

Council staff defend assisting wealthy developers around major road upgrades

Hans Lovejoy

Senior Council planning staff have admitted to providing wealthy developers with an advantage around a contentious large 38-lot proposal near the main road into Mullum from Uncle Toms.

Works around Mcauleys Lane on Mullumbimby Road are part of Council's bigger plans to upgrade the entire road, which are set to disrupt around 13,000 daily vehicle movements – see page 6.

Yet with public exhibition for development application (DA) 10.2023.454.1 closing soon for 53 Mcauleys Lane, located near the intersection, residents say Council staff have given the developers an economic advantage.

However, staff claim their intervention with the DA improves safety for the road.

As previously reported, the DA is proposed by John Callanan and Tim Mundy, and comes with a myriad of issues that have been outlined in detail by neighbours. Staff have also had to re-exhibit the DA owing to administrative errors.

Similar plans?

Staff deny claims that traffic intersection plans supplied by the developer and Council's own plans for the intersection are the same.

Staff told *The Echo*, 'The plans for the upgrade of Mullumbimby Road, including the Mcauleys Lane intersection are plans produced specifically for Council for projects funded by Transport for NSW'.

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Labor holds Richmond



Presumptive winner, Labor incumbent MP Justine Elliot on polling day. Photo Eve Jeffery

While counting continues in the marginal Richmond federal electorate (Tweed, Byron and Ballina shires), Labor incumbent Justine Elliot is the likely winner, with her closest competitor, Greens candidate, Mandy Nolan, conceding on Tuesday.

Nolan was followed closely in first preferences by Nationals candidate, Kimberly Hone.

On election night, Ms Nolan was leading the first preference count, but by around midnight, the count swung in Mrs Elliot's favour.

Mrs Elliot said in a media statement, 'To the voters of Richmond, thank you for putting your trust in me for the eighth time'.

'We faced a tough campaign, but in the end, locals voted for Australian values – fairness, aspiration

and opportunity for all – and these are the values that drive our Labor government'. Mrs Elliot increased her vote from the 2022 election, as did both the Greens and Nationals.

For full breakdown, see page 2.

Mandy to run again

Meanwhile Ms Nolan says she'll put her hand up to run again at the next federal election, and will stand for pre-selection once it opens.

Conceding the seat, Ms Nolan offered her heartfelt thanks to her volunteer team. 'I am so profoundly proud of what we have built together,' said Ms Nolan.

She also offered her congratulations to Labor Prime Minister Anthony Albanese and to local MP, Justine Elliot.

'I will continue to hold Labor to account by pushing for fully funded front-line homelessness services, and building the thousands of affordable homes desperately needed in this electorate,' said Ms Nolan.

Nationals comment

When asked about whether Nationals candidate Kimberly Hone would run again in three years, her campaign manager told *The Echo*, 'At this stage we aren't discussing any of that, I know Kimberly is looking forward to getting back into local issues on [Tweed] Council'.

'Kimberly has established herself as one of the strongest leaders in the area, and if there is one word to describe her it is that she's a fighter. It won't be the last you'll hear of her.'

Flood-prone housing development a step closer following court settlement

Paul Bibby

A controversial development on flood-prone land near the Mullumbimby Showground is a step closer, after Byron Council and the developer reached a court settlement in relation to one of two development applications (DAs) for the site.

Residents living near 30 Chinbible Avenue have fought for over a year against plans to subdivide the 12,340m² lot into seven residential lots, which could then host up to 37 houses in total.

They say the proposal is excessive in its bulk and scale, has inadequate drainage, lacks open space, and does not provide sufficient flood evacuation options.

They also point out that the entire site was under water during the 2022 floods, and that building dozens of houses on top of tonnes of fill will increase the flood threat for surrounding residents and potentially send their insurance premiums soaring.

More than 100 subs

More than 100 formal submissions have been lodged against the proposal, and dozens of residents have attended community meetings and letterboxed the surrounding streets in West Mullumbimby.

But last week, they learned that lawyers representing Council had reached an agreement with the developer in the Land and Environment Court (L&EC) earlier this year over the first DA in relation to the site.

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Locals should pay for parking, say Council staff ► p4

Bangalow Billycart Derby returns, May 18 ► p7

Giving Trumpism the middle finger salute ► p10

Mandy Nolan reflects on 'The Fall' ► p19

Arts all around the Northern Rivers ► p22



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How we voted around the Richmond electorate

Three strong contenders and a mish-mash of minor candidates once again made for an interesting race and a complicated preferences count that will take days to be finalised.

The Echo went on a deepdive into the polling data to see how we voted around the electorate, revealing the picture of Byron Shire being a Greens stronghold, and Labor edging ahead of The Nationals in both the Tweed and Ballina shires.

As the count has progressed we saw strong early numbers for The Greens shifting in Labor's favour, reflecting that Labor and the Nationals do particularly well in prepoll and postal votes, while Greens voters tend to go to the polls on election day.

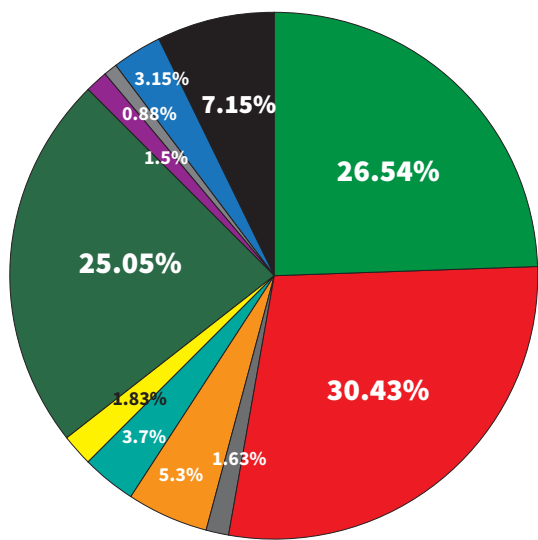
Positive swings were recorded for all three of the frontrunners, however it's worth noting that the positive swing to The Nationals is likely skewed by the absence of the Liberal Democratic Party who took 7.7% of the vote in 2022.

All the major media outlets were quick to call a healthy win for Justine Elliot yet The Greens were slow to concede while there was still a possibility of the final preference count favouring them.

A similar outcome to last election looks likely. After the back-runners are

excluded and their preferences distributed, the last three left will be Kimberly Hone in the lead and Justine Elliot in the crucial second place of the last three before being propelled to first place with the allocation of Greens preferences at the final exclusion. The final results will show Justine Elliot having a healthy margin over Kimberly Hone that won't reflect how close the race actually was between her and Mandy Nolan.

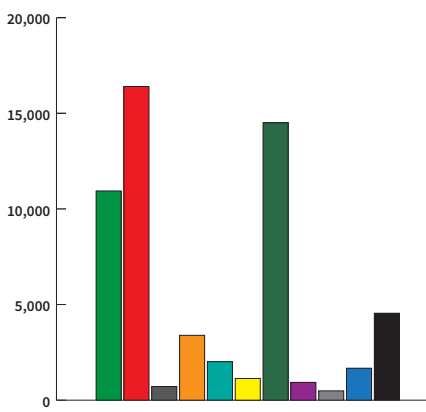
The informal vote at 7.15% is well above the 5.27% national average.



Candidate	Votes	PerCent	Swing
Mandy Nolan, Greens	25,225	26.54	+1.27
Justine Elliot, Labor	28,922	30.43	+1.63
Kevin Loughrey, Independent	1,552	1.63	-
Ian Mye, One Nation	5,036	5.3	+1.2
Vivian Mac McMahon, Legalise Cannabis	3,514	3.7	-
Phillip Byron Peterkin, Trumpet of Patriots	1,744	1.83	-1.1*
Kimberly Hone, Nationals	23,810	25.05	+1.7
Ian Cherry Willis, Libertarian	1,422	1.5	-
James Ian McKenzie, Independent	835	0.88	-
Richard Curtin, Gerard Rennick People First	2,993	3.15	-
Informal	7,325	7.15	+0.23
Total	102,378		

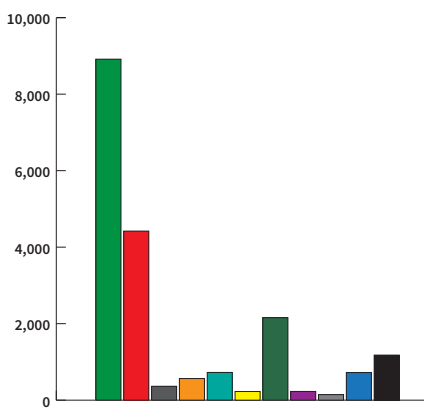
*The Trumpet of Patriots swing is relative to the United Australia Party in 2022. Total number of eligible Richmond electors is 126,908. Summary data collected from AEC website 11am Monday 5 May.

Richmond electorate first preference votes



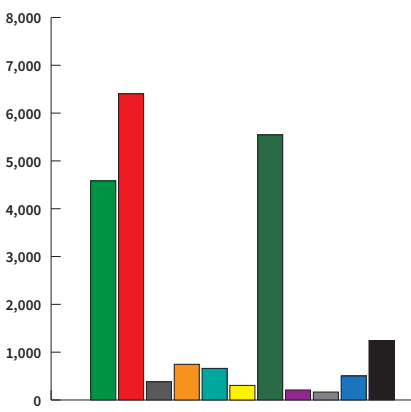
Tweed Shire polling places

Combination of all polling booths in the Tweed Shire - 56,726 votes.



Byron Shire polling places

Combination of all polling booths in the Byron Shire - 19,642 votes.

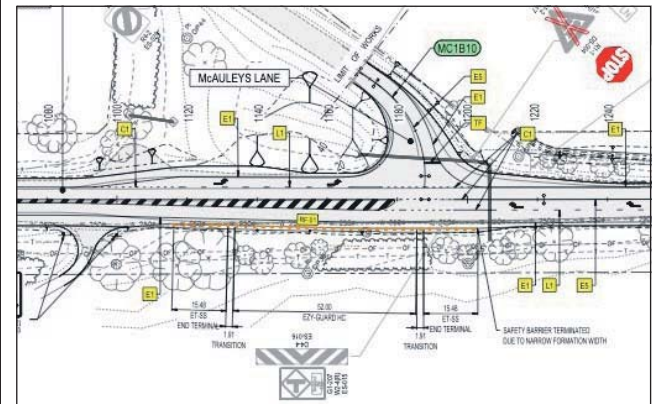


Ballina Shire polling places

Combination of all polling booths in the Ballina Shire - 20,742 votes.

Data collected from the AEC 10am Monday 5 May. Postal votes, the Lismore Richmond prepoll centre and hospital special teams omitted.

Council staff defend assisting wealthy developers around major road upgrades



Council's intersection plans for Mcauleys Lane/ Mullumbimby Road intersection.

Continued from page 1

Residents however, dispute this, and say, 'They are almost identical except for two things: Council plans show painted lines down the middle of the road whereas the DA plans have a concrete strip added. Also Council plans do not require land resumption, only the DA plans do.'

The Echo asked staff, 'Has Council approached any landowners on behalf of the DA applicant for 53 Mcauleys Lane to facilitate land resumption required as part of the applicant's current traffic plan, should the DA be approved?'

Land acquisition

Staff replied, 'Preliminary discussions have occurred with a [third party] landowner about the need for the intersection to be upgraded which would involve acquisition of some of their land.'

'They were advised this is in part to facilitate the development proposed under 10.2023.454.1 and to improve road safety', they said.

Residents instead claim that the land resumption was not required for Council works, only for the developer's DA.

And when The Echo asked staff, 'Is any land resumption

required for Council's current roadworks?', they replied, 'No.'

The Echo asked staff, 'Is it a normal Council process to approach landowners on behalf of developers on DAs that are on exhibition?'

Not ordinary circumstances

They replied, 'Council would not in ordinary circumstances approach landowners like this about the acquisition of land.'

'However, as there are additional road safety benefits to be gained over and above safety improvements that Council has designed and has grant funding for, then Council may in this circumstance exercise its powers of acquisition as part of a planning agreement should the development be approved.'

Benefits questioned

Residents questioned what 'road safety benefits are gained' for Council's works, given Council don't require or propose land resumption for their own works.

They said, 'This only assists a DA still under exhibition and undetermined.'

■ DA 10.2023.454.1 is on exhibition at Council's website.

WILDLIFE MATTERS!

We have introduced a bill in NSW that would mean that wildlife deaths and injuries are counted on our roads. Right now, Transport for NSW is not required to track wildlife strikes and without this data, wildlife deaths and injuries cannot be properly considered in road planning and design.

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MEMBER FOR BALLINA

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Big upgrades for Spaghetti Circus

Spaghetti Circus will celebrate the official opening of its upgraded Mullumbimby Showground facilities, following \$1.2 million in investment from Create NSW.

Everyone is welcome to enjoy performances and food on Saturday, May 10 from 12 till 1.30pm to celebrate the new buildings and upgrades.

Alice Cadwell, Spaghetti Circus General Manager, told *The Echo* the funding was secured through three infrastructure grants and has, 'enabled vital flood protection works, equipment upgrades, and significant improvements to the company's Mullumbimby home base'.



Casey Douglas and Alice Cadwell from Spaghetti Circus. Photo Eve Jeffery

Hit by 2022 floods

'The 2022 floods overwhelmed Spaghetti Circus' home at Mullumbimby Showground, causing extensive damage to their infrastructure and destroying a significant amount of equipment.

'It took a huge community effort to salvage, clean and repair Spaghetti Circus' sheds to a level where our training program and classes could resume,' she said.

As part of the upgrades, Alice says the grants

funded the purchase of a forklift – essential for raising the big top tent – as well as expanded costume storage, the construction of a new workshop shed, and the implementation of critical flood mitigation works, such

as improved drainage and the repair of water access points across the site.

'The upgrades were also completed with in-kind support from Spaghetti Circus volunteers and community', Alice added.

Flood-prone housing development a step closer following court settlement

Continued from page 1

The residents were only alerted to the settlement when they found a formal judgment in relation to the matter on the NSW Caselaw website.

'This development threatens to increase flooding in the area, putting the safety of homes – and potentially lives – at risk,' long-term resident Aaron Diehm told *The Echo*.

'It will permanently change the face of West Mullumbimby. The question the community is asking is, Why hasn't Council gone into bat for us? Silence from our elected representatives is simply not good enough.'

This DA – for the subdivision of the land – went to the L&EC after the developer appealed Council's 'deemed refusal' of the matter.



Homes were flooded in 2022 around Chinbible Avenue, Mullumbimby. Photo supplied

This meant that the DA was not debated and determined by Byron's elected councillors.

Instead, it became the subject of a compulsory conciliation process conducted behind closed doors and overseen by the court.

It was during this process that lawyers acting for the developer and those representing Byron Council

reached an agreement in relation to the subdivision.

The second, and arguably more crucial DA in relation to 30 Chinbible Avenue, has also proceeded to court via the same process.

A conciliation conference has been held in relation to this DA, and with no agreement reached, the matter will proceed to a full hearing on May.

'The entire process has not been transparent, with decisions being made without the community's voice being heard,' Mr Diehm said.

'People feel shut out and ignored, despite the overwhelming opposition to this development.'

Mayor responds

Byron Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said she shared the community's concerns about the proposed development.

'This is a highly sensitive site, and I have personally opposed this scale of development in a flood-prone area,' Cr Ndiaye said. 'It is deeply troubling to see inappropriate approvals progress, especially after witnessing the sheer volume and speed of floodwaters through that land.'

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– Sir David Niven (1910–1983)



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Locals should pay for parking, say Council staff

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire residents would once again be required to pay for parking permits under a proposal from Council staff being considered at this week's Council meeting.

