

Echo

SPOT THE MISTAKE AND GET A FREE ECHO NEXT WEEK

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 40 #07 • July 23, 2025 • www.echo.net.au

The big Bush bash in Bruns



What's a collective noun for a group of Kate Bush fans? A tragedy of Kates met at Torakina Beach in Brunswick Heads on Sunday to celebrate Kate Bush's upcoming 66th birthday.

'The Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever', is a global event where participants perform the iconic dance moves from the famous video. In 1978, at the age of 19, Bush topped the UK singles chart for four weeks with her debut single

'Wuthering Heights', becoming the first female artist to achieve a UK number one with a fully self-written song. This tragedy was led by Kelly O'Meara and photographed by Jeff 'Limping Up That Hill' Dawson.

Labor govt proposes reduced consultation on large housing developments

Paul Bibby

The NSW Labor government is planning to halve the amount of time local communities are given to express their views on large housing developments in their towns and suburbs.

In a move which highlights the inherent tension between housing demand and environmental conservation, the government is proposing to reduce the minimum public exhibition period from 28 to 14 days for state significant development applications that relate to residential development.

It is part of a broader suite of changes to the Community

Participation Plan (CPP), the government policy that sets out the mandatory requirements on planning matters, including consultation timeframes and community participation objectives.

State significant developments

State significant developments are major projects that are deemed to have significant economic, environmental, or social impacts that extend beyond the local community.

They also typically exceed certain thresholds in terms of size and capital investment.

The power to approve or refuse

these developments is taken out of the hands of local councils and given to regional planning panels.

Locally, the panel that oversees such decisions is the Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP), which recently approved a controversial large greenfield DA at 53 McAuleys Lane, Myocum.

The panel will also decide on a large proposal in Mullumbimby's CBD for affordable housing units and commercial space over a carpark, which is being proposed by government agency Landcom and Council.

Under the Government's proposed changes, the time given to the community to comment on these large developments will be

halved in cases where they relate to residential development.

It is part of the government's attempt to address the state's housing crisis by streamlining the development application process.

NSW Minister for Planning and Public Spaces, Paul Scully said the changes aligned with recent amendments to the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* and aim to balance community feedback with the need for faster housing delivery.

'This is another step forward in our plan to tackle the housing and planning challenge head-on,' Mr Scully said.

'We're removing the barriers

that slow down good development and focusing on what matters, building more homes.'

'With these changes, we're making it clear that NSW is serious about delivering more affordable homes and supporting councils to make practical, timely planning decisions.'

Strong objections

But community groups and campaigners across the state have voiced strong objections to the reduced consultation time, arguing that it limits the community's ability to collectively respond to inappropriate development.

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MEMBERS NIGHTS!

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Vale Stefano Canuto

Norm Appel and Stefano's family

Byrone Shire, indeed, the world, lost one of our most loved and colourful characters recently.

Stef, as we all knew him, or Canoodles to his tennis buddies, passed away peacefully on June 19 surrounded by his loving family, after spending over a-year-and-a-half in hospital with severe spinal injuries, following a tragic accident at Belongil Beach.

Born in Venice, Italy, in 1956, Stef developed his strong sense of social justice from an early age. In high school, he became a student leader and activist.

Later, he travelled to Portugal to report on what became known as the Carnation Revolution, for a left-wing newspaper during that country's transition to democracy.

He worked in Portugal cooking in a restaurant, where he expanded his considerable talent as a self-taught chef.

Hippy trail

In 1981, Stef joined the hippy trail to India, where he spent time in the Menali Valley.

Back in Venice in 1982, he fell in love at first sight across a crowded room with a girl from Oz on Santo Stefano Day.

Stef and Gemma remained together for the next 40 years.

They first came to Australia in 1989, and travelled around the country, spending time in the Papunya Tula arts community. Soon after, they showcased the first-ever exhibition of Australian Indigenous art in Venice, Italy.

Stef and Gemma immigrated permanently to Australia, and found a special place in



Stefano Canuto. Photo supplied

'Born in Venice, Italy, in 1956, Stef developed his strong sense of social justice from an early age.'

Upper Wilsons Creek, where they built a house. Two beautiful kids, Lucia and Leif followed soon after.

For the next 30 years, Stefano dedicated himself to working,

cooking and dreaming on the land.

He replanted the rainforest and expanded a citrus orchard and farm, supplying fresh organic produce for many shops and restaurants in Mullum. As well, he and Gemma ran a day spa.

Stef loved his sport.

Every Friday night for over 30 years, he played tennis with us, his band of brothers.

He also loved playing social soccer.

He would stay up until the wee hours to watch his beloved AC Milan in action.

An exuberant party animal, Stef loved life and we all loved him, the most Italian Italian you'll ever meet.

There will be a celebration of Stefano's life at Ewingsdale Hall on Saturday, August 2 from 3.30pm.

Ocean Shores bike path proposed through protected habitat

Paul Bibby

Building a bike and pedestrian path through the Marshalls Creek Nature Reserve in Ocean Shores would amount to 'environmental vandalism', a local community group says.

Byron Shire Council is considering building a path connecting the main residential areas of Ocean Shores to the shopping centre, and on to New Brighton Beach.

This would include a wooden boardwalk cutting through the Marshalls Creek Reserve down to the beach.

But much of the reserve is a designated Habitat Protection Zone, containing several threatened species, including the white-bellied sea eagle, the beach stone curlew, the mangrove honey eater, and the black-headed stork.

As such, the move is opposed by a significant number of locals, including the members of the Conservation of North Ocean Shores (CONOS).

CONOS is a local conservation organisation that has been involved in establishing and expanding these reserves for over 30 years.

They have launched an online petition calling on Council to abandon the planned boardwalk.

'This environmentally-destructive route is totally unnecessary because there are already existing roads providing shorter routes,' CONOS representative, Richard Whitling said.

'For example, Rajah Road to the Brunswick Valley Way bridge and on to Brunswick Heads. I believe this is the preferred outcome sought by both the South Golden Beach Community Association and the New Brighton Association.'

'These environmentally-protected areas are very sensitive and that's why they were declared as nature reserves instead of national parks.'

'Despite their size limitations the reserves contain large numbers of threatened flora and fauna species that are just holding on. Further disturbance to the reserves would be environmental vandalism.'

CONOS also argues that the Council process by which a boardwalk through the Marshalls Creek reserve became an option was flawed.

They say that this route emerged as part of



The proposed bikeway in Ocean Shores. Image www.change.org

the process of developing the shire-wide bike plan and accompanying Pedestrian Access and Mobility Plan (PAMP), but that the Council then ignored the extensive public consultation process that had been conducted.

Flawed process claims

'The routes were put forward by Council staff, a Council committee, and the project consultants, and then presented to councillors for adoption - there are no records of the routes being approved by the communities,' Mr Whitling said.

Mr Whitling said the route was proposed to follow close behind residential properties in Ocean Shores that border the reserves, and then continue along the edges of Marshalls Creek through the nature reserves to the M1.

He said it can never be monitored for user safety and would likely become an 'e-bike race track'.

'This 2km route through the reserves would not have been included in the bike plan if councillors and staff had consulted with the National Parks & Wildlife Service (NP&WS) at the outset. It's only now that Council sought input from the NP&WS who have stated that the route is incompatible with the nature reserves,' he said.

To sign the petition, go to www.change.org and search for 'Hands off our Ocean Shores nature reserves and marine park'.

Byron Bay Special Entertainment Precinct

Help shape Byron Bay's future: A creative activation for the heart of Byron Bay. Have Your Say on the Special Entertainment Precinct.

We're inviting you to get involved in the creation of a Special Entertainment Precinct in Byron Bay's town centre. This exciting initiative aims to support a vibrant, inclusive, and safe town centre—day and night.

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Online Webinars:
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Businesses: 10:00 AM
Residents: 12:30 PM

Registration is essential.

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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.

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

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A paddle out to...

Highly respected free surfer and vehement environmentalist, Dave Rastovich, at Sunday's paddle out in Byron.
Photo Jeff 'Deep Duck Dives' Dawson

As part of a global day of action to stop deep-sea mining before it starts, Byron surfers gathered at midday at Clarkes Beach on Sunday to highlight the severe environmental risks and scientific uncertainty surrounding deep-sea mining.

It comes as Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, released a report that confirms the concerns of ocean advocates – the deep ocean is too poorly understood to proceed with mining safely.

CSIRO report

The CSIRO report is called 'Integrated Ecosystem Assessment and Ecosystem-Based Management Framework for Polymetallic Nodule Collection' and is available from research.csiro.au/dsm.

