

Bangalow bowlo's parent company endures losses

Hans Lovejoy

With the parent company of the Bangalow Bowling Club, Norths, Collective posting a \$2,585,559 loss last financial year, *The Echo* sought comment around the company's commitment to major upgrades as promised, and to reassure the Bangalow community that their club is not in danger of becoming insolvent or being sold off.

In January 2022, the bowling club stopped trading briefly and went into voluntary administration owing creditors around \$80,000.

By 2023, the Bangalow community was divided on whether Norths should amalgamate with the club after then-president, Rowan Keast, warned of the bowlo's shaky financial position.

Material uncertainty

Apart from the \$2.5m loss last financial year, North's 'current liabilities exceeded its current assets by \$13,526,964', according to its recent annual report.

This in part prompted North's independent auditor to conclude in their report (page 39) that, 'these events or conditions indicate that a material uncertainty exists that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern'.

Additionally, a recent newsletter from the club says they aren't, 'currently in a position financially to commence a multi-million-dollar major upgrade'.

Norths CEO, Luke Simmons told *The Echo*, 'Norths Collective held

► Continued on page 3

Albie's Archie artwork is an absolute gem



Trystan and Albie at home in Bangalow. Photo Eve Jeffery. Pictured right is Albie's portrait which was selected for the Young Archie competition. Photo NSW Art Gallery

Paul Bibby

It was a slightly melancholy selfie sent from the other side of the world that inspired Albie Eeles to paint a picture of her dad.

With her 'papa' sharing a picture while in London for work, the seven-year-old from Bangalow decided to paint his picture for a class project on portraiture.

'He was in London and I missed him,' the Bangalow Primary School student says.

Emotions of the moment

Not only did the painting capture the emotions of the moment, but it would also later capture the

attention of the judges in the Young Archie competition – the junior version of the Archibald Prize.

The striking artwork was selected as a finalist for the 5–8-year-old category and is now proudly hanging in the NSW Art Gallery.

The youngster went down to Sydney two weeks ago to see her painting and was more than a little chuffed.

'Excited!' was Albie's brief but energetic description of her feelings upon seeing her painting in the exhibition.

The gallery made the young artist and her family feel special, giving them free tickets to the full Archibald Prize exhibition and

showing them around.

'We're very proud of Albie and very impressed by the gallery,' Albie's mum Leila says.

'They made such a fuss of us – people were even asking for autographs.'

'I remember when she did the painting I thought, "there's something about this one, but maybe I'm just biased because I'm her mum". I'm glad the judges saw something special too.'

Held every year in conjunction with the Archibald Prize, the Young Archie competition is judged by the NSW Art Gallery's family programs manager, and a guest judge, based on merit and originality.

Save Wallum court battle enters final stage

The community-led effort to protect a rare and endangered habitat in Brunswick Heads from urban development is now in the final stages, with final submissions now delivered by both sides in the Federal Court of Australia.

The significant coastal wallum ecosystem was earmarked for development by Clarence Property, but faced stiff community opposition.

The issue divided the previous Council, led by former mayor, Michael Lyon. His casting vote in early 2024 enabled works to begin for 123 residential lots and three small-medium density sites.

But with community-led fundraising the Save Wallum organisation was able to get an interlocutory injunction to stop development works, which has been in place over the site since July 2024.

Grassroots campaign

It follows the grassroots campaign, which commenced in August 2023.

Save Wallum spokesperson, Svea Pitman said, 'After months of protest activity on the controversial site, a legal case was established by a pro-bono legal team consisting of barristers Jonathan Korman and Richard Reynolds, and lawyer Natalija Nikolić, who came together to champion this cause'.

A three-week trial began in February 2025 in the Federal Court, with final submissions being delivered on Monday, May 26 and Tuesday, May 27.

'The entire trial has been

► Continued on page 3

Byron foreshore plans get green-light ► p2

No joke – Mandy quits stand-up comedy ► p5

What's the future for the Nats? ► p12

Making wonderful spaces ► p17

A hub of creativity, Byron's A&I Estate ► p20

Gigs, shows and amusing whatnot ► p23



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Byron Bay foreshore plans get green-light

Paul Bibby

Plans to revamp and restore the Byron Bay foreshore from Fishheads to the Beach Cafe are a step closer to reality, after Byron Shire Council passed its concept plan for the famous stretch last week.

After years of planning, debate and consultation, councillors unanimously approved the *Byron Bay Foreshore Concept Plan* at last week's meeting.

Main Beach carpark decision deferred

While the plan remains silent on the future of the oceanfront carpark, it sets out several priority actions including badly-needed new amenities and a redeveloped playground in Apex Park, and a new network of accessible footpaths stretching the length of the foreshore.

'There's so many things to love about that area, but the consensus from many was that it had been loved



Image from Byron Shire Council's *Byron Bay Foreshore Concept Plan*.

to death and that we should enhance it,' Byron Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, said during last week's meeting.

'This is about making the stretch more beautiful... better access for people with disabilities and for families... and making it more user-friendly, open it up a bit.'

Club access raised

Unsurprisingly, the plans had some contentious elements.

The meeting heard that the Byron Bay Surf Lifesaving Club

had expressed concern about how the redeveloped amenities block would affect their ability to access the beach in an emergency and to get boats to, and from, the water.

In an effort to address this, councillors agreed to conduct a separate public exhibition process for the new toilet block once the specific design had been finalised.

Mayor Ndiaye also added a clause in a bid to minimise the amount of concrete being used for the network of footpaths and to limit

the use of e-bikes in key pedestrian areas.

E-bike issues

'I do have concerns just about the breadth of concrete in some areas for the pathways,' Cr Ndiaye said.

'I think what we've seen with the Lighthouse Road and discussions about that - there's a big issue with people using e-bikes.

'My preference would be to push those [e-bikes] closer to the road area rather than the foreshore and perhaps have

a look at how people use that space at the moment.'

While the future of the beachfront carpark was not included in the concept plans, it evidently remains a key (if not the key) component of the foreshore from the public's perspective.

Council is considering two main options in relation to the site: 1) Retaining the oceanfront parking while providing open space and access improvements, or 2) Removing 80-plus car spaces from the beachfront and relocating them to a new multi-storey carpark behind the pool. In the latter option, the current carpark would become an extensive oceanfront green space.

Council's consultation process, which included a survey of around 800 residents, found that each of the two options received around 45 per cent support, while the remaining 10 per cent said they were 'unsure'.

A decision on the carpark has been deferred until a decision on foreshore

protection infrastructure has been made and further public consultation conducted.

At last week's meeting local surf legend Rusty Miller added his voice to the calls for the carpark to remain as it is.

Surf check spot

'My little surf check, which I've done for many years, is driving to the Main Beach parking lot, turning across in front of Fishheads, driving to the end and slowly doing a loop,' Mr Miller said

'I can tell in one slow loop how the surf is going. I can tell where the swell's coming from, I can see the texture of the water and all the surfing information I need. Once I see that I can set my day'.

'I would propose that it all be left as-is, because I think it's a very good system. People drive along and do a little circle. They don't hang out, they just do a little surf check and move on.'

'I think Byron is a happier place when people get to have their morning surf.'

Rural residential park zoning proposed

A new zoning for low-cost rental housing is being proposed by independent councillor, David Warth.

Any new zoning proposal would need to be led at the state government level, and if adopted, would sit inside council's local environment plans (LEP).

Cr Warth told *The Echo*, 'I have discussed this with other councillors and staff, and I will be speaking about it at the National General Assembly of Local Government Canberra in June'.

'Affordable, social and transitional housing is desperately needed in our Shire.

It has proven to be extremely difficult to provide owing to the very high cost of land and real estate here'.

'Our Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, is acutely aware of this, and with other councillors is looking at all options.

Outside of the box

'In response to the housing crisis, I feel there is a need to think well outside of the box.

'I am proposing a new land zoning: Rural Residential Park (RRP).

'This would be to rezone flood-free rural land outside of main centres of population to be turned

into low-cost rental housing pegged to a viable percentage of weekly income.

'Accommodation would be provided with easily transported, highly cost-effective flat-packed modular homes that can be configured from two, up to six, bedrooms.

'These are very attractive, extremely durable and functional fully self-contained homes. They are available now through a local manufacturer, and can be erected in a matter of days.

'I would very happily live in one of these homes myself. The park would be landscaped and planted

with local native trees. It would have its own hall for activities and meetings, a community garden and quiet places to just sit and relax.

'Regular transport to towns would be arranged.

'The houses would be rental only with no holiday letting or high season rent increases. The park would be primarily for residents who are working in the area and single mums with kids', he added.

Cr Warth has provided *The Echo* with his perspective of his time so far on Council - see www.echo.net.au for more.

\$3.5m borrowed for Bayshore Drive roundabout

Councillors and staff went into confidential session at last week's meeting around borrowing \$3,500,000 for the 2024/25 financial year 'for the purposes of roundabout construction at Lot 12 Bayshore Drive Byron Bay.'

Lot 12 Bayshore Drive is located at Council's works depot, opposite Santos and Afends.

In the agenda, the minutes state that councillors have delegated authority to General Manager Mark Arnold 'to accept a loan finance offer based on terms most favourable to Council

on the basis of a three-year interest-only loan maturing no later than June 30, 2028'.

Staff said in their report that, 'Since construction has commenced, the works have been impacted by unforeseen construction issues such as drainage and service relocations that will require a further \$1m to complete the works. The works are a condition of the current Development Application (DA)'.

'This means Council needs to borrow \$3.5m to complete the Lot 12 Bayshore Drive roundabout construction works', they said.



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Save Wallum court battle enters final stage

► Continued from page 1 live-streamed on YouTube via the Federal Court channel, as a public interest matter.

Svea said, 'Tireless community advocacy, emotional and exhausting frontline protests, an enormous amount of scientific and planning research, and ongoing fundraising, has led to Save Wallum's case'.

Ms Pitman says the case 'has become a symbol of resistance, unity, and hope for our future'.

Threatened species

'The development at 15 Torakina Road would destroy one of the last remaining wallum ecosystems in the Byron Shire - rare and precious coastal land home to dozens of threatened species, such as critically endangered wildlife, including the wallum sedge frog, koalas, long-nosed potoroo, Mitchell's rainforest snail and the south-eastern glossy black cockatoo.

'We have such a small amount of this type of ecology in our area left, it is vital we conserve it for all the endangered species that depended on the wallum for their survival'.

'This Federal Court case challenges the legality of the development under the *Environmental Protection*



Wallum supporters from across the Northern Rivers made their way down to Sydney, including notable Indigenous knowledge-holders from across Bundjalung country. Photo supplied

Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act), as there are numerous "Matters of National Environmental Significance" (MNES) on site. In this case they are the five federally listed threatened species [listed above].

Defining judgement

The court's decision will be a defining moment - not only for Brunswick Heads, but for environmental protection across Australia. The outcome will showcase whether laws like the EPBC Act can truly safeguard biodiversity, or whether

developers can sidestep them using outdated approvals and bureaucratic loopholes like being a zombie DA.

Local Bayside resident, Holly Galbraith, said, 'We've heard scientists speak out against the ecological destruction, we've listened to Elders share their heartbreak, and we've seen children draw and paint their hope for the future of the land. We've witnessed grief, yes - but also joy, strength, and love. This case is just one chapter in a much bigger story: a community coming together to defend Country'.

'This community-led campaign has already changed the landscape - socially, emotionally, and politically,' Ms Pitman added.

Social licence

'There is no social licence for Clarence Property to proceed with this needless destruction - on a wetland, no less. In a time of climate chaos and ecological decline, we've seen our community rise: gathering beneath 300-year-old Scribbly Gums, standing with Elders, and forming powerful new alliances,' Ms Pitman added.

Bangalow bowlo's parent company endures losses

► Continued from page 1 its 70th AGM last Thursday, where several matters were addressed and the Norths Collective's future reassured, including any necessary support from banking partners'.

'The year-end December 2024 financials were tabled and while the result was an improvement on 2023, it is not reflective of the performance required to aggressively invest in all properties on a group-wide basis immediately'.

Mr Simmons said, 'Post-Covid impacts, rising costs in all expense areas with inflationary pressure have been a challenge added by the poor performance of diversification with several non-gaming ventures'.

'The 2025 budget will see a return to strong profitability, and the year-to-date May 2025 figures have the group trading well ahead of its forecast. 2024 saw the group retire its involvement with two leased operations at Cheltenham and Artarmon in Sydney.

Reverse equity

'This also saw the joint venture of its brewery be established as a reverse equity consideration.

'We are thankful Mr Greg Nash attended the AGM in Sydney and put several questions to the meeting with respect to ongoing commitments and plans for major renovations as outlined in the MOU.

'The club has been upfront in its communication that no plans have been developed materially beyond the earlier concept drawings to be ready for further member or community engagement.

'Norths Collective has, however, remained committed to its support for all sporting organisations and all other aspects of the MOU to date.

Taken on club debt

'At the time of the amalgamation, Norths Collective took on over \$450,000 of ANZ bank debt and an ATO debt of \$220,000 the club

held before investing over \$250,000 in other capital items since that date.

'Norths Collective respects the Bangalow community and its love of its local club, and will continue to work with the advisory committee and membership on ensuring the sustainability and success of the bowlo.

'With the replacement of the windows with new bifold

doors near complete, the next step in maintenance works will see eaves and gutters repaired and replaced and painting to continue in tandem', Mr Simmons added.

■ Comment was sought from the Bangalow Bowling Club, but Mr Simmons told *The Echo* as CEO, he is the only one authorised to speak on behalf of the club.

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Top musicians return for Mullum Roots Festival

A new iteration of Mullumbimby's beloved music festival is set to debut on July 12 and 13 as a vibrant celebration of live music, community, and creativity.

Like the previous Mullumbimby Music Festival, the Mullum Roots Festival will be held throughout various venues throughout the town, including the Civic Hall, Bowlo, Ex-Services Club, and Courthouse Hotel.

Festival Director, Lou Bradley, says the aim is to celebrate original songwriting and performance, featuring a diverse lineup of acclaimed Australian artists.

She says, 'The festival aims to foster creativity and diversity, drawing on the successful model of its sister event, the Nimbin Roots Festival.'

The 2025 festival boasts a stellar lineup, headlined by

The Waifs, Jeff Lang, Shane Howard, Emily Lubitz, JB's Blues Breakers, The Versace Boys, The Soul Movers, Robert Forster, Dog Trumpet, Tamam Shud, Claire Anne Taylor, Clelia Adams, Rod McCormack, Felicity & Josh and David Bridie.

Psychedelic Sat

On Saturday, the Civic Hall will host a special event with Ellis D Fogg's legendary light show, featuring performances from Robert Forster, Dog Trumpet, and Tamam Shud.

Hootenanny Sunday

A country-themed Sunday lineup includes Claire Anne Taylor, Clelia Adams, Rod McCormack, and Felicity & Josh.

The Love Bus shuttle service will transport festival-goers between venues.

For more info visit www.mullumrootsfest.com.



Locally-based 10-piece band, SOUL'D, is one of the acts to perform at the upcoming Mullum Roots Festival. The group has been a dynamic presence in the Northern NSW music scene for over 19 years, and is renowned for authentically recreating the retro sounds of the golden era of soul and R&B music. Here, the band are pictured at the Rocking Horse Studios, where they spent time last week recording new promotional material and capturing the legacy sound of founder Steve Sax. From left: Derek Siddon, Joshua Booyens, Rex Carter, Jake Bryant, Maddy Monacelli, John Conley, Eddie Bray, Dan Brown, and Steve McLeod. Photo Eve Jeffery

Conversations on death returns May 31

A free community event with a focus on death literacy will be held at The Paddock Project in Mullumbimby on Saturday, May 31, from 10am to 12pm.

Organisers of Death Conversations say it is part of an ongoing community initiative that fosters open, inclusive dialogue around death and dying. The upcoming session explores the theme 'What Can We Do Ourselves?', inviting participants to consider how they can care for loved ones after death at home, with greater agency, connection, and compassion.

Led by local deathwalker, Chi Chi Menendez, the session aims to demystify end-of-life care practices while building community knowledge and confidence. RSVP to info@thedyingwell.com.au or visit www.thedyingwell.com.au for more information.

Mullumbimby's water supply revisited by councillors

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council is once again turning its attention to the highly contentious issue of how to provide Mullumbimby with a sustainable, long-term water supply.

Seven months ago, the newly-elected Council reversed an earlier decision by the previous Council to abandon the town's reliance on its local weir at Lavertys Gap (Wilson's Creek) in favour of connection to the Rous supply which serves the rest of the Shire.

A majority of the new councillors argued that the process underpinning the decision to connect to Rous was methodologically flawed, and failed to properly consider the

wishes of the community.

They voted to defer the decision for two years to allow for further investigations and community consultation, while addressing the ongoing risks to the Lavertys Gap weir.

The issue of how to provide the town with reliable, high-quality drinking water certainly hasn't gone away, and Council staff have now begun the unenviable task of putting together a new decision-making process that they hope will tick all the boxes.

Evidence-based recommendations

The key goal, according to a report that came before Council last week via the Water and Sewer Advisory

Committee, is to, 'provide Council with evidence-based recommendations for deciding on a long-term water supply strategy for Mullumbimby'.

This process will involve a, 'revised and updated options investigation' including, 'off-stream storage and a hybrid solution with Lavertys Gap and Rous'.

The new decision-making framework will also reportedly be informed by, 'direct community input' and, 'robust financial modelling' – something which critics of the Rous decision argued was seriously lacking.

Actions to achieve these goals include community surveys and workshops, net-present-value financial modelling to measure

impact of shortlisted options on Council and ratepayers, and ongoing community engagement to support transparency and shared understanding.

Another key difference between the new process and the previous one is the inclusion of a new 'hybrid' water supply option.

This new option involves the combined operation of an upgraded Lavertys Gap supply and Rous regional water supply.

This option, which is said to offer, 'enhanced water security and operational flexibility', may involve the downsizing and/or relocation of the Mullum water treatment plant to reduce risks associated with extreme weather, treatment performance and

regulatory compliance.

