JOE CONROY
- ELTHAM HOTEL 4PM JACK DAVIES & THE BUSH CHOOKS
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 2PM LISMORE JAZZ CLUB – KYLE WATSON'S JAZZ WARRIORS
- VARIOUS VENUES, NIMBIN, NIMBIN MARDIGRASS
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM UKI REFUGEE PROJECT – MY FAVOURITE CAKE
- CABARITA BEACH HOTEL 3PM JOSH HAMILTON

MONDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, LEIGH JAMES
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM GUY KACHEL

TUESDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, ISAAC FRANKHAM
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM TRILLA
- HOWL & MOAN, BYRON BAY, 7PM JACK DAVIES & THE BUSH CHOOKS WITH SERENA ROSE
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7PM STONERS COMEDY CLUB
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM PETER TUITAMA

WEDNESDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, MATTHEW ARMITAGE
- A&I HALL, BANGALOW, 6.30PM IN CONVERSATION WITH COLUM MCCANN
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM OPEN MIC JAM
- ELTHAM HOTEL NOT QUITE FOLK JAM

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CLOWN IN A CORNFIELD (MA15+) FRIGHT NIGHT Thurs: 8:00PM	DOG MAN (G) Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:10AM, 1:15PM. Sat, Sun: 11:10AM, 1:30PM	STELIOS (M) NFI Daily: 1:00PM, 6:30PM	THUNDERBOLTS* (PG) NFI Daily: 11:30AM, 2:15PM, 3:45PM, 7:15PM, 8:10PM
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ROYAL OPERA: TURANDOT (C13) Sun: 1:00PM. Wed: 11:00AM	FLOW (G) Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:10AM, 4:00PM. Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:10AM, 1:40PM	THE AMATEUR (M) Thurs, Sat, Tues: 11:00AM, 5:45PM. Fri, Mon: 11:00AM, 8:15PM. Sun, Wed: 5:45PM	UNTIL DAWN (MA15+) Daily except Mon, Tues: 3:30PM. Mon: 3:45PM. Thurs: 3:30PM, 8:20PM
THE SALT PATH (M) Sparkling Session Sun: 1:30PM	THE WEDDING BANQUET (M) MOVIE CLUB PREVIEW Fri: 6:20PM	THE CORRESPONDENT (M) Daily except Sun, Wed: 3:30PM, 8:30PM. Sun: 8:15PM. Wed: 3:30PM	WARFARE (MA15+) Thurs: 11:10AM, 6:00PM. Fri, Mon, Tues: 11:15AM, 6:15PM. Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 6:30PM. Wed: 11:15AM, 6:00PM
			A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG) Daily: 10:10AM, 12:20PM, 2:30PM, 4:50PM, 7:20PM
			CLOWN IN A CORNFIELD (MA15+) FRIGHT NIGHT Thurs: 7:30PM
			DOG MAN (G) Daily: 10:00AM, 2:45PM
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			THE ACCOUNTANT 2 (MA15+) Thurs, Fri: 10:00AM, 4:50PM. Sat: 10:15AM, 7:00PM. Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:00AM, 7:00PM
			THE WEDDING BANQUET (M) MOVIE CLUB PREVIEW Fri: 7:30PM
			THUNDERBOLTS* (PG) NFI Thurs, Fri, Sat: 12:10PM, 4:45PM, 7:00PM. Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed: 12:10PM, 2:40PM, 4:45PM, 7:20PM
			WARFARE (MA15+) Thurs, Fri: 2:50PM. Sat: 5:00PM. Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed: 5:15PM

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

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



High School English Teacher
 Temporary 7 Weeks (LSL Cover)
 Advertised on page 12
 Position description and application process
www.Capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

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

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www.thinkblinkdesign.com

MUSICAL NOTES

KEYS/GUITAR PLAYER extensive jazz rep. seeking new opportunities. 0488235179

LIGHT drummer harm/vocal seeking older exp. players for duo/trio 0488235179

GUITAR STRINGS, REPAIRS
 Brunswick Heads 66851005

LIFE CELEBRATION

Johnnie Busch

1942–2025



Celebration of Life

Johnnie died very peacefully at home in Ocean Shores on February 19th this year after an amazingly stubborn fight with mesothelioma. It was a fight that she knew she could not win but this didn't stop her fighting hard and wringing whatever joy out of life she could find. Johnnie was the much loved partner of Peter and beloved mother to Priscilla, Jennifer and Phillip and mother-in-law to their partners Gabriel, Greg and Shannon. She was the adored Granny of Gabriel, Isabella, Frances, Oliver, Archie and Mendel. Johnnie was privately cremated and now that we have organised the family from overseas it is time for us to celebrate her life and be thankful for all the joy and love that she brought into the lives of our family and our community.