CSIRO say the research 'marks the first time ecosystem-based management approaches have been applied in a comprehensive way to a deep-sea ecosystem'.

Surfrider Foundation says, 'Industrial strip mining would target the deep Pacific where Australia's swells are born, it would destroy poorly understood sea-floor habitats hosting 90 per cent of species not yet discovered and would create toxic sediment clouds and constant noise pollution, affecting marine life.'

'Scientists warn biodiversity loss and extinctions would be inevitable.'

■ Editorial page 8

Police reminder on crime – don't leave keys in car

Aslan Shand

The Tweed-Byron Police are reminding locals to not leave their keys in the car and to lock up their houses to reduce the number of car thefts and break and enters across the Byron Shire.

Significant arrests

Donna Tutt, Detective Acting Inspector at the Byron Bay Police Station, told *The Echo*, 'Concerning break-ins and motor vehicle theft in the Tweed/Byron Police District, there have

been significant arrests and property recovered over the last six months as a result of Operation SOTERIA, which was formed to target the increase of these offences across the region'.

She says, 'As a result, there has been a significant reduction in break-ins and vehicle theft; however, as always, we still need to remain vigilant with our property and ensure it's secured appropriately'.

'We are encouraging homeowners to secure their vehicles and homes appropriately to avoid opportunistic crime.'

'We encourage the use of cameras and sensor lights as a deterrent and if you see any suspicious vehicles or people in places they shouldn't be, police are interested in knowing about it, so please don't hesitate to call.'

Call Byron Bay Police station on 6685 9499 or call Crime Stoppers: 1800 333 000 or visit www.nsw.crimestoppers.com.au.

Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

Labor proposes reduced consultation on large DAs

► Continued from page 1

Local NSW MP, Tamara Smith (Greens), told *The Echo*, 'Significant developments require more community scrutiny not less'.

Paradox politics

'NSW Labor are on the one hand portraying a utopian future of housing for everyone if only we can cut red tape, but have no actual plan or laws to mandate residential housing be actually affordable for your average person.'

'There is no world where reducing the time period for public submissions around large-scale residential developments is in the interests of the community, or designed in our interest.'

'How can the state Labor

minority government in one breath say they are prioritising community participation through local council consultation plans, and in the next breath limit the amount of time the public have to engage with large complex development applications?'

'The minister for planning is suggesting that the current 28-day time period for community engagement – a crucial democratic process that, let's face it, rarely brings about change, is holding up the rollout of housing. But this presumes any housing is good for us.'

'Without the tenuous 60-day cap on short term rental accommodation (STRA) in Byron Shire, the whole of the West Byron

residential development will be for tourists.'

'It was a state significant development that saw over 1,000 community submissions against it, during a 28-day public submission period, and it still went through', Ms Smith adds.

Will cause far greater disruption

James Barrie, a member of the Save Wallum leadership team, said in his submission to the government regarding the changes that, 'The time required to organise, discuss, communicate, and coordinate within our communities in concert with our increasingly busy lives is already greater than the original allowances'.

'To shorten that again would be tragic, and serve to facilitate decisions that the public would be forced to fight in arrears – causing far greater disruption, resource wastage, and distrust in planning policy.'

'Planning policy decisions and projects that escape public assessment and contribution pose a great risk of community pushback at the gates.'

'Better for all involved to increase consultation opportunities than decrease them,' Barrie added.

With the public exhibition period for proposed changes now at an end, the NSW state government will consider the feedback before moving to the implementation stage later in the year.

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Farewell Uncle Pete

Around 200 people attended Uncle Pete Birch Marshall's memorial on Friday at Main Beach Byron. It was a fitting place for his farewell given Pete called it his office. It was a colourful event, with friends and family coming from far afield to pay their respects. Pete was not only a top AFL football player, but roadied for top Aussie bands such as AC/DC and was an accomplished painter and dancer. Pictured is Sue Davidson, mother of Pete's much-loved daughter, Elle. Photo Jeff Dawson

Elders' Hub/sharing circle in Mullum, July 26

The next meeting of the Elders' Hub will be on Saturday, July 26 from 10am.

Organisers say 'We will begin with a sharing circle and follow with a presentation by Jennifer Groves, called 'Loosen up! The art of easy walking' in which she will be sharing ways to walk that strengthen and nourish our knees and hips.'

'Jennifer has taught yoga, somatic practice, Feldenkrais, and movement intelligence for 40 years, helping people discover movement "as nature meant" (Dr Ruthy Alon). Meet at the yurt in the permaculture gardens on Gordon Street, opposite the Byron Community College in Mullumbimby.'



Jennifer Groves. Photo www.movement-intelligence.com.au



Do you want to help in times of disaster?

Come along to an information session to learn more about spontaneous volunteering and how you can help when our community is in need.

There'll be presentations from organisations and agencies that help in times of disaster, information stalls and yummy food.

Dates and locations:

- Tuesday 29 July from 6pm-8pm at St Martin's Memorial Church Hall, 38-40 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby.
- Wednesday 30 July from 6pm-8pm at Ocean Shores Public School Hall, 166 Shara Boulevard, Ocean Shores.
- Saturday 2 August from 1pm-3pm at Marvell Hall, 37 Marvell Street, Byron Bay.

More information

For more information head to Council's What's On page at

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Whats-On



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Calls for SAE closure to be reconsidered

With the announcement that SAE Byron Bay campus would close by 2028, a coalition of students, alumni, staff, and community members are calling for the decision to be reconsidered, and to allow for community consultation.

Serena Nesci said in a media release last week that, 'This decision has shocked and concerned students, staff, alumni and the broader Northern Rivers creative community. Although, there is a consultation period until the end of July before a formal full closure of the current campus is decided'.

Cultural landmark

'SAE Byron Bay is a cultural landmark, and has nurtured generations of musicians, filmmakers, audio engineers, and digital creatives for over two decades.

'Its closure threatens access to creative education

in regional and remote NSW; local jobs and industry talent development, and Byron Bay's identity as a creative hub'.

Serena is asking SAE to explore alternatives, which could include downsizing, partnerships, or co-location models.

Matt Evans, Executive General Manager SAE Australia and spokesperson for SAE and ACAP University Colleges told *The Echo*, 'The decision to wind-down the Byron Bay campus was not taken lightly. We've been exploring options for rejuvenating the campus for a significant amount of time, and we continue to work in consultation with impacted staff and students.

'We are open to discussing any proposals they may put forward. However, since the campus was introduced, student demand has shifted and domestic enrolment in the region is no longer sufficient

to support future operations.

'As such, with our lease concluding in 2028, the time is right for the Byron Bay campus to begin winding down. This petition reflects how valued SAE and ACAP University Colleges are, and we're incredibly proud of the many ways our staff, students and alumni continue to contribute to this region's creative and care sectors.

'We thank all those that have shared their love for the campus and how much ACAP and SAE University Colleges have meant to them since the announcement.

He added, 'To celebrate our heritage in the region we will be launching a future scholarship for members of the Byron Bay and broader Northern Rivers community to apply to study at other ACAP and SAE campuses.'

A petition to lobby to 'Save SAE Byron Bay from closure' is at www.chng.it/ZhCp7DGkVM.

Big Voice Choirs raises big funds

Big Voice Choirs (Brunswick Heads and Murwillumbah) recently raised \$3,300 for Mullumbimby and District Neighbourhood Centre, says director Janet Swain.

She told *The Echo*, 'We sang to a packed house, and really, it was quite the lovefest. Such is the power

of choirs - twice a year, we raise a decent amount for an organisation. Last year, it was Murwillumbah Community Centre's Youth Music festival, and before that, we raised over \$2,000 for Northern Rivers for Refugees'.

Registrations are now open for semester 2 of Big Voice

Choirs, she says, and those interested can call Janet on 0438 965 397 or visit www.songdynastymusic.com.

Ms Swain adds that a new nine-week lunchtime branch of the choir will be held at the Kingscliff Community Hall on Tuesdays, from 12pm to 1pm, starting on August 5.

No alternative parking proposed for Mullum carpark units for at least a year

With the large contentious development application (DA) on exhibition for 32 affordable rental homes and commercial space over a much-used Mullumbimby carpark (57 Station St), *The Echo* asked Council staff, 'Will there will be any plans presented around alternative parking/toilet prior to public submissions closing?'

Submissions for DA 10.2025.212.1 close August 31, and it comes with potential impacts on surrounding business, an issue which was flagged in the pre-DA lodgement stage.

Council staff replied, 'The DA for 57 Station Street is currently being assessed by the Northern Regional Planning Panel'.

'Separately, Council is committed to providing alternative parking and public amenities near the town centre.