However, staff noted that this option and others being considered, 'may exceed Council's and the community's capacity to fund it (via rate increases)'.

This, 'risks the long-term condition of water provision assets and levels of service to the community'.

Bank erosion issues

The report noted that Council's Utilities Department, with the support of NSW Public Works, was undertaking actions to address bank erosion issues that put at risk the weir's structural integrity, and consequently, its storage capacity.

The key focus was on condition monitoring until final remediation works

can be done.

It further noted that, following advice from NSW Health, Council staff were investigating, 'operational controls and treatment process upgrades to manage non-compliance risks at the Mullumbimby water treatment plant (WTP)'.

'These risks relate to the high-risk nature of the Wilson's Creek catchment and the design and end-of-life condition of the WTP, and might trigger boil water alerts if advised by the regulator.'

More information about the decision-making process for a new permanent water supply for Mullumbimby can be viewed in the agenda to the April 17 Water and Sewer Advisory Committee meeting.



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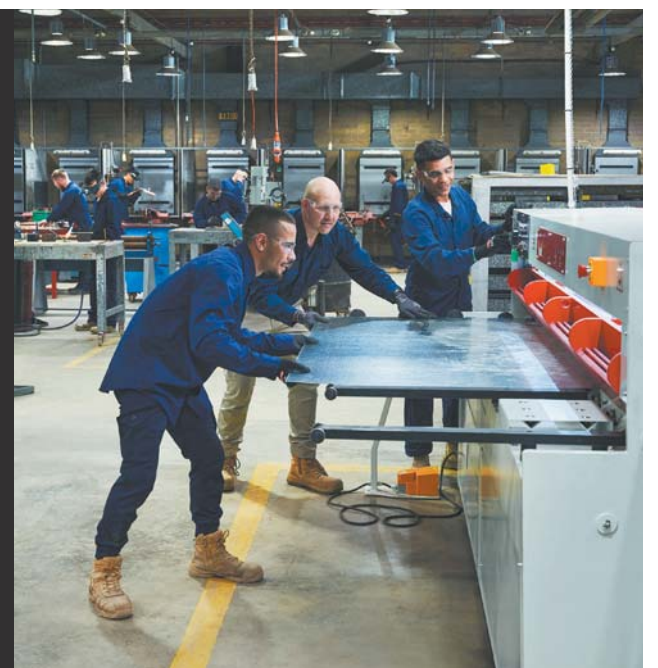
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No joke – Mandy quits stand-up comedy

Hans Lovejoy

The north coast comedic baton, or more appropriately, a microphone, has been passed over, with Mandy Nolan saying she will retire from stand-up comedy.

Yet Mandy fans need not fret, she says she will continue to MC fundraisers, facilitate and chair corporate/community events, deliver keynotes and continue her speaker training.

She told *The Echo*, 'I have performed as a stand-up comedian for 40 years, but feel like it's time to reinvent myself. There's only so long you can expose your failings to a group of people in a pub. I was literally running out of failings. And I have a lot!'

She added, 'Part of teaching and mentoring is about legacy, and it's about handing on to other people to continue to build. It feels right to hand the baton on to Ellen Briggs'.

It's a big change for Mandy, who recently ran unsuccessfully for the Richmond federal seat as a Greens candidate.

She came a close second



Mandy Nolan and Ellen Briggs. Photo Eve Jeffery

to Labor incumbent Justine Elliot by 3,517 votes.

Mandy has vowed to run again in 2028.

Ellen takes on comedy course, all comedy gigs

Comedian Ellen Briggs will not only take on Mandy's comedy course, but all her comedy gigs from Tweed to Ballina, and everywhere in between.

Ellen is no stranger to the stage, having performed with Mandy, as well as her own shows, for over a decade.

She told *The Echo*, 'Sadly, our comedy duo, 'Women Like Us', is over.

As for Mandy's legendary comedy course, Ellen quips that they are tall shoes to fill.

She says, 'It's such a popular course, mainly because many people were prepared to pay money to hang out with Mandy!'

'Not everyone does it for comedy or to be a stand-up. Sometimes it's on a bucket list, or a way to improve public speaking and gain confidence', says Ellen.

Spaces available

There's still a few spaces available for the course, which will be held at the Byron College on Monday nights, from 6pm to 9pm, running from June 3 to 24, then the show on July 1.

Millions at 'economic development' for flood-impacted regions

Hans Lovejoy

Fifteen small-to-medium businesses and three local councils in flood-impacted towns and villages across the Northern Rivers are set to share in more than \$9.2 million worth of grants, says the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA).

As a government-run corporation, they are tasked with rebuilding flood-affected areas of the state.

In a recent media release, the RA said the Towns and Villages Resilient Business Activation Program assisted with the refurbishment of the Lismore REDinc Hub, revitalising Ballina's CBD on the corner of River and Martin Streets, and street tree replacement and beautification of Murwillumbah CBD's streetscape.

ReForest Now to get new home

Only one Byron Shire project was awarded funds – not-for-profit regen company ReForest Now will get a new home with the funds.

According to www.reforestnow.org.au, the team

undertakes logistics around rainforest regeneration with public and private landowners. Work includes camphor drilling, tree planting, maintenance, administration, and maintaining a nursery and seed collections.

ReForest Now's website says, 'We grow over 130,000 rainforest trees and plants per year, of 233 varieties. Our professional seed collectors have a strong focus on species and genetic diversity, with priority for those that are threatened with extinction'.

Given Byron Council did not receive any funding under the grant, *The Echo* asked why.

Council staff told *The Echo* they submitted an expressions of interest (EOI) under the Authority's Northern Rivers Towns and Villages Business Activation Program back in 2024.

'We applied for funding for improvements to the Federal village main street intersection and footpath. Unfortunately, the impacts from the Federal Drive landslide were not considered a direct impact on the village.'

'We reported to Council in Dec 2024 that we were unsuccessful!'

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Health Care and Social Assistance



Cr Jack Dods responds to large Myocum DA debacle

Hans Lovejoy

There appears a never-ending cascade of bungling and improper process around a significant Development Application (DA) that, if approved, will considerably impact around 13,000 daily traffic movements on Mullumbimby Road, which runs from the town to Uncle Tom's.

As previously reported, DA 10.2023.454.1 – a 38 large-lot exclusive estate, located at 53 McAuleys Lane – has faced numerous issues and gaffes in process. Submissions closed last week.

Council staff admit they intervened on behalf of the developers around land acquisition on the busy and dangerous intersection, yet deny the favourable treatment was improper.

Representing developers

A new aspect that has come to light is the way in which now deputy mayor, Jack Dods, handled his role representing the developers at the time.

While he was not a councillor at that time, he appears to have had a pecuniary interest now as a councillor, given he submitted the DA on behalf of one of the developers, John Callahan, who was his mother's partner.

And while Cr Dods vigorously denies any allegation of improper conduct and says all requirements are being met around transparency, the issue of whether he followed correct procedure when it came to community consultation around such a large DA remains in question. Large DAs almost always



Deputy Mayor, Jack Dods

include comprehensive community consultation reports, where all neighbours are afforded to be involved with the process. As such, it can lead to better outcomes with developers adopting the feedback.

Consultation?

The Echo asked Cr Dods, 'You previously told The Echo in December 2024 that as lead designer for this DA you gave neighbours a "courtesy call on 07/12/23"'

'How does a "courtesy call" fall into the definition of consultation? The residents say the call was to only advise the DA had been lodged (and that they had not been consulted).'

In reply, Cr Dods criticised the objectors.

It was put to Cr Dods that he did not contact the neighbours at all prior to the DA being lodged, apart from the neighbour initially requesting that they be part of the process. No reply was provided by Cr Dods when that was put to him.

He did say however, 'I'm not opposed to community consultation in any way. In fact, I had a pleasant meeting with representatives from Mevlana, the southern neighbour, to discuss how the ecological restoration plans might connect with theirs,

and how recreational paths between the two properties might be connected.'

The Echo also asked, 'There was no community consultation report with the original DA, which is standard practice with large DAs. As lead consultant representing the applicants for the original DA, did you fulfil Council's requirements around consultation?'

He replied, 'It is my understanding this DA did not meet the prescribed requirements for a pre-lodgement consultation report.'

'Only subdivisions over 50 lots are required to lodge a consultation report, as is clearly stated on Council's website:

(www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Development-Business/Development-Applications/Development-Guidelines-Tools/Property-Development-Guidelines). There was no requirement to consult with the neighbour you reference.'

Significant Development

Despite his claim, it appears the dot point above the '50 lots' on the website refers to an automatic referral to the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP), who are the consent authority.

This DA, while proposing less than 50 lots, was a Community Significant Development and therefore requires pre-lodgement community consultation.

At the time of lodgement, it wasn't recognised that the DA had to go to NRPP, which appears one of the many mistakes made by Council staff and the applicants.

Former mayor attacks current mayor over performance

Hans Lovejoy

Last week's Council debate – around whether the deputy mayor should be provided with an income sourced from the mayor's own pay-packet – descended into attacks on the performance of the current mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, by former mayor, Michael Lyon.

Both were mentored by the mayor before them, Simon Richardson.

At the last Council election, Cr Lyon ran again for mayor while facing domestic violence charges, which were later dismissed. He came last on the mayoral ballot, yet retained a seat on Council.

Cr Lyon began his speech by acknowledging that Cr Ndiaye was utilising her resources well with deputy mayor, Jack Dods.

'But I think he needs to be recognised for that.'

Acknowledging that, 'Jack has no idea I am doing this', Cr Lyon listed, 'some of the things I have noticed that Jack has done.'

'If I was asking that of my deputy, as mayor, I would reward that.'

Cr Lyon then heaped praise on Cr Dods as a, 'new councillor', saying he has been, 'outstanding' in his role.

He said, 'I feel partly responsible, because [Jack] didn't even want to run [for Council] until I imploded [during the campaign].'

Mayor Ndiaye spoke against Cr Lyon's motion, and said the original proposal to pay the deputy mayor came from Cr Lyon himself, and that when she was deputy mayor, Cr Lyon promised her an extra \$5,000 from his salary, but then reneged.

She said, 'I said at the time make it \$3,000. I was doing a lot around that time



Current mayor Sarah Ndiaye



Former mayor, Michael Lyon

[as deputy mayor], she said, 'and then you stopped including me in [Council business] when you knew I was going to run for mayor.'

'I agree with what you say about Jack. One of my first conversations with him was around whether he needed, or wanted to be, remunerated for the deputy mayor role, and he said he didn't. I am willing to consider it. I can't afford to remunerate him \$10,000 out of my wage.'

She then read a letter she sent to the Office of Local Government (OLG) outlining the financial pressures that councillors are under.

Cr Ndiaye moved the staff recommendation as a foreshadowed motion which adopts new wages for councillors at \$27,860 pa.

The mayor will receive \$68,800. Additionally, Council 'continues to lobby for a separate category for payment to the deputy mayor role.'

Greens Cr Michelle Lowe then told the chamber that as a high school teacher, 'I am sorry to say, Sarah, but I get paid more than you.'

'I agree none of us get paid enough, and absolutely the deputy mayor should get a wage.'

She then said 'Jack is doing a wonderful job', adding she was incredibly grateful to not just him for

the guidance, but to Cr Lyon and Labor's Cr Asren Pugh, as well as the mayor.

'But I must say, it is a little distressing to be working in a workplace where there is politicking in the meeting. I just wish it wasn't a thing.'

Past glossed over

In his right of reply, Cr Lyon sought to gloss over past agreements with Cr Ndiaye, and after he was corrected around timelines of the previous Council by Cr Ndiaye, Cr Lyon said, 'My main point is that I didn't delegate anything to you [as deputy mayor].'

'There was maybe one time. You are delegating a significant workload to someone who has had to take a paycut.'

Cr Lyon was the only one who voted for his own motion.

Cr Ndiaye told the chamber: 'This was humiliating, it was rude, unprofessional and disgraceful. He can't even be bothered listening.'

'To put me into that position, especially with so many facts wrong about the past... Shame on you, shame on you Cr Lyon.'

He then interrupted with, 'I thought this item was passed?', which it wasn't.

Cr Dods finally chipped in, and said Cr Lyon's motion was 'somewhat of a stunt'.



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

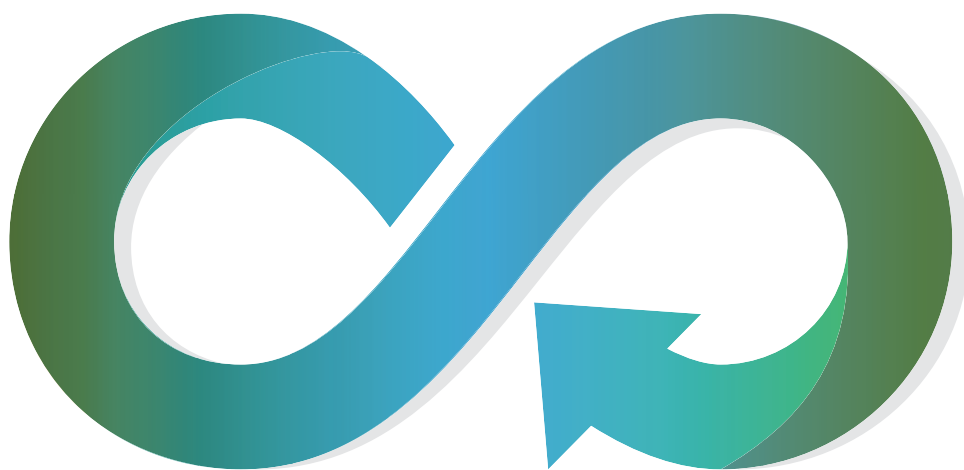


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Losers supporting locals

The Echo isn't a multinational, or even interstate-based, media group that employs a couple of locals for each publication and does the minimum necessary to send maximum profits out of our area. Why? Because we're not smart enough. We haven't even set up as a NFP to reduce the tax we pay.

The fact that last year we gave more money back to this community than we gained from advertising is due solely to financial mismanagement – basically we employ far too many local people.



Supporting local businesses keeps the local economy circular and strong.

We pay 25 employees every week, more than double that if you include all the contract columnists, IT people, the 20-odd distributors and so on. And annoyingly, even though no-one at *The Echo* gets paid a lot, we can't get them to resign and find a job elsewhere.

So, if you're a local business that would like to make a direct contribution to your local economy, and loves being part of a lively and engaged community with access to accurate news and information, advertise with *The Echo*!

KEEPING THE HYPE OUT OF HYPERLOCAL SINCE 1986

Lack of progress on Stolen Generations highlighted during Reconciliation Week

It's National Reconciliation Week, which commemorates two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey with First Nations' mob – the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision respectively.

According to www.reconciliation.org.au, 'The National Reconciliation Week (NRW) 2025 theme, 'Bridging Now to Next', reflects the ongoing connection between past, present and future.'

'Bridging Now to Next calls on all Australians to step forward together, to look ahead and continue the push forward as past lessons guide us.'

With National Sorry Day on May 26, The Healing Foundation said in a media statement that the day is about honouring survivors and marks the tabling of the *Bringing Them Home* report.

'In 1997, the report first shared Australia's Stolen Generations history with the nation, and made a series of recommendations to address the damaging impacts. Twenty-eight years on, only six per cent of these recommendations have been fully implemented.'

Removal of children

The Stolen Generations refers to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who were forcibly removed from their families and communities by government agencies, churches, and welfare bodies under official policies.

The practice occurred from the mid-1800s through to the 1970s, with the most widespread removals happening between 1910 and 1970.

The Healing Foundation are a national body calling for an 'urgent healing package for ageing Stolen



Locally, Reconciliation Week 2025 is being celebrated by the Sisters for Reconciliation (Northern Rivers) by giving \$1,000 to an organisation called Country as Teacher. Co-organiser Bronwyn Sindel said the not-for-profit cultural program has a curriculum designed by Bundjalung educators, where Aboriginal youth leaders learn directly from Country through the wisdom of their Elders. For more info visit countryasteacher.org. Pictured is Savannah Campbell receiving the cheque from Bronwyn. Photo supplied

'Many survivors have already passed away, without seeing justice for themselves or their families.'

– The Healing Foundation

Generations survivors, saying "we cannot wait another generation"

The Healing Foundation's Chairperson, Professor Steve Larkin, highlighted the importance of Sorry Day commemorations and education, but said more action was sorely needed for ageing survivors.

'Many survivors have already passed away, without seeing justice for themselves or their families', Professor Larkin said.

'Even the youngest survivors are ageing now, with most eligible for aged care. Yet they are facing a system that can re-trigger the trauma of being placed in an institution as a child.'

Underfunded

'The organisations which tirelessly support survivors

are severely underfunded and struggle to retain talented and dedicated staff due to insufficient and uncertain funding. 'We are calling for minimum five-

year operational funding for Stolen Generations organisations to provide urgently needed healing, reunions, records support, social and emotional wellbeing assistance and to fund new models of workforce development,' Professor Larkin said.

The Healing Foundation's CEO Shannan Dodson urged all those with a responsibility to support Stolen Generations survivors to act without delay.

Dodson added, 'Stolen Generations survivors have been through so much. Many suffered abuse in care, on top of the trauma of being separated from their families. They have seen how their trauma has affected their families. They deserve justice.'

Lennox Head tree planting day, June 6

The Lennox community is invited to roll up their sleeves and help restore the iconic Lennox Headland at the 20th annual Lennox Head Community Tree Planting Day on Friday, June 6 from 9am to 12pm.

It's organised by Ballina Shire Council and GeoLINK.

They say, 'This year marks a major milestone, two decades since the partnership between Council and GeoLINK began, with a shared vision to return native littoral rainforest to the iconic headland.'

'Since the inaugural planting in 2003, when just 20 volunteers came together to plant 140 seedlings, the event has flourished into a well-loved community tradition. To date, more than 1,650 volunteers have planted over 13,000 native seedlings.'

Ballina Shire Council's Natural Resource Officer, James Brideson, said the event is a testament to what long-term community action can achieve.