Less than a year after the permit fees were abolished in an attempt to appease those impacted by the introduction of parking meters in Brunswick Heads, councillors will consider reintroducing them at this Thursday's meeting.

The recommendation to reintroduce the \$55 annual fee is contained within a Council staff report exploring 'alternative models' for parking permits.

The report, completed at the request of councillors, states that there has been a 52 per cent spike in permits since the fees were abolished in September last year, with 19,052 permits now active in the Byron Shire.

Staff noted that many residents had expressed support for the free permits, as they had helped reduce the financial burden of living in a Shire with pay parking.

The recommendation to reintroduce the \$55 annual fee is contained within a Council staff report exploring 'alternative models' for parking permits.

However, the abolition of fees had also come with significant challenges, the report found.

'There have been administrative challenges associated with issuing and managing the free permits, which has resulted in negative feedback,' the report's authors state.

'Furthermore, the processing and management of free permits has required allocation of additional resources, and as demand for permits has grown, so too has the workload associated with issuing and verifying the permits.'

Lost revenue

Perhaps most notably, staff estimate that the abolition of permit fees for local households may have cost Council in excess of \$400,000.



Brunswick Heads. Photo Byron Council

Further, there is an expected loss of meter revenue as a result of increased occupation of metered parking spaces by permit holders rather than those who are required to pay for parking.

Based on these negative impacts, staff have recommended that Council return to a 'user pays' model for parking meters, whereby eligible residents will pay a \$55 processing fee for each parking permit.

They have further recommended that Council reintroduce permits for non-resident ratepayers and those living in towns which border the Shire.

Under previous schemes,

people in these categories were able to purchase parking permits for \$55.

However, following Council's resolution to introduce free Shire resident parking permits, these categories became ineligible for permits.

Council staff are now proposing bringing these permits back, though at double the price (\$110).

'While the introduction of these new categories may result in an increase in the number of permits issued, it provides a fairer and more inclusive approach for those with an ongoing connection to the Byron Shire,' staff said in the report.

Towns which might be included in the new border permit type include Clunes, Newrybar, Rosebank, Nashua, Brooklet, Booyong, and Repentance Creek.

Also potentially included are towns in the north such as Wooyung, Crabbes Creek, and Upper Burringbar.

Bruns biz claims

However, staff stopped short of recommending changes to the parking system in Brunswick Heads, as requested by local business owners.

At a meeting with Council, coordinated by the Brunswick Heads Chamber of Commerce on March 25, the business owners said that the introduction of pay parking in the town had contributed to a 30 per cent fall in revenue.

On this basis they requested that the parking meters either be removed, switched off during the week, or subject to a significant reduction of the \$5 hourly rate.

However, the staff report disputes the business owners' claims regarding the impacts of pay parking

and recommends against the introduction of any of the measures they have requested.

'Council has obtained independent spend data for Brunswick Heads to assist with this analysis,' the report states.

'...The overall spend data does not reflect a sustained or systemic downturn in either local or visitor activity that would align with the reported 30 per cent decline in business revenue as a result of implementation of pay parking in Brunswick Heads.'

Staff explored the option of reducing the hourly rate for meters in Bruns, finding that it would have significant negative financial implications for the Council.

Figures in the report suggest that reducing the hourly rate by just one dollar (from \$5 to \$4) would equate to a \$287,000 loss of revenue by the end of the 2028/29 financial year.

Reducing the rate to \$3 would result in the parking scheme going into deficit because the costs of running the scheme would surpass the income generated.

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Closes Sunday 18 May 2025.

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- Ocean Shores Community Centre
- South Golden Beach Hall
- Suffolk Park Community Hall

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The Red Cross needs you, vullie!

Australian Red Cross are looking for Byron emergency services volunteers, with full training and ongoing support available to equip you for this rewarding role.

Emergency services officer for Byron Shire, Eleanor Taylor-Pekin, told *The Echo*, 'As an emergency services volunteer, you can take on many different roles – from directly supporting people in crisis, to providing education and training that helps communities prepare for future disasters. Whatever your skills or interests, there's a role for you!'

'Your efforts will help people navigate crisis situations and rebuild their lives long after the emergency has passed, providing crucial psychological, social, and practical support before, during and after disasters.'

She says the Northern Rivers team will be hosting two days of in-person volunteer training. 'It will cover an emergency management framework, recovery basics, psychological first aid, wellness and self care and an opportunity to meet other local volunteers and staff.'



Emergency services officer for Byron Shire, Eleanor Taylor-Pekin, pictured right, with current vullies. Photo Eve Jeffery

The training dates are in Ballina: Saturday, May 24 and June 28, from 9.30am till 4pm at the Ballina RSL, 1 Grant St, Ballina.

In Kingscliff: Tuesday, May 27 and June 3, from 9.30am till 4pm at the Kingscliff Bowls Club, 131 Marina Parade, Kingscliff.

To find out more, contact Eleanor on 0404 029 978 or via email etaylorperkin@redcross.org.au.

Elders' Hub meets May 10

The next meeting of the Elders' Hub will be Saturday May 10

Organisers say it will start at 9.30am for a sharing circle, and then begin at 10am.

'The feature presentation will be by Jennifer Groves, a much-loved local somatic movement educator and Feldenkrais practitioner, who

is generously sharing her four decades of understanding and healing the body. Her presentation is called "Wired for Wellness", showing us how to work with the body's innate intelligence.'

The Elders' Hub is held in the permaculture gardens on Gordon Street, Mullumbimby. All welcome.

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Beacon's first year celebrated



Beacon Laundry crew. Photo Eve Jeffery

Beacon Laundry, a commercial laundry operating in Bangalow, has celebrated its first year of operation.

CEO Morag Roseby says as a, 'jobs-focused social enterprise', it has created more than 100 new jobs for people with complex barriers to work, 'while capturing almost half (44 percent) of the local commercial laundry market in Byron Bay and its surrounds'.

She says, 'Beacon shows what is possible when a business puts people first.

We're able to deliver a quality product and service while supporting people back into the workforce.'

'Beacon's workforce is intentionally unique. 80 per cent of the team face complex barriers to work. These include people with a disability; people experiencing homelessness or mental health challenges; First Nations people; people in recovery programs; and individuals who've had an experience with the

criminal justice system.

'At Beacon, we have an open employment policy – all you need is a willingness to work, and a willingness to move on one day.'

'In the last 12 months, 26 people have transitioned into mainstream employment. Ideally, we hope to see people transitioning from Beacon anywhere from six to 12 months after joining us. However, for some it may take a little longer, and that's ok too', says Morag.

Mullumbimby Road works update

Hans Lovejoy

Further to last week's story around The Saddle Road upgrades upsetting residents, *The Echo* asked Council staff for more details around the project.

Those (The Saddle Road) roadworks were to facilitate traffic diversions for months of major Mullumbimby Road works, but are now on hold to allow more consultation.

The Echo asked, 'Have Council consulted with all residents affected by these upcoming roadworks prior to the last 14 days? How many residents are affected by these plans? How many landowners were consulted? Do Council guidelines require consultation with affected residents? What timeframe is required prior to works commencing?'

They replied, 'In mid-April, Council staff met with some stakeholders on Mullumbimby Road and The Saddle Road in relation to the upcoming roadworks, and dropped information into letterboxes. VMS signs advising of roadworks are in place.'

'When more information is available, Council will implement broad-scale communications including media release/s, social media, advertising on BayFM and *The Echo* and direct emails and letters to stakeholders.'

'Information stalls will be held at the Mullumbimby markets. Community drop-in sessions will be held at Council across different times and an information session will be held in the industrial estate.'

'Council's preference is always to advise people

early of roadwork and, where possible, work with people to minimise disruption. For major projects disruption is often unavoidable, and workaround solutions are limited due to the geography and scope of the project.'

No cycleway

The Echo also asked, 'Why has Council not incorporated a cycleway in their plans, despite it being approved?'

They replied, 'The Mullumbimby to Brunswick Heads cycleway plans are currently under design development. The grant funding for the current roadworks does not extend to the cycleway as it is predominantly flood recovery funding. Funding will be sought for progression of the cycleway once the detailed design is completed by July.'

Mother's Day tree planting postponed

Owing to recent heavy rainfall, and with a fair bit more predicted this weekend, Brunswick Valley Landcare (BVL) has postponed the upcoming Mother's Day tree planting for Sunday, May 11.

Organisers say, 'We will

reschedule for June and advise on a new date ASAP. Keep your eyes on BVL socials for updates.'

Second year in a row

'We're disappointed, as it's the second year in a

row we've had to postpone because of too much rain, but in the interests of our planting site, plus everyone's safety and enjoyment of this great community event, we've had to make the call.'

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Bangalow Billycart Derby returns, May 18

The Summerland Bank Bangalow Billycart Derby day is on again on Sunday, May 18!

Bangalow's daredevil kids and crazy adults are getting ready.

Every year, the Bangalow Lions Club hosts the event with the generous support of many local businesses and organisations.

Greg Nash, President of the Bangalow Lions Club, said, 'This year promises to be the biggest and the best so far'.

'We're expecting more than 300 competitors across 20 different categories, from school kids to professionals, and a crowd of 10,000 cheering them on.'

'You can't beat a beautiful May day, with kids and families everywhere, and billycarts zooming down the main street.'

'There is a real buzz in the village and we can't wait. Come and enjoy'.

'There's something for everyone including first-timers and slowcoaches.'

Lunchtime parade

'It's all about having fun, happy snaps and families and friends getting together.'



From the 2017 event. Photo Eve Jeffery

The first race starts at 9am.

'Don't miss out on the lunchtime street parade. Big Dog will be making an appearance, along with many other local community groups - with a special performance by Bunny Racket on the main street.'

Pit stop fun fair

'Bangalow Lions Club partners with Bangalow Public School's 'Pit Stop Fun Fair' with rides, kids entertainment, great food options, raffles and prizes.'

'The Cellar, in Bangalow, will have their billycart on display from the beginning of May - get some last minute ideas to fine-tune your billycart.'

'There's plenty of parking, with a \$5 donation at the Bangalow Showgrounds, via Market Street.'

'Please note the temporary closure of the main street (Byron Street) and Station Street, Bangalow between 6am and 4pm to accommodate the races.'

Traffic is diverted along Deacon Street which will become a two-way traffic access way for the period of the main street temporary closure. No parking is permitted on both Deacon and Market streets to assist with the two-way traffic flow.

For more info, and to buy derby t-shirts and caps, visit www.bangalowbillycart.com.au.

Landsharing, affordable housing event, May 24

A free event called 'Landsharing, Affordable Housing and Community' will be held at the Nimbin Hall on Saturday, May 24 from 10am to 5pm - all are welcome.

The Nimbin Aquarius Foundation Inc say they, 'decided to hold an anniversary event each year that honours and celebrates the radical spirit created at the 1973 Aquarius Festival'.

'This marks the first of the "Aquarius Talks"; they say.

'This year, the subject of major concern is housing. Come and hear a selection of speakers who are passionate about positive solutions to the housing crisis'.

Speakers

Speakers include Aidan Ricketts, Carol Perry, Gai Longmuir, Rob Doolan, Shane Sylvanspring, Prof. Wendy Stone, Nick Sabel, and MP Sue Higginson.

The 1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival evolved into community landsharing that is now law in NSW, say organisers.

'After the festival, a group of inspired young people calling themselves the "Nimbin Karavan" toured Sydney and Melbourne in a bus, spreading the word about buying shares in a 200-acre ex-dairy



1973 Nimbin Aquarius Festival signpost.

farm at Tunttable Falls. Shares were \$200 each, and soon \$100,000 was raised to buy the land and Tunttable Falls Coordination Co-operative was born as an experimental model of affordable housing, shared land ownership, and sustainable community development'.

'In the 1980s, the PanCommunity collective (PanCom) was formed from members of the many different landsharing communities that had developed throughout the region.'

Origins of MOs

'PanCom worked to challenge the state and local government legislation around housing, and in 1983 the

concept of multiple occupancies (MO) was enshrined in law. Fifty years later the Tunttable Falls co-op continues to thrive. Dharmananda has been successfully going for 52 years, and the MO creation continues to grow and change with all kinds of different communities which of course have their joys and problems, but continue to provide so many people with affordable homes, gardens and a deep experience of community.'

'This was the answer then, we can explore all the options for now.'

'This talk is to explore "doable" solutions to the housing crisis, particularly within our Northern Rivers communities'.

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Hemposium brings experts together in Nimbin



The enormous joint is paraded through the streets of Nimbin during the Nimbin MardiGrass festival. Photo David Lowe

David Lowe

As part of the MardiGrass 2025 festival, Nimbin Town Hall was the scene of a weekend of talks on the remarkable properties of cannabis.

On Saturday, lawyer Steve Bolt provided an update on the laws relating to roadside drug testing, Paul Benhaim spoke about the use of cannabis as a psychedelic and its potential for 'deep therapeutic inquiry', Dr Patrick Keyser covered the differences between the legalisation situation in the US versus Australia, and Simon Pettinger talked about the regulatory challenges faced by organic, certified-local producers, as they battle a flood of inferior imported products.

Joint rolling contest

After the Kombi Konvoy, there was a Q&A about the future of psychedelics, before the joint-rolling competitions. On Sunday,

Dr John Jiggins shared his theory that the convict settlement of Australia might have been an elaborate cover for a plan to make NSW a hemp colony. Agronomist John Shaw Muir discussed hemp's extraordinary diversity and usefulness, with many practical examples.

Gerald Taylor spoke about accessing the human endocannabinoid system through the skin, specifically to deal with pain, sleeping issues, anxiety, and cancer, while research scientist Emily Rigby spoke about the state of the local medicinal cannabis industry, nine years after legalisation, with calls for home growers not to be swept aside by American-style industrialisation.

A number of serving politicians and candidates spoke at the 2025 Hemposium, including the Greens' David Shoebridge, MLC Jeremy Buckingham, and Miles Hunt, lead NSW candidate for Legalise Cannabis federally.

Need to move forward with reform

Hemposium organiser Miss Guidance told *The Echo* that MardiGrass was attracting an increasingly wide range of supporters.

'It's not the usual vilified cannabis user, it's people from all walks of life with all sorts of ailments,' she said. 'There are a lot of older people with sick children and families. This is really a community herb. Prohibition has been a crime against humanity.'

'MardiGrass has been running for 33 years now, which is mind-blowing. We'd love it to keep running, but we'd love it to be more like a celebration, rather than having to constantly whinge about cannabis law reform. We're not criminals. We've got to move away from that attitude.'

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

Tweed Regional Gallery will launch a multi-opening event, featuring four exhibitions on Friday night, 9 May.

The combined celebration presents a touring exhibition by internationally-renowned Colombian-Australian artist Maria Fernanda Cardoso, alongside three other exhibitions by regional artists Luther Cora, Tamara Mendels, and Debbie Taylor-Worley and Sophie Taylor.

'The opening will bring regional talent to the fore with exhibitions that explore the human connection, nature and the responsibility we share to care for the living world', said Gallery Director Ingrid Hedgcock.

Beautiful spiders!



Maria Fernanda Cardoso, Spiders of Paradise: *Maratus lobatus* 2024. Photo supplied

Land and Environment Court declares Lismore's Santin Quarry DA 'invalid'

Aslan Shand

The fight to ensure Lismore's Santin Quarry operated within the law has been going on since before 2019 when the owner Michael Bruno Santin began seeking to extend the life of the quarry under its existing 1992 approval.

When the second development application (DA) was refused in 2021 Mr Santin took the Lismore City Council (LCC) to the Land and Environment Court (L&EC) but he pulled out a week before the court hearing.

