

Biggest little town gets tuneful



Locally-based musician, Emily Lubitz, is one of the performers at this weekend's Mullum Roots Festival. Photo Jeff 'Off The Very Special Bus' Dawson

With the opening night gala sold out, the Mullum Roots Festival is shaping up to be a big weekend for the Biggest Little Town in Australia.

The festival line up includes The Waifs, Jeff Lang, Robert Forster, Emily Lubitz, Shane Howard, Claire Anne Taylor, Dog Trumpet, The Soul Movers and a rollcall of local acts like the Versace Boys and Lou Bradley.

Like the Mullum Music Festival held years ago, punters can venue-hop through the town and soak up live music with friends. Saturday will have a psychedelic feel, with legendary artist Ellis D Fogg.

'Hootenanny Sunday', will feature a laid-back celebration of alt-country and roots.

Grab final tickets at mullum-rootsfest.com and head to @MullumRootsFestival for artist updates.

Byron SAE/ACAP campus to wind down by 2028

The SAE and ACAP University Colleges at the Byron Bay campus will begin a long-term wind-down process, with operations to conclude by February 2028.

Established in 2004 as a degree centre for students in audio and film, it grew as a destination for aspiring creatives from around the world.

Matthew Evans, Executive General Manager, SAE University College said, 'Byron Bay has been more than a campus – it's been a creative hub for artists, educators, and innovators. However, our institution has evolved, and so has the education landscape.'

Student demand

'International student demand has shifted, and domestic enrolment in the region is no longer sufficient to support future operations. With our lease concluding in 2028, this marks a natural end to our time at the Byron campus.'

In a statement, SAE and ACAP said the trimester 2 intake in May, 'was the final cohort of new students to study at the campus with no new enrolments moving forward. Currently, the Byron Bay campus has approximately 180 students and 40 staff members.

'All academic staff at SAE and ACAP University Colleges will remain in their roles in the immediate term. While there are many variables to student completion timelines, this slow wind-down has been designed to ensure that all current students at ACAP and SAE University Colleges have the opportunity to complete their studies uninterrupted

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Bruns tunes in for new piano

Yantra de Vilder performs at the outdoor concert at the Soundshell in Terrace Park. Photo Jeff 'Twinkle Tinkles' Dawson

Brunswick Heads celebrated the arrival of a new community piano, with a joyful outdoor concert at the Soundshell in Terrace Park. Donated by the ABC and Pianos for the People, the piano was officially welcomed with the inaugural Brunswick Heads piano concert, drawing a crowd of over 200 people. The afternoon showcased 14 talented local pianists, each bringing their own unique

style and energy to the stage. Special guest Yantra de Vilder delivered a moving performance, joined by a local choir that added depth and harmony to the program. Organisers said, 'The event highlighted the strength of the town's creative community and the power of music to bring people together. Audience members of all ages enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere, with many praising the high

quality of performances and the spirit of the occasion'. 'The new piano, now a permanent fixture in the park, is expected to be used for future performances, spontaneous playing, and community gatherings. 'A heartfelt thanks goes to the ABC and Pianos for the People for their generous donation, which will continue to inspire and connect the Brunswick Heads community through music'.

Mullumbimby roadworks have begun

A large-scale upgrade of Mullumbimby Road – from Uncle Toms to the town – has commenced, and Council staff are warning residents it will cause significant traffic delays and detours until December. Owing to the complex \$5.3 million project, Mullumbimby Road will be closed to outbound traffic from September, with access maintained up to McAuleys Lane. In the early stage of the roadworks, Council has asked locals to consider alternative routes out of Mullumbimby, via the northbound Coolamon Scenic Drive and the southbound Myocum Road. The two-stage project had

been delayed since May, when residents raised concerns about the lack of clarity and inadequate consultation around the upgrades. Additionally, councillors intervened with motions and instructed staff around community engagement and providing clarity. Council staff say that the first stage of the project will improve traffic safety on Mullumbimby Road and its intersections with The Saddle Road and McAuleys Lane, causing intermittent traffic stops and changed traffic conditions. Works include shoulder-widening of Mullumbimby Road and McAuleys

Lane at the intersection; the introduction of a right-hand turn lane for vehicles turning right onto McAuleys Lane from Mullumbimby Road, new road surface, signage, guardrails and line marking. Staff say, 'Trees and vegetation growing in the road reserve near Gulgan Road will be removed in preparation for stage two'. The second and final stage, set to begin in September, will address traffic safety and drainage of The Saddle Road and Gulgan Road. It involves widening the current road corridor, which leaves no space for a temporary lane for outbound traffic.

Byron SAE/ACAP campus to close by 2028

► Continued from page 1 and to mitigate any student disadvantage. 'ACAP and SAE University Colleges will work closely with all students and staff to ensure that students are able to finish their studies as undisrupted as possible and will support any students seeking alternate arrangements. 'If a student's current projected timeline will take them past February 2028, there are support services available to discuss options with them. These options include the potential to offer them scholarships to finish their studies at one of our other campuses or online, where they can continue to receive high-quality teaching from our experienced, industry-connected educators'.

Lara Jacques, General Manager, ACAP University College said, 'We're committed to engaging openly and respectfully throughout this transition. We will continue to engage with all impacted students and staff in proactive communications, and I encourage them to reach out

if they have questions'. The statement reads, 'Flexible learning options will continue to be offered online for all Byron Bay students, as well as access to resources and support through the Brisbane campus'.

Other campuses to remain open

'There are no plans to close other campuses. Both SAE and ACAP University College will continue to offer practical education from industry experts, across Australia and globally'. The National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) said they were 'deeply concerned about the planned closure' and that it would impact the region. They said in a statement, 'The Byron Bay campus was originally established through a global recruitment drive for both staff and students in 2004'. 'It has become a unique regional hub for higher education in the creative arts, media industries and psychology industries – with

no comparable institution in the Northern Rivers and potentially across all of northern NSW'. The NTEU said, 'The closure will impact local access to tertiary education in fields such as film, music, media, animation, graphic design, and games at SAE, as well as psychology and counselling at ACAP. With Southern Cross University (SCU) also teaching out or closing equivalent creative industries programs, options for regional students are rapidly disappearing'.

2022 flood impact

'Part of the enrolment downturn at SAE and ACAP is linked to the long-term impacts of the 2022 Lismore floods. Many students lost their homes and were forced to pause or abandon their studies owing to the ongoing trauma and displacement that followed. 'The closure will further limit educational opportunities and creative outlets for young people in Byron Bay and surrounding community,' added the NTEU.



No better winter's day

The Byron Beachside Market drew the holiday crowds on Sunday, with fine weather, local creativity, artisan wares and live music at the Main Beach foreshore. 'This is Byron at its best,' says Byron Markets manager, Carl Taylor. 'You've got the ocean right there, live music in the air and incredible local makers sharing their work. It's the ultimate school holiday road trip – fresh air, good food and a market experience like no other.' Photo Jeff Dawson

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Young Isobel scoops Archibald

Eve Jeffery

While the art world awaited the results of this year's Archibald Prize, 12-year-old Isobel Bazar was just happy to see the portrait she painted of her Oma hanging on the wall of The Art Gallery of NSW.

'I was surprised and happy to be in the gallery,' she said on Sunday, after a busy weekend in Sydney.

'My portrait was next to some amazing works by the older artists. They were all incredible.'

Isobel says it was very surreal to watch other people looking at her work.

'I've only ever done art locally in class and school. To see adults in the art gallery looking at my artwork and commenting that they liked it was pretty special.'

And Oma's response? 'What! Oh my gosh!'

Isobel says Oma was really happy, and that she has kept the newspaper articles and told family overseas.

'The Young Archies has gone international! My grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, mum, dad and brother have been to see it too. They are all super happy for me. It's nice to share it with them all.'

Isobel says her bestie was really happy about the win. 'She was so



Isobel Bazar's winning portrait. Photo NSW Gallery



Isobel and grandma Oma. Photo Eve Jeffery

'It's a great initiative by the art gallery, and they really do want to promote the next generation of artists. We would encourage anyone with kids who enjoy art, to have a go.'

For her efforts, Isobel, who was at the gallery for the announcement, won \$200 from ANZ who sponsored the

prize, and 'a lot' of art supplies which is perfect, because she says the win has inspired her to do more artwork.

'I've always loved art and to be recognised at this level, it motivates me. One of the judges - Jumaadi - is such great a artist himself, it's incredible he chose mine. I saw Victoria (Collings) at the award ceremony.

'She was the other judge and she runs the Young Archies and knows a lot about art. So cool!'

excited for me. We grieved out over the Frank Green/Art Gallery drink bottle that I got as part of the prize pack. She was making pastries to celebrate Canada Day. She's a great baker.'

Isobel's parents Rachel and Andrew, have nothing but praise for the event.

Positive experience

'It has been a positive experience for us, not just winning, but the process from go to whoa', they said.

NAIDOC marks its 50-year milestone

Eve Jeffery

Last Sunday marked the beginning of the 50th NAIDOC Week, an event which is celebrated from the first Sunday in July until the following Sunday.

The acronym NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee. NAIDOC Week has its roots in the 1938 Day of Mourning, becoming a week-long event in 1975.

The National NAIDOC Committee says this 2025 NAIDOC Week marks a powerful milestone: 50 years of honouring and elevating Indigenous voices, culture, and resilience.

'The 2025 theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy," celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of our young leaders, the vision of our communities, and the legacy of our ancestors.'

Recognition and rights

The NAIDOC website says the journey began as a movement for recognition and rights, sparked by Indigenous communities who saw a future built on justice and equality.

'Over the decades, it has grown into a powerful national celebration, a testament to the enduring strength of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.'

'As we commemorate this 50-year legacy, we also look forward,



NAIDOC's 2025 poster

honouring the next generation who will carry the torch, shaping the future with courage, insight, and deep respect for our roots. Guided by the wisdom of our Elders and the groundwork laid by our forebears, each NAIDOC Week reinforces our vision for an Australia where Indigenous voices are not only heard but lead the way.'

Arakwal woman, Indigenous business owner and Byron Shire councillor, Delta Kay, says there is a lot happening during the week.

She says, 'NAIDOC Week is important because it showcases Aboriginal

peoples and elevates our voices - it highlights the great work that we're doing. It's a celebration for Indigenous people and is part of the calendar where we can really focus on leading.'

Ms Kay feels that it is important that non-Indigenous people not only celebrate NAIDOC Week, but be a part of it.

'Everyone wants to put Indigenous flags on Instagram, but do they do anything about it? People need to act, not just post cute photos.'

'People need to join in with NAIDOC or reach out to Indigenous organisations and be part of real change, not just posting a story online.'

Thursday family day

You can join the Bundjalung of Byron Bay (Arakwal people) and Byron Shire Council to celebrate NAIDOC Week in Byron Bay on Thursday at a free community family day from 10am to 2pm.

The event will kick off with a march from Railway Park to Denning Park at 10am, and festivities will continue at Denning Park.

There will be a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony, cultural dances, stalls, an Elders' tent, face-painting, weaving and visits from NRL football players.

Stay for a free barbecue lunch.

To find out more about the history of NAIDOC Week and celebratory activities, visit: www.naidoc.org.au.

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A closer look at govcorp's precedent-setting Mullumbimby DA

Hans Lovejoy

The long-awaited development application (DA) to redevelop a Mullumbimby carpark into 32 small 'affordable housing' rental homes and commercial shops has dropped on to Council's website – submissions close August 31.

The proposal is led by Landcom, a NSW government-owned development agency, with Council supplying the land and pushing for approval behind closed doors.

The land located at 57 Station Street was flooded in 2022, and the proposal comes despite the Labor NSW government promising they would not develop on floodplains. The consultants claim flooding can be managed.

Landcom previously told *The Echo* its excessive bulk and scale is needed for it to be financially viable to attract a community housing provider (CHP) to manage.

While Council were previously unable to secure a CHP, Landcom told *The Echo* a tender process was underway for a CHP.

DA 10.2025.212.1 will be determined by the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP), who recently approved a controversial large exclusive development in Myocum, despite a myriad of issues. One of the NRPP panelists is former mayor Simon Richardson, who, as mayor, pushed for housing to be built over carparks.

And while Landcom and former mayor, Michael Lyon, promised that alternative car parking would be established prior to the carpark redevelopment, there is no proposal before the public.

A new public toilet and carpark is slated to be built at the entrance to the town, which goes against the town's



The proposal by NSW government development agency, Landcom for the Mullum carpark at the town's entrance. Image DA

masterplan regarding green space at the town's entrance.

According to the 30 complex documents provided by consultants to support the proposal, the bulk and scale is much the same as what was proposed during pre-DA lodgement.

If approved, it would be 11.5m high and contain the highest density in the town – it would also pave the way for further similar developments. Council would also be given freehold title of two units to house its staff.

The development has faced fierce opposition from businesses who would be impacted, along with residents.

Alternative sites requests ignored

Landcom and Council have refused to answer why no other alternative sites were proposed, and why the development steamed ahead with taxpayer money, despite it not attracting the interest of affordable housing providers.

The Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) have consistently said, 'It's a good idea in the wrong place'.

An e-petition with 763 signatures asked the government to explore other options, yet was ignored.

On page 35 of the Social Impact Statement, it reads, 'Most [respondents] just wanted the development

What's proposed?

The proposal is to provide '32 affordable rental homes for key workers in Mullumbimby, in the form of 28 shop-top units above ground floor commercial premises, together with a four-room boarding house. The 32 affordable rental homes will include: six two-bedroom units; ten one-bedroom units; twelve studios; and four studio rooms. The plan includes 19 on-site car parking spaces'.

The Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) are holding a community meeting on the DA on Monday, August 4, at the Mullum Ex-Services Club.

to be relocated elsewhere. Some did not believe that the housing would be affordable, or did not believe that those eligible actually need more affordable housing'.

And on page 41, it reads, 'Community-based organisations and service agencies were included in the distribution of Landcom postcards, but no responses were received via that on-line questionnaire'.

Estimated cost of consultants?

The Echo asked Landcom to provide an estimate on the total cost (not individual costs) of the consultants who were employed for DA 10.2025.212.1. Despite the project being publicly-funded, Landcom refused, and said, 'The cost of consultants is commercial in confidence'.

The Echo also asked, 'The Community Engagement Report says feedback was

taken into account. It's not clear where that was in this DA. Can you please point to where that was?'

They replied, 'Community feedback was considered in the design prior to submitting the DA to Council, including the addition of balconies, verandahs and eaves that reference the architecture character of the region'.

According to Landcom, the NSW Reconstruction Authority (RA) is contributing \$1.408m to the project and the community housing provider (CHP) is responsible for the remainder of the costs.

The estimated cost is \$16m, according to the DA.

Independent assessment?

Given this DA is the most impactful proposal on the town in living memory, *The Echo* asked Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye if she would engage an independent

planner to provide an independent assessment.

With Cr Ndiaye being unavailable, *The Echo* asked Deputy Mayor Jack Dods how this proposal represents good planning principles.

A reply will be published if received.

Toilet removal

The DA says options would need to be 'fully explored' around the proposed demolition of the public toilet, as 'its values were identified in the Community Based Heritage Study' and it, 'needs to be addressed in a Statement of Heritage Impact'.

Other public toilets around the area were adequate to service the community, the DA claims.

City planning metrics applied to a small town?

The DA is also appearing to make assumptions around allocating car spaces which are associated with city developments. A building designer told *The Echo* their interpretation is that 25.75 car spaces are required as the basic minimum.

Nineteen are proposed. They say their figures are based on polices contained within the State Environmental Planning Policies (SEPP), which guides 'affordable housing' development.

Those opposed dismissed as 'retirees'

Within the Social Impacts Assessment (SIA), Sydney-based consultant, Dr Rigmor Berg, was dismissive of those who opposed via the on-line surveys (almost all were against).

Dr Berg said they were 'not near neighbours and not renting workers, but home-owning retirees...'

She writes, 'Concerns they expressed mainly reflected assertions made in *The Echo*, which has specific interest in opposing this development [owing to being located next door]'.

Unsatisfied with the results Landcom received from their online survey responses, their consultants claimed 'it was evident that one stakeholder group that had not been adequately represented was the population of people who work in Mullumbimby on low- to- moderate incomes and rent their homes'.

Seven random people consulted

The consultants say they made a 'second visit to Mullumbimby in January 2025', and asked seven people on the street what they thought of the proposal.

All seven were renters, they claimed, and, 'Three people were in favour... While none were against the proposed development, four said they had mixed feelings or were unsure'.

As for heritage values, consultant Dr Berg argued that the proposal is justified, as neighbouring buildings are 'commercial boxes with no obvious aesthetic or heritage value'.

To make a submission, visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au.

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Wildlife Hospital celebrates five with Gurus concert

Iconic Australian rock legends the Hoodoo Gurus will headline a big night of music and critical fundraising for wildlife on Saturday September 27, at the Bluesfest Green Room.

Organisers say a star-studded bill has been locked in for the event, which will support the essential work of the Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital.

‘Joining the Gurus on the lineup will be special guest

Toni Childs, renowned for her soulful vocals and Grammy-nominated career, along with acclaimed Yolngu surf rockers King Stingray, and Brisbane-based favourites, The Honey Sliders, known for their high-energy live shows and heartfelt tributes to classic albums’.

The Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital provides lifesaving veterinary care for sick, injured and orphaned native animals, and has been

operating for five years.

‘Native animals face peril every day from habitat loss, pollution, road trauma, feral pests and introduced +disease,’ said Byron Bay Wildlife Hospital Founder and CEO, Dr Stephen Van Mil.

‘We are truly honoured to have the Hoodoo Gurus, Toni Childs, King Stingray and The Honey Sliders donate their talents to support our life-saving work for native animals.’

Dave Faulkner, frontman of the Hoodoo Gurus, said, ‘We’re thrilled to be part of something so meaningful. Byron Bay is a place we love, and this concert gives us the chance to give back in a big way to help protect our incredible wildlife.’

‘The event is expected to sell out quickly, with lovers of music and wildlife flocking to support a great cause.’

Tickets available at www.moshtix.com.au.

Resourcing strategy on exhibition

The public are invited to provide feedback on Byron Shire Council’s Resourcing Strategy, contained in four strategic planning documents.

Council staff say, ‘The Resourcing Strategy outlines the time, money, assets and people available to implement the actions in the Delivery Program’.

‘The Resourcing Strategy includes long-term financial planning, workforce

management planning and asset management planning.

‘The Resourcing Strategy is part of our Integrated Planning and Reporting Framework.’

‘The Local Government Act 1993 requires that Council must have a long-term Resourcing Strategy for the provision of the resources required to perform its functions’. Submissions close August 3. For more info visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au

Little festival bangs big



Elliott Orr’s Spankinhide, which is an African rhythm collective with Byron Taiko, showed the audience, and many participants, that there is more than one way to bang a drum. Saturday’s mini fest attracted scores of the rhythm-addicted from around the Shire. Photo Jeff ‘Riddums’ Dawson

Local biz invited for the reuse July challenge

Mullumbimby businesses have partnered with Byron Shire Council to say no to single-use coffee cups in July.

Council staff say in a media release, ‘When people go to grab their daily cuppa at their favourite haunt in Mullum and they’ve forgotten their reusable cup, they can pay a small deposit to borrow a ‘good’ cup which is refunded when it is returned’.

‘Statistics from Department of Climate Change, Energy and the Environment and Water found that Australians use 1.8 billion single-use, hot beverage cups each year, that’s almost

500,000 cups that are sent to landfill each day’.

Cafes in Mullumbimby taking part in Reuse July include: The Other Joint, Bimbi, Ya’mán, Santos Organics, The Paddock, Heaps Good and Lulus.

Sarah Child, Council’s Resource Recovery Strategy and Engagement Officer, says, ‘I would love to see the number of takeaway coffee cups used in Mullum plummet in July, so I am inviting everyone to join the challenge’.

Businesses wanting to take part in Reuse July can email Anika Brown at anbrown@byron.nsw.gov.au.

Elders’ Hub meets, July 12

The next meeting of the Elders’ Hub will be on July 12, and will include a presentation by Judy Arpana on ‘Facing Death – Embracing Life’.

Organisers say, ‘By embracing death with grace and ease we can move more positively, and freely, towards the next stage of our lives’.

‘Over the years, Judy Arpana has helped many people to face their fears


about dying, with the bonus that they then live a richer, fuller life. Judy has been a student of Tibetan Buddhism for 30 years and has studied with many Buddhist masters.

‘We will begin with a sharing circle at 10am in the yurt in the Gordon Street Permaculture Gardens, opposite the Byron Community College in Mullumbimby.

‘All are welcome!’

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Rosie Lee à la Liberté guidant le peuple.

Photo & story Eve Jeffery

While millions in the US celebrated the Fourth of July in the traditional way, local woman Rosie Lee found another use for the date near Little Wategos Beach in Byron Bay.

Borrowing and transforming the image of Eugène Delacroix's famous *Liberty Leading the People*, Lee chose the most easterly point to make her point.