'Each year, the local community come together to regenerate this precious coastal environment, helping



A tree planter from the 2024 tree planting day. Photo GeoLINK

to restore what was once present pre-1800s. What started as a small-scale project has grown. We've now planted over 13,000 trees and covered over seven hectares,' said Mr Brideson.

'We could not have done this without the schools, businesses and local volunteers who show up year after year to contribute their time and energy to restoring this special place,' added Mr Brideson.

Ballina Council say, 'The annual event also marks World Environment Day, making it a fitting opportunity for locals to take direct action for the planet, close to home.'

Participants are asked to park at Pat Morton Lookout and walk up the headland and follow the signs. Sun protection and closed-in shoes are a must, and participants are encouraged to bring digging tools if they have them.

Council will provide native seedlings, mulch, water, and some planting tools.

Free barbecue

A free barbecue and refreshments will also be available, thanks to the generous support of the Lennox Head business community and local volunteer groups.

Art collective exhibits at Coorabell Hall June 13

A small art collective that has been painting together for the last year is preparing to exhibit.

Artist Karina Mereki told *The Echo*, 'We have our very first art exhibition coming up at Coorabell Hall, showcasing the work of the collective, over the past 12 months.'

She says the three-day exhibition at Coorabell Hall starts with a big opening night on Friday, June 13 from 5pm, and will continue until June 15. Weekend open times are from 12pm.

Pre-sales can be seen on the Coorabell Hall Facebook page.



Maggie, Rose holding Harvey, Karina, Cass holding Henry, Elaine, and Farah. Photo supplied

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After alcohol and drug addiction, RJ finds a path forward

A local alcoholic addict in recovery is making waves in the men's mental health space.

RJ Menzies told *The Echo* he spent over ten years in the grips of alcohol and drug addiction.

'First it was fun, then it was fun with consequences, then it was only consequences', recalls RJ.

'Addiction can be described as the gradual narrowing of things that bring you joy. As a young man growing up in Australia, binge drinking was very normalised.

Party drugs

'Over time, recreational party drugs like methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDMA) entered my life.

'While the argument whether addiction is genetic or a circumstance of one's environment rages on, the real issue for me was simply wanting to stop while being unable to.

'All of the typical things that happen to a young man in addiction happened to me. Run-ins with the law, relationship breakdowns, financial instability, lack of purpose and physical injury. 'One day I was snowboarding while on a bender, I tore the ACL ligament in my knee and headed straight to the operating table.

'Six months later, I was arrested for high-range drink driving'.

RJ says he then went to rehab. 'Although in my mind,



RJ Menzies. Photo supplied

'I have found my purpose in spreading the message of addiction to the addict who still suffers.'

— RJ Menzies

my ambition, my will to live and my self respect. I forged a new career in the mental health industry. I have run a marathon.

I got my licence back, and I bought a big shiny 4x4. These days I don't even flinch when I see cops!

'I have found my purpose in spreading the message of addiction to the addict who still suffers'.

RJ says he has presented recovery talks at hospitals, detox centres and even prisons.

Free counselling

He is offering a free addiction counselling session to anyone who thinks they may have this problem. Please reach out to him at back-of-byron99@gmail.com.

'I am currently making steps to open my own sober-living facility.

'I'm determined to change the drinking culture for men in this country, including the stigma around addiction and recovery', says RJ.

I wasn't an alcoholic'.

'Denial is a key ingredient of addiction'.

At 28 years old, he said a life of complete abstinence from all mind-altering substances (including weed) seemed completely unattainable for him

'Without a proper commitment to recovery, a relapse was inevitable', he said.

Five years clean

He said, 'Finally I got sick and tired of being sick and tired. So with the help of various recovery support groups, I managed to put it all behind me at age 29, which is now over five years ago'.

'All the typical things that happen to a young man in recovery happened to me. At first it was tough. Eventually, I got my life back,

NORPA finds a home

NORPA (Northern Rivers Performing Arts) will soon have a new creative hub in Lismore's CBD.

Called The Joinery, it is located at the old Hampton and Larsson factory, and according to NORPA, 'will provide the region's premier performing arts company with a permanent home and a vibrant cultural space for the Northern Rivers.'

A significant contribution to the first phase of The Joinery's development has been secured through the Northern Rivers Towns and Villages Resilient Business Activation Program (see page 5), enabling initial repairs and restoration of major services to the historic factory.

New office and rehearsal space

NORPA says, 'This phase gives NORPA office and temporary rehearsal spaces; and an important step towards the building's transformation into the flood-resilient cultural facility NORPA is envisioning for its future'.

NORPA Chair, Damian Kassabgi says, 'Repairing and utilising this building is a



The old Hampton and Larsson factory in central Lismore. Photo supplied

vital step in NORPA's return to Lismore and a powerful act of cultural renewal'.

'Most importantly it gives NORPA and our artistic community a home'.

Ongoing project

Libby Lincoln, NORPA's Executive Director says, 'The development of The Joinery will be ongoing for several years, and this is just the beginning'.

'We are so grateful to our old and new friends, partners, community, and collaborators who are on the journey with us.

'There is still so much to achieve, so we hope the

vision continues to inspire'.

Creative spaces in the Northern Rivers region are ranked as the cultural sector's most urgent need in a newly-released report, *Who Are We*, by Arts Northern Rivers. It calls for investment in affordable and accessible venues for making and presenting work.

With funding support from the NSW government and philanthropic partners, NORPA says it is now within reach of its goal to secure a home. NORPA invites the community to be part of the region's future and help bring The Joinery to life.

Donate at www.norpa.org.au/a-new-home.



Have your say on Council's Pest Animal Management Plan

We'd like your feedback on the Pest Animal Management Plan 2025-2030.

Submit your feedback via the Your Say page on Council's website by Thursday 12 June 2025.

More information

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/pest-animal-plan



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LOVE DOGS? LOVE CUDDLES?

There's been a bit of a shuffle behind the scenes, with new committee members bringing fresh energy and exciting plans to the rescue! We're gearing up for some pawsome fundraisers, heartwarming events, and new ways to connect with our incredible community.

WE NEED YOU! Byron Dog Rescue is calling all dog lovers!

If you're passionate about pups and want to make a real difference, we'd love your help. Whether it's offering a temporary home or lending a hand in our Op Shop, you can change a dog's life!

FOSTER CARE HEROES WANTED

Can't commit to owning a dog? Fostering is the perfect win-win! Maxi, and most of our dogs are currently searching for their loving foster (or forever!) home. Help him and others feel safe, loved, and ready for their next chapter...

OP SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Not able to foster? No problem! Join our incredible team at the CAWI Op Shop in Brunswick Heads. Every shift volunteered and every item sold helps fund our vital rescue work.

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Echo

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

Torres Strait 8's open letter to the PM

The 'Torres Strait 8' made legal history in 2022 after the United Nations Human Rights Committee found that the Australian Government is violating its human rights obligations to them through climate change inaction. They, along with Queensland's Anglican archbishop Jeremy Greaves, sent an open letter calling upon the prime minister to witness the devastating impacts of climate change on Masig Island.

Man dies after car found in floodwaters north of Coffs Harbour

A man's body has been found in a car in floodwaters north-west of Coffs Harbour, after a passing motorist saw his vehicle about 4.30am on Friday.

Lismore Council draft budget with rate rise up for feedback

The Lismore City Council says it will invest nearly \$245 million in improvements to capital infrastructure next financial year, if a current draft budget is approved.

80 charges against a man in Coffs Harbour

A man will face court charged with more than 80 offences relating to break, enter and steal offences alleged to have occurred in the Coffs Harbour area.

Cops clamping down on PMDs

Gold Coast Highway Patrol continue to conduct targeted policing operations aimed at addressing dangerous behaviour and non-compliance amongst personal mobility devices (PMDs), e-scooters and e-bike users across the city.

GPs to be offered extra ADHD training

People seeking diagnosis of and treatment for attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) will soon be able to access support from their general practitioners (GPs) in NSW, the state government says.

www.echo.net.au

Gallery grounds to come alive for picnic and paint out

Tweed Regional Gallery is inviting art lovers to pack a picnic, roll out a picnic rug and enjoy a creative afternoon with family and friends at the gallery's annual Community Picnic & Artist Paint Out on Sunday, 29 June, from 2pm to 5 pm.

Held in the picturesque grounds of the gallery, this popular free event offers something for everyone – from hands-on art activities and artist demonstrations to live music and scenic inspiration from the surrounding landscape.

A much-loved fixture

Gallery Director Ingrid Hedgcock said the event had become a much-loved fixture on the region's arts calendar.

'The gallery picnic has become a hugely popular celebration of creativity, community and connection,'



Pack your picnic blanket! Tweed Regional Gallery's Annual Community Picnic & Artist Paint Out is on Sunday, 29 June, from 2pm to 5 pm. Photo Kate Holmes

Ms Hedgcock said. 'It's a joy to see people of all ages and abilities making art together in this beautiful setting – whether they're professional artists or simply picking up the tools for the first time.'

Art in nature

Artists of all levels are invited to bring their materials and work *en plein air* (French for 'painting outdoors') with spectacular views of Wollumbin/Mount

Warning and the Tweed River as their muse.

Guest artist Hobie Porter will create new work on site in response to the stunning landscape that surrounds the gallery space, and will

be available throughout the afternoon to chat with visitors and share insights into his practice.

For the whole family

Families and children can get creative too, with free painting and drawing activities led by local artist Jason King and a weaving workshop guided by artist Kyra Togo, offering an opportunity to explore cultural connections to place through art and storytelling.

The afternoon will be soundtracked by a lineup of live music, starting with folk storyteller CJ Shaw (2pm to 3:30pm), followed by the soulful sounds of Rachel by the Stream (3:30pm to 5pm).

Tweed Regional Gallery says no bookings are required – simply bring your own picnic, a blanket and your creative spirit for this inspiring afternoon of art, music and community connection.

'Birth Stories on Stage' sharing the experiences of birth



Photo Tree Faerie

The M-Arts Precinct in Murwillumbah will be the venue for a powerful and heart-opening evening of true stories told live on stage. 'Birth Stories on Stage' features 13 local women sharing their experiences of giving birth – raw, real, and unforgettable.

Birth educator, Sali McIntyre, says the topic of birth may not resonate with everyone, but it is very relevant to everybody's health and wellbeing.

'About 1 in 4 women report experiencing some form of birth trauma from their birth experience.

'Many women may find themselves reflecting on their own birth stories when they read about others' experiences,' she says.

'As a birth educator, my enduring passion is to educate and empower women and their partners with the information they need to prepare for their birth experience.

'Each story offers a glimpse into the mystery, intensity, and transformation of birth. With laughter, tears, and courage, these women bring the power of storytelling to the stage – one that honours birth as a rite of passage and a deeply human experience. One that we hope will inspire women to trust their bodies and their innate ability to give birth without unnecessary medical interventions.

Women involved include local mothers, grandmothers and birth workers telling their story. The hope is that Birth Stories on Stage will lead to an annual event.

Tickets are \$40 and include food and drink. All proceeds support the upcoming Birth Wellness Festival, a community-led event to be held in September.

Birth Stories on Stage is on Wednesday, June 18, at 5pm – tickets are available at humanitix.com.

Expanded services for trauma and DV

WORTH (Women's Outreach Trauma Health) funding may be concluding at the end of June, but the Northern Rivers Women and Children's Services Inc. (NORWACS) is expanding its essential outreach services for women across the Northern Rivers.

'Since 2022, the WORTH program has delivered trauma-informed support to women across the region, with strong outcomes in trauma recovery, domestic and family violence (DFV) support, and community resilience. Evaluated by Gender and Disaster Australia, the program has been a vital part of post-flood recovery,' said

NORWACS in a media release.

What are the services?

They are looking at expanded services throughout the region that include:

- Outreach services for domestic and family violence specialist support, case management, counselling, and women's wellbeing groups.
- Extended hours at NORWACS' Lismore site (60 Uralba Street), now open five days a week 9am to 4.30pm.
- Trauma counselling every Thursday at Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre.

• DFV specialist support every Monday at the Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre

'WORTH has been a lifeline for many women since the 2022 floods. We're proud to carry that legacy forward through expanded outreach and new partnerships,' said Emma Siegel, NORWACS representative and manager of the Lismore Women's Health and Resource Centre.

These services are made possible through strong partnerships with local organisations from Murwillumbah to Kyogle and Coraki.

Funding is provided through NSW Health.

Celebrating National Reconciliation Week in Tweed

How we recognise the past, live the present, and move into the future determines our opportunities and failures, and this year's National Reconciliation Week (NRW) theme, 'Bridging Now to Next' reflects those opportunities for all Australians.

Reflecting on the past

Bridging Now to Next, invites all Australians to reflect on the past, engage with the present, and work together to shape a reconciled future. It calls us to build stronger connections

and push forward, together. Tweed Shire Council (TSC) are celebrating Reconciliation Week from Tuesday, 27 May to Tuesday, 3 June, with a week of exhibitions, cultural activities and community events.

A timely reminder

'This year's theme, Bridging Now to Next, is a timely reminder that reconciliation isn't just about remembering the past – it's about taking meaningful steps forward together to create stronger community bonds,' said Naomi Searle, Director Sustainable Communities and

Environment at TSC.

'Council remains committed to walking alongside our First Nations communities, listening, learning, and embedding reconciliation into everything we do. We proudly build on the strong foundation of trust and open communication established by our Aboriginal Advisory Committee over the past 30 years, and we thank them for their continued generosity in sharing cultural knowledge for the benefit of our entire community.'

More information, visit gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au/exhibitions.

Byron Bay marchers cry 'Let aid into Gaza' as war continues

Harsha Prabhu

A heartfelt procession of people took to the streets of Byron Bay on Saturday, in solidarity with the suffering people of Gaza via the state of Israel and its backers, the US.

They walked in single file from Railway Park to the Main Beach, chanting 'Let aid into Gaza right now.'

The walk was an initiative of Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine.

Irish musician, Áine Tyrrell, who led the chants, said, 'This is an opportunity for us to express all the grief that we are witnessing.'

'I just don't think it's good for our hearts, our brains, our souls, to not be able to process all that we are seeing.'

'When we march, we are marching in protest, with that kind of fire. This is really more to touch in and feel, to let other people around us feel our grief... so that they can feed into that as well.'

'That's what the Caoineadh, the keening women,



From Saturday's walk through Byron. Photo supplied

would do. And everyone would walk behind them to feel those feelings together.'

Collective sorrow

Áine was referencing an ancient Irish tradition, a cry of collective sorrow from the heart. The walkers cried: 'Let aid into Gaza, we demand, we demand,' a cry that echoed through the streets of Byron Bay, providing food for thought to the people in the cafes, surprising the shoppers, and magically meshing with the music of the odd busking band.

Many of the participants had tears in their eyes.

The evening's memorial ended with a circle at Main Beach and a Māori invocation to the spirits by Rangimarie Ferguson.

She sang Māori folk hymn: Aio Ke te Aorangi (peace to the universe).

The cry flew like an eagle to the top of the Norfolk Pines that guarded the park at the beach. Like sentinels at a sacred ceremony, it soared into the night sky.

Let aid into Gaza right now!

Concert for hope in an uncertain world, June 1

On Sunday, June 1 from 3pm, Byron's St Paul's Anglican Church will open its doors for Hope25: Hope in an Uncertain World.

Organisers say it will be 'A soul-stirring afternoon of classical and contemporary music performed by talented local artists, with all proceeds supporting Fletcher Street Cottage.'

'Part of a national movement running between Easter and Pentecost, Hope25 sees Anglican churches across Australia sharing messages of compassion and resilience.'

'In Byron Bay the community is invited to gather, reflect and find hope through music, connection and giving.'

'This is a concert that gives hope', says Damian Farrell, manager of Fletcher Street Cottage. 'It's an opportunity to come together and reaffirm what matters most - kindness, community and dignity for all. When people show up for events like this, it tells our service users they are seen, they are valued and they are not alone.'

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High School Counsellor Commencing June 10, 2025

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Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School is a vibrant and progressive K-12 school, 370 Students, dedicated to the educational principles inspired by Rudolf Steiner.

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Applications are reviewed as received. Position description and application process available: <https://capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au/positions-available/>



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When: Saturday 7 June, 8am to 1pm.

Where: Bangalow Showgrounds.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 39 #51 • May 28, 2025

Resonating voice of the week

In a world of disinformation overload, it's sometimes hard to find sane voices that resonate.

Scott Galloway, a wealthy American entrepreneur and academic, is one of those voices.

Galloway has an ability to cut through the white noise of not just politics, but of the human condition.

His strongest suit is the advice he gives to young people, which ranges from financial, to how to be a successful adult and a valued part of society.

While what's needed is more leaders, modern society just seems to be producing managers – that's why his perspective is so important.

Galloway's advice has changed lives. As a mentor, he is able to help young men find their feet and move on from internet porn, gaming, and low self-esteem.

He talks candidly around how a young man can prepare himself to be ready to date a young woman.

The low self-esteem and the lack of direction of young men is perhaps one of the reasons Trump won.

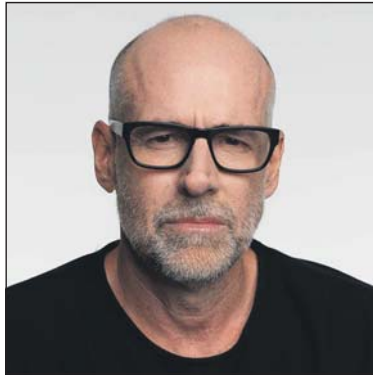
Galloway is a Democrat, yet believes young men were ignored by the party.

Trump instead shrewdly flew into the 'manosphere' by going on Joe Rogan's podcast and appealing to a large cohort who are now worse off than their parents.

The same could be said for Australia's younger generations.

Galloway's career is characterised by a willingness to take risks, learn from failure, and pivot quickly – it's a mindset he says was shaped by his early experiences and modest upbringing by his single mum.

After graduating with an economic degree, he eventually started successful companies that led him to be Professor of Marketing at NYU Stern School of Business.



Scott Galloway

Ever since, he has been all over the public discourse, with books, podcasts and interviews.