'Council has received licence agreements from Transport for NSW for the Mullumbimby rail corridor.

'Two sites within this area (at the corner of Argyle and Prince Streets, and next to Woolworths) have been identified for interim public car parking to offset any parking lost owing to the affordable housing development at 57 Station Street.

'The rest of the rail corridor (excluding the temporary housing village) will undergo master planning to explore future uses, including integration of the

Station Masters Cottage and Mullumbimby Rail Station (if suitable for rail trail use), additional town centre parking; community open space and public amenities.

'This planning work will be developed over the next 12 months and reported to Council once complete,' staff added.

Key partner

The Echo also asked Council staff, 'As a key partner to the developer Landcom, were there any negotiations for better outcomes than what is proposed? Also - will Council staff be presenting a report on this DA before the public submissions close?'

Answers will be published if provided.

Empowering women and girls grant closes July 31

A local philanthropic organisation is offering three grants of \$20,000 each to women-led, not-for-profit organisations in the Northern Rivers who are delivering projects that uplift women and girls.

The Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) says the grants are funded through NRCF's Women's Giving Circle, which is 'a dynamic collective of local women who come together to promote gender equality through the power of community-based philanthropy'.

NRCF CEO, Sam Henderson says, 'The Women's Giving Circle encourages applications from organisations working on a range of issues, including the prevention of gender-based violence, improving health outcomes, reducing social isolation, and fostering leadership, inclusion and financial independence among women and girls'.

'Applications are especially encouraged



Photo www.nrcf.org.au

from organisations working with women who experience multiple forms of disadvantage, including First Nations women, LGBTQI+ women, migrant and refugee women, older women, and those facing housing or income insecurity'.

For more info, visit www.nrcf.org.au.

Disaster volunteering info sessions on offer

Volunteers play a critical role in times of disaster, and to better prepare for future events, Byron Shire Council, together with emergency response organisations, local services and groups will be holding three information sessions about volunteering in a disaster.

Council staff say, 'The sessions are a chance for the community to learn more about responding to disasters - like the 2022

floods, and more recently Ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred - through spontaneous volunteering'.

'There'll be short presentations, information stalls and some light refreshments during each of the two-hour events', they say.

Session times

The sessions will be held: Tuesday, July 29 from 6pm till 8pm at St Martin's Church Hall, Mullumbimby (38-40

Stuart Street); Wednesday, July 30 from 6pm till 8pm at Ocean Shores Public School Hall (166 Shara Boulevard); and Saturday, August 2 from 1pm till 3pm at Marvell Hall, Byron Bay (37 Marvell Street).

The sessions will also include short presentations from local community resilience hub group representatives.

For more visit <https://tinyurl.com/5rw27c26>.

Mullum Neighbourhood Centre hosts wellbeing classes

Paul Bibby

'Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much'.

This quote from American author and activist Helen Keller sums up much of the work being done by the Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre.

And that includes a new, free weekly gathering that has just started at the centre called Community Time.

Monday meet up

The regular group is an hour-long meet-up every Monday morning running

from 9am till 10am at the centre's Dalley St premises.

Designed to support participants' wellbeing, the group will involve an hour of mindfulness, gentle movement, and connection.

'It's a space to be yourself and to be supported,' the centre said.

'Everyone is welcome to attend.'

Recent research from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare strongly indicates that community connection plays a vital role in both physical and mental wellbeing.

The research shows that building strong community ties can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, while also contributing to a greater sense of purpose and overall life satisfaction.

Conversely, social isolation and loneliness are linked to a higher risk of premature death, poor physical and mental health, and increased psychological distress.

For more information on Community Time, or any of the centre's other offerings call the neighbourhood centre on 6684 1286 or 0400 548 834.

Writers Festival kids' program drops



Pictured are twins Amelie and Alessandra. Or is it Alessandra and Amelie? Either way, they made friends with the letter O at the Writers Festival a few years back.

Photo Jeff 'All About The Letters, Not Numbers' Dawson

As part of the upcoming Byron Writers Festival (August 8-10), the kids' program returns to inspire the next generation with imagination and storytelling.

Held on Sunday, August 10 at Lilly Pilly and Coolamon marquees, the program will be hosted by comedian and author, Peter Helliar.

Joining him will be Tony Armstrong, Anita Heiss, Kirli Saunders, The Gumboots and many more.

Festival organisers say, 'Catch Word Travels dynamic duo, Miles Merrill and Rachael Williams, kick things off with rhyme and rap. Making his exclusive Byron Writers Festival appearance is rising literary legend, Tony Armstrong, who'll be sharing stories from *George the Wizard* and

Maggie the Dragon. Expect a heartwarming ride through dreams, dragons, and big imaginations'.

'Peter Helliar will take the stage with his own hilarious mystery, *Detective Galileo*. Then it's storytime with Anita Heiss, featuring *Koori Princess* and *Yirra and Her Deadly Dog, Demon*. Kids can create their own story alongside *Run* author, Sarah Armstrong, before celebrating young writers at the Jesse Blackadder Prize Presentation.

Tipi village

'Over at the Coolamon stage, the StoryBoard space comes alive with the iconic StoryBoard bus and tipi village offering free, drop-in workshops and story time sessions with some of the country's most exciting

children's storytellers.

'Start your day here with Afloat author Kirli Saunders, then buzz into biodiversity with Judy Friedlander and The Bee Squad.

Flower crowns

'Kids can get crafty with flower crowns alongside Zanni Louise, before diving into poetry with Sarah Temporal and finishing with a drawing workshop led by Jake A Minton, creator of *Inked: A Graphic Novel*.

'There's more magic in store with joyful dance breaks with The Gumboots, and dazzling roving performers from Spaghetti Circus - yes, including stilt walkers!'

For the full Kids Program and tickets, visit www.byronwritersfestival.com/festival/kids-program.

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Locals call for part of Evans Head to be closed

Abuse of the beach by 4WD users, with some drivers now covering their number plates, has led to calls to close the Evans Head part of the Evans Head to Ballina Beach.

Swans and wildlife to get a floating platform at Lake Kimberley

The murder of a swan at Lake Kimberley, Banora Point in June last year outraged locals and led Tweed Shire Councillors (TSC) to look at ways they can support the local wildlife in the area.

Police issue multiple shoplifting fines in Ballina

A police blitz in Ballina has resulted in nearly 20 fines issued for shoplifting and one arrest.

Was your business or not-for-profits impacted by Cyclone Alfred?

Tropical Cyclone Alfred and the recent severe weather events on the NSW east coast from 18 May have impacted local small businesses and not-for-profits up and down the east coast.

New Lennox Head roundabout finished

Work on a new roundabout at the intersection of Byron Bay Road and Byron Street at Lennox Head has finished.

Update on Salty Lakes emptying and filling over four day period

Recently it was reported on the fact that Salty Lakes in Broadwater National Park had emptied, leaving behind an almost dry lake bed covered with brown sludge.

Time for Evans Head, Broadwater, Woodburn, and Coraki to divorce Casino?

The news that the NSW state government has formally approved the split of the Cootamundra-Gundagai Regional Council after a long community fight is a real fillip to those opposed to forced amalgamations.

www.echo.net.au

Concerns raised over subdividing significant farmland at Dunbible

Aslan Shand

Concerns over illegal dwellings, tree clearing, and the LEP (Local Environment Plan) requirement that the subdivision of rural land has to be for the purpose of primary production, were raised by Tweed Shire councillors Dr Nola Firth and Deputy Mayor Meredith Dennis at last Thursday's meeting.

The development application was for 300 Bakers Road, Dunbible and had received six objections over: visual intrusion; light pollution; protection of flora and fauna – impact on white-bellied sea eagles (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*); impact on rural amenity and character including the impact on availability of agricultural land within Tweed Shire Council (TSC) due to decreased lot size; unlawful tree removal; opportunity for additional dwellings; impacts to adjoining farming land and agricultural uses; Traffic impacts on Bakers Road; number of sheds and hard structures constructed without approval.

Partial approval recommend

Staff had recommended approval of stages one and two, but not stage three of the DA that proposed an 'attached dual occupancy' (the currently illegally built farm building that seeks approval in stage one) should not be approved as a residential dwelling as it is not consistent with the definition of an attached dual occupancy for RU2.

'It seems to me that this subdivision is for residential

reasons, not for primary production,' said Cr Firth.

'We had Mr Townsend saying that was the case. We have to keep to our guidelines. In addition, there has been removal of vegetation that was looked at by Local Land Services and two buildings have been built without approval, and it doesn't fit what we're supposed to be doing under our LEP.'