Johnnie will be formally farewelled at **St Martin's Anglican Church Mullumbimby on Friday 16th May commencing at 11 am.** Family and friends are warmly invited to attend to remember such a wonderful woman, great community member in the four towns she lived in throughout her life and her abiding faith and love in family. It is hoped that Johnnie's bowls friends will wear bowls uniform. Light refreshments will be served at the Ocean Shores Country Club following the service. No flowers by request please but a donation in her name could be made to the Westpac Rescue Lifesaver Helicopter Service if you are so inclined.

Johnnie's family thank all our friends who found time to visit and provide support throughout the 17 months Johnnie fought this insidious disease. Our special thanks go to the Byron Hospital Palliative Care team whose expertise and compassion allowed us to keep Johnnie at home throughout her illness.

FUNERAL NOTICES

In Loving Memory of GWEN CARTWRIGHT (KING)

26.03.1934 – 27.04.2025

Gwen passed away peacefully at home.

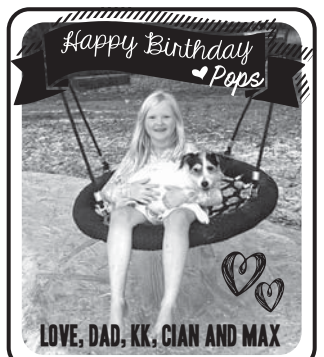
Deeply loved wife of George King from Burringbar (dec) and Ken Cartwright Mullumbimby (Dec). Deeply loved Mum, Mother-in-law, Nana and Little Nanny of Jim and Deb, Kay and John, Janet and Nic and Families

Family & Friends are warmly invited to attend Gwen's funeral at the Presbyterian Church, Mullumbimby on Tuesday 6th May 2025 commencing 11.00am.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS
 6684 6232



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!
 LOVE FROM THE ECHO CREW XX



PETS



NICKY
Meet Nicky, the sweetest, most affectionate and pretty little tabby girl. At just under a year old, she has already had a litter of adorable kittens! Nicky is a lively and playful little soul, who absolutely loves being cuddled. She thrives on attention, and would love to move into a loving 'forever' home. Desexed and vaccinated.
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no. 900263003505653

To make an appointment
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petsforlifeanimalshelter.net



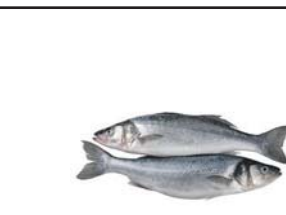
ROSIE
Rosie is a 5 month old, Kelpie/Lab X. She's quick to learn and always ready for her next adventure. Rosie would be best suited to a family living on acreage or property, where she has the space to explore and the stimulation she craves. #991003002920416Location: MurwillumbahFor more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128Interested? Please complete our online adoption expression of interest. <https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>
Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
ABN 83 126 970 338



DAISY
Daisy is almost a reformed scaredy cat. In the beginning she'd do anything to get away but now she's warming up to being shown affection. Daisy acts like she doesn't enjoy the love by pretending to swat us away but there's no malice in her actions. She's simply learning to trust again. Could you be the one that wins her over completely? To meet Daisy & our other cats & kittens, please visit the Animal Rehoming Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.
OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm
Thurs 3-5pm | Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 6684 4070
Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R251000222



HOPE
Hope is a goofy and lovable little Staffy Cross pup who's got gumption in spades. This confident and curious cutie is only four months old, but she's already very smart. Hope is playful and cheeky, listens well, knows how to sit, is learning to walk on a harness and her toilet training is going really well. If you're looking for a pup full of life and love, Hope's your girl.
#R251 00 00 60
T: 6681 1860 E: shelter@nras.org.au
W: www.nras.org.au



Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



MAXI
Handsome 7-month-old male Kelpie x Bull Arab 'Maxi' is an exceedingly sweet natured boy. He is very responsive to directions and corrections, is quite submissive and excellent with other dogs. He will no doubt be a mix of very active combined with chilled affectionate couch potato. Maxi would suit life on a property/farm or would be the most charming companion for someone with an active lifestyle with time to exercise and train. Please contact Shell on 0458461935.
MC: 941000028968305