'Mr Santin was seeking to bring a merit-based review to the L&EC, however, there was a lot of evidence to suggest that Mr Santin would be unsuccessful so one week prior to the case being heard Mr Santin withdrew,' James Berkaya, President of the community group Monaltrie Area Community Association Incorporated (MACAI), told *The Echo*.

Third time lucky

A third application for an extension to the DA was sought during the 2021-24 Lismore Council period and was approved on October 10, 2023 by the Lismore Mayor, Steve Krieg and his supporters.

At the time Lismore Councillor Adam Guise told *The Echo* that, 'Extending the life of this 30-year-old quarry via a DA modification application, for a consent that has expired and is not substantially the same, would be a terrible planning outcome.'

Reports commissioned by the LCC at the time by an independent town planner had led to staff recommending refusal. Issues raised involved noise exceedance, visual impacts, impacts on koalas, road networks and the legality of extending the DA.

Following the approval of the quarry by LCC councillors MACAI took Mr Santin and LCC to the L&EC. But while the LCC and Mr Santin were able to bring a merit-based review, MACAI could only bring a judicial review – arguing that the law has been interpreted and applied incorrectly.

MACAI's primary argument was that the

previous DA for the quarry, which had a life of 25 years and nine months, had expired, therefore the LCC could not legally extend the DA and that a new DA would be required.

On April 23, Justice John Robson upheld the challenge on the first ground, 'that the DA had expired or lapsed. Therefore the DA was dead and could no longer be modified,' explained Mr Berkaya.

'The frustration is not that the quarry is there but that if he [Santin] wishes to continue to quarry at the site that he meets the standards required to operate today and not the standards of 1992. By extending the previous DA he would not have had to apply current environmental standards. If he is required to put in a new DA he will be required to meet current standards.'

Huge community undertaking

For MACAI to take the case to the L&EC has taken significant resources of time, energy, and financial risk.

'It's definitely been a massive undertaking by the community and a huge expense. A trip to the L&EC costs hundreds of thousands of dollars,' said Mr Berkaya.

'We are very satisfied to see the law upheld and for developments to comply with the law.'

A decision on costs will be provided on May 8, however, it is assumed that the LCC will pay costs.

'LCC was listed as the second respondent and normally they would take a watching position (not to actively defend the decision), however, the Council decided to actively defend the case on behalf of Mr Santin and now it will cost the rate payers a huge amount of money that they didn't need to spend,' said Mr Berkaya.

Judge Robertson ordered that, 'the approval by Lismore City Council of modification application DA92/523-5 to modify development consent DA92/523 to extend the life of a quarry located at 72 River Bank Road, Monaltrie on October 10, 2023 is invalid and of no effect.'

What is the future of Newrybar Village?

After a collaborative design process between the community and Ballina Shire Council in late 2024, the Draft Streetscape Master Plan for Newrybar is now available for comment.

Call for statewide pill and drug testing at festivals

There is no doubt that drug testing works to reduce risk and save lives. Anonymous drug testing allows people of all ages to check their drugs and ensure that what they have bought is what they expect it to be – and not a deadly combination of drugs that could kill them and their friends.

Harvest celebration this weekend

A month-long celebration of local flavours, food, and culinary delights continues this weekend on the Northern Rivers for the Harvest Festival.

Huge potential for the hemp industry in NSW – what are your thoughts?

From building materials to food and nutrition, hemp is a crop that is capturing the imagination. It is finally being supported by governments to become a crop that can drive innovation across a wide range of industries.

Blackwall Drive and Wardell Bridge – changed traffic conditions

Routine maintenance work on Wardell Bridge will start on Monday, 5 May and will lead to single lane closures and a reduced speed limit of 40km/h on Blackwall Drive.

Professor Tyrone Carlin reappointed as Vice-Chancellor of SCU

Southern Cross University Council has announced the re-appointment of Professor Tyrone Carlin as Vice-Chancellor.

Police target teenage shoplifters across Tweed/Byron

Police say they've charged a teenage boy with seven counts of shoplifting, and four counts of entering enclosed lands without a lawful excuse, as part of an ongoing operation in the Tweed/Byron district.

www.echo.net.au

Love Lennox is in the air again



Photo supplied by The Love Lennox Festival

Paul Bibby

The Love Lennox festival will return to the shores of Seven Mile Beach next month, transforming the town's main street into an explosion of food, art, and entertainment.

You can forget about driving down Pacific Parade on June 14 – the street will be packed with street stalls, performers and thousands of revellers enjoying what has become one of the biggest community events of the year.

This year the festival – which is a free event – will include Flavours of Lennox, a celebration of the town's

culinary offerings, including Mexican, Thai, Indian and Japanese.

Call out for vollies and sponsors

There will also be a host of activities for kids, dog shows and a packed program of day-long entertainment.

The festival relies solely on volunteers to make it happen, and the call is now out for locals who can spare a few hours on the day.

The call is also out for sponsorship for the event after the festival's main stage sponsor dropped out.

'With the current boom in

renovations, new residential sites, and garden care, this is an opportunity for our local trade and service industries to showcase their brands and connect with the community,' said Michelle Bailey, the President of Business Lennox Head.

'For a small investment, people can gain significant exposure through the festival's marketing campaigns and at the festival itself,' she said.

For more information and to get involved either as a volunteer, sponsor, stall holder or dog show participant visit www.lovelennox.com.au.

Seven police graduates starting in Tweed/Byron

Eleven new police graduates are about to start work across the two most northern districts in NSW.

The Tweed/Byron Police District will welcome seven graduates, and the Richmond Police District four.

Further south, six graduates are assigned to the Coffs/Clarence District.

NSW police media say the new officers are part of a cohort of 302 probationary constables graduating from

Goulburn Police Academy after a 16-week course.

Class 365 represents the largest group of graduates in more than ten years, they say.

It's also the first class to officially benefit from a new recruitment initiative called 'Be a Cop in your Home Town', which allows applicants to return and work in the community where they live.

Eight probationary constables are reported as participating in the scheme,

including at least one from Lismore.

The force says it has received 3,910 applications since November 1, 2023, or a 70 percent increase, after announcing recruits would be paid to train at the Academy.

The figure includes a 33 per cent reported increase in female applicants. A new award agreement announced five months ago has reportedly resulted in another 1,444 applications, says NSW Police.

North Coast Tourism Symposium, July 31

This year's annual North Coast Tourism Symposium will be held at Byron Community Theatre, Thursday July 31 from 9am till 4pm.

It's a partnership between Destination North Coast and Byron Shire Council, and the theme of this year's symposium is 'Inspire! Shaping tomorrow's visitor economy.'

Organisers say, 'Keynote speaker is Mark Bouris AM, an Australian entrepreneur who has been innovating for years, challenging the business

landscape with disruptive models that help Australians succeed. Mark is now the Executive Chairman of Yellow Brick Road, where he continues to help Australians access their dream homes.'

Tourism awards

Following the day's Symposium, the 2025 North Coast Regional Tourism Awards Gala will be held at Elements of Byron from 6pm.

Organisers say, 'The much-loved annual awards

gala presents an opportunity to gather and celebrate the growth and entrepreneurship of tourism businesses and industry partners across the Destination North Coast network region.'

'Finalists will be announced on June 10 and, we can't wait to come together for what promises to be an elegant and inspiring evening celebrating the best of the North Coast visitor economy!'

To grab a ticket, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ys9rhpzh>.



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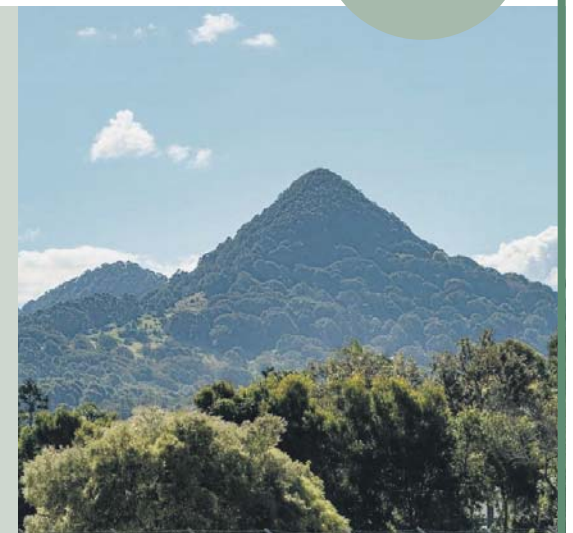


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They work for them

Residents around Chinbible Avenue near the Mullumbimby Showground are right to feel disappointed by Council – see page 1.

It's reasonable to be anxious as your neighbour plans to double the density of your street, or block your solar access with their oversized housing development, for example.

Developer Callum Sked now has approval to turn one large-lot Torrens title subdivision into seven, which paves the way for his large densely-packed proposal on flood-prone land.

No-one knows how well Council's consultant law firm Piper Alderman handled the case – negotiations between them, the court and the developer were held behind closed doors.

Is it too cynical to worry that given the lack of any scrutiny, the consultant lawyers could fold at their earliest convenience?

After all, they'd get paid anyway.

And while Council staff can claim that it's out of their hands because it's before the courts, there are improvements in process that could be made.

It would be good to know, for example, why no staff report on this development application (DA) was ever provided publicly, or why the DA was not referred to councillors in the first place, as it was clearly contentious.

And also – why did the DA slide into a deemed refusal?

A deemed refusal is where a developer can take Council to court when it fails to determine a DA in the statutory timeframe.

Former Greens mayor, Simon Richardson, who mentored the current mayor, used to boast in the chamber around ten years ago that Council never lost in court.

Now it's a regular occurrence.

Perhaps that is because from his tenure until now, there has been no

interest in strengthening planning instruments that can help defend inappropriate development.

Planning instruments, especially the Local Environment Plan (LEP), are considered to have weight when a court determines a case between developers and a council.

Community expectations can be met if the planning settings are in place. While it's up to residents to lobby councillors around what is acceptable, it's also up to councillors to read the room.

Flood-prone development puts lives at risk. It makes it harder for surrounding residents to insure their homes. It's just dumb development.



Further to backroom deals without any oversight, the way in which Council's planning team are providing a financial advantage to already wealthy developers deserves more scrutiny – see page 1.

While Council staff say it isn't usual practice to interfere with a DA, where else has it occurred?

Is there evidence that public safety will improve by staff intervening on behalf of the developer?

In the case of the DA in question, the proposal is for 38 large exclusive lots for millionaires who will no doubt build two dwellings per lot. It does nothing to address social or 'affordable' housing, of course.

It will, however, increase traffic.

And that's why any applicants proposing such greenfield developments are required to pay developer contributions. This allows Council to provide traffic improvements, for example. Cycleways are another.

Councillors actually have the power to improve process around such dubious decisions. Hopefully they see Council's reputation is at stake and act.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Giving Trumpism the middle finger salute

When I was on the bench I made some 'brave' decisions. And shock jocks, tabloid rags, the police association and politicians would pile on with their critical views.

But their reactions, however hysterical and misplaced, were largely substantive and were namby-pamby compared to the current situation in the United States.

If a judge finds against any Trump demand then they are eviscerated as 'lunatics', 'communists' or 'corrupt criminals'.

And that's just from the attorney general and president, let alone Fox News. Then they are threatened with impeachment, and such proceedings actually commence in the Congress.

Courts bullied

Or they are arrested in handcuffs, as has happened to one district judge who made orders forbidding Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) from forcibly detaining a person in the face of the court.

As for binding orders that the court declares, even those made by the Trump-led Supreme Court, well they are simply ignored.

'They don't apply to us because it's a foreign policy issue,' the leadership claims. Or, 'the planes were already in the air so we just let them go on'. Unimaginable in Australia or any western democracy in my lifetime.

The courts are being bullied, just like the legal profession and the universities.

Several law firms who acted for Trump's adversaries were the subject of Trump decrees that would have meant they folded into bankruptcy as they could not enter federal buildings.

Some grovelled and the orders were removed – but only when they laid down, feet in the air, and agreed to undertake up to \$40 million of free work for Trump pet ultra-conservative causes.

Others are fighting and winning. Universities have been threatened with crippling funding cuts unless they end diversity programs, weed out so-called antisemitism (read



'My hope is that the ALP uses this majority to be brave on climate change, native forest logging, drug law reform, a voice in some form, on Israel and in education.'

David Heilpern

anything but pro-Netanyahu) and give right-wing Fox News hosts curriculum control.

Universities threatened

Columbia shamefully folded. Harvard bravely has not.

When the courts are treated in this way, when the legal profession must kowtow to the king, when universities must toe the line or else be decimated then that is fascism.

The election result in Australia represents a rejection of a drift to Trumpism. However much Dutton tried to distance himself, we all suspected that in his quieter, furtive moments he would open the hidden compartment at the back of his wardrobe and fondle his MAGA cap, genuflect at the Trump portrait and shine the old police boots.

You could hear it in his forays into savaging 'woke' universities and school curricula. You could feel it in his cosying up to extremist Zionists who think that anyone who even slightly raises a concern about the genocide in Gaza should be labelled as a Hamas supporter.

And you could smell it a mile off in the fawning, then desperate, love-fest on Sky News and in The Australian and from all the shock-jocks who were bolstering, then propping up, and lastly hectoring the voters to join them.

It did not work. We, the voters, rejected nuclear as a front for an anti-renewables push, vetoed crawling to war criminals in the Middle East, and opposed a drift toward making Australia great again (thanks Jacinta) by demonising immigrants.

The Zionist-led jihad of the teals did not lead to a single defeat, much to my delighted surprise. They flexed their muscles and drooped. Murdoch and son failed dismally in their efforts to influence the election because we now know what the

end game looks like. Trumpism has made us realise that democracy is fragile and the drift can easily become a flood. We said 'no' to hate.

In the end, the Greens and Mandy did not stand a chance with that swing in three-way battles where the ALP had to come third.

For the courts it means business as usual and decisions can be made seeking to do right by all manner of people without fear or favour, affection or ill will.

Universities, like my own, can remain relatively distant from political intervention, and academic freedom will continue to be valued.

Law firms can do their job without retribution no matter who they are paid to represent, and those pesky freedoms so protective of democracy remain intact. We truly have dodged a bullet.

My hope is that the ALP uses this majority to be brave on climate change, native forest logging, drug law reform, a voice in some form, on Israel and in education.

The odourless centre

Mind you, my hope is tempered by fear, because there are dozens of examples where the ALP just seeks to consolidate even a landslide with a drift to the odourless centre.

Western Australia saw an unprecedented victory for the ALP, and yet one could hardly describe that ongoing regime as progressive.

This just leaves the commentators on Sky and in The Australian frustratedly nashing their teeth at activist judges, woke universities and liberal lawyers. Forgive me if just for a second I regress and say: 'sucked in ya losers'.

■ Professor David Heilpern is SCU Dean of Law and Chair of Discipline, Faculty of Business, Law and Arts. He is a former magistrate.



The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #48 May 7, 2025

Established 1986 • 22,000 copies every week

www.echo.net.au

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1948–1996
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1944–2024
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The Echo acknowledges the people of the Bundjalung nation as the traditional custodians of this land and extends respect to elders past, present and future.

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

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A new day – Goodbye to Bunyip Trumpism. Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

Sleeping locals

My family and I own 30 Middleton Street, Byron Bay, which backs on to Keesing Lane.

We, along with our neighbours, are shocked and scared, by the proposal for the sites 111 to 115 Jonson Street.

Merivale purchased Cheeky Monkeys, then Thai Sabai next door, then three shops to Johnsons Restaurant next door to that.