She says, 'The Fourth of July is American

Independence Day. If you search "Liberty" online, the Statue of Liberty is the predominant image. What does it represent when American immigrants are dragged off the streets, and genocide and hatred reign in a bloodied Middle East and Ukraine?'

'Things may have gone awry, but the tenets of the French revolutionaries (who gifted the US their statue), liberté, égalité, fraternité are noble aspirations, and worthy of more than a passing comment. Liberty has

been co-opted by the biggest arms dealers in the world.

'Australia needs its independence from America more than ever. We are not lackeys of the US. The Labor prime minister is being dictated to by a rogue ogre in the US Oval Office.

'I hope he stands firm. I took my message to the most easterly point of Australia today to wave the flag for hope - the world needs liberty, equality and fraternity more than ever. Not war and bloodshed.'

New road proposed next to Mullumbimby pre-school, crossing over disused railway

Hans Lovejoy

Council's subdivision plans for its Mullumbimby HQ land have become a little clearer, with staff telling *The Echo* that one parcel of land, 'relates only to the access road and is unrelated to the creation of a carpark.'

The Echo sought clarity on development application (DA) 10.2025.180.1, which proposes to split the land into two smaller portions at the southern end of 70 Station Street, Mullumbimby.

While one lot is 'to create a lot which can be purchased by the Mullumbimby Community Pre-school', details around why the second lot needs to be subdivided only stated it was 'to create a lot that can be leased to Transport Asset Holdings Entity of NSW (TAHE) to formalise their access to the adjoining rail land'.

On page 42 of the Social Impacts Assessment for the 57 Station St carpark/units (see page 4), it shows 'Proposed traffic redirection away from Burringbar Street' which indicates a new road.

Google Maps also now shows this as an existing road, as depicted.

The Echo asked Council staff 'Will there be any report to Council on this road?' They replied, 'The DA will go to Council, most likely in September'.

Council staff say within the DA they are the consent authority for their own DA.

They say, 'By maintaining existing land uses, improving land tenure certainty, and avoiding significant environmental impacts, the proposal is considered to be in the public interest and is suitable for approval by the consent authority'.

The Mullumbimby



Google Maps now shows a yet-to-be constructed road crossing the railway at the southern end of Station Street.

Residents Association (MRA) say in their response that, 'While not opposing the development in principle, we raise significant concerns about transparency, community consultation, alternative tenure arrangements, and compliance with legal requirements and best practices'.

Significant concerns raised by residents

MRA say, 'This submission addresses critical gaps in the application documentation, particularly regarding future land use intentions, flood risk assessment, contamination management, and most importantly, the lack of consideration for alternative tenure arrangements that would retain community ownership of this valuable asset'.

Given the land represents the disposal of a community asset, MRA say, 'The application fails to provide a comprehensive consideration of the public interest as required under NSW legislation and best practice guidelines'.

'No report has been located regarding Council's intention for sale of the pre-school site or lease arrangements.

'These financial decisions are not identified in Council's current Delivery Program, Operational Plan, Budget, or

Long Term Financial Management Plan'.

MRA convenor, Dale Emerson, writes, 'NSW Treasury guidelines recommend comprehensive financial modelling for all asset disposal decisions, including consideration of alternative tenure arrangements'.

He also asks, 'How has this development application been assessed within the framework of Byron Shire Council's Community Participation Plan 2019?'

Emerson also says there is inadequate flood risk analysis, 'particularly regarding impacts from the 2022 flood event on the subject site.'

'As both applicant and consent authority, Council has a heightened responsibility to demonstrate best practice in planning, community engagement, and asset management.

'This application currently falls short of these expectations,' Emerson writes.

'The MRA calls for Council to show leadership by reconsidering the long-term lease option, enhancing community consultation processes, addressing all technical and legal deficiencies, and demonstrating transparent and accountable governance'.

DA 10.2025.180.1 closed for public submissions last week.

Integrative telehealth clinic opens

Local wellness pioneer, Paul Benhaim has launched a new telehealth clinic in Byron Shire.

Called The Happy Clinic, he says the service connects patients with local integrative doctors.

Paul has been 'knee-deep in the green scene' for over 30 years, 'shaping global wellness trends before Byron

had kombucha on tap'.

He told *The Echo*, 'This is about helping locals get the care they need without ever putting on their shoes'.

Zoom clinic

'It's a clinic. With real doctors. Who Zoom. They specialise in holistic approaches like Ayurveda, Chinese Medicine, and evidence-based

natural care. It's designed for busy lives and curious minds'.

He says, 'Here's how it works: Book online, then talk to a doctor. If you're eligible, your therapeutic goods arrive at your door, usually the next day, yes even out in the hills'.

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Regional and Remote Music Summit comes to Byron Bay

Hans Lovejoy

A Regional and Remote Music Summit will take place at the Byron Community Centre and throughout Byron Bay venues from July 23 to 25.

It will feature key industry players as well as artists, Indigenous perspectives and NSW Labor Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, John Graham, MLC.

It's the second event held by MusicNSW, which describes itself as a not-for-profit that 'empowers and connects artists and industry'.

The NSW government funds MusicNSW through Create NSW and Sound NSW.

Program

A summit welcome and networking reception will be held at the Byron Bay Surf Club on July 23 from 4.30pm till 6.30pm.

An all-day event at the Byron Community Centre on July 24 is planned, starting with three mini keynote addresses by Rhoda Roberts AO, Dr Vic McEwan (Cad Factory) and Rona Glynn-McDonald (RONA), which will be followed by a panel

discussion and Q&A moderated by broadcaster and journalist Tracee Hutchison.

Throughout the day, there will be panels exploring how artists can reduce their touring footprint, and 'can we make touring more sustainable and bring music to more communities?'

Ben Lee to present

Musician Ben Lee will present at 3.45pm, and is followed by an Indigenous showcase, titled 'Live Nation's Ones to Watch'.

On the following day – July 25 – NSW Labor Minister for Music and the Night-time Economy, John Graham, MLC will be in conversation with Jane Slingo (VibeLab & EMC) from 9.40am.

The discussion is described as 'how to leverage policy to drive change, strengthen music communities in both cities and the regions, and unpack the NSW government's strategy to enable sustainable growth across the music sector and night-time economy'.

At 12pm, a panel will 'explore how community-led festivals strengthen regional identity, support local



Joe Muller Managing Director, MusicNSW. Photo supplied

economies, and create lasting impact.'

Community radio

At 12pm, a panel will speak on the 'cultural and economic contribution of community music radio', and at 2.30pm The future of community radio will be explored

The day concludes with a Dashville gig at the Bangalow Bowlo.

Joe Muller, Managing Director, MusicNSW says, 'From touring in a climate-conscious world, to the roles of community radio, DIY touring and festivals in cultivating strong music cultures, we will centre regional voices and offer inspiration and insights for

anyone interested in music as a force for connection, renewal and sustainability in our communities'.

Q&A with Joe Muller from MusicNSW

The Echo: Musicians in Australia seem to be paid a lot less than most other countries. There seems to be a lot of opportunity for industry discussion within this summit, but no real solutions being offered to musicians. Will this event provide any tangible outcome that will result in more paid gigs for musicians and improved working conditions?

Muller: 'The vast majority

of the MusicNSW team (myself included) are musicians ourselves and our purpose as an organisation is completely oriented towards cultivating the conditions for artists to build sustainable careers, with a focus on the grassroots.'

'We acknowledge though the complex economic headwinds and systemic practices – some societal and some industry specific – that threaten the vitality of local music scenes.'

'This summit invites folks from across the country to come together to meet this moment and navigate these difficult questions and discuss solutions that can look to provide tangible outcomes for everyone.'

Which panel discussions will address the conditions for working musicians directly, not just the broader industry?

'We'll be diving into discussions around regional touring networks and looking at ways artists can build audiences and long-term careers through touring.'

'Additionally, we'll be looking at the roles of community radio, of festivals as community infrastructure

and at alternative spaces and touring models, which thrive in regional areas.'

Do you see any solutions or ideas coming through the industry pipeline that will improve conditions for working musicians?

'There are a whole range of ideas being discussed by government and industry that propose new policy settings to improve the conditions for musicians – tax incentives, investment strategies, streaming quotas, touring initiatives and more.'

'For MusicNSW though, we take a bottom-up approach to artist development and understand that healthy music ecosystems are strengthened by the interconnectedness of artists with audiences and local music businesses.'

'Our work is all about enabling this grassroots development, with a strong belief that creative people are stronger together, and a focus on encouraging authentic, local music scenes to flourish.'

For dates, times, locations, and tickets, visit regionalmusicsummit.com.

■ Editorial page 10

Mandy and Mads ask the big questions for a bigger cause

A SHIFT Project fundraiser is planned for July 24, with Mandy Nolan hosting a regular conversation series focused around resilience, truth-telling and changemaking.

The July 24 event will feature actress and single mother of seven, Madeleine West.

Mandy says the pair will ask the big questions: 'How do women build resilience? How do we manage our complex lives? And how do we maintain our sense of self worth in a world where women are retiring with less super, less assets, and less options than their male counterparts? And most importantly, how do we be the change?'

'From marrying Toadie on *Neighbours* to the partner of Tony Mokbel in *Underbelly*, Madeleine has starred in the most iconic Aussie TV to date. But she's much more than the woman on the screen.'

'If you want to know about resilience, talk to a woman! In fact, why not talk to a single mother of seven children?'

'At 49, believing she was going into menopause, it turned out, with two blue lines on a pregnancy test, that she was about to pioneer a new phase of her life: late motherhood. Facing this challenge with vulnerability and honesty, she said to *Mamamia* in an interview, "I'm terrified and very, very alone".'

'So many women feel this at stages in their lives. How do we find community support? The inner strength and the energy to push through?'



Madeleine West. Photo supplied

'West is an avid environmentalist, rainforest regenerator, advocate for asylum seeker rights, and frequently works in the homelessness sector as a qualified homelessness facilitator. It makes her the perfect first conversation in this upcoming series.'

Small SHIFT

'A Small SHIFT is a conversation, and the launch of a small giving program for lower entry donors – asking for a contribution of \$20 per week'. Tickets available at shiftproject.org.au.



Changes to Byron Shire Parking Permits

⚠️ If you have a current Shire Resident Parking Permit, continue using it until it expires. There's no need to renew it now!

When it's time to renew or if you're applying for a Shire Resident Parking Permit for the first time, it will cost \$30 (for a year).

They are FREE for Pensioners, Centrelink Concessions, DVA card holders and now eligible full-time students as well.

Pay parking permits are now also available for non-resident ratepayers and residents of bordering communities – \$110 for a year.

These Parking Permits allow you to park in all Council pay parking areas in the Byron Shire (except NSW National Parks car parks). Time limits apply.

More information

Check eligibility, fees or expiry on your permit, visit the permit portal at

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/parking-permits



BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL

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

Vale Paul 'Salty' Brincat

Paul (Salty) Brincat was an Australian sound recordist who worked in television and film on more than 100 productions. He was a resident of Fernvale, New South Wales for over 35 years, living on his property 'Illalangi'.

Celebrate NAIDOC Week from 6 July in Ballina, Lismore, Byron and Tweed

This weekend sees the start of NAIDOC Week and celebrates 50 years of the week-long celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, culture and achievements.

Help sought finding accused Ballina burnout driver

Local police are asking the public for help identifying a driver accused of performing burnouts in Ballina last week.

Portable gas device likely cause of Kingscliff fire

An elderly man was in hospital in critical condition Monday morning after an explosion and unit fire in Kingscliff that also landed a woman in hospital, emergency responders said.

The Crack to Tyalgum restored and reopened

The road running to Tyalgum, including double lane access, has been restored for the first time since the 2022 floods.

CSIRO releases Richmond River flood mapping

Australia's chief science agency, the CSIRO, has released a long-awaited report with data and flood modelling for the Richmond River catchment.

Nats MP calls for engineering solutions to flood events

With a report released by CSIRO outlining how future flood levels can be reduced through hydrodynamic modelling, federal Member for Page Kevin Hogan (Nationals) is calling on Labor to act.

www.echo.net.au

World Environment Day Festival to take place at Murwillumbah Showground

The World Environment Day Festival is back on and will return to Murwillumbah on Sunday, 13 July from 10am to 3.30pm at the Murwillumbah Showground.

The festival will bring together the community for a day of environmental education, live music, and collective action.

Hosted by Caldera Environment Centre and Tweed Landcare, this year's free festival shines a spotlight on the region's unique biodiversity while promoting practical solutions to climate and conservation challenges facing the Northern Rivers.

The festival program features ocean-inspired music from Birren Slabb, heart-warming sounds by The Seeding Band, and performances by the innovative Hoopla Circus. Rainbow Power Company will present on inspiring a people-led



The event emphasises practical solutions, community collaboration, and the vital role of local action in addressing global environmental challenges. Photo supplied

clean energy future.

Creating change

'Raising global awareness of environmental issues of our time is important to educate the public and promote collective action towards a larger global movement for change,' said Isabelle Oude-Egberink, Community Officer with Tweed Landcare.

'We are a part of nature, and nature is a part of us. This festival brings people together on World Environment Day to spark the conversations and connections vital for real change in our region.'

For the complete program and more info, visit calderaenvironmentcentre.org/world-environment-day-2025.

A new fire ant detection in Tweed Heads – NSW Farmers calling for crackdown

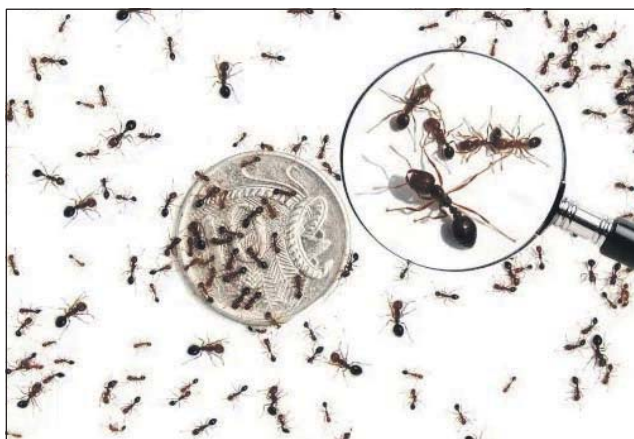
Red imported fire ants were detected on Wednesday, 2 July, at a site in Tweed Heads. The NSW Farmers organisation is calling for a 'crackdown' saying that 'current biosecurity measures clearly aren't doing the job'.

The immature (non-reproductive) nest was identified and treated last week and a new Biosecurity Emergency Control order will be issued establishing a 5km zone to restrict movement of high risk materials and undertake any required steps to control and treat.

'A large team comprised of the National Program and NSW Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development staff undertook a survey of the immediate 500 metres surrounding the site to check for any other fire ant activity,' said a press release from Tara Moriarty, Minister for Agriculture.

Fire ants (*Solenopsis invicta*) are prohibited under the *NSW Biosecurity Act 2015* and high-risk materials are restricted from the fire ant infested areas of south-east Queensland.

The NSW government say they have taken strong steps to attack the threat of fire ants including increasing funding under the former government from \$15 million to \$95 million.



Fire ants come in various sizes. Photo DPI NSW

'Investigations and surveillance are underway following this [Tweed Heads] detection; however, the fact that the nest was immature, or non-productive, is reassuring,' said NSW Chief Invasive Species Officer Scott Charlton.

Farmers not reassured

However, the NSW Farmers organisation says that the current system is failing as it is not stopping the progression of fire ants into NSW.

'The repeated detections of fire ants in NSW are a clear sign of a colossal failure of current biosecurity measures,' said NSW Farmers' Biosecurity Committee Chair Tony Hegarty.

'We're rapidly losing the battle from one pest to

another here in NSW, and the way we're going, fire ants could well be the next threat our government fails to control.

'The danger that red imported fire ants present to people, animals and the environment could not be more extreme,' Mr Hegarty said.

'Current biosecurity measures clearly aren't doing the job, and while we've got \$100 million in new biosecurity funding, this one pest alone could cost us \$60 billion over the next 30 years,' Mr Hegarty said.

'The NSW government needs to get real on border biosecurity and properly vet high-risk materials coming into our borders, or else these ants are only going to keep marching on in until it's all too late.'

Lismore Caltex targeted in global anti-genocide protests

Protesters against the role of fossil fuel company Chevron in the Gaza conflict gathered outside the Caltex petrol station in Lismore during peak commuter hours on Friday, 4 July.

Chevron owns Caltex and also runs natural gas extraction and pipelines off the shore of Israel and occupied Palestine.

The protesters issued a media release after Friday's event saying Chevron's business near Gaza makes it a major partner in an 'Israeli energy apartheid'.

The company's business activities also made it a partner in the military blockade on Gaza and the 'illegal exploitation of Palestinian land and resources,' protesters said.

'The company is fuelling mass starvation, the killing and injuring of more than 50,000 children and occupation of Palestinian land,' Friday's statement read.

UN Special Rapporteur Francesca Albanese last year found there were 'reasonable grounds' genocide was happening in Gaza.

Owner 'outraged' by links to Gaza

Lismore's rally appeared to attract roughly 50 people as part of national and

international Fourth of July protests primarily targeting US corporations and the US government on Independence Day.

Protesters waved Palestinian flags, held signs reading 'Caltex Fuels Genocide' and handed out flyers to drivers as they entered the petrol station to fill-up.

A protester referred to as a local nurse called Daisy was quoted saying she couldn't stand back and 'just watch as mothers hold the bodies of their children killed by Israeli bombs and fathers are shot and killed trying to feed their families'.

Protesters said they'd spoken to the Caltex Lismore franchise owner earlier in the week explaining their plans and concerns.

They said he had shared his own outrage at what was happening in Palestine and that he hadn't known the close link between Chevron and Israel.

The business owner told protesters he would be contacting his supplier to share concerns.

The petrol station had been a BP outlet until the company decided to stop supplying two service stations in the town after the 2022 flood and landslide disasters.

Chevron didn't publicly comment on the protests.

Appeal to locate elderly man



Police have renewed a public appeal for help finding 81-year-old missing man David Johnston.

Officers say Mr Johnston has been missing for more than three months and was believed to have been travelling towards the northern region of NSW and Queensland.

CCTV footage reportedly shows the missing man at a service station in Halfway Creek, about 20 kilometres

north of Woolgoolga in the Clarence Valley Shire, at around 3.40am Tuesday, 18 March.

He is believed to be driving a grey Nissan Qashqai with NSW registration DVX78M.

David Johnston is described as Caucasian, with white hair, no facial hair, and blue/grey eyes.

Anyone who sees him is urged to contact Coffs Harbour Police or Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or online.

Kubrick classic kicks off Drill Hall film season

Story & photo Eve Jeffery

For many years, the Drill Hall Film Society has been a source of things you just can't find on the little screen.

And since Covid, numbers have not really returned to what they once were, so the society is wanting to remind the community what great fun it is to go to the cinema and invite everyone to come along to watch something strange...

The Drill Hall Film Society was started in 2018 by a group of locals – Michael and Sonia Borenstein, Peter Gough, Greg Aitken, Sunita Bailey and Alex Benham – the group was formed to fill the gap left by the Left Bank Film Society, when Michael and Rebecca Lines-Kelly returned to Victoria.

Since then, the society has screened 60 films, a mixture of Australian, British, American and European classics made between 1940 and 2018.

Black comedy

The program for the next season has been locked in, and to kick things off, Stanley Kubrick's *Dr Strangelove or: How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*



Members of the Drill Hall Film Society – Peter Gough, Carole Gamble, Alex Benham and Charles Hambling, love nothing better than hunkering down in front of the big screen with a room full of film buffs.

will screen July 23 from 7pm. The well-known black comedy was made in 1964, and feels oddly timely in our crazy world.

The society's Alex Benham says movies mark time.

'Movies have a history, as do nations – and histories tend to be forgotten. In this day of high consumption, rapid turnover, there are some absolute, groundbreaking, instructive, brilliant movies that don't get seen because they're not on SBS and they're not on TikTok.

'I mean, *Dr Strangelove* is probably the most savage satire of war ever made, it makes *M*A*S*H* look fairly tame. It is deeply vicious in a political and social sense, and the achievement is extraordinary. Kubrick only made one full-on comedy. This is it!

Membership benefits

The annual Drill Hall membership is \$75, and includes associate membership to the Drill Hall

Company, which offers free tickets to dress rehearsals for Drill Hall Theatre productions, discount tickets to the Drill Hall Theatre's own productions and access to workshops.

Each screening is introduced, and there is a brief discussion afterwards and the bar and kitchen are open 30 minutes before the film.

The society has 11 screenings per year and membership is now open for the following 12 months.

To find out more, visit: drillhalltheatre.org.au/films.

Bingo fundraiser to help Uncle Scotty, August 9

Uncle Scotty Sentance has been contributing to the local Byron Shire community for the last 40 years, and now he needs a helping hand as he faces one of his biggest challenges – he needs a double lung transplant.

A bingo fundraiser is being run to help raise money for Scotty's medical treatments, on August 9 at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club and a GoFundMe page has been started.

Uncle Scotty is an Aboriginal Elder from Wiradjuri Country, who has lived with his wife Terese and their family in Mullumbimby for the last 35 years. They have raised seven boys and have



Uncle Scotty Sentance with Ebonie Dousling in 2020. Photo Jeff Dawson

done high needs fostering for Aboriginal children over the last 20 years.

Scotty has contributed to the local community over the years.

He has worked at Mullumbimby High School since 2006, as an Aboriginal Education Officer, and also with special education.

Over this time, he has

co-ordinated the Deadly Dancers and Muggi Jarjums, which include Aboriginal students from Mullum High, and the surrounding primary schools, to develop their interest in the culture, traditions, and lore of the Bundjalung nation.

The fundraisers are to support Scotty and his family to travel to Brisbane, and then to relocate to Brisbane following the transplant as well as meet ongoing medical expenses and living costs.

Ellen Briggs will MC the fundraiser on August 9, which is from 7pm for a 7.30pm start. To donate to Scotty's GoFundMe page, visit <https://tinyurl.com/bdhjf3jm>.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 40 #05 • July 9, 2025

'One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain' – Bob Marley

There's an old gag about being a musician: what's the difference between a musician and a pizza? A pizza can feed a family of four.

As anyone in the industry knows, it's tough playing live music for a living.

Really tough, especially after the government destroyed the sector (and academia) with its Covid lockdowns. Both sectors were denied financial support while everyone else received it.

It takes an enormous commitment, and an almost crazy, deluded attitude, to make a living from playing music in 2025.

I know this, because besides editing the independently-owned *Echo* newspaper, I moonlight as a double and electric bass player and play gigs around the place.

Over the 20-odd years of performing live, I have seen many talented musicians put down their instruments to 'get a real job'.

So it was good to see NSW government and Byron Shire Council support the upcoming Regional and Remote Music Summit, which will be held in Byron Bay from July 23 to 25 (see page 7).

And just for some context, there is a proposal by the NSW government to enact a Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) for Byron Bay.

It's part on an effort to 'rebuild and future-proof the night-time economy.' Council are taking public submissions now – for more information visit www.byron.nsw.gov.au.

It's a delicate topic of course, given the history – more than decade ago, the town was regularly trashed by unruly visitors, which led to stricter rules around alcohol supply and opening hours. Perhaps times have changed since Covid?

While it's easy to bemoan the 'good old days', these days, artists are faced with a highly competitive,

algorithm-driven, corporatised environment.

The city pubs and venues that once showcased up-and-coming acts, along with headliners like INXS, Midnight Oil, Men At Work and Aussie Crawl, have either been demolished or are full of pokies.

It's a different world now. So how can the upcoming music summit support artists?

It was disappointing to see US corporation Live Nation taking a small part in the music summit.

Live Nation is considered to hold a monopoly on the global live entertainment sector, producing more live music concerts and managing ticket sales more than any other company.

In 2024, the US Justice Department filed a lawsuit on Live Nation to break up the company over alleged anti-competitive practices. The lawsuit is ongoing.

Investigative journalist/comedian, John Oliver, hosts HBO show *Last Week Tonight*, and critically examined Ticketmaster and Live Nation, which merged in 2010.

Oliver highlighted that Ticketmaster is known as 'one of the most hated companies on Earth' owing to its exorbitant fees, price gouging, and monopolistic practices.

Bands like Pearl Jam, who tried to avoid Ticketmaster in the 1990s, found it nearly impossible to do so without playing inconvenient venues.

One hopes one conversation that emerges from the upcoming music summit is around the government's attitude towards companies such as Live Nation. Free markets and art thrives with competition, not a strangle hold. Governments can – and should – enact policy that encourages diversification, and support for the smallest of operators, whether they be emerging talent or start-up venues and festivals.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

Why are e-bikes a policing no-go zone?

We love our e-bikes. We have nearly completed every rail trail in the southern hemisphere, and from someone who hated riding normal bikes because my bum hurt and my legs hurt and my lungs hurt, I have become a cycle convert (sans the attire).

The freedom to use the electric assist means all that pain has turned to only minimal range anxiety. A particular favourite is the ride from Murwillumbah to Mooball on the full moon with dinner at the pub in the middle.

So, having laid my cycling cred on the table, I hope you will excuse my growing concern about the utter mystery of illegal e-bikes. The law is remarkably simple and a great compromise.

E-bike regulation

The starting point is that without recent regulation, almost all e-bikes would be classified as vehicles, and need registering and insuring and having only those with a licence being permitted to ride.

That would effectively shut out e-bikes, because the costs would be prohibitive. And so in NSW, it is legal to ride e-bikes for all ages, provided they meet a few, quite reasonable limitations.

They must be pedal-assisted – in other words, they cannot operate with a throttle only, but you have to be cycling with your feet to engage the power. Second, they are speed limited to 25km per hour when utilising the battery power.

Going down a hill, just like on a normal bike, you will often exceed this speed, but you need to have a limit somewhere, and we all know that the faster the movement the greater the impact, so again it is not a bad middle path. Om shanti.

Finally, the other restriction is that the maximum 'continued rated power' can only be up to 500 watts. It is a wee bit complex, but our bikes are 250 watts, and I am not little, and it is ample power for me to scoot around and get up Koonyum Range Road only minimally gasping for breath.

The rules for riding e-bikes



'E-bikes represent a great opportunity for young people to gain independence and experience in an area severely lacking public transport and other means of getting around.'

– David Heilpern

are the same as for unpowered pushies, which means helmets are compulsory and only those under 16 (or supervisors) can ride on pedestrian-only footpaths.

Any yet... everywhere you go, there are kids and adults on e-bikes that don't meet these rules.

I am overtaken often when driving at 50km/hr in suburban streets, and rushed off footpaths while walking by really fast e-bikes that clearly are not being peddled.

And when I inspect bikes at racks where they say '500 watts', there are some with obviously false labels (when you google the brand it is way over that).

Local social media pages are full of videos posted by concerned drivers, of really fast non-peddle e-bikes with three kids, no helmets and complete disregard for the road rules – like stopping at a pedestrian crossing.

I know three people who have been knocked down. And people are being killed, especially the riders or pillions, and in our hood I fear it is just a matter of time.

Last week, I was following a paddy wagon in Byron Bay and we were both overtaken by non-peddling, doubling, 50km/hr plus e-bikes, likely rider age 14 to 15 years. I waited for siren and action but there was none.

So to the mystery.

Where are the police in all this? Riding an unregistered and uninsured motor vehicle while unlicensed (i.e. any e-bike that does not fit the limits) is a serious offence.

The police can seize the bike, and prosecute the rider. I have checked in the NSW Children's Court and adult lists, and asked around my trusty legal mates who all tell the same story. Just nothing.

A policing no-go zone.

And to mystery number two – there are several local companies advertising and selling e-bikes that clearly are illegal.

When I rang a couple pretending to be a father wanting to buy my 16-year-old daughter a bike, they fudged around with misleading nudge-nudge-wink-wink sales blurb.

And of course, they have that trusty old fall-back excuse that they are legal on private property.

Well that is true, but they also said that you are fine on rail trails and National Parks and beaches and state forest trails, which is absolutely not true.

They are called 'road-related areas' and are just like roads.

So how can they keep marketing these illegal machines without reproach?

The reality is that the legal e-bikes represent a great opportunity for young people to gain independence and experience in an area severely lacking public transport and other means of getting around.

The illegal bikes are an invitation to excessive speed, danger to the community and risk of serious injury or death.

With e-scooters soon to be legal, existing laws ought to be enforced.

Perhaps it is time for a standing community consultative committee who meet regularly with local police to talk about community needs and priorities. I reckon drug law enforcement and nude bathing undercover operations would give way to e-bike regulation every time.

On your bike!

■ David Heilpern is a former NSW magistrate and is now Dean of Law at Southern Cross University.



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Phone: 02 6684 1777

Editorial/news: editor@echo.net.au

Advertising: adcopy@echo.net.au

Office: 64 McGoughans Lane, Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager **Simon Haslam**

Editor **Hans Lovejoy**

Deputy Editor **Aslan Shand**

Photographer **Jeff Dawson**

Advertising Manager **Anna Coelho**

Production Manager **Ziggi Browning**



Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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The Echo achieves feats of the impossible in Taipei. Photo Simon Alderton

Much-deserved win

Congratulations to Sue and Gerard Walker for their much-deserved win of the national Gold Award for Retail Rockstar of the Year. What a fantastic achievement for a little shop in rural Mullumbimby.

Stewart's Menswear is an iconic part of Mullumbimby. It has been here for 95 years! It's reassuring that some good things remain. It is lovely to always receive a warm welcome from a local who has known you for many years, accompanied with great service and good prices for quality apparel that lasts for many years. I know they have always generously supported our community, which is all too rare in these days of chain stores owned by goodness knows who.

This is the opposite that I have experienced in several shops; where they ignore you and keep doing whatever it is that they think is more important than serving the customer. I have noticed this more as I have become an older person and it can be quite demoralising. Especially when they serve someone who comes in after you.

These days everyone wants to be rated, so give feedback about bad service but also remember to rate stellar 5-star service as experienced in Stewart's Menswear. Well done guys!

Magenta Appel-Pye
Mullumbimby

Ratepayers are no longer safe

The McAuleys Lane development is a red flag for all ratepayers in the Shire. It is inconceivable that Byron Council will compulsorily

acquire land from a local resident for the developer. This was passed by the vote of Mayor Ndiaye! So much for the Greens' integrity.

I hope the local residents take their concerns to the Land and Environment Court. This is against the public interest. This is a low point in our relationship with Byron Council. How can we trust any decision they make?

Rhonda Ansiewicz
Federal

Is Ross Lane open?

It may be due to a sweet ignorance that I resist an authority saying that something is 'too difficult', or even 'impossible'.

I was originally told that putting an essential roundabout in at the junction of Byron Street and the Coast Road at the northern entry to Lennox Head would be 'impossible', until funding would finally become available in 2035, (still ten years from now!).

If we had accepted that argument, we still would likely have a life-threatening 'T' intersection at that road junction today... not to mention the delays to traffic flow that would have continued to become worse and worse, as a result of the extraordinary increasing volume of usage.

Instead, at that time, I suggested that a 'temporary roundabout' could be constructed as an immediate stop-gap measure, until the required permanent infrastructure was eventually built. This is what happened.

So similarly, in my naive simplicity, I ask the question... after many, many

years, why do we still ask 'is Ross Lane open?' each time it rains?

This disruption to traffic is occurring once again today. The waters at Deadman's Creek slowly rise from the edges to the centre of the roadway, until traffic can no longer pass from Lennox Head to the highway. Ross Lane, our most direct lifeline, is cut off. This is often for extended periods, even with minimal flooding.

Reading back on the history of the issue I hear reference to shared government agencies having vested responsibilities that complicate the solutions. There is potential for local property inundation, acid sulphate issues, short- and long-term studies of variable flood levels, arguments about feasibility studies... etc, etc. The excuses go on year after year. The problem remains. It is suggested that maybe there will be something towards the end of 2025? Maybe not?

For a reasonably cheap cost (\$300-\$500,000 more or less perhaps?), I ask why can we not just install a permanent low-profile steel beam and gridwork elevated bridge that spans that usual, repeatedly problematic stretch. That way, for the majority of time, Ross Lane remains open? Cars can always traverse above any potential flooding.

The bridge could be cheap and nasty but serviceable. It could have a gentle ramp at each end. It would be non-obstructive of the flow of Deadman's Creek at low inundation, (by virtue of its 'open' and elevated structure). Water could always continue to flow beneath.

Letters to the Editor

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

Letters already published in other papers will not be considered. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

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

There would be minimal impediment to flow. There would be no neighbouring property inundation, due to nil-to-minimal roadworks impacting the flow.

A damned simple solution for all minor flooding it seems to me. Traffic continues to flow.

East and west are not divided!

We need more of those simple solutions in the world these days I think.

Jamie Hoile
Lennox Head

A nut job in the White House

An article in *The Atlantic* magazine, June 2025, features an interview with Donald Trump by former *Washington Post* journalists Ashley Parker and Michael Scherer.

In case anyone is still under any illusion about the

► Continued on next page

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Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School (CBRSS) is a vibrant and progressive K-12 school dedicated to the educational principles inspired by Rudolf Steiner.

CBRSS is looking for a suitably qualified, dynamic and enthusiastic High School Mathematics Teacher experienced in maths standard years 8-12, including HSC and preliminary standard mathematics.

The successful applicant will work collaboratively with the High School Faculty to bring engaging and creative content to our mathematics students. Previous experience in Steiner education would be desirable.

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Applications are reviewed as received. Position description and application process available at capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au.



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We're looking for someone who is confident, organised, and nurturing. You'll be working with the educational principles inspired by Rudolf Steiner and will bring creativity, imagination, and a deep love of learning into the classroom. A strong commitment to high-quality teaching and a warm, collaborative spirit are essential.

Previous experience in Steiner Education would be desirable.

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► **Continued from page 11** 'state of the union', Trump makes it perfectly clear...

'I run the country and the world,' says Donald Trump.

To read the full details of our moronic military partnership and plans for the future, go to: www.theatlantic.com.

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

A modest proposal

It is a melancholy object that according to the most recent public access data, 73 per cent of the monetary benefit of capital gains tax discounts and negative gearing goes to the top ten per cent of wealthy Australians.

Certain groups such as Cormack Foundation and Advance have made political donations upward of \$40 million to lobby to preserve economic policy relating to housing.

Ten per cent of the top earners makes up roughly one million and a half Australians that disproportionately benefit from a system designed to concentrate wealth in the hands of the wealthy. This is a system that rewards having enough money to begin with to hoard an asset that most places in the world consider a basic human right.

A modest proposal could be that the bottom 30 per cent can offer up their children for consumption to hungry landlords, as a means of covering the ever-increasing costs of rent.

Unrelatedly and completely rhetorically, the rough cost to build a functioning guillotine is approximately \$2,000. According to records from the French Revolution a guillotine can service roughly 20-30 people before requiring sharpening. Theoretically, 139 guillotines could efficiently service 1.5 million people in one month, costing significantly less than the lobbying cost of \$40 million to influence politicians.

As noted, this is unrelated and rhetorical, however, I feel it should be public access information for dragons to consider as they amass their pile of gold to sit upon.

Christopher Rowland
Ocean Shores

\$20m fix Byron roads

Over two months ago Byron Council reached out to its citizens in the north of the Shire asking for suggestions of improvements.

I suggested six proposals. Last week one of the proposals was partly implemented.

I requested that all the safety markings along Warrambool Road and Orana

Road (particularly at the roundabout where these two roads intersect) be repainted clearly as they had faded to such a point that, particularly at that roundabout, they were almost invisible resulting in a nearly fatal accident.

The stretch along Warrambool Road to Coomburra Crescent was clearly repainted and then the repainting stopped before reaching the much larger Orana Road and Warrambool Road roundabout. I thought oh, they've just stopped because it's a public holiday on Monday and they will resume on Tuesday but no such luck. Why has this dangerous roundabout not been repainted? It was the reason for my request.

There are still potholes on River Road connecting New Brighton to Ocean Shores, the yellow line denoting no parking is still covered by mud at the corner of Pacific Street and River Street, no curb and guttering in Pacific Street, New Brighton to mitigate flooding, no bicycle track from Redgate Road along New Brighton Street to Kolara Way, and no pedestrian crossing from the bike track along Shara Boulevard across to the sports ground on the corner of Brunswick Valley Way for children to use to reach the sports field.

What's the point of asking the community (which, after Byron Bay, is the largest contributor of rates) and sending out staff to record their suggestions as was done at Ocean Shores Community Centre, and then doing almost nothing?

On enquiring Council's response was: 'We are planning and will implement in the next few months!' I've been requesting the bike path since my grandson was riding a bike aged eight and forbidden to visit me because of the danger. He's now 18 and drives.

Name withheld

Defence of defence

Keith Duncan of Pimlico, you condemn the treatment of women in 'third world' countries, yet your response to my letter shows a familiar impulse: to silence and belittle a woman who speaks with moral clarity. That's not realism. That's patriarchy – local edition.

Keith Duncan, you criticised my reference to family members who fought in wars against Nazism, fascism, racism, and military expansionism. These are the very principles being violated

today. Recognising that isn't melodrama – it's historical awareness.

Keith Duncan, invoking your own service to shut down debate is gatekeeping, not dialogue.

Framing Gaza as 'two sides fighting over land' ignores the brutal reality: one is a powerful, nuclear-armed state; the other, a stateless, besieged population. This is occupation and apartheid, not equal conflict.

Yes, Trump is back in the White House. That makes moral courage more vital, not less. Silence is not strength. Protest is not futile.

Some of us were raised to believe 'Never Again' applies to everyone – not just those politically convenient.

True freedom and equality cannot be selective. They must extend to all peoples, regardless of nationality, religion, or politics. Until that day, Keith Duncan, our fight for justice and dignity must continue unabated.

Fiona Sullivan
Mullumbimby Creek

Re Editorial

As an avid regular reader of *The Echo*, I feel disappointed because in your latest editorial there was no mention of the *Nimbin GoodTimes*.

The other Northern Rivers-based, free, privately-funded newspaper, also committed to '... sociopolitical grassroots representation'

Ari Ehrlich
Tyalgum

Scat-illogical compliance laws

Being human in the privileged world is extremely demanding. What with keeping up appearances, two cars, home maintenance, mortgages and insurances, therapy, endless pet food and grooming, feeding a family of screen addicts, epidemic mental diseases, etc. It costs hundreds of dollars a day to barely survive and it's exhausting!

Then you wake up next day and have to do it all again! Little wonder some of us burn out.

And now with a cost and housing crisis, everything is exacerbated.

So taking to the road has become a viable option for many and a lifestyle preference for others. It lets the air out and life becomes simple and affordable again. This should be encouraged.

Most can't afford to use camping grounds too often, where they might go to recharge batteries, fill water and empty toilets. ►

Better options than the carpark for housing

Why not the Mullum hospital site?

The Landcom plans (DA 2025.212 .1) for the very handy carpark in the centre of town don't make any sense at all. The development at 57 Station St is in the wrong place in town for much-needed extra accommodation.

There is the hospital site land waiting to be developed or the land proposed for the new carpark in Prince

Street. There is also the pod land which eventually will be cleared and built on.

The use of the back lane [Mcgoughans Lane] for the access has many problems as well. Wrong place and poorly thought out.

Chris Cooney
Mullumbimby

Answer the question

Mullumbimby needs as much affordable housing as it can get. The Byron Shire Council (BSC) agrees, the

state government agrees.

So why are BSC and the state government spending millions of our dollars on building only 32 new housing units [at 57 Station St] when they could be building more than double that amount?

They have chosen to raze the town's only public toilet and carpark for their housing project rather than the BSC carpark which is just 100 metres away and which is more than double the size. Plus, Council's carpark

doesn't have any of the traffic, heritage, and other negative impact issues which come with the town carpark.

I have not met a single Mullum resident who doesn't see this as a no-brainer.

I have written to Mayor Sarah Ndiaye and NSW Minister Paul Scully with this question, but have had no response. Perhaps because there is no rational response?

Anando Hefly
Mullumbimby

► So free camping becomes the only option. Haven't you ever been driving tired and just pulled over and gone to sleep? Honestly, it's the best sleep you've ever had.

Now imagine having a comfy mattress and a doona, cuddling up to your loving canine, feline or human companion and drifting off into deep, safe sleep. What is there not to like? It's the banging on the door at 6am by a Council compliance officer!

Byron has always been an attractive catch-net for wayward refugees from the cities. Our warm climate and slightly daggy but very inclusive culture has always

welcomed travellers.

In a better world a compliance officer might greet a new arrival with a thermos of coffee and a croissant, and a map of the region showing where else they might find a place to stay.

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

Mike Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek

Right to protest

Mandy's belief is that a right to protest means little if you can't disrupt. This attitude is the reason her friend in Grayndler hurt herself.

A Hunter
Bangalow

Cone of silence

Councillor being related to a developer involved in a current DA. Council staff acting on behalf of the developer in the acquisition of land necessary for the developer to commence, on the grounds of safety for the community.

Byron Shire Council seems to be moving further and further away from consultation and transparency.

Seems the cone of silence is being implemented more and more in one way or another – nothing transparent about that.

Byron Shire Council has an independent audit committee; the elected

Council selects two councillors to sit on the audit committee. The last two representatives were Mr Swivel and Mr Hunter as Council's representatives. Mr Hunter attempted to gain information on the five-year contract awarded to an outside company to inspect and reline the Mullumbimby sewer gravity mains. Mr Hunter received very little cooperation from staff when he asked for information about what had been achieved as to relining the gravity mains over the five years. Mr Hunter attempted to get support to have an outside auditor bought in

► Continued on page 14

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Curious chimps and nosy kids: new study shows it's only natural to love drama

Cosmos Magazine

What do toddlers and chimpanzees have in common? A deep, unshakable interest in other people's business.

In a new study comparing social curiosity in young children and chimpanzees, researchers found that both species are irresistibly drawn to social interactions – even when it costs them a reward.

'After years of observing both children and chimpanzees sometimes jumping up in the middle of research games to observe their peers, the research team was inspired to pursue a new social avenue in the blossoming field of curiosity research,' says lead author, Dr Laura Simone Lewis from the University of California.

Published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*, the study offers a rare glimpse into the evolutionary roots of social curiosity – the drive to understand what others are doing, thinking, and feeling.

It's the same impulse behind gossip columns, TikTok comment sections and, yes, reality television.

'This means social curiosity emerges early in human development and is shared with one of our closest living cousins, the chimpanzees,' says Lewis. 'Our strong interest in the lives of others – think gossip magazines and celebrity shows – seems to have deep evolutionary roots in our great ape lineage.'

The study involved three experiments conducted at the Ngamba Island Chimpanzee Sanctuary in Uganda and at California locations, including the Oakland Zoo and the Lawrence Hall of Science.

Social engagement

In each experiment, chimpanzees and four- to six-year-old children were given the choice to watch videos inside specially built 'curiosity boxes'. One video showed a social interaction, like playing or fighting, while the other showed an individual.

Both chimps and children consistently chose to watch the social scenes.

'This kind of social curiosity is actually really important for learning about our environment, making decisions, and building relationships,' says co-author Dr Esther Herrmann from the University of Portsmouth.

In the second experiment, the stakes were raised: participants had to choose between watching a social video or receiving a reward (jackfruit seeds for the chimps, marbles for the kids). Some – especially younger children and male chimpanzees – gave up the goodies to keep watching.



Walter Zoo: two young male chimpanzees playing together. Photo www.flickr.com Tambako The Jaguar



Both children and chimps showed more interest in the social scenes they were shown. Photo pexels-kindelmedia

Positive versus negative social interaction

And when researchers compared preferences for positive or negative social videos in the third experiment, they found something interesting. Chimpanzees didn't seem to mind either way, but

human children developed stronger preferences with age – boys were increasingly interested in conflict, while girls leaned toward positive scenes.

The study is one of the first to measure social curiosity in both species using identical methods. The findings suggest that our nosy tendencies aren't just cultural. They're ancient.

► Continued from page 13 to investigate but received no support from the audit committee. This continues to be a question that Council staff cannot answer or supply visible evidence of work completed.

Again the mayor mentioned Council's financial position, maybe it is time that Byron Shire Council was audited as to structure, costs, and performance.

Alan Dickens
 Byron Bay

US bombing



The US-Israeli bombing of uranium enrichment facilities in Iran was not just incredibly reckless and irresponsible, it was also a gross violation of international law, the UN Charter and the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

This criminal act could have triggered an environmental disaster on the scale of Chernobyl or Fukushima. It's exactly the sort of threat that anti-nuclear activists

have been warning about for decades. And it was done in the name of ending a non-existent nuclear weapons program.

This cynical hypocrisy has done long-term damage to the credibility and legitimacy of the international system for nuclear regulation, and irreparable harm to the reputation and political standing of the US and Israel.


John Scrivener
 Main Arm

PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE AN EXISTING MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION AT STOTTS CREEK

1. Optus and Vodafone are proposing to upgrade an existing mobile phone base station at 98 Cudgen Road, Stotts Creek NSW 2487.
2. The proposed upgrade will consist of:
 - Replacement of three (3) existing shared Optus Vodafone panel antennas with three (3) new shared Optus Vodafone panel antennas (each not more than 2.8m in length);
 - Replacement of existing Remote Radio Units (RRUs) with eighteen (18) new RRUs;
 - Installation, relocation and removal of ancillary equipment, including GPS antennas, mounts, feeders, cabling, combiners, and other associated equipment; and
 - Internal works within the proposed equipment shelter.
3. In accordance with Section 7 of the Industry Code C564:2025 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment, we invite you to make comments about the proposal.
4. Please direct comments to Vanessa Wan at 0447 240 015 or via email at submissions@servicestream.com.au or via post at Level 3, Tower B, Zenith Centre, 821 Pacific Highway, Chatswood NSW 2067 by **5pm, Thursday 24 July 2025**.

For more information about the proposal, scan the QR Code or visit www.rfnsa.com.au/2487004.



Lennox local Jane Allen wins 21st Doyles Art Award

Aslan Shand

Lennox Head local Jane Allen has won the Doyles Art Award 2025. Ms Allen took out first place with a \$20,000 acquisitive cash prize for her work 'Seaside Explorers'.

'I am thrilled to win the Doyles Art Award 2025 and I really enjoyed looking at all of the finalists' wonderful works on display in the gallery,' Jane told *The Echo*. 'The awards night last Thursday was really special.'

Jane is an artist living with an acquired spinal injury which she navigates by painting in unusual positions whilst seated on the floor. She has been painting on and off since childhood but became a full time artist a few years ago.

'I adore all forms of artistic expression and have attended many exhibitions and performances throughout my life as I feel the arts add joy to our lives and make us think and feel,' she said.

'It is my love for art that inspired me to become an artist. The founder of the Doyles Art Award and the judges of the 2025 Award encouraged me to pursue



Jane Allen at the opening night exhibition of the Doyles Art Award. Photo supplied

painting as a profession and to use this success as a stepping stone but, for right now, I am enjoying this moment.'

Open daily

The Doyles Art Award is in its 21st year and features over 500 works on exhibition in Firth Park Community Centre, Somerset Drive, Mudgeeraba. The exhibition is open daily from 10am to

5pm until 13 July and entry is free.

Event Director Sam Sinner says that the winning artwork has sparked healthy debate about what it means to be a representational artist with the style of painting veering away from traditional landscapes such as Streeton and Heyson, and moving towards more modern interpretations.

Artistically beautiful

'We are delighted to see Jane's work acknowledged as a winner,' says Sam.

'Representational art is not only realism, but basically any art style where you can immediately understand the subject matter. We believe Jane's work to be artistically beautiful, mature and confident in its approach, with excellent light play and controlled palette. Jane has used oil with wax to achieve a highly textured piece that conveys the essence and movement of an Australian beach scene.'

The Doyles invited three judges with extensive experience in the art world to choose the award winners. Susi Muddiman OAM who was recently appointed Gallery Director of Ngunungula, Southern Highlands Regional Gallery; Amber Creswell Bell, a well-known curator and author from Michael Reid Gallery in Sydney; and Jessica Le Clerc, founder of the Art School Co. on the Sunshine Coast. Their decision on Ms Allen as winner was unanimous.

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BYRON DOG RESCUE

Stage 1 of \$5.3 million Mullumbimby Road upgrade starts 14 July

Where

Mullumbimby Road from McAuleys Lane intersection to The Saddle Road intersection.

What's happening

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

What to expect

- Mullumbimby Road will be open to two-way traffic but at reduced speed.
- Intermittent traffic stops.
- Expect delays.
- Consider using alternative routes such as Myocum Road or Coolamon Scenic Drive.

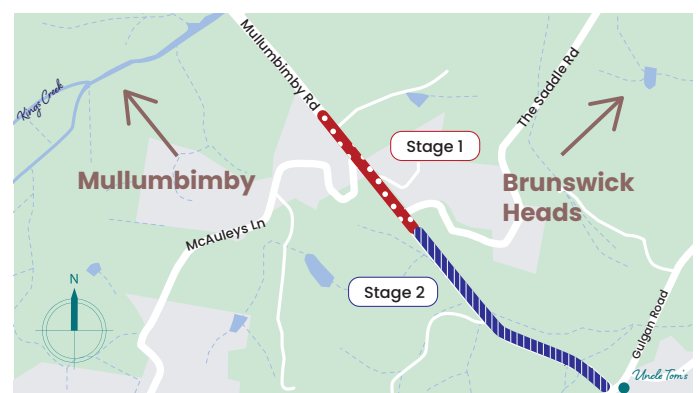
Construction hours

- Monday to Friday - 7am to 6pm
- Saturday - 8am to 1pm
- Some night work.

Duration of stage 1

14 July to September

Stage 2 - September to December 2025



More information

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2025 MULLUM ROOTS FESTIVAL

A boutique music festival set in the village of Mullumbimby



THE WAIFS



JEFF LANG



ELLIS D FOGG

THE INAUGURAL MULLUM ROOTS FESTIVAL ARRIVES IN MULLUMBIMBY ON JULY 12-13, BRINGING TWO DAYS OF ORIGINAL MUSIC AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT TO THE TOWN'S FAVOURITE VENUES.

Created by singer-songwriter and festival founder Lou Bradley, the event champions roots, blues, alt-country and folk from a lineup of acclaimed artists and rising talent. The festival will take over the Civic Hall, Ex-Services Club, Courthouse Hotel, and Mullum Bowling Club (The Bowlo), with a strong emphasis on original songwriting and honest, homegrown performances.

FRIDAY NIGHT'S GALA OPENING CONCERT AT THE CIVIC HALL

This event with **Jeff Lang**, **The Biggest Little Town Choir**, **Soul'd**, and host **Mandy Nolan**, has already sold out, setting the tone for a vibrant weekend ahead.

The weekend program features performances from **The Waifs** playing on both Saturday and Sunday, **Shane Howard**, **Dog Trumpet**, **Robert Forster**, **Emily Lubitz**, **David Bridie**, **Felicity Urquhart & Josh Cunningham**, and many more.

With walkable venues, dozens of original acts, and no filler, it's a rare chance to catch top-tier music in local settings.

PSYCHEDELIC SATURDAY WITH ELLIS D FOGG

The Ellis D Fogg lightshow brings the colour and a dazzling psychedelic theme to the starred acts on Saturday.

HOOTENANY SUNDAY

This day will turn up the twang with a spotlight on alt-country, Americana and folk favourites.

“We’ve built this festival around original songwriting and community connection. Mullum’s the perfect place for that.”

Lou Bradley, Festival Director

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Echo

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FELICITY URQUHART & JOSH CUNNINGHAM | ROD MCGORMACK
EMILY LUBITZ (TINPAN ORANGE) | THE SOUL MOVERS (WITH MURRAY COOK)
KINGFISHA | ELLIS D FOGG | JOEY'S COOP | PAUL GREENE
4 EYED WATER BOY | SNEAKER THIEF | WILD THYME
JONNIE GOES TO CHURCH | BERNIE HAYES | LOU BRADLEY
TOPAZ LYON | VERSAGE BOYS | JIMMY DOWLING | BILLY FEBRUARY
HUBCAP STAN AND THE SIDEWALK STOMPERS | MANDY NOLAN
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Echo

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Opportunities for drug diversion improvements demonstrated in the UK

Aslan Shand

The scientific evidence is clear, and has been for a long time, that drug issues need to be treated as a health issue not as a police issue.

The NSW special commission of inquiry into the drug 'Ice' (crystal methamphetamine and other amphetamine-type stimulants) released in February 2020 recommended decriminalisation of drugs stating 'that the [NSW] government needs to introduce a system of decriminalisation if it is going to stop drug deaths in New South Wales'.

This approach, regardless of its merits, has been rejected by both NSW Liberal-National and Labor governments. What we do have is the Early Drug Diversion Initiative (EDDI) which has been in place in NSW for over a year. It is an initiative designed to divert people found in possession of drugs away from the criminal justice system.

However, as Professor Alison Ritter AO of UNSW's Drug Policy Modelling Program made clear at the recent webinar on Global Perspectives on Drug Diversion hosted by Uniting, 'It's not going so well'.

'It's quite difficult to get data on it [EDDI]. And this data comes from freedom of information requests and our Bureau of Crime Statistics (BOCS). This data relates to the first six months of the program, where there were 6,332 incidents of simple drug use and possession, of which 436 were offered the diversion option. So that's a diversion rate of 6.4 per cent. Worryingly, the diversion rate for non-Indigenous Australians was 7 per cent, whereas for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, it was 2.7 per cent. So there is a significant difference in the rate for white versus black people.

'The rates also varied enormously by police area command.

In one police area command, the rate was 0.07 per cent, in another it was 32 per cent – so clearly, uptake varies enormously between local area command and also it varies by drug type,' explained Professor Ritter.

'Cocaine, LSD, and ecstasy, [were offered diversion of] somewhere between 22 and 28 per cent, diversion for heroin is 2.3 per cent and methamphetamine, crystal methamphetamine, it's a 3.8 per cent [diversion rate].'

This current failure of drug policy across Australia is supported by new analysis by drug policy research non-profit Penington Institute that reveals that 2,272 Australians died from an overdose in 2023, the equivalent of 189 people each month.

'Over three-quarters of the deaths (77.8 per cent) were unintentional, and most involved more than one drug type,' said the Penington Institute in a recent press release.

'The grim death toll is recorded in Penington Institute's "overdose snapshot" report, based on mortality data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).'

Diversion that works

Emma Maiden, Uniting NSW. ACT's Director of Advocacy and External Relations said, 'As we await the NSW government's response to the Drug Summit Report, momentum for drug law reform continues to build around Australia – a permanent pill testing site has been announced for Melbourne, and another music festival successfully held the NSW government's drug checking trial.

'One of the NSW Drug Summit Report's recommendations is that we improve existing schemes in NSW and this is an excellent opportunity to see how other schemes are working well.'

'We need to address the person's needs first and foremost ... this is principally a health matter, not a criminal one.'

Speaking to the Global Perspectives on Drug Diversion webinar on diversion programs were Jason Harwin, a retired Chief Police Officer with over 30 years' experience; Jason Kew; Senior Practice Lead at The Centre for Justice Innovation and Senior Drug Policy and ex-police officer; and Darren Nicholas, the Assistant Director of Criminal Justice Services at Cranstoun.

While Mr Harwin highlighted that the UK is facing similar challenges with 'Scotland having one of the highest levels of drug related deaths in Europe, and Wales and England are not far behind,' he said the challenge is the interaction of legislation and evidence-based approaches to drug policy and action.

A key part of the UK approach is diversion and giving the police the opportunity for quick and simple assessments of possession and then driving those cases towards a diversion program.

'We want to reduce reoffending,' explained Jason Kew.

'We need to address the person's needs first and foremost. So if police find anybody in possession of a controlled drug, this is principally a health matter, not a criminal one, so we want to defer that case immediately to the experts, and they're the drug service.

'The principles are that the drug service contact the individual on the day, or the day after, police obviously seized the drug, and then refer the individual to the provider. That's the outcome.'

What is clear is that in the case of possession, that is the end of the police's role.

'The policing of drugs can be

made much simpler, authentic and evidence-based if we let the professionals deal with it,' said Kew.

'If it's possession of a drug, it's a health issue, it's an education issue, it's a harm reduction issue, if it's an issue at all.

'The outcomes are really different as well, so we have to understand that the policing of drugs increases racial disproportionately in the justice system, we have to acknowledge that the evidence is absolutely clear, a black man is nine times more likely to be convicted of possessing cannabis than a white man, we need to put that right'

Darren Nicholas, the Assistant Director of Criminal Justice Services at Cranstoun spoke to the development and use of an easy, simple possession app for police that they currently use in the West Midlands, West Mercia, Warwickshire and Staffordshire police districts in the UK. The app facilitates the easy referral by on the street police officers to the diversion services.

'The officer does a few background checks on the person to see if there's any warrants out for them, or if there's any wider thing going on for that individual. If not, that person is eligible for diversion, as simple as that,' explained Nicholas.

'So unless there's lots of cash, lots of paraphernalia around dealing, etc, it's basically go with diversion. The officer then fills in the details on the mobile phone to refer that person over to us, and that is where things finish between that person and the police.'

Cranstoun then provide an easy-to-access telephone assessment which has been tried and tested over the last five years.

'It's a holistic assessment. So although a lot of it is about the drug use and what's going on for that person with their drug use, we look at the whole person. We do

a gambling screening, an alcohol screening. We're looking to see if there's any employment issues, any training issues, education issues, if there's any mental health problems, any housing issues, whatever's going on for that person, we want to try and identify with them. Then we onwards refer them, and signpost into all those local support things.

'It's a really crucial window of opportunity to get people, meeting them in the right place at the right time, getting to those root causes of what's going for that person, because it might be quite low-level drug use and it might be a symptom of something much bigger for the person, like a mental health issue or housing issues, it's about getting in there to get the right support for that person.

'That's part one. Part two is then that person's then referred into our educational group work session. So that's very much a drugs education piece, very much a harm reduction piece, and it's very much designed to what that person needs. So we have dedicated courses for particular substances, if that is, like a sole substance of use for that person.'

The program has a 70 per cent engagement completion rate with a current recidivism rate of just under 5 per cent.

'Every time a police officer does pre-arrest diversion, rather than arresting that person and taking them into police custody, it's been estimated that it saves at least four hours and 15 minutes of police time. That's a very conservative estimate,' said Nicholas.

'So when we look at that, compared to the over 18,000 referrals we've had since we started, we have actually saved the police nearly 80,000 of police hours, probably a lot more. So that is hours and resources being put into investigating, and put in focus on those more serious, violent crimes, sexual crimes, etc.'

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Passion for politics at Byron Writers Festival

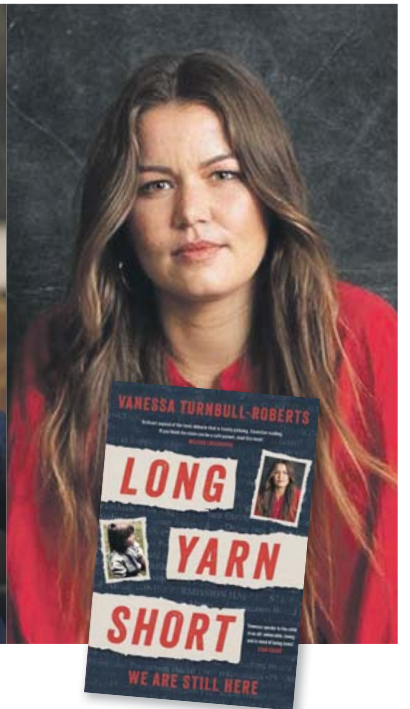
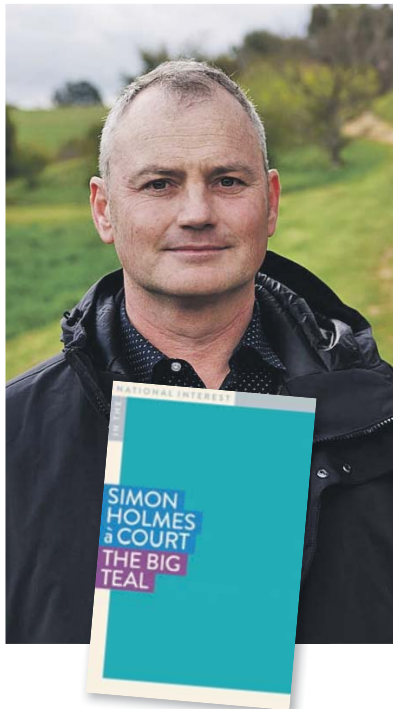
Planning your big weekend at Byron Writers Festival? We take a look at the hot button topics at Australia's largest regional writers festival this August.

Local and global politics

Now that the dust has settled on the 2025 federal election, get the analysis with an independent twist from commentator Jane Caro, Climate 200's Simon Holmes à Court, and George Megalogenis (*Minority Report*) on the Sunday session Australian Election Analysis.

Guardian editor Lenore Taylor leads the Shifting Empires panel with intrepid journalists Nick Bryant (*The Forever War*), Walkley Award-winner Colleen Ryan, and Pulitzer Prize finalist John Vaillant (*Fire Weather*) to chart the geopolitical landscape from the USA and China to the Middle East.

Explore politics in fiction with multi-award-winning authors Shankari Chandran (*Unfinished Business*) and Malcolm Knox (*The First Friend*) for an exploration of their thrilling new novels, set against high-stakes backdrops of intrigue and danger in Sri Lanka



and the Soviet Union in the session Political Fictions.

Environment and climate

Simon Holmes à Court also appears on festival Saturday for the ABC *Big Ideas* panel session Nuked, hosted by Natasha Mitchell, alongside businessman Geoff Cousins and *Slick* author Royce Kurlmelovs. They discuss the role energy policy played in the federal election, what's next in the transition to net zero, and attempts to establish

nuclear power in Australia.

Explore the vital issue of water scarcity and climate change, from oceans to rivers, flood and drought, agriculture and industry, with Indigenous author Debra Dank (*Terraglossia*), climate scientist Joëlle Gergis (*Highway to Hell*), author Chris Hammer (*The River*) and SCU's James Sippo on festival Saturday.

Corporate exposé

Lawyer John Bornstein sits down with Julianne Schultz to share his new book *Working for the Brand* on corporate cancel culture hot off

the heels of his win representing Antoinette Lattouf. Meanwhile, former *Rear Window* columnist for the *Australian Financial Review* Joe Aston speaks with Leila McKinnon about his exposé on the machinations of Qantas and CEO Alan Joyce in his book *The Chairman's Lounge*.

First Nations focus

Join Anita Heiss, the internationally published author of over 20 books including the bestselling *Bila Yarrudhanggalangdhuray* (*River of Dreams*), to discuss her groundbreaking historical novel

Dirrayawadha about resistance, resilience and love set during the frontier wars, with Michael Williams on festival Friday.

And close out the festival with human rights lawyer Vanessa Turnbull-Roberts, who shares her incredible story of surviving out-of-home care in *Long Yarn Short* in a bid to drive positive change for First Nations youth. See her in conversation with Rhianna Patrick in the session Fighting for Reform.

Full program and tickets at: byronwritersfestival.com

Sit down with performer Ziggy Ramo

Ziggy Ramo is an award-winning artist of Wik and Solomon Islander heritage, whose work spans music, literature, film, and performance. From his acclaimed debut *Black Thoughts* to his ARIA-charting project and book *Human?*, he continues to push creative and cultural boundaries. This year, Ramo brings his powerful voice and vision to Byron Writers Festival.

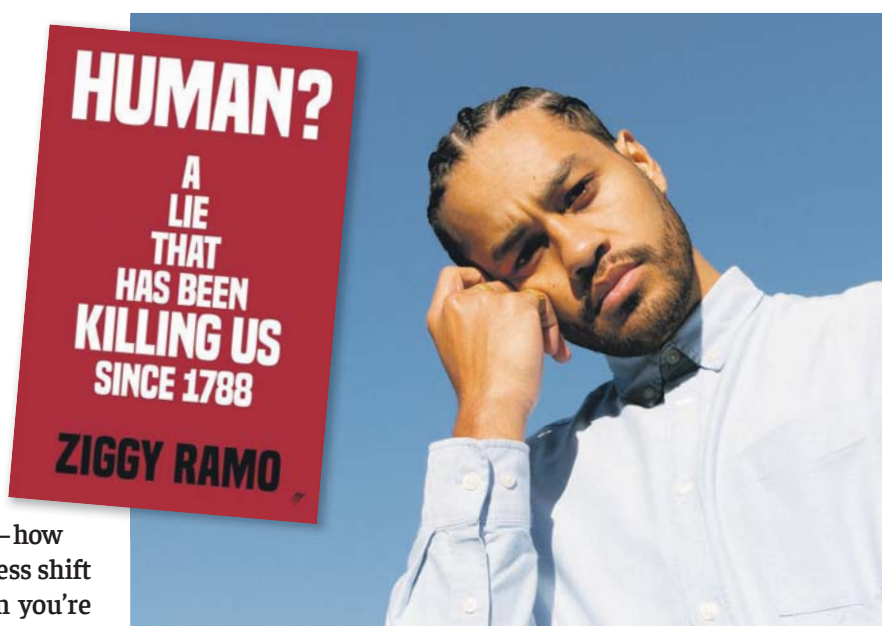
In *Human?* you delve deeply into the dehumanisation faced by Indigenous Australians. How do you see your book contributing to the broader conversation about reconciliation and justice in Australia?

I wrote *Human?* to invite readers to sit with discomfort and to reckon with the ways our systems continue to dehumanise Indigenous people. My hope is that the book can be a bridge not in the sense of offering simple solutions, but in creating space for honest reflection and accountability. Reconciliation isn't a passive process; it requires

active listening and action.

As someone working across mediums—music, literature, screen—how does your creative process shift depending on the form you're working in, and what does each medium allow you to express?

Each medium has its own heartbeat. Music allows me to distill emotion into moments it's immediate, it hits you in the gut. Literature gives me the space to slow down, to expand on ideas and interrogate nuance. Screen work invites collaboration and the power of visual storytelling



to bring people inside a world. My process shifts with each form, but at the core, I'm always trying to tell stories that connect. It's about choosing the right vessel for the story I need to tell.

What can we expect from the Byron Writers Festival sessions?

You can expect honest, vulnerable conversations. My

aim is always to connect, to challenge, and to hold space for difficult but necessary dialogue. I'm interested in exploring what it means to truly see each other's humanity and reckon with the uncomfortable truths of our history. Both sessions will be an opportunity to listen, reflect, and hopefully walk away with a

deeper sense of a unique lived experience.

The theme for Byron Writers Festival is Passion and Purpose. How do you define passion and purpose, and how does this shape you as a writer?

For me, passion is the fire, the thing that compels me to keep creating, even when it's hard. Purpose is the direction it's about knowing why I do what I do. As a writer, my passion comes from love for my culture, but my purpose is in seeking truth telling for my community. When passion and purpose are aligned, the work feels inevitable. That's what keeps me grounded.

Ziggy Ramo appears at Byron Writers Festival:

- Saturday 9 August, 7:30pm–9:00pm, A&I Hall: **Beyond the Lines**
- Sunday 10 August, 10:15am–11:15am, Melaleuca: **Human? In Conversation with Rhoda Roberts**

Lennox Lions hit off golf day fundraiser, Aug 17

August roars in with purpose for the Lennox Head Lions Club, with their premier annual event the John Mitchell Memorial Golf Day, to be held on Sunday August 17 at the Byron Bay Golf Course.

The club's Graham Shaw says the event was initiated by the late and much-loved Lennox local, John Mitchell, in 2011, and 'continues to be a pillar of our club's fundraising efforts and a celebration of community generosity and good-spirited fun'.

Shaw says, 'This year's beneficiaries are two remarkable organisations: The Buttery, which provides essential mental health and addiction services in our region, and Fletcher Street Cottage, a sanctuary for those experiencing homelessness, offering food, counselling and medical referrals'.

'Alongside golf day excitement, we've been busy advancing our Early Childhood Vision Assessment Program. The national Lions Eye Health Program



In the front row, middle: Wayne Backie, golf co-ordinator, on left is Leone Crayden, CEO The Buttery, right of middle is Maddie Powell, senior social worker for Fletcher Street Cottage. In the back row in the middle is Paul Rippon, major sponsor of the golf day. The others in green shirts are Lennox Lions supporters of the golf day. Photo supplied

is an Australia-wide and internationally-recognised early intervention Eye Health Program. This Lennox Lions initiative has now expanded to include four other local Lions clubs so that collaboratively we are able to cover all primary schools in the regional area, screening young students for early signs of vision impairment

that could impact learning and development.

'If you've ever considered joining the Lennox Lions, now's the perfect time! We're a vibrant, balanced, fun-loving bunch, always ready to welcome new faces. For more info, call Frank on 0429 949 844 - you'll have a hard time resisting his enthusiasm!' Shaw adds.

Aquabike competitor reaches world top ten

Ross Kendall

Byron Tri Club member Suzie Van den Broek is fresh from a top-ten finish in the aquabike event of the World Triathlon Multisport Championships, held in Pontevedra, Spain, last month.

This now qualifies her for the 2025 World Triathlon Championships, to be held in Wollongong later this year.

Eighth place

'Pontevedra was the toughest and most disappointing race ever, but it just so happens to be the one I'm most proud of. I'll take eighth in the world!' Suzie said.

'It started with a tough three-kilometre swim against the outgoing tide.

'Then a couple of kilometres into the 121km ride, I was in fourth place, but hit a rock and got a puncture. It took 25 minutes to change, and that put me back in 12th place'.

She clawed her way back to finish in eighth place.



Suzie Van den Broek. Photo supplied

Suzie has also been named as one of the 1,367 Australian entrants to the 2025 World Triathlon Championships being held in Wollongong, October 15-19.

'I'm competing in the aquabike event, a 1.5km swim and 40km bike. Owing to an injury, I can no longer run, therefore now compete in aquabike events,' she said.

The mighty Moonshiners host Beyond Blue family event



Teale Pyne, Ken Watkins and Keenan Jenkins. Photo Jeff 'Head Butts' Dawson

Eve Jeffery

For the ninth year, the Mullum Moonshiners will play a rugby round to raise funds and awareness for mental health and well-being support organisation, Beyond Blue.

The club is aiming to make this the biggest year yet, and this Saturday in Brunswick Heads, the club will host activities for the whole family.

Along with two exciting rugby matches, there will be a jumping castle for the kids, raffle prizes, as well as great food and drinks.

The Shiners will also be auctioning two sets of limited edition jerseys - all proceeds from the day are going to Beyond Blue.

'This is a very special day for our local community,' says club treasurer Teale Pyne. 'We are hoping everyone can come along,

because this is going to be massive.'

Sadly, the club has lost two members in recent years, and so many family members have also been affected. Pyne says this is an important event for the Shiners.

'We've done a charity game every year for the last nine years. It started from us wanting to create the conversations around mental health, especially in young people. We want everyone looking after themselves a little bit better.'

Pyne says the loss of club members is sad on a very deep and personal level for everyone at the club.

'It just gives us a reason to keep doing the event'.

'The more we can keep spreading that message, the more important it is.'

Pyne says club members are very mindful of mental health issues.

'We try to keep this in mind, not just for this week, but throughout the whole year. It's just checking in on each other and making sure everyone's doing okay, especially through stressful times in a year.'

Create conversations

'We want to create those conversations so everyone knows that there is help out there, and to get kids comfortable with talking to each other and talking about finding help.'

Both the seniors and the under-18s will wear the Beyond Blue jersey on Saturday. 'The boys really get behind it,' says Pyne. 'Everyone wants to play this round.'

The fun starts with the Shiners on Saturday at 1pm at Alby Lofts Oval, Brunswick Heads.



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SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

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For bookings online visit balloonaloft.com or call their friendly team at the office on 1300 723 279.

KIDS COOKING CLASSES

There's big fun for little chefs at North Byron Hotel!

Their famous kids cooking classes are back these school holidays. Let by much-loved chef Jedd Rifai, little chefs will get hands-on making gnocchi and pizzas from scratch. While the kids cook, parents can relax with a bite and a bevvie.

Wednesdays and Thursdays 9th, 10th, 16th and 17th July, from 2pm - 4pm.

The team at North Byron Hotel can't wait to welcome back their returning mini master chefs - and meet some new ones too! Visit their website for details.

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

FLIP INTO FUN THESE HOLIDAYS

Spaghetti Circus is back these July holidays with three action-packed days of circus workshops for kids. Running Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 15, 16, and 17 July, children can sign up for one, two or all three days of movement, laughter and new skills.

Kids aged 7-14 will enjoy a full-day program featuring trampoline, tightrope, German wheel, trapeze, tissu, acro-balance, juggling, hoops, and circus games. For younger children aged 4-6, a playful half-day option is available each morning.

These workshops are a great way to stay active, build confidence and make new friends.

Spaces are limited and always fill quickly, so head to www.spaghetticircus.com to find out more and secure your place. Early bird enrolments for Term 3 are now open.

BEYOND BYRON E BIKES

Looking for an unforgettable adventure this school holiday break? Beyond Byron E Bikes, located in Mooball (closest to the Byron Bay end of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail), offers a fantastic way to explore with rides designed for ultimate comfort and fun.

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Easy online booking at www.beyondbyronebikes.com.au.

LET'S GO SURFING

Join Let's Go Surfing for an awesome time surfing or stand up paddle boarding these holidays. They offer private and group lessons and tours for all ages, as well as kids only lessons.

Lessons include all equipment and expert instruction in small groups, and provide education, maximum fun, and safety for your kids. They cover the basics from warm-up to paddling, catching waves and standing, while also catering to intermediate and advanced students. Kids also learn important surf and safety rules including info on rips, tides, sandbanks and waves.

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WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS
9TH & 10TH / 16TH & 17TH JULY
2PM - 4PM

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• Hula hoops		
• Juggling		
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Good Taste

Eateries Guide

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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.

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australianhotelballina.com.au

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www.rosefinas.place

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BYRON BAY




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Kitchen hours: 11:30am-late daily
Breakfast: 8am-11am Sat & Sun
www.northbyronhotel.com.au

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Behind the scenes at Lord Byron's Ginstitute.

For those looking to dive deeper into the world of craft spirits, Lord Byron's Ginstitute in Byron Bay offers a unique, hands-on experience that allows locals and visitors alike to craft their very own bottle of premium gin.

The Ginstitute provides a guided, step-by-step

session through the entire gin-making process. Upon arrival, guests are treated to a complimentary gin and tonic, setting the tone for an engaging and educational experience. Expert distillers then walk participants through selecting a personalised blend of botanicals, distilling

their own gin, and bottling and labelling a 500ml masterpiece to take home.

This immersive experience lasts approximately two to three hours and includes a tour of the distillery, giving guests a behind-the-scenes look at how their favourite spirits are created. The Ginstitute has quickly become a popular choice for special occasions like birthdays, weddings, and other celebrations, offering a memorable and fun way to celebrate with friends and loved ones.

Located in the heart of the Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate, the Ginstitute is the perfect blend of education, creativity, and relaxation. Whether you're a gin connoisseur or a first-time distiller, the experience promises to be both enjoyable and flavourful.

Sustainability at its core

Lord Byron Distillery, the parent of the Ginstitute,

takes sustainability seriously. The distillery is powered by 100% renewable energy and operates with a zero-waste policy, repurposing by-products into liquid fertilisers and cattle feed. The commitment to local sourcing is evident in their use of molasses from Northern Rivers sugarcane

farms, ensuring their spirits are as locally produced and sustainable as possible.

Sessions are available weekly, but spots fill up quickly, so booking in advance is essential.

■ Lord Byron Distillery, 7/4 Banksia Dr, Byron Bay lordbyrondistillery.com.au

BYRON BAY PORK & MEATS BUTCHERY



Come in and see our friendly staff for a choice of local, grass fed, organic & free-range meats. All antibiotic and hormone free.

Mon-Fri 6am to 5pm / Sat 6am to midday
70 Dalley St, Mullumbimby | 6684 2137

WEEKLY SPECIALS

- ALL YOU CAN EAT PIZZA MONDAY NIGHT
- 2 FOR 1 TUESDAY
- WING WEDNESDAY
- PASTA NIGHT THURSDAY
- MONDAY-THURSDAY FEED THE CREW \$59
- FRIDAY-SUNDAY HAPPY HOUR 3-5PM



SCAN HERE TO BOOK YOUR TABLE



6687 7080 • 4/74 BALLINA ST, LENNOX HEAD
LENNOXPIZZA.COM • @LENNOXPIZZA

Bringing native foods into everyday life



Bec and her son Isaac bring you native foods every Friday.

Have you ever been curious about growing, cooking, or preserving native foods? A good place to start is at Bec's native food stall at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market on Friday mornings. From bush food plants to teas, cordials, syrups, vinegars, fruit powders, and spice blends, Bec helps everyday cooks connect with Country through flavour, tradition, and nutrition.

For home gardeners, Bec recommends starting with hardy coastal edibles, such as warrigal greens, karkalla, and pigface. 'They're like succulents - tough and easy to grow as long as you've got sun and well-drained soil,' she says. Pigface even

produces a salty-sweet berry that tastes like watermelon and is perfect eaten fresh.

Shadier spots are ideal for rainforest herbs, such as native thyme and basil. 'They love morning light but appreciate a break from the hot afternoon sun,' Bec explains. 'They don't behave quite like European herbs, but they're just as versatile.'

Curious cooks can explore bush flavours through Bec's handmade products. Her wattleseed biscuits are a customer favourite, featuring a rich, nutty, chocolate-like flavour. 'Wattleseed is full of protein and low GI,' she says. 'We roast it like coffee, grind it to a powder, turn it into mud with water, and bake with it.



It's delicious and nourishing.'

There are also antioxidant-rich fruit powders like Kakadu plum, rosella, and Davidson's plum—ideal for sprinkling on porridge, blending into smoothies, or stirring into yoghurt. 'Kakadu plum powder has over five times the recommended daily intake of vitamin C per teaspoon,' Bec notes.

As scientific research begins to validate what First Nations people have long known, bush tucker is being recognised not just as food, but as powerful medicine, culture, and connection. And thanks to stallholders like Bec, it's never been easier to learn and start using it yourself.

■ You will find Bec and son Isaac, from Playing with Fire, at Mullum Farmers Market every Friday, 7 am to 11 am.

This Friday, in celebration of NAIDOC Week, the market will have a Welcome to Country at 7:30 am.

New Menu



A Z U R E BAR AND GRILL

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

The Scoop

CLAY ORGANIC BEAUTY

Located near the Mullum post office, Clay Organic Beauty is a full-service salon offering waxing, Dr Hauschka facials, massage, and lash and brow services.

You can relax knowing you're in the hands of a team committed to delivering excellent results at a fair price. Changing hands in July 2024, the salon has undergone a full zhuzh but has proudly retained its expert therapists.



To celebrate their birthday month, each Eye Trio booked this July (brow wax, brow & lash tint) will receive a mini Dr Hauschka Nurturing Rose Body Oil. Gift vouchers are available in store or online, where you can also make bookings.

**Open Tuesday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00pm,
Saturday 9:00am-3:00pm
6685 6532
97 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby
www.clayorganicbeauty.com.au**

TURN UP THE WARMTH, TURN UP THE FUN

When your home is warm, everything feels easier – from getting out of bed to making memories with the kids. Reverse-cycle air conditioning is one of the most efficient and affordable ways to heat your home – costing up to four times less to run than traditional electric heaters.

Locally-owned-and-operated, Artisan Air helps families stay warm all winter with tailored heating solutions and expert service you can count on.

Whether you're upgrading or building new, their friendly team will recommend the best system to suit your space and lifestyle.

Stay comfortable, save money, and enjoy more of what matters.

Contact Artisan Air today to discuss your heating or cooling needs.

**6680 9394
hello@artisanair.com.au
www.artisanair.com.au**



RICHARDSON MURRAY FAMILY LAWYERS

Richardson Murray Family Lawyers is a leading family law firm based in Byron Bay, renowned for its exceptional legal services and commitment to supporting clients through challenging family matters. With extensive experience in divorce, child custody, property settlements, and domestic violence cases, the firm's team of dedicated professionals ensures clients receive personalised and empathetic legal advice. Known for their expertise, integrity, and results-driven approach, Richardson Murray offers tailored solutions to resolve disputes efficiently, whether through negotiation or litigation. Their deep understanding of the complexities of family law, combined with a compassionate approach, has earned them a stellar reputation in the region.



Richardson Murray Family Lawyers is the go-to choice for those seeking trusted legal counsel in Northern NSW.

**42 Parkes Avenue, Byron Bay
info@richardson-murray.law
www.richardson-murray.law**

SEEKING FINANCIAL GUIDANCE?

Navigating your financial future can be complex, but expert help is close to home. Alana Pincombe, Senior Financial Adviser at Viridian Advisory, offers trusted, personalised advice to help you make confident decisions. Whether you're planning for retirement, growing your investments, or managing a life change, she translates lifestyle goals into step-by-step plans for cash flow, debt, super and investment growth, and will support you every step of the way.

Based locally, Alana is backed by the strength of Viridian Financial Group's team of lending and investment specialists, providing you with one hub for finance, portfolio management and up-to-the-minute insights.

The result is clear - timely advice that lets local residents stay focused on the coastal life they love.

**Contact Alana today to book a consultation.
0491 204 142
apincombe@viridianadvisory.com.au
viridianadvisory.com.au**



The Scoop

BURRINGBAR GALLERY

Set in the coastal foothills of Wollumbin, Burringbar Gallery has quietly become a destination for art lovers of the unique, rare and remarkable. Easily accessed on Tweed Valley Way, the gallery has flourished with an evolving collection of antique and vintage furniture, artwork, sculpture, and unique collectables.

Discover a truly unique shopping experience when you step inside a curated world of character and craftsmanship, where each item is carefully sourced locally and from across the globe. This isn't just retail; it's storytelling connecting to cultures and meaning.

A celebration of individuality, beauty, and the joy of finding something that truly speaks to you, this emporium is not to be missed. Open 10am to 4pm Wednesday to Sunday.

0408 998 446
6184 Tweed Valley Way,
Burringbar
@burringbargallery



FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES GIANT BOOK FAIR

Friends of Libraries Byron Shire will shortly be having their giant Book Fair featuring many thousands of second-hand preloved books of greatly diverse topics. The funds raised from the sale of these books, plus the popular annual raffle, provide enormous support for the Byron, Mullumbimby and Brunswick library staff. At present the focus is on young adult and junior programmes, including the purchase of magical children's reader chairs, and much more.

The annual Book Fair has become a landmark event supported by an enthusiastic group of volunteers and book donors.

It will be held in the Byron Surf Club, from Friday 11 to Monday 14 July, 9am to 4pm each day.



GLOBAL RIPPLE CHARITY

Thrift your heart out at the newly expanded Global Ripple Charity Shop! With eclectic treasures for everyone, a great atmosphere, and now even more space full of treasures galore, it's the perfect place to spend a few hours and find some amazing bargains while supporting a local charity. You can shop knowing that every penny spent is directly supporting people in need.

If you would like to support Global Ripple, drop off your preloved items, donate furniture and spread the word.

Open Monday-Saturday, 9am-4:30pm
2 Grevillea St, Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate
(behind Bunnings)



COMPASSIONATE LEGAL SUPPORT NOW IN BYRON BAY

With 45 years of experience across NSW, Queensland and Victoria, Don Cameron & Associates has opened an office in Byron Bay, led by respected local lawyer Josh McKay. Proudly serving Byron Bay, Ballina, and the wider Northern Rivers region, Josh brings a rare combination of legal insight and compassion. He is known for his ability to connect with clients - particularly trauma survivors, through empathy, clarity, and trust. Backed by a strong regional firm and dedicated local team Josh offers expert support in personal injury, medical negligence, insurance disputes, and institutional abuse claims. His commitment to justice and personalised care ensures clients feel heard, supported, cared for and empowered. Byron Bay finally has a dedicated advocate - right here in the community.

5643 9240
1/19-21 Centennial Circuit,
Byron Arts & Industry Estate
dcalaw.com.au



BYRON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Byron Community College is excited to announce the launch of its Term 3 brochure, packed with a diverse range of new and inspiring courses.

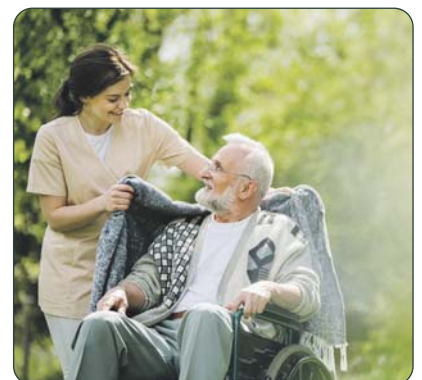
From creative classes like oil painting and handmade paper, to unique subjects such as iridology and beekeeping, there's something for everyone to explore.

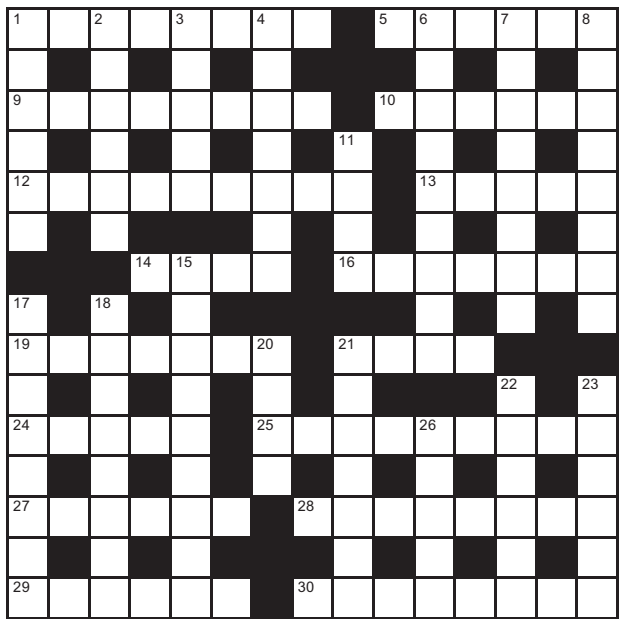
The College also offers a funded nationally recognised qualification: CHC33021 – Certificate III in Individual Support*, ideal for those looking to enter the care industry.

With a commitment to lifelong learning, Byron Community College empowers students to learn, grow, and thrive in a supportive and inclusive environment. Enrolments are now open — visit their website or call the college today to find out more.

6684 3374
www.byroncollege.org.au

***This training is subsidised by the NSW Government.**





Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Independent gets confused by legal mess *Echo* rejected (8)
- Type of phantom tail attached to iguanas' and chameleons' heads (6)
- Precursor of part of a provenance story (8)
- Independent owns surrounding mines, having removed boundaries (6)
- Drug dealers, infiltrated by old midwives, are easy marks (9)
- Field of fierce battles certain to hold a scrap of memory (5)
- Trump's communication style appearing on bottles? (4)
- Nieces trained to handle carbon with skill (7)
- Independent Nazi, architect who harboured new design initiative (7)
- Take off to outhouse (4)
- Tenth little bird he's finished off (5)
- Circular sent out to lock in university course designs (9)
- Independent member for Page – originally Cook – arranged to engage Conservative (6)
- Manipulate self-awareness of Georgia with insult (8)
- Silence shrouds echoes of expression of disgust (6)
- Sub-standard golfers want to be this! (5,3)

DOWN

- Second candidate's starting to get nasty spam from independent (6)
- Coppers infiltrating file extension are let off (6)
- August oldies embrace zest (5)
- Big cat left, with dreadful noises (7)
- Turn out as gender-fluid and ripe for change (9)
- Country store concealed explosive device (4,4)
- Pampered and spoilt sets in mixed gender setting (8)
- Independent relation of terrorists (4)
- German car scene upset onlookers (9)
- Independent stoops awkwardly to gather energy from atoms (8)
- After big match, independent Charlie left England to have a ball (8)
- Dangerous drug captain's forsworn on stretcher! (4)
- Steph Gilmore perhaps on top? (7)
- Neurotic ended call (4,2)
- Independent cricketer – Smith, not Lyon – swapped bishop for king (6)
- Domestic asset frozen? (5)

Quick Clues

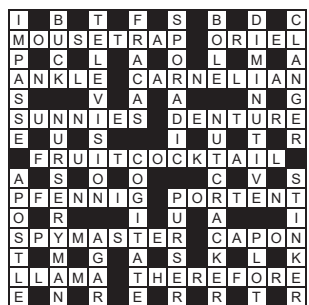
ACROSS

- Independent MP for Warringah (8)
- Slanted typeface style (6)
- Family tree predecessor (8)
- Independent MP for Indi (6)
- Easy targets or opponents (9)
- Major WWI battle in France (5)
- Headwear or lid coverings (4)
- Systematic study of the natural world (7)
- Independent MP for Wentworth (7)
- Backyard storage structure (4)
- One-tenth religious offering (5)
- Educational course plans (9)
- Independent senator for the ACT (6)
- Manipulate someone's perception of reality (8)
- Expression of frustration or disbelief (6)
- Not up to accepted standard (5,3)

DOWN

- Independent MP for Mackellar (6)
- Reason given to justify behaviour (6)
- Enthusiastic enjoyment (5)
- Female big cat (7)
- Come to light or become known (9)
- Buried bomb (4,4)
- Pampered or overprotected (8)
- Jihadist militant organisation (4)
- Groups of spectators or listeners (9)
- Atoms with same atomic number, different mass (8)
- Male reproductive gland (8)
- Framework for storing or displaying items (4)
- Outer or topmost layer (7)
- Ended a phone call abruptly (4,2)
- Independent MP for Kennedy (6)
- Dome-shaped snow dwelling (5)

Last week's solution #62



From Coalmines to Childcare: How We Use Our Kids For Profit

Mandy Nolan

Childcare shouldn't hurt kids. But for-profit centres with huge casualised workforces are doing just that. The thought that a nine-month-old baby could be sexually assaulted or penetrated in care should shock everyone to the core. It should remind people that childcare should be safe. And that investor profits come at the expense of child safety.

Childcare is an essential service that should be properly regulated, staff should be well-trained and police-checked, have sufficient ratios so that staff are never alone with kids, staff phones or recording devices should not be permitted around children, and most importantly, a centre should never have to turn a profit for the benefit of shareholders. I am not sure on CCTV yet, I would want to know that it truly protected children, because when we rely on that, our regulatory bodies are let off the hook.

We need to remember, in for-profit childcare, it's the investors they are servicing, not the children. There's only one way to create a profit in childcare centres, and that's to run on a bare bones staffing roster and increase your consumer base, aka children. It was always going to go wrong. Because the model IS wrong. Childcare has become the new coalmines.

This week the lead story on the ABC website details an investigation by *Four Corners* into our local Southern Cross University – accused of fast-tracking what is usually a four-year childcare degree to a ten-month diploma, targeting overseas students wanting a visa pathway that permits the university to use childcare training as a 'cash cow'. The ABC estimates a revenue of over \$150 million in just two years. Some of these students are reported to be 40-50-year-old men with backgrounds in IT and engineering, not childcare. This is concerning. The safety of our children should be paramount.

In a news.com story from March this year it was reported that childcare centres are a honeypot for private investors, with owners raking in millions. This is a \$20 billion industry, and investors are 'football players, haircare brand entrepreneurs, and high-flying property



We need to remember, in for-profit childcare, it's the investors they are servicing, not the children.

developers living luxurious lifestyles.' When babies are raped in the places that aren't safe for them but are a 'safe bet' for investors, there is only one conclusion: for-profit models of childcare are perpetrating harm on our kids.

Melbourne childcare worker Josh Brown has been charged with more than 70 child abuse offences on children as young as five months old. It has been reported that as a casual worker he worked at over 20 centres. How can a person be able to isolate and harm children so easily? While Working with Children police checks are necessary, they only flag people who have already harmed children. First time offenders won't be detected. This is where proper training pathways come in. A four-year degree is a much greater obstacle than a ten-month diploma. And staff should never be alone with children. This alone would decrease the likelihood of abusers using the role of childcare workers as a pathway to sexual assault. If they can't

access and isolate the kids, they won't bother becoming childcare workers.

There has been some suggestion that men are no longer permitted to be childcare workers. This is not a solution. Some of the most incredible childcare providers for my kids were men. Kids thrive with healthy male and female role models in care roles. And sending a message that care is gendered just reinforces stereotypes around male and female roles. It also accepts that all men are potentially dangerous to children. And we know that this isn't true. But we do know that some men are, and that profit-driven systems create pathways not just for investors, but for paedophiles. Shut down the profit, and you'll shut out the perps.

Community-owned, community-led, publicly-funded childcare, that is robustly regulated, that has sufficient staffing ratios, that is professionalised, and not monetised, is the pathway forward.

Our kids deserve to be safe. They are not investment portfolios. They are our future.

■ 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

Rearranger planet Uranus quantum-shifts into Gemini for the next seven years to a backing track of Gemini Bob Dylan singing 'The Times They Are A-Changin' – ready or not ...



CANCER THE CRAB

ARIES: As Uranus, planet of the unexpected, sets about shifting earth world in radical ways, best approach this as a new beginning in uncharted territory, a space for you brave and visionary Aries-borns to chart a forward course. Lucky you, with practical Saturn in your sign to stabilise these ongoing changes.

TAURUS: Do life's shakeups and surprises settle down with Uranus leaving your sign? Not so much, as Uranus now gets busy in your economic sector, and the transition from old ways to new paradigms ramps up even further with the planet of change in the zodiac's communications and tech centre.

GEMINI: All the updates and innovation a Gemini could ask for get a running start as the arrival of Uranus in your sign for the first time since 1949 uncorks a froth of excitement and unpredictability. Uranus always shakes up the status quo, so expect the unexpected during this dynamic transit.

CANCER: This week's Sun/Jupiter alignment supports you birthday persons to upgrade domestic technologies. If full moon on 11 July presents any kind of conflict between professional requirements and what you want to do personally, remember to keep the people who matter in your life updated with your process.

LEO: This week's mixed bag of warm and fuzzy moments are likely to be centered round the home front, whether that's a place, idea or person. Supersized emotional surges of all kinds are on the star cards, best navigated with your core skills of cultivating calm, radiating grace and authority.

VIRGO: Mars in your sign is industrious, likes to get things done and dusted. Home is where the heart, and possibly the heat, is this week, because Mars also likes to argue. That said, with expansive Jupiter in your sector of collaborative magic, is it time to give something on hold a second look?

LIBRA: Your planet guide Venus is in a particularly social mood this week, delighting in witty wordplay and curious conversations, along with the urge to ditch outdated norms and explore new ideas, and egged on by Uranus in your adventure sector. Just don't forget that being selective is one of your natural talents.

SCORPIO: Whether it's a radical shift in how you operate, upheavals in your social circle or just grappling with unfamiliar gadgetry, this week's astro-advice is to stay flexible and ready to pivot at a moment's notice. Keep moving past either/or mindsets and direct your investigative energy towards new and alternative solutions.

SAGITTARIUS: With home and kin on this week's menu, archers might aim for feeling at home in the family of humanity wherever they are, whoever they're with. Astro tip: If you're looking for support, present requests gradually and gently rather than overwhelm July's sensitive citizens with too much pressure.

CAPRICORN: Capricorn's challenge this week? To micromanage less and delegate more. To start magnetising like-minded thinkers, builders and achievers into your orbit. Your reward? Annual full moon in Capricorn on 11 July inviting you to celebrate what you've achieved this year, and don't forget to acknowledge your valued supporters.

AQUARIUS: Exciting astro-news for waterpourers is your planet ruler Uranus zapping into Gemini to revolutionise the way you think, connect, and engage with the world. The more open you are to change, the more interesting and rewarding this will be, especially around the upcoming weekend moon in Aquarius.

PISCES: Your planet guide Neptune heading into a five-month retrograde in the zodiac's headstrong fire sign comes with a warning against making impulsive decisions which haven't been properly thought through. This week advises practising patience and exploring the understanding that holdups can be blessings in disguise.



seven

seven days of entertainment

Eclectic Selection

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

✿ Sexy, sassy, stunning and innovative, a jaw-dropping **Bruns Does Burlesque** is back for another sizzling three-week winter season starting this Thursday with a special preview performance – featuring some of Australia's hottest burlesque and boylesque artists today, and with a very special twist.

Season starts Thursday at 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House. Tickets from \$30+BF at brunswickpicturehouse.com.



✿ You've seen **Theo Katzman** strut the stage with Vulfpeck at the World's Greatest Arena. You've seen his name in the credits of your favourite artist's favourite album. You've seen footage from his explosive full band shows and thought: is that grown man really singing an A above high C?

Thursday from 8pm at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay. Free show.



✿ **Cassie Rose & The Sol Garden** are an eclectic and energetic, six-piece soul/RnB/blues band, who'll take you from up-tempo gospel feels and funk grooves, to soul ballads and booty-shaking boogies creating a fresh vibe every time.

Friday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show.



✿ Formed in 2014, **Skegss** first hooked listeners with a series of EPs, before releasing their riotous-yet-nostalgic sugar-rush of a debut album – with gold singles, sold-out tours and more than 100 million streams under their belt, Skegss continue their rise as one of Australia's finest rock bands.

Saturday 6pm at the Kingscliff Beach Hotel. Tickets \$69.90 from oztix.com.au.

The **Fabulous Caprettos** perform together on stage combining their unique musical virtuosity and stage presence to reimagine some of Australian rock music history's most memorable moments.

Sunday from 5pm at the Currumbin Soundlounge. Tickets: \$65+BF from tickets.soundlounge.com.au.

✿ **Sam Buckley** is an innovative, dynamic and roaring blues artist who has carved out 20 years of intense devotion and fiery passion – leaving audiences uplifted in exhilaration with his energetic groove, face-melting riffs and rhythmic melodies.

Sunday from 2.30pm at the Ballina RSL Boardwalk. Free show.



✿ Into this crazy world of increasing distraction walks **Tim Stokes**, a big-hearted man with a pocket full of songs, reminding us of who we are and what really matters. He is a combination of swoon and party-starter, he will open your heart, expand your mind and get your body grooving.

Tuesday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show.

The rise and the fall

Byron Shire Council's biennial 'Climate Conversations' project returns in 2025 with a powerful installation **'Rise and Fall'** by nationally-recognised Indigenous artist **Karla Dickens**.

The project will launch this **Friday from 5pm at Lone Goat Gallery** with a festive winter celebration: Welcome to Country by Arakwal woman **Nickolla Clark**, music from local performer **Angel White**, and opening words by curator **Daniel Mudie Cunningham**, Director of Wollongong Art Gallery. Everyone is welcome to join in!

As a Wiradjuri woman who has lived on Bundjalung country for many years, Karla Dickens explores climate catastrophe from a First Nations perspective and through her own lived experience in the 2022 Lismore floods. Through her large photographic works, sculptures and installations, Karla conveys the urgent ideas of what it means to fight for survival and change in a world hanging by a thread, where shared responsibility for action is crucial.

The community are invited to get involved and participate through a series of free events, talks and workshops.

The program of free events at Lone Goat Gallery includes: an important conversation about **'Plastics: recycling and the problem with single-use'** with **Sarah Child** on **Saturday 12 July**, from **10.30am to 11.30am**; an insightful talk about the power of **'Working Together as Community'** with **Ella Bancroft** and **Karla Dickens** on **Saturday 19 July**, from **2pm to 3.30pm**; artist **Karla Dickens** for in afternoon of yarning, creating and sharing at **'Creating Space'** on **Saturday 26 July**, from **1pm to 3pm**; and an opportunity to join the Rescue Mission by bringing clean milk bottle lids and plastic water bottles to the gallery and recycling them for creative purposes. The gallery's Making Space will be running daily during their regular opening hours.

The Gallery is open Wednesdays to Saturdays, from 10am to 4pm and 'Rise and Fall' is on display from 12 July until 9 August.

For further information about the project, events and to book go to www.lonegoatgallery.com.

LONE GOAT GALLERY



Karla Dickens, *Rise and Fall 2* (detail) 2024, courtesy the artist.

CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS 2025 PRESENTS

KARLA DICKENS: RISE AND FALL

OPENING 5 - 7PM FRI 11 JUL, EXHIBITION THROUGH 9 AUG 2025

The community is invited to listen, learn and feel inspired to unite in our shared responsibility to care for Country.

EVENT PROGRAM

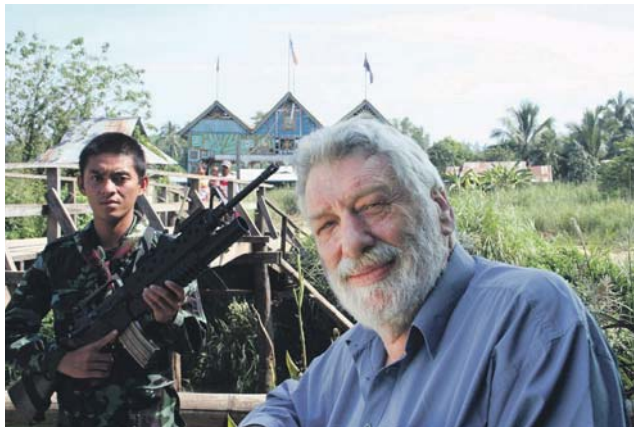
SAT 12 JUL 10.30AM	SAT 19 JULY 2PM	SAT 26 JULY 1PM	DAILY DURING OPENING HOURS WED - SAT, 10AM - 4PM
'Plastics: recycling and the problem with single-use' with Sarah Child	'Working Together as Community' with Karla Dickens & Ella Bancroft	'Creating Space' with Karla Dickens & Amarina Toby	Bring your washed milk bottle lids and plastic water bottles to the gallery and get creative in our Making Space.

Climate Conversations is a biennial creative project partnership between Lone Goat Gallery & Byron Shire Council

WED - SAT: 10AM-4PM
 28 LAWSON STREET
 BYRON BAY NSW 2481

f @ LONEGOATGALLERY
 LONEGOATGALLERY.COM





Into the twilight

A new documentary, *Twilight Time*, is coming to **Palace Byron Bay** and **Nimbin Bush Theatre** as part of a series of event screenings (also **Brisbane, Cairns, Darwin**).

Twilight Time is about the 'insurgent intellectual' **Desmond Ball** (1947-2016), hailed by Jimmy Carter as 'the man who saved the world' because he proved how 'limited' nuclear war was a dangerous fallacy.

Des Ball's study of Pine Gap exposed it as something other than a 'space research facility', but rather a CIA signals intelligence facility tasked with handling nuclear war and mass surveillance. This infuriated Australia's defence establishment.

Twilight Time poses questions about our American alliance from a decidedly Australian perspective ... a radical idea!

Twilight Time possesses a radical spirit: the film is about one of the biggest elephants in Australia's room: its close ties with the United States of America. Des Ball's most well-known text on Pine Gap, *A Suitable Piece of Real Estate* (1980), is dedicated to a sovereign Australia.

'While this may appear an oxymoron, it's Ball's way of trying to articulate what it might mean for both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to work towards sovereignty together.' - Cher Tan, *Overland*, June 2025.

Audiences are invited to join Q&A discussions at each of the special event screenings planned: in Brisbane (July 11), discussion will be led by **Ross Gwyther**, Independent Australia and IPAN (Independent and Peaceful Australia Network), and **Margaret Pestorius**, Peace Pilgrim; in Southport (July 13), well known advocate **Judith de Boer** joins the Q&A; at Byron Palace (July 18) local writer **Paul Davies** will moderate with guest **Dr. Peter Hayes**, Director, the Nautilus Institute for Security & Sustainability. *Twilight Time* writer-director **John Hughes** will also be present for the Q&As.

The film explores possibilities for a more independent Australia. Check website for details and ticketing via antidotefilms.com.au/twilight-time.



Raise the Roof for Neil

Raise the Roof is a fundraising dance party in support of a local legend **Neil Johnson** who is a long-term Mullumbimby resident and dedicated creative. Neil is currently dealing with serious health challenges and needs a financial boost to help reduce the stress and aid his recovery.

On **Saturday July 19**, the **Mullumbimby RSL** will come alive with house-shaking beats and basslines, and the power of community.

From **7pm to 11pm**, the RSL dance floor will be movin' and groovin' to our Shire's most loved DJs. The DJ talent in this Shire is awesome and you'll see Leon at 7pm, Abel at 8pm, Corqi at 9pm, and Pob from 10pm closing out the event.

Neil says, 'thank you for your thoughts and energy, I am still coming to terms with everything. My cells are beginning to grow back a little more each day, however I am still living in solitary confinement most days.'

Whether you're a dancefloor regular or you just want to support a great cause, this is your invitation to create an awesome evening.

Come early, bring your friends and help raise the roof in support of a true friend and advocate of our community, music, creativity.

Raise the Roof - A Fundraiser for Neil is on Saturday July 19, from 7pm. Tickets are \$40 available directly from the RSL website at <https://www.123tix.com.au/events/49014/raise-the-roof>.

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GAME SHOW

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PRIZE GIVEAWAYS & A WHOLE LOT OF RIDICULOUSNESS

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THE MIDNIGHT MAVERICKS TOUR

KINGSWOOD

THE BEACH HOTEL • BYRON BAY, NEW SOUTH WALES

SUNDAY JULY 13, 2025
WITH SUPPORT FROM 4:30PM
FREE SHOW

COUNTRYTOWN music

TWILIGHT TIME

DESMOND BALL, THE MAN WHO SAVED THE WORLD

Friday, 11 July | BRISBANE (QLD)
FIVE STAR CINEMAS - NEW FARM

Sunday, 13 July | GOLD COAST (QLD)
DENDY CINEMAS SOUTHPORT

BOOK TICKETS TO YOUR LOCAL SCREENING HERE:

[WWW.ANTIDOTEFILMS.COM.AU/TWILIGHT-TIME/](https://www.antidotefilms.com.au/twilight-time/)

Thursday, 17 July | NIMBIN (NSW)
THE NIMBIN BUSH THEATRE

Friday, 18 July | BYRON BAY (NSW)
PALACE BYRON BAY

Sunday, 20 July | CAIRNS (QLD)
EVENT CINEMAS CAIRNS CENTRAL

Thursday, 24 July | DARWIN (NT)
DECKCHAIR CINEMA

GIG GUIDE

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

WEDNESDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM **INO PIO**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30AM **NIC CAMPBELL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KANE MUIR**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: MITCHELL DORMER & JON SHORTER**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BOWLO BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **IRISH FOLK JAM**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **OPEN MIC JAM**

THURSDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRISTIAN PATEY**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **THEO KATZMAN + DÉVU**, **JESSE WITNEY**, **LUKE PAULEY**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **SPANGLED THURSDAY FT. KICKED-IN BICKIE TIN - DROPICS - TEMPERMENTAL MACHINE - FEM GREMS**, 6PM **INO PIO**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- KELP BAR, BALLINA, 5PM **JOE CONROY**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **ANDY JANS-BROWN**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO HUM**
- WHITEBROOK THEATRE, SOUTHERN CROSS UNIVERSITY, LISMORE, 6.30PM **NORTHERN RIVERS YOUTH ORCHESTRA 2025 FINALE CONCERT**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**

FRIDAY 11

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CASSIE ROSS & THE SOL GARDEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **ANIMAL VENTURA DUO + THE VYBEZ BAND**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 4PM **MATT ARMITAGE DUO**, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: MICK BUCKLEY & DIZZY + JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**, 8PM **SEVEN DROPS**

- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4.30PM **DJ DAVI BANGMA**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **ADAM HARPAZ**
- LONE GOAT GALLERY, BYRON BAY, 5PM **EXHIBITION OPENING - 'RISE AND FALL' BY KARLA DICKENS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **GUY KACHEL TRIO**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10AM **MORNING MELODIES WITH TOMMY MEMPHIS**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **YOLAN**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM **PABLO LAVERDE**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM **RUBY GILL**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **PUSH**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ PAPA BITCHO**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **WOLFIE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BRETT HEALY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **SALI BRACEWELL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7.30PM **CHOCOLATE STARFISH**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7PM **'COOL CHANGE' - A TRIBUTE TO LITTLE RIVER BAND**

SATURDAY 12

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PAPER LANE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **CHRIS CAVILL + JAM HOT**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **PISTOL WHIP + DJ WHO'S WHO**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12PM **MR NICE & KAI NOON**, 1.30PM **DJ MR NICE + DANI QUAYLE MUSIC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **NATHAN KAYE DUO + KANE MUIR TRIO**, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: MICK BUCKLEY & SAM WHEAT + JAKE BISTROW & JON SHORTER**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- MULLUMBIMBY MULLUM **ROOTS FESTIVAL**
- VARIOUS VENUES, MULLUMBIMBY, 11AM **MULLUM ROOTS FESTIVAL**

- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ JAX**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 5PM **THE DUSTIES**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **BEN WHITING**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **JOE CONROY BAND**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 9PM **DJ FRYER AND THE CRATES PRESENT GENERAL ECLECTIC**
- NORTHERN RIVERS HOTEL, LISMORE, 7PM **SONIC FX**
- M-ARTS, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM **TRAP HOUSE VOL. 2 "END OF AN ERA"**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **DAVE CAVANAGH**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **TROY COX**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 6PM **SKEGGS**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE STAGE 8PM **CHOIRBOYS**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7PM **THE KILLER QUEEN EXPERIENCE**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **HAYLEY GRACE DUO**

SUNDAY 13

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DONNY SHADES DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **KINGSWOOD SUPPORTED + ABBIE FERRIS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: MICK BUCKLEY & JOHN HILL**
- PLAYGROUND, BYRON BAY, 6PM **UNSETTLED: THE SEARCH BETWEEN WANDERING & BELONGING**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **ROO**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 2PM **SONIC FX**
- LENNOX PIZZA 4.30PM **KEIRAN LARKEY**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT SAM BUCKLEY BAND**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **ANDREW MORRIS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **FAT ALBERT + BENNY D WILLIAMS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- MULLUMBIMBY MULLUM **ROOTS FESTIVAL**
- VARIOUS VENUES, MULLUMBIMBY, 11AM **MULLUM ROOTS FESTIVAL**
- WANDANA BREWING CO.,

- MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ ABEL EL TORO**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **TAHLIA COBY**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB 2PM **TOMMY MEMPHIS**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 4.30PM **THE FABULOUS CAPRETTOS WITH JOE CAMILLERI**
- THE SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 4.30PM **THE FABULOUS CAPRETTOS WITH JOE CAMILLERI**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 1PM **JOE CONROY & TOBY ANDREWS**

MONDAY 14

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JOCK BARNES**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: DIZZY J & MITCHELL DORMER**

TUESDAY 15

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TIM STOKES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KATIE WHITE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: SHANE PARRY & MITCH DORMER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **50 YEARS OF LLOYD WEBBER**

WEDNESDAY 16

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **DAMIEN COOPER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **IZAEAH MARSH**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM **NIC CAMPBELL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: MITCHELL DORMER & JON SHORTER**
- LENNOX PIZZA 6.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BOWLO BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **OPEN MIC JAM**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **JAMES ALEXANDER**



CINEMA

Elio in space!

From the studio that delivered the timeless tales of friendship, courage, and finding your place in the world, comes a **brand-new cosmic odyssey** that speaks straight to the heart. **Disney and Pixar's Elio** is a vibrant, interstellar coming-of-age story about feeling like an outsider – and realising that sometimes, the very things that set us apart are what make us extraordinary.

After the death of his parents, young Elio Solís is orphaned and lives with his aunt Olga, an Air Force major who gave up her dreams of becoming an astronaut to raise her nephew. Elio wanders into a closed exhibit on the Voyager 1 spacecraft, where he is awed by the idea of discovering other life in space.

Years later, Elio wishes to be abducted by aliens. Every day, he lies on the beach waiting, but without result – until, the universe calls back!

Elio finds himself inadvertently beamed up to the Communiverse, an interplanetary organisation with representatives from galaxies far and wide.

Mistakenly identified as Earth's ambassador to the rest of the universe, and completely unprepared for that kind of pressure, Elio must form new bonds with eccentric alien lifeforms, survive a series of formidable trials and somehow discover who he is truly meant to be.

With heart, humour, and that unmistakable Pixar magic, *Elio* is a celebration of belonging in the unlikeliest of places. A big-screen adventure for the whole family.

Elio is screening this week at Palace Cinemas, Byron Bay.

For more info and to book tickets, visit: palacecinemas.com.au.

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



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

PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY JULY 10
TO WEDNESDAY JULY 16

COMING SOON
I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER

NOW SHOWING
SUPERMAN

THE FRIEND

THE GOONIES

QR CODE

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPANISH ENCORES

- EL 47 (M)
Daily except Sat: 3:40PM. Sat: 3:40PM, 6:00PM
- BABIES DON'T COME WITH INSTRUCTIONS (M) SPANISH ENCORE
Thurs: 6:00PM
- SAMANA SUNRISE (M) SPANISH ENCORE
Sun: 6:00PM
- UNDERCOVER (CTC) SPANISH ENCORE
Fri: 6:00PM

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

- FRIENDSHIP (M) MOVIE CLUB PREVIEW
Tues: 6:15PM
- I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (M) FRIED NIGHT
Wed: 8:30PM
- THE FRIEND (M) SPARKLING MATINEE
Sun: 2:00PM
- THE GOONIES (PG) CULT VAULT
Mon: 6:00PM

FAMILY FILMS

- ELIO (PG)
Daily: 10:50AM, 1:15PM, 3:45PM
- HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG)
Daily: 10:45AM, 3:15PM, 5:50PM
- LILO & STITCH (PG)
Daily: 11:00AM, 1:20PM
- SMURFS (G) NFT
Daily except Mon: 10:50AM, 1:15PM, 5:15PM. Mon: 10:50AM, 1:15PM

ALL FILMS

- 28 YEARS LATER (MA15+)
Daily: 2:30PM, 6:20PM, 8:45PM
- F1: THE MOVIE (M)
Daily except Sun, Mon: 11:00AM, 2:10PM, 5:00PM, 7:15PM. Sun: 11:00AM, 5:00PM, 7:15PM. Mon: 11:00AM, 2:10PM, 5:00PM, 8:00PM

JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH (M) NFT

Daily except Mon: 11:00AM, 1:00PM, 3:40PM, 5:50PM, 8:00PM. Mon: 11:00AM, 1:00PM, 3:40PM, 5:50PM, 8:20PM

M3GAN 2.0 (M)
Daily except Thurs, Fri: 8:20PM. Thurs, Fri: 8:10PM

MATERIALISTS (M)
Daily: 10:45AM, 3:00PM, 8:40PM

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE - THE FINAL RECKONING (M)
Daily: 11:10AM, 5:30PM

OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH (PG)
Daily except Wed: 1:40PM, 8:30PM. Wed: 1:40PM, 6:00PM

SUPERMAN (M) NFT
Daily: 10:45AM, 1:30PM, 3:20PM, 4:15PM, 6:00PM, 7:00PM, 8:20PM

THE STORY OF SOULEYMANE (M)
Daily: 12:50PM, 8:45PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

ELIO (PG)

Daily except Thurs: 9:45AM, Thurs: 10:00AM

F1: THE MOVIE (M)
Daily except Thurs, Sat: 2:20PM, 7:10PM. Thurs: 2:45PM, 7:10PM. Sat: 7:10PM

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG)
Daily except Thurs: 11:50AM, 5:00PM. Thurs: 12:10PM, 5:00PM

JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH (M) NFT
Daily except Thurs: 9:30AM, 2:10PM, 7:20PM. Thurs: 9:30AM, 2:10PM, 7:45PM

LILO & STITCH (PG)
Daily: 4:50PM

SMURFS (G)

Daily except Thurs: 9:40AM, 12:10PM, 5:20PM. Thurs: 9:40AM, 12:10PM, 5:45PM

SUPERMAN (M)
Daily: 11:40AM, 2:20PM, 7:30PM

THE WIZARD OF OZ (PG) MATINEE MEMORIES
Sat: 2:30PM

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

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

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

Ad bookings only taken during business hours: Monday to Friday, 9am–5pm. Ads can't be taken on the weekend. Account enquiries phone 6684 1777.

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

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LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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POSITIONS VACANT

FRONT OF HOUSE/ALL ROUNDER needed for The Other Joint. 2 days per week 7.30am-3pm. Email resume: mullum@otherjoint.com

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

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Flexible work hours – perfect 2nd income
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The Byron Shire Echo does not accept any liability for the representations or promises made in paid advertisements or for any loss or damage arising from reliance on such content, representations or promises.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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



Osho Guru Purnima Celebration

Saturday 14th June
two days of meditations and celebration

Saturday 8am Silent Dynamic meditation

10am Osho Discourse

12md Osho Dance Meditation

2pm Osho Nadabrahma

5pm Live music Nataraj Dance

6pm Osho video

7pm Dinner with friends

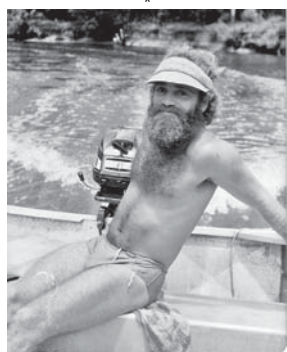
Sunday 9am Osho satsang

11am - 8pm various Osho meditations

Call Shahido 6688 2494

IN MEMORIAM

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN BRO



May you ride the rainbow & swim with the dolphins & whales forever. Bearba

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Road Naming:

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ROAD EXTENSION NAME

Council proposes the naming of an unnamed section of newly constructed section of road within Byron Shire and invites written submissions.

Proposed Name: Gilmore Crescent, Byron Bay

The proposal involves naming a 220m section of newly constructed road that connects Gilmore Crescent and Tennyson Street, Byron Bay.

Council proposes that this unnamed section be named Gilmore Crescent, in continuation of the existing Gilmore Crescent and in recognition of Dame Mary Gilmore.

Council invites written submissions on the proposed name. Submissions may support the proposal or suggest alternative names, particularly those that reflect the cultural heritage and significance of the area.

Following the close of the submission period, Byron Shire Council will consider all duly made submissions prior to making a final determination on the road name.

Council Ref: #E2025/69213

Enquiries: Tracy Armstrong

Telephone: 02 66267201

This document will be available on Council's website at www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Public-Notice.

Submissions Close: 28 Days from notice



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6687 2880

PROPOSAL TO UPGRADE AN EXISTING MOBILE PHONE BASE STATION

1. Telstra is proposing to upgrade an existing mobile phone base station at Telstra Exchange, 95 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby NSW 2482. RFNSA: 2482002.
2. The proposed upgrade will consist of the reconfiguration of six existing panel antennas. Removal of three existing 5G panel antennas. Installation of three (3) new 5G panel antennas (each less than 1m long) at a height of 35m. Ancillary equipment including tower mounted amplifiers and works within the existing shelter.
3. In accordance with Section 7 of the Industry Code C564:2025 Mobile Phone Base Station Deployment, we invite you to make comments about the proposal.
4. Please direct comments to Ben Lavery, Planning Consultant on behalf of Telstra at telstra.submissions@servicestream.com.au, 0497 833 252 or by post to: Service Stream (Wireless) - Level 3, Tower B, Zenith Centre, 821 Pacific Highway, Chatswood NSW 2067 by 5pm Thursday 24 July 2025.

For more information about the proposal, scan the QR Code or visit www.rfnsa.com.au/2482002

Service Stream Ltd A.B.N. 46 072 369 870

Telstra Ltd A.C.N. 086 174 781

Amplitel Pty Ltd A.C.N: 648 133 073



Artisan Air
Positions vacant
 • HVAC Mechanical Installation Technician
 • HVAC Service Technician
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 See ad on page 9 for full details.

Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School
Class 1 Teacher 2026
 See advertisement on page 12.
 Position description and application process
www.capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School
High School Maths Teacher
Temporary Full Time
4 Weeks
 See page 12.
 Position description and application process
capebyronsteiner.nsw.edu.au

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 • Be a team player.
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 Apply with a cover letter and CV to: positions@echo.net.au

Echo

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

NRAS Northern Rivers Animal Services
VOLUNTEER TREASURER ROLE
 Do you love numbers? What about fur babies – cats & dogs? If you answered YES, then we'd love to hear from you.
 Our organisation has been established for almost 25 years and has an outstanding reputation in the community.
 We're a small self-funded, not-for-profit charity with a remit to rehome the lost, abandoned, surrendered and abused companion animals in the Northern Rivers.
 We are looking for a new Treasurer to join our Committee.
 The role requires paying invoices (using Xero), preparing monthly P&L reports for the Committee, overseeing accounting requirements and setting the budget.
 A love of animals will serve you well, working with like-minded people.
 The role would suit a retired accountant, qualified stay at home parent or someone with time to give back in a meaningful way.
 Work can be undertaken in your own time from home but would require that you attend a monthly / bi-monthly meeting either in person or via Zoom.
 If you require additional information or would like to submit your resume to be considered for this voluntary role, please contact the President – E: president@nras.org.au

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

NOW RECRUITING
 Volunteer with **Marine Rescue Cape Byron** and help save lives on the water
 Find out more: mrns.com.au/join

ANIMAL LOVERS!!
 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

MONTHLY MARKETS

1st SAT	Brunswick Heads	0418 400 415
1st SUN	Byron Bay	02 6685 6807
2nd SUN	The Channon	02 6688 6433
2nd SUN	Chillingham	0428 793 141
2nd SUN	Coolangatta	
2nd SUN	Tabulam	
3rd SAT	Mullumbimby	02 6684 3370
3rd SAT	Murwillumbah	0415 328 672
3rd SAT	Salt Village Market, Casuarina	
3rd SUN	Federal	0433 002 757
3rd SUN	Uki	0487 329 150
3rd SUN	Ballina	0422 094 338
4th SAT	Evans Head	0432 275 765
4th SAT	Kyogle Bazaar	kyoglebazaar.com.au
4th SUN	Bangalow	02 6687 1911
4th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764
4th SUN	Murwillumbah	0427 725 507
4th SUN	Coolangatta (in a 5 Sunday month)	
5th SUN	Nimbin	0475 135 764

FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS

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

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

PETS

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)

MAXI
 Meet Maxi – Big Paws, Bigger Heart! Maxi is a 7-month-old Kelpie x Bull Arab pup, rescued after being abandoned. This gentle, goofy boy is great with other dogs, loves treats, and is learning fast. He'll be a big cuddly companion who enjoys training, exercise, and plenty of snuggles. Perfect for a farm, property, or active home ready to guide him into greatness. Utterly irresistible. Ready to meet you.
byrondogrescue.org
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 Call Julia on 0458 461 935

JORDAN

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 To meet Jordan, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.
OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm
Thurs 3-5pm | Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 0436 845 542
Like us on Facebook!
 AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
 Number: R251000222

ANGEL

 Angel by name, angel by nature! What a sweet and affectionate darling she is. Loves attention, loves her strokes, and loves you back. She has a pretty light coloured tabby coat, is 2 1/2 years old and is craving a loving forever home.
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petsforlifeanimalshelter.net

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



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



BV VIEW
 The Brunswick Valley VIEW Club are holding their 40th birthday celebration on Thursday, 14 August with luncheon at the Brunswick Bowling Club. We have a very special guest speaker this year, Normie Rowe.

Middle East Veterans
 The second Middle East Veterans Memorial Ceremony will be held at Byron Bay Cenotaph at 11am on Friday 11 July. Organised by Byron Bay RSL subbranch in conjunction with The Veterans Motorcycle Club and Mullumbimby RSL. Lunch after at Byron Bay Services Club – free for those wearing medals. Enquiries Jim 0412 679 870.

Fun improv stories
 Do you love being silly, making stuff up, and having tons of fun? Join us for a fun, friendly improv theatre workshop at the Mullumbimby Library on Tuesday, July 15 at 2.30pm. No experience needed – just bring your imagination and get ready to create stories, laugh, and play with new friends. Perfect for curious kids who love to express themselves and be silly! With special guest Zakairan – improv theatre teacher. This event is for children 10 years old and above. Book now as spots are limited: 6684 2992.

Drill Hall film society
 Screening Stanley Kubrick's 1964 classic Dr Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb starring the brilliant Peter Sellers on Wednesday, 16 July. The doors (kitchen and bar) open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start. Membership is now due for the next 11 films and guests are welcome. For further information contact drillhallfilms@gmail.com.

Bruns U3A
 Enjoy lifelong learning for retired seniors in your Third Age with Bruns U3A. There will be no Forum until 12 August due to hall repairs. Our interest groups including garden group, movie group, Shabashi, foodies, Scottish country dance, French revisited, walkers and talkers, marjong, men's shed, table tennis, chess debating group will proceed. Info at [bvU3q.org](mailto:bvu3q.org)
 Or contact Denise 0423 778 573./

NR Community Gateway
 Free NAIDOC community event: celebrate NAIDOC Week with a free barbecue with vegetarian options and the unveiling of a new mural, created by local First Nations artists to showcase indigenous stories and culture on Friday, 11 July, 11am until 2pm at 76 Carrington Street, Lismore. Free fresh bread and produce is available at Community Gateway Lismore on Tuesday, 8 July after 11am. Call 6621 7397 to check your eligibility. Free tech support clinic for seniors to build skills and confidence using their laptops and mobiles to stay connected with friends, family and essential services is on Wednesday, 9 July at Community Gateway. Call 6621 7397 for more information and to book your place.

BV VIEW Club
 Brunswick Valley VIEW Club's next luncheon meeting is on 10 July at the Brunswick Bowling Club at 10.30am. Apologies Wenda on 0449 563 580 or email wjhunt@yahoo.com.au no later than the Monday before.

NAIDOC Lismore
 Celebrate NAIDOC Week with Community Gateway's free

community event, featuring a free barbecue with vegetarian options and the unveiling of a new mural, created by local First Nations artists to showcase Indigenous stories and culture. All are welcome on Friday, 11 July, 11am-2pm at 76 Carrington Street, Lismore.

Bonfire & Fireworks Newrybar Public School
 The Bonfire & Fireworks night fundraiser for Newrybar Public School is on Saturday, 2 August. Gates open at 4pm with fireworks at 7.30pm. It's the schools 36th annual Bonfire & Fireworks fundraiser night. Pay on the gate, \$5 per person / \$20 per family (cash encouraged).

Dying well
 Saint Mary's Anglican Church Ballina will see a free talks on the 'Kinder Side of Dying' by Dr Michael Barbato on Friday, 15 August 2025 at 5.30pm and 'In Conversation with Dr Barbato' on Saturday, 16 August at 2pm To register contact Kerry kerrymj@gmail.com.

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.

Secondhand book fair
 Friends of Libraries are holding their annual secondhand Book Fair and wish to thank all contributing donors

Respite Service
 Byron Shire Respite Service delivers high-quality respite care to a broad range of clients throughout the Byron, Ballina and Lismore shires. Donations welcome: Ph 6685 1921, email fundraiser@byronrespite.com.au, website: www.byronrespite.com.au.

Alateen meeting
 Alateen meeting every Thursday at 5-6pm. Do you have a parent, close friend or relative with a drinking problem? Alateen can help. For 8-16-year-olds meet St Cuthbert's Anglican Church Hall, 13 Powell Street, corner of Florence Street Tweed Heads. Al-Anon family groups for older members at the same time and place. 1300 ALANON 1300 252 666 www.al-anon.org.au.

Drug support groups
 Call **Alcoholics Anonymous** 1800 423 431 or 0401 945 671 – 30 meetings a week in the Shire – www.aa.org.au. Are you experiencing difficulties and challenges because of the alcohol or drug use of someone close to you? Learn coping skills and gain support from others. **Narcotics Anonymous** is a fellowship of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. We are recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. For information and meetings call 1300 652 820 or text your postcode to 0488 811 247. www.na.org.au. Are you concerned about somebody else's drinking? **Al-Anon Family Groups** meetings held Fridays at 2pm by Zoom. 1300 252666 www.al-anon.org.au.

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Elysium Estate offers a rare opportunity to embrace luxury living, self-sufficiency, and income potential, all set within an awe-inspiring mountain landscape. Perched high above the Northern Rivers and framed by iconic Australian peaks, including Mt Warning, the Nightcap Range, Mt Jerusalem, and Mt Burrell, this 104-acre* property is a sanctuary where every sunrise is a masterpiece, and every sunset promises serenity.

Located just 40 minutes from the Gold Coast and 50 minutes from Byron Bay, Elysium provides the perfect balance of seclusion and accessibility, allowing you to enjoy the best of both worlds.

This beautifully maintained, and manicured, hobby farm presents an idyllic lifestyle, offering endless opportunities for outdoor recreation and relaxation. Horseback riding, motorbiking, tranquil rainforest walks, refreshing swims in the private creek, playing tennis or basketball and the joy of harvesting your own fresh produce and eggs are just a few ways to immerse yourself in nature. After a day spent exploring, unwind with a



bonfire and a glass of wine beneath the stars, embracing the peaceful serenity of your surroundings.

Spend quality time together, surrounded by friendly farm animals and lush landscapes. If you're looking for income, the property offers several lucrative options, including private accommodation for guests or family, and the possibility of short-term rental opportunities or future development potential.

Additionally, the estate's picturesque setting provides the ideal backdrop for a wedding venue

or eco-tourism, adding yet another layer of business potential. Whether you seek a peaceful rural retreat, an active lifestyle, or a smart investment, Elysium Estate offers a truly versatile living experience.

Water flows abundantly across the estate, ensuring complete self-sufficiency. With three spring-fed dams, a running creek, bore, solar pump, and seven rainwater tanks that gravity feed the farm, the property is fully-equipped to meet its water needs. A comprehensive irrigation system nurtures the land, while dual



access and 4km of internal roads* make navigating the property easy and convenient.

Two private, luxurious demountable cabins provide ideal accommodations for guests or family and can also be used for additional income generation. For those seeking a touch of magic, a handcrafted outdoor firetub offers the perfect place to relax with twilight soaks beneath the mountains, creating an enchanting experience.

Elysium Estate is not only a tranquil retreat but also a productive

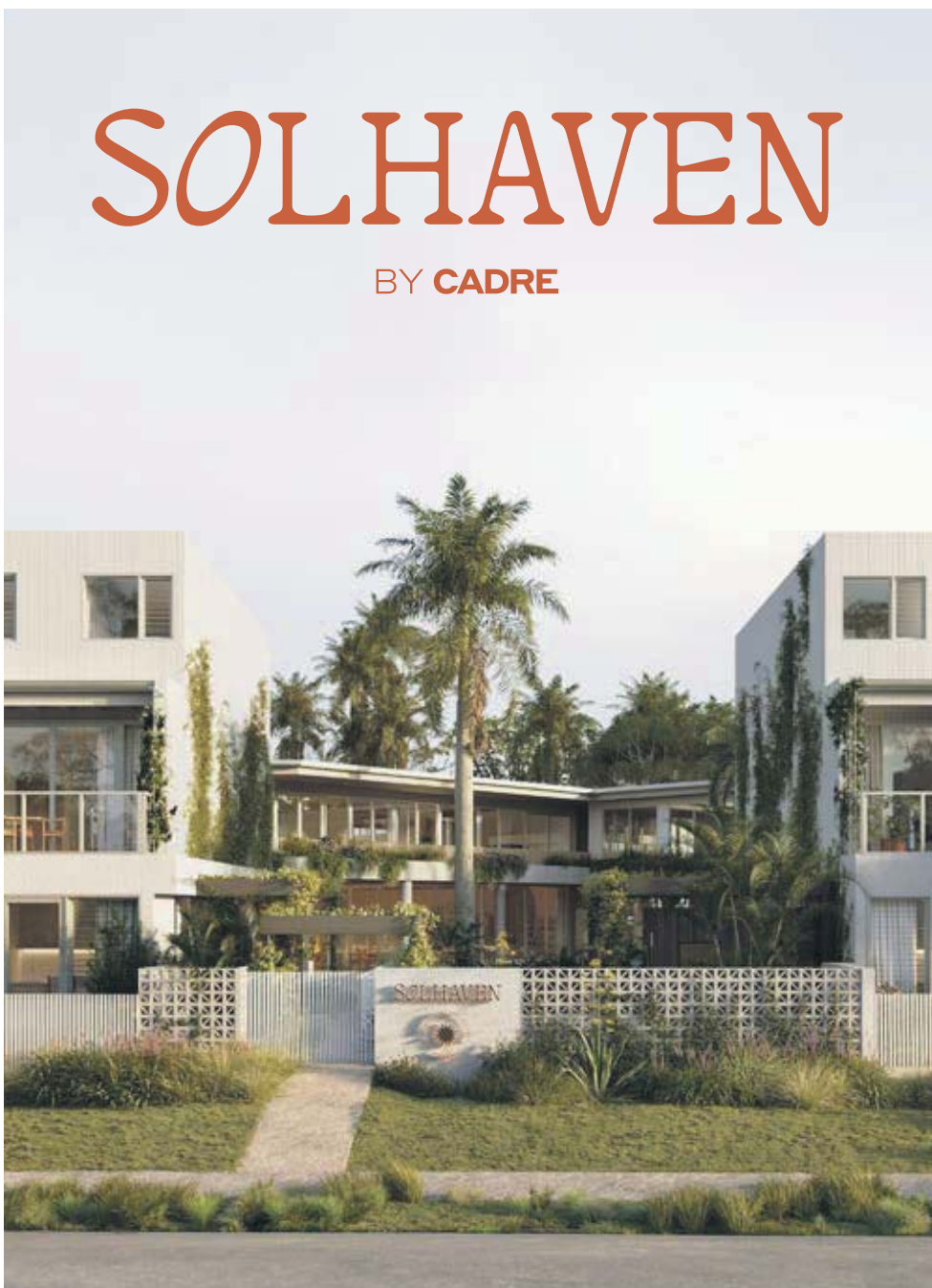
working farm. The property includes stables, seven fenced paddocks, an American-style barn, a coldroom, flourishing orchards including mangos, macadamias, avocados, banana, passionfruit, citrus and a boutique vineyard – all contributing to a lifestyle of sustainability and legacy. This is a place where you can embrace rural living, nourish the land, and create something meaningful, all while enjoying the luxury and beauty of your surroundings.

This is a place to create, to nourish, to live with purpose and passion, a private sanctuary where nature and luxury intertwine. Don't just dream about it – make it a reality.

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Disclaimer *= approx.

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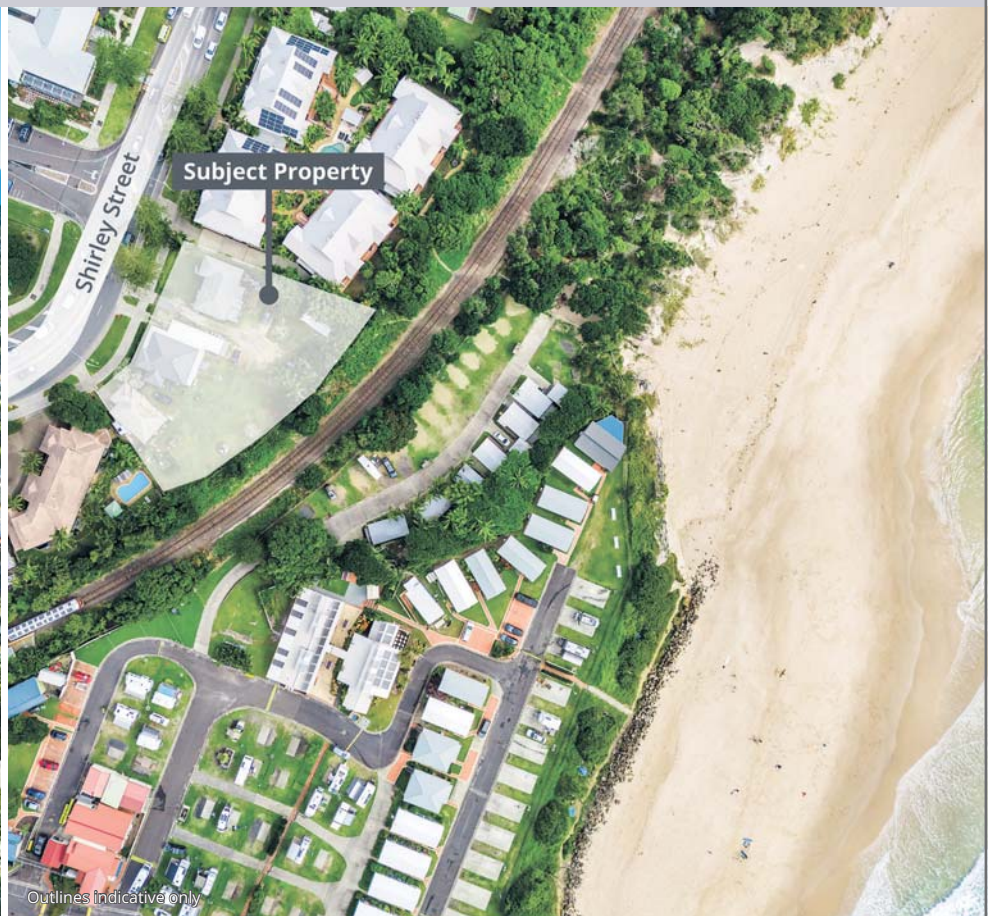
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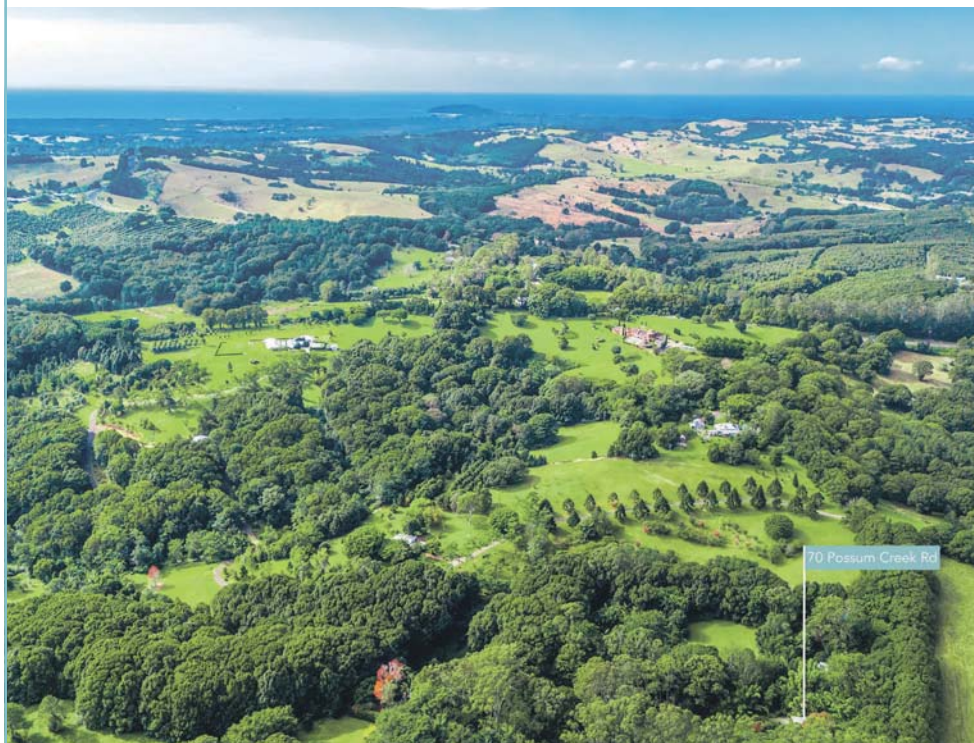
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- 17 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Thurs 12-12.30pm
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 10-10.30am
- 14 Rush Court, Mullumbimby. Fri 11-11.30am
- 480 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 1C Short Street, New Brighton. Sat 9-9.30am
- 14 Rush Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/16 Marattia Place, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30-10am
- 27 Roses Road, Federal. Sat 9.30-10am
- 29 Palm-Lily Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 93 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 17 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 40 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 58 Corkwood Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 10.30-11am
- 3/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/59 Brandon Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 234A Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 496 Myocum Road, Myocum. Sat 11-11.30am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am
- 7 Lasiandra Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 147 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 87 Massinger Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1696 Hinterland Way, Mcleods Shoot. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 46 Cedar Drive, Dunoon. Sat 12.15-12.45pm

- 9/9 Easy Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 2 Beach Avenue, South Golden Beach. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 7 Hoop Pine Lane, Suffolk Park. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 2/19 Marvell Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 101 James Street, Dunoon. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 14 Kiah Close, Ocean Shores. Sat 1.30-2pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 284 Emerson Road, Rosebank. Thur 1-1.30pm
- 60 Federation Drive, Eltham. Sat 9.30-10am
- 90 Bates Road, Federal. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 831 Binna Burra Road, Federal. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 70 Possum Creek Road, Bangalow. Sat 1-1.30pm

Real Estate of Distinction

- 11 Bian Court, Ocean Shores. Sat. 11.30am-12pm
- 15 Broadway, Burringbar. Sat. 12.30-1pm
- 876 Tamarind Drive, Tintenbar. Sat. 2-2.30pm

DJ Stringer Property Services

- 304/141 Musgrave St, Coolangatta. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2085/18-20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2104/18-20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 9.30-10am
- 29 Keegan Circuit, Currumbin Waters. Sat 10-10.30am
- 5 Cedar Ridge, Banora Point. Sat 10.30-11am
- 17/7-9 Parry St, Tweed Heads South. Sat 11-11.30am
- 24/182-184 Kennedy Dr, Tweed Heads West. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 5 Terranora Rd, Banora Point. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2/15 Boyd St, Tweed Heads. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 305 Casuarina Way, Kingscliff. Sat 1-1.30pm

Mana RE

- 26 Redgate Road, South Golden Beach. Sat 9.30-10am
- 4/2 Arika Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 9.30-10am
- 8 Tweed Street, Murwillumbah. Sat 10-10.30am
- 22-24 River Street, Brushgrove. Sat 10-10.30am
- 6 North Head Road, New Brighton. Sat 10.30-11am
- 38 Banool Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.30-11am
- 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 11-11.30am
- 132 Middle Pocket Road, Middle Pocket. Sat 12.30-1pm

Dodds Real Estate

- 108 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 1.30-2pm

Ruth Russell Realty

- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 10-10.30am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.45am

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 260 Evans Head Road, Woodburn. Sat 9.30-10am
- 4/31 McKinnon Street, East Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2c Fletcher Street, Broadwater. Sat 10.15-10.45am
- 66 Riverside Drive, West Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 412 Bagotville Road, Meerschaum Vale. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 8 Stockmans Place, Gulmarrad. Sat 1.30-2pm

New Listings

Mana RE

- 8 Tweed Street, Murwillumbah

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A reminder that Transport for NSW (who manage railway land) are yet to remediate the dangerous, asbestos-riddled burnt-out Mullumbimby Railway Station. A resident raised concerns around young kids still playing around the area, so parents, please be on top of it (unlike Transport for NSW).

Psst: Free yoga classes are being held at Banner Park in Brunswick Heads on Fridays, supported by NSW Get Healthy and Reflections Holidays. Over 55s classes are from 9.30am and kids classes (0-6 years) start from 11am. Parents are required to stay, and are welcome to join in. BYO mat.

Given the NSW government/Council are both proposing and determining the large block of units in Mullum's CBD, will there be any independent assessment? It seems that's been left to residents to assess whether it breaches regulations. See page 4.

South Australia has just banned political donations! While it hopefully prompts other states and the federal government to follow, the best model for democracy appears to be in Singapore. There, politicians are provided a generous wage comparable to corporate CEOs. The only catch is that politicians can't work for corporates after they retire.

US Democrat congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez posted, 'I don't think anyone is prepared for what the [Republicans] just did with ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement). This is



The second Middle East Veterans Memorial Ceremony will be held at Byron Bay Cenotaph at 11am on Friday, July 11. A lunch at Byron Bay Services Club will be held afterwards. Pictured are Nev Watts, Vice-President Mullumbimby RSL sub branch, and Stephen Williams, President Mullum RSL sub branch. Photo Jeff Dawson

not a simple budget increase. It is an explosion - making ICE bigger than the FBI, US Bureau of Prisons, DEA, and others combined. It is setting up to make what's happening now look like child's play. And people are disappearing'

World Environment Day - a day of community, nature, and celebration - will be held Sunday, July 13 at the Murwillumbah Showground. It runs from 10am to 3.30pm. See page 8.

From *New Scientist*: 'A small, secretive group of lizards that still exist today may have been the only terrestrial vertebrates that survived in the vicinity of the Chicxulub asteroid collision that led to the extinction of the non-avian dinosaurs'

Vale long-time local, Paul Campton, who was killed in a hit-and-run accident over the weekend in Bangalow.

Psst: A group of Australian fashion and lifestyle creatives has sold Sun Ranch hotel, located at Coopers

Shoot, for more than \$15 million, according to view.com.au. Two years ago it was purchased for \$3.9 million.

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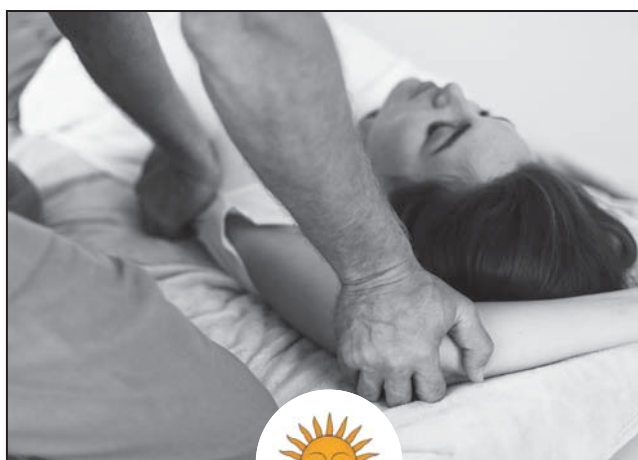
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