

Greens crs split over large, exclusive, contentious DA

Hans Lovejoy

Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye used her casting vote to squash fellow Greens Cr Elia Hauge's efforts to delay and seek independent legal advice around a planning agreement for a large contentious 39-large-lot exclusive greenfield proposal near the Mullumbimby Road and McAuleys Lane intersection.

Instead, an adopted amendment at last week's Council meeting by Cr David Warth passed after councillors went into a closed door meeting with staff for 45 minutes.

The updated planning proposal – based on staff advice – was supported by Cr Ndiaye, but not by her team of Crs Hauge, Kay and Lowe.

The planning proposal includes the option of Council acquiring land at the Mullumbimby Road and McAuleys Lane intersection, which is required for developers John Callanan and Tim Mundy and their DA.

Despite staff and Crs David Warth and Ndiaye saying the upgrade will improve safety, Cr Warth's adopted motion does not mention safety.

During public access, one of the landowners, Jenny, told councillors they were blindsided by Council, as compulsory acquisition was a recent recommendation by staff.

'We feel we are being treated unfairly', she said, and questioned why Council staff were negotiating on behalf of developers. 'Surely for the fate of our home of 20 years, we should be informed around this.'

Development application (DA) 10.2023.454.1 is before the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) on June 18. As previously

reported, if approved, the proposal at 53 Myocum Road – between Uncle Toms and Mullumbimby – will impact 13,000 daily vehicle movements.

Yet it is shrouded in botched process and unanswered questions from neighbours and *The Echo*.

Deputy mayor recuses

Cr Jack Dods declared a pecuniary interest in the matter, given he is a relative of one of the proponents, John Callanan. He was also 'design consultant during the DA preparation for this application'. As such he left the building and did not vote.

The Echo has requested Council staff clarify whether he has correctly declared his interests, but there has been no reply.

In last week's agenda, for example, Cr Dods declared a pecuniary interest for item 13.11 (the planning agreement) yet for item 13.12 (a staff report on matters with the NRPP that includes the DA) he declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Cr Dods is also accused by neighbours of not providing any consultation, which is a requirement under NRPP guidelines.

Remarkably, part of Council staff's reasoning for supporting the DA (page 31) were that the 'DA was notified/advertised in accordance with Council's Community Participation Plan'.

The claims are strongly refuted by neighbours, and *The Echo* has seen no evidence to suggest that the DA accorded with that policy.

Both Crs Warth and Ndiaye told *The Echo* they did not feel pressured by staff to make a decision, and
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Feats of the impossible!



Clockwise from top left: Aurora, DJ, Iona, Poppy, Alex, Lynette, Xenon, Ginger, and Ziggy. Photo Jeff 'Defying Gravity Since 1986' Dawson

It's Game On! Spaghetti Circus's Annual Show returns Friday, June 27 to Sunday, June 29 with five big shows over three days at their Mullum Showground HQ.

Organisers say, 'Each performance will bring to life the creativity and courage of students from all classes – ranging from the tiniest tumblers in the Macaronis class, right up to the powerhouse performances of the Performance Troupe'. Spaghetti Head of Circus, Petrina

Hutchinson, says the annual show is a cherished opportunity for students to develop their skills and shine on stage.

'It's not just the kids who are in the spotlight – this year's show will also feature a vibrant array of adult performers, including the Adults Circus Fit class, Elixir for Life, Adult Aerials, and the While You Wait circus group'.

This show is also a major fundraiser for the organisation, with funds helping them provide

scholarships for flood-affected and disadvantaged families, and to buy new equipment for the circus school.

Volunteers welcome

For families who want to get even closer to the magic, Spaghetti Circus is offering free adult tickets to volunteers who help out during the show. More information on volunteering, tickets, and the full show schedule can be found at www.spaghetticircus.com.

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Phoebe the bubble fairy, with young reveller Eliza, at Saturday's Festival of the Stone, which was hosted by Stone & Wood. The packed event showcased live music and raised much-needed funds for Fletcher Street Cottage, a local service providing support and advocacy for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Photo Jeff Dawson

Greens split over large, contentious DA

► Continued from page 1
both were apologetic about the way the landowners were treated by Council.

Cr Warth said, 'I feel that Council staff acted in good faith in attempting to negotiate the sale of the small parcel of land needed to upgrade the intersection for the DA. There is a benefit for our community with these works and I assume that Council staff considered direct involvement in the purchase to be the most effective way to achieve this.'

Cr Ndiaye acknowledged, 'the process has not been as clear or as smooth as it should have been. I, along with other councillors, spoke with [the landowners] in person at the meeting and offered sincere apologies for the confusion.'

She also said, 'My focus in this matter was on the issue of community safety', adding, 'While we did not vote the same way on this item, I value Cr Hauge's considered contributions and the integrity she brings

to our work on Council.'

Legal risks

While the councillor majority appeared satisfied with last-minute staff advice around legal risks, Cr Hauge told the chamber that 'neither the planning or legal staff were unable to identify any precedent in NSW where a planning agreement has required a council to acquire land for a third party'.

■ Q&A with Crs Ndiaye and Warth is at www.echo.net.au.

Bayside pod eviction snafu

NSW Reconstruction Authority corrects 'incorrect' advice to residents, while other questions remain unanswered

Hans Lovejoy

Pod residents preparing to leave the Brunswick/Bayside Village will no longer have to leave a week earlier, after the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) told *The Echo* they were incorrectly informed that they needed to move out by June 20.

In the aftermath of the 2022 floods, RA established 11 temporary housing villages across the Northern Rivers on council and private land.

The Echo reported in April that RA announced that the Bayside pods in Brunswick Heads were among four North Coast temporary housing villages that will close on June 27.

The land is joint-owned by Clarence Property and Byron Shire Council.

Two flood-affected residents approached *The Echo* last week, distraught that they were advised the eviction was moved forward owing to all residents being allocated accommodation.

A spokesperson from

RA told *The Echo*, 'There's no change to the date that Brunswick/ Bayside Village stops operating as a temporary housing village. It remains 27 June 2025'.

'We know that people in the villages need assistance, which is why Homes NSW and our community housing provider partners are actively supporting residents to look for alternative accommodation outside the villages.'

'Where other accommodation arrangements have not been found, offers of transfer to other villages within the program have been made.'

'Residents who have accepted a transfer to another village have been given 14 days to move to their new village. Some residents were recently informed that they needed to move out by June 20, however that is not accurate. The date that the village closes for residents remains June 27.'

'Community housing providers continue to provide support to residents as they

transition between villages.

'There are currently nine residents still living in Brunswick/ Bayside Village. All are actively transitioning to alternative housing arrangements or have been offered a transfer to another village.'

'We want to make sure that people impacted by the floods are safe and supported with somewhere to live while more social and affordable housing for the region is being delivered,' the spokesperson said.

Questions put to the office of Labor MP Janelle Saffin and RA remain unanswered, including, 'Have Clarence Property requested that they purchase the pods after eviction? If not, what will happen with the pods? Will they be sold or if not moved where?'

Byron Council is advocating for the retention of the nine emergency housing pods located on Council-owned land at the Bayside temporary housing village in Torakina Street, Brunswick Heads.



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- Supporting community groups to secure small grants.
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New giving circle Wild Imaginings launches

A new giving circle initiative is set to take root in the Northern Rivers, with the official launch of Seed Northern Rivers and its flagship program, the Seed Giving Circle, on Friday, June 27 at the Byron School of Art.

Organisers say the Wild Imaginings event, 'marks both the launch of the Seed Giving Circle and the official renaming of Mullum SEED to Seed Northern Rivers'.

It's led by long-time environmental advocate, Techa Beaumont, who says it reflects 'a new chapter in the organisation's evolution – one grounded in connection, regional collaboration, and long-term systems change'.

'We're not just a hub anymore – we're a thriving ecosystem of people and projects, committed to regenerating place, shifting power, and building a resilient future together.'



Seed Northern Rivers, Partnership Manager, Simon Jankelson with Seed Director, Techa Beaumont. Photo Jeff 'Growing Seedlings Since 1986' Dawson

Techa says, 'The Seed Giving Circle invites community members to contribute a minimum of \$10 per week or \$500 per year, pooling resources to fund bold, community-led projects'.

'Half of all contributions support a small grants

program for grassroots initiatives; the other half sustains the ongoing work of Seed Northern Rivers to connect, support, and amplify this growing network of local changemakers'.

Speakers for the June 27 event include Techa, Mandy

Nolan, Thomas Keily, Emily Lubitz, Jo Immig, Mason Taylor, Greens MLC Sue Higginson and a rep from youth activist group, Ocean Voices.

Wild Imaginings will run from 5.30pm to 7.30pm on Friday, June 27. Entry is free and open to all.

Unauthorised camping tackled in Brunswick Heads

After a recent meeting of Brunswick Heads business owners and locals concerned about unauthorised camping/parking in the town, councillors passed a motion at last week's meeting addressing the issue.

Of particular concern is the Fawcett Street/Mona Lane precinct and around the boat ramp/harbour. Residents and business owners say that 'van-lifers' are defecating, leaving rubbish and even using the water and electricity from the homes of residents. The meeting on May 28 – held by the town's

Chamber of Commerce – also heard that police and Council compliance teams were not doing enough.

The motion by Cr Michael Lyon differentiated between non-locals choosing to live in their vehicles as 'van-lifers', and locals who are 'experiencing homelessness and living in their vehicles'.

The motion says, 'Council is working towards an emergency housing village to help to address this issue, and compliance staff will continue to exercise compassion to locals genuinely experiencing homelessness'.

While acknowledging Council's limited powers, the motion, 'Seeks urgent support from all state government agencies that own or manage land in Brunswick Heads, including Crown Lands, NPWS, Transport for NSW and Reflections to work collaboratively to identify and implement enforcement approaches with appropriate resourcing to patrol the areas'.

Councillors are also asking for a staff report 'on further options to discourage unauthorised camping/parking in Brunswick Heads, including looking at closing hotspot

streets to parking for a longer time than the current 1am-6am, other than to those with residential permits'.

Police support

The motion 'thanks NSW Police for their recent commitment to support Council's attempts to address these issues', asks for an 'update on the progress of enforcement in Brunswick Heads in three months' time,' and, 'seeks a report on options, costs and potential funding sources for additional compliance measures or requirements'.

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Byron Bay High P&C push on with covered outdoor areas, despite no govt commitment

Hans Lovejoy

Repeated requests by Byron Bay High School's P&C for a Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) has been met without any commitment from NSW Labor.

But it hasn't dampened the efforts of the P&C, who are calling on the public to help fund it.

The P&C say, 'We have been advocating for a COLA for years, including meeting with local member Tamara Smith. The P&C received a rejection from Education Minister Prue Car in February 2024, where it was deemed the covered area to student ratio had met 'contemporary department standards'.

'Is it fun huddling under the walkway when it rains – or do trees provide appropriate cover when it is raining?'

A NSW Department of Education (DoE) spokesperson told *The Echo*, 'The project will be considered through the appropriate process, which includes assessing other priority projects across the region. The school community will be kept up to date'.



The Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA) proposal, as depicted by the Byron Bay High School's P&C. Photo supplied

'The rebuild of flood-affected schools across the Northern Rivers is currently being prioritised in the region, including the rebuild of both Condong Public School and Tumbulgum Public School.'

Michelle Pullen, President of the P&C said, 'After years of writing and requesting the funding for this project we can no longer sit back and wait for the government to take action. This is an urgent need for our students and the school, and the broader community is now being called to show their support for our students and their health. We are starting the ball rolling and building the coffers,

to show our community commitment to this project.

Tax-free donation

'Before the end of the financial year is a great opportunity for anyone to make a tax-free donation to the school building fund via the school website.'

'The P&C focus for 2025 is to lobby the government to build a COLA at Byron Bay High School within 12 months and to boost the building fund as an indication of our community commitment to this project'.

To get involved, email bbhspandc@gmail.com or call Michelle Pullen, President of the P&C, on 0411 576 418.

Calling on those who love upcycling and repairs

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

The Upcycle & Repair Centre is a dream for Mullumbimby woman Deidi Vine, who hopes to start the project with salvaged materials and vintage sewing machines – including a newly discovered old-school pedal Singer.

Ms Vine says that she feels upcycling isn't just about secondhand materials, it's about self-worth.

'When we learn to repair what's broken, or salvage what's being discarded, we begin to see the beauty in what still has life left', she said.

'That's what this centre is all about.'

Over the years she has been involved with local charity, Global Ripple, which she says has inspired countless creative hearts to breathe new life into secondhand goods through upcycling, repairing, and rejuvenating.

'I've always loved that part: taking something worn and making it wonderful again.'

Ms Vine was the founder of the former 'Girls on Tools' initiative, where she taught young women to wield power tools, while creating whimsical upcycled cubbies and mud kitchens – she's long been an advocate for



Deidi Vine

hands-on empowerment.

Now, she's turning her focus to a new project she says has been a long held dream. There's something magical about repurposing things with your hands.

'This is about sustainability, but also connection, creativity, and remembering that value doesn't come from being new. It comes from being loved.'

Ms Vine says many talented and passionate creatives have passed through Global Ripple's doors over the years.

Space needed

'There's something we all seem to bump up against and that's lack of space – a place to store materials, sort

items, and work together.'

Ms Vine is looking for expressions of interest in creating a local upcycle and repair hub in the Byron Shire.

'I'm looking for a space where seamstresses, tinkerers, young sewing enthusiasts, and resourceful creatives can gather, repair, stitch, sort, and transform.'

Ms Vine says she is hoping to trial the concept for three months in a donated or shared space.

'All we need is a shed with power – everything else we can source ourselves. Let's stitch something beautiful together for the Byron community.'

Deidi Vine can be contacted at: deidivine911@gmail.com, or 0429 840 095.

Exhibitions sought for Lone Goat

Eve Jeffery

Is it your dream to see your artwork hanging, sitting or standing in an art gallery?

The Lone Goat Gallery in Byron Bay is asking to see what visual artists across the Northern Rivers region and beyond have got, as they prepare their Exhibition Program for 2026.

The Lone Goat Gallery is focused on supporting innovative and dynamic exhibitions by artists at all stages

of their careers working in a wide variety of mediums.

Free workshop

On Thursday, they invite artists to a free workshop – Practice 101 'Working with Galleries' with Arts Northern Rivers – where you can learn more about the professional development skills needed.

The session will be run by Arts Northern Rivers and facilitated by Sarah Harvey, Lone Goat Gallery and Grace Dewar, Arts Northern Rivers.

Designed for early-career visual artists, this workshop will share an overview of the arts sector and detail how to self-profile and present your work for exhibitions.

This workshop starts at 4.30pm and is free – spaces are limited so book now.

Applications to exhibit close for the 2026 exhibition program on Friday, August 22.

For more information visit the gallery website www.lonegoatgallery.com/ apply.

Elders' Hub June 28 features 'Hi Touch'

The upcoming Elders' Hub on June 28 will feature Kamala Hope-Campbell, who will be presenting a talk and demonstration of 'Hi Touch'.

Organisers say, 'Kamala is a visionary who has opened up the field of interspecies communication with her work with whales and dolphins, re-birthing, and calling together Elders from

around the world to share their wisdom about our planet and the ocean'.

'Beginning in New York in 1982, she developed Hi Touch, a deep listening tool, which she describes as 'a way to move through our boundaries and limitations to interconnection and presence, a wonderful touch to have when people are dying,

or being born and with each other, out in nature, and so simple a technique that can move past limitations, and so necessary at this time.'

The meeting will be held in the yurt in the Gordon Street Permaculture Garden from 10am for a sharing circle, with Kamala's talk to follow.

All welcome.

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2025 Chinny Charge entries open!

Aslan Shand

The Chinny Charge registration is open, and now is your chance to register for a run or walk up Mullumbimby's famous mountain on Saturday, September 20.

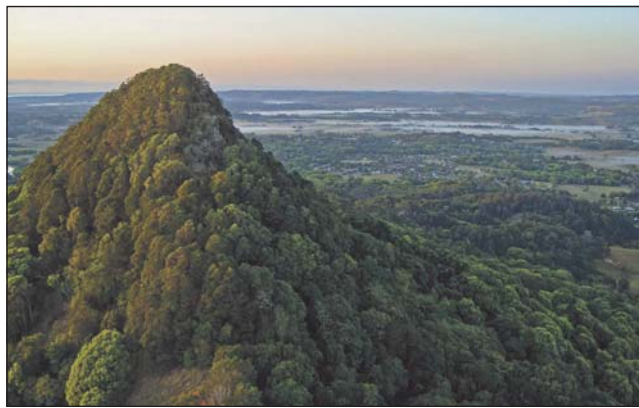
The annual run and walk is the only day that Mount Chincogan is open to the public.