He told comedian Trevor Noah on Trevor's podcast *What Now?* that, 'The greatest invention of the 20th century is not the iPhone or the semiconductor, it was the middle class.'

'And fundamental to that was seven million men who returned from WWII. They had demonstrated excellence in uniform.

'We gave them enough money so they could afford a home, we gave them jobs, and they became very attractive to women, and we started the baby boom.'

And through the prosperity, he said women and minorities were brought along.

'A majority of leaders served in the same uniform,' he said, 'and they saw themselves as Americans before Republicans or Democrats.'

'Unless we can find a place where we can level up young people and find them a place where they can meet, fall in love, have babies and have the economic wherewithal to do it, we are just going to keep generating the most dangerous person in the world – and that is a young man without any economic or romantic prospects.'

Hans Lovejoy, editor

What's the future for the Nats?

Will the Libs and Nats kiss and make up? Yes of course they will, because they both need the Coalition to have any sort of political future, but the fact that it's purely a marriage of convenience is clearer than ever.

Neither of them appear to have learned the lesson from their recent near-death experience (this isn't America yet – drift to the extreme right without doing anything about real issues at your electoral peril), and the Nationals' four stated reasons for the divorce don't make any sense.

1. Nuclear energy? (Aka more coal and gas and less renewables, while nuclear remains firmly over the rainbow, and we all pretend to believe in net zero.) No worries there. The Liberals' new deputy Ted O'Brien is the chief nuclear apologist in Coalition ranks.

2. A Regional Australia Future Fund? This thought bubble was only concocted by David Littleproud last month. It's a bit soon for the Nationals to be getting precious about it.

3. Acting on the supermarket duopoly profiting from price gouging? Labor has already pledged to give the ACCC divestiture powers in this regard. The power of big donors make it unlikely that any of the established parties will actually do anything.

4. Regional phone service obligations? Telstra has been responsible for the Universal Service Obligation for voice services in regional areas for many years, and the Coalition had almost as long in government to encourage them to deliver. The fact that data services are lagging behind is largely down to them.

Embarrassing dispute

In the absence of any meaningful vision for Australia, this embarrassing Coalition dispute actually comes down to a petty squabble about titles and salaries.

Five days after the election, the defection of Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price to the Liberals meant that the Nationals were officially



'The resulting fragmentation of the Coalition is great news for Anthony Albanese, but perhaps not for Australia, which needs a real opposition.'

– David Lowe

demoted to minor party status.

Nationals Senate leader and shooting enthusiast Bridget McKenzie faced the loss of travel perks, office space, and staff, with the Nationals also set to lose their shadow ministries and \$60,000 apiece if the Coalition split proceeded.

The Northern Rivers' own Kevin Hogan, now promoted to chief nodding duty at Nationals press conferences after the previous deputy Senator Perin Davey lost her seat, found himself in the same boat.

Since the threatened Coalition break-up, Sussan Ley's Liberals have been furiously back-pedaling, allowing policy agreements to proceed in broad terms with the Nationals as part of a new Coalition agreement, although the party has not yet had its own opportunity to review what went so disastrously wrong, or consider the broader policy implications.

With the Nationals' vote largely insulated by cultural factors, it's true they didn't suffer as badly in this election as their Coalition partners, but there is no prospect of them becoming the actual opposition, which is why this is no more than grandstanding on their behalf.

Untenable?

As for the Liberals, Australia's hopes that new leader Sussan Ley might take her party in a more moderate (electable) direction are already growing fainter.

With her back to the glass cliff, and having narrowly won the leadership ballot, her position is dangerously untenable.

The knives are reportedly also out for David Littleproud, with the usual suspects jostling for position.

If the gossip emerging from the Liberals can be believed, the Coalition's drift to the crazy right and the

resulting electoral wipe-out of Peter Dutton can largely be laid at the clay feet of Tony Abbott, Peta Credlin and John Howard, all proven electoral failures who inexplicably continue to be listened to by the right side of politics.

The resulting fragmentation of the Coalition is great news for Anthony Albanese, but perhaps not for Australia, which needs a real opposition (ideally anchored to reality) to hold Labor to account.

This week, for example, the government is poised to make a decision with truly global implications, whether or not to approve Woodside's massive gas expansion on the North West Shelf of WA for 40 years.

Alone, this project would generate more carbon emissions than everything else in Australia for more than a decade, contributing to the climate chaos which has already touched most of us.

WA's Labor government has already given this crazy scheme the green-light, and newly minted Environment Minister Murray Watt last week brushed aside the remaining objections from NGOs including Greenpeace and the Climate Council, saying Woodside's proposal would not significantly impact threatened species or communities.

The prospect of a scientifically sane decision doesn't look good, but we can depend on the ongoing Coalition soap opera to provide a useful distraction for all the mining parties whatever happens.

Federal parliament doesn't return until 22 July. Perhaps there will be a functional opposition by then?

■ David Lowe is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and photographer. He's known for his campaigning work with Cloudcatcher Media.



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Phone: 02 6684 1777

Editorial/news: editor@echo.net.au

Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au

Office: 64 McGoughans Lane, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager Simon Haslam

Editor Hans Lovejoy

Deputy Editor Aslan Shand

Photographer Jeff Dawson

Advertising Manager Anna Coelho

Production Manager Ziggi Browning



Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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Laws on e-rideables

As you may have heard, the NSW government is legalising, finally, the use of e-scooters, e-skateboards, and one-wheels on shared paths, bike lanes, and roads with a speed of 50km/h or less.

The government has branded this as bringing it into standing with South Australia, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia, and the ACT. But it isn't. These devices won't be permitted for supervised riding by people 13-16 years old, as in Queensland, at all. These devices won't be able to go 25km/h, as in every other state and territory where they are legal.

For a better example of laws that do work and do encourage riding of these devices, here is Queensland's law:

'No riding in public under 13. Those between 13 and 16 may ride supervised. Helmets must be worn. Lights and reflectors must be present. Devices may not exceed 25km/h at all, and must not exceed 12km/h on footpaths.' These laws, at least for the already legal e-bikes in NSW, are pretty okay.

But right now, the NSW government's laws are not good enough. E-bikes can go 25km/h, why the bloody hell can e-scooters not? Just continuing with the current law and only slightly moving on from the 'e-scooters are unregistered motorcycles' and 'fining people thousands' era.

Minns, TfNSW, and the NSW government need to do better. Legalise e-rideables, properly.

A Fry
Lismore

■ Citations supplied – Ed

'Digital help hub'

I've been helping people with technology here in my Ballina shop since 2017. I don't sell or repair devices – I simply sit down with people like you and help them understand and use their tech with confidence.

I'm not Council-funded (though I probably should be – studies show that for every \$1 invested in digital literacy, \$3 is returned to the community). For now, I charge a modest fee so I can support my family and keep my fully-insured, tax-paying, bricks-and-mortar



Backflip's a treat. Cartoon by Jamie Hoile

business running.

Michael Balson (Letters May 14) mentioned needing a service like this – which is why I've been advertising with *The Echo* for years, often at considerable personal cost, because I believe in supporting local, independent media.

Unfortunately, without the budget of real estate companies or government-funded programs, my smaller ads are easy to miss – and clearly, in your case, they were.

As far as I know, My Geek Mate is the only business of its kind: a dedicated space focused entirely on one-on-one digital help – not sales, not repairs – just help, tailored to each person.

I'm just down the road in Ballina, and would love to assist you.

Hope to see you soon.

Mark – Chief Geek
My Geek Mate

No grief support meetings

Recently my beloved husband passed away after a sudden and brief battle with cancer.

While experiencing indescribable grief during this time of loss I went in search of a local grief support group to connect with others who were also experiencing the emotions of loss, and who understood and know what I am going through.

I'm very aware of how connecting with others with shared experiences is helpful to the healing process, how in a group there is shared commonality. Perhaps a group connection could help me shift the narrative from helplessness to coping.

To my great disappointment I found nothing, in

the places I looked anyway. For something that is an inevitable part of life and the trauma that those left behind may endure, I can't understand that there is no local grief support group.

There are wonderful support groups for those living with such things as breast cancer, dementia, prostate cancer, and anxiety to name a few. NSW Health provided a list of counselling services for one-on-one phone consultations, and while I appreciate that might be helpful for some, I am looking for face-to-face connection.

The world I woke up to after the death of my husband has changed, it's a massive adjustment. The fact that there doesn't seem to be a support group to help with the process of working through this human experience with others eludes me.

Michele Gillett
Ballina

Income

There is personal income and there is corporate income.

Let us consider personal income. Personal income can be from individual exertion producing goods and/or services over a time period. That is, income derived from productive 'working' i.e. production.

Or it can be income derived from having money or assets to produce it, that is, income derived from 'investing' i.e. investments. Working income and/or investment income.

And then there is 'taxation'.

Either source of income can be, and is, taxed by our government as the major element of their revenue,

which is 'supposed' to be spent on public services, the government's job!

How it is taxed and how/where it is spent are two of the most important issues for us all.

How do you think that these incomes should be taxed?

Anyone?

And then there are so many other sources and forms of revenue where governments rip us off!

Payroll tax, excise, estate tax, gift tax, rates, fines, custom and other duties, penalties, GST, customs charges, sales tax, stamp duty, registrations, licences, land tax, etc, etc...

Hell... now they want to tax retirement savings?

Where does it ever stop? And how much of an expensive and costly bureaucracy does it take to collect all this money?

Anyone?

As for corporate income, hundreds of billion-dollar companies pay no, zero, nil, zilch tax.

► Continued on page 14

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Good reasons to say goodbye to the Byron Shire?

■ I was deeply saddened to read the Palestinian activist Subhi Awad is leaving the coast after multiple organised attacks.

In Sydney, I work with many Jews who carried their own suffering from the Gaza war. They aim for peace. They are loving generous people who deplore war.

In mid-December I attended a demonstration in Byron Bay supporting peace in Palestine, and appealing to stop the ongoing slaughter of children with white phosphorus explosives. The demo was hindered by police from the beginning before activists had unpacked their watermelon for the Byron community.

Police stated 'We hear there is trouble here?' I immediately retorted, 'This is a peace demonstration'. I witnessed the arrival of men and women spitting on the symbolic bandages of bloodied children. Provocative standover men emanating terrifying standover gazes. Intentional chaos was the aim. Hatred is the spiritual malignancy of our species. A cancer that destroys minds, bodies, cultures and nations.

Subhi and Áine walk in peace. You are brave, sing loud. Never forgotten.

Jo Faith
Byron Bay

■ Many thanks for Hans Lovejoy's feature article, 'Palestine supporters leaving area after abuse' (*Echo*, 21 May).

Áine Tyrell and Subhi Awad are irreplaceable activists in a community experiencing and confronting local, national, and global threats. They have contributed directly to nourishing and strengthening 'the vibrant artistic culture' of the Northern Rivers, making it an attractive locale to set up home, and work for a better future. Both have been central in the ongoing campaign to inform our community about the unfolding genocide in Gaza, West Bank, Lebanon, and Syria and mobilise actions to support those suffering from war crimes.

Yet, they, together with many others are attacked and abused for giving a voice to the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who have been killed or injured and the millions who have been displaced once again, a reoccurring event throughout the past century. We cannot remain silent!

Tony Christy
Suffolk Park

■ Thank you for informing the public about the intimidation that Palestine supporters have experienced in Byron Bay and surrounds ('Palestine supporters leaving area after abuse').

It is appalling that our friends have had to leave because they defend the truth of Israel's genocide.

Israel supporters take their cue from Mossad's motto, 'By way of deception, thou shalt do war'. One blatant lie is that the 7/10/2024 Hamas attack on Israel forced Israel to attack Gaza. As *The Echo's* archive will show, my letters condemning Israel's killing and crippling of Palestinians go back to about 1999. Israel's attempts to distort history are doomed to failure!

Gareth W R Smith
Byron Bay

■ Ed: Mossad's motto is translated on its website as: Where there is no wise direction, the people fall, but in the multitude of counselors there is safety. (Proverbs 11, 14)

■ Áine Tyrell and Subhi Awad have you ever stopped to consider that you might just be flat-out wrong?

What you're spreading – hatred, lies, rape denial, and that of all the 7 October massacres – is exactly the kind of toxic narrative that we Australians can't stand.

You claim to speak for the oppressed, but the reality is that many Australians, who know their history, understand that Israel (Palestine) has been the ancestral and only homeland of the Jewish people for close to 4,000 years. Meanwhile, it's the Arab Muslim empires that colonised huge parts

of the Middle East and North Africa through violent conquest – rape, murder, beheadings. That's not opinion; it's historical fact.

Australians whose families fought in the world wars know what oppression really looks like – and what it takes to fight for freedom.

Refugees from the Middle East came here fleeing brutal Arab regimes like Abdul Nasser's, the Ayatollah's, Iraq's 'Farhud' and many more. They didn't come here to listen to people like you rewrite history or throw around accusations of racism.

You think Australians are ignorant, racist, or cold-hearted? That's not just wrong – it's ignorant on your part. Most of us see through the hypocrisy, and we're tired of being lectured to by people who twist facts to fit their narrative. Blaming our caring/cohesive Byron Shire community illustrates your mentality of victimhood. Time to put your big boy/girl pants on.

M McCormack
Billinudgel

■ A heartfelt thank you to John Lazarus for being one of the only balanced voices in our region, who like me, feels the pain for both Palestinians and Israelis in this ongoing conflict.

We all see the rising death toll in Gaza as nothing less than a tragedy, but the 'activists' in this area, rarely if ever mention or point any blame to Hamas and their ongoing disgusting policy of using Gazan children as human shields. Never in all of history has an armed force wanted their own civilians dead, like Hamas does as they prove time and time again that they have no regard for Palestinian life let alone Israeli life.

Organisations like the Peace Summit do show hope for the future. Israel coming second place in Eurovision (even with all of the rabid hatred shown by a small minority) show that the bulk of the world can still see the truth.

Yes, Israel is making horrible mistakes as all countries do in

war, but where is the local voice of support for the huge Palestinian protests in Gaza against Hamas and these Palestinians that are literally risking their lives daily to tell the world that they want Hamas out once and for all?

Where is the local outrage at the genuine ethnic cleansing of the defenceless Druze community in Syria by the new Ahmed al-Sharaa regime? No Jews, no news yet again. Guess who is protecting the Syrian Druze? Israel.

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

■ I must say, I am thoroughly disgusted by MP Justine Elliot's response (published on your website) to the vigil for Gaza that was held outside her office last week by a local humanitarian group. She didn't show a single shred of compassion or humanity for all of the innocent lives being lost there. Instead she ignored the banners that said 'Let Our Children Live' and chose to smear the demonstrators.

She claimed that they prevented her office from providing assistance to constituents, she implied that they were somehow

abusive, disrespectful and that they made her staff's work environment unsafe.

This is incorrect, as was plain to see on the live-stream of the event (via Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine.) They were repeatedly thanked by the police for their peaceful and cooperative demonstration. They did not pose any threat to the staff therein or try to block access or interfere with their work in any way.

It seems strange that Justine should avoid acknowledging the suffering of ordinary people, who suffer in part from the way in which she has consistently voted against parliamentary motions that would improve the situation in Gaza. Why would a politician from a civilised country pledge their allegiance in such a way to what I would call a genocidal apartheid state? It shouldn't even be a political decision, it is just about basic human decency and morality. If that is all she has to say on the matter then it begs the question as to whether Justine Elliot is really fit to be your representative at all!

Alasdair Purves
Byron Bay

► Continued from page 13

That is for another letter, stay tuned (and then there are trusts, etc). Ain't capitalism grand and so, so wonderful (for some)?

Anthony Plesko
West Ballina

Cubic madness

So here we go delivering a quarter of a million cubic metres of fill, powered by fossil-fueled trucks adding more CO₂ into the atmosphere.

That land will be under the ocean in a hundred years, and the heat will be circulating extreme weather bringing destruction of civilisation.

Short-term thinking brings long-term suffering. New development should be at least 20m above sea level!

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

About liars

As a schoolkid 70 years ago – and for some time after – I had a couple of very good friends who were complete and utter liars.

Even a simple question like 'Where have you been?' would trigger a long, nonsensical monologue every time. Their lying was part of their character, and we'd just listen without arguing because their stories seemed harmless.

But now, I'm starting to think that this habitual lying quirk should have been addressed early on. A few kind words in childhood might have helped – or, if not, perhaps the public could have been taught to recognise and beware of their fantasies.

What troubles me now is that I still remember those departed friends, both of whom met a 'sticky end'. ►

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Safer than falling out of bed

Graeme Gibson & Meg Bishop

When we were looking to buy a house in Kyogle town, about nine years ago, one of the great attractions of one property we were interested in, was the large hoop pine in the backyard. Venerable, it's been described as; at about 30 metres in height and pre-dating the establishment of the town.

Our neighbours had another hoop pine of similar size in their backyard. From parts of the main street they looked like a pair. We could point to them and say we live below the one to the left. So it was a little disconcerting to get a text message from the neighbour while we were away a few weeks back, saying their tree had come down in a storm the previous night. Half of it was now in our backyard.

Will it fall?

On return, neighbours and others wondered when we were getting ours cut down. 'It's a very big tree,' they'd say. 'What if it falls?'

'What if it doesn't,' we'd say. *Araucaria cunninghamii* can live up to 400 years and grow much taller than ours. Where's the respect?

Many people have a fear of large trees, particularly in urban areas. But while trees do sometimes fall, the fear is often irrational, out of proportion to the risk. A recent report from the United States says people are around 10 times more likely to die from falling out of bed, than from a falling tree.

Trees are an essential part of what makes an area liveable. They reinforce a sense of place and offer a connection to the natural world. Our magpies are endlessly entertaining and accept us as part of their world. And trees are increasingly important for the cooling effect they provide.

We decided we needed to have the tree properly assessed by a qualified arborist. If the tree was dangerous we

Fun fact: If a fallen tree does not cause property damage, the insurance does not cover clean-up.

would have it taken down. What we wanted was someone who does not rely on their chainsaw for their income. And by qualified we are talking about level five in the Australian Qualifications Framework.