They already have an approved DA which somehow managed to roll Cheeky Monkeys' 2am licence further down the street.

I don't know how that happened. Now they have a new DA which includes, among other things, three outdoor courtyards for 180 patrons facing my property and four more outdoor areas facing Jonson Street.

All up they want to get 585 people onto their site to party until 2am.

I have four apartments facing Keesing Lane with great permanent long-term local tenants as well as two tenancies facing Middleton Street, office and yoga studio.

The outdoor courtyards proposed would be 30 metres from where my tenants sleep.

One couple has a baby, another is planning to have a baby. They all need to get up and go to work early.

Cheeky Monkeys was fully enclosed with no outdoor areas and we could not hear any noise.

If there is to be any outdoor areas they need to cease trading and all be indoors by 10pm.

Please Byron Council, protect us.

Meddles Bekirofski
Byron Bay

No DA needed

Good news for Ballina Shire residents! A development application (DA) is no longer required before you build!

Step 1: Build whatever you want, wherever you like on your land.

Step 2: Ignore any Council directives.

Step 3: Have a chat with the mayor.

Step 4: Tell Council you didn't know you needed a DA, and put an 'Amended DA' in after your project is completed.

Step 5: When your 'Amended DA' goes to Council, just one councillor voting with the mayor's squad enables the mayor's casting vote to approve it!

If you think I sound cynical, spare a thought for the neighbours who live alongside your illegal development that is now – voila! – a legal development! It's that easy, folks. Don't believe me? Go along to a Ballina Council meeting and see for yourself how it works.

Marilyn Perkins
Wollongbar

Anglican Op Shop

The Anglican Op Shop in Mullumbimby is a charitable organisation run by a group

of volunteers, financially supporting other charities in our community.

We are forever thankful for donations dropped off at our shop by the wider community.

On the Tuesday after Easter some very generous person donated a brand-new pair of Blacksmith men's work boots valued at \$100. They were put out for sale that day at half price. Unfortunately, within 30 minutes somebody picked them up but failed to pay for them on their way out. If that person would like to drop \$50 into our shop, we would be most grateful, and we could use the money to support other people in need.

If anyone is in desperate need of anything they only have to ask, and we are happy to help – but please do not just take them.

Margaret Giles
Mullumbimby Op Shop

Division – Bangalow Garden Club

This long-established, successful, welcoming community, a most successful garden club, has recently seen a rather sad division.

A member requested via the committee that a 'Welcome to Country' be included in the introduction at each monthly meeting as she felt it had been neglected.

Another member (or members) took exception to the suggestion that a respectful acknowledgement of the original occupants of the land that we now live on be included and requested a democratic resolution be found.

▶ Continued on page 17

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– Catherine Pulsifer

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

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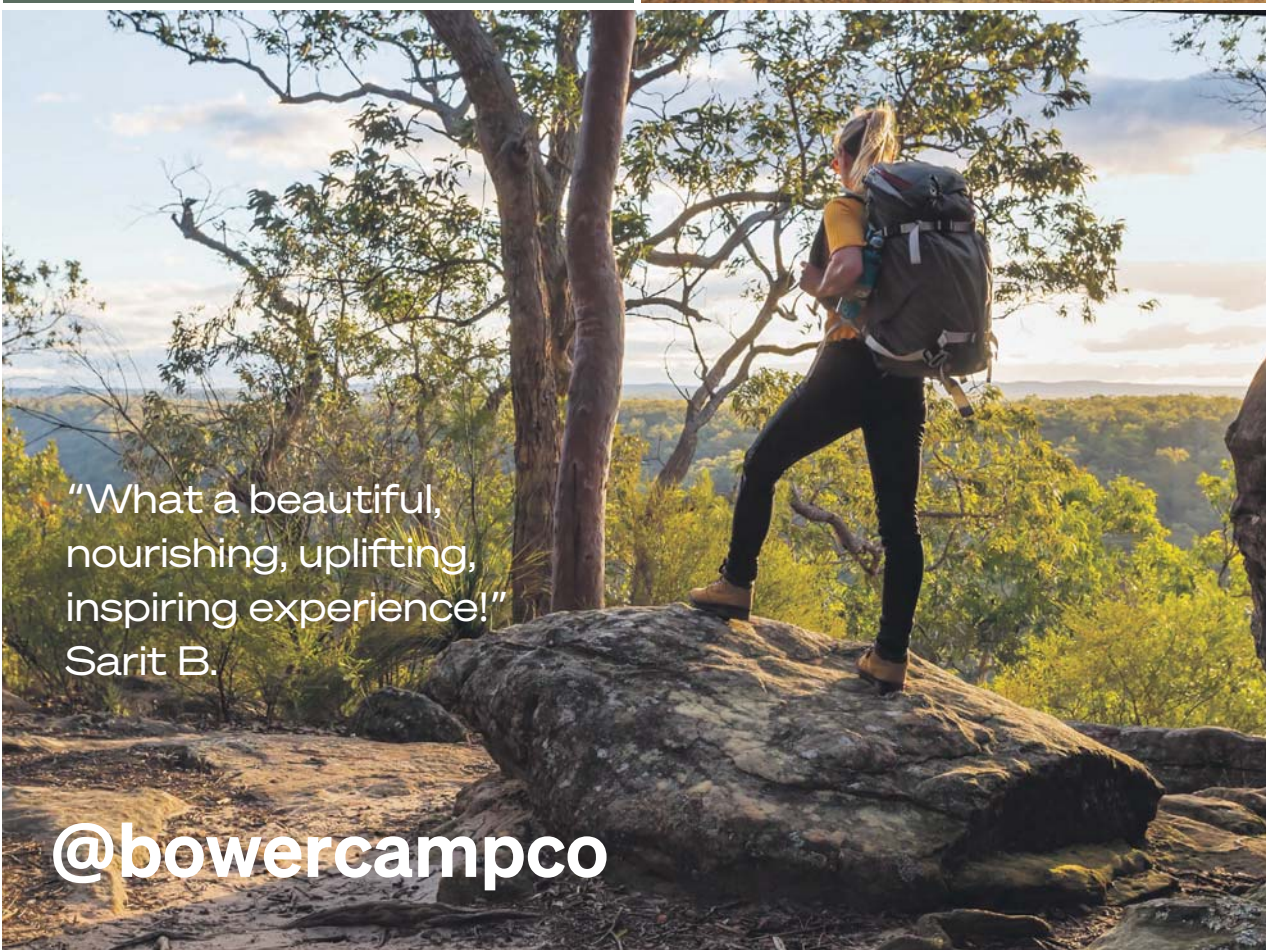
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Generate this! Let's talk AI at M-Arts

Richard Hil

This article has not been generated by AI. But how do we know? Is there a way of telling? I have to be honest – and this really is me – I have started to use ChatGPT, albeit sparingly, and with the utmost caution. It's easy to get sucked in, to do the 'hard' work, to invent stuff. I have friends who are liberal with its use. One such friend wrote an entire love poem to his ex. I told him: 'well mate, you didn't write it then, did you? It was scripted by an algorithm?' 'So?' he replied.

Most of us are a bit nervous about AI, the little we know about it. We're aware that it has enormous potential, but we're also cognisant that it harbours danger.

Celebrated physicist and cosmologist Professor Stephen Hawking told the BBC in 2014 that, 'The development of full artificial intelligence could spell the end of the human race. It would take off on its own, and redesign itself at an ever-increasing rate. Humans, who are limited by slow biological evolution, couldn't compete and would be superseded'.

This form of autonomous AI is chilling, as are the many other dangers identified by futurists, such as job losses resulting from automation, algorithmic biases, deepfakes, privacy issues, weapons automatization, political manipulations, and so forth. On the other hand, the more optimistic among us point to AI's potential in enhancing healthcare, climate mitigation, transportation, customer service, financial services, and scientific discoveries.



Bill Simpson-Young is a technologist and AI expert. He is co-founder and Chief Executive of Gradient Institute, a non-profit technology research institute launched in 2019 to build safety, ethics, accountability and transparency into AI systems. Photo supplied



Peter Waters is a Harvard-trained lawyer regarded as a leading telecommunications and technology lawyer in Australia and internationally. He was a partner at Gilbert+Tobin for over 25 years and now runs a small farm in the Tweed Valley battling weeds, and writes a weekly blog on AI. Photo supplied

What AI can do

Either way, people like you and me will be dipping into AI to see what it can offer us. One thing's for sure, generative AI in particular (which draws on existing data to create content) will alter the world as we know it, just as the internet has transformed everyday life. Each new technology, of course, has its ups and downs. Consider social media. While it has opened up new communication pathways it has also rendered our society more fragmented, generated mental health problems, and allowed corporations into our private worlds as never before. It's also deepened social and political divisions and fomented lots of hate, crazy ideas, grievances and nativist anger.

My view has always been that the introduction of each new technology should be accompanied by open public debate about its merits in terms of social impact and wellbeing. It's also important to ask who really benefits from these technologies, and who loses out. How should they be regulated, if at all?

To discuss this and a host of other issues, This Stuff Matters – The Politics of Life will host two leading experts on all things AI: Peter Waters, and Bill Simpson-Young of the Gradient Institute. They'll navigate the vexed world of AI and help us understand its strengths and limitations. Peter and Bill will discuss the crazy world of AI with Laura Conlon at the M-Arts Centre, Murwillumbah on Thursday, 15 May.

Book your tickets at this-stuffmatters.my.canva.site.

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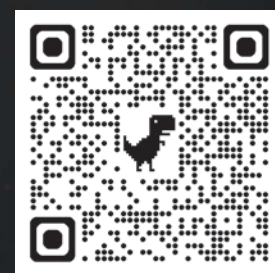
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BALLINA RSL

Politics of division rejected along with Peter Dutton

David Lowe

Labor is on track to a thumping majority, with Peter Dutton's Coalition cut to shreds, following an Australian election conducted under the shadow of collapsing democracy in the United States.

Australians almost invariably punish governments with swings against them in second terms. Not this time. Although about a third of the country voted for someone other than the major parties, the flow of preferences resulted in a swing to Labor of 2.52 per cent.

In an echo of what just happened in Canada, the Trumpish opposition leader lost his seat, and a centrist sitting government has been returned, in spite of polls just months ago suggesting the opposite scenario was a realistic possibility.

The ALP retained the Victorian seat of Aston, won in a by-election during Labor's initial honeymoon period, and have regained Peter Dutton's seat of Dickson, which hasn't been

in Labor hands since 2001. Remember Cheryl Kernot?

This election was decided before polls even closed in Western Australia, and Labor won every seat in Tasmania. There are many new female representatives across the country, and big money failed to destroy the teals, who mostly held their ground across the old Liberal heartlands.

What about the Greens?

In spite of a vociferous campaign conducted by a cocktail of extreme right wing organisations and the major parties, the Greens' national vote on Saturday didn't collapse (there was a positive swing of 0.68 per cent in NSW), but not in the places that count in terms of the lower house.

Leader Adam Bandt is in trouble in Melbourne, and Mandy Nolan failed to win Richmond, although she achieved a 1.23 per cent swing.

In the Senate, where voter numbers bear a closer relationship to



Returning PM Anthony Albanese celebrates his election victory with fiancée Jodie Haydon and son Nathan on Saturday night. Photo Anthony Albanese FB

representation, the Greens will retain their existing numbers, and balance of power role, though a strengthened Labor will also have the option of pushing their agenda through with conservative support. Other independents are set to lose their role as king-makers, with Jacqui Lambie possibly to vacate her seat for Pauline Hanson's daughter Lee as counting continues.

In Brisbane, Peter Dutton was uncharacteristically

emotional as he spoke early on Saturday night, paying tribute to his opponents locally and federally, and taking full responsibility for a failed campaign. 'I said to the prime minister that his mum would be incredibly proud of his achievement tonight, and he should be very proud of what he's achieved,' he said.

Down in Sydney, Albo acknowledged the Traditional Owners of the land, but there was no bold statement along the lines

of what he said about the Uluru Statement from the Heart last time. Instead, he chose to focus on fairness, and kindness, old-fashioned qualities derided as 'woke' by Peter Dutton and his fellow travellers.

'Today, the Australian people have voted for Australian values,' he said. 'For fairness, aspiration and opportunity for all, for the strength to show courage in adversity and kindness to those in need.'

'And Australians have voted for a future that holds true to these values, a future built on everything that brings us together as Australians and everything that sets our nation apart from the world.'

Repudiation

This federal election saw a strong repudiation of the forces that destroyed the Voice, and threatened to bring American-style culture wars to the forefront of Australian society.

The result shows that Gina Rinehart, Clive Palmer, Rupert Murdoch and the Atlas Network

don't have the control here that they imagine, but Australians can't afford to be complacent.

There was a sense through much of Albanese's first term, of a government looking over its shoulder and not governing for those that actually elected them – even less for those who had preferred them ahead of the many far right alternatives. A party has to be more than its big money donors.

If Albo wants to carve himself a place in the Labor pantheon, now is the time for his party to get back to its roots and use their newfound strength and confidence to do something bold to transform the country. AUKUS, tax reform, truth-telling and a scientific response to the climate and extinction crisis should all be on the table.

If the prime minister fails to grasp this extraordinary opportunity, he's got no one to blame but himself.

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

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► Continued from page 11

A secret ballot to decide the issue (which in my opinion should not have been deemed necessary) was organised with only the members actually present at the next meeting able to vote and this vote was decided in the negative.

Not only were many unable to be present and vote, the outcome has led to at least one resignation of a long-term, valued member and more will follow.

From an inclusive and friendly group, this split has changed how some of us feel about the club.

Members come from Ballina, Lennox Head, Lismore, Alstonville, Bangalow, Ocean Shores and Mullumbimby so represent a wide range of gardeners both established residents and blow-ins (like me) who have until now felt united – but now there is great unease as we wonder who voted and how they felt about Indigenous issues and fairness. I thought we were better than this, and in this it seems that we have a long way to go.

Carole Gamble
Mullumbimby

A brilliant question

Just before the elections, Peter Dutton was asked if he minded a nuclear reactor in his own electorate. He did not mind. His voters did.

What a brilliant question to unmask the people's 'down-dumber'!

Burkhard Schulze Waltrup
Crabbes Creek

Place Plan or Tourist Plan?

Ocean Shores Place Plan reads like a 'Destination Byron', pre-determined agenda.

It guarantees our town only a few footpaths linking Byron Shire Council's (BSC) designated 'tourist hotspots' dispersing tourists through our residential streets.

Our neglected residents have been unfairly subsidising tourism for years. We have gained no positive returns on our investment. Requests for basic maintenance is met with BSC's overused cry 'Council has no money'.

Even after the 2022 federal and state government flood cash splash, Ocean Shores flood risk was only increased.

A community resilience flood map didn't bother to get our towns boundaries correct. Now we are told residents are confused about where they live.

The Place Plan tells us that instead of BSC prioritising fixing our inadequate stormwater infrastructure, that investing in re-naming half of Ocean Shores town is more important. 'Marketable slogans' for tourist signage is a priority.

This draft Place Plan is contradictory, ignores our needs, and is divisive.

We deserve a Place Plan that puts residents needs and safety first and delivers services in a timely manner. The Place Plan is on exhibition and submissions close on May 18. Have your say!

H Rowland
Ocean Shores

Dear Mr Noble

I am one of tens of thousands who attend Bluesfest passionately and fervently every day, each year. We brave queues, cold, queues, rain, crowds, and camp chairs (which seem to be defiantly growing in numbers). We endure the negatives with very little complaining as we know what the end result is – amazing, fun, brilliant, music music music – in one location, alongside great food and lots of happy fellow music lovers.

I did wonder if you went too far this year when you announced it was to be the 'last ever Bluesfest'.