The 2024 winner, Jack Gill, did the return run in just 30 minutes and ten seconds, beating his 2023 run of 30 minutes and 44 seconds.

Leisurely stroll

Others, meanwhile, took the opportunity for a leisurely stroll.

'This year we are asking everyone to bring a water bottle to fill at the water



Mount Chincogan. Photo Ziggi Browning

stations as we continue to drive towards reducing waste and being a sustainable event,' said organiser, Jenelle Stanford, from the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce.

The entry fee is \$50 for runners and \$25 for

non-competitors (walkers). If you leave it to the last minute, it is \$75 on the day if there are spaces available.

There is a children's race as well as the adult race, and professional athletes will start first at 2pm outside the NSW Fire and Rescue Station

at 57 Dalley Street.

The children's race runs from 1.30pm and is \$15 to enter. Prizes on offer include the fastest man and woman (\$500), the fastest local man and woman (sponsored by *The Echo*), and the oldest man and woman to participate in the charge.

The Kevin Moran memorial shield is 'awarded for special effort and encouragement of others', and was donated in his memory by his closest friends and adopted family - the Davis family of Main Arm.

All participants must be 12 years old or over. There are no dogs allowed on the mountain. To book visit www.mullumbimby.org.au/chinny-charge-2024.

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Have you thought about being a foster carer?

With the Lismore Lantern Parade being held this Saturday, June 21, MacKillop Family Services say they will again participate, with their team carrying a set of lanterns in the parade to raise awareness about the need for foster carers in the area.

MacKillop Family Services offer out of home care programs (including foster, kinship and residential care), disability services, youth support services and education services.

Regional manager, Jen Jones, says, 'We are walking

to show our appreciation of foster carers who give so much by opening their homes to vulnerable children in the local community'.

She is welcoming everyone to their stall to ask questions around foster care.

'At any given time there are close to 14,000 children and young people in out-of-home care in NSW', she says.

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Weeds again take over Waterlily Park



Residents Liz Friend, Ron Curran and David Kennedy next to the only remaining clear patch of the lake at Waterlily Park.

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

Though Byron Shire Council removed invasive aquatic weed at Waterlily Park last July, the lake is again covered with *salvinia molesta*, and parrot's feather (*myriophyllum aquaticum*) weeds.

Residents say they can't understand why more isn't being done to solve the problem.

The salvinia, which spreads very quickly, has formed a thick mat over the surface of the lake, and the parrot's feather was also well established – last July, an aquatic weed harvester was on the lake at Ocean Shores removing the weed, but now there is just one small patch at the western end of the lake that is clear, the rest is covered.

At that time, Council's Open Space Technical Officer, Andy Erskine, said the salvinia is a recurrent problem at Waterlily Park, and Council normally uses special weevils, bred by the NSW Department

of Primary Industries, to control the weed.

'The Salvinia weevil has been used successfully at Waterlily Park on several occasions, but it does not like the cold weather,' he said last July. 'The weevils, which are about 2mm long, perform well in hot weather, and stop breeding when the mercury drops to below 17 degrees.'

'The weed is so thick at the moment that something needed to be done so the aquatic harvester has been brought in to get rid of as much weed as possible.'

Back after two months

Local man, David Kennedy, says the 2024 harvest didn't remove edges.

'It came back within two months. By the time the new Council were elected in September, it was back like this.'

Liz Friend lives nearby, and says Waterlily Park is a community place and should be better looked after. 'The

salvinia and parrot's feather weeds have probably covered two-thirds of the lake now – it's completely out of control and Byron Council needs to remove the weeds again ASAP!'

Another Ocean Shores resident, Ron Curran, says there is a Waterlily Park Community Facebook group who are very active in beautifying the area, but it has gotten beyond them.

'It's such a massive situation, it's a bit beyond the community reach.'

Currently Mr Erskine is on leave and unable to comment on the current situation at the lake.

Mr Kennedy says he has stopped using the area as much. 'I used to walk around the lake and talk to people and look at the birdlife. Lately, I've just been going to gym and walking home.'

'In my opinion, we've got a fake "Green" Council. If you claim to be Green, you can't leave anything like this for ten months.'

Main Arm, Mullumbimby, benefit from Rebuilding Futures grant program

Main Arm Disaster Recovery Inc and Mullumbimby Sustainability Education and Enterprise Development Inc have been awarded funding by the Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) and Suncorp.

The total funding pool for the Rebuilding Futures grant program is more than \$315,000, according to the FRRR, and 'seeks to support communities affected by disaster events between 2019 and 2024 to strengthen their resilience to significant disasters by undertaking a wide

range of medium to long-term community-led projects for community benefit'.

Main Arm Disaster Recovery Inc has been awarded \$9,400 in funding to 'support community activities that build emergency preparation skills and connections, helping people better prepare for and recover from disasters'.

Funding of \$15,000 will go to the Mullumbimby Sustainability Education and Enterprise Development Inc to 'build a community-of-care network to support those working towards disaster

resilience in their communities and facing mental health challenges'.

FRRR say, 'The program encourages communities to build back better to reduce the impact of future disasters on community wellbeing and physical infrastructure'.

Nina O'Brien, FRRR's Disaster Resilience and Recovery Lead, said, 'The thing that really jumps out for me is how these projects reflect each community's unique context and their future thinking on responding to challenges.'



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Redefining prosperity through localisation – event on June 28

Sally Cusack & Susan Wanmer

What is it about a young child that seems to spark hope for the future?

Perhaps it is the spark of potential we see. The unbridled genius of their imagination combined with their non-judgmental, innocent heart. When that child can thrive in a prosperous, loving community to adulthood, the potential within them is incalculable – and something to live for.

Economic diversity

The main form of erosion occurring in society is our lack of economic diversity.

We frequently read about the impacts of the cost of real estate, which – locally – is forcing so many from our community out.

This region can't just be sustained by wealthy multi-property owners who fly in and out from time to time.

All segments of society are required for the prosperity we all yearn for.

But how do we protect and preserve this social diversity? The localisation movement or 'going local' provides an encouraging alternative.

Localising is about bringing our purchasing dollars



Founders of Relocalise Northern Rivers: from left, Mandy Hallinan, Sally Cusack, Jason Lasky and Susan Wanmer. Photo supplied

– our regional economy – back home so that our needs are met as locally as possible.

And if there's one region that started doing this, and can do it again, surely it's this one.

We're not talking about ending all trade and going back to candle light.

We know from the 2022 floods and Covid, and how quickly the supermarket shelves emptied, how lacking in self-sufficiency we were.

True prosperity relies on community.

Backed by our community, we can take an honest look at the many issues we face – here and beyond – without feeling overwhelmed, insignificant, and powerless.

Local Prosperity Lab, to be held on Saturday, June

28, invites people to explore how we can co-create the region of our dreams.

This event is Byron's celebration of World Localisation Day, a collection of localised actions by passionate people all around the world reconnecting with their communities and strengthening prosperous self-reliance.

World Localisation Day was founded by Helena Norberg-Hodge and Local Futures to celebrate examples of the economics of happiness around the world.

On Saturday, June 28, add your hopes, thoughts, ideas to not simply localise, but to relocalise, taking the best of what we love and bringing it into our progressive lives.

Tickets to the Local Prosperity Lab are at Humanitix.com or Relocalise.org.

Key worker housing proposed for former Byron Hospital

Councillors unanimously voted for a motion at last week's meeting 'to pursue the adaptive reuse of the rear of the Byron CoLab building (formerly the Byron District Hospital site) for up to 19 co-living style rooms for key workers, with shared facilities, that prioritises NSW Health and emergency service workers.'

The motion was put forward by Greens mayor Sarah Ndiaye, and will see Council collaborate with the current lessee, Social Futures, 'to undertake a full feasibility study (including design).'

The motion also 'seeks funding and support from all sources including both the NSW state and federal

governments to enable the delivery of this project; and advocates for the inclusion of Byron Shire in state and federal housing investment programs, with particular emphasis on addressing the absence of any public, social, affordable, Aboriginal or key worker housing currently in the pipeline for the Shire.'



Business Purchase/Relocation Opportunity

Want to procure productive large small-business located within picturesque Northern NSW region?

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Genuine enquiries contact John – 0413 305 295 to discuss or request further information.

Pocket Winter Festival returns, June 22

Organisers of the Pocket Winter Festival say they are pulling out all stops for this year's event, to be held June 22 from 10am till 2pm at the Pocket School.

The school's P&C say, 'From circus magic to musical mayhem, petting zoos to zany clowns, this is not just an event – it's a full-blown family experience!'

'That's why this local community school, volunteer-driven family event has steadily become such a favourite on the family hit list over the past few years with over 1,500 attendees at last year's event.'

Entertainment

'Whether your little ones are animal lovers, thrill-seekers, dance floor divas or face-painting fanatics, there's something here for everyone.'

Along with school acts



Revellers from a past Pocket Winter Festival. Photo supplied

(from 10am), there will be entertainment from Salmon Head (10.50am), Nathan Kaye's Bark Side of the Moon (12.10pm) and Ziggy & Zumba (1.20pm).

There will also be gourmet food trucks and a Wandana craft beer bar, say the P&C.

'A raffle with prizes including accommodation, vouchers and other goodies

are on offer – scan the flyer QR code to enter the massive raffle ahead of the day.

'The event is proudly hosted by The Pocket P&C, with support from local legends like Wandana Brewing Co., Billi Bakehouse, Black Drop, Spaghetti Circus, and more.'

Follow the fun at @thepocketwinterfestival on social media.

F*ckup Night comes to Byron, June 25

The Byron Chamber of Commerce is bringing the global F*ckup Night movement to Byron on Wednesday, June 25 at The Northern Hotel.

Organisers say Mandy

Nolan will MC, and describe it as 'a night where brave business owners take the mic to share their most epic professional disasters. No sugarcoating. No spin. Just

raw, real stories of what went wrong – and what came next. And we'd love to see you there!'

For tickets visit www.byronbaychamber.com.

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Two Northern Rivers locals arrested in Tasmania

Northern Rivers filmmaker Juliet Lamont and local Hamish Paterson have been arrested after locking onto logging machinery to protect the endangered Tasmanian wedge-tailed eagle.

How to cook with a tea candle to create nutritious meals

If you didn't get your flood pantry ready in time or you are just struggling to put food on the table (if you happen to have one) knowing how to make a simple nutritious meal out of basic ingredients – possibly without a heat source – is essential.

Protesters try to stop logging near Coffs

Protesters are attempting to stop logging in Orara East State Forest, near Coffs Harbour.

Reimagining Lismore City Council's workforce management

Lismore City Council will carry out an in-depth workforce review of asset management roles and responsibilities if a revised strategy is adopted at Tuesday's extraordinary council meeting.

Supporting homeless people in the Byron and Tweed shires

The Songs for Shelter, Winter Warmer campaign by Dharma Care is underway and is looking to raise \$50,000 for homeless people in the Tweed and Byron shires.

Hastings Point residents reject flood-prone DA

Aslan Shand

Residents of Creek Street, Hastings Point are calling on the community to turn up and show their support to reject the development of 40 Creek Street, Hastings Point on flood-prone land at a Land and Environment Court (L&EC) hearing at the site on Monday, June 23, from 10.30am.

Tweed Shire Council (TSC) rejected the development application (DA) for 40 Creek Street (DA20/0386) based on flood risk and environmental encroachment on 3 August, 2023.

The site is zoned residential but 'has significant environmental constraints as well as being flood-prone' according to the staff report at the time.

14,500 cubic metres of fill needed

Hastings Point Progress Association (HPPA) have highlighted that this land is flood-prone and that the DA states the site would need to be built up with 14,500 cubic metres of fill (2.2m) which they say will cause major flooding issues to the existing homes along Creek Street and into North Star Caravan Park.

Richard Gow, who has owned the property that backs onto this lot for 40 years, says that 'the estuary [that ran through the site] was illegally dredged and filled to create this lot'.

'The only solution to prevent flooding is to reopen the original estuary flow path.'

Rejecting the DA in 2023 Tweed Shire Mayor, Chris



Residents of Creek Street, Hastings Point are calling on the community say the development will put their homes at risk. Photo supplied

Cherry, said that while she had previously given 'in-principle support' for the site to be developed it had been 'conditional on this application not increasing its development footprint'.

Point six of her conditional support stated that, 'Any future DA that proposes to increase the number of lots, reduce the size of lots or vary any other developments controls to intensify yield or the development footprint or further impact on the buffer or environmental areas will not be looked on favourably by Council.'

Cr Cherry then detailed a number of ways that the current DA went beyond the basis of the in-principle support, pointing out that most of the lots now push into that 75m environmental buffer zone and the lot size has increased from the original 800 square metres in the plan in 2019 to 1,470 square metres.

Flood risk factor

Cr Cherry further explained that the impact of the 2022 floods had also demonstrated that the TSC needed to take significant

care when approving housing in flood zones.

'Property in this area is at risk of being uninsurable according to the Insurance Council of Australia and the Climate Council lists us as the most at-risk electorate in the country,' Julie Boyd, Secretary of HPPA said.

'This DA and amendments do nothing to address the key concerns of the community with regard to flooding and stormwater storage and egress.'

Numbers count

HPPA President, Gary Thorpe, says it carries a significant amount of weight with the commissioner of the L&EC to witness the number of concerned residents who turn up to reject this DA.

'There should be no construction on a floodplain,' said Mr Thorpe.

'We are asking Hastings Point residents and their supporters to turn out in force on June 23 to again voice their opposition to a development application for 40 Creek Street.'

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

Helping Murwillumbah's young people build confidence

Disengaged young people are taking the opportunity to transform their lives as part of the new partnership between local early intervention youth program, RiverTracks and Murwillumbah Community Gardens.

Each week, the youth take part in all types of work from building planter boxes and compost bays to whipper snipping, landscaping and using hand tools – guided by youth workers and skilled tradespeople.

Since forming the partnership earlier this year, young participants have gained real-world experience, mentorship and a space to grow.

RiverTracks Program Manager, Christopher Rowland said it's great to see the young locals getting involved in an initiative that's not only helping themselves but the wider community too.

'We work with young people to build their confidence and help them

reengage with school or community in a positive way,' said Christopher.

'Some of these kids haven't been in a classroom for months. While they're digging or building, it opens up space for honest conversations about what's going on in their lives.'

Permanent home

RiverTracks is currently without a permanent base after losing its former space under the local scout hall. Despite this, the program has pivoted to become 'mobile' for now.

'We're looking for a space to rent – it could be a hall, shed or house in the Murwillumbah area,' said Christopher.

For more information, contact Program Manager Christopher Rowland via email at christopher@rivertracks.org. To donate or support RiverTracks and its valuable work, visit www.rivertracks.org.

Tweed Seagulls Festival of Female Footy



Tweed Seagulls RLFC are hosting the inaugural Festival of Female Footy in collaboration with the Gold Coast Titans, QRL and NSWRL. The landmark event showcasing the best of female rugby league – from grassroots juniors to elite players – will take place on 21 June at the Piggabeen Sports Complex in Tweed Heads. Photo supplied

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 40 #02 • June 18, 2025

Fascism and journalism don't mix

Attacks on journalists – whether by military forces in conflict zones or by law enforcement during civil unrest – pose a grave threat to freedom of speech and the health of democracy.

And unfortunately the numbers of deaths and injuries are increasing – 2024 was the deadliest year on record for journalists since global organisations began tracking such incidents.

The situation for journalists in Gaza has ballooned those numbers. Since October 2023, over 200 journalists have been killed according to www.bbc.com, with hundreds more injured or detained, mostly by Israeli military actions during the ongoing genocide.

Eyewitness accounts and footage confirm that journalists – often clearly identified by press markings – have been shot at or killed while reporting from the field.

And just last week, US military shot rubber bullets at clearly marked media personnel during the Los Angeles protests. Other members of the media were detained.

Is this a new normal?

A key cornerstone of authoritarian state actors is to muzzle anyone who is not part of their agenda.

Instead of killing members of the press, a better strategy is simply controlling the media.