Cr Dennis agreed, telling the meeting that, 'There's been a lot of tree clearing. We need to protect our farmland, but it appears this is not happening. We've seen so many of our farms, particularly dairy farms, have closed down due to land conflicts with the community.'

Piggery position

Staff dismissed concerns raised in public access over both an existing and historical piggery telling councillors that this issue had been referred to the TSC's environmental health officers for consideration.

'The report says that the nearest proposed residence is situated over 700 metres from the pig paddocks, exceeding the recommended 500-metre buffer, and there is no record of development consent for that intensive a piggery located at that location,' said staff.

Mayor Chris Cherry clarified that the motion being voted on was to approve stages one and two but not stage three of the DA.

Councillors Dennis and Firth voted against the motion with all other councillors voted in favour. Cr Kimberly Hone did not vote as she was absent from the meeting.

Rare earth mining impacts community roadshow announced

The Clarence Catchment Alliance (CCA) and Environmental Defenders Office (EDO) have announced a four-day 'legal and community roadshow' to launch this weekend.

Sessions are to be held in the Clarence Valley catchment area but one in Grafton on Sunday, 27 July is to be livestreamed.

Organisers say they intend to provide free legal support, scientific insight, and solidarity in the face of mineral mining exploration pressure across the region.

Uninvited access requests, property buyout offers, and

uncertainty around 44 exploration licences said to be in effect across the region are referred to in the roadshow.

The licences allow holders to search for copper, cobalt, antimony, and gold amongst other minerals.

Clarence Catchment Alliance spokesperson Shae Fleming says the roadshow was 'born directly' from what organisers have been hearing 'on the ground'.

Q&A and livestreamed at: www.youtube.com/@ClarenceCatchmentAlliance.

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

The Joinery to become NORPA's new home in Lismore CBD



The Joinery performance space, render by CHROFI. Image www.norpa.org.au

Aslan Shand

Extensive damage to its previous home at Lismore City Hall has led to the inspiration and drive for Northern Rivers Performing Arts (NORPA) to reach for a dedicated home that will support innovative theatre-making and provide a dynamic, creative space for the community to engage with story and performance.

Lismore MP Janelle Saffin has helped secure NSW government funding that will join with funding from the Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF) and community supporters that will enable NORPA to make a new home in the former Hampton & Larsson timber joinery works in the heart of Lismore's CBD.

Flood-resilient

'The future NORPA envisions for The Joinery is transforming the historic joinery factory into a flood-resilient, world's best practice arts hub, right in the heart of Lismore,' say NORPA.

Sam Henderson, NRCF CEO said, 'At NRCF, we've seen how powerful community-led projects can be. The arts connect us — they express who we are and help shape our regional identity'.

Temporary office

Ms Saffin, who is also NSW Minister for Recovery and the North Coast, said two separate state grants would fund immediate repairs of a historic industrial building, allowing NORPA to create a temporary office and theatre-making studio.

'The Joinery is an ambitious, adaptive project which will transform an old factory into a flood-resilient creative hub, a welcome addition to an arts precinct close by which already boasts a regional art gallery, conservatorium and library,' Ms Saffin said.

'NORPA, an iconic Northern Rivers cultural institution known for its world-class theatre productions, has big plans for a larger development of the site in the longer

term but for now it's great that they have a permanent foothold for revitalisation and growth.'

NORPA Artistic Director, Julian Louis said: 'We are grateful to MP Janelle Saffin and the many champions in government and our community who have supported this project.'

Powerful renewal

'The Joinery has the potential to be a creative satellite – a place that nurtures bold ideas and reflects the unique culture of our region.'

'It will play an important role in the vibrancy, economy, and well-being of where we live. We also see it as a project of adaptation – where the arts is central to our recovery.'

NORPA Chair, Damian Kassabgi agreed saying, 'Repairing and utilising this building is a vital step in NORPA's return to Lismore and a powerful act of cultural renewal. Most importantly it gives NORPA and our artistic community a home.'

Appeal to locate teenage girl missing from Lismore

Police are appealing for assistance to locate a teenage girl last seen in the Lismore area.

Jalarna Buchanan, aged 16, was last seen at a shopping centre on Diadem Street, Lismore, about 11am last Wednesday (16 July, 2025).

When she could not be located or contacted, officers attached to Tweed/Byron Police District were notified and commenced inquiries into her whereabouts.

Police hold concerns for Jalarna's welfare due to her age.

Jalarna is described as



Jalarna Buchanan, aged 16, was last seen in Lismore. Photo NSW Police

being of Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander appearance, 160cm to 170cm tall, medium build with dyed red

shoulder-length hair and brown eyes.

She was last seen wearing black track pants and black hoodie, with hood on, covering her head.

She is known to frequent the Kingscliff, Coraki, Coffs Harbour, Kempsey, Inverell, Gosford, and Sydney CBD area.

Anyone with information into her whereabouts is urged to contact Lismore Police, Tweed/Byron Police or <https://nsw.crimestoppers.com.au>.

Information is treated in strict confidence. The public is reminded not to report information via NSW Police social media pages.

Apartments proposed for Mullumbimby CBD, next to Landcom proposal

Hans Lovejoy

A mixed-use development comprising ground floor commercial premises, car parking and eight shop-top housing units is now on exhibition on Council's website.

The estimated cost of the development is just over \$6m.

Located at the former Poinciana cafe site next to Landcom/Council's proposal, the development application (DA) is being put forward by Brenden Lawless, who owns various businesses in the town.

The ground floor commercial premises cover 198.8m² and would front Station Street. The DA's Statement of Environmental Effects (SEE) says, 'At the back of the site, car parking is provided for 20 vehicles, including two accessible car parking spaces and one loading space'.

On the first floor, four one-bedroom and four two-bedroom 'shop-top housing' apartments are proposed. Waste collection is proposed on Station Street.

As for stormwater runoff, it is proposed to be directed to McGoughans Lane, and a reuse tank (minimum of 4,000 litres) will discharge to the stormwater detention tank, which is described as a '8.82m³ stormwater underground tank [that] will be utilised for on-site stormwater detention (OSD)'.

The traffic report says vehicular access to the site will be from McGoughans Lane.

The traffic consultant says in the DA, 'Site observations were undertaken during an inspection of the intersection on Thursday April 10, 2025 between 1 and 2pm'.

They say, 'During the inspection, it was



Image from DA 10.2025.243.1, located at 55 Station St, next to Landcom/Council's proposal.

observed that majority of the traffic at the intersection was along Burringbar Street.

'The percentage of vehicle entering the intersection from McGoughans Lane were small (roughly three per cent of the total intersection traffic). It was observed that approx 98 per cent of vehicles entering the intersection from McGoughans Lane make left turns at the intersection'.

The traffic consultant argues that as the peak hourly trips are 8.58 vehicles per hour, 'This is a reduction compared to the existing approved restaurant', which had lower vehicle movements assessed as per the RTA's Guide to Traffic Generating Developments (GTGD) guide.

VPA for public art

As part of the application, Lawless has proposed a Voluntary Planning Agreement (VPA), 'to provide a monetary contribution of \$15,907.50 to Byron Shire Council for provision of public art or install Council approved public art. The VPA will not exclude

contributions levied pursuant to sections 7.11 and 7.12 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*'.

While the proponent undertook pre-lodgement consultation on December 19, 2024 and March 13, 2025 with Council staff, this is the first time the public have been made aware of the proposal.

Lawless told *The Echo* the DA 'became necessary, as the site has been listed for lease for well over a year, with little to no serious interest at all'.

'It became apparent pretty early that an alternate use would be needed, based on the level of interest and offers. It has been just an awful response. There has been concern from potential tenants as to the site becoming potentially isolated from the other businesses, and the loss of the adjoining carpark. Even though my understanding is that this is not guaranteed, it still obviously is a consideration for anyone wanting to lease a site.'

'As a result, we decided to use it as an opportunity to move our offices, which we

need to do, and build eight apartments above (four by one-bedrooms and four by two-bedrooms).

'It's initially planned to help with immediate staffing needs, but hopefully that won't be required, and they will be rented out long-term.'

'The development has been designed deliberately to fit in well with the neighbourhood, leaning heavily on art-deco influences like many other local CBD buildings.'

'It's limited to only two storeys, with plenty of car parking as we didn't request any exceptions in the application in regards to parking at all.'

'It should have a very nostalgic feel to its street presence when completed. I think for people who know me locally they are aware of my love of historic design, and I hope that this has been proven in actions to date'.

The Echo asked, 'You were initially concerned around Landcom's proposal next door, and said previously that "a very well-intended project that would help with housing, however in the wrong location". Do you still believe that?'

He replied, 'I do still think it is a very well intended project by those involved, and comes from a place of concern for what is a huge issue, housing'.