Admittedly, I never for one moment believed you. 'No way, it's a marketing ploy to sell more tickets faster'. I kept hoping you'd drop the ploy and admit there would be more.

People, including my family, went to great lengths and expense to attend this 'last' festival. We endured traffic queues, bar queues, food queues, toilet queues, traffic queues and queues to end all queues, the bus queues.

However, this year the traffic jams, lack of parking, bus lines, and hours of waiting involved getting to and from Tyagarah were unprecedented. One friend had to wait an hour to get on the double decker bus to take her to the overspill car park in Grays Lane. As she related her story to me on Saturday she added 'I will be doing something else next Easter'.

I have heard many friends who were (note past tense) regular Bluesfest attendees swear (literally), they will never attend another Bluesfest. I am concerned Mr Noble that you may have killed the goose who laid the golden egg and your ploy might become a reality.

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

Maxine Hawker
Byron Bay

AI

Very disappointed to see a (whilst very funny) AI rendered image in the *Backlash* section this week. Using AI is not only a slap in the face to many local talented artists that could of been commissioned for this cartoon but the use of AI also damages our environment immensely and is contributing to the dumbing down of our society. Sad.

Luke Mead
Ocean shores

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INTO THE WILD ESCAPES

Byron Bay junior surfers take out tag-team event

Ross Kendall

The junior Byron Bay Boardriders (BBB) won at their first attempt in the Alley Boardriders tag team event at Currumbin over the Anzac Day weekend.

'It was an amazing win,' BBB junior contest director, Marc Smith, told *The Echo*.

'It has happened naturally, but we have a group coming through who are really very good, they are elite for their age.'

The contest follows the same format as the senior Australia Boardriders Battle, but is for juniors.

'The team surfed three times on Sunday, April 27 at Currumbin against the best young surfers of North Coast NSW and Queensland,' Marc said. 'Progressing to the final, they won by a convincing ten point margin.'



BBB junior winners from left: Levi Lowe, Jaya Suhendra, Jonny Tooth, Mali Adams and Leihani Zoric. Photo supplied

'It was the first time we have entered this competition, and it is a new format for our surfers, so we had a practice session. It involves tactics, decision-making and

there are bonus points available,' Marc said.

The local surfers topped a field of roughly 20 clubs who came from Coffs Harbour up to Noosa.

Historic win for Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley Football Club

Ross Kendall

The Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley Football Club (MBVFC) has got the 2025 season underway in emphatic style, after a stunning win in the premier league pre-season Anzac Cup knock-out competition, their first piece of top-flight silverware in 75 years.

'The whole club is over the moon, and at a personal level for all involved, it's a marvellous achievement. The top men's side has never got to a semi-final, let alone winning the final,' said coach Beau Savage.

Fourth place

The MBVFC team qualified in fourth place, and was able to beat South Lismore in the semi in the last minutes of extra time via an own goal.

This set up the Anzac Day clash with the Bangalow Blue dogs, who won both last season's pre-season competition and the major premiership.

In the team's previous meeting with Bangalow this year, the Blue dogs went home winners 4-1, so the MBVFC team knew they had a lot to overcome, including banishing some doubt.

It was a 'thrilling' contest said Beau, with his side playing really well for periods. Good enough to go two-nil up in 25 minutes, before



The MBVFC premier league side has won this year's Anzac Cup against Bangalow 5-3. Photo supplied

conceding the same to leave it level at half time.

'We had a good chat and decided to double-down on attack,' he said.

First goal

The team got the first goal, but soon conceded another, but before doubts could linger about letting Bangalow back into the game, again, the side kept its attacking focus and finished the game 5-3 in front, and completely elated.

'At the beginning of the season we thought about going down a grade to build confidence as we finished eighth out of ten,' said Beau. 'But to win like that, from where we were last year, it's a world apart'. The side has picked up some additional players, particularly with more experience, but there has been a solid set up in the side for five of six years.

Beau has been with the club two years. 'I came in at just the right time,' he said.

Mullum victorious over Pottsville



Mullumbimby U11's soccer had a great start to the season, beating Pottsville 9 to 1 on their home turf. 'In extremely rainy conditions, it was a wet but great game,' says a proud mum. Photo supplied

30-year reunion for Byron Bay Red Devils

Byron Bay Red Devils RLFC will hold a 30-year reunion of first and reserve grade premiership winning teams, plus an 'old boys day' weekend on May 17 and 18.

Lindsay Browne from the

club told *The Echo* on Saturday there will be a catchup at the Byron Bay Bowling Club from 2pm.

All players are welcome, along with past committee members, sponsors and

supporters. On Sunday, there will be a home game against Ballina at Red Devils Park from midday.

'This should be a enjoyable weekend - go the bay!' said Lindsay.

National Volunteer Week
Connecting Communities Week
19-25 MAY 2025

Echo
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The Fall



Photo by Tree Faerie

I have been trying to keep this column non-political. But today I can only write one thing. I can only write about how I woke up today. Because in over 22 years of writing the Soapbox I have had a contract with my readers. I always write from my authenticity. I tell you the truth. I write what is front of mind. And today when I sit at the desk, I'm in tears. Tears of gratitude for the beautiful people who have turned up, who have carried me through, and tears of sorrow for this terrible feeling that I have let my community down. That I gave people hope for something I now couldn't deliver.

Politicians don't ever talk about their feelings. I think that's one of the things wrong with politics. Or at least wrong with politicians. It's a place where authenticity makes you a target. But I'm not a politician. I'm a candidate. I'm Mandy, an imperfect woman. A mum of five, a writer, a comedian, a terrible reverse parker, who's thrown her hat in the ring, twice. Come close. So close. But missed. Twice. If you ever needed a personal growth experience that was more like an extreme sport, run for a seat. It's brutal.

If campaigning is like flying, then not getting there is like falling off a cliff. There's the election day, Saturday pre-6pm, when everything is possible, and the Sunday reality check. It's like landing on concrete. The 80-hour weeks that seemed effortless just days ago, now land in an ache that goes deep into the bone. Everything hurts. The lightness in my body is replaced by heaviness. Sadness has made its home in me. That building knot of anxiety that has sat in my chest for months now has been replaced by another knot. This one is grief. It's the grief of almost. It burns night and day. I know it will burn for months.

Last time I went through this, I didn't know what to expect. You can't prepare yourself for it, but knowing what was coming definitely helps. Three months after the last election I ended up in hospital with a massive vertigo event. This time I've taken care of myself. I gave up drinking. I took up early morning exercise. Today I am not drowning in discomfort, I am sitting in it. This time I'm only marinating in my melancholy, I'm not making a meal of it.

Politicians don't ever talk about their feelings. I think that's one of the things wrong with politics. Or at least wrong with politicians.

I'm reflecting on the complexity of the feelings. Some of them are ancient. Remember those feelings as a child of not being good enough? Those feelings of rejection? Of being overlooked. Of missing out? They're there. Hello yucky unevolved sulky feeling! I welcome you in, and sit with you.

I feel exposed. I couldn't face the supermarket yesterday. The kindness of arms extended by a stranger in a coffee shop near the airport yesterday left me in tears. I had to drive home past my 'Better is Possible' billboards. Nothing like being mocked by your 10-metre-high self. But if I'm honest, I still believe that. Better shouldn't just be possible. It should be policy.

There have been dark forces at play to discredit me. I've had them trawl through my comedy, looking for snippets to put out of context and repurpose. I've had third-party groups funded by fossil fuels run ads on local TV. In my community. I've had local Facebook groups host some pretty vile content. I've read things about myself a person should never have to read. Some of them were very litigious (note to admins on those pages to watch the comments). I never engaged. I will pull people out of the mud, I won't fight in it.

The campaign protects you, but now, I'm just Mandy, and to be honest it makes me feel super vulnerable.

All around the country right now there are people who feel just like me. Broken and exhausted. Would I do it again?

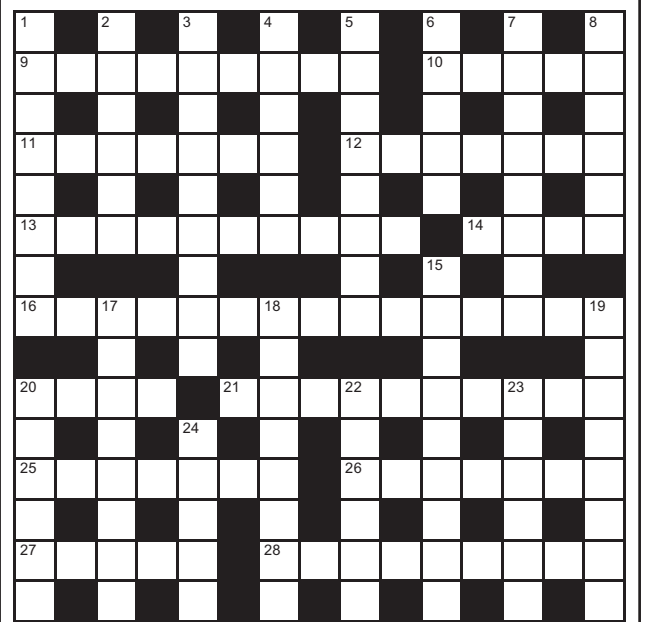
Absolutely.

Because we didn't just run a campaign, we created a movement.

And movements don't need to win to change things.

■ 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 two federal elections. *The Echo's* coverage of political issues will remain as comprehensive and fair as it has ever been, outside this opinion column which, as always, contains Mandy's personal opinions only.

Crossword by Stephen Clarke #54



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Turk is a relocated national (9)
- Asian city is fine about state commencing appropriation (5)
- Hollywood star a mediocrity to crew (7)
- Hollywood star beginning to accept divergent directions (7)
- Voters echo truncated lecture by old judge (10)
- Everyone in Texas perhaps has a boat (4)
- Anglicise the CNN version of Trump's Gaza project (6,9)
- Welsh youngster taken aback by toy oboe (4)
- Zulu disembowelled leader behind long grass - he's a cheat (10)
- Charlie takes difficult route, skirting queen to get to game on lawn (7)
- King George, getting over men, came across a young surfer (7)
- A measure of liquid - Lo-Carb - Romeo's into (5)
- Word of God is in a medical text. True? False! (9)

DOWN

- Material woven? Search me (8)
- Clumsy cowboy needs energy after losing zip (6)
- Marx and Tito finally replaced broken printer (3,6)
- Tennis star a naughty boy! (6)
- Liqueur served in tea set, weirdly (8)
- Golfers don't like this 20's mate (5)
- Seafood beginning to cause malaria to spread (8)
- Imitation jewellery, mid-quality, of a soft colour (6)
- Stocky character unfairly done over change (9)
- Heads of Hallmark assign yen value to Hollywood star (8)
- Censure is accepted by Virgin (8)
- Strangled fish mostly went off (8)
- Hollywood star about to be involved in a lot of fun (6)
- Hollywood star Garbo going to pieces over premiere of Titanic (6)
- Hollywood star left love in Paris (6)
- Couple clothe Victor in quilt (5)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

- Ancient region of Turkey (9)
- Japanese port city (5)
- Versatile American actor (7)
- British racing driver (7)
- Voting population (10)
- Two-masted sailing vessel (4)
- Forced removal of a population (6,9)
- Informal Welsh term of address (4)
- Trickster or con artist (10)
- Lawn game with mallets and hoops (7)
- Metal-reinforced hole (7)
- Metric unit of volume (5)
- Religious texts (9)

DOWN

- Soft wool from Asian goats (8)
- Socially awkward or clumsy (6)
- Early type of computer printer (3,6)
- Person who transgresses moral code (6)
- Anise-flavoured liqueur (8)
- One over par in golf (5)
- Fried squid dish (8)
- Pale, soft colour (6)
- Person with rounded body type (9)
- Golden Age Hollywood actress (8)
- Scold or punish severely (8)
- Executed by strangulation (8)
- Film noir actress and Bogart's wife (6)
- Iconic Casablanca star (6)
- Sarong-wearing 1940s actress (6)
- Quilted bed covering (5)

Last week's solution #53

D	E	S	K	T	O	P	S	O	P	S	H	O	P
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STARS BY LILITH

This earthy Taurean week suggests taking dedicated time to stop and appreciate life's never-ending daily supply of small joys, whatever they are for you ...



ARIES THE RAM

ARIES: With Venus, Mercury and Neptune dancing a planet waltz in Aries, the celestial stage is set for you to step into the spotlight. Your ruler Mars, in the vibrant sign of 'look at me' quite likes sequins and fears not the bling, so feel free to lay on the pizzaz this week.

TAURUS: Change isn't always easy for humans, especially your grounded and steadfast sign. But the current Neptune cycle is all about embracing the unknown and leaning into the unexpected. If surrendering some measure of control feels unsettling this week, just do it your way: nice and easy.

GEMINI: If planetary perambulations have you feeling a strong urge to shake up stagnant areas of your life, astral energetics are supporting you. This week suggests making changes slow and steady, and focusing on new directions that are innovative, long-term, sustainable, and most importantly for you, fun.

CANCER: All Cancerians are mothers to something, whether family, animal or enterprise, so as this week leads up to the annual day of honouring mothers on 11 May, this is a good time to think about acknowledging whatever you've nurtured, successfully or otherwise, with a celebration that's meaningful to you.

LEO: With Mars in Leo your dress code's likely to turn heads, and nobody could accuse you of underselling. Flair is fine, but avoid a *Game of Thrones* approach in personal interactions and negotiations. You'll feel like pushing the envelope, but think carefully before saying or posting anything provocative this week.

VIRGO: With your planet mentor Mercury in the sign of 'don't hold back', it's easier this week for everyone to speak candidly. Your perfectionist sign tends toward endless tweaking and improving details others don't even notice, so you do need to learn when to say enough. Because somebody else will.

LIBRA: Mercury in its present placement has no patience for rationalisations. Or playing small, or hiding your light. Whatever you've got that's worth promoting, whether your professional talents, negotiating abilities or personal style, you're actually doing the world a favour by sharing it around and inspiring others.

SCORPIO: If you've had issues with a stale situation or trying to drop an unsatisfying habit, that could change in a flash this week. And if melodramatic Mars instigates a bit of diva behaviour, then by all means keep your Scorpionic scepticism in place, but give reasonable people a fair chance.

SAGITTARIUS: Beneficial Jupiter, Sagittarians' ruling planet, spending its last month in your relationship zone (it won't be back for over a decade) suggests defining and clarifying partnerships of all kinds - personal, social and professional - before the gas giant moves into your sector of private resources.

CAPRICORN: It's excellent you've been busy assessing whether any of those recent offers and propositions have legs. But all work and no play makes boring Capricorns, and since this astro-cycle also loves its creature comforts, don't be slow to factor in a generous dose of leisure pleasures and indulgences.

AQUARIUS: If you're unable to gain traction on a group endeavour this week, use Pluto's retrograde snooze cycle in your sign to tap the brakes and take a reality check: is everyone aligned and on the same page? Have you taken on too much? Should you step back and reconsider?

PISCES: If this week's outgoing astral atmosphere fires up a generous and commendable passion to assist others not blessed with as much good fortune as you - and it may - please keep reminding yourself to direct some of that love, and a few of those treats, towards your own deserving self as well.

Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BALLINA



The Terrace

Open: Monday – Saturday
Breakfast 7am–9.30am
Dinner 5.30pm–9pm
Sunday / public holiday:
Breakfast 7am–9am
Dinner 6pm–8.30pm
1 Ronan Place, Ballina
02 6686 8866

Experience elegant coastal dining at The Terrace Restaurant & Bar, where exquisite cuisine, fine wines, and impeccable service come together in a sophisticated setting.