During World War II, the fascist regimes of Germany, Italy, and Japan systematically took control of the media to promote their ideologies, suppress dissent, and mobilise public support for their war efforts.

The Nazis established the Reich Ministry of Enlightenment and Propaganda, led by Joseph Goebbels, to coordinate all propaganda activities. Anti-Nazi newspapers were closed or taken over; all

media was censored to suppress dissent, and ensure only pro-Nazi content was published.

A similar tactic rolled out at the same time in fascist Italy. Benito Mussolini, who was an experienced journalist, established the Ministry of Popular Culture, to coordinate propaganda and censorship.

Newspapers and even cinema focused on promoting fascist ideology, militarism, and Mussolini's image as Italy's saviour. Journalists and editors were expected to see their work as a form of national service, proactively avoiding criticism of the regime and promoting unity.

Meanwhile in Japan at the time, the public were largely shielded from bad news and opposition voices, fostering a climate of conformity and support for the war effort.

Propaganda emphasised loyalty to the emperor, national unity, and the righteousness of Japan's war aims. Foreign propaganda targeted allied troops and exploited social tensions abroad.

Remarkably, it's much the same in modern Japan – there is tight control around what is allowed to be called 'news'. Much of the details around the 2011 nuclear Fukushima disaster remain secret, for example.

Fast forward to 2025, and the 47th US president has banned media outlets he doesn't like from his press briefings, and lets in those who favour him.

And to celebrate his 79th birthday and the 250th year of US military, he held what is described as a flat and dull parade of tanks and marching soldiers.

Thankful the resistance so far is strong, with huge protests across the US in the name of 'No Kings'.

Hans Lovejoy, editor
News tips are welcome:
editor@echo.net.au

How to cope amidst the chaos

So many people I know are deeply traumatised by the increasing darkness in the world – Gaza, Ukraine, the outrageous antics of Trump and his handpicked MAGA extremists, and now a war between Israel and Iran, not to mention the heartbreaking climate crisis.

Every time we see the news there are more reasons to be shocked and saddened.

What's happening seems impossible to believe.

Many are having difficulty just managing tight budgets, coping with ailments or finding a place to live. They don't need these horrors added to the mix.

People with partners can comfort each other, but many single people are having to deal with these hard times on their own.

Some take solace in nature, going for long walks on the beach, gazing to the horizon looking for humpback whales on their annual migration north, enjoying the sunrise and the full moon.

Farmers' markets are great places to meet and talk with friends and strangers and exchange sympathetic smiles. They provide a comforting sense of community, as well as an opportunity to buy fresh locally-grown produce.

We were shopping in Santos, Mullumbimby on their Tuesday 20 per cent discount day last week – it was remarkable how many people were smiling at each other. It felt more like a party than a shopping expedition.

Those smiles are infectious, not only that, but they also have a physical effect on us.

Scientific studies have shown smiling can lift your mood, lower stress and even boost the immune system, releasing serotonin, dopamine and endorphins. It's now been discovered that just seeing people smile at each other can lift the mood of others.

Many years ago, I used to read Reader's Digest, and my favourite column was Laughter is the Best Medicine. It seems it was true all along.



'There was little waste post WWII. Socks, clothes and shoes were carefully darned and repaired. There was no plastic waste, because there was no plastic.'

– Richard Jones

Smiling at each other is a kind thing to do and helps elevate our moods, if only temporarily.

As lovely as it is though, it doesn't help pay the bills. Judging by the empty shops and quietening down of business, it's apparent our local economy is suffering, and economic times are getting harder.

Several businesspeople I have talked to report lower earnings and higher prices.

One sole trader said she was 30 per cent down on last year, and has reduced her own salary and is learning to cut her coat according to her cloth, as the old saying goes. She's buying more secondhand clothes and other items and eating out less.

What austerity looks like

I've lived long enough to see what severe food rationing and austerity look like.

I can report it's survivable, but it does need dexterity and imagination. For example, how to still prepare delicious meals with less expensive ingredients and avoiding waste.

My family in England had two allotments when I was a boy after the war, small plots of land to grow peas and beans and other vegetables. Despite the deprivation we survived well.

There was little waste then. Socks, clothes and shoes were carefully darned and repaired. There was no plastic waste, because there was no plastic. Even old newspapers were sold for recycling. Just about everything had a value.

Maybe in our Shire, Council could bring together a group of landholders and arrange for residents to rent allotments on land currently used for grazing cattle?

The financial return from grazing

cattle is very low compared to what could be achieved with intensive horticulture. While we are at it, grazing land could be converted to high value native food cropping such as Mullum plums, delicious finger limes and other species.

Landholders could receive a better income by sharing their land, which helps as the global climate crisis hits supply chains and pushes up prices.

We are a vibrant, loving community, and have worked together well in previous crises with strangers coming to the aid of each other spontaneously.

With trauma from the horrors overseas, plus the cost-of-living and housing crisis, many need even more love and understanding.

During the 2022 floods, strangers knocked on doors asking if any help was needed.

Maybe we need to do some more doorknocking to see if people need comforting.

Our world is changing.

The old system of wasteful mass consumption is giving way gradually to more careful management of resources, reuse and sharing, making things last longer, and repairing rather than throwing away.

It's what our suffering Earth needs as well. For too long we have plundered her resources unthinkingly, oblivious to the effects on the environment and other species with which we share this Earth.

If we unite as a community, working for the common good, regardless of different views we have on controversial subjects, ensuring those in need, whether emotionally or in a practical sense, are cared for, we will all be better off.

■ Richard Jones is a former NSW MLC and is now a ceramist.



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Phone: 02 6684 1777

Editorial/news: editor@echo.net.au

Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au

Office: 64 McGoughans Lane,
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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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Cartoon by Vivienne Pearson

Mullum Rd notice inadequate

I object to the short notice given by Byron Shire Council to reply for the 12 June 2025 meeting. The letter was dated 3 June and was placed in my mailbox by the mailperson at about 11:30am this morning (11 June, 2025).

I emptied my mailbox about 1pm and opened the letter shortly after.

I consider the time given for residents to reply totally inadequate. Mail delivered this morning with a reply deadline of 3pm today is unrealistic.

Many people are away at work, or otherwise busy during the day, and empty the mailbox at the end of the day. Some people may also be away for a night or two and therefore do not empty the mailbox immediately.

I however, am lucky to reply within your very restricted notice given because I am retired, and at home during the day, and was able to see the mailperson delivering the mail.

I request you reconsider how open you have been in inviting people to this meeting. This gives me the impression that you have not wanted to give reasonable notice, and gives a very negative impression on how Byron Council really wants to engage with the community.

Tom George
Brunswick Heads

Dangerous risks

It is rare to see a cyclist using any road coming in or out of Mullumbimby. Little wonder. After several years of not wanting to risk it, I recently started a routine of a weekly

trip from Mullumbimby to Byron Bay and back. It must be one of the most dangerous things anyone can do around the Byron Shire. And yet surely safe walking and cycling routes between the main towns in the area ought to be a normal expectation.

Yes, I know there are plans for a safe Mullum to Bruns route. I am aware that one day the Byron Shire section of the rail trail will be completed. But the wait seems endless. In the meantime, the improvements to Mullumbimby Road offer some hope of wider shoulders along that treacherous route. We shall see what difference it makes.

Magenta Appel-Pye (Letters, 11 June) is right to be concerned at how far behind Clarence Valley Shire we have fallen when it comes to cycle lanes. The reality is, despite years of progressive-leaning councils, we are way behind most places in the country.

Steve Fisher
Mullumbimby Creek

Van life

I totally agree with David Heilpern (*Echo*, 4 June 2025) that police need to be involved with the problem of van-lifers camping on the street and in parks.

Surely the other group with a role to play are the three Bruns Reflections holiday parks? They are state government owned so should have a social as well as commercial responsibility.

If someone sleeping in their van or car is a local (easily proven via a drivers licence or other ID) and homeless, they could be

offered a heavily discounted rate for a week at Reflections and then connected with workers in health, homelessness and other relevant services.

I get that these services don't have magic wands and that a week is not long enough to solve entrenched issues that lead to homelessness, but this at least means homeless locals are being offered help and relative safety rather than hassle.

For travellers, both from overseas and other parts of Australia, police could communicate with Reflections about available spaces and give van-lifers the option to move there rather than being fined and/or arrested.

I agree that \$45-50 is a lot for one night on an unpowered site but that's the current reality and is not so expensive when there are two people in a van. No matter how tight their budget, travellers are here by choice so need to pay their way, just like we all do when on holiday.

Vivienne Pearson
Ocean Shores

Feathered piglets

Yes, PJ Prideaux (Letters, 11 June) it's great you are willing to donate to a reader's electric motorbike (e-bike) injuries, but enforceable legislation is already in place. Any electric bike with an accelerator, more than 250 watts and capability of over 25km/h is illegal. The key word is 'enforceable.' The group which is supposed to do this is, ironically, the NSW Police Force.

I have written to the general manager at Byron Shire

Council, and Tamara Smith MP for Ballina, and visited Byron police station three times about e-bikes. Byron police people have told me they do not have sufficient cars or staff to, e.g. block off the bike paths and impose fines on e-bikers.

Tamara Smith's office sent me a letter saying legislation is currently underway to give police the power to seize illegal bikes. When that happens, e-bikers will no doubt use social media to warn others about the police presence and illegal bikes will disappear. I hope it is not the same time that pink feathered piglets fly into a glorious winter sunset.

Raphael Lee Cass
Byron Bay

Support local

Judy Plath's letter in last week's *Echo* calling for residents to buy local soy, rather than imported soy is spot on.

Furthermore, our region grows world-class tea, sugar, and increasingly coffee. There's no need at all for locals to import anything to enjoy our favourite beverages.

Is there anything more fresh than drinking tea at the Madura tea plantations (halfway between Cabarita and Murwillumbah) with some Sunshine sugar from Condong and local soy milk? Support local.

Simon Alderton
Byron Bay

Blame both sides

As humanity continues to witness the unfolding catastrophic tragedy in Gaza and the West Bank, it is incumbent upon all decent and compassionate people

► Continued on next page

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For additional information that leads to a conviction in relation to the fire that destroyed units 2, 3, 4 / 26 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay on 03/02/2014.

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► Continued from page 11 to recognise that blame is on both sides of this conflict.

The Netanyahu right-wing Israeli government and the medievalist political Islamist Hamas governing party of Gaza have clearly failed both peoples.

Finger-pointing at one or the other will not advance this conflict, only exacerbate the hatred and acrimony.

The sad irony is both governing parties are equally as bad as each other, and both need to be ousted by their respective peoples.

That said, this horrific conflict has grossly disproportionately fallen on the Palestinian people with staggering high casualties especially on children and women. The road ahead is fraught with many difficulties and obstacles to peace, however what is clear is military conflict will never succeed in bringing a just and enduring peace.

Acting locally draws attention to the public of the complex nature of this historical and political problem, which has many perspectives and different viewpoints, and deserves consideration and respect.

Respectful and civil debate is critical to unpack and discern all these at

times, irreconcilable views. Viewing in absolutist terms – whether religious or secular – is unconstructive towards a negotiated peace, enabling the Palestinian people to achieve a democratic, independent, and free state.

The US and other western nations need to play a constructive role for any just and enduring peace. Israel is highly dependent on the US, and likewise the US needs Israel for its geopolitical strategic ambitions in the Middle East. The current political scene is fraught with many obstacles and global dangers and must be navigated with caution as the global order realigns to suit the major powers.

Ordinary people should recognise that their collective power can and does have influence.

Boyd Kellner
Newrybar

Crazy rat fat

Want to know the crazy story of eight billion humans? They are getting fatter. They are getting sicker. They are eating grains, rat food. Rats run very fast. Rats have a fast metabolism. Grains are rat food.

Generally, humans are not rats. Humans have a slower metabolism. But humans are eating rat food.

In the stomach, grain, starch, breaks into glucose. Humans are eating too much glucose. Unused glucose is stored into fat. Humans have to go to gyms and run in hamster wheels. But humans get bored running in hamster wheels.

So humans get fatter because they eat rat food... then too much glucose is turning into fat. Humans love sweet food but they can't taste the sweet glucose in grain because the glucose is hidden in starch. So humans add sugar to their food which adds more fat to their bodies. Humans get stressed keeping all their fat alive, slowly getting fatter and sicker.

Humans are apes. Apes love sweet food. Fruit has only a total of 15 per cent glucose and fructose. Fructose is the sweetest sugar. Apes eat fruit, not starchy seeds. Starch combined with added sucrose is poisoning eight billion crazy humans.

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

To Fiona Sullivan

Fiona, spare us the melodramatics about people's families serving in past wars, you are not the only person whose family has gallantly served in past Australian conflicts, fighting fascism, racism,

and expansionist expansion, some of us who served in more present-day conflicts are still here today, so don't lecture us on the injustices and brutality of wars.

Fiona, you need a serious lesson in reality regarding the 70-year conflict in Gaza; there are two peoples at each other's throats vying for ownership of the same patch of land, both carrying out atrocities, and showing no sign of compromise, only the complete destruction of each other.

The conflict has moved to be between Iran, a country with a shocking human rights record, especially against women, and the sponsor of the terrorist groups (Hamas and Hezbollah, that have vowed to wipe Israel off the planet), and Israel, that understandably is somewhat sensitive about that.

Fiona, with Trump in the White House calling the shots, this conflict is probably going to get even worse for the Palestinian people, and all of the procrastinations and protesting you and your humanitarian groups can organise is going to achieve little, so toughen up and hope for the best, maybe a miracle.

Keith Duncan
Pimlico

FREE YOGA ALL DAY SAT JUNE 21

6 Byron St. Byron Bay
Yoga for Every Body

FREE COMMUNITY EVENT

DAN STEPHENSON
ELISE OTTAWAY
MARITA DORTINS
COLIN LAIRD
PLUS MORE...

byron yoga studio | byronyoga.com/free-yoga-day

\$5.3 million Mullumbimby Road upgrade starts mid-2025

Council will be doing major improvements on Mullumbimby Road from mid-2025 to December.

Stage 1 – starts mid 2025 (late June/early July) to September

Mullumbimby Road will be open to two-way traffic but at reduced speed. This will result in some traffic delays. Allow extra time for travel.

Where: From McAuleys Lane intersection to The Saddle Road intersection.

What's happening:

- New road pavement, signposting, guardrails, line marking.
- Widening the shoulder of Mullumbimby Road and McAuleys Lane at the intersection.
- New right-turn lane off from Mullumbimby Road onto McAuleys Lane.

Stage 2 – September to December 2025

Mullumbimby Road will be closed to outbound traffic from The Saddle Road. Detours via Coolamon Scenic Drive and Myocum Road.

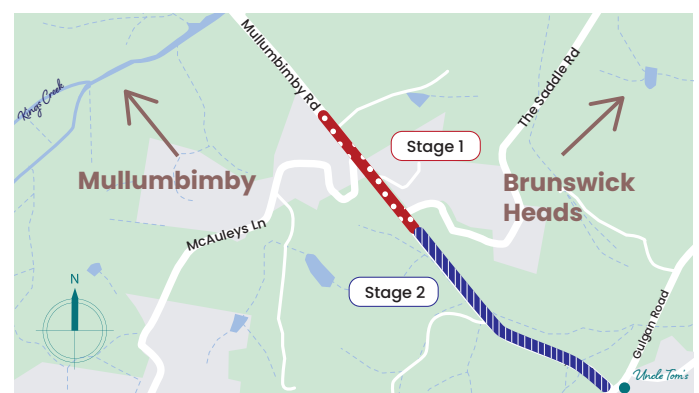
Where: The Saddle Road to Gulgan Road.

What's happening:

- Service relocation, new road pavement, signage, line marking.
- Minor road widening.
- Drainage work to reduce nuisance flooding including drain clearing and new culvert crossings.

Heavy patching from Kings Creek Bridge to James Street

Heavy patching on Mullumbimby Road will be done over the next 12 months. The dates for this work are to be confirmed.



More information

- www.byron.nsw.gov.au/mullumroadworks
- 6626 7000
- ipt@byron.nsw.gov.au



Proudly funded by



Australian Government

This \$5.3 million project is funded by the Australian and NSW Governments and Council.

Flourishing conspiracy theories

Ken Clarke

Beliefs are in the eye of the beholder, and everyone is entitled to their own beliefs. Beliefs only become a problem for society if those beliefs cause harm to the holder or others. Conspiracy theories are one type of belief system, and they are sometimes so extreme they can, and do harm society.