At this level arborists consider three things about a tree and its situation: the likelihood of failure; the likelihood of hitting a target, such as a house; the consequence of failure. We had such an arborist come and assess our tree, along with the neighbour's fallen tree for clues it might offer.

Identifiable risks

The fallen tree had a number of identifiable risk factors. First, visible bracket or shelf fungus on the lower trunk. This is a hard fruiting body protruding out like a bracket, or a shelf. This causes decay of the heartwood and weakening of the tree. There is no treatment for this. Once a tree has it, the rot has set in. Rot was visible in about 60% of the tree at the base, mostly on the southern side. A resin or gum was evident on the outer bark. This is the tree's natural defence mechanism and is a visible sign of trouble within.

The base of the tree had a build-up of vegetation and leaf litter around it and the ground was quite damp. It's possible a nearby driveway had diverted water run off to the base of the tree. An area below the tree had been terraced and it seems likely this caused some damage to the tree's roots. These impacts are likely to have been from events at least ten years ago. It can take a long time for the damage to have an effect.

Our tree had none of these risk

factors. Its surface roots were checked and all found to be live tissue with no damage. There was no visible sign of decay or damage to the trunk.

The recommendation was to keep the area around the base lightly mulched for about three metres and keep all grasses and other growth clear for about 30 centimetres. The fallen tree, on its way down, knocked several branches off our tree, leaving rough short stumps, which are prone to fungal or insect damage, so having these trimmed was recommended. Later, when the tree climber was doing this, a number of magpies swirled around in curiosity, or perhaps as a warning.

On its way down the hoop also took down a large Chinese elm in the neighbour's yard, which is little loss. We lost nine trees that were all around eight years old and well established. Crushed under the mass of the hoop pine. They can easily be replanted.

Among the canopy we found a small mountain of electrical cable and wire pieces. Very durable nesting material. We have reformed some of this back into a nest and it hangs from our verandah as a reminder of our neighbouring fallen tree. And our tree, our venerable hoop pine remains.

The assessment cost several hundred dollars. But the cost of having the tree removed would be far, far greater than this. So if in doubt, or if in fear of a tall tree, have an inspection done. Be certain the assessor is properly qualified for the job. You get peace of mind and, perhaps the opportunity to preserve a piece of nature's grandeur.

A fun fact

Finally, a fun fact about the fine print of an insurance policy. If a fallen tree does not cause property damage, the insurance does not cover clean-up. Given we had a quote for \$8,000 we were pleased the tree had wiped out part of the fence. Pleased also that it missed the house.

And today, I see many people in powerful positions with those same strange traits – including the president of the 'Greatest Nation on Earth'?

Len Hend
Mullumbimby

The future is ours

The dust has now settled on what was the most important election in a generation, the voters have resoundingly returned the Albanese Labor government with a huge mandate.

Congratulations to Justice Elliot and all the hard-working Labor volunteers who helped make it happen.

Australia must now stay on track to continue the orderly transition to a renewable future. As climate change gains intensity, this difficult transition

can only continue with the support of Aussie voters, where thousands of workers are not put out of work and the country does not run out of reliable base load power.

Aussies have overwhelmingly elected a stable, centrist, majority Labor government in an increasingly unstable world for a very good reason. On the right lies a shattered, climate-denying coal-fired Coalition that is now struggling with relevancy, still intent on introducing outdated and discredited policies, shamelessly supported by the right-wing Murdoch press constantly selling 'outrage' and waging political culture wars. On the left also lies a very shattered, inept Greens political party, also

struggling for relevancy, that wants to prematurely shut down the very industries that are sustaining this difficult transition to that renewable future, and damage the Australian economy in the process. That future is now ours; we must embrace it.

Keith Duncan
Ballina Labor

Superannuation tax

I understand a new superannuation tax is to be introduced. Will someone please explain to me how it can be justified that, despite large salaries, allowances, perks and index-linked pensions, MPs, governors, former state premiers and judges can exempt themselves?

Sara Watt
Bangalow

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Mullum win the local league derby



Ross Kendall

The Mullumbimby Giants celebrated 40 years of rugby league at their Les Donnelly Field, last Sunday, with wins across three of four

grades against the Byron Bay Red Devils. In first grade, the home side beat Byron Bay 28-12. The loss for Byron keeps them without a win for the season. But they did have success in reserve

grade, taking the points in a 14-8 victory. In U/18s and LLT, the home sides were again too strong and kept the Byron visitors scoreless. The young men ran out winners 24-0,

while the women took a 12-0 victory. This Sunday, June 1 the Giants head down to Evans Head to take on the Bombers, while Byron Bay are at home against Tweed Coast. **Photos by Sarah**

Information Rights Project founded by Assange's brother

A new Australian charity, fighting for the right to information, has been launched by the brother of persecuted whistleblower, Julian Assange.

Gabriel Shipton's project can be found at www.informationrights.org, and claims its activities are focused on 'representation, education, and change'.

The website states, 'Information is the foundation of robust public institutions, a free media and a fair civic life.'

'Information rights are human rights. An informed population is the foundation of a functioning democracy where people are free to call out injustice without reprisal.'

Gabriel said in a thank you email to supporters,

'Because of your support, my brother Julian is finally home with his family.'

'In the course of fighting for Julian's freedom, my father John and I went to foreign governments, NGOs, and international bodies, trying to find help. We quickly learned there was no roadmap.'

'No one could tell us where to go, how to navigate these systems, or how to protect someone being targeted for publishing the truth.'

'We had to learn by doing. And now, I want to use that hard-earned knowledge to help others.'

'We've set a goal of raising \$200,000 by the end of June to launch this mission - and I'm asking you to help us get there'. Visit www.informationrights.org for more info.

NSW Greens accuse Labor of secret feral animal bounty agreement

The NSW Greens have denounced the NSW Labor government's decision to enter into a secret deal with the Shooters Party to reintroduce private bounties for shooting invasive species as 'reckless'.

Greens MLC Sue Higinson said in a statement it, 'will undermine environment management in NSW, setting it back decades, and flies in the face of the scientific knowledge on managing invasive species'.

'This backflip by the Minns Labor government is a return to the bad-old-days of the Game Council, a time when public land was handed over to the gun lobby, native animals were put in the firing line, and science was nowhere to be seen. This deal with the Shooters Party

in NSW is clearly part of a deal done behind closed doors so the premier should come clean to the people of NSW about what he is getting out of the deal.

'NSW Labor has shown us exactly who they're listening to, and it's not the ecologists, farmers or frontline land managers.'

'It's the Shooters Party, and a political culture that has no actual understanding of the environment. They're playing politics with the land, with nature, and with our collective productivity'.

She added, 'We need properly funded, evidence-based control programs led by professionals. Instead, Labor has chosen to bankroll hobby shooters while our ecosystems suffer'.

Bluedogs on winning streak



Photo supplied

Ross Kendall

The Bangalow Bluedogs division three women's soccer team had a tight 1-0 win over Goonellabah last weekend.

The win on their home ground put them into second place on the table, behind the Burringbar Bandits.

They are undefeated for the season, and have been beating sides by ten goals to nil.

Send us your sport stories!

We would love to run all kinds of local sport on these pages so please send your photos and stories to sport@echo.net.au.

Newy Store

OPEN 7:30am - 6:00pm
7 DAYS A WEEK

- Licensed post office
- General convenience store
- Fresh produce & groceries
- Soft drinks, lollies, ice cream
- Newspapers & magazines
- Wine, beer, spirits & tobacco

50 RIVER STREET, NEW BRIGHTON
02 6680 1102 • [f @newystore](https://www.facebook.com/newystore)

Art by Chrissie
chrissieartwork@gmail.com

Making SPACES



Swap a Bottle

Swap a Bottle is a 100% locally-owned and family-run independent LP gas supply business, conveniently located in South Murwillumbah. Since their distributor Noel from Brunswick Valley Gas has sold to Elgas, they are thrilled to be providing a local gas supply option, and delivering personally in the area!

Their friendly, dedicated team would love the opportunity to organise your 45kg gas delivery with the service and reliability their wonderful existing customers already enjoy! Head to the website for online ordering.

10 Kite Crescent South Murwillumbah
Free Call: 1300 727 013
www.swapabottlegas.com

Keeping your indoor plants happy through winter with Eden at Byron

When it's wet and soggy outside, it's time to give the indoor plants some TLC. They will appreciate a little time sitting in gentle rain to refresh the foliage but keep them out of the sun or they might get sunburnt. If your plants have outgrown their pots you can re-pot them into a container that is just one size bigger, using premium potting mix.

As the weather cools, plants don't need to be watered as much. Over-watering can cause problems like fungal diseases and annoying fungus gnats, so back off a bit.

Keep your plants away from heaters and cold draughts, and make sure they are still getting plenty of light. Fertilise with a gentle liquid fertiliser every few weeks to keep them strong and healthy.



Eden at Byron
140 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay
02 6685 6874
www.edenatbyron.com.au

Sunbeam Solar Systems

Sunbeam Solar Systems has been proudly serving the Northern Rivers since 1998. As a family-owned business, they specialise in off-grid, hybrid battery, and on-grid solar installations, all customised to meet your unique needs and site-specific requirements. Exciting news for Australian homeowners! Starting July 1, 2025, the Australian Federal Government's Battery Scheme will help reduce the upfront cost of battery systems by up to 55% for eligible households, making now the perfect time to invest in solar and battery solutions for your home.

Sunbeam Solar are fully SAA certified and accredited on all levels. Contact them for a quote!

sunbeamsolar@bigpond.com
0428 320 262 | 02 6679 7228
www.sunbeamsolar.com.au



Beds R Us

Experience the pinnacle of luxury sleep with the Sanctuary mattress range, exclusive to Beds R Us. Handcrafted in Australia by Sleepyhead, each mattress blends luxurious cashmere with layers of breathable, cooling titanium-and-gel-infused memory foam, and the revolutionary Sensorzone X® support system - delivering unmatched comfort, pressure relief and spinal alignment. Whether you prefer plush, medium or firm, Sanctuary offers a tailored sleep experience that cradles your body and soothes your soul.



Elevate your nights with a mattress designed for those who demand more than just rest - demand Sanctuary. Visit Beds R Us Byron Bay today and transform your nights with Sanctuary - now 60% off!

16 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay
02 6685 5212



Miss Tree in Mullumbimby!

Miss Tree is now open in the heart of Mullumbimby! For over 15 years, Stephanie and her team from Miss Tree Nursery in Rosebank have proudly produced healthy native plants for local gardeners. Now, find a large selection of vibrant and beautiful plants at their new, convenient location. Wander through the lush, plant-filled courtyard, then step into more tranquility at Miss Tree's new native botanical haven. Beyond plants, their beautiful shop features curated products, including bush foods, essential oils, candles, unique gifts, art and healing lotions.

Miss Tree invites you to wander, relax and immerse yourself in this peaceful oasis. Experience it down the laneway on Burringbar St, next to Rock & Roll Cafe.

59A Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby

Working Windows by Jake

Are your windows and doors working? Are you prepared for the imminent arrival of winged friends carried by the breeze? Well, fret no more! Don't replace... REPAIR and SAVE with Working Windows.

Jake and Toby are local experts specialising in the repair and, if necessary, replacement of windows, doors, fly screens and security screens. With 10+ years experience in timber, aluminium and uPVC products, they pride themselves on always delivering top-quality, eco-friendly results that best benefit you and your environment.

Contact them today via phone or email, or check out their website for more information.

workingwindows.com.au
Jake 0435 506 465
Toby 0405 793 994
workingwindows1@gmail.com



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

BILLINUGDEL



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



Roca Byron Bay

Mon to Thurs: Brunch 7am – 2pm,
Dinner 5 – 10pm
Fri to Sun open all day
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 flavours straight from the grill! Savour our chargrilled anticuchos, indulge in fresh ceviche and 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.



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.



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



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.

BYRON BAY (continued)



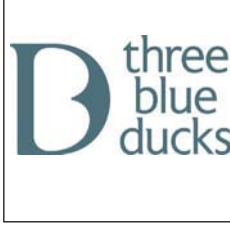
North Byron Hotel

61 Bayshore Drive, Byron Bay
(02) 6685 6500
Open:
11am Mon–Fri & 8am Sat–Sun
Kitchen hours: 11:30am–late daily
Breakfast: 8am–11am Sat & Sun
www.northbyronhotel.com.au

Step away from the centre of town and into a shimmering oasis away from crowds.

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

Eat Drink Discover



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.



Byron Drift Cafe

Shop 9/8 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay
Open 7 days, early till late
Breakfast: Early/All Day • Lunch/Brunch
Dinner • Late Dinner • Takeaways

0412 886 485
byrondriftcafe@gmail.com
@byrondriftcafe

Come enjoy our Mediterranean cuisine, including delicious Moroccan tagines, fresh pastas, savoury paellas, speciality coffees and teas, delightful French cakes and patisserie and healthy juices and smoothies.

Escape to the Mediterranean sea in the heart of Byron Bay and experience unique flavours and original recipes in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

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

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

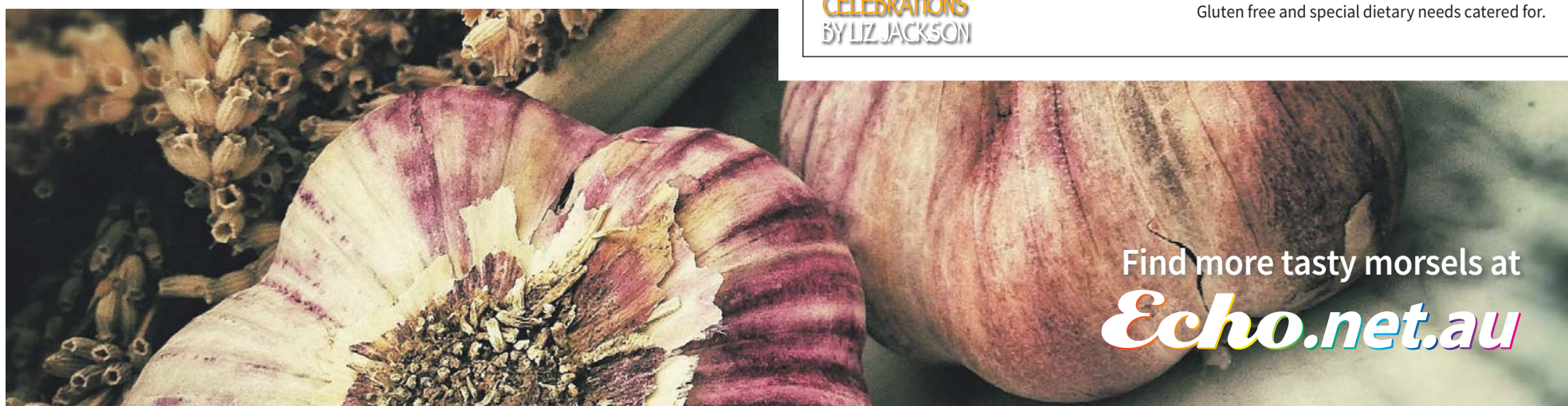
CATERING



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Echo.net.au



Government food strategy

On election night, a triumphant Anthony Albanese took to the stage brandishing a Medicare card as a symbol of the nation's commitment to public healthcare.

As the reelected government gets to work on its promised national food security strategy, 'Feeding Australia', it has a unique opportunity to build a strategic agenda as bold and transformative as Medicare.

That agenda is investment in food as a public good – a recognition that a healthy food system is as important to the nation's health and wellbeing as access to hospitals, bulk-billing doctors and subsidised medicines.

Feeding Australia

The new Labor government, with its large majority, has a once-in-a-generation chance to deliver meaningful change in our food system.

It went into the election promising a new food security strategy, which Agriculture Minister Julie Collins says will improve supply chain resilience and minimise price volatility at the checkout:

'Australia has an impressive record in agriculture, feeding millions of people both here and abroad, but we can't afford to be complacent. The Albanese Labor government will protect and strengthen Australia's food security for the benefit of our farmers and all Australians, as well as the trading partners that rely on our produce. When our food and supply chains are secure, it reduces financial strain on households, helping all Australians.'

Labor has tried this before. In 2013, the Gillard government's short-lived National Food Plan was criticised for prioritising corporate interests over public health and sustainability.

Repeating past mistakes will again risk putting corporate hunger first. The Feeding Australia strategy must prioritise the health of people, planet, and care for Country.



Empty shelves were a weekly occurrence in Far North Queensland after the floods stopped rail and road transport. Photo by Mick Haupt on Unsplash.

Food for thought

The food security strategy must address multiple, converging crises:

- growing food poverty
- worsening diet-related health
- biosecurity threats
- accelerating climate change
- declining farmer viability
- supermarket duopoly.

Australia produces enough food to feed more than twice its population. Yet it struggles to feed its own people well.

Foodbank Australia estimates one third of Australians now experience some form of food insecurity. A combination of market failures and policy inaction leaves us vulnerable to supply chain disruption and even greater food inequity.

Biosecurity is also a challenge. The recent outbreak of bird flu means eggs – a basic pantry item – now cost 16.1% more than 2020.

But it's not only consumers who are suffering. One-third of vegetable growers are considering leaving agriculture in the next year, due to high costs and what growers' group AUSVEG has called the 'relentless squeeze' on margins.

A business-as-usual approach will only reinforce the current state of Australia's supermarket sector, which is among the most concentrated and profitable in the world. Accusations of price gouging and misleading pricing raise concerns for consumers, particularly during a cost-of-living crisis.

which has more than 300 active councils as of 2023. The Australian sector is not as mature, but is growing.

Groups including the South Australian Urban Food Network, Tasmanian Food Security Council, Southern Harvest (NSW/ACT), and Farm 2 Fork Collective (Queensland), demonstrate growing capacity for citizen involvement in food policy and decision making. These networks encourage local initiatives such as community gardens, food hubs, and localised institutional procurement.

New research points to how community-led food cooperatives can also help improve food security and healthier diets.

These, and other examples, show the power of community in strengthening food system resilience and security. But they can't do it alone. Communities need government support and investment.

Future food

The question of who feeds Australia – and how we are fed – matters to us all.