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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)
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 24:10	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
8	TH	6:17 17:07	14:37 2:08	0521 1.46; 1812 1.44	1142 0.46
9	F	6:17 17:07	15:03 3:01	0601 1.44; 1848 1.54	0002 0.60; 1212 0.42
10	SA	6:18 17:06	15:30 3:53	0639 1.41; 1922 1.62	0047 0.57; 1240 0.39
11	SU	6:19 17:05	15:59 4:46	0714 1.38; 1956 1.68	0129 0.53; 1307 0.37
12	M	6:19 17:05	16:31 5:41	0748 1.33; 2029 1.73	0209 0.51; 1335 0.36
13	TU	6:20 17:04	17:07 6:37	0823 1.28; 2102 1.75	0248 0.50; 1403 0.37
14	W	6:20 17:04	17:49 7:34	0859 1.23; 2138 1.75	0328 0.50; 1434 0.39

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

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Free Connecting Generations Bangalow

Come along to a free Bangalow autumn event connecting young families with older members of the community with fun activities, games, and great live music on Sunday, May 4, 2.30 to 5pm. Come along to the Bangalow Heritage House and Museum where there will be free face-painting and the chance for kids to paint a portrait of their mum for Mother's Day to and take part in a mum and child three-legged race. There will also be watermelon smashing, a dress up relay race, an egg and spoon race and tug of war. All ages welcome!

BV Probuc Club

The Brunswick Valley Probuc Club meeting is on Tuesday, May 6 at 10am at the Ocean Shores Country Club. Visitors welcome. Inquires ring Margaret 6680 3316.

Free for nature lovers

Nature lovers, listen up! Byron Bay Library presents acoustic ecologist Andrew Skeoch on Thursday, 15 May 4-5.30pm. In his new book *Deep Listening to Nature*, Andrew invites us to listen more deeply to the whole of the environment and hear how nature works. Afternoon tea is provided and bookings are essential for this free event on 6685 8540 or online www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au.

AIR

The next meeting of the Australian Independent Retirees (AIR) will be on the second Friday of May 9, (not the first Friday in May as the RSL is booked out) at the Ballina RSL Club at 9.30 for 10am meeting. We are looking forward to hearing from our guest speaker, Ivor Thompson, True Blue Driving Instructor, who will be keeping us up with the rules of the road. Any enquiries or anyone looking for information about our Club contact President, Jill Huxley on 6686 8958.

Lions Club -Cabarita and Pottsville

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm (closed 12.30-1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286. Some of our services include:
Flood recovery support service: personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods.
Community support: food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.
Listening Space: free counselling.
More Than A Meal: free community lunch Tuesday-Thursday 12.30-1.30pm.
Financial counselling
Staying Home, Leaving Violence program: Information, referral, and advocacy.
Gulgani affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.
Orange Sky: free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon. To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdnc.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415
1st SUN	Byron Bay	02 6685 6807
2nd SUN	The Channon	02 6688 6433
2nd SUN	Chillingham	0428 793 141
2nd SUN	Coolangatta	
2nd SUN	Tabulam	
3rd SAT	Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370
3rd SAT	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
3rd SAT	Salt Village Market, Casuarina	
3rd SUN	Federal	0433 002 757
3rd SUN	Uki	0487 329 150
3rd SUN	Ballina	0422 094 338
4th SAT	Evans Head	0432 275 765
4th SAT	Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglebazaar.com.au
4th SUN	Bangalow	02 6687 1911
4th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764
4th SUN	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
4th SUN	Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)	
5th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

Each TUE **New Brighton** 0424 168 672
Each TUE **Organic Lismore**
Each WED **Murwillumbah Rd** 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World) 0415 328 672
Each WED **Nimbin** 3-6pm 0418 940 653
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Each SAT **Wadeville** 8am-12pm
Each SAT **Byron Twilight Market** 4pm Oct-Apr
Each SUN **Ballina** 7-11am

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Please stick this by your phone

- AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE** 000
- AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay** 131 233
- POLICE Brunswick Heads** 6629 7510
- Mullumbimby** 6629 7570
- Byron Bay** 6685 9499
- Bangalow** 6629 7500
- STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE** Storm & tempest damage, flooding... 132 500
- BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE** Primary rescue..... 6685 1999
- BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER**..... 6685 0148
- BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL**..... 6639 9400
- BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS**..... 6622 7022
- NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE** (Mullumbimby) 6684 1286
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** 24 hour crisis line..... 1800 656 463
- LIFELINE** 131 114
- MENSLINE**..... 1300 789 978
- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** 24 hours 1800 423 431
- AL-ANON** Help for family and friends of alcoholics 1300 252 666
- NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** Meets daily 6680 7280
- NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE**..... 6687 2520
- HIV/AIDS - ACON** Confidential testing & information 6622 1555
- ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)** 6622 1881
- NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS**..... 6628 1866
- KOALA HOTLINE** 6622 1233
- WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service**... 6628 1898

The Lions Club of Cabarita Beach and Pottsville Beach welcomes you to our monthly meeting is held on the second Wednesday of each month. Our social dinner is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please contact president Bill Brodie for more information on 0411406143.