There can be narrow or broad definitions of a conspiracy theory but in general terms, a conspiracy theory is an explanation for an event or situation that asserts the existence of a conspiracy when other explanations are more probable.

Atheists would argue religion is a broad type of conspiracy theory because of its core belief. However, the focus here is on the narrower definition of conspiracy theories the average person would consider outside the bounds of possibility.

QAnon is one of the most publicised and extreme conspiracy theories, mostly associated with the US but also present in Australia. Their overarching core belief is that there are politically active people who are cannibalistic child molesters operating a global child sex trafficking system who want to control politics and the media! QAnon were active in the invasion of the US Congress on 6 January 2021. They believe President Trump is the saviour who is going to clean up this 'mess'! Interestingly, President Trump has in the past supported at least some of the QAnon beliefs and released all 6 January perpetrators when he became president again this year.

Conspiracy theories that believe organisations, people, and government are in secret cahoots to take control are referred to as 'deep state' and there are multiple theories along these lines. The New World Order is a less extreme 'deep state' conspiracy theory to QAnon that elites are seeking to control society.

In Australia, the New World Order appears to be more widely believed than QAnon. These types of conspiracy theories gained traction during the Covid era and included anti-vaccine beliefs that hidden forces were manipulating health measures such as by using 5G technology to track anyone who was vaccinated.

Sometimes the conspiracy theories can easily be proven to be false, such as the flat earth believers. But often,

100 per cent proof that the belief is false is impossible. Take, for example, the tunnel conspiracy theory, an extension of QAnon's core beliefs, that the world's elite are connected by a tunnel under the earth where they can meet in secret and refine their dastardly plans. While this certainly lacks credibility, especially when one considers the cost of undergrounding something simple like electricity transmission lines, it is conceptually possible. And there are people in Australia who believe this to be true! Worryingly, this must affect the way they think and react in our society.

The internet has facilitated the growth of conspiracy theories because the easy access to social media, like Facebook and YouTube, allows these beliefs to be articulated and spread. The beliefs gain traction as they are disseminated to friends and family and, these days, sometimes even pop up as evidence in answers to Google type searches. Social media groups often have exclusive membership from people who seek out these conspiracy type beliefs. This results in their beliefs being constantly reinforced with no dissenting opinions as dissenters are expelled. YouTube is also full of mind-bending conspiracy theory beliefs that anyone can access, even children.

Are conspiracy theories a problem for our society?

There is no concern with conspiracy theories like Elvis Presley is still alive, but others can be of concern if they change people's behaviour in ways that harm society. There are multiple health-related conspiracy theories that are a risk to public health and, for example, have been one cause of the fall in vaccination rates in Australia and overseas. Some conspiracy theories encourage violence to 'fix the problem', as with the murder of the two police officers in Queensland's Western Downs in 2022. Others promote socially divisive attitudes, including about race and religion which should have no place in our society.

As conspiracy theories can be damaging to society, most people would accept and expect some sensible action. We certainly don't want the more perverse and damaging conspiracy theories gaining traction in Australia.

Getting the balance right won't be easy and is made

harder by some issues, that started out as conspiracy theories and ended up being proven correct, as has sometimes happened throughout the world!

The Communications Legislation Amendment (Combating Misinformation and Disinformation) Bill 2024 seeks to regulate false information on digital platforms.

This type of regulation would necessarily require someone to decide what is not the 'truth' in situations where, as mentioned earlier, many conspiracy theories are not able to be 100 per cent proven as false. But other than maths, death, and taxes, almost everything else in society is based on probabilities anyway, even quantum physics. We often hear court cases being decided on 'the balance of probabilities'. It isn't much of a stretch to think there could be a process for saying the QAnon type beliefs are so unlikely they should be on an 'unbelievable list' with reasons why.

Many conspiracy theorists will see such regulation as reinforcing their 'deep state' beliefs that the government is seeking control for nefarious purposes. Other more sensible citizens will complain it conflicts with freedom of speech principles and argue the onus rests with individuals to work out what is and is not credible.

But at least an 'unbelievable list' would inform the rest of the community that you have to take extreme, society-damaging conspiracy theory beliefs with a grain of salt. Maybe humour too!

From my perspective, a key concern is conspiracy theories can cause the community to lose faith in scientists and other experts. This applies to health especially but also to any area where the experts advice should inform society of a problem and directions for a solution. If we can't trust the scientists and other experts, who do we trust when there are difficult matters for society to address?

Maybe the best protection against worrying conspiracy theories is for society to be sufficiently informed to be able to exercise sound commonsense.

■ Ken Clarke worked as a researcher and policy analyst in Canberra, Port Moresby, London and Darwin, mostly in the public sector. This included advising the NT Government as under treasurer on social, fiscal, and economic issues.

MELBOURNE INTERNATIONAL COMEDY FESTIVAL ROADSHOW
COMEDYFESTIVAL.COM.AU

SATURDAY 21 JUNE
Doors 7.30pm Show 8pm
18+ Event

Adult \$55
RSL Member \$50
Group of 8+ \$46pp

Hosted By Jake Howie Special Guests Ben Kochan, Brett Blake, Bronwyn Kuss, Ting Lim

Tania Kernaghan & Jason Owen
Together in Concert
Saturday 28 June

Doors: 7:30pm Show: 8pm
Tickets: \$55 18+

things of stone and wood

friday 25 july pre sale: \$46 18+
doors: 7.30pm support: 8pm

BALLINA RSL

AUSTRALIA'S PREMIER TRIBUTE TO THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
A SPECIAL MATINEE PERFORMANCE
MUSIC OF THE NIGHT
A CELEBRATION OF MUSICALS

SUNDAY 24 AUGUST
Reserved Seating All Ages - Tickets: \$51 - Doors: 1.30 PM Show: 2 PM

SCAN FOR MORE ENTERTAINMENT

ballinarsl

BALLINA RSL



Mur'bah claim Cook Cup

In this year's running of the Grant Cook Memorial Cup, the Mullumbimby Giants first grade side went down to the Murwillumbah Mustangs 28-16, playing at home last Sunday afternoon. The loss will see the Giants struggling to hang onto their top four position on the NRRRL competition ladder. Photo by Sarah

Rebels take rugby wins in lead up to Old Boys Day

Ross Kendall

The Byron Shire Rebels won in second and first grade last Saturday, in a double points round, giving them a crucial leg-up in the competition tables to keep them in the running for finals rugby.

Despite a solid loss in the women's rugby earlier in the day, the Rebels men's sides were able to capitalise on their opportunities against Lismore Rugby Club.

This was an important game for the Rebels, being played for double points to make up for a wash-out in the earlier round.

In second grade, the side was boosted with some experienced players who helped the side dominate against Lismore, who haven't won a game this season. The Rebels ran out 66-0 winners and while fifth on the ladder



A contingent of the Byron Shire Rebels preparing for their encounter against Lismore last weekend. Photo supplied

are just one win behind the next-best teams.

The senior side also came away with the crucial 33-14 win, especially after two near losses in a row.

Sam Valpy went in for two tries and Luke Cleaver, Sam Reid, and Will Latham also scored five-pointers.

The win leaves the Rebels

first-graders in fourth spot on the ladder with 13 points behind Ballina (29), Wollongbar Alstonville (25) and Casuarina (25).

The Rebels have another chance for points when they take on the Lennox Head Trojans this weekend playing at home at the Recreation Grounds.

Brunswick Valley Sports Association returns

The Brunswick Valley Sports Association (BVSA) has reformed after almost a decade, says NSW government-run Reflections Holidays.

Reflections said in a statement that the return of the clubs has not just united the community's three sporting codes, but has prompted 'a groundswell in team membership and participation'.

The statement reads, 'The Association was formed in 1969, and its clubhouse at Stan Thompson Oval is used by the Mullumbimby-Brunswick Cricket Club, Brunswick Valley Bulldogs AFL Club, and the Mullumbimby-Ocean Shores Moonshiners Rugby Club'.

Lay dormant

'For the past eight years, however, the BVSA lay dormant because of the deteriorating clubhouse facilities. By late 2023, the clubs were in desperate need of sponsorship not just for their own team equipment but to save the clubhouse.

'Enter Lorna and Jared Carr, the park managers of Reflections Brunswick Heads,



Brunswick Valley Bulldogs coach and BV Sports Association president Jared Carr with members of the under 9s and 11s team in the new Brunswick Valley Sports Association clubhouse on June 4, 2025. Photo supplied

who are passionate about their community and sport. Jared is president of the BVSA and the BV Bulldogs and also coaches cricket.

'Reflections donated \$10,000 and, with more contributions from the sports clubs and donated labour, the clubhouse was given a lick of new paint, new lighting, electrical fittings, windows, fans and carpet'.

Growing clubs

Mr Carr said, 'The cricket club has grown from one

senior and junior team to two senior and three junior teams with the seniors making the grand final two years in a row and the under 12s also making the grand final last year'.

He says the AFL club has also recorded a 30 per cent increase in junior members with a fourth team ready to be entered for next season.

'The rugby club has been able to attract new quality players for its senior team and recently added an under 18s team to the club', he said.

NET League finals locked in

Jesse Taylor

After a hard-fought tennis season across Northern Rivers courts, the NET League has locked in its four finalists following an action-packed weekend of semi-finals.

In division A, top-ranked Bangalow proved too strong for Wollongbar/Lismore, while Byron Bay produced a clinical performance to defeat Suffolk Park, only dropping a handful of games across the six sets.

Both ties were very convincing wins, setting the stage for a mouthwatering Bangalow vs Byron Bay

final this Saturday.

In Division B, Suffolk Park advanced after Mullumbimby were knocked out on a technicality, while Byron Bay once again showed their incredible depth and composure to overcome a spirited Brunswick Heads side.

The finals will be hosted by Byron Bay Tennis Club this Saturday, June 21 at 2pm.

Everyone from the league, and the broader community is warmly invited to attend what promises to be a celebration of local tennis. There'll be a barbecue, drinks, and a post-match awards ceremony to honour

the winners, standout players, and contributors from across the season.

We'd like to extend our deepest thanks to all the clubs, players, families, and supporters who helped bring this inaugural NET League season to life.

With plans to expand next season, including new junior and social divisions, we're excited to build on the momentum and keep growing community-based tennis across the region.

See you courtside!

■ Jesse Taylor is NET League co-ordinator.

CALLING ALL SPORTS

The Echo wants to support you.

Please send stories, pics, match reports, upcoming events, tall tales (not too tall mind you), results and anecdotes to sport@echo.net.au.

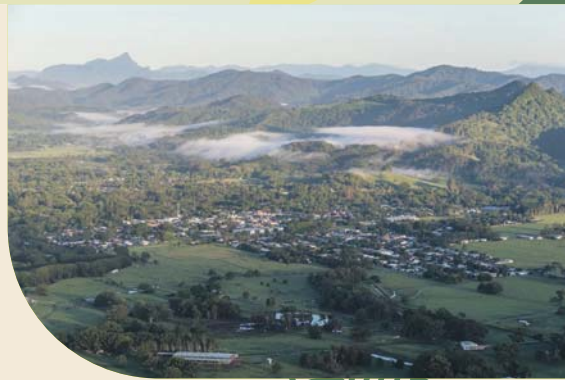


MULLUM ON THE MAP

Fondly known as Mullum, the quaint township of Mullumbimby is cradled by the North Coast and embraced by the Nightcap Range, a sacred site of the Bundjalung people.

Embracing the counterculture of the '70's Mullum has flourished into the perfect blend of a historic country town with an alternate sub-culture. Proudly marching to the beat of its own drum, full of life and living up to its title as 'the biggest little town in Australia'.

With Mount Chincogan looming in the background, heading into Mullum makes for a beautiful scenic drive and when you arrive you can enjoy a range of eclectic shops, cafes, breweries, bath houses, markets and country pubs.



1. DEVINE QUALITY MEATS

At Devine Quality Meats, they do whole beast butchery - respecting the whole animal. Locally-raised, seriously tasty cuts straight from their farms to Mullumbimby plates. Real meat for real people.

devinequalitymeats.com.au
02 6684 2015

2. HEMP CULTURE

Hemp Culture is stocked up on your favourite Heritage shirts in a fresh range of colours. Visit the store and explore their full range from Hemp Clothing Australia.

hempculture.com.au
@hempculture_au

3. MISS TREE MULLUMBIMBY

Explore Miss Tree native plant nursery and gift store. Discover lush native plants, bush foods, books, treasures and gifts, all inspired by our unique landscape. June Discovery sale 10-30% off everything.

Open Monday to Friday 9am-4pm, Saturday 9am-2pm.
0448 974 421
misstree.com.au

4. SON OF DRUM

EOFY Mega Sale!
40% off all guitars.
30-40% off on all effects pedals.
30-40% off all kalimbas.
40% off all ukuleles (excludes U-basses).
While stocks last. Ends June 30.

02 6684 1742

5. STEWART'S MENSWEAR

Stewart's Menswear is the go-to destination for warm winter clothing. Fleece, knits, hoodies, and warm socks to keep you cosy. Visit Stewart's Menswear in Mullum for your winter wardrobe essentials.

02 6684 2148
stewartsmenswear.com.au

6. THE PADDOCK PROJECT

The Paddock is thrilled to announce the opening of its new nursery, offering lush houseplants, native plants, fruit trees, and homegrown seasonal veggie seedlings - fresh, local, and grown with love.

0400 348 209
paddockproject.com

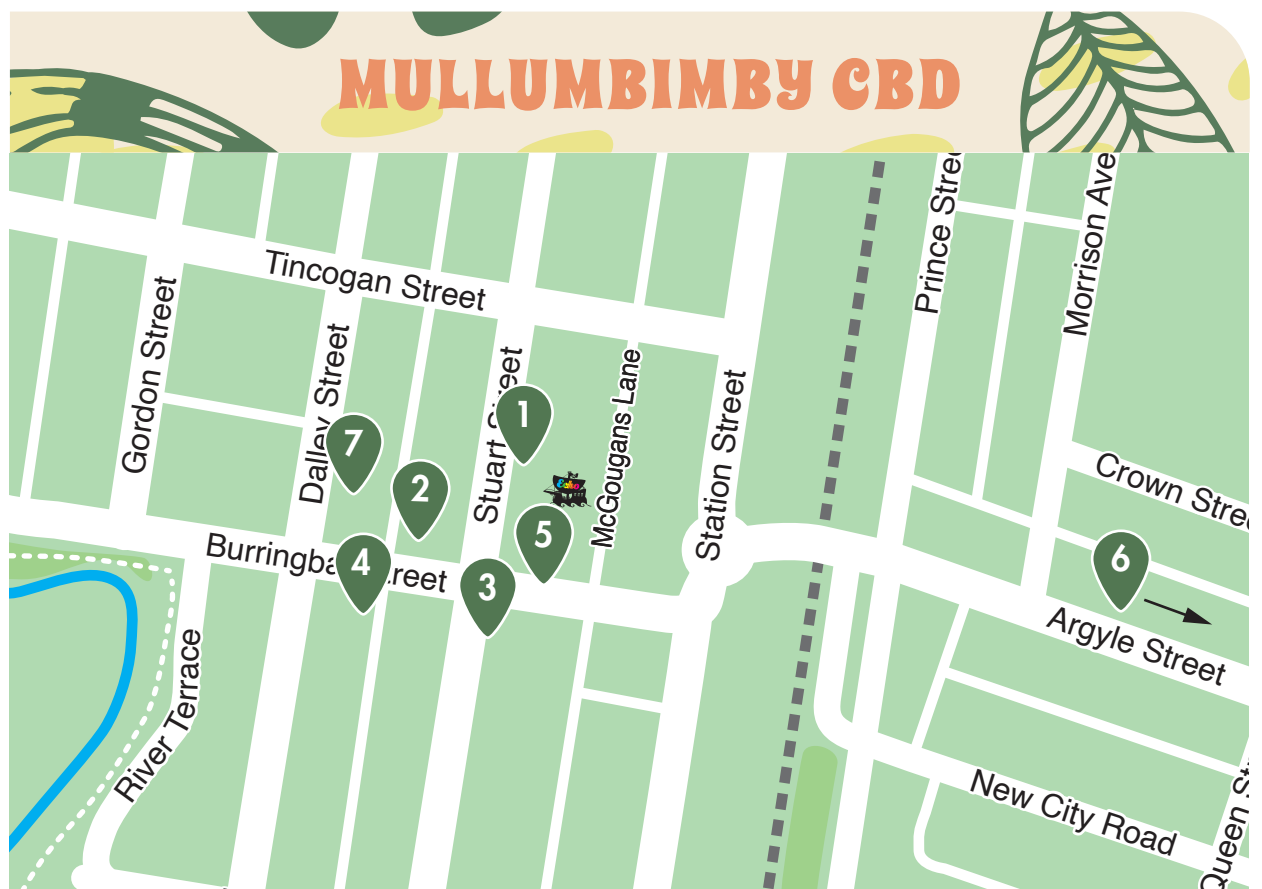
7. BYRON BAY PORK

A local, family-owned business that sources premium quality pork, beef, lamb, and goat from their family farms.