Early Dining Specials

- Any Breakfast Meal: \$19.90 – incl. Barista-made coffee
- Any Dinner Meal: \$39.90 – incl. Barista-made coffee

www.ballinabyronislanderresortconferencecentre.com.au

BYRON BAY (continued)



Horizon Rooftop

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

Welcome to Horizon, Byron's newest rooftop bar.

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

BANGALOW



Bangalow Tuckshop

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

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

BILLINUDGEL



Rosefina's Mexican

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

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

BYRON BAY



Main Street

Open for takeaway daily,
12 midday until dinner.
Menu, more details –
@mainstreet_burgerbar
18 Jonson Street
(02) 6680 8832

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details
@mainstreet_burgerbar

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



North Byron Liquor Merchants

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

'Byron's boutique bottle shop'

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



Three Blue Ducks

The Farm, 11 Ewingsdale Rd.
(02) 6190 8966
enquiries@threeblueducks.com
threeblueducks.com/byron
Open 7 days from 7am.
Mon-Thurs: breakfast & lunch
Fri-Sun: breakfast,
lunch & dinner

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

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



Roca Byron Bay

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

Latin Fusion all-day dining

Enjoy delicious casual dining with flavors straight from the grill! Savor our chargrilled anticuchos, indulge in fresh ceviche & oysters, or elevate your night with the Roca dining experience. Pair it all with a classic Pisco Sour or our best-selling Hot Like Papi cocktail.
Available daily from 2:30pm to 5pm.



Forest Byron Bay

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

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

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



Oyster Bar

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

Hotel Marvell's newest seafood destination

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

LENNOX HEAD



Lennox Pizza

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

Views, Brews, Cocktails, Beats, and Eats!
Live Music Friday, Sunday.

Bookings essential.
Head to lennoxpizza.com
Follow on Insta: @lennoxpizza

MULLUMBIMBY



The Empire

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

Fresh, seasonal produce meets culinary creativity. From innovative dishes to classic favorites, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

Fully licensed and with an emphasis on service

New Mexican-themed all-day menu featuring a mix of Mex and Empire classics.

WOLLONGBAR



Bonito Peruvian

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

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

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

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.

The Good Life



Celebrate mum with local love at the farmers' markets

Allie Godfrey

Each of us is the product of one – without mothers, we simply wouldn't be here. Whether they raised us, nurtured us, or held space for us to grow, mothers deserve to be celebrated.

This Mother's Day, show your love with a heartfelt gesture: a thoughtful gift and a nourishing home-cooked meal. The farmers' markets are brimming with beautiful, handmade, and delicious ways to say thank you.

Choose a hand-poured beeswax candle from Ahana Candles, a hand-crafted wooden board by Valley of Craftsmen, or organic hemp oils from Dr. Chill to invite a moment of calm. Sweeten her day with a sourdough doughnut from Sweet N Sourdough, and brighten it with a seasonal bunch of flowers from Jumping Red Ant, Blue Lotus, Glenyce Creighton, Organic Forest, or Summit Flowers.

In a world of fast and forgettable, the markets offer something slower, sweeter, and full of soul.



Recipe: Hearty Minestrone Soup



As the nights cool, warm mum's heart with this comforting bowl of soup.

Sauté 3 chopped onions in 2 tbsp olive oil.

Add 4 diced carrots,

2 diced celery sticks,

2 diced potatoes,

115g chopped green beans,

450g diced zucchini,

1 bunch shredded silverbeet or kale, cooking each for a few minutes.

Stir in 1.5 litres vegetable stock and a 400g can of peeled tomatoes; simmer gently for 2.5 hours. Add 400g cooked cannellini beans and simmer for another 30 minutes. Season to taste.

Tip:

Toss in a leftover Parmesan rind while it simmers – it adds amazing depth of flavour.

Mop it up with Crabbes Creek crusty bread, baguette, or a gluten-free loaf from Bredicine.

Add a wedge of Cheeses Loves You artisan cheese and you've got the perfect market-made feast.

- Find it all at New Brighton Farmers Market (Tuesday, 6 May, 8am to 11am) and Mullum Farmers Market (Friday 9 May, 7am to 11am) just before Mother's Day on 11 May. Happy Mother's Day from all of us at the markets.

Rosefina's Place: Billinudgel



With cooler evenings around the corner, Rosefina's cosy interior in Billinudgel comes to life as people settle into lounges and quiet corners tucking into their slow-cooked beef birria and a glass of Barossa shiraz.

As the days get shorter and the air becomes crisper, people return to embracing the warm winter sun during the day. Rosefina's northerly-facing position gets the best of the afternoon sunshine as it streams onto the deck and through the windows overlooking Billinudgel's quiet village street. The perfect spot for a lazy Sunday lunch accompanied by a glass of wine or a cocktail.

To celebrate the change of seasons, Rosefina's invites you to enjoy a Sunday lunch for Mother's Day on 11 May. To help thank mum for making you into a kick-arse



human Rosefina's has a special Mother's Day Mexican lunch prepared for you and they'll shout mum a bevvy of her choice for all her hard work. If your mum's not available, borrow a friend's! Feed her something delicious, hand her a mocktail and you enjoy the margarita. She drives home, everybody wins.

- Bookings essential and can be done via www.rosefinas.place or www.opentable.com.au.



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



NORTH BYRON HOTEL

MOTHER'S DAY

BOTTOMLESS LUNCH!



SUNDAY 11TH MAY

Lunch \$45 or Bottomless Lunch \$69
First sitting: 11:30am-1:30pm | Second sitting: 2pm-4pm
Live Vinyl Djs | Free Gift For Mum | All Day Mimosas

NORTHBYRONHOTEL.COM.AU



ART GALLERIES

ARTIST STUDIO GALLERY

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

ARTIST'S HOME GALLERY

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

BLUE KNOB HALL GALLERY

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

BYRON CLAY WORKERS GALLERY

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

GALLERY COSMOSIS

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

GARAGE GALLERY

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

H'ART GALLERY

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

KARENA WYNN-MOYLAN, FINE ART

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

LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

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

LONE GOAT GALLERY

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

MULLUMBIMBY CLAY WORKERS GALLERY

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

MZ GALLERY

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

NIMBIN ARTISTS GALLERY

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

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

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

STUDIO SUVIRA

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

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

Gallery hours: Wed-Sun 10am-4pm
Café open: Wed-Fri, 10am-4pm | Sat-Sun, 9am-4pm
2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah
02 6670 2790
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

THE ARTS



FIND YOUR CREATIVE FLOW WITH BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

This Term 2, unleash your inner artist with Byron Community College's exciting range of painting courses. Learn the foundations of colour with Colour Theory Level 1 and 2, dive into rich techniques in Oil Painting, or develop portrait skills in the inspiring Paint the Head class.

Ready to take it further? A few places remain in the nationally-recognised CUA31120 Certificate III in Visual Arts* – perfect for those serious about building skills and confidence in their creative journey.

Create, explore, and express yourself this term with Byron Community College.

Contact: 02 6684 3374
www.byroncollege.org.au

*This training is subsidised by the NSW Government and places are limited.



Lisa Reihana *GROUNDLOOP* (video still), 2022. Courtesy Art Gallery of New South Wales.

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS AT LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

A compelling lineup of exhibitions showcasing the depth and diversity of artistic talent from across the region is on display until 22 June. Featured artists include Veronica Rojas Nuñez, Claire Conroy, Monica Buscarino, Matt O'Brien, Merinda Davies and Chas Glover.

A highlight not to be missed is *GROUNDLOOP*, a major immersive audiovisual artwork by internationally regarded artist Lisa Reihana. Through the work, Reihana imagines a future where giant banksias form harbourside homes, traditional patterns wrap CGI coastlines, and Indigenous voyagers sail between Aotearoa and Australia. In Reihana's words, 'I am creating a magical world where the moana, the ocean, is the connector.'

Lismore Regional Gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday, 10am to 4pm, Thursdays until 6pm.

02 6627 4600
11 Rural Street, Lismore
lismoregallery.org



Art Courses



SEE WHAT'S STARTING SOON



02 6684 3374
www.byroncollege.org.au
customer@byroncollege.org.au



LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

Exhibitions
2 May — 22 June 2025

Veronica Rojas Nuñez: *Shadow work*
Claire Conroy: *The sky from here*
Monica Buscarino: *The heart is a lonely hunter*
Matt O'Brien: *What if the wind could speak*
Merinda Davies: *We are all eating and being eaten*
Lisa Reihana: *GROUNDLOOP*
Chas Glover: *Swan songs and other tunes*

Lismore Regional Gallery | 11 Rural Street, Lismore NSW
Open hours | Wednesday - Sunday 10am - 4pm, Thursdays until 6pm
lismoregallery.org | art.gallery@lismore.nsw.gov.au | 02 6627 4600



THE ARTS



Julian Bickersteth AO, CEO, International Conservation Services.

CARING FOR AN ART COLLECTION AT LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

Spend the afternoon at Lismore Regional Gallery on Thursday, 8 May from 11.30am and enjoy talks about conserving significant works of art, restoring damaged pieces, and managing national collections, including its permanent collection and the Hannah Cabinet. Hear from cultural experts Anne Ryan, Curator at Art Gallery NSW, Julian Bickersteth AO, CEO at International Conservation Services, and Greg Peters, Founding Director and Chief Conservator of Patinations Conservation Services.

The talks will be followed by a tour of the gallery and exhibitions with Director Ashleigh Ralph and Curator Ineke Dane, as well as networking drinks with the Friends of the Gallery.

Tickets are between \$15 and \$30, and morning tea and catering will be provided.

02 6627 4600
11 Rural Street, Lismore
Lismoregallery.org



Tamara Mendels, *Veiled High Octave Esoteric Modulation 2024*. Acrylic, synthetic polymer, and resin on canvas, 140 x 122 cm. Image courtesy the artist © The artist.

KEY RHYTHM TAMARA MENDELS 9 MAY - 10 AUGUST 2025

Key Rhythm is an exhibition of new work by Northern Rivers artist, Tamara Mendels, exploring gesture, line and surface. Spanning across painting and sculpture, Mendels' unique forms are a result of working within her own processes and self-imposed boundaries. Her abstractions evolve from rhythmic gestures – lyrical movements with paint and resin that become frozen mid-act and held by the resistance of their own materiality.

These enigmatic forms fold into themselves generating tension between depth and surface, and simultaneously reveal and conceal subconscious impulses and primordial ciphers from the artist. Featuring cast resin sculptures alongside a series of resin and acrylic paintings, Mendels' new work marks a significant evolution in her practice.

A Tweed Regional Gallery initiative. An outcome of the PLATFORM program.

Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre
02 6670 2790
2 Mistral Rd (car Tweed Valley Way), Murwillumbah South
gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au



Bill Veale, *June's Orchid*.

H'ART GALLERY REACHES LANDMARK 10TH EXHIBITION, CHAMPIONING LOCAL ARTISTS

The H'Art Gallery, inside the Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre, is marking a major milestone: its tenth exhibition.

Over the past five years this unique gallery has showcased more than 300 artworks by 35 distinctive local artists, establishing itself as a cornerstone of the Northern Rivers arts community.

Curated by renowned graphic impressionist Solveig, the two-floor gallery is a dynamic, healing environment where art meets wellbeing.

With exhibitions rotating every six months, the gallery offers local artists a rare opportunity to display and sell their work for an extended period, allowing visitors ample time to revisit and truly connect with the pieces.

The tenth exhibition features an exciting mix of established names and fresh voices, continuing the gallery's tradition of diversity and creative exploration.

60 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby
https://solveig.com.au

8 May 2025 11.30AM — 4.00PM
 Lismore Regional Gallery

Caring for an Art Collection.

Join us for an afternoon of presentations, connecting and art as our speakers share their expertise on managing national collections, conserving significant works of art, and restoring damaged pieces.

Speakers
 Anne Ryan
 Greg Peters
 Julian Bickersteth AO

Museums & Galleries of NSW
 LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY
 NSW GOVERNMENT

This project is supported by Create NSW's Audience Development Fund, a devolved funding program administered by Museums & Galleries of NSW on behalf of the NSW Government.

Key Rhythm Tamara Mendels

9 May – 10 August 2025

Tamara Mendels *Polyphonic Spectrum with Modulated Disruptors (detail) 2025* acrylic, synthetic polymer and resin on canvas, 140 x 122 cm Image courtesy the artist © The artist

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

The Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre is a Tweed Shire Council Community Facility and is supported by the NSW Government through Create NSW.

Open Wed – Sun, 10am – 4pm | 2 Mistral Rd, Murwillumbah | gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au

H'ART GALLERY

Art in the heart
 INSPIRED LOCAL ART

Mullumbimby Comprehensive Health Centre

Volume 39 #48
 7-13 May, 2025
 Editor: Eve Jeffery
 Editorial/gigs: gigs@echo.net.au
 Copy deadline: 5pm each Thursday
 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
 Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au
 P: 02 6684 1777
 W: echo.net.au/entertainment

seven

seven days of entertainment



The German Film Festival

Palace Cinemas, in collaboration with German Films, is delighted to unveil the 2025 program of the HSBC German Film Festival which will take place from May 8 to 28 at Palace Byron Bay and Ballina Fair Cinemas.

The 2025 line-up features a standout selection of 20 films. Superb cinema offerings include six films direct from the Berlin International Film Festival (Berlinale), compelling biopics and documentaries that delve into the lives of Germany's most iconic artists, delightful comedies, and charming family films, plus provocative and exciting Australian premiere screenings from a bold new generation of German filmmakers.

it has been another successful year for German cinema – you can see the strong presence of German films at Berlinale with films like *What Marielle Knows* and *Hysteria*. A very special event will be the screening of the documentary *Riefenstahl*.

Opening the festival is one of Germany's biggest box office hits, the romantic comedy *Long Story Short (Feste und Freunde – Ein Hoch auf uns!)* featuring an all-star cast including **Laura Tonke**, **Ronald Zehrfeld** and **Trystan Pütter**. A hilarious and poignant celebration of love and friendship, the film follows a group of friends through a series of special occasions.

From the 2025 Berlinale, where it gained much attention, is **Mehmet Akif Büyükcatalay's** provocative thriller



Riefenstahl

Hysteria. This is the festival's centrepiece – a piercing reflection on the power of images and the dynamics of perception, projection and social hysteria, the film features one of European cinema's most exciting new stars, **Devrim Lingnau**, as an assistant director intern who is drawn into a dangerous game of secrets, lies and paranoia on a film set when a burned Quran is discovered.

The festival's documentary special presentation is the highly acclaimed *Riefenstahl* directed by celebrated filmmaker **Andres Veiel**. Having gained unprecedented access to the private estate of 20th Century filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl, Veiel explores the legacy of the woman who became world-famous with her Nazi propaganda film *Triumph of the Will*. This insightful and riveting documentary draws on incredible archival material and footage from Riefenstahl, who continually denied any close ties to the Nazi regime.

The HSBC German Film Festival will screen in Byron Bay and Ballina from May 8 to 28 at Palace Byron Bay and Ballina Fair Cinemas. For more information visit germanfilmfestival.com.au.

Eclectic Selection WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



✿ Internationally-acclaimed, award-winning Irish writer **Colum McCann** will discuss his latest novel, *Twist*, in conversation with ABC journalist Mick O'Regan. *Twist* is a darkly epic novel about connection, disconnection and destruction – a meditation on the nature of narrative and truth from one of the great storytellers of our time.

Wednesday at the A&I Hall, Bangalow at 6.30pm. Tickets from \$35 at humantix.com.