Wayahead anxiety group

Wayahead anxiety group in Ballina is run by Mark and Emma and people who are seeking support around their anxiety can find a safe space to share, learn, and grow together. They meet the second Saturday of the month from 11am until 1pm at the CWA Hall, 236 River Street, Ballina. If you would like to the Ballina support group, you can register by emailing supportgroups@wayahead.org.au or call 1300 794 992.

Employment after military service

Vietnam Veteran to Veterinary Surgeon Ross Sillar is giving a free speech on May 1 at 5.30pm in the Anzac Room at Byron Bay RSL Club. All welcome.

End-of-Life Choice

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina, and South Tweed. Attendees must be Exit

Members. For further information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina & South Tweed).

Labyrinth Walk for Peace

The Ballina and Lennox Head Anglicans are participating in a world-wide Labyrinth Walk for Peace on Saturday, May 3 at St Mary's Anglican Church on the corner of Norton and Burnet Streets. The purpose is to create a wave of peace around the world by walking as one at 1pm. The Walk will be held at the St Mary's labyrinth. As we walk we will be accompanied by music from the Threshold Singers. There are options for those with mobility issues to use a handheld Labyrinth there is also an indoor option in case of bad weather. For further information please contact St Mary's Anglican Church on 6686 2094.

Byron Book Fair

Friends of Libraries Byron Shire are once again holding their annual four-day Book Fair from Friday, July 11 to Monday, July 14. Donations of books of all genres are needed and always gratefully received, in clean and good condition. Highlighting the need for children's books, art and limited editions to name a few. For more information and to donate call Janene

friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8-16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert's Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au.

ACA

Adult Children of Alcoholic Parents and/or Dysfunctional Families (ACA) help & recovery group meets in Lismore every Friday 10-11.30am, Red Dove Centre, 80 Keen Street. Byron meetings are on Tuesdays at 7pm via Zoom - meeting ID 554 974 582 password byronbay.

Drug support groups

Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 - 30 meetings a week in the Shire - www.aa.org.au. Are you experiencing difficulties and challenges because of the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Learn coping skills and gain support from others. **Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings call 1300 652 820 or text your postcode to 0488 811 247. www.na.org.au. Are you concerned about somebody else's drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** meetings held Fridays at 2pm by Zoom. 1300 252666 www.al-anon.org.au.

Support after suicide

StandBy provides support to people who have lost someone to suicide. They provide free face-to-face and telephone support and are accessible 24/7. Follow-up contact is available for up to one year. Find out more at: www.standbysupport.com.au or call 13 11 14. If you, or someone you are with, are in need of immediate support please call an ambulance or police on 000.

Respite Service

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

Alateen meeting

Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5-6pm. Do you have a parent, close



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Contact: 6684 1777 or adcopy@echo.net.au



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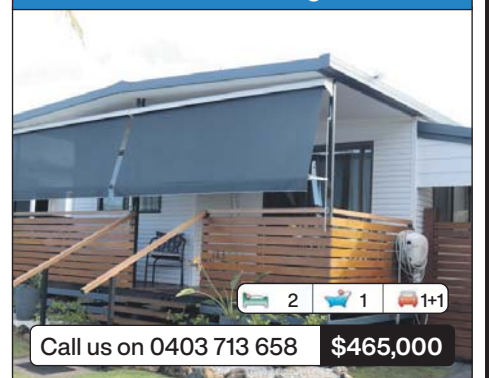


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- 325 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 12.15–12.45pm
- 637 Booyong Road, Booyong. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 135 Rocky Creek Dam Road, Dunoon. Sat 2–2.30pm
- 147 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 2.45–3.15pm
- 7 Azolla Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 11–11.30am

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 1/57 Acacia Avenue, Goonellabah. Sat 9.30–10am
- 14 Fieldcrest Place, Lennox Head. Sat 9.30–10 am
- 40 Lindsay Crescent, Wardell. Sat 10–10.30am
- 145 Moylans Lane, Empire Vale. Sat 10.45–11.15am
- 1149 River Drive, South Ballina. Sat 11–11.30am
- 89 Bundara Park Drive, Tuckombil. Sat. 11–12 pm
- 91 Patches Beach Road, Patches Beach. Sat 11.30am–12 pm
- 66 Riverside Drive, West Ballina. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 2c Fletcher Street, Broadwater. Sat 12.15–12.45pm
- 5/25 Crane Street, Ballina. Sat 1.30–2pm