Call in and see their friendly team.
Open Mon to Sat.
02 6684 2137

1. Devine Quality Meats • 64 Stuart Street
2. Hemp Culture • 40 Burringbar Street
3. Miss Tree Mullumbimby • 59A Burringbar Street
4. Son of Drum • Shop 1/31 Burringbar Street
5. Stewart's Menswear • 52-54 Burringbar Street
6. The Paddock Project • 64 Argyle Street
7. Byron Bay Pork • 70 Dalley Street

MULLUMBIMBY CBD



Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BALLINA



Australian Hotel Ballina

Open Daily Pub Meals: Tue-Sat,
Lunch & Dinner • Cantina:
Wed-Sat, Lunch & Dinner •
Sunday Lunch: 12-4pm
103 River St, Ballina
@australianhotelballina

Ballina's go-to for classic pub meals, bold Mexican, cold pints & cheeky margs. Live music, DJs, \$9 Pacific Ale and free feed for the kids on Sundays.

Mention this ad for a free house beer or soft drink with any main meal.

australianhotelballina.com.au



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

BILLINGDGE



Rosefina's Mexican

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

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

BYRON BAY



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.



North Byron Liquor Merchants

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

'Byron's boutique bottle shop'

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



Three Blue Ducks

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

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

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



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 • BYO
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.



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

Savour our chargrilled anticuchos, indulge in fresh ceviche & oysters, or elevate your night with the Roca dining experience. Pair it all with a classic Pisco Sour or our best-selling Hot Like Papi cocktail

HAPPY HOUR

2 for 1 cocktails & beers / 5 - 7pm / Sun to Thurs
Tuesdays: \$3 Oysters from 5pm

BYRON BAY (continued)



Horizon Rooftop

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

Welcome to Horizon,
Byron's newest rooftop bar.

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

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



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.

Good Taste

Deal of the Week

'Every penny a prisoner'

\$3 Oysters every Tuesday from 5pm at Roca Byron Bay

Shuck Yeah! Choose any of the signature oysters and pair it with a happy hour cocktail.



Roca Byron Bay
14 Lawson St, Byron Bay



Burn After Dark: Three Blue Ducks Winter Festival

The Three Blue Ducks have certainly come up with something different for the fourth of July in Australia, something that celebrates what's special about our Byron region – their very first Burn After Dark Winter Festival. They invite you to 'step into the shadows and join us' for this 'fiery celebration of food, art and live music. The live art and music will be supplied in collaboration with Drover band, The Swamps, Versace Boys, Zelimir Hasty, and more, with food and drink

suppliers joining with the Three Blue Ducks such as Moonlight, Loco Love, Azteca Margarita, Brookie's Gin, Jilly Wines, and Common People Brewing.

'This isn't your average night out,' they say, 'it's a celebration of everything that makes this place special, turned up after sunset.'

Tickets are \$90 including performances and live art, snacks from the team at Moonlight, a Three Blue Ducks full fire feast, dessert, arrival cocktail and live music from some of Byron's best.

It starts at 5pm at Three Blue Ducks and there's a shuttle bus.

■ Tickets – threeblueducks.com.







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

Byron Drift Cafe offers a delicious escape



Nestled on Fletcher Street in Byron Bay, Byron Drift Cafe is a vibrant and welcoming gem that seamlessly blends Australian charm with the warm hospitality and rich culinary heritage of Morocco. Opened in late May, this lively spot is the brainchild of Ben Naim, a Moroccan-born chef who brings decades of experience from kitchens in Morocco, Sydney, Newcastle, and the Hunter Valley.

Walking into Byron Drift feels like stepping into a Mediterranean cafe. The atmosphere is unpretentious yet full of character, with silver Moroccan teapots catching the light, French and Moroccan music in the background, and the hum of contented diners. It's the kind of place where you're encouraged to take your time – meals here are an experience, not a rush.

Chef Ben is a standout presence, effortlessly balancing the roles of host and head chef. His passion for food and conversation

is infectious. You'll likely see him delivering meals himself and stopping for a friendly chat at each table. You're likely to find yourself surrounded by French-speaking locals dropping in for coffee or tagine, travellers, and off-duty chefs from around town.

The menu is an enticing blend of Australian staples and Moroccan specialties, with some Italian influences sprinkled in. For breakfast, you can enjoy the usual suspects like smashed avo or a bacon and egg focaccia, but you'd be missing out if you didn't try the shakshuka – especially the vegan version, a hearty and vibrant twist on the traditional dish but without egg of course.

For lunch or dinner, the standout is undoubtedly the Moroccan tagines. The lamb tagine, slow-cooked with cinnamon and prunes, is rich, tender, and full of soul. We also sampled the mushroom and truffle ravioli, which

was creamy, fragrant, and perfectly balanced. Meals come with generous portions and are designed for sharing, a nod to Moroccan communal dining traditions.

The opposite of fast food, slow-cooked dishes are the mainstay of the menu featuring lamb, chicken, and merguez (a spicy lamb sausage with a vibrant red colour and intense earthy flavour), using authentic traditional spices like cumin, cinnamon and saffron.

Prices are refreshingly affordable, making it one of the best-value spots in Byron. The cafe is BYO – one of the few in town that still allows it – adding even more appeal for those looking for a relaxed, budget-friendly night out.

To finish, don't miss the mint tea served in ornate teapots or a slice of lemon tart from a local French patissier. Whether you're a local or a traveller, Byron Drift Cafe offers a delicious escape that feels both

familiar and delightfully foreign.

■ Byron Drift Cafe. BYO. Open from 8am till late seven days a week (often open until 10-11pm). Shop 9/8 Fletcher St Byron Bay. 0412 886 485 byrondriftcafe@gmail.com

AUSTRALIAN HOTEL
BALLINA

There's no place like the pub



Especially when there's tacos, schnittys and burgers flying out of the kitchen like magic. Just click your heels and come hungry.

Kitchen Open:
Lunch & Dinner Tue - Sat
Sunday Lunch

@australianhotelballina
#comehungry




\$25

All You Can Eat

Every Monday

BAY PIZZA LAB | 4/5 2 FLETCHER ST, BYRON BAY | BAYPIZZALAB.COM.AU

New Menu



AZURE

BAR AND GRILL

Book Now 6639 1550 // Locals save 10% with Pegs // ELEMENTS OF BYRON

health & healing



Bangalow Headache Clinic

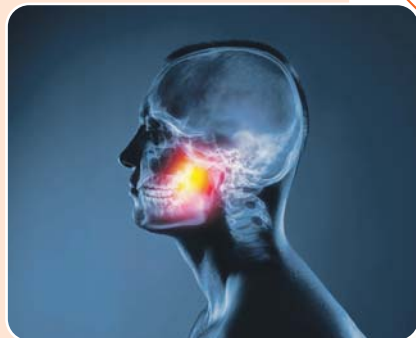
At Bangalow Headache Clinic they treat headaches and migraines, jaw pain, clicking, grinding and locking, as well as vestibular disorders and dizziness.

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

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

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

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



Dr Sam Gartland

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



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

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

Byron Bay Denture Clinic

Not all mouths are the same, and not all dentures are made the same

Some denture wearers face challenges that affect their comfort and confidence. Loose or mobile dentures may require messy adhesives to stay in place, while poor fit can lead to painful rubbing, slurred speech, and even tongue biting. These issues can interfere with daily life, making eating and speaking uncomfortable or embarrassing. However, these problems are not inevitable.

At Byron Denture Clinic, dental prosthetist Troy Fraser provides professional assessments, based on which he can recommend adjustments, relines, repairs, or even a new denture — tailored to the patient's needs. It's the first and most important step to restoring comfort and function, and is why Byron Denture Clinic offers free consultations to all patients.

02 66858 744
8/14 Middleton Street, Byron Bay
www.byrdentureclinic.com.au

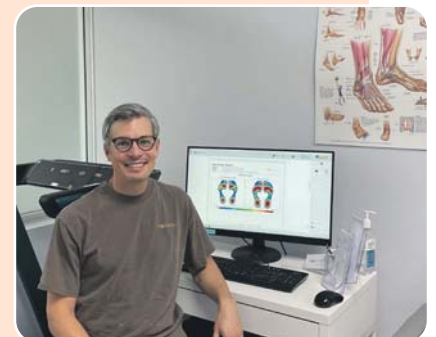


Move freely, Live fully

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

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

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



Getting the love you want

Relationships play a big part in our overall wellbeing, and yet they are inherently complex and multifaceted. Whether you are single or in partnership, counselling can help you understand your relationship challenges.

We tend to expect a lot from relationships: we want stability and freedom, closeness but also autonomy. To create balance in our lives, developing good relational skills is really important. Without these skills, couples tend to get stuck in cycles of blame and resentment, and end up moving further apart.

As a counsellor, Barbra supports people to move towards connection and develop greater self-awareness of the ways you tend to self-protect when you feel hurt. She helps couples learn to communicate with each other in ways that invites connection, rather than resistance.

Book a session at Deep Listening Counselling
Contact: Barbra Joffe 0489 186 443
www.samadeeplisting.com



Empowerment retreats

Step away from the noise and return to yourself

Tania and Tayla host immersive retreats blending nature, community, healing practices, and embodied wisdom — designed for real-life transformation. Their next three-night retreat is for women, July 4 to 7.



They host up to four retreats a year with unique themes — get in touch to stay in the loop.

Between multi-day retreats, connect at their fortnightly 2-hour evening retreats in Kyogle:

Women's Evenings: 2nd Tuesday monthly
Men's & Women's Evenings: 4th Tuesday monthly

Each session offers breathwork, meditation, sound healing, creativity and deep connection. No two are the same. Come as you are — leave lighter, calmer and more empowered.

Bookings & Details, Tania: 0466 033 249
anchorhealthco@gmail.com • @ Gently Unfolding

Gaia Retreat and Spa

Surrender to the beauty and healing power of Australia's most awarded boutique wellness retreat, situated on 20 acres in the Bundjalung Country hinterland of Byron Bay.

Majestically nestled in the healing heartland of Australia, Gaia, meaning Spirit of Mother Earth, will seduce you to drift into a deep state of solitude with its endless vistas and unsurpassed sustainable design.

Drawing on holistic wellness, Gaia Retreat and Spa has curated deeply grounding and restorative experiences that continue to inspire guests.

With a team of over 35 healers and therapists to nurture you, the multi-award-winning Gaia Day Spa is the pure heart of the Gaia experience, and is open every day for retreat guests and external guests to experience the ultimate rest, replenishment and rejuvenation.

@gaiaretreat • @gaiaretreatandspa
www.gaiaretreat.com.au
Call the Gaia Day Spa team on 02 6687 1670



Rest and Reset Sundays Zenthai Shiatsu

In Chinese medicine, winter is a time to turn inward; a season for stillness, rest and deep nourishment.

This Sunday 22 June, come and be nurtured at 'The Nook', a warm and supported space created to honour that need for pause.

Alex, Nathan and Daniel are three bodywork therapists offering dedicated, individual sessions throughout the morning on the second and fourth Sunday of each month.

This is your moment to simply receive, to soften into the present, to be held, and to return to yourself.

Let this be your invitation to step away from the noise, to tend gently to your body and spirit, and nourish your heart from within.

Bookings essential: tinyurl.com/ZenMullum • 0421 921 538



Byron Community College

Byron Community College offers a diverse range of health and wellbeing courses designed to support physical, mental and emotional wellness. From Face Yoga and Vagus Nerve & Cortisol Toning to the Language of Trees, there's something for everyone.

Looking to make a real impact? Enrol in the Certificate III in Individual Support (CHC33021) to gain the skills needed to work in aged care or disability support. These courses are a great way to learn, grow, and connect with your community.

College News: In partnership with Byron Community College, the Mullumbimby People's Pantry is now LIVE!

Order fresh, local produce online: Mon-Wed

Pick up: Fridays 1-4pm at Byron Community College.

Shop online: thepeoplespantry.com.au/pantries/6
(02) 6684 3374 • byroncollege.org.au



Flannerys Organic Wholefood Market : Murwillumbah

From a humble beginning in a Northern NSW shop back in 1973, Flannerys is a community passionate about good food and wellbeing. They offer certified organic produce, whole foods, the option to shop in bulk, chemical-free household products and skin care, local organic meat, fresh bread, milk and eggs... not to mention hundreds of gluten-free and plant-based options.

They believe in the power of nutrition: food is medicine.

Organic where possible, eliminating inflammation caused by pesticides and chemicals and ensuring our earth is cared for.

Free qualified naturopath advice is available in every store, with quality supplements and herbal tonics. They also offer all Flannerys members 20% off vitamins and supplements on the first Friday and Saturday of each month!

02 6678 2284
flannerys.com.au
@flannerysorganic
66 Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah
murwillumbah@flannerys.com.au



SAVE THE DATE

byron healing

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

Byron Weekend Reset Retreat

Held by: Byron Bay Detox Retreats
Date: 20 - 23 June
Time: Confirmed on booking
Address: Blue Green sanctuary
Booking: www.byronbaydetoxretreats.com.au/weekend-reset-retreat
info@byronbaydetoxretreats.com.au
0458 633 869

Face yoga

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Saturday 28 June
Time: 10am - 3pm
Address: Mullum campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby)
Booking: (02) 6684 3374
customercare@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

www.byronhealing.com.au

byron healing: New magazine coming soon

Vagus Nerve & Cortisol toning

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Saturday 28 June
Time: 10am - 1pm
Address: Mullum campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby)
Booking: (02) 6684 3374
customercare@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

Language of trees

Held by: Byron Community College
Date: Saturday 21 June
Time: 10am - 4pm
Address: Mullum campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby NSW 2482)
Booking: (02) 6684 3374
customercare@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

Caahm Method Kinesiology Practitioner Training Course

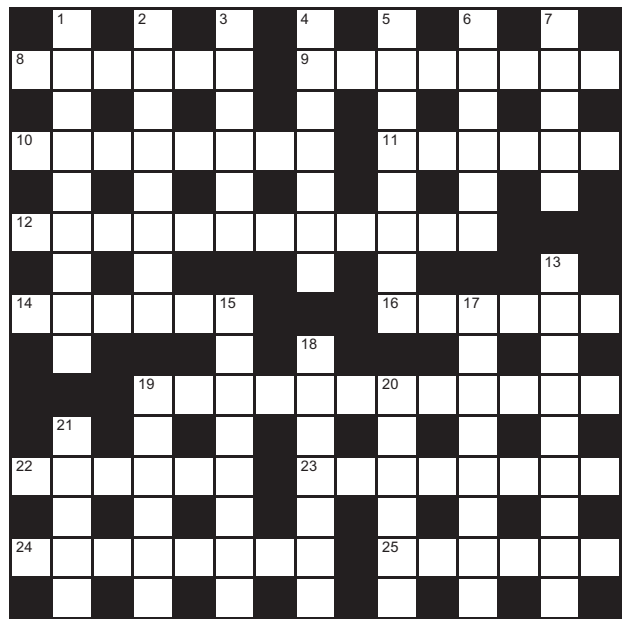
Held by: Corinna Hancock Kinesiology
Date: Monday 23 June - Monday 22 December
Time: 11.30am - 4.30pm every Monday
Address: 37/50 James St, Burleigh Heads
Booking: www.caahmkinesiologyacademy.com/kinesiology

The Gathering (women only)

Held by: The Returning
Date: 1 - 3 August
Time: 3.30pm 1 August to 3.30pm 3rd August
Address: Midginbil Eco Retreat, Midginbil NSW
Booking: www.thereturning.com.au/the-gatherin

International Day of Yoga

Held by: Southern Cross University
Date: 21 June
Time: 10am - 12pm
Address: The Quad, 110 Magellan Street, Lismore
Booking: fundraise.scu.edu.au/event/ido-y-2025