The National Food Security Strategy is an opportunity to forge a more healthy food future. It can lay the foundations for a food and farming system that feeds us well for generations to come.

Achieving this bold agenda will take an inclusive, participatory process that foregrounds First Nations' voices and the lived experience of those at the sharp end of the cost-of-living crisis.

■ Rachael Walshe Post-doctoral researcher, University of Canberra et al. This article was originally published in *The Conversation*.

Matcha Byron Bay: a wellness ritual in every sip



Tucked into the vibrant Byron and Mullumbimby Farmers Markets is Matcha Byron Bay, a health-focused tea stall with a loyal local following. Run by former Japanese chef Ayumu Kishimoto, the stall brings the ancient tradition of Japanese tea to the Northern Rivers, offering a carefully curated menu of nourishing drinks and wholesome treats.

Ayumu sources his matcha and hojicha directly from Uji, Kyoto – Japan's most revered tea-growing region and the birthplace of the tea ceremony. The matcha is ceremonial-grade and stone-ground, rich in antioxidants and L-theanine, a unique amino acid that promotes calm focus and gentle, sustained energy without the crash of coffee.

The full product range includes hot or iced Matcha Lattes, straight Matcha Tea, Hojicha Lattes, and Hojicha Tea (roasted green tea), each prepared with care and customisable with your choice of oat, soy, almond, or cow's milk. For something fun and refreshing, try the Strawberry Bubble Tea or the Kids Chocolate Bubble Tea – both crowd-pleasers with a Byron twist. Everything is made to order, so you can control the sweetness and even add toppings like whipped cream or tapioca pearls.

To snack on, don't miss the vegan Matcha Muffin made with adzuki beans – a soft, flavourful treat that pairs perfectly with any drink.

What makes Matcha Byron Bay so special isn't just the quality of its ingredients, but the care and calm energy Ayumu brings to every interaction. It's more than just a drink – it's a moment of wellness, rooted in tradition and delivered with a smile.

■ You will find Matcha Byron Bay every Friday from 7am till 11am at Mullumbimby Farmers Market at the Mullumbimby Showground.

As extreme climate events and biosecurity threats increase in frequency and intensity, the duopoly's centralised supply chains have occasionally failed. After this year's floods in Far North Queensland, supermarket shelves were empty once again.

Yet, independent grocers with shorter supply chains remained stocked – as they did during the Queensland floods in 2011.

The food strategy must do more than offer a band-aid solution to fix an ailing food system.

Community networks

Local food networks have an important role to play in this process.

They are collectives of people and organisations that are committed to creating food and farming systems that put health, equity, and sustainability first. They gather collective wisdom, mobilise public procurement to support local producers, and secure more democratic, health-oriented, and sustainable food system policies.

Food networks are flourishing in North America,



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FRESH LOCAL PRODUCE
EVERY THURSDAY
3:00 - 6:00pm

In the heart of the city,
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NORTH BYRON HOTEL

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YAKITORI
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WEEKLY
LIVE
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5:30PM-9PM
EVERY WEDNESDAY
WEEKLY SIGNATURE SIDES

NIC CAMPBELL
& FRIENDS

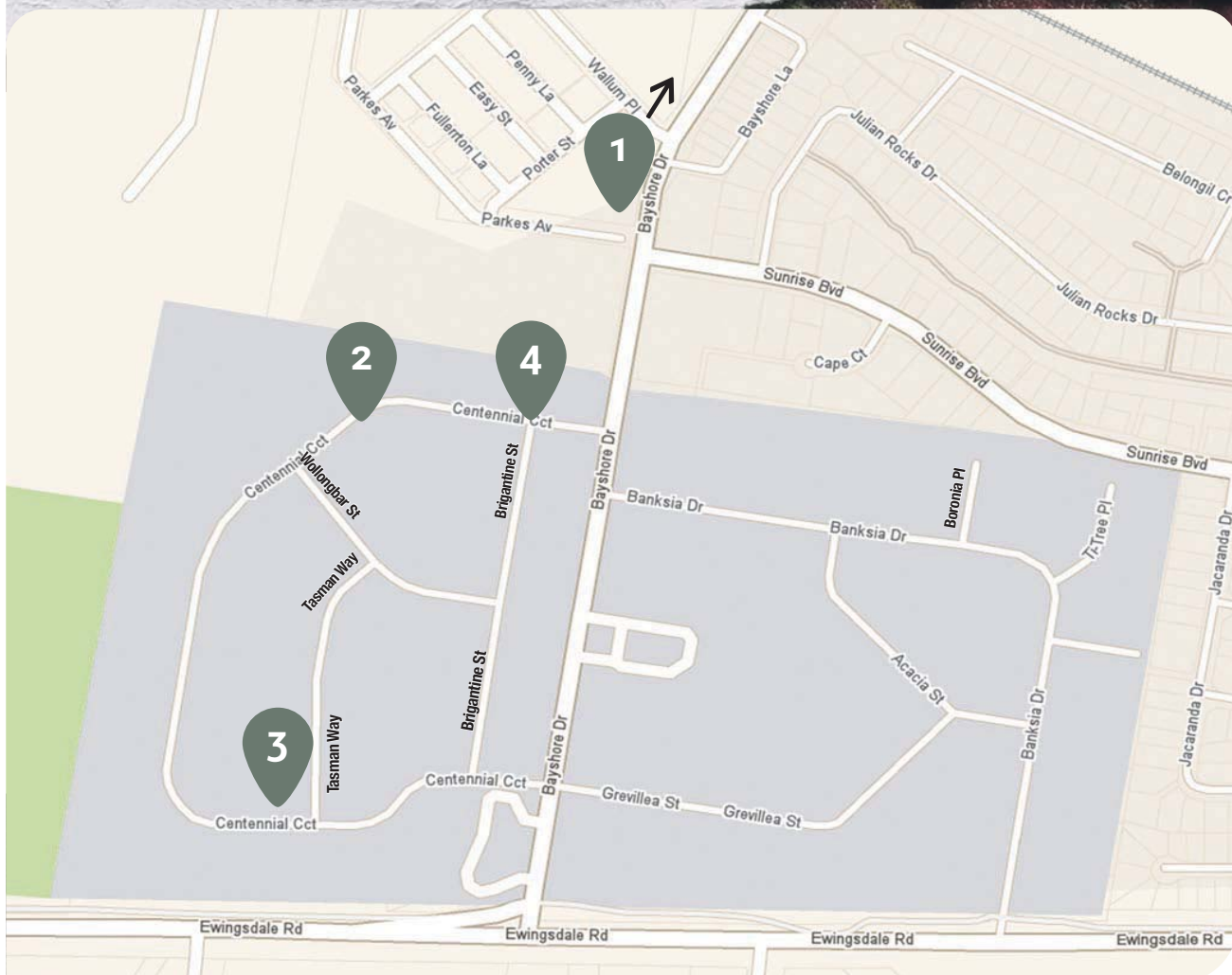
TALK SH!T



NIC CAMPBELL MUSIC
NORTHBYRONHOTEL

BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE

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



3. BYRON BAY CAMPING AND DISPOSALS

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

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



4. MR VINTAGE

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

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

3/6 Centennial Circuit
 02 6680 8640
 @mrvintageaustralia



1. NORTH BYRON HOTEL

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

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



2. BODHI LIVING

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

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

HABITAT PRECINCT



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



HABITAT

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

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



5. BYRON FAMILY LAW

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

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



6. RICHARDSON MURRAY LAW

Practicing exclusively in family law, Richardson Murray offers legal advice and guidance in matters of separation, divorce, parenting arrangements and property settlements.

With considerable experience in all matters of relationship breakdown, including domestic and family violence, Richardson Murray are known for their compassionate approach and commitment. Their dedicated team aims to deliver the best possible outcomes for clients.

42 Parkes Avenue
www.richardson-murray.law



7. SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY BYRON BAY

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

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



8. HABITAT WORKSPACE

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

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

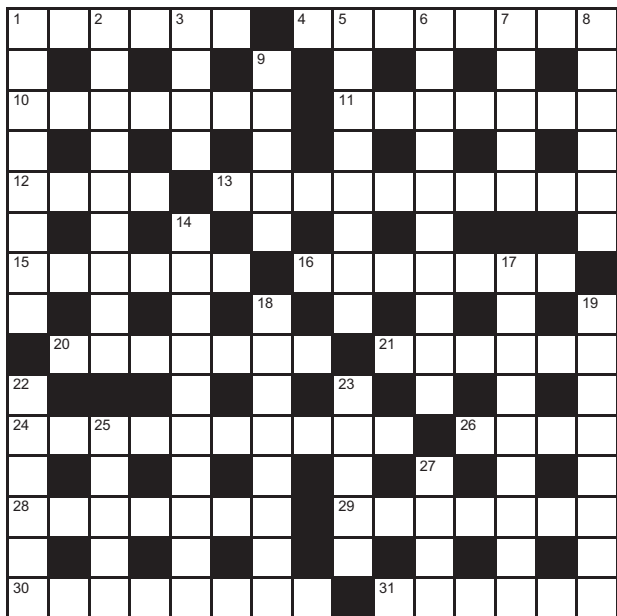


9. HABITAT BARBERSHOP HAS NOW REOPENED !

Same location, next door to Mr Simple.

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

41/1 Porter Street
Taking online bookings or walk in appointments.
[@habitatbarber_shop](https://www.instagram.com/habitatbarber_shop)
9am to 5pm Tuesday to Friday
9am to 3pm Saturday



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. Dog circumvents an irregularity (6)
4. New York landmark is Apartment One, and not the other way around (8)
10. Geniuses managed streaming to cut premieres of *Ninotchka* and *Giselle* (7)
11. Ridiculed and, in fact, purged (7)
12. Charioteers skirt violent mob (4)
13. Journalist mistakenly answered *Echo* with 'Russian leader' (10)
15. Intellectual is nice to lunatic (6)
16. Disney's first independent streaming service takes time. Far out! (7)
20. Smelly cheese stuffed with tropical fruits (7)
21. Religious ruling initially anti-female. On reflection, what's changed? (6)
24. Inconclusive search by a fool ends with a Mexican meal (10)
26. Record shape (4)
28. Cut to Brooklyn maybe? (7)
29. Bond found in hovel at outskirts of Le Havre (7)
30. Strangely, three and ten can be switched around by linking technology (8)
31. One introduced to society by gentleman returned in litter (6)

DOWN

1. Internet legend eats roughage from grain and tissue (8)
2. Web theory developed in part of New York (3,6)
3. Alliance with new tax collector (4)
5. Titled aristocrat demonstrates Spooner's unscrupulous rudeness (8)
6. Pouring rot over latrine - that's awful! (10)
7. Performed again in sacred idyll (5)
8. Lowest points of Iran's delta collapsing (6)
- 9/22. Newspaper even found in part of New York (5,6)
14. Scot in hotel, rabidly hardline about launch of Guinness (10)
17. Novel that could be delivered to someone in Harlem (3,6)
18. Dog does number twos over family elder's head (8)
19. Charlie checks for bubbles (8)
22. See 9 down
23. Loud drunk is well-heeled (5)
25. Weirdly, rather short of soil (5)
27. Fighting with *Echo* for goods (4)

Quick Clues

ACROSS

1. Genetically altered organism (6)
4. Clothing press with pointed end (8)
10. Accomplished musical directors (7)
11. Mocked or ridiculed (7)
12. Violent public disturbance (4)
13. Television journalist presenting bulletins (10)
15. Related to intellect or understanding (6)
16. Far away or remote (7)
20. Sweet tropical fruits with spiky skin (7)
21. Ruling on a point of Islamic law (6)
24. Mexican folded tortilla with cheese filling (10)
26. Shape; document to be completed (4)
28. Shorten or condense text (7)
29. Restraining device or hindrance (7)
30. Computer networking technology (8)
31. Scattered remains or rubbish (6)

DOWN

1. Thin pliable sheet of tissue (8)
2. A street and neighbourhood in Lower Manhattan, once the scene of gang warfare (3,6)
3. Western military alliance (4)
5. Female aristocratic title (8)
6. Very heavy, as of rain (10)
7. Performed again or renovated (5)
8. The deepest depths (6)
9. Multiplied by (5)
14. Scottish mountain dweller (10)
17. Resident of the largest US city by population (3,6)
18. Lapdog of a short-legged breed with long hair and a snub nose (8)
19. Bubbly celebratory drink (8)
22. Multiply a number by itself (6)
23. Feeling of elation or excitement (5)
25. Third planet from the sun (5)
27. Manufactured items (4)

Last week's solution #56



In a Pickle

Mandy Nolan

Ok, I did it. I played pickleball. Originally I'd thought it just a game for seniors. And because of its low impact nature, originally it was. It was clearly invented by them. The older community tried to keep the pickle of excitement under wraps. What if other people find out about this highly social, very accessible way of engaging in a leisure activity?!

What is this crazy paddle and ball sport that is getting nannas off Candy Crush and back on the court? It's pickleball. And millions of people around the world are getting into it. It's the ultimate F-you to AI. It's human interaction without digital interference. It's simple. It's sweaty. It's silly. And it's the fastest-growing sport in the world. That's because it feels more like a game of cards than sport. Oh, yes they do use cards. You have to pick a card to see what court you're on. The red 8's play the black 8's kind of thing. That's so last century. Great to see the dusty old pack of cards put to good use.

Ok. Let me try and explain pickleball. Firstly there are no pickles. The ball doesn't even resemble a pickle. I thought at first it was a name created to entice older folk off their Jason recliners. Put a pickle in it and nanna is up. There's a few theories, but my favourite is that it was named after the inventor's dog. So that will do.

So here's a bit of a breakdown of how it's played. There's four people to a team, and you can have as many people as there are pickleball courts. A pickleball court is about one-quarter the size of a tennis court. It's about six metres wide, and the player is in a zone just over six metres in length. So the big attraction is there's not much court to cover, because there's two players in each zone.

It's kind of like, if tennis had sex with ping-pong and then dropped a little acid. And maybe a biscuit. You play with plastic paddles like a beach game from the 1970s and you hit this weird plastic ball with holes in it that looks a lot like a cat toy. The plastic is a bit of a push back on a world that should be curbing



It's kind of like, if tennis had sex with ping-pong and then dropped a little acid. And maybe a biscuit.

its plastic use. So you'll be happy to know that eco-friendly pickleball paddles made from bamboo and recycled plastic are available. Just hardly anyone is probably using them yet.

Don't be fooled by the shitty equipment. You can get some power in that serve. Which has to be underhand. Which feels a bit how you goin'. It's clear an older safety-conscious woman invented this sport. No one has been knocked out by an underhand serve! Oh, and there's a part of the court called a kitchen! Which is very confusing but there's rules about when and how you go in there. Another sign that an older matriarch has had her hand in creating

these bespoke pickleball nanna rules.

The ball has to bounce once on each side before you volley. No reason. Just control. Someone has to make up the rules. You keep going until the rally is lost. Same as tennis - generally it's a line fault or you lose the rally. You can't hit the ball on the full or volley in the kitchen. I don't know why. The kitchen is the pickleball sacred space.

You can only win points on your serve. Don't even ask me to explain the scoring. It's nuts. People just call out random numbers. Like 2-3-5 or something like that. There are four people on the court and they call out three numbers. Someone told me it was confusing. It is. Sounds more like a bingo call than an actual score. I can't explain it.

But most importantly, it's fun.

Get off Netflix and get onto your local pickleball court.

■ 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.

STARS BY LILITH

Breaking astro-news for earthlings is Saturn joining Neptune in Aries, the zodiac sign of new beginnings - a significant planetary shift which continues dissolving old patterns and introducing new paradigms for the foreseeable future ...



GEMINI THE TWINS

ARIES: Huge personal news for Aries this week is Saturn moving into your sign for the first time in 30 years. And what better than structured, strategic, systematic Saturn to usher Neptune-in-Aries dreams into reality over the next two and a half years? So get ready, set, manifest!

TAURUS: Feeling an urge to push back against something that's annoyed you? Understandable, but rather than waste energy arguing with narcissists, this week's invitation to you sensible sensualists is to remember life's earthy pleasures and balance this overthinking transit by getting physical as often as you can.

GEMINI: The sun and generous Jupiter are joined this week by voluble Mercury turning up the volume in your expressive sign. This powerful planetary trinity offers a shining spotlight to speak out and say what you've been wanting to say with confidence and charisma. Just try to steer clear of overpromising.

CANCER: Increased media communication, and a tsunami of local activity could make this week one of the year's busiest for community interactions and gatherings. But no need to rush, or let anyone pressure you into taking on too much. Or believe everything you hear, including what you tell yourself.

LEO: Neptune, Saturn and Chiron, planets of imagination, application and healing in Leo's zone of career and public life make these three words your best operating mantra for a successful week of mixing and mingling with other creative minds. The weekend moon in Leo looks auspicious for some delightful socialising.

VRIGO: Your planet ruler Mercury linking up with big-picture Jupiter in its most outgoing and contemporary mode strongly suggests skipping small talk and sharing the broader dimensions of your thoughts. Because this week's astral conditions are ripe to ignite a fortuitous meeting of minds that could expand your networks.

LIBRA: Flirty Mercury zooms into its talkative home sign to give this week a double shot of new ideas, dynamite socialising and colourful chat. With cooperative, communicative vibes in the air that somehow make one plus one feel like three, is it time to think about pairing up for a win?

SCORPIO: While this week's incessant talkfest might drive you mental as anything, its silver lining invites you to lighten up. To showcase your wit, which will be appreciated. To explore a less all-or-nothing mindset and consider alternative possibilities. To practise the Scorpionic art of leaving people wanting more ...

SAGITTARIUS: Mercury jetting into its snappiest placement means you certainly won't be short of brilliant comebacks this week which could, however, turn conversations cathartic. So be discreet, discriminating, discerning, and remember the two ears/one mouth rule: you learn a lot by listening twice as much as you talk.

CAPRICORN: Capricorns are long-term planners, and Saturn, your mentor planet, moving into the zodiac's boldest sign for the first time since 1998 brings a powerful blend of discipline and drive. Along, of course, with some challenges wrestling rambunctious and impatient urges into beneficial channels.