'It's a tough one, as I suspect only well meaning intentions in regards to its purpose, but I would naturally like to see a development (or many more of them) where we didn't lose carparks.'

'I think it's hard to comment honestly without conceding this. My hope is that if it is approved they will build not just the car-parks lost, but a lot more', Lawless adds.

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 40 #07 • July 23, 2025

Earth first, then let's strip mine the other planets later

Like most modern human endeavours, they originate in pulp science fiction. The idea of deep-sea mining (DSM), for example, dates back to Jules Verne's 1870 classic, *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*.

It tells the story of Professor Pierre Aronnax and his companions, who are held captive on the submarine Nautilus by the enigmatic Captain Nemo.

Later in 1957, Arthur C Clarke published *The Deep Range*, which imagined a future where nations divided and managed ocean resources like terrestrial territories.

In 2025, advances in AI robotics have taken commercial sea-bed mining from sci-fi to a reality, and like space mining, there's plenty of money and resources being thrown at DSM.

Yet with start ups, the first few attempts usually fall over.

Canadian-based company, Nautilus Minerals, was the first to be granted a deep-sea mining lease and planned to extract copper and gold off Papua New Guinea's coast.

The project ultimately failed in 2019, with Nautilus Minerals meeting a similar fate to the fictitious Nautilus – it disappeared and was gobbled up by a bigger DSM corporation.

What's stopping DSM is the International Seabed Authority (ISA), who are figuring out how regulations will work for commercial operations.

Arthur C Clarke's 1957 premonitions about a global body carving up the Earth's seabed was fairly accurate, because that is what the ISA was established to do.

According to www.isa.org.jm, it was established under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and came into existence in 1994.

Its HQ is in Kingston, Jamaica, hence the 'jm' website suffix.

There are 36 members elected by

an assembly, says ISA, and they are made up of 'state parties' with special (i.e. vested) interests in mineral consumption and exports.

Suffice to say it's a complicated organisational structure which covers geographical regions of 'Africa, Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Western Europe and others'.

Fun fact: While land-locked countries like Austria and Azerbaijan are members, the US is not, apparently because it chooses not to ratify the UNCLOS treaty.

ISA say it organises and controls 'all mineral-resources-related activities in the area for the benefit of humankind as a whole'.

As such, it has 'the mandate to ensure the effective protection of the marine environment from harmful effects that may arise from deep-seabed-related activities'.

This is where science, as uncomfortable as it is, comes in.

As the Surf rider Foundation and the CSRIO point out on page 3, the environmental risk with DSM is enormous and unknown.

Fiction often dramatises the consequences of high-tech human exploits in uncharted territories, yet it's scientists who warn of irreversible harm to unique ecosystems.

And miners have a habit of launching themselves at projects before fully understanding the consequences.

For example, in 2020, Rio Tinto destroyed significant Aboriginal cultural heritage sites in WA, most notably the Juukan Gorge rock shelters.

These shelters, with evidence of human occupation dating back 46,000 years, were 'legally' destroyed to expand an iron ore mine.

Deep-sea mining needs to be stopped before it starts.

Hans Lovejoy, editor

When your best frenemy is America

Anthony Albanese's trip to China echoed visits by previous prime ministers Gough Whitlam and Malcolm Fraser.

It helped the healing process needed to repair the damage caused to the relationship with our number one trading partner by the bumbling Scott Morrison.

No doubt the extended friendly visit would have caused ripples in Washington. They are keen to paint China as 'the enemy'. The military/industrial complex always needs enemies, otherwise there's no excuse for spending billions on armaments.

It was noteworthy the prime minister was asked by the media whether Australia would commit to joining America in any conflict over Taiwan. Albanese parried the question but made it clear Australia would not automatically join in.

He reiterated Australia's support for the One China policy, an ambiguity that has been around for a very long time. It says essentially that China does have a legitimate claim on Taiwan, and yet does not support a Chinese invasion of the island.

Albanese's lack of automatic support for an American military involvement would have been noted by Elbridge Colby, the US Under Secretary of Defence for Policy, who is undertaking a review of the controversial AUKUS treaty.

The PM's response sends the signal that Australia's nuclear submarines would not be automatically available when needed by America to attack China. In their eyes it must make us seem like an 'unreliable ally'.

Angus Taylor, Shadow Minister for Defence, decided to change Coalition policy on the run on the ABC TV's 7.30, evidently without consulting his colleagues. He supported such a commitment.

Anyway, the Coalition's position is irrelevant, as they are unlikely to regain government until the mid 2030s, or even longer if the Albanese government follows the UK lead in reducing the voting age to 16.

Hopefully the Colby enquiry will find that America needs to keep all



'We could spend a fraction of the nearly four hundred billion dollars earmarked for the submarines on domestic defence, and end our ridiculous role as deputy sheriff of the USA in the Pacific.'

Richard Jones

the submarines for their own use, as there is doubt as to whether they can make enough submarines to meet the deadline anyway. One suggestion has been floated that Australia will need to cough up billions more to speed production. I can't see the Albanese government agreeing to that.

Hopefully, the government will be given a good reason to walk away from this outrageous waste of our money and rethink its entire defence strategy.

If the Trump administration regards Australia as an 'unreliable ally', we have every reason to view them in a similar light.

Trump is waging a world trade war, and treating us as just another trade enemy, despite our free trade agreement.

Unjustified tariffs

He's whacked entirely unjustified tariffs on a range of our exports, despite the fact they have a trade surplus with us. That's hardly the action of a friend.

The submarines don't fit our defence needs anyway. They're attack submarines. Australia doesn't need an attack capability. We need to be able to defend ourselves against any would-be invader.

We need to be like an echidna.

With our small population, limited financial resources and advantage of being an island, we need to be able to roll up into a proverbial ball and make it impossible for any aggressor to successfully invade this continent. Ukrainians have shown the way with their highly effective use of drones, both on land and water.

We could spend a fraction of the nearly four hundred billion dollars earmarked for the submarines on

domestic defence and end our ridiculous role as deputy sheriff of the USA in the Pacific.

We need to develop a new global alliance – Partners for Peace – and invite countries such as Japan, China, India, Indonesia, the Philippines, New Zealand, Canada, Mexico and others to join. Such an alliance would need to commit unequivocally to peaceful solutions to resolve conflicts and eschew the use of arms to deal with them.

It sounds like a pipe dream but it's possible and necessary.

By far the biggest threat to the world is the ever-worsening climate crisis. This is where we should be putting resources, not into weapons of war and standing armies.

Partners for Peace would be able to convert standing armies and use wasted military expenditure to protect civilian populations by building defensive infrastructure, undertaking rescue operations and helping to rebuild after disasters.

Australia could lead the way by converting our nearly 90,000-strong Australian Defence Force into a properly trained civilian defence force. Like the SES, they could spring into action immediately rather than wait for a command. It's absurd to depend on a few thousand exhausted volunteers every time there is a disaster, which are becoming ever more frequent.

Australia can lead the way and seize the initiative. Out of the disaster of the crazed Trump administration can come some good after all. The world can change for the better. War-based economies can be converted to work for the good of all people and nature.