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- 8. Puzzle gets unnatural kudos at university (6)
- 9. A way to get to the capital! (5,3)
- 10. Sir said to shock bird (8)
- 11. Italian painter of giant grasping head of incubus (6)
- 12. English painter wins constituency (12)
- 14. Sly character starting to work on artist's frame (6)
- 16. Turkish leader has problem with paper (6)
- 19. Standard accommodation for religious individuals, originally on a lake (12)
- 22. Squeeze four inside a case (6)
- 23. Steep price for spice! (8)
- 24. Spooner's independent candidate has poem about an actual period (4-4)
- 25. A poet keeps Oscar on (6)

DOWN

- 1. Informal concerts by Greek character, with sequences revealing Italian origin (9)
- 2. Farm workers get lower offers (8)
- 3. Wordplay to needle Indian state (6)
- 4. Employers who handle uniform rates, initially money-lenders (7)
- 5. Doubt fashionable truisms about the beginning of time (8)
- 6. Pain in the side causes holy man an irritation (6)
- 7. French painter immersed in *Code Gastronomique* (5)
- 13. Squadron leader blasted neutral black junior officer (9)
- 15. Queue to grab Spice Girl's intimate apparel (8)
- 17. Movie, for example *Othello*, sent down to demonstration space (8)
- 18. Dutch painter to turn over originals of early Rembrandt masterpieces (7)
- 19. *Cold Mountain* - to Yankee, cold indeed! (6)
- 20. Little lolly cat unfortunately swallowed in spasm (6)
- 21. French painter has long hair cut at last (5)

Quick Clues

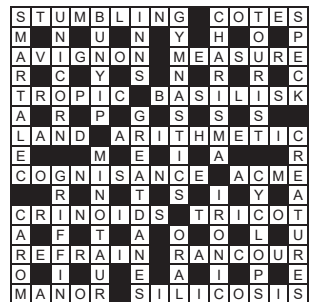
ACROSS

- 8. Number-based puzzle originally from Japan (6)
- 9. Computer key used to type capitals (5,3)
- 10. Nocturnal insect-catching bird (8)
- 11. Renaissance Venetian painter (6)
- 12. English portrait artist of the 18th century (12)
- 14. Small carnivorous mammal with slender body (6)
- 16. Soft disposable paper for wiping paper (6)
- 19. Traditional or customary (12)
- 22. Grammar case indicating indirect object (6)
- 23. Soften by soaking (8)
- 24. Occurring immediately as events happen (4-4)
- 25. On or within a ship or aircraft (6)

DOWN

- 1. Informal musical performances (9)
- 2. Ranch workers who tend cattle (8)
- 3. Northern Indian state bordering Pakistan (6)
- 4. Lenders of money at excessive interest rates (7)
- 5. Lack of confidence or suspicion (8)
- 6. Single loop of thread in sewing (6)
- 7. French Impressionist known for ballet paintings (5)
- 13. Lower-ranking military officer (9)
- 15. Women's intimate apparel (8)
- 17. Display area for merchandise (8)
- 18. Dutch Baroque painter of *Girl with a Pearl Earring* (7)
- 19. Uncomfortably cold (6)
- 20. Small mint or candy (6)
- 21. French painter known for *Olympia* (5)

Last week's solution #59



What a F*ckup

Mandy Nolan

A good f*ckup changes your life... At the time it's excruciating. But sometimes it opens a door to something quite unexpected. It was a f*ckup that was the foundation of one of my most treasured friendships and unexpected collaborations.

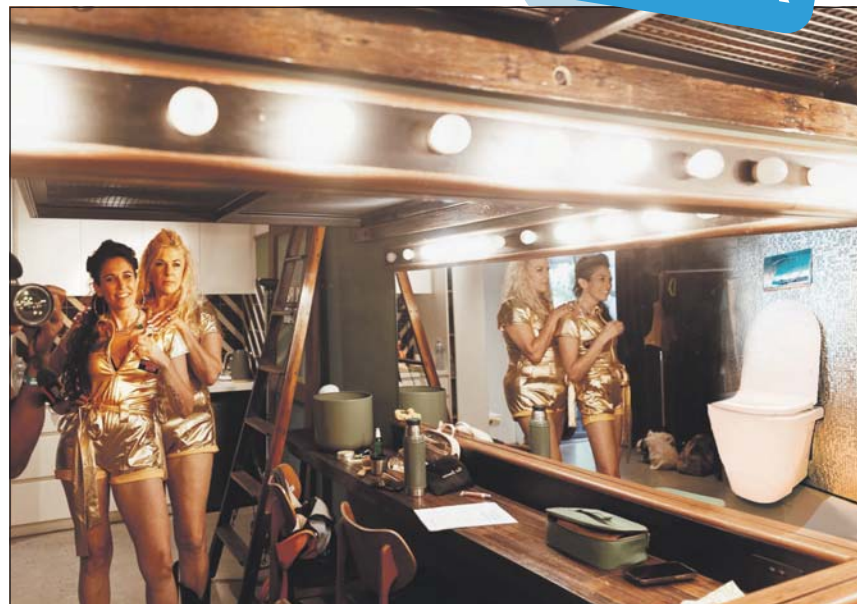
About a decade ago, I was attending the glorious Bello Fest. A music festival where I hosted the opening night, and where I usually performed a solo stand-up show, with bodies pressed from floor to ceiling. Comedians are daggy. We're never cool. Nothing makes you feel more like a rock star than being the only comedian at their festival. I was loving myself sick.

I was finished with my contractual engagements, so was just enjoying swanning around Bellingen, listening to bands and hearing new fans tell me I was amazing (what a wanker). Then I get a call from the festival boss. Brian Nankervis aka host of *RockWiz* was supposed to be arriving to chair the musician Q&A. His flight was grounded in Melbourne. I had 20 minutes to prepare chats with two musicians. Yirrimal, I knew and had written about before, but Áine Tyrrell was a mystery. Unresearched subjects had gone very bad for me once before when I'd interviewed Lloyd Swanton from the Necks and asked him how he wrote his lyrics. When he told me, that in 20 years and 19 albums he hadn't written a single lyric, I paused and said: 'writer's block?' It still makes me blanch years on.

So I google the Tyrrell person. Looks a bit like a wild, gypsy Irish woman living in a bus with her three kids. Something about driving into the desert, something about swords, something about folk music. That will do. I gathered she wrote lyrics so I wasn't about to get 'Necked' again.

The chat with Yirrimal went fabulously well. And next up was the beautiful Irish woman. I was instantly mesmerised by her. The Irish accent. Her warm personality. Her open laugh. I had an instant straight-girl crush. The kind you had when you were at school and you saw someone who was cool and you wanted to be friends with.

So I asked her the big questions everyone wants to know, from this rising star, on what was then described as the indie folk music scene. 'So you live in a bus?' Oh my god, did I even say that. What a middle-class twat. She says, 'Yes. I live in a bus'. And then I continue with, 'Do



you write music on the bus?' 'Do the kids sleep on the bus too?' And the big question every music lover wants to know... 'is there a toilet on the bus?' She started to laugh. That big, broad, full-bodied laugh that has become something I love most about her. I don't think any music journalist had asked her this hard-hitting question before. Brian wouldn't have asked it. That's because he's lightweight. I'm digging deep. It's all well and good to be a cutting-edge musician, but where do you shit?

Áine regains her composure. 'Yes, there's a toilet on the bus'. The audience is relieved. Literally, not actually. The interview, kind of limps on from there. It's hard to establish a robust conversation about music when you ask the musician where she takes a dump. And to make matters worse, I kept circling back to the bus. The freedom of having a toilet on wheels. It was a terrible interview.

It was so bad that Áine and I became friends. Our first meeting, on stage in front of a few hundred people. That f*ckup, of Nankervis not arriving, and me asking stupid questions lit the fire of what has become one of my most treasured friendships, and crazy feminist collaborations, that is The Country Witches Association. Is it a show? Maybe. Is it a group of women who have had enough? Definitely. Is it a celebration of badass women? F*ck yes.

No one laughs at my jokes like Áine. She finds me funnier than I actually am. And when she laughs her whole body laughs. She cries. Sometimes I even make her nose bleed.

Without the f*ckups we would have never connected. We wouldn't have had a crazy first meeting story. And because of that, we have a crazy last meeting story. This Friday, before my friend flies home to Ireland for good, we have one last witches' meeting - at the Mullum Ex-Services Club. Oh, and that old '60s Bedford bus with the toilet... it's for sale.

That f*ckup led me to wearing gold lame hotpants, and shaking an egg, in a show that drives women into a feminist frenzy. It's successful without ever trying. How have f*ckups transformed you and your business?

I'll be hosting a F*ckup Night (for the Byron Bay Chamber and the Byron Community College) at the Hotel Great Northern on Wednesday, 25 June - it's part of a global event series where business leaders, entrepreneurs and creatives share stories of failure and what they learned. Real people. Real failures. Really good stories. Although probably not as good as mine. Just sayin'.

■ 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

This week's Mars marching into Virgo calls time to back up those bright ideas of Gemini season with some level-headed planning and practical action...



GEMINI THE TWINS

ARIES: Arians are energetic workers, but Mars, your impatient primo planet, in the zodiac's fussiest sign, could see you getting irritated or annoyed when others don't think as fast or work as hard as you do. This week's astral advice? Relax and reconnect with your sense of humour.

TAURUS: With Venus in your comfort-loving sign, Mars in another grounded earth sign, and the twins' busy cycle heading into the rearview, this week begins settling into a tempo that's more your cosy, homey speed. Though expansive Jupiter's current placement advises going easy on the feel-good food.

GEMINI: As a Gemini your tastes, interests and plans may change more frequently than other signs. With Saturn joining Neptune in your personal sector of technology and teamwork, certain friendships may begin to fade as your values evolve, but the rock-solid connections that remain will be evident this week.

CANCER: With Jupiter taking up residence in your sign for the coming year, home base and family ties take centre stage. And as Mercury in Cancer moves this week's astral energy from lungs to stomach, nourishment becomes more important than talking. That's nourishment on all levels: body, mind and spirit.

LEO: As astral energy steadily increases in your sector of winding-up cycles, wise lions will spend the next few weeks tying off loose ends, settling accounts of all kinds, bringing closure where possible to unresolved issues, and finalising unfinished biz in preparation for your annual season in the sun.

VIRGO: Feisty red planet Mars in your perfectionista sign could tend to make you just that extra little bit judgy this week, so be mindful of how you come across when giving instructions or advice which might sound more critical than you mean it to. You'll catch more flies with honey.

LIBRA: Saturn in your sector of committed relationships for the first time since 1999, begins a major shift in how you give and receive in close bonds. Bringing clarity, commitment and emotional maturity, this growth cycle challenges you to step into partnerships defined by balance rather than compromise.

SCORPIO: This week sees action-oriented Mars charging into Scorpio's sector of friendships and community. Better get ready for a vibrant surge in productive energy as Mars in its most efficiency-driven and industrious placement translates ideas into actionable plans, budgets, timelines and spreadsheets.

SAGITTARIUS: If fussy Mars activates clashes with family or colleagues over details this week, tune into the bigger picture of Jupiter, your planet guru, sounding a global call for empathy, patience and kindness, echoed by Saturn in your own heart-centered zone. Bring this on home to your nearest and dearest.

CAPRICORN: Your planet ruler Saturn, for the first time since late last century, is activating Capricorn's sector of home, relatives and emotional foundations. Saturn builds to last, so in the interests of a stronger sense of security, conversations around family dynamics, parenting, and caretaking roles are encouraged.

AQUARIUS: Saturn in your zone of social communications helps you refine your voice. Now your words are carrying more weight, clarity is everything and the networks you build can open powerful doors. Even if you aren't literally travelling, you can still expand your mental world and online reach.

PISCES: Extraordinarily, reliability and stability might actually be the sexiest things you can imagine this week. As celestial energetics settle, your overworked psyche could be ready for some quiet, inwardly focused moments without greater distraction than quiet time on the couch with friends and family @ su casa.



✳️ The name **Tay Oskee** has become synonymous with feel-good indie folk music, Tay's songwriting is an uplifting journey with melodies that infiltrate your core. His catalogue is dynamic and listening through his songs leaves you with a sense of nostalgic euphoria.

Sunday 4pm at the Hotel Brunswick. Free show

✳️ Drawing inspiration from the world-famous Howl at the Moon bar and international duelling piano bars, this is an experience unlike any other in Australia. It boasts a team of world-class entertainers from as near as Byron Bay and as far away as the multiverse – locals and tourists alike are flocking to enjoy the duelling piano bar right here.

Wednesday from 9pm, Duelling Pianos – Mitchell Dormer & Dizzy J, at The Northern, Byron Bay. Free show

✳️ An unforgettable night of music at **Undercurrent** – a dynamic showcase featuring TAFE NSW Certificate III and Diploma of Music students from across the Northern Rivers. From original compositions to reimagined covers, this showcase spans a diverse mix of genres – including pop, electronic, blues, and rock.

Thursday 6:30pm at the Byron Theatre. Free show

✳️ **Adam Brown** captivates audiences with his unique vocal style and expressive guitar sounds. Widely hailed as one of Australia's best dobro slide guitarists, Brown will leave you feeling energised and sated.

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



✳️ Oh the times, they are a changing, and there's time for just one last Witches – Áine gives up Australia. Mandy gives up comedy. **The Country Witches Association** has one more ride!

Friday 7.30pm at the Mullum Ex-Services Club. Tickets \$40 via www.ainetyrrell.com/tour

✳️ **The Tyler Durdens** are a three-piece '90s grunge/alternate covers show that formed from the remnants of COVID-19. Delivering all the bangers from arguably the best era in music, The Durdens will take you on a trip down memory lane and dump you off somewhere between the '96 Homebake and '97 BDO, trying to call your folks from a pay phone for a lift home after the 3am kebab stop.

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



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

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

Eclectic Selection WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Game On!

Spaghetti Circus brings high-energy fun to Mullumbimby, so get ready for a whirlwind weekend of flips, fun, and family entertainment as Spaghetti Circus presents its much-loved **Annual Show** from **Friday 27 to Sunday 29 June** at the **Mullumbimby Showground**.

With five unique performances over three days, this year's theme 'Game On!' promises a joyful mash-up of circus artistry and playful creativity.

Showtimes are Friday at 6.30pm, and Saturday and Sunday at 11am and 3pm.

Spaghetti Circus students of all ages will take to the stage, from the adorable beginners in the Macaronis class to the high-flying Performance Troupe.

The show offers audiences a joyful celebration of skill, imagination, and community spirit, all wrapped in a dynamic, game-themed spectacle.

The magic extends beyond the spotlight as Spaghetti's teenage students take charge behind the scenes. They handle stage management, organise backstage, sell tickets, and even manage lighting and sound.

Head of Circus Petrina Hutchinson, says it's an incredible opportunity for the kids to grow as performers and as people. 'There's nothing like the thrill of live performance, and knowing they helped make the whole production happen gives them a huge sense of pride.'

The Annual Show is Spaghetti's biggest fundraiser of the year. Funds raised help support scholarships for families experiencing financial hardship, upgrade essential equipment, and make community outreach possible, like recent intergenerational performances in preschools and aged care homes.

Free adult tickets are available for volunteers, and every ticket sold helps twice – thanks to Spaghetti's use of Humanitix, which donates booking fees to community projects.

To book tickets, volunteer, or see the full schedule, visit www.spaghatticircus.com.

Whether you're cheering for your child, supporting a friend, or just looking for joyful entertainment, this is one local show not to miss. Game on, Mullum!



SPAGHETTI CIRCUS presents...
GAME ON
2025 ANNUAL SHOW
FRI 27 ★ SAT 28 ★ SUN 29 JUNE

5 SHOWS
3 DAYS
FRI: 6.30pm
SAT: 11am & 3pm
SUN: 11am & 3pm

www.spaghatticircus.com
MULLUMBIMBY SHOWGROUND

HSBC
SPANISH FILM FESTIVAL
DRIVEN BY LEXUS

OPENS TOMORROW

THE BEST CINEMA FROM SPAIN + LATIN AMERICA
PALACE BYRON BAY - 19 JUNE - 9 JULY
SPANISHFILMFESTIVAL.COM



O'Leary and Rizzalli

There's something timeless about folk music – the way it carries the stories of people and place, woven through generations. On **Saturday, 21 June**, that tradition comes alive at **Brunswick Picture House**, as two seasoned performers bring their deep love of Celtic and British folk to the Northern Rivers stage.