✿ **Angus Kaftan** burst onto the music scene after a career change, from the tradie life to musician, and made his way up through busking and playing markets – now his live shows tell a raw and honest story with a light-hearted sense of humour and enthusiasm.

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

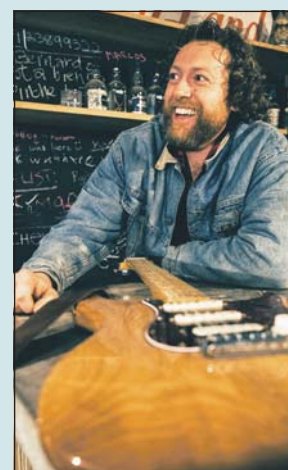
✿ **Lime Cordiale** are returning to their roots for a one-off tour to remind everybody who they are! The band built their live reputation on playing in small rooms – with the fans so close you can see the band sweat. For those who remember, and those about to discover, sweaty, packed rooms, that have taken Oliver and Louis around the world.

Friday from 6pm at the Hotel Brunswick, Brunswick Heads. Tickets from \$70 at moshtix.com.au.



✿ **Jon J Bradley** has been entertaining audiences in and around Byron Bay for over 20 years – this ex-pat Kiwi hails from a nation of singers, so it's not hard to believe that he would also follow suit.

Tuesday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show.



✿ Expect rich harmonies, hypnotic guitar lines, and lyrics that crack open the universe, all delivered with **Joe Conroy's** signature warmth and magnetic presence at his *Cosmic Power Folk* EP launch – whether you're a longtime fan or a first-time listener, this is a night to soak in music that connects the cosmos to the campfire.

Saturday from 6pm at the Tintenbar Hall. Tickets \$25 (pre-teens free) at humantix.com.

✿ **Jesse Redwing** has honed his chops in smoky juke joints all over the world for almost two decades and was a semi-finalist in the

2024 International Blues Challenge. Jesse's honest, down-to-earth vibe is guaranteed to fill your cup with his contemporary take on the timeless soulful sounds of the blues legends.

Bangalow Hotel at 7pm on Saturday. With JB's Blues Breakers from 5pm on Sunday at Club Lennox. Both free shows.



✿ Growing up in the greater Chicago area **Gregg Peterson's** musical roots stem from '60s and '70s rock, blues, jazz, bluegrass and a little country. With the use of loopers and a foot stomp, Peterson creates rich layers of sound that allow for his expressive guitar work in an impressive mix of covers and originals.

Sunday from 3pm at the Cabarita Beach Hotel. Free show.

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

seven days of entertainment



Christian Pazzaglia and his son, Marlon

It's a wrap

The 5th annual **Bangalow Film Festival** finished with a burst of colour, as fashionistas gathered at the A&I Hall to celebrate *Milano, the Inside Story of Italian Fashion*, on Sunday night.

Over five days the festival screened 17 films, hosted special musical events, industry panels and a school's program which provided high school students from the area access to industry talent with a range of inspirational programs.

The guests on Sunday night were a sea of colour, sparkle and fun, gathering to support the community festival after being postponed due to Cyclone Alfred in March.

Festival founder and program director, **Christian Pazzaglia**, said that despite cyclones, postponements, and freak accidents, it was still a truly memorable edition. 'It has been amazing to get such a turnout from the community, day after day. We watched movies, we experienced live performances, we debated, but most of all we connected!'



The Toad, the Whale, and the Sun

Embark on a mystical journey with filmmaker **Dean Jefferys**, as he explores the secrets of the universe through the use of the most powerful psychedelic known to man, 5-MeO-DMT from the Sonoran desert toad in Mexico. Discover the role this 'sacrament' plays in humanity's awakening. This seven-year expedition of the soul, includes interdimensional ceremonies in the Sonoran desert and the ancient sun-worshipping temples of the Mayan civilisation. Dean also sails and swims with whales in tropical waters as he explores a vision: that the toads the whales and the sun are giving humanity information to assist us in these critical times.

Embark on an epic sailing adventure on Dean's marine conservation yacht, Migaloo 2, through tropical waters with the humpback whale migration and experiencing the power of the toad ceremony with the whales and the sun. Through Dean's deep connection with the whales and the sun, unlock the messages of the great ancestors of the ocean, and our galactic messenger, the sun and gain insight into the role they play in catalysing humanity's evolution.

The promoters say, 'with each step of this odyssey, the mysteries of the universe will be unveiled – explore the quantum shift in consciousness that is currently underway on our planet. Through the

experiences of those who have undergone the profound initiation of the Bufo Alvarius ceremony, we will come to understand the significance of toad medicine in fostering not just personal transformation, but a metamorphosis of society itself.'

'*The Toad, the Whale, and the Sun* is a thought-provoking documentary that will take you on a quest to uncover realities about the world we live in that most never even dreamed was possible. You will also see how the use of fear is used to control the masses, and how it can limit our true potential as human beings. We are at crossroads. You will learn about a rising sovereignty movement that seeks to empower individuals to bring about positive change.

'With breathtaking cinematography and an expert team of mystics, *The Toad, the Whale, and the Sun* is an immersive experience that will challenge your beliefs and inspire you to take positive action.'

***The Toad, the Whale, and the Sun* is screening at the Starcourt Theatre Lismore on Thursday, May 15 at 6pm. Byron Community Centre, May 17 at 7pm, Mullumbimby Drill Hall, May 24 at 7pm. Plus *Shamans of the Amazon* and sailing videos at the Mullumbimby Drill Hall, May 24 at 4pm. Tickets are \$25. Watch the trailer at vimeo.com/994343764. For more info visit toadwhalesun.com.**

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May 9-11th
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SAT 17 MAY @ 7PM brunswickpicturehouse.com

THE TOAD THE WHALE AND THE SUN

THE EPIC JOURNEY OF A QUANTUM SHIFT

Screening of Dean Jefferys' epic 2-hour documentary, 9 years in the making + Q&A

The psychedelic Toads, the Whales and the Sun are offering insights to humanity in these critical times

Lismore Star Court Theatre, May 15th 6pm
Byron Community Centre, May 17th 7pm
Mullumbimby Drill Hall, May 24th 6.30pm
+ before at 4.30pm, cult classic, *Shamans of the Amazon*

Watch trailer, get tickets + more info:
www.toadwhalesun.com

seven



A Minecraft Movie

Struggling doorknob salesman Steve (that's your first clue) breaks into a mine to fulfill a childhood dream, when he discovers the Orb of Dominance and the Earth Crystal (ok, game's up – see what I did there?).

Steve discovers that when combined, they create a portal that transports him to the Overworld, a world where the terrain is made of easily manipulated cubes.

Welcome to the world of Minecraft, where creativity doesn't just help you craft, it's essential to one's survival.

From Warner Bros. Pictures and starring Jason Momoa and Jack Black, *A Minecraft Movie*, directed by Jared Hess, is the first-ever big screen, live-action adaptation of Minecraft, the best-selling video game of all time.

Four misfits – Garrett 'The Garbage Man' Garrison (Momoa), Henry (Sebastian Hansen), his sister Natalie (Emma Myers) and Dawn (Danielle Brooks) a real estate agent who runs a mobile petting zoo (WT?) – find themselves struggling with ordinary problems when they are suddenly pulled through a mysterious portal into the Overworld: a bizarre, cubic wonderland that thrives on imagination. To get back home, they'll have to master this world and protect it from evil things like piglins and zombies – while embarking on a magical quest with an unexpected, expert crafter, Steve (Black). Together, their adventure will challenge all five to be bold, and to reconnect with the qualities that make each of them uniquely creative – the very skills they need to thrive back in the real world.

Will they make it? OF COURSE they will. Will it be fun watching them try?

A Minecraft Movie screens at Palace Cinemas this week – more info at palacecinemas.com.au.

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GIG GUIDE

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

WEDNESDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: MITCHELL DORMER & JON SHORTER**, 10.15PM **DJ DAVID BANGMA**
- 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**

THURSDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAN HANNAFORD**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ANGUS KAFTAN**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **ADAM HARPAZ + ALEX BOWEN + DJ QUENDO**, 6PM **SPANGLED THURSDAYS - FEAT - MAC THE KNIFE**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: MITCHELL DORMER & JON SHORTER**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **ADAM JAMES**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO HUM**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 6PM **ADAM JAMES**

FRIDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BULLETPROOF**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **LUKE PAULEY & PINK ZINC**
- BYRON THEATRE 7.30PM **BYRON BALLET - THE SLEEPING BEAUTY**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4.30PM **DJ SHANE COLLINS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **JORDAN MAC + NIC CABELL & THE MA MANS**, 8PM **JONELLE DEMELO & BODHI ACTON + JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **LIME CORDIALE + TAYA AND LIV SHIV**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **WILD WOMEN: HOWL**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN 7.30PM **COMEDY WITH ELLEN BRIGGS & HARLEY BREEN**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ WILD HONEY**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEE WITH JESS**
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM **SONIC FX**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **INO PIO**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10AM **MORNING MELODIES WITH TOMMY MEMPHIS**
- KELP BAR, BALLINA, 5PM **JOE CONROY**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **TIM STOKES**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **WOLFIE**
- THE BURROW, CABARITA, 4PM **ROD MURRAY JAZZ**
- CABARITA BEACH HOTEL 6.30PM **DUE EAST**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **ROCKIN' RON**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **TRILLA**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **RUM JUNGLE, LETTERS TO LIONS, HEADSEND & MID DRIFT**

SATURDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MAJESTIC KNIGHTS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **LACHIE DWYER & JOEL ADAMS DUO & 42 BAND**
- BYRON THEATRE 2PM & 7.30PM **BYRON BALLET - THE SLEEPING BEAUTY**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DJ MR NICE + DJ DAVID BANGMA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATTHEW ROGERS DUO + VIBES COLLECTIVE**, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS MICK BUCKLEY & BODHI ACTON + JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 7PM **JESSE REDWING**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **SURF TRASH + ADAM JAMES & LOOSE GOOSE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **WILD WOMEN: HOWL**

- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **VANESSA LARRY MITCHELL - TEARDROPS ON MY DILDO**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **GANG GANG**
- TINTENBAR HALL 6PM **JOE CONROY EP LAUNCH**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **WEAR THE FOX HAT**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **PISTOL WHIP**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 8PM **MAXIMUM THRUST**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **STOCKADE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **STEVE SAVAGE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 6PM **THE AUSTRALIAN LUKE COMBS EXPERIENCE**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **NOAH ROBERTSON**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2.30PM **MIRUSIA**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **SUNZA CHIEF**

SUNDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ALLY PALMER DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK & JADED**
- BYRON THEATRE 6PM **BYRON BALLET - THE SLEEPING BEAUTY**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM **DJ SCOTT WOLFE**
- YULLI'S, BYRON BAY, 3PM **YULLI'S OPEN MIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **OLE FALCOR + DJ ZAC EWING**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS - JOHN HILL & BODHI ACTON**
- COORABELL HALL 3.30PM **SKY EATER OCTET AND CHAD WILKINS BAND**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **THE LONESOME BOATMAN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **LISA HUNT + JORDAN MAC**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **SWAMP CATS OPEN MIC**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **AMBER ROSE & JACK REEVES**

MONDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JAMIE ASHFORTH**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX MCLEOD**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARK USHER + DJ BENJAMIN HONEY**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS - BODHI ACTON & MITCHELL DORMER**

TUESDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALEX TILLEY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MARSHALL OKELL**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS - MITCHELL DORMER & JON SHORTER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **COMEDY - BOBBY BRADFORD, MORGAN KENT & BRETT THOMAS**

WEDNESDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ELLA JONES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DEVU**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **INO PIO + DJ DAVI BANGMA**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS - JON SHORTER & SHANE PARRY**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **OPEN MIC JAM**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 5PM **IRISH FOLK JAM**

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

FINAL DESTINATION: BLOODLINES (CTC) Sneak Preview
Fri, Sat: 6:10PM

OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH (CTC)
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:15PM

PRIDE & PREJUDICE (20TH ANNIVERSARY) (M)
Sun: 3:30PM

PSYCHO (M) Cult Vault
Mon: 6:00PM

TALL TALES (PG)
Thurs: 6:30PM

THE SALT PATH (M) Sneak Preview
Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:30PM

FAMILY FILMS

A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG)
Daily except Thurs, Sun: 10:50AM, 12:40PM, 3:40PM,

PALACE BYRON BAY

ALL FILMS

CLOWN IN A CORNFIELD (MA15+) NFT
Thurs, Fri, Sat: 1:40PM, 3:45PM, 8:30PM, Sun, Tues, Wed: 1:40PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM, Mon: 1:00PM, 3:45PM, 6:15PM, 8:30PM

CROCODILE DUNDEE: THE ENCORE CUT (M) NFT
Daily: 4:20PM

MONSIEUR AZNAVOUR (M) NFT
Daily except Mon: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 3:00PM, 7:15PM, Mon: 11:30AM, 1:00PM, 3:00PM, 5:50PM

PALACE BYRON BAY

SINNERS (MA15+) (M)
Thurs, Tues, Wed: 1:15PM, 3:20PM, 5:45PM, 8:15PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:15PM, 5:45PM, 8:15PM, Mon: 1:15PM, 3:00PM, 5:45PM, 8:15PM

SMALL THINGS LIKE THESE (M)
Daily except Mon: 11:10AM, 6:10PM, Mon: 10:50AM, 8:30PM

STELIOS (M)
Daily: 8:20PM

THE ACCOUNTANT 2 (MA15+) (M)
Thurs: 1:30PM, 8:00PM, Fri, Sat: 1:00PM, 8:30PM, Sun: 12:50PM, 8:20PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:00PM, 8:20PM

THE COUNT OF MONTE CRISTO (M) (NO SCREENING SUNDAY)
Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed: 3:45PM, Thurs: 11:45AM, 3:45PM, Mon: 2:30PM

PALACE BYRON BAY

THE PENGUIN LESSONS (M)
Daily except Thurs: 10:50AM, 1:20PM, Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:40PM

THE WEDDING BANQUET (M) NFT
Daily: 10:45AM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM

THUNDERBOLTS* (PG) (M)
Daily: 11:10AM, 1:45PM, 5:50PM, 8:15PM

TINA (MOTHER) (M)
Daily except Thurs: 10:45AM, 5:50PM, Thurs: 10:45AM, 3:20PM, 5:50PM

WARFARE (MA15+) (M)
Daily except Tues, Wed: 8:30PM, Tues, Wed: 1:15PM, 8:30PM

WITH OR WITHOUT YOU (CTC) (M) NFT
Daily except Thurs: 3:50PM, 8:30PM, Thurs: 4:10PM, 8:30PM

PALACE BYRON BAY

THE WEDDING BANQUET (M) NFT
Daily: 10:45AM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM

THUNDERBOLTS* (PG) (M)
Daily except Thurs: 12:10PM, 2:45PM, 7:30PM, Thurs: 12:30PM, 2:30PM, 7:20PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG)
Daily except Thurs, Sat: 10:15AM, 5:20PM, Thurs: 10:00AM, 5:10PM, Sat: 10:00AM, 5:20PM

CLOWN IN A CORNFIELD (MA15+) NFT
Daily: 3:20PM, 7:40PM

CROCODILE DUNDEE: THE ENCORE CUT (M) NFT
Daily: 2:40PM

DOG MAN (G)
Daily except Thurs, Sat: 10:00AM, Thurs: 10:20AM

FINAL DESTINATION: BLOODLINES (CTC) (SNEAK PREVIEW)
Fri, Sat: 7:15PM

FOOTLIGHT PARADE (PG) (MATINEE MEMORIES)
Sat: 12:30PM

OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH (CTC)
Thurs, Fri, Sun: 12:30PM, Sat: 10:15AM

THE ACCOUNTANT 2 (MA15+) (M)
Thurs: 4:10PM, 7:15PM, Fri, Sat: 4:30PM, Sun, Mon, Tues, Wed: 4:30PM, 7:15PM

THE WEDDING BANQUET (M) NFT
Thurs: 10:20AM, 12:15PM, 5:30PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:15AM, 5:30PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:15AM, 12:30PM, 5:30PM

THUNDERBOLTS* (PG) (M)
Daily except Thurs: 12:10PM, 2:45PM, 7:30PM, Thurs: 12:30PM, 2:30PM, 7:20PM

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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

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Mon-Fri
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BILL HARVEY SILVESTER

24.12.1936 ~ 15.04.2025



Passed away peacefully at home, looking out over the ocean, following a short illness. Aged 88. Bill was the beloved husband of Sharon and loving father and father-in-law of Bart and Marama, Belinda and Graeme, Travis and Colleen, Natalie and Stephen, Julian and Lisa, and Bronwen. 'Gpa' will be greatly missed by his grandchildren, Jay, Daniel, Zoe, Taylor, Tarkyn, Rhiannon, Micah, Orla, Joel, Sebastian, William and Hannah. Bill touched the lives of many people from our local region, as well as interstate and overseas. His creation of the Julian Rocks Reserve will remain his legacy for all generations.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend his funeral service at St Mary's Anglican Church in Ballina on Thursday, 15th May 2025, commencing at 10:30am. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Australian Marine Conservation Society.