MANA Real Estate

- 467 Tweed Valley Way, South Murwillumbah. Sat 9–9.30am
- 1/50 Hall Drive, Murwillumbah. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1 Tree Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 11–11.30am
- 38 Banool Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 14 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 6 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 1–1.30am

Ray White Rural Bangalow

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

Real Estate of Distinction

- 11 Bian Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 39 Edwards Lane, Kynnumboon. Sat 12.30–1pm

Ruth Russell Realty

- 4/9-11 Mullumbimbi St, Brunswick Heads. Thurs 10–10.30 am

Sotheby's International Realty Byron Bay

- 32 Olivia Circuit, Lennox Head. Sat 9–9.30am
- 84 Hinterland Way, Tintenbar. Sat 9–9.30am
- 41 Hyrama Crescent, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30am
- 4 Monivae Place, Skennars Head. Sat 10–10.30am
- 54 Stoneyhurst Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 11–11.30am
- 15 Muli Muli Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 480 Booyong Rd, Nashua. Sat 9.30–10am
- 35 Riverside Drive, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.45–11.15am
- 831 Binna Burra Rd, Federal. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 19 Marshall St, Ballina. Sat 1.15–1.45pm

New listings

First National Byron Bay

- 496 Myocum Road, Myocum
- 59/11-19 Cooper Street, Byron Bay
- 247 Gulgan Road, Brunswick Heads
- 14 Rush Court, Mullumbimby



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Bring a water bottle, keep cup and a raincoat

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A heartfelt tribute we engrave,
To ANZAC heroes,
strong and brave.
You handed us
A future's chart,
From you we start,
With time's safe enclave.
A flame that never
dims or fades,
A light that never
sleeps or wanes,
The torch of hope
that never fails.
Hatred will end,
Love will ascend,
The Earth shall bloom,
each bud unveils.
To ANZAC heroes,
our hearts convey,
A tribute of love, in this
humble lay.

– Indian poet,
Ashok Chakradhar

The Farm is celebrating a decade of growing, feeding, educating, and giving back, with a free event on May 3 from 10am till 4.30pm. There will plenty of family activities and live music. Register for the Festival of The Farm via www.eventbrite.com.au.

Please, Phil Holloway, Council's Infrastructure Director, don't stuff up the passage of 13,000 daily vehicle trips into and out of Mullum. The project is off to a poor start already, and has the capacity to get very messy. See page 1.

The conservative councillor bloc are clearly defining themselves this term over multiple issues, with their continual objections to being transparent and adhering to good process. As part of the conservative shtick, they also try and protect staff conduct from scrutiny. Who are they? See pages 4 and 6.

GIVE IT 110%!

THERE'S NO HOPE OF ACHIEVING THE TARGETS AND THERES NO SENSE SIGNING UP TO TARGETS YOU DON'T HAVE ANY PROSPECT OF ACHIEVING

DUTTON TRAINING FOR CLIMATE POLICY

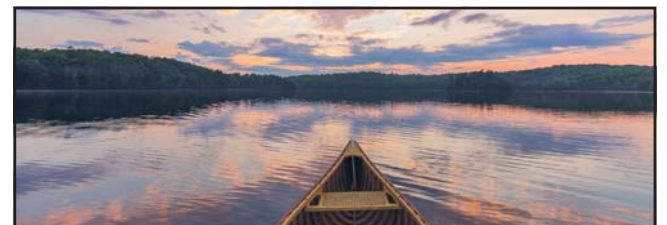
In case you were wondering why Liberal leader Peter Dutton has labelled the ABC and *The Guardian* as 'hate media', it may have something to do with them reporting that he has been a terrible minister over the years, whether it be administrating the departments of Health, Home Affairs, Immigration & Border Protection, or Defence. Most recently, he failed to disclose he was the beneficiary of a family trust. AI image by Ewan Willis

If you need to vote before Saturday, May 3, you can head to a pre-polling booth. In Byron Shire, it's located at the Byron Community Centre.

Astronomers have detected a massive hidden molecular cloud near Earth, according to academic journal *Nature*. The gas cloud is crucial for star formation, say pointy-headed boffin scientists.

Psst: Global military spending last year surged the most since the end of the Cold War, reports *The Financial Post*.

The Bangalow Film Fest opens Wednesday, April 30, after being delayed by Cyclone Alfred. Until May 4 there will be screenings at the Bangalow A&I Hall, 'bringing the best global films to the Northern Rivers'. For more info visit bangalowfilmfestival.com.au.



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SATURDAY 7 JUNE
Celebrating all things old, secondhand & recycled
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Registrations to 4pm Fri 23th May

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