Jack O'Leary, an Irish singer and multi-instrumentalist, and **Christian Rizzalli**, a gifted musician with a long-standing presence in the Australian folk scene, have been collaborating for over a decade. Audiences might remember them from groups like Stowaways and Munsterbucks, but

in recent months, something new has emerged from their musical partnership.

Fresh from a string of festival appearances – most notably a standout performance at Maleny Music Festival – Jack and Christian have formally stepped into the spotlight as a duo. What they offer is something rare: the perfect blend of authentic tradition, finely-tuned harmony, and a genuine friendship that radiates through their music.

O'Leary and Rizzalli take the stage on Saturday, 21 June. The show is family-friendly, with doors open from 6:30pm, and food and drinks available at the kiosk. Support acts begin at 7pm, with Jack and Christian performing from 8pm. Tickets are selling quickly and are available via Eventfinda – just make sure you're booking for Brunswick Heads, NSW, not Brunswick in Victoria!

BOOK NOW!
Evening Show \$30

Gathering on Bundjalung land
LENNOX HEAD
Saturday 28 June

Evening Triple Bill
KAREN LEE ANDREWS
MOEBIUS with SARAH GRANT
FENN WILSON

Free Daytime Shows
JOE CONROY BAND
CASSIE ROSE & THE SOL GARDEN
MAJESTIC KNIGHTS
SHELLY BROWN • WILD ROCKET
2025

nor'easter ballina shire council @lennoxheads

Wiggle it a little bit or a lot!

Winter Wiggle will be rocking the solstice this weekend with stellar DJs **Halo, Daddy Issues, Jason Lewis, Pob, Curly Si & Sol Array**.

This is a top-shelf, high-vibe party featuring an epic world-class production with monster Void sound system, next-level, moving-head lights, lasers and projection and mapping wizardry c/o Crystal Grid, dance performers and Katsu decor.

Chill on a couch, get warm by the fire, check out Rady J Blackcrab live art, try some Yummify food and drinks, and catch up and have a wiggle with friends – BYO – the dress-up theme is fur and sparkles.

This is a 21+ event, please bring ID if you look young. Under 21s can come with 25+ guardian.

Winter Wiggle is on at Durrumbul Hall from 6pm until midnight on Saturday.



Throwing their arms around you

Twice a year **Big Voice Choirs** from Brunswick Heads and Murwillumbah join together to present an epic fundraising concert. So far, in the last year, they have supported Northern Rivers for Refugees and Murwillumbah Community Centre's youth music program.

On **Sunday at Mullumbimby Civic Hall**, the choir will be presenting their epic mid-year concert. Choirs are a great way to raise money for organisations that are doing essential work in our communities, and this weekend the concert, called *Throw Your Arms Around Me*, will raise money for Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre.



Every day, the staff and volunteers at MDNC open their arms to everyone who walks through their doors, offering support, advice, a meal, and a

listening ear. The money raised at this concert will support programs that, at present, receive no funding.

The concert features all 80 members of the combined choirs, as well as Material Girls Choir based in Bangalow, and Elliott Orr's 20-strong drum ensemble, Zormiwasa.

Janet Swain has put together a beautiful and powerful program of Australian songs that explore identity,

community and kindness. The concert will culminate in a huge community singalong of favourites 'Throw Your Arms Around Me' and 'Solid Rock'.

Big Voice Choirs started eight years ago, and has steadily grown to be one of the biggest community choirs in the Northern Rivers. The next 20-week semester, which will focus on traditional and non-traditional gospel songs, starts in late July on Monday evenings at Brunswick Picture House in Brunswick Heads and Tuesday evenings at M-Arts in Murwillumbah.

Contact Janet for more information at sdynastymusic@gmail.com.

Tickets \$25/\$15. Families \$50.

Throw Your Arms Around Me is on Sunday at 3pm at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall.

BAYSOUNDS NORTHERN 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.

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WINTER WIGGLE
SOLSTICE TRIBE CONNECT

HALO - DADDY ISSUES - JASON LEWIS - POB - CURLY SI - SOL ARRAY

SAT JUNE 21 DURRUMBUL HALL
TOP SHELF PARTY TIME TIX @ HUMANITIX 21+ EVENT

seven days of entertainment



NRYO 2025 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.

Local performer/composer and Northern Rivers Conservatorium librarian, Tilly Jones, says, '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.'

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.

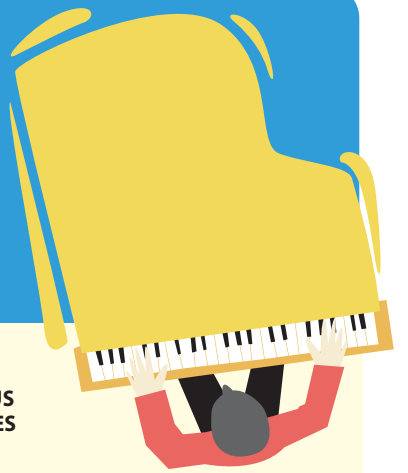
Why wait? Apply now for the Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra and join us for an unforgettable three days of music-making, learning and inspiration. Don't miss your chance to be part of this amazing experience!

The Northern Rivers Youth Orchestra will be held July 8 to 10. Enrol here: <https://nrcac.edu.au/event/northern-rivers-youth-orchestra-2025/>

Enquiries: nryo@nrcac.edu.au
Subscribe: [subscribe.nrcac.edu.au](https://nrcac.edu.au/subscribe)

GIG GUIDE

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



WEDNESDAY 18

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DONNY SHADES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **BEN WHITING**
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM **SCREENING NT LIVE: A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **NIC CAMPBELL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MITCHELL DORMER & DIZZY J**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **OPEN MIC JAM**
- LENNOX PIZZA 6.30PM **OPEN MIC NIGHT**

THURSDAY 19

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **SATIN CALI**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM **UNDERCURRENT – TAFE MUSIC SHOWCASE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **DAN HANNAFORD**, 6PM **SPANGLED THURSDAY FT. PISCO SOUR, SPECIAL FEATURES, MR FINN ND LUCY'S HOUSE**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **ROLY SUSSEX**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO HUM**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **BOO SEEKA**

FRIDAY 20

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MAJESTIC KNIGHTS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5.30PM **KALAKARI + SUNNY LUWE + JEROME WILLIAMS BAND**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **LUKE HEGGIE**

- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4.30PM **DJ SHANE COLLINS**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **OLE FALCOR**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **NATHAN KAYE**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & BODHI ACTON + JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**, 8PM **MATTY ROGERS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ LOST BOY LUDO**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPEOKEE WITH JESS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **JOE CONROY**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- FEDERAL HOTEL, ALSTONVILLE, 7.30PM **GUY KACHEL TRIO**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **LACHIE DWYER**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **ROSE TATTOO & THE POOR**

SATURDAY 21

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE TYLER DURDENS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **DAVE MCCREDIE + IZAEAH MARSH BAND**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DJ IAIN YES**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATT ARMITAGE + KANE MUIR TRIO**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & BODHI ACTON + JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**, 8PM **ABEL + REIF HAND**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **THE VERSACE BOYS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **O'LEARY & RIZZALLI**
- MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL 8AM **FESTIVAL OF INTERBEING**, 7.30PM **AMIR PAISS, AVISHAI BARNATAN, MURRAY KYLE, ASH DARGAN, GABRIEL OTU, CAROLINE COWLEY AND MALLIKA DES FOURS**

- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 5PM **HEADSEND, CERBERUS REDBELLY AND HILLBILLIES**
- DURRUMBUL HALL 6PM **WINTER WIGGLE**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 6PM **THE DEADLY GOOD**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **FLOORBURNERS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **TURTLE BOY DUO**
- SOUTH LISMORE BOWLING CLUB 7PM **MAXIMUM THRUST + GOOD MEDICINE**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **MR TROY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **GREGG PETERSON**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **NATHAN KAYE**

SUNDAY 22

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MARSHALL & THE FRO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 2PM **DJ DAVI BANGMA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MILO GREEN**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & BODHI ACTON**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **TAY OSKEE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **SCREENING – THE BUCKETY**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **SWAMP CATS OPEN MIC**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ XUJA**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **ELLA JONES**
- LENNOX PIZZA 5PM **DAN AND SHELLY TRIO**
- BALLINA MARKET 8AM **JOE CONROY**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 2PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT FBI**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 5.30PM **THE LONESOME BOATMAN**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 3PM **DEZIAH AND DATE**
- CABARITA BEACH HOTEL 3PM **ADAM BROWN**

MONDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD & TIM GRIFFIN**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – BODHI ACTON & MITCHELL DORMER**

TUESDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JON J BRADLEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TIM STOKES**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **TOM GLEESON**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – BODHI ACTON & MITCHELL DORMER**

WEDNESDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAMIEN COOPER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SARAH GRANT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KANE MUIR**, 6.30PM **F*CKUP NIGHT**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & BODHI ACTON + JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – DIZZY J & JON SHORTER**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS OPEN MIC**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **TOM GLEESON**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **OPEN MIC JAM**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB 7.30PM **KEVIN BLOODY WILSON**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY – FEAT LINDSAY WEBB**

THROW YOUR ARMS AROUND ME
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<p>PALACE CINEMAS BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR</p> <p>SESSION TIMES THURSDAY JUNE 19 TO WEDNESDAY JUNE 25</p> <p>ELIO NOW SHOWING</p> <p>COMING SOON</p> <p>SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE</p>	<p>PALACE BYRON BAY</p> <p>SPECIAL SCREENINGS</p> <p>NT LIVE: A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE (ICTC) Thurs, Fri: 6:00PM, Sat, Sun: 3:00PM</p> <p>ONE TO ONE: JOHN & YOKO (ICTC) Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:45PM</p> <p>THE DECLINE OF WESTERN CIVILIZATION, PART II: THE METAL YEARS (WBH) Mon: 6:00PM</p> <p>THE STORY OF SOULEYMANE (M) ADVANCE SCREENINGS Fri, Sat, Sun: 4:00PM</p> <p>FAMILY FILMS</p> <p>ELIO (PG) NIFT Daily: 10:50AM, 11:50AM, 1:00PM, 2:00PM, 4:10PM, 6:20PM</p> <p>HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG) NIFT Daily except Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 3:10PM, 4:20PM, 5:45PM, 8:20PM. Thurs: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, 3:10PM, 4:20PM, 5:45PM, 8:30PM</p> <p>KARATE KID: LEGENDS (PG) Daily: 10:45AM</p> <p>LILO & STITCH (PG) Thurs, Fri, Mon, Wed: 10:45AM, 1:30PM, Sat, Sun: 10:30AM, 1:30PM, 6:30PM. Tues: 11:45AM, 1:30PM</p> <p>ALL FILMS</p> <p>28 YEARS LATER (MATS+H) NIFT Daily except Wed: 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 6:10PM, 8:30PM. Wed: 1:00PM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM</p> <p>FROM THE WORLD OF JOHN WICK: BALLERINA (MATS+H) Thurs, Fri: 1:10PM, 8:15PM. Sat, Sun: 10:30AM, 8:15PM. Mon, Wed: 1:00PM, 8:15PM, Tues: 2:15PM, 8:15PM</p> <p>JANE AUSTEN WRECKED MY LIFE (M) NIFT Thurs: 11:10AM, 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:10PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 1:30PM, 4:00PM, 6:10PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 1:20PM, 4:00PM, 6:10PM</p> <p>MATERIALISTS (M) NIFT Thurs: 10:50AM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM, 8:20PM, Fri, Sat, Sun: 10:50AM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM, Mon, Tues, Wed: 10:50AM, 3:30PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM</p> <p>MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - THE FINAL RECKONING (M) Daily: 12:45PM, 7:00PM</p>	<p>BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS</p> <p>28 YEARS LATER (MATS+H) NIFT Daily except Thurs: 3:00PM, 5:10PM, 7:30PM, Thurs: 12:30PM, 5:10PM, 7:30PM</p> <p>ELIO (PG) NIFT Daily: 9:50AM, 12:00PM, 5:30PM</p> <p>HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG) NIFT Daily: 9:45AM, 12:20PM, 2:10PM, 4:45PM, 7:20PM</p> <p>KARATE KID: LEGENDS (PG) Thurs: 3:20PM</p> <p>LILO & STITCH (PG) Daily except Sat: 2:50PM, Sat: 10:00AM</p> <p>MATERIALISTS (M) Daily except Sat: 10:00AM, 7:40PM, Sat: 7:40PM</p> <p>SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS (PG) MATINEE MEMORIES Sat: 2:50PM</p>
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PUBLIC NOTICES

A Surfer's

Search for Spirituality in Byron Bay. Peter Duke's second book. Second edition - revised June 2025 <https://www.byronbaybook.com/>

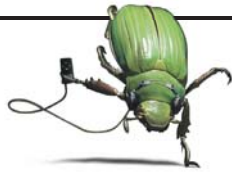
WHERE TO GET THE ECHO If you live in Newrybar, Lennox Head or Ballina, but outside our current home delivery area, you can pick up an Echo from many locations, including: Newrybar Providore Newrybar; Richies IGA Ballina, Ballina RSL, One Stop Shop Ballina, Ballina Golf Club East Ballina, Brighton St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

MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY MARKET & MUSEUM OPEN THIS SATURDAY 8am - 2pm

Yeshe meets Spankinhide & Palm Wine Ambassadors
Playing Live

www.mullumbimbycommunitymarket.com.au
Cnr Stuart and Myokum St Mullum

No dogs please



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Earn 20 hours of logbook credit if you are under 25 and have completed 50 logbook hours.

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www.bys.org.au/whats-on



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Connecting the Byron Shire Community

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IN MEMORIAM



RONALD SWINBOURNE
10/10/1927–21/6/2012

'If I had my life to live over, I would still fall in love with you'

Sadly missed by Jacqueline

FUNERAL NOTICES

In Loving Memory of
WILLIAM KENNETH BALL
17.10.1928 – 14.06.2025

Bill passed away peacefully at Byron Bay Hospital on the weekend. Deeply loved husband of Joan (dec), and father of Judith, Peter & Alison. Cherished Pa & Great Grand Pop.



An invitation is warmly extended for all to attend the funeral service at Mullumbimby Anglican Church on Monday 23rd June 2025 commencing 11.00am

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FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

EVERYONE WELCOME

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

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall

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



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

WAREHOUSE POSITION FOR BILLINUDGEL PACKING DISTRIBUTOR
Start 2-3 days pw, likely to increase to full-time. Some heavy lifting, unloading pallets, order picking, order processing and occasional office work. Computer knowledge essential. Local preferred. walter@greenpack.com.au 66802550

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



Australian Red Cross

Make a real difference in the Northern Rivers.
If you'd like to become an Emergency Services volunteer, come to one of our 8 free training days!
Contact Hannah to find out more or RSVP.
0404 095 127 or email hlillywhite@redcross.org.au.



Volunteer at the many Bangalow Lions Club community events!
A fun, busy Not-For-Profit Club with all funds raised going to worthy causes.
All welcome!
Contact President John Singh 0418 662781 or punjab@byronbaypork.com.au



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Volunteer to make a real difference to neglected, abused & unwanted farmed animals. Regularly or occasionally. Help with animal care, building, admin, grant writing, transport. volunteer@owlandpussycat.org.au



www.owlandpussycat.org.au

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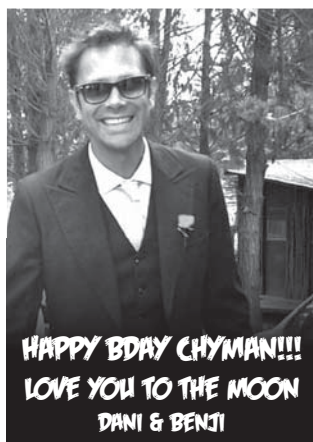
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BIRTHDAYS



HAPPY BDAY CHYMAN!!!
LOVE YOU TO THE MOON
DANI & BENJI

PETS



Ileana is giving a shoutout to let everyone know she's still available for adoption. She says to tell you she's beautiful, easy going and a potential bed warmer for these winter nights. Friendly with fellow felines, she'd be open to meeting existing fur brothers or sisters. To meet Ileana and 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: R25100222

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



Yuki is a 6-year-old desexed White German Shepherd, surrendered due to her owner's ill health. She's house-trained, knows basic commands, great with kids under 10, and has lived with other dogs (slow intro needed, caution with small dogs). Protective but never aggressive, she barks to alert. Yuki needs a loving, experienced home with a large, secure yard. Walks well on a nose halter. **Please contact Shell on 0458 461935. MC: 900079000643543**
Private adoption - serious enquiries only.