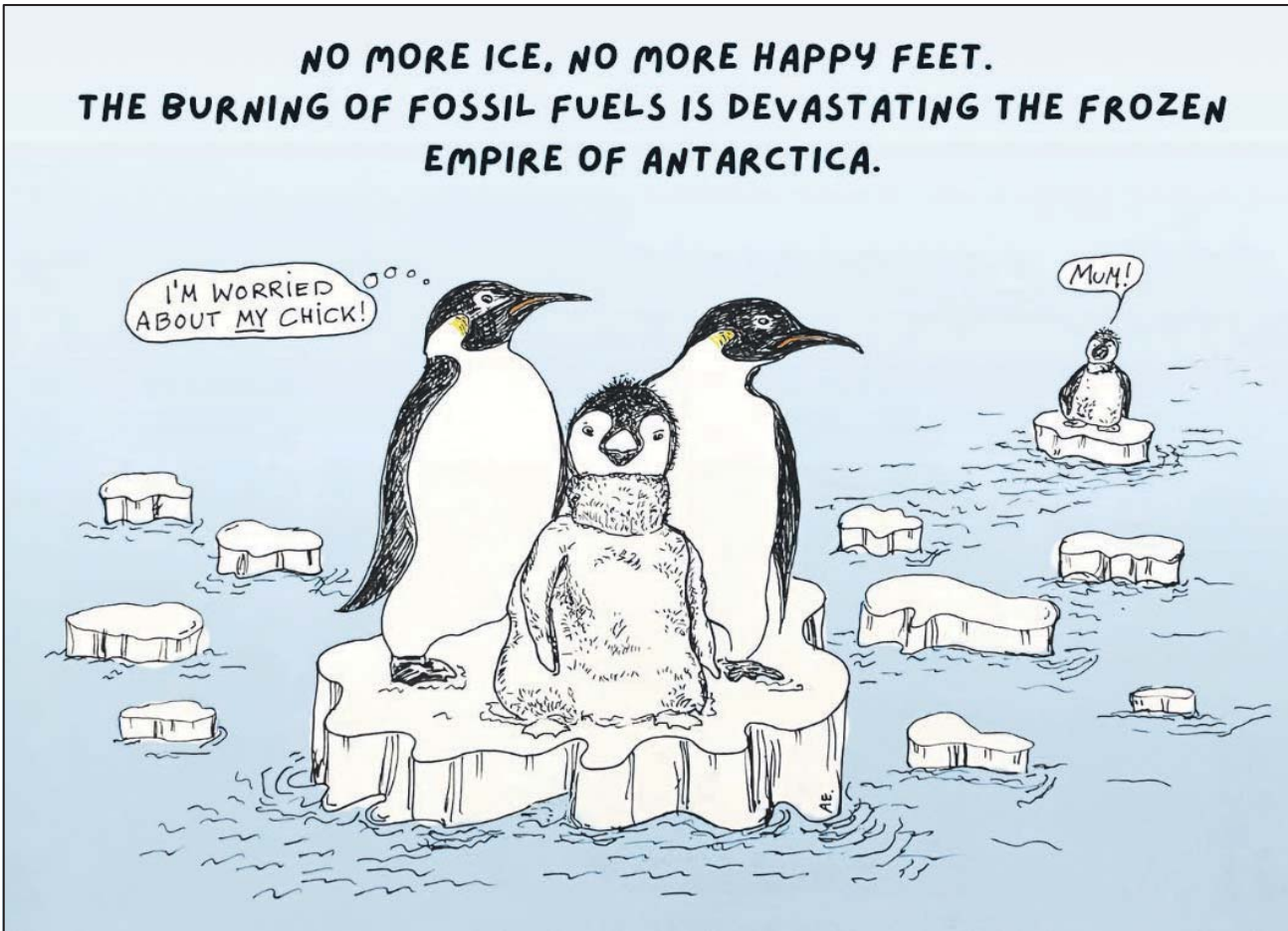
Give peace a chance.

Richard Jones is a former NSW MLC and is now a ceramicist.

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Cartoon by Antoinette Ensbey

Act of bastardry

I have a mobility problem. I use two walking sticks at home, and when out and about. But I also use an old, limited-function, op shop wheely-walker between my house and the car. The walker provides stability on the inclined path. It is especially useful when I bring home shopping, with bags on the handle bars and on the seat.

I swing the bags onto the front porch and repeat the process entering the house. The wheely-walker remains outside at the foot of my stairs. Between late Wednesday afternoon and Thursday morning, someone stole it.

I am not infirm. I am healthy and strong; just currently structurally unsound. But to another member of the community, in far worse circumstances, such an incident could be devastating.

I am reporting this to the police, not because it ranks on the scale of serious crime, but because it is a statistic, and I encourage other antisocial incidents to be also reported as they give a timely insight into what the Ocean Shores community needs until offending ratbags remediate their behaviours.

Stephen Bond
Ocean Shores

Dirt-filled potholes?

After the recent patch-up jobs on Skinners Shoot Road by Byron Shire Council (BSC),

I was left wondering if filling the potholes with dirt is the new norm?

To then spend days afterwards just grading the edges whilst leaving the other numerous potholes unfilled is the poorest job I've seen in more than 40 years living at Skinners Shoot. Shame Council, shame.

Warrick Parkinson
Skinners Shoot

Democracy

Jo Immig's article in *The Echo* (July 16) is 'spot on': democracy is at risk.

Which is most unfortunate, as we haven't found a 'better' system.

The underlying manipulation by the 'far right' also concerns me, such as 'installing a Christian nationalist authoritarian regime'. Please do not blame Jesus; He replaced the Ten Commandments with two. This regime ignores the second.

Roger Secombe
Ballina

AI

Next year, in just one single month, the progress made in the advancement of artificial intelligence, will equal the whole of the progress made last year and in 2027 the advancement of artificial intelligence achieved in just one week, will equal the advancement made in the whole of last year. Eventually the artificial intelligence

development will proceed as much in a single day, as it did in the whole of last year and then we will appear as guinea pigs, in the mind of the global artificial intelligence. Now that is really important.

Peter Olson
Goonengerry

Identity crisis

When I got my driver's licence at age 17, the lady at RTA asked me to sign a page to put my signature on the licence. My signature was a childlike handwritten version of my name that read 'CHRIS', which I had invented at five years old. The lady scoffed and was visibly upset; she said, 'someone can steal your identity'. With only a driver's licence to my name, I retorted as an edgy teenager might, 'they can have it'.

The irony now lies in how many of our identities and private data have been stolen or leaked in cyberattacks and through poor management of sensitive information by trusted corporations and government bodies. They have forced us to provide every little bit of information in order to use their services.

Restaurants use QR codes for you to order - futuristic and convenient, until you need to create an account with your email and a password. Most people will

use the same password over and over; a small digital compromise and your data is easily gleaned from the burger joint. I have money, you have burgers, we don't need to complicate this transaction.

Thanks to QANTAS, Optus, Canva, Medibank, Service NSW and many more, millions of Australians have more than just their email and password available to criminals looking to exploit the tech-naive.

I don't feel bad for my 17-year-old self being mocked for my easy-to-replicate signature. After all, why go to the trouble to replicate a signature when we offer

► Continued on next page

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Letters to the Editor and cartoons

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

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Karen Rees PhD has facilitated embodiment practices and meditation internationally for **ReWilding for Women** and **The ReWilding Way**, and now brings ReWilding to Mullumbimby.

Email: karen.magnetica@outlook.com

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Housing, amenity and the future of Mullum

We put them there

One thing that is clear from Byron Shire Council's (BSC) recent readiness to support building proposals that are, with good reason, unpopular with a large number of the good folk of Mullum is, that we now know who to vote for and who not to vote for in future Council elections.

It is sad that 'green' has apparently become synonymous with development; that we can allow a person with a significant interest in a large development to be elected and hold high office on our Council; that the weight of unpopular decisions on development can be heavily influenced by non-elected Council officers.

It's probably too late to do anything about the destruction of the gateway to our CBD but we can do better in the future by making sure we get rid of the councillors who supported it and make sure we vote at the next elections, for councillors who are transparent and who are empathetic with, and accountable to, our community.

Terry Hand
Mullumbimby

Carpark stitch up

People of Mullumbimby: We have been stitched up!

Byron Shire Council (BSC) has decided to give away Council-owned land (DA 10.2025.212.1), the Station Street, Mullumbimby public carpark, for the development of shops and housing. Good idea?

▶ **Continued from page 9** up all our most personal and sensitive information to participate in modern life designed by corporate mediocrity?

Christopher Rowland
Ocean Shores

Defence of ethics

Fiona Sullivan of Mullumbimby Creek, you seem to have a flair for drama, self-adulation and verballing your way out of trouble when challenged, as well as being totally incapable of accepting scrutiny.

Fact 1: No-one tried to 'silence or belittle anyone' or 'shut down debate', but immediately you play the 'patriarchy card' and as for 'speaking with moral clarity', that's only your opinion.

Fact 2: No-one initially criticised your reference to your family members who fought in wars, you were only corrected because

What are the costs of this development?

- Ratepayers lose a valuable land asset and get no financial return
- Ratepayers and visitors to town lose a car park and a public toilet
- Parking issues in the Mullum CBD will be exacerbated
- Traffic issues in the Mullum CBD will increase
- Local businesses will have issues with deliveries as the main street will become the delivery point, interfering with traffic movement
- On entry to our town we will be welcomed by an oversized, overheight, dominating structure.

No one denies the need for housing but is it worth the cost to the rest of the community who will suffer the consequences of this development forever? There are other options, such as the Council car park and the old hospital site.

This Council, led by our Mayor Sarah Ndiaye, is in collusion with the state government's development arm, Landcom. Landcom's special status makes it difficult for the DA to be refused. The Minister, Paul Scully can refuse the DA (Section 2.2.1 of the Statement of Environmental Effects). The minister has declared that he approves of the development. It ticks a box re: affordable housing. Unless we protest loudly, the DA, to be decided by the Northern Region Planning

your family were not alone in that sacrifice. Fiona Sullivan, invoking your family's past military service was a disingenuous effort to promote your own extremist agenda, that's where it all went horribly wrong for you, it disrespects veterans. You see people enlist for military service for a number of reasons, yes patriotism, also some think it's a great adventure – and then there is conscription when you don't really get a choice. Now if you are lucky enough to return home from a conflict zone basically intact, you do your best to forget the trauma of war and get on with life.