AQUARIUS: In the zodiac season of the twins, things tend to come in pairs, which can mean twice as much fun, or double your troubles - with two the magic number, probably both. Gearing down from trying to complete everything at warp speed could give others more opportunity to get on board with support this week.

PISCES: With motivating Mars and your zodiac ruler Neptune both in drive mode, it's easy for pesky details to slip under this week's radar, and definitely worth bringing your attention to the fine print. Before you finalise anything, important, do an in-depth review, especially where financials are concerned.

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 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 days of entertainment

SeVeN



Lismore. Free event with live music

✿ This month's edition of **Kingy Comedy** features **Peter Berner** who is, without a doubt, one of Australia's most popular and respected comics – his intelligent humour has always set him apart as a performer who straddles comedy styles as disparate as satire, observational comedy, and reactive comedy with ease.

Wednesday from 7pm at the Kingscliff Beach Bowls Club. Free show



✿ **Bootleg Rascal** are long-time collaborators and friends Carlos Lara and Jimmy Young – taking cues from the likes of Gorillaz, Kid Cudi and Massive Attack, the duo combines an eclectic mix of hip-hop, reggae, indie-rock, dub and electronica – all while simultaneously delivering a cohesive sound they make their own.

Friday from 6pm at the Hotel Brunswick, Brunswick Heads. Free show



✿ Comedic genius **Ruby Teys** performs her original Australiana tropicana psychological sh*tstorm – *Cherry Vinyl: Coober Pedy's Last Showgirl*, is an ode to the Gold Coast's most treasured showgirls, bikies, predators, crisp dry white coolabahs, prawn cocktails, and the sugar daddies that kept them all in business!

Thursday at 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House, Brunswick Heads. Tickets from \$30 via: brunswickpicturehouse.com



✿ As dedicated full-time musicians, **Paper Lane** is in constant motion, gracing stages across the east coast of Australia with a captivating sound and infectious melodies all woven together with a distinctive twist that is unmistakably their own.

Saturday from 8pm at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show

✿ In conjunction with World Environment Day, the **Serpentine Community Gallery** are hosting a double exhibition opening – 'Waterways of Wisdom' is a group exhibition dedicated to the beauty and vitality of our rivers, and 'Nicholsons & Nature' is a family group exhibition which draws inspiration from their deep connection, appreciation, and protection of nature, especially the rainforest of Terania Creek.

Friday from 5.30pm at Serpentine Gallery,



✿ Get ready to ride the soul train – **Lisa Hunt's Forever Soul** is rolling back into town for an evening of powerhouse vocals, feel-good funk, and the kind of energy only Lisa can deliver. A Beach Hotel icon and audience favourite, Lisa brings her signature blend of gospel roots,

R&B, Motown, and disco magic for an unforgettable Sunday session.

Sunday from 4.30pm at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay. Free show



✿ The **Lismore Jazz Club** this month features **Now2Now**, a witch's brew of free jazz funk, typewriter chatter, bone-dry rock, acoustic poison clouds, and industrial kitsch, always driving forward, improvised and composed in real time.

Sunday from 2pm at the Lismore City Bowlo. Tickets on the door are \$20, or \$15 for Jazz Club members.

Eclectic Selection
WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Nine pieces of reggae

Bradamon Band is a dynamic nine-piece reggae ensemble based in South East Queensland known for their vibrant fusion of traditional Māori music, Pacific rhythms, and deep roots reggae. Fronted by Reece Mihaere McMillan-Campbell – a seasoned tāmoko artist and music producer originally from Gisborne, New Zealand – the band brings a fresh and soulful energy to the Australasian reggae scene.

Bradamon Band has shared stages with renowned acts like 1814, Katchafire, and Six60, captivating audiences with their energetic performances. They continue to engage fans through social media platforms, particularly Instagram (@bradamonband), where they announce upcoming shows and share behind-the-scenes content.

With a growing discography and a commitment to spreading messages of love and unity, Bradamon Band stands as a vibrant force in the reggae music landscape, bridging cultural traditions with contemporary sounds.

This is a free show on Sunday, June 8 from 4.30pm at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay.

BRADAMON BAND

4:30PM SUN
8TH JUNE

FREE ENTRY

1 BAY STREET, BYRON BAY

LISA HUNT

4:30PM SUN
1ST JUNE

FREE ENTRY

1 BAY STREET, BYRON BAY



Jess and the flash mob

Though the Northern Rivers Women and Children's Services (NORWACS) had to cancel the Lismore Women's Festival owing to a cyclone named Alfred, the planned keynote speaker and song event for the day have been rescheduled for June 26.

NORWACS hopes you can join them for an inspiring evening with **Jess Hill**, the acclaimed and award-winning journalist and author, as she shares powerful insights from her latest research on gender-based violence.

Jess's work continues to challenge and transform the national conversation — this is a rare opportunity to hear directly from one of Australia's most compelling voices on the subject.

The evening will open with a dynamic performance by **Byron Bay Singing's Flash Bang Mob**, inviting the audience into an empowering and uplifting interactive singing experience.

Guiding the audience through the evening will be the brilliant **Lissie Turner** as the mistress of ceremonies.

An AUSLAN interpreter will be present for Jess Hill's presentation.

This event starts at 6pm at the Starcourt Theatre in Lismore. Tickets are \$15/\$5 via: starcourttheatre.com.au.

**BAYSOUNDS
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RIVERS
SONG COMP**

Submit an original track for your chance to professionally record at the SAE Byron Bay campus, headline at the SAE Open Day and have your music played on BayFM. **Plus other great prizes!** Applications close Sunday 22 June 2025.

To learn more visit
SAE.EDU.AU/BAYSOUNDS

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Too much fun with Trombone Kellie

Trombone Kellie Gang is one of the hardest working bands on the Northern Rivers today, performing from the Sunshine Coast to the Byron hinterland. They are truly entertaining, with the perfect recipe of street blues, jazz swing, gospel, soul, and a bit of rock and roll. Featuring exciting and fresh takes on delta swing and country blues, they are old school authentic.

The straight-talking, hip-swinging jazz and blues of the Trombone Kellie Gang will get you moving. They're fronted by the renowned Trombone Kellie, whose powerful vocal delivery and roots blues trombone playing feature alongside some great guitar work by **Scrubby Pete**.

The engine room is simply brilliant with **Rodney Ford** a veteran drummer of the Australian jazz and blues scene, still playing with jazz royalty Galapagos Duck. **Justin Pfeiffer** has spent 40 years on double bass. Originally from Adelaide, Justin lived in Japan in the late '80s being exposed to a variety of musical forms before returning to Australia in 2000.



This band as a three- to five-piece outfit have the perfect recipe for raucous Street Blues, made for the people and delivered with relish.

With an element of surprise, the Trombone Kellie Gang experience is always a load of fun and they are bringing too much of it (fun that is) to the **Ballina RSL this Sunday for the Sunday Blues Sessions, starting at 2.30pm on the Boardwalk.**



2025 NRYO enrolments open

Calling all young musicians! Don't miss out on the opportunity to join the **Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra (NRYO)** in Lismore this July.

Hosted by the esteemed Northern Rivers Conservatorium, this orchestra brings together talented young musicians from all over the region for a three-day-long intensive program of rehearsals, workshops, and performances.

Led by inspiring conductors, along with mentors from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music Buddy Program, you'll have the chance to work with some of the best music educators in the country and learn from their wealth of experience.

As a member of the NRYO, you'll be honing your skills, collaborating with other talented musicians,

and getting to perform at the Whitebrook Theatre in a public grand finale concert! You'll also make new friends and be part of a supportive and inspiring community of young musicians who share your passion for music.

Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra participants can expect to learn a wide range of music from the high energy to the sublime, sourced from blockbuster movies, iconic bands and famous classical works, featuring many well-known composers both contemporary and historical.

'Speaking as someone who has done it every year since 2012, it is such an incredibly fun, rewarding and motivating experience ... alumni from NRYO have gone on to be world-class soloists and ensemble performers,' says Tilly Jones, local

performer/composer and Northern Rivers Conservatorium librarian.

The Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra is comprised of full orchestras, concert bands, and strings ensembles. The cost for seniors (AMEB 4+) is \$195, and for juniors (AMEB 1-3) it is \$175. An early bird discount of \$20 applies until June 13.

So why wait? Apply now for the Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra and join in for an unforgettable three days of music-making, learning and inspiration. Don't miss your chance to be part of this amazing experience!

The Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra will be held July 8-10.

**Enrol here: <https://enrol.nrcac.edu.au/enrol-workshops/>
Enquiries: nryo@nrcac.edu.au
Subscribe: subscribe.nrcac.edu.au.**

GIG GUIDE

It's FREE to list your gigs in the gig guide.
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CINEMA



Their beat of their hearts

The phenomenal Adèle Exarchopoulos (*Blue Is The Warmest Colour*) and François Civil (*The Three Musketeers*) – arguably French cinema's brightest young talents – devour the screen in Gilles Lellouche's vibrant, genre-spanning romantic epic that follows a written-in-the-stars infatuation tested by social boundaries, betrayal and circumstances beyond all control.

Love makes one crazy. Just ask Clotaire (Civil) and Jackie (Exarchopoulos), who meet in their teens in their Northern France working-class neighbourhood in the 1980s. Despite their differences – she is a diligent student from the middle class, he a charming troublemaker with a complex family life – an intense and unmistakable connection is sparked. But tragedy soon pulls them apart.

A decade later, Clotaire tries desperately to win back his lost love. But has his chance passed?

Driven by a kinetic soundtrack by Jon Brion, indelible production design and all-star supporting cast, *Beating Hearts* pays homage to the US independent film wave of the 80s and early 90s but creates an impact truly of its own.

Delivering another massive, crowd-pleasing blockbuster result at the French box office (after *Sink Or Swim*) with an extraordinary 5 million admissions, Lellouche reaches for the stars and rewards all who strap in for the ride.

See this great film at both Ballina Fair and Palace Byron: palacecinemas.com.au.

WEDNESDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TRILLA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **DAN HANNAFORD + DJ DAVI BAGMA**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: JON SHORTER & SHANE PARRY**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **OPEN MIC JAM**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY – PETER BERNER**

THURSDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MARSHALL OKELL DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **KALAKARI + LAHGO**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **SACRED EARTH**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6.30PM **INO PIO + DJ QUENDO**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **CAL CREELMAN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **CHERRY VINYL: COOPER PEDY'S LAST SHOWGIRL**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO HUM**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **JAM NIGHT**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6PM **BLUEGRASS JAM**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM **SINGERS SONGWRITER'S AT THE CITADEL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7.30PM **SONGS FROM THE CANYON**

FRIDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **SUNNY LUWE DUO + BLISS N ESO**
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM **NICKI PARROTT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 4PM **MATTY ROGERS DUO + KANE MUIR TRIO**, 6PM **SPANGLED THURSDAY FT. POWERDRILL, MASOCHIST, THE FEM GREMS & MULCH**, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: SAM WHEAT & SHANE PARRY + JOHN HILL & JON SHORTER, THINGS IN MOTION FT. TORI PEPPER**

- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4.30PM **DJ ALICE Q**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **GUY AND NICCI**
- ARTS FACTORY GARDEN BAR, BYRON BAY, 7PM **THIRST TRAP, OFF JUDY, CANNABYSS AND LIPLINE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **BOOTLEG RASCAL, + XUJA & THE GIN BUGGS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **DAVE HUGHES**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ AFRODESIA**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ PEACH**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **BEN WHITING**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **JOE CONROY**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **CAITLIN HARNETT**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB 8PM **WHO'S BAD**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 8.30PM **DJ SHIMON**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **PHIL & TILLEY**

CABARITA BEACH HOTEL 6.30PM THE ATLANTIC SALMON

- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BLAKE EVANS**

SATURDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PAPER LANE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **KANE MUIR + MATT ARMITAGE DUO + JAM HOT**
- BYRON THEATRE 6PM **DAVE HUGHES**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DANI QUAYLE MUSIC + DJ JR.DYNAMITE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MILO GREEN DUO + DJ OREN SELECTA**, 8PM **POLY & CO + KANE MUIR & THE HOWLERS**, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: SAM WHEAT & SHANE PARRY + JOHN HILL & JON SHORTER**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **PHANTOM LIMBZ**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **THE DETECTIVES + DJ AROC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **KIRSTY WEBECK: EVERYTHING I NEED TO SAY ABOUT SEA CREATURES**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS MEMORIAL HALL 4PM **BUSH DANCE FOR WALLUM**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 7.30PM **THE SWAMP CATS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **ADAM BROWN**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **PISTOL WHIP**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **HAYLEY GRACE**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **JABIRU**
- THE LEVEE, LISMORE, 8.30PM **SI CLONE + DJ GEZ**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MARK AITKEN**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **WHO'S BAD**

SUNDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **LISA HUNT**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM **DJ NAT WHITE**
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM **DAVE POWER**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **DROP LEGS + ANIMAL VENTURA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **SWAMP CATS OPEN MIC**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ MONSIEUR DIOP**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **SAM LILY**
- LENNOX PIZZA 5PM **HILLBILLY SKANK DUO**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 2PM **JOE CONROY**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **MANDY HAWKES**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 2PM **LISMORE JAZZ CLUB – NOW2NOW**
- CABARITA BEACH HOTEL 3PM **FIN HOY**

MONDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ALLY PALMER**

TUESDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **HENRY WEST**

WEDNESDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TAMEAKA FAIRFULL**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **WILL HENDERSON**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **OPEN MIC JAM**

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



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

PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES THURSDAY MAY 29 TO WEDNESDAY JUNE 4



PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

A NIGHT WITH JANIS JOPLIN: THE MUSICAL (ICG) Sat, Sun: 1:00PM

DRESSED TO KILL (R18+) Mon: 6:00PM

NT LIVE: FLEABAG (ENCORE) (MA15+) Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 6:15PM

THE GREAT LILLIAN HALL (M) MOVIE CLUB PREVIEW Mon: 1:00PM

FAMILY FILMS

A MINECRAFT MOVIE (PG) Daily: 10:45AM, 1:40PM

FLOW (G) Thurs, Fri, Tues, Wed: 1:00PM

LILO & STITCH (PG) DAILY: 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 2:10PM, 3:40PM, 4:30PM, 6:00PM

ALL FILMS

BEATING HEARTS (MA15+) NPT Daily: 11:15AM, 2:30PM, 4:00PM, 7:10PM

BRING HER BACK (MA15+) Daily: 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM, 8:15PM

FINAL DESTINATION: BLOODLINES (MA15+) Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:50PM, 8:00PM. Mon, Tues, Wed: 3:50PM, 6:10PM, 8:30PM

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - THE FINAL RECKONING (M) Daily: 10:45AM, 1:10PM, 4:00PM, 6:50PM

OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH (PG) Thurs, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 3:30PM, 5:45PM, 8:10PM. Fri, Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 5:45PM, 8:30PM. Mon: 11:00AM, 3:30PM, 5:45PM, 8:00PM

SINNERS (MA15+)

Daily: 1:10PM, 7:20PM

THE PENGUIN LESSONS (M) Daily: 11:00AM

THE SALT PATH (M) Daily: 10:45AM, 4:30PM, 7:00PM

THE SURFER (MA15+) Thurs, Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:50PM, 8:15PM. Mon: 1:20PM, 8:15PM. Tues, Wed: 1:50PM, 6:00PM, 8:15PM

THUNDERBOLTS* (PG) Daily: 11:00AM, 8:10PM

TINA (MOTHER) (M) Daily except Mon: 11:15AM. Mon: 10:50AM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

A NIGHT AT THE OPERA (G) Sat: 2:20PM

BRING HER BACK (MA15+) Daily: 12:10PM, 7:15PM

FINAL DESTINATION: BLOODLINES (MA15+) Daily except Sat: 4:40PM, 7:15PM. Sat: 7:15PM

LILO & STITCH (PG) Daily: 10:00AM, 12:20PM, 2:40PM, 5:00PM

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - THE FINAL RECKONING (M) Daily: 12:40PM, 4:00PM, 7:00PM

OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH (PG) Thurs: 9:30AM. Daily exc Thurs: 10:00AM

THE SALT PATH (M) Daily except Sat: 10:15AM, 2:20PM. Sat: 10:15AM, 4:30PM

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\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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Echo

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SCAN ME

Mention "OCEAN" in your donation message and we will be in touch!

pcfm.org.au info@pcfm.org.au

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HYPNOSIS & EFT

Simple and effective solutions. Anxiety, Cravings, Fears & Trauma. Maureen Bracken 0402205352

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Relax, Revive, Restore. Techniques in Swedish, Remedial, Sports, Deep Tissue, Relaxation, Full Body & ASMR or combination. 60, 75, 90 minutes. Mark 0448441194

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Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs. Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress. 0403125506 SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.



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Bodywork with intention
One-on-one sessions
0421 921 538
alexandra.biro@gmail.com

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

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas

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20 years local experience

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Fully insured • Free quotes
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Septic Waste Removal Summerland Environmental The Liquid Waste Specialists!

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

FOR SALE

ARCHIBALD'S CHEAP QUARRY PRODUCTS

Road base, gravel, blue metal and metal dust. ALL SIZE DELIVERIES.

Phone 66845517, 0418481617

WANTED

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

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

GARAGE SALES

SOUTH GOLDEN BEACH 26 Peter St
Moving sale: all must go. Sat 8am

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

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

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

BYRON room, f/furn, close to Clarkes Beach, free WiFi, drug-free, \$220pw, no bills. Bond req. 0423353877.

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MYOCUM: peaceful & private furn. studio \$550pw incl. elec, gas, water (tank), wifi. 2 wks rent in adv. 6-month stay (flexible)
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POSITIONS VACANT

CANE SEASONAL TRUCK DRIVERS wanted! HC or MC licence holders for the Condong, Broadwater or Harwood NSW sugar mill areas. Contact Wendy. Keel@sctlogistics.com.au with a resume or 0409568795, or apply direct at seek.com.au/job/82948461

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

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

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



High School Counsellor

Mon-Fri (term time only)
See advertisement on page 11.
Position description and application process
www.capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary

is a volunteer community service that helps raise funds for our local hospital.