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SUN, MOON & TIDES

- TIMES FOR NEXT 3 WEEKS

DATE (Date/July)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
18	W	6:37 / 16:56	23:33 / 11:25	0056 1.63; 1345 1.26	0742 0.44; 1914 0.61
19	TH	6:37 / 16:56	11:56	0148 1.56; 1452 1.36	0830 0.41; 2030 0.64
20	F	6:38 / 16:57	0:35 / 12:28	0246 1.48; 1558 1.48	0920 0.37; 2151 0.63
21	SA	6:38 / 16:57	1:40 / 13:03	0348 1.40; 1700 1.62	1009 0.33; 2310 0.58
22	SU	6:38 / 16:57	2:48 / 13:43	0453 1.33; 1758 1.76	1059 0.29
23	M	6:38 / 16:57	4:00 / 14:30	0557 1.28; 1853 1.87	0021 0.50; 1148 0.26
24	TU	6:38 / 16:58	5:12 / 15:26	0657 1.24; 1945 1.95	0125 0.42; 1238 0.24
25	W	6:39 / 16:58	6:21 / 16:29	0753 1.22; 2036 1.99	0221 0.36; 1328 0.24
26	TH	6:39 / 16:58	7:24 / 17:37	0846 1.20; 2124 1.98	0313 0.33; 1417 0.25
27	F	6:39 / 16:58	8:17 / 18:45	0936 1.20; 2210 1.93	0400 0.33; 1506 0.29
28	SA	6:39 / 16:59	9:02 / 19:51	1024 1.19; 2253 1.84	0446 0.36; 1554 0.35
29	SU	6:39 / 16:59	9:39 / 20:53	1112 1.19; 2333 1.73	0530 0.40; 1641 0.44
30	M	6:39 / 16:59	10:11 / 21:51	1200 1.19	0610 0.44; 1730 0.53
1	TU	6:39 / 17:00	10:40 / 22:46	0012 1.61; 1254 1.20	0649 0.47; 1823 0.64
2	W	6:39 / 17:00	11:07 / 23:40	0050 1.48; 1354 1.23	0729 0.49; 1925 0.72
3	TH	6:39 / 17:01	11:34 / 17:01	0132 1.36; 1458 1.28	0810 0.49; 2041 0.78
4	F	6:39 / 17:01	12:01 / 0:33	0223 1.26; 1600 1.36	0854 0.49; 2204 0.77
5	SA	6:39 / 17:01	12:31 / 1:27	0323 1.18; 1654 1.44	0940 0.48; 2317 0.73
6	SU	6:39 / 17:02	13:05 / 2:22	0425 1.13; 1742 1.53	1027 0.47
7	M	6:39 / 17:02	13:43 / 3:19	0524 1.11; 1826 1.61	0016 0.65; 1112 0.44
8	TU	6:39 / 17:03	14:28 / 4:16	0615 1.11; 1907 1.68	0104 0.58; 1155 0.51
9	W	6:38 / 17:03	15:19 / 5:13	0702 1.13; 1948 1.74	0145 0.51; 1236 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.

Woodburn Winter Wonderland Festival

The Woodburn Winter Wonderland Festival is taking place on Saturday, 28 June from 2pm until 8pm in the heart of Woodburn. This free, family-friendly event will ensure all the family have plenty of fun.

Northern Rivers Collectors Club

The Northern Rivers Collectors Club Inc. are holding their 33rd Antiques and Collectables Exhibition and Trading Fair at the Murwillumbah Civic Centre on Sunday, 10 August, 8.30am to 2pm. Entry Adults \$6 Child \$1. There will be, antiques, vintage, retro and modern collectables, such as china, glassware, tools, fishing, garage items, and old bottles. The Rotary Club of Mt Warning Murwillumbah will be running a BBQ, snacks, and refreshments. Proceeds from this event will be donated to Tweed Palliative support Inc. For more information call 0439 779 577.

U3A Brunswick

Lifelong learning for retired seniors in your third age with U3A in Brunswick Heads. The new Brunswick Debaters is starting alongside ongoing interest groups that include garden group, foodies, movie and lunch, men's shed, French revisited, Scottish folk dance, mahjong, walkers and talkers, shabashi, cable tennis, and chess. Annual membership \$20 now due. For more information call Denise 0423 778 573.

Secondhand book fair

Friends of Libraries are holding their annual secondhand Book Fair and wish to thank all contributing donors of books for 2025, as our storage shed is now full please save any further books until next year. This year's Book Fair will be held at the Byron Bay Surf Cup from 11-14 July, doors open 9am to 4pm each day. Over 1,000 books of all categories some extremely rare, ancient, or very topical, plus many hidden treasures, all in good condition. One of the highlights of the four days is the Friends of Libraries huge raffle, with over 20 locally-selected prizes drawn on the last day of the fair. A event not to be missed. Further information: www.byronbayfol.com

Youth arts Glimmer Lab

Glimmer Lab is a Byron Youth Service Contemporary Arts Program for youth aged 16 to 21. Held at The YAC each Wednesday afternoon until 2 July, Glimmer Lab encourages creativity in an accessible and inclusive environment. For more information or to sign up contact Karma on 0490 801 418 or karma@bys.org.au.

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)

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.

Pottsville Community Association

The Pottsville Community Association monthly meetings are held on the last Tuesday of month, 6.30pm at the St Marks Anglican Church, 15a Coronation Avenue, Pottsville. All welcome to come and have your say as to what is going on in your local area. For details contact secretary@pottsvillecommunityassociation.org or via Facebook.

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.
Gulganii 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.

Byron Community Centre

The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to enjoy practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. **Fletcher Street Cottage services** are open Tuesday-Friday; breakfast 7am-9am; showers and laundry 7am-12pm; office support 9am-12pm. Individual support appointments with community workers and specialist services available please book on (02) 6685 7830. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au. **Byron Seniors Club:** www.byronseniors.com.au. More info on **Community Services:** www.byroncentre.com.au Phone: (02) 6685 6807.

Low-cost or free food

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

ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

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



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Riding the Waves of Real Estate

Tezu Harrison never imagined he'd end up in real estate. He grew up in Broken Head and Suffolk Park, completely immersed in surfing – competing, travelling, living for it. But when Covid hit, his sponsorship ended, travel stopped, and he found himself back home, unsure of what was next. Real estate came into the picture almost by accident. He landed a job, and while picking up the phone and door-knocking felt unnatural at first, something about the industry stuck. Maybe it was his competitive side. He pushed through, learned fast, and never looked back.



From the early stages of his career, he's prioritised servicing serious buyers ahead of launch, and this was one of those moments. The property sold for \$8,250,000 – before advertising even began. Tezu extends a huge thank you to the family for trusting him with such a sentimental sale, and wishes all the best to the new owner.

Looking at the broader market in 2025, Tezu notes that confidence is creeping back in. After a few shaky years post-Covid and some challenging interest rate hikes,

a shift is underway. Rates are beginning to ease, and that's bringing a new wave of buyers into the market – some returning after sitting on the sidelines, others looking to make lifestyle changes they've been holding off on. There's definitely more momentum now than there was in 2024. Buyers are still cautious, doing their homework, asking more questions, taking their time – but they're also willing to move when the right opportunity comes along. As we head into the second half of the year, Tezu remains optimistic. If current conditions hold, he believes we'll see a strong finish to 2025.

■ Tezu Harrison
0448 000 234
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PRICE | Contact Agent
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7 AZOLLA PLACE, SUFFOLK PARK



Solid Home with Room to Grow in Beachside Suffolk Park

3 beds 1 sofa 2 bathrooms 1 car 528M²

- Located in a quiet cul-de-sac, just a short walk from Tallow Beach
- The open-plan living and dining area is light-filled with seamless access to the backyard
- Generous sized bedrooms each with built-in robes, the main includes an ensuite
- Walk to Suffolk Park amenities, bike ride or a short drive to Byron and local schools

PRICE | \$1.79M - \$1.9M
OPEN | Sat 21st June 10 - 10:30am



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58 CORKWOOD CRESCENT, SUFFOLK PARK



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3 beds 2 sofas 2 bathrooms 3 cars 1000M²

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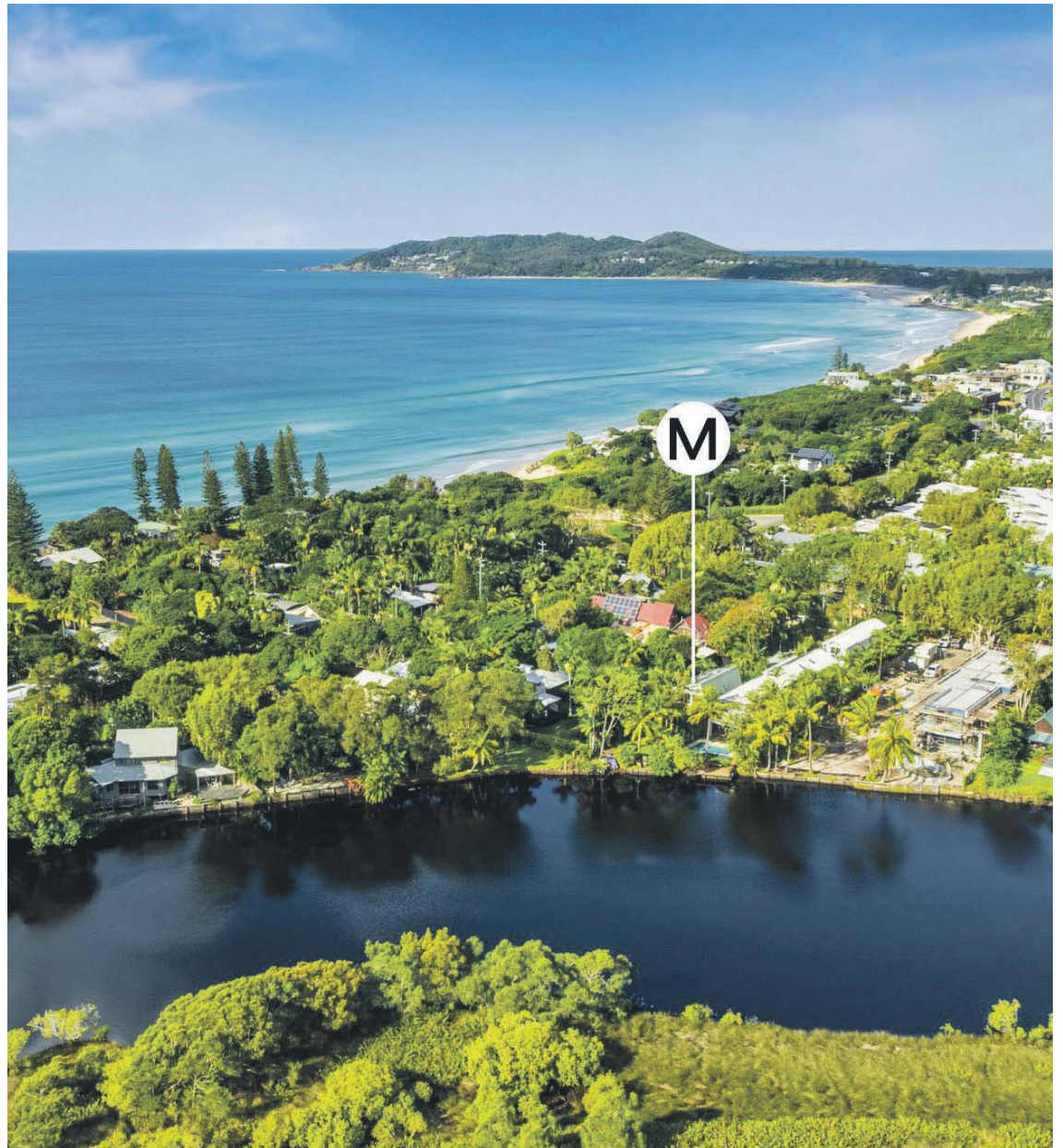
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Safe Haven North Coast hubs have been established and are funded by Healthy North Coast through the NSW Government's Northern NSW Flood Recovery Program. Safe Haven North Coast services are delivered by The Buttery.

Does anyone remember former Byron Council General Manager Max Eastcott? He received an OAM last week for his services to the community (as did former Liberal PM Scott Morrison).

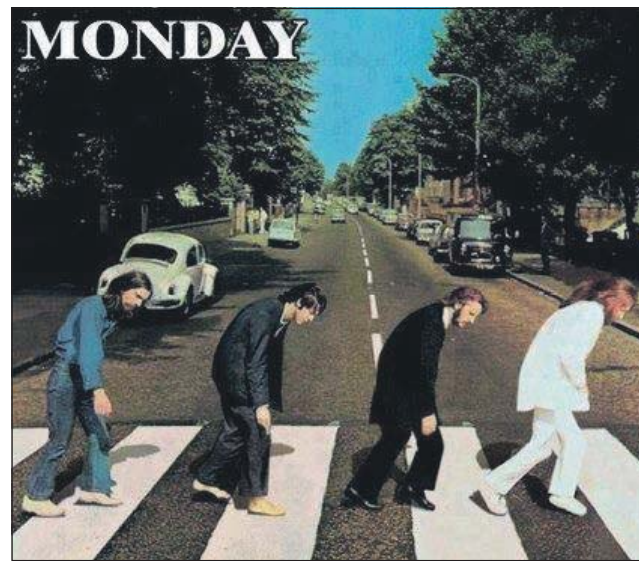
Burradoo, in the NSW Southern Highlands, now holds the title of Australia's most expensive regional town, according to www.brokernews.com.au, with a median house price of \$2.55 million, narrowly overtaking Byron Bay's \$2.535 million.

To celebrate World Yoga Day, free yoga classes will be held all day on Saturday, June 21 at the Byron Yoga Studio, located at 6 Byron Street, Byron Bay. Bookings essential – visit www.byronyoga.com for more info.

In response to a US president with racist and fascist proclivities, a 'No Kings' protest was held as the wanna-be king staged his little armed forces display in Washington. Meanwhile eight journalists – including from Australia – were deliberately targeted and shot by rubber bullets by militarised police at the LA riots – see page 10.

Anglicare and Byron Anglicans are hosting a free info session on Thursday for volleys to build local capacity with evacuation and recovery centres. It will be held from 9.30am till 12pm at the Bangalow All Souls' Anglican Church. No prior experience or religious affiliation required. For more information or to register visit www.bit.ly/DRvols or call Bec Talbot on 0449 667 511.

For those playing 'Councillor pecuniary and non-pecuniary



One of the lesser-known Beatle albums. Photo internet

interest' bingo at home, developer-connected Cr Jack Dods is by far ahead on the leaderboard, with an impressive scorecard this week.

Ten years ago in *The Echo* (June 17, 2015), we reported that 'Councillors explore the finer nuance of coastal engineering', and we said farewell to artist, *Echo* masthead creator and a kind gentleman, Geoff Williams.

The Fletcher Street Cottage, a homelessness hub run by the Byron Community Centre, has been awarded a 15-year licence by landowner, Byron Shire Council. Councillors voted for the long licence at last week's meeting, which is an extension from previous years. 'Council is really proud to support Fletcher Street Cottage through a long-term licence as it provides such compassionate, practical and respectful support for some of our most vulnerable community members,' Byron Shire Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, said.

ASX-listed gas giant APA Group says it will opt-out of the bidding to develop

some of Australia's biggest new electricity transmission projects, reports reneweconomy.com.au. Instead, Australia's biggest gas pipeline owner plans to 'focus instead on opportunities

"complementary" to its current portfolio of assets'.

Psst: A Performance Audit by the NSW Auditor-General into the regulation of gaming machines has exposed the NSW Labor government's 'ongoing failure to effectively regulate poker machines in order to reduce the substantial harm they cause', says NSW Greens MP Cate Faehrmann.

Calling all design artists, fashion innovators, culture initiators and wearable inventors! Shearwater School is thrilled to announce the launch of WAVE (Wearable Arts Vision in Education) 2025: Runway Gods. It's the 25th year of the school's annual wearable arts performance event. There's up to \$8,000 value in prizes. Visit www.shearwater.nsw.edu.au.

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