Fiona Sullivan, the majority of Aussies have had quite enough of these divisive, violent and destructive pro-Palestinian, antisemitic demonstrations, and of creating division in this great country; it's reminiscent

Panel (NRPP), will be a rubber stamp.

Landcom say the site has been approved by BSC. Did our Council consult with the ratepayers to make this decision? No! BSC say it is out of their hands and up to Landcom. Passing the buck!

Who is looking after the ratepayers' interests in this situation? It is not Byron Council! They are set to provide housing of only 32 units at the cost of great disruption to Mullum's population and businesses. Councillors: the legacy of this development will be forever, and you will be responsible for the problems that arise in our town.

Great idea. Wrong location.

People power is needed. Send objections to Minister Paul Scully and Byron Shire Council through forms on their websites by Sunday, 3 August.

Julie Ryan
Mullumbimby

Infrastructure

The development being proposed around the Mullumbimby area raises questions as to whether the sewerage infrastructure can cope.

When Brunswick Valley Wastewater Treatment Plant (BVWWTP) was commissioned in 2011 its capacity was configured on a daily average dry weather flow (ADWF) of 1.300.00 kl/day.

The plant is reportedly capable of treating seven times ADWF.

of what Vietnam veterans endured years ago.

Fiona Sullivan, you lack the credibility to lecture anyone on ethics, and I sincerely hope you reflect and learn more about 'moral clarity'.

Keith Duncan
Pimlico

Envoy of antisemitism

I don't see the need for a envoy for antisemitism as I see our current laws and officers as more than sufficient. The envoy has said she won't release guidelines on antisemitism as it is contextual.

What I would like to have confirmed is that criticism of the state of Israel committing genocide and other war crimes won't be solely refuted with claims of antisemitism.

B Nardi
Mullumbimby

The flows shown on the public data council website on the inflows into BVWWTP are varied but flows between 8,877.40 kl/day or 5,004.00 kl/day are visible on occasions. Flows increase significantly during rain events.

The question is with the amount of development being proposed by Byron Shire Council has the ADWF figure been recalibrated since 2011?

These biological reduction plants' performances are adversely affected by exceeding their hydraulic designed load, which you would think the amount of development being proposed will do.

The answer by Council will be to build another treatment plant, ignoring the issue of a sewer gravity mains system throughout the Mullumbimby CBD built in 1963 which has an effective functioning life expectancy of approximately 23 years (this is the opinion of competent design engineers that anyone can read).

The gravity mains will continue to deteriorate which will allow outside water in during rain and raw sewage out during dry periods.

The elected council should ask: has the ADWF figure used in 2011 been recalibrated to meet the current inflow and the expected increases in inflow which will be generated by proposed development?

Alan Dickens
Byron Bay

Not antisemitism

I think it's worth pointing out the fact that Palestinians are a Semitic people, unlike the European and American settlers that have colonised Palestine over the last century.

It therefore stands to reason that sympathy and support for the Palestinians is not antisemitism, nor is opposition to the ghastly genocide currently underway in occupied Palestine.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

■ Ed note: Because the root of the word is 'Semite', the term 'antisemitism' suffers from an etymological fallacy. While it appears to refer to hatred of Semitic people, it was historically and specifically coined to denote hatred of Jews, not a broader group. Some may incorrectly use 'antisemitism' to describe hostility towards any group considered 'Semitic', but this is not its historical or commonly-accepted meaning.

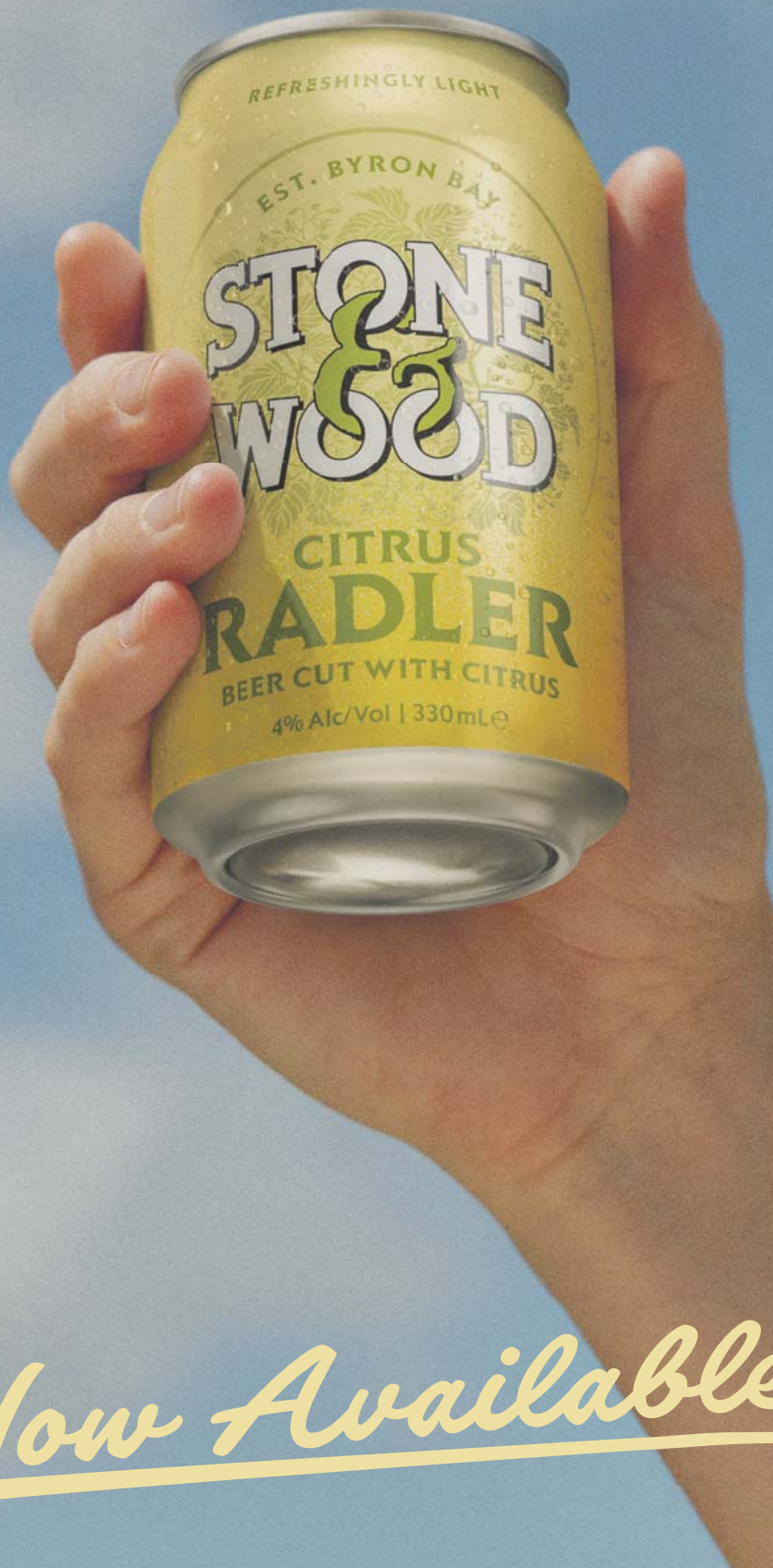
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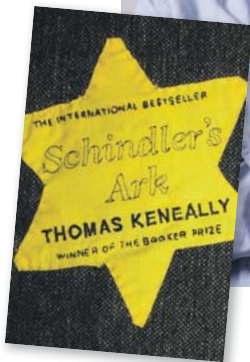
NATURALLY ZESTY

Literary heavyweights coming to Byron Writers Festival

This year's writers festival boasts one of the most impressive lineups in years, featuring big names in Australian and international literature.

One of Australia's most prolific writers, **Tom Keneally**, is best known for writing *Schindler's Ark*, winner of the 1982 Booker Prize and adapted into the film *Schindler's List*, which won seven Academy Awards including Best Picture. See Tom at the festival speaking about historical fiction, his latest *Fanatical Heart*, and in conversation to reflect on his life in books, and the future of Australian literature.