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- Coffee & tea • Fruit Salad

EVERYONE WELCOME

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

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall



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

Classifieds

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Position description and application process
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Temporary 7 Weeks (LSL Cover)
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Position description and application process
www.Capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

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www.thinkblinkdesign.com

IN MEMORIAM

Tilemachos (Archie) KORIALOS
14 April 1912 - 4 May 1997



A peace-loving family man. Patient, hardworking, trustworthy. Persevered with a quiet strength. In our thoughts always.

With love, your family.

LIFE CELEBRATIONS

In loving memory of Elizabeth (Beth) June Gibson (née Kellett)
01.06.1946 - 01.05.2025
Beth passed away peacefully at John Flynn Private Hospital.
Beloved wife of Barry from Ocean Shores.
Deeply loved Mum & Mother-in-law of John, Scott & Tony, Paula (dec), Keith & Anthea.
Doting grandmother of Naomi, Luke, Jessica, Ruby, Max & Bethany.
Family & friends are warmly invited to celebrate Beth's colourful life at the White Dove Chapel, 16 Mogo Place, Billinudgel, NSW.
10.30am, Monday 12 May 2025.
Flowers are welcome and may be sent to the chapel or brought to the service.
Private burial to follow, at Mullumbimby Cemetery for immediate family.
 Murwillumbah (02) 6672 2144

SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 3 WEEKS

DATE (May)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
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
15	TH	6:21 17:03	18:38 8:31	0936 1.19; 2215 1.73	0408 0.52; 1507 0.43
16	F	6:22 17:02	19:32 9:26	1015 1.14; 2256 1.69	0452 0.54; 1544 0.47
17	SA	6:22 17:02	20:31 10:16	1100 1.11; 2340 1.65	0539 0.57; 1625 0.52
18	SU	6:23 17:01	21:32 11:02	1154 1.09	0632 0.58; 1715 0.58
19	M	6:23 17:01	22:34 11:42	0030 1.62; 1300 1.09	0729 0.57; 1819 0.62
20	TU	6:24 17:00	23:37 12:19	0129 1.59; 1414 1.15	0826 0.54; 1935 0.65
21	W	6:24 17:00	12:52	0230 1.58; 1525 1.25	0919 0.48; 2055 0.63
22	TH	6:25 17:00	0:39	0330 1.58; 1628 1.39	1009 0.41; 2209 0.59
23	F	6:26 16:59	1:42 1:56	0429 1.57; 1724 1.56	1054 0.33; 2317 0.52
24	SA	6:26 16:59	2:47 2:30	0525 1.54; 1817 1.72	1137 0.26
25	SU	6:27 16:58	3:56 3:08	0618 1.49; 1908 1.86	0021 0.45; 1219 0.22
26	M	6:27 16:58	5:08 4:15	0712 1.42; 1958 1.96	0122 0.39; 1302 0.20
27	TU	6:28 16:58	6:22 5:24	0804 1.34; 2047 2.01	0220 0.35; 1346 0.21
28	W	6:28 16:57	7:35 6:24	0856 1.27; 2137 2.01	0317 0.34; 1431 0.25

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

RIP PETS

IN MEMORIAM
 On Tuesday 29 April, BaaBaa, our sweet, gentle, elderly toy poodle died; on Wednesday morning we buried him in the Coopers Shoot hills. He was "a divine little soul", and he touched the hearts and brought joy to all who met him.
We miss him very much.
Rest in peace, our dear little one.
Catherine, Pia, Philippa and Damian

PETS

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)
 MAXI
Handsome 7-month-old male Kelpie x Bull Arab 'Maxi' is an exceedingly sweet natured boy. He is very responsive to directions and corrections, is quite submissive and excellent with other dogs. He will no doubt be a mix of very active combined with chilled affectionate couch potato. Maxi would suit life on a property/farm or would be the most charming companion for someone with an active lifestyle with time to exercise and train. Please contact Shell on 0458461935. MC: 94100028968305

DIGBY
 Two-and-a-half-month-old Digby is pure joy wrapped up in an adorable grey and white coat. Digby is confident and playful but still loves to have a quiet snuggle. This sweet boy is capable of adapting to most households and will thrive with lots of love and affection. If you have been searching for a best friend for life, Digby is ready and willing to bring love, laughs and a very loud purr.
 Northern Rivers Animal Services
T: 6681 1860 E: shelter@nras.org.au
W: www.nras.org.au

MISHKA
Meet 12 year old Mishka, a beautiful, friendly, well behaved calico tortoiseshell, born on New Year's Day 2013. Mishka would be suited to a fairly quiet family or mature folk as she likes to be included but not overly pampered. She loves a brush, and her coat is incredibly soft! If you are interested in a mature and well behaved furry companion, Mishka could be perfect for you. Microchip no. 943094320382736.
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MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415	FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS
1st SUN	Byron Bay	02 6685 6807	Each TUE New Brighton 0424 168 672 Each TUE Organic Lismore
2nd SUN	The Channon	02 6688 6433	Each WED Murwillumbah 7-11 0415 328 672 Each WED Nimbin 3-6pm 0418 940 653 Each WED Newrybar Hall 4-7pm
2nd SUN	Coolangatta	0428 793 141	Each THU Byron 8-11am 0414 595 169 Each THU Lismore 2.30-6.30pm 0459 309 223
2nd SUN	Tabulam		Each FRI Mullum 7-11am 0424 168 672 Each FRI Evans Head 2.30-6.30 0428 291 068
3rd SAT	Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370	Each SAT Bangalow 8-11am 0414 595 169 Each SAT Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World) 02 6679 5438 Each SAT Lismore 8.30-11am Each SAT Wadeville 8am-12pm Each SAT Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr
3rd SAT	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672	Each SUN Ballina 7-11am
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	

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE	000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay	131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads	6629 7510
Mullumbimby	6629 7570
Byron Bay	6685 9499
Bangalow	6629 7500
STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE Storm & tempest damage, flooding...	132 500
BRUNSWICK VALLEY RESCUE Primary rescue	6685 1999
BRUNSWICK MARINE RADIO TOWER	6685 0148
BYRON CENTRAL HOSPITAL	6639 9400
BYRON COUNCIL: EMERGENCY AFTER HOURS	6622 7022
NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE (Mullumbimby)	6684 1286
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24 hour crisis line	1800 656 463
LIFELINE	131 114
MENSLINE	1300 789 978
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS 24 hours	1800 423 431
AL-ANON Help for family and friends of alcoholics	1300 252 666
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Meets daily	6680 7280
NORTHERN RIVERS GAMBLING SERVICE	6687 2520
HIV/AIDS - ACON Confidential testing & information	6622 1555
ANIMAL RESCUE (DOGS & CATS)	6622 1881
NORTHERN RIVERS WILDLIFE CARERS	6628 1866
KOALA HOTLINE	6622 1233
WIRES - NSW Wildlife Information & Rescue Service	6628 1898

Community at Work

On The Horizon



DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

AIR

The Australian Independent Retirees (AIR) meeting will be held on Friday, May 9 at the Ballina RSL Club, 1 Grant Street, Ballina commencing 10am. The guest speaker will be Ivor Thompson from the True Blue Driving Plateau Sports Club, Deegan Drive Alstonville. Men previously, and newly diagnosed, with prostate cancer are urged to join with the group to experience the personal cancer stories told which give a great opportunity for all to share, learn and benefit from each other. Partners and carers are welcome to attend as family are very much involved with the process and treatment of those with this diagnosis. Guest speaker is David Thorpe from Carers NSW: Taking Care of the Carer. Enquiries Bob Corney 0493 075 612.

Prostate Cancer Support

The next meeting of the Northern Rivers Day Prostate Cancer Support Group will be on Wednesday, May 14, 10am until 12 noon at the Alstonville Plateau Sports Club, Deegan Drive Alstonville. Men previously, and newly diagnosed, with prostate cancer are urged to join with the group to experience the personal cancer stories told which give a great opportunity for all to share, learn and benefit from each other. Partners and carers are welcome to attend as family are very much involved with the process and treatment of those with this diagnosis. Guest speaker is David Thorpe from Carers NSW: Taking Care of the Carer. Enquiries Bob Corney 0493 075 612.

Lions Club - Cabarita and Pottsville

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

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.

Knit and crochet for charity

The knitting and crochet for charity group run by Ballina Meals on Wheels is held on Monday mornings in Ballina. It is open to people who are 65 years and older. \$5 includes morning tea. Call Kristen: 0419 679719 for more information.

Crafty Women Bruns

CWA Brunswick Heads holds a Crafty Women session every Friday, bar public holidays, from 10am until 2pm. It is open to non-members, just come and join us for knitting, sewing, crochet, card making or whatever craft takes your fancy at the corner of Booyun and Park Streets, Brunswick Heads. There is a gold coin donation and morning tea. Contact 0431 908 063.

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.

Low-cost or free food

Food Box Thursdays 9.30-11.30am at Uniting Church, Mullumbimby. You may purchase cheap food, obtain free veges, and enjoy a cuppa. **The Hub** Baptist Church in Ocean Shores has food relief available for anyone doing it tough, please contact us on 0434 677747 if you find yourself doing it tough. No ID or Concession Card required. NILS referral service also available. Check Facebook page The Hub Baptist Ocean Shores for details. **Liberation Larder** Takeaway lunches and groceries Monday and Thursday 12 till 1pm. Fletcher Street end of the Byron Community Centre.

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 be the Ballina support group, you can register by emailing supportgroups@wayahead.org.au or call 1300 794 992.

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).

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

ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

Deadline: For additions and changes is **12pm Friday**
Line ads: \$99 for 3 months or \$340 for 1 year prepaid
Display ads: \$70 per week for colour display ad.
 Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.
 Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high.
 New ads will be placed at end of section.
Contact: 6684 1777 or adcopy@echo.net.au



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- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 10-10.30am
- 5/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Fri 11-11.30am
- 7 Azolla Place, Suffolk Park. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 14 Rush Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7/116 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 22 Offshore Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 25 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 17 Blue Horizon Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 11/31 Hayters Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 35 Avocado Crescent, Ewingsdale. Sat 10-10.30am
- 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 27 Roses Road, Federal. Sat 11-11.30am
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- 41 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 58 Corkwood Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5/7 Cooper Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
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Congrats, Labor, for the resounding election win. Like Canada, we rejected the direction the US is heading. As the election dust settles, let's be thankful that we don't live under a collapsing democracy moving to a dictatorship, led by a deranged ageing billionaire with fascist proclivities – see Professor Heilpern's column, page 10.

Hopefully Sydney-based cops had a great time at last weekend's Nimbin MardiGrass Festival. By blocking roads, and swarming through harmless crowds, they reminded everyone that hemp is a threat, not only to freedom of choice, but to the powerful building, clothing, food and pharmaceutical industries.

A 113-million-year-old 'hell ant' from Brazil is the oldest ant fossil ever discovered, reports *New Scientist*. 'The finding adds to evidence that the first ants evolved on the supercontinent of Gondwana in the southern hemisphere before spreading across the rest of the world.'

This year's 'street count' of homeless people shows a 16 per cent decrease in Byron Shire, says NSW Minister for Housing and Homelessness Rose Jackson. She attributes it to a new dedicated Assertive Outreach team on the North Coast, and adds there are now 2,192 people recorded as sleeping rough across the state.

Residents in the neighbouring shire of Clarence are alarmed at a mining exploration proposal for metallic elements antimony and tungsten in flood-prone and drinking water catchment



A burst of colour Italian style, celebrating at the Bangalow Film Festival after party – Geoff Cotton, Meera McGarry, Vicky Brooke, Christian Pazzaglia, Diana Sharpe, Irfaan Jetha and India Reynolds. For more, see page 25. Photo Eve Jeffery

areas. Clarence Catchment Alliance say Wild Cattle Creek near Dorrigo is at risk. They say, 'Under the NSW government's Critical Minerals Strategy, exploration licences are being fast-tracked, with one approved just four months after application.'

Oh this isn't good: *New Scientist* reports, 'As tech companies are abandoning content moderation efforts and eliminating fact-checking teams, the US government has terminated research grants for studying misinformation and AI-generated deepfakes.'

Ten years ago, on May 6, 2015, *The Echo* reported Council adopted a *Byron Shire Short Term Holiday Accommodation Action Plan*. It only took years for the NSW government to come up with its own solution.

Psst: Council (staff and councillors) meet this Thursday,

and The Saddle Road residents say they will address the chamber. Other issues up for a vote include a request

to increase the lots for a Bayside Way DA in Brunswick Heads (not Wallum, another urban subdivision).

High School English Teacher
Temporary 7 Weeks (LSL Cover)
2025 Monday 12th May - Friday 4th July

Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School (CBRSS) is a vibrant and progressive K-12 school with a lively, creative, and warm community of students and staff, dedicated to the educational principles inspired by Rudolf Steiner.

CBRSS is looking for a suitably qualified, dynamic, and experienced High School English Teacher. Classes include HSC Extension 1 and 2, as well as a mix of Class 11 and Class 9 English classes. It is a great opportunity to trial a tree/sea change!

The successful applicant will work collaboratively with the High School Faculty to bring engaging and creative content to our English Students.

Registration with NESAs and holding a current NSW Working with Children certificate is essential

Applications are reviewed as received.

Position Description and Application Process available capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

MULLUM VET

JUNE & AUGUST ARE PET DENTAL MONTHS

- Free pet dental check with nurse
- 10% off routine dental procedures
- 10% off equine dentals (excludes medication & travel)

Please call the clinic for an appointment

124 Dalley Street Mullumbimby
Phone 6684 3818
After Hours Emergency Service
Small & Large animals.
Locally owned with a friendly & caring team!

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byronhealing.com.au/contact-us

Do you have a community or creative project Council could support?

Community Initiatives and Creative Public Spaces Grants are open – apply now!

What's on offer?

Community Initiatives Program
Grants of up to \$5,000 to support projects that will deliver social, cultural and environmental outcomes for inspiring community projects.

Creative Public Spaces
Grants of up to \$5,000 for creative activations and art projects in public spaces.

Applications are open now and close on **16 May 2025**.

More information
More information, eligibility details and the application forms are available from Council's website.

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/grants
02 6626 7000

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