Volunteers welcomed!

Help with cake and plant stalls, selling raffle tickets or at the farmers markets, there's always something you can do to assist the team in their good work.

Members meet on the third Monday of each month from 1.00 pm.

Contact Maureen Weir
0266 853 162 for more information.



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

FUNERAL NOTICES

In Loving Memory of VALMA ISOBEL BURKE

Passed away peacefully on Friday 23rd May 2025, 98 years



A service will be held at St. Finbarr's Catholic Church Wednesday 4th June 2025, 11.00am. 50 Tennyson St, Byron Bay, NSW 2481

BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS
6684 6232

O'Dell, Muriel Elizabeth

Late of St Andrews Village Ballina, formerly of New City Road Mullumbimby, passed away peacefully on 22 May 2025 aged 101.

Dearly loved daughter of Freddie and Clara O'Dell (both dec'd), much loved sister and sister in law of Clara and Ron, Fred and Eileen (all dec'd), Charlie (dec'd) and Pat, much loved Aunt, Great Aunt and Great Great Aunt to all her nieces and nephews especially to Jan, Margaret and Rhonda and their families.

Your presence we will miss, your memory we will treasure, go in peace – you've earned your sleep, loving you always.

A service will be held at St Martin's Anglican Church, 38 Stuart St, Mullumbimby, on Friday 30th May commencing at 11am. A private cremation will follow.



LIFE CELEBRATIONS

KATRINA ORME



18/09/1957 - 15/05/2025
Deeply loved and forever in our hearts. Please join us in celebrating the life of the incredible Treen this Saturday 31st May. 10am at Broken Head Beach. Midday at The Bowlo Bangalow. Wear colour.

LOG CABIN TINY HOUSE

\$119,995
now \$99,995
READY NOW!

'FREEDOM 28'



BRAND NEW LOG CABIN on a 3.5t Oz-made triple axle trailer
8 x 2.5m with sep. bathroom and two sleeping lofts
Fully assembled, ready for showing at our warehouse in Mullumbimby.

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NSW Health Pathology



**Medical Laboratory Assistant
Pathology Collector / Phlebotomist**

Location: Lismore Base Hospital
Employment Type: Various
Position Classification: Technical Assistant Grade 2
Remuneration: \$61,889.52 to \$64,260.00 pa plus superannuation

For role related queries or questions contact:

Christopher Nicol on Christopher.Nicol@health.nsw.gov.au
Closing Date: 2 June 2025 at 11:59pm

NSW Health Pathology have multiple Pathology Collector/Phlebotomist opportunities available, including two full-time roles – one permanent, one temporary and upcoming casual positions located at Lismore Base Hospital.

Applications must be lodged electronically at iworkfor.nsw.gov.au and search Job Reference Number **REQ575465**



Ben is a 5 year old, Maltese/Shih Tzu dog. He is full of personality and energy. Ben would be best suited to an active household that can keep up with his zest for life!
M/C# 900113001897418
Location: MurwillumbahInterested

Please complete our online adoption expression of interest. <https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>

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



You've got to be kitten us!

Believe it or not, we are still getting kittens into the shelter at this time of year. We'd love them all to find warm loving homes in time for winter. These little ones pictured were snapped up in an instant. Let's hope the same happens for our new little guys.

To meet our other cats and kittens, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

**OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm
Thurs 3-5pm | Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 0436 845 542**

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



WORK WANTED

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

BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday Sweetheart

I love you so much Always I

**BYRON SHIRE
UTE TRANSPORT**

Please call Jarrod
0415 139 308

For all your furniture and rubbish removal needs.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Looking for volunteers with previous experience and knowledge in front desk reception and administration to support our centre for 1/2 or 1 full day per week.

Please contact us on 02 6672 3003 if interested.



MUSICAL NOTES

GUITAR STRINGS, REPAIRS
Brunswick Heads 66851005



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PETS



EDDIE

Meet Eddie, one of our many kittens! A sweet little soft ginger coloured boy around 5 months old. He craves attention, loves to snuggle, and of course loves to play. He would make a great family cat. We have lots of other kittens at the shelter too, desperate to get out of the shelter and into their 'forever' homes!

Microchip no.
900263003505650.
D.O.B 14/12/24.



To make an appointment
0403 533 589 • Billinudgel
petsforlifeanimalshelter.net

TIDDA



Tidda is a gentle, sociable American Staffy who is ready to become a cherished member of your family. She thrives on companionship and loves people. Enthusiastic when she meets new friends, she is extremely well mannered and understands basic commands. She loves children. Give this beautiful girl a home and a chance to start the new life she deserves.

MC#953010002255286. Rehoming # R251000060.



T: 6681 1860 E: shelter@nras.org.au
W: www.nras.org.au

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Ladies wanted
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66856330

SOCIAL ESCORTS

LOTS OF GORGEOUS LADIES available for your pleasure nearby. Spoil yourself. In-house & outcalls. 7 days. 0266816038.

**SUN, MOON & TIDES
- TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS**

DATE (Day)	DAY (Phase)	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
28	W	6:28 16:57	7:35 17:44	0856 1.27; 2137 2.01	0317 0.34; 1431 0.25
29	TH	6:29 16:57	8:42 18:50	0948 1.21; 2227 1.96	0415 0.35; 1518 0.31
30	F	6:29 16:57	9:40 19:59	1042 1.16; 2316 1.87	0510 0.39; 1608 0.39
31	SA	6:30 16:57	10:28 21:05	1138 1.12	0604 0.44; 1701 0.48
1	SU	6:30 16:56	11:08 22:08	0006 1.76; 1239 1.11	0657 0.49; 1800 0.58
2	M	6:31 16:56	11:42 23:06	0056 1.65; 1345 1.14	0747 0.52; 1904 0.66
3	TU	6:31 16:56	12:12 23:56	0147 1.54; 1453 1.19	0836 0.53; 2017 0.72
4	W	6:32 16:56	12:39 0:02	0239 1.45; 1556 1.27	0922 0.52; 2130 0.74
5	TH	6:32 16:56	13:06 0:55	0331 1.38; 1649 1.37	1004 0.50; 2239 0.73
6	F	6:33 16:56	13:32 1:48	0423 1.32; 1735 1.47	1043 0.47; 2339 0.69
7	SA	6:34 16:56	14:00 2:40	0512 1.28; 1815 1.57	1118 0.44
8	SU	6:34 16:56	14:31 3:35	0558 1.25; 1853 1.65	0030 0.63; 1153 0.41
9	M	6:34 16:56	15:07 4:30	0640 1.23; 1930 1.71	0116 0.58; 1226 0.39
10	TU	6:34 16:56	15:47 5:27	0721 1.21; 2007 1.75	0159 0.53; 1300 0.38
11	W	6:35 16:56	16:34 6:25	0801 1.19; 2045 1.78	0238 0.50; 1335 0.38

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

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Senior Lifestyle Expo

The free Noosa and Ballina Retirement Living and Senior Lifestyle Expo will be held in Ballina on Thursday, 5 June at Ballina Jockey Club from 10am until 1pm. Free entrance. The Australian Independent Retirees (AIR) meeting will be held the next day at the Ballina RSL Club, 1 Grant Street, Ballina, commencing at 10am.

Death Cafe

A Death Cafe is being held on Saturday, 7 June at 10.30am until 12 noon at the Function Room at St Mary's Anglican Church, cnr Norton and Burnet streets, Ballina. For further information and/or to register attendance please email kerrymj@gmail.com.

Family History Society

The next meeting of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society will be held on Saturday, 7 June at The Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street Ballina. The topic of this meeting is 'Shipwrecked' this will be presented by Geoff Hutchinson 'A History of the Richmond Bar at Ballina'. Any enquiries please contact Vicki Evans Society President on 0467 573 282.

U3A

Brunswick Heads and Ocean Shores. U3A is lifelong learning for retired seniors in your 3rd Age. Enjoying a variety of interest groups, see info@bru3a.org.
Tues forum, garden group, foodies, movie/lunch group, men's shed, French revisited, Scottish folk dance, mahjong, walkers and talkers,

shabashi, table tennis, chess, Mon discussion group.
For more info, contact Denise 0423 778 573.

**Brunswick Valley
Probus Club**

The Brunswick Valley Probus Club Inc. meeting is on Tuesday, 3 June. 10am at the Ocean Shores Country Club. The Guest speaker is Ron Preston, with 'Mysteries of the Mail'. A very good, and funny speaker. Visitors welcome. Inquiries and apologies ring Margaret 6680 3316.

End-of-Life Choices

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, 11 July to Monday, 14 July. 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 0407 855 022.

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415
1st SUN	Byron Bay	02 6685 6807
2nd SUN	The Channon	02 6688 6433
2nd SUN	Chillingham	0428 793 141
2nd SUN	Coolangatta	
2nd SUN	Tabulam	
3rd SAT	Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370
3rd SAT	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
3rd SAT	Salt Village Market, Casuarina	
3rd SUN	Federal	0433 002 757
3rd SUN	Uki	0487 329 150
3rd SUN	Ballina	0422 094 338
4th SAT	Evans Head	0432 275 765
4th SAT	Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglebazaar.com.au
4th SUN	Bangalow	02 6687 1911
4th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764
4th SUN	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
4th SUN	Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)	
5th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

Each TUE	New Brighton	0424 168 672
Each TUE	Organic Lismore	
Each WED	Murwillumbah 7-11	0415 328 672
Each WED	Nimbin 3-6pm	0418 940 653
Each WED	Newrybar Hall 4-7pm	
Each THU	Byron 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each THU	Lismore 2.30-6.30pm	0459 309 223
Each FRI	Mullum 7-11am	0424 168 672
Each FRI	Evans Head 2.30-6.30	0428 291 068
Each SAT	Bangalow 8-11am	0414 595 169
Each SAT	Duranbah Rd 8-11am (Tropical Fruit World)	1431 0.25
Each SAT	Uki 8am-1pm	02 6679 5438
Each SAT	Lismore 8.30-11am	
Each SAT	Wadeville 8am-12pm	
Each SAT	Byron Twilight Market 4pm Oct-Apr	
Each SUN	Ballina 7-11am	

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

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.

Wayahead anxiety group

Wayahead anxiety group in Ballina is run by Mark and Emma. 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 join the Ballina support group, you can register by emailing supportgroups@wayahead.org.au or call 1300 794 992.

Lions Club - Cabarita and Pottsville

The Lions Club of Cabarita Beach and Pottsville Beach welcomes you to our monthly meeting held on the second Wednesday of each month. Our social dinner is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month. Please contact president Bill Brodie for more information on 0411 406 143.

Fellowship of First Fleeters - Northern Rivers Chapter

Anyone interested in their convict family history from any of the many fleets who journeyed here are very welcome to join our group. Fellowship of First Fleeters - Northern Rivers Chapter. This includes spouses and friends of any descendants interested in history. We meet every two months and our next meeting will be held in July at the Cherry Street Sports Club, Ballina. For more information contact Roddy on 6687 5339 or email him on williamdel2946@gmail.com.

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. Some of our services include:
Flood recovery support service: personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods.
Community support: food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.
Listening Space: free counselling.
More Than A Meal: free community lunch Tuesday-Thursday 12.30-1.30pm.
Financial counselling
Staying Home, Leaving Violence program: Information, referral, and advocacy.
Gulgani affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.
Orange Sky: free laundry service Mon morning & Wed afternoon.
To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdnc.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram: mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

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



SERVICE DIRECTORY INDEX

Accountants & Bookkeepers.....	28
Acupuncture	28
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	28
Architects	28
Automotive	28
Barber Shops.....	28
Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters.....	28
Bricklaying	28
Building Trades	28
Bush Regeneration	28
Carpentry & Joinery	28
Cleaning	28
Computer Services	29
Concreting & Paving.....	29
Decks, Patios & Extensions	29
Design & Drafting.....	29
Driveway Maintenance	29
Earthmoving & Excavation	29
Electricians.....	29
Fencing.....	29
Floor Sanding & Polishing	29
Garden & Property Maintenance	29
Gas Fitters, Suppliers & Servicing	29
Guttering.....	30
Handypersons.....	30
Health	30
Hire	30
Horticultural	30
Landscaping	30
Locksmith.....	30
Pest Control.....	30
Painting.....	30
Photography.....	30
Physiotherapy.....	30
Picture Framing	30
Plastering	30
Plumbers	30
Removalists.....	30
Roofing	31
Rubbish Removal Self Storage	31
Septic Systems	31
Solar Installation	31
Television Services	31
Tiling.....	31
Transport.....	31
Tree Services	31
Truck Hire & Haulage.....	31
Upholstery	31
Valuers.....	31
Veterinary Surgeons	31
Water Filters	31
Welding	31
Window Cleaning & Repairs	31
Window Tinting.....	31

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BUILDING TRADES

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1 / 51 CANIABA CRESCENT, SUFFOLK PARK



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First National Byron Bay

- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 12 Chilcott Circuit, Cumbulum. Wed 1-1.30pm
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 3/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 12.30-1pm
- 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 1-1.30pm
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 10-10.30am
- 14 Rush Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 451 Federal Drive, Federal. Sat 9-9.30am
- 5 Barby Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 9-9.30am
- 11/31 Hayters Drive, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/19 Marvell Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 7 Azolla Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 25 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 22 Offshore Avenue, Skennars Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 58 Corkwood Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 496 Myocum Road, Myocum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 17 Blue Horizon Drive, Lennox Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2 Beach Avenue, South Golden Beach. Sat 10.30-11am

- 4/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/59 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 41 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1/51 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 32 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 12 Chilcott Circuit, Cumbulum. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 27 Roses Road, Federal. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 465 Uralba Road, Lynwood. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 325 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 12.15-12.45pm
- 147 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 1.30-2pm
- 478 Tuntable Creek Road, The Channon. Sat 2.30-3pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 60 Federation Drive, Eltham. Sat 9.15-9.45am
- 3 Wickham Place, Clunes. Sat 10-10.30am
- 5 Glen View Court, Clunes. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 831 Binna Burra Road, Federal. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 90 Bates Road, Federal. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 73 Mafeking Road, Goonengerry. Sat 1.15-1.45pm

DJ Stringer Property

- 305 Casuarina Way, Kingscliff. Sat 9-9.30am
- 24/182-184 Kennedy Dr, Tweed Heads. Sat 9-9.30am
- 3/4B Chitticks Lane, Fingal Head. Sat 10-10.30am

- 8/20 Rutledge St, Coolangatta. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/2 Shamrock Ave, Banora Point. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5 Cedar Ridge, Banora Point. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5 Ballymore Ct, Banora Point. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 344/6-8 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 38 Bolton St, Kirra. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 2/15 Boyd St, Tweed Heads. Sat 1-1.30pm

Dodds Real Estate

- 4 Wattle Place, Bangalow. Wed 5-5.30pm
- 11 Campbell Street, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 25a Lismore Rd, Bangalow. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 108 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 1.30-2pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 260 Woodburn Evans Head Road, Woodburn. Sat 9.30-10am
- 2/57 Acacia Avenue, Goonellabah. Sat 9.30-10am
- 40 Lindsay Crescent, Wardell. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2c Fletcher Street, Broadwater. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 66 Riverside Drive, West Ballina. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 89 Bundara Park Drive, Tuckombil. Sat 11am-12pm
- 20 Stanley Park Road, Wollongbar. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 3/121 Kalinga Street, West Ballina. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 3/20 The Terrace, East Ballina. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 1149 River Drive, South Ballina. Sat 12.45-1.15pm

- 14 Fieldcrest Place, Lennox Head. Sat 1.15-1.45pm
- 4/31 McKinnon Street, East Ballina. Sat 2-2.30pm

MANA RE

- 14 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/50 Hall Drive, Murwillumbah. Sat 10-10.30am
- 38 Banool Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 15 Muli Muli Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1 Tree Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 11-11.30am
- 9 Wattar Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11am-12pm
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There were quite a few letters in support and against last week's *Echo's* report on Palestine supporters leaving the area after abuse. Letters are on pages 14, and a report on a Byron gathering calling for aid to be allowed into Gaza is on page 11.

Psst: The Old and Gold Festival in Bruns is coming up Saturday June 7, and will host the Australian Marbles Championships. It's a great family day of rummaging, and secondhand bargains.

One of the largest and longest-running beef events in the country, Casino Beef Week is on this week. The federal Labor government say they are investing \$1 million over three years to support the event from next year. According to Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry Minister, Julie Collins, 'Australia's beef export industry is worth more than \$12 billion and is Australia's most valuable agricultural export'.

NORPA (Northern Rivers Performing Arts) will soon have a new creative hub in Lismore's CBD. Called The Joinery Project, it will be located at Hampton and Larsson's old factory. Organisers say it will 'provide the region's premier performing arts company with a permanent home and a vibrant cultural space for the Northern Rivers'. See page 9 for more info or visit www.norpa.org.au.

It's National Reconciliation Week, which is also a reminder that in 1997, the *Bringing Them Home* report first shared the Stolen Generations history with the nation. While recommendations were made to address the damaging impacts, 28 years



As an avid history buff, comedian Larry David took his daughter to every one of the civil war battlefields for a vacation. Photo internet


on, only six per cent of these recommendations have been fully implemented, says The Healing Foundation – see more page 8.

Congrats Mindy Woods, who hosts Indigenous culinary experiences at the Myocum Farm called Karkalla on Country. She has been awarded the Champions of Change Award by The World's 50 Best Restaurants 2025. According to www.hospitalitymagazine.com.au, 'The global award honoured her commitment to community empowerment, ethical food practices and her significant contributions to preserving and sharing Indigenous culture through food'.

'A man should hear a little music, read a little poetry, and see a fine picture every day of his life, in order that worldly cares may not obliterate the sense of the beautiful which God has implanted in the human soul,' – Johann Wolfgang von Goethe.

Best wishes for the folk on the Mid North Coast with their flood-recovery efforts – Taree really copped a beating.

Hopefully the NSW Reconstruction Authority will do a better job with assistance than they did with us in 2022.



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