Gail Jones, author of numerous award-winning novels including *Sixty Lights*, longlisted for the Booker Prize, comes to the Northern Rivers with her new release *The Name of the Sister*. Gail will sit down in conversation with Michael Williams, and



will appear on the panel On Reading

and Writing alongside Michelle de Kretser and Don Watson with Chris Hanley, and on the panel Who Gets to Be an Artist? with Vincent Fantauzzo and Anita Heiss.

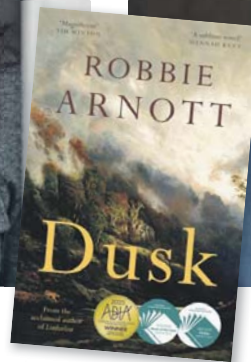
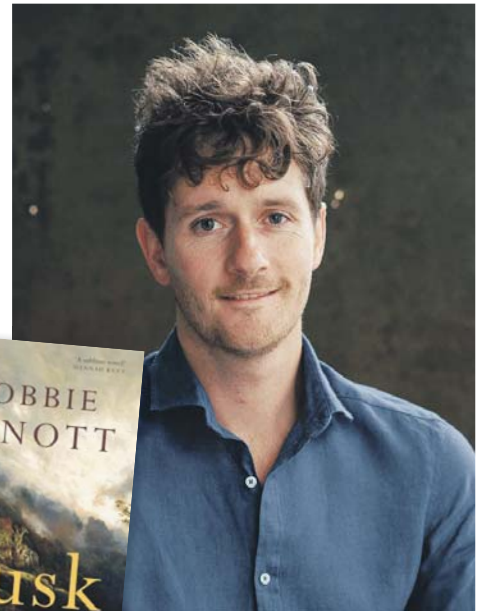
Literary phenomenon **Robbie Arnott**, twice awarded The Age Book of the Year, will appear with his latest *Dusk*, which won the ABIA Literary Fiction Book of



the Year 2025. The Tasmanian writer

brings his evocative fiction to the festival in conversation with Naima Brown, and on the panels Wild Nature and Animals as Symbols.

Michelle de Kretser is among the headlining Australian writers, shortlisted for the 2025 Miles Franklin Literary Award for her new novel *Theory & Practice*. With



two Miles Franklin Awards already under her belt, don't

miss your chance to see one of our best writers at the festival. She will be in conversation with Jill Eddington, and on the panels On Walking and On Reading and Writing.

• Book writers festival tickets now at www.byronwritersfestival.com.

Interview with Esther Freud, international headliner

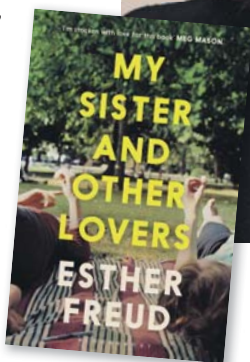
Your new book *My Sister and Other Lovers* explores sibling relationships and personal identity. What inspired you to centre the narrative around sisters?

This book started as a collection of short stories and when it was finished I realised the most interesting part was the recurring relationship between the sisters. The lovers, they came and went, but the relationship between the two sisters was the mainstay. This prompted me to turn it into a novel, to give it a new title, which helped remind me what the book was about. I've always been interested in birth order, and I wanted to explore the complicity and competitiveness of siblings, their rivalries and alliances, and how unrecognisable the experience of their own shared childhoods can be.

You're appearing in several sessions at Byron Writers Festival. What are you especially looking forward to?

I'm looking forward to *The Secrets We Keep*, as I've always had an eye for the unspoken shame at the heart of almost every family. Secrets are often buried so deep it's possible to forget that they are there, and lives can pass without them surfacing, even when the shadows they cast are long, and powerful. This is where the splinter of glass in the writer's heart comes in. Giving us the capacity to excavate where others fear to tread!

The theme for the festival is **Passion and Purpose**. How do these concepts



shape you as a writer?

I do think about these words, especially when work is going slowly. I ask myself: is this what I'm supposed to be doing, moving a coma from one part of a sentence to another? I always start a novel with passion, and with purpose, and then I hit what I call 'the murky middle' where I lose sight of everything and it's only when the book is done that I understand this was where the real work took place. When I'm losing faith and considering how much more meaningful life as a doctor working for Médecins Sans Frontières might be, I remember it is books that have saved and comforted me, and I'm grateful to those who've taken the trouble to write them.

Interview with Terraglossia author Debra Dank

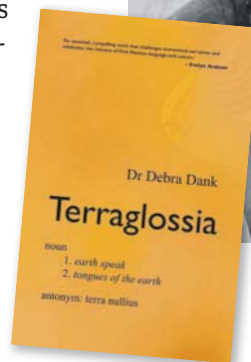
Debra Dank is passionate about the environment, especially as her Country, on the Beetaloo Basin, is under threat of being fracked.

What does the word 'terraklossia' mean, and how does it help challenge old ideas like 'terra nullius'?

Terraglossia is a word that acknowledges the many voices that exist within a geographic landscape as understood and heard by Gudanji and possibly other Aboriginal Australians. It disrupts the uninformed Western claiming of an empty land to populate what appears to be that empty geographic space with a multiplicity of life forms who are all living in that space. It elevates the non-human to be present and to be as significant as the human and it is expressly inclusive of the interconnections, interdependence and the entangled relationships between the human and the non-human.

How can the idea of terraglossia help more people understand and respect Indigenous knowledge and culture?

Terraglossia should help transect conversations that are binary which gives us a 'them' and 'us' thinking to become more inclusive through a broader way of knowing. We have to stop thinking about the natural world being different to our world, we must stop thinking about that world as the wilderness because those ideas support a separation that does not benefit



that world or us as humans in need apparently of occupying a 'civilised' space.

What can we expect from the festival sessions *Ways We Communicate, Water: Our Life, and Indigenous Knowledges*?

I hope to chat about and broaden our ideas about water, about its significance, and about the way we currently engage with water. I hope we can see that this is one of the absolute non-negotiables we must all be dedicated to protecting – it is vital to our survival as well as every other lifeform.

• Explore Debra Dank's sessions at www.byronwritersfestival.com.

Sunbeams from cucumbers: gold extraction from seawater at Broken Head

Byron Bay Historical Society

In 1906, Australian mining engineer Mr Alfred Argyles built an innovative engineering structure at the north end of Seven Mile Beach, located on rock shelves that abutted Broken Head.

Despite worldwide scepticism of the feasibility of this project, Mr Argyles invested £3,500 of his own money into the building of an operational plant. It was a clever idea that involved a wave-activated motor pump system that transferred seawater to a canvas-lined 70 metre x 25 metre reservoir.

Capable of holding 10,000 cubic metres, the seawater would then be mixed with a solution of lime and iron oxide to make a sludge. This was then to be pumped via transfer pipes to a further cyanide treatment tank. The cyanide would then activate the sludge, settling out the dissolved gold ore.

Argyles calculated he could process up to 20,000 tons of seawater with the potential of extracting 20 ounces of gold, per day.

Based on the gold prices in the 1900s, \$33 an ounce, his profit potential was enormous. Contemporary newspaper records noted that the engineer had lodged a patent on his unique processing method.

In 1905 Argyles took out a mining lease of five acres (2.5 ha) around his mining site, and he shipped more plant and equipment to the port in Byron Bay. It was reported that he was employing nine to ten men on the construction.

Vanishing plant

In 1906, newspapers recorded that the work was almost completed. However, after 1907 no records of the project can be found, so we can only assume that it had ceased, causes unknown.

It was reported that Mr Argyles redirected his energy from gold recovery from seawater to seeking gold from black sand mining on the beaches. Maybe he used some of his plant and equipment in this endeavour?

Mr Argyles' family lived in the Byron Bay area until the mid 1950s, however we

have no further record or knowledge of his endeavours in this project. Today, if you go to the south end of the Broken Head sea shelf, there are still remnants of some of the construction, concrete masonry, and pipework.

Gold, gold, gold

In the late 1890s and early 1900s, there were many attempts to extract gold from seawater, most of these led by charlatans. To give some credibility to Mr Argyles' endeavours, at the time a Nobel Prize laureate and chemist, Mr William Ramsey, did support the possibility of gold extraction from seawater.

Unfortunately, the figures that he was quoting were incorrect. There is gold in seawater, but the volumes are so small the extraction process is not practical.

In 1907, English judge Darling likened the process of harvesting gold from seawater as analogous to 'extracting sunshine from cucumbers.' This after adjudicating on a jury fraud case, relating to an attempt to

'English judge Darling likened the process of harvesting gold from seawater as analogous to 'extracting sunshine from cucumbers.'

extract gold at Hanley Island in Southern England.

He was referencing a book, *Gulliver's Travels*, where the characters harvested sunbeams from cucumbers. These were to be placed in phials, and opened on cold and overcast days to keep you nice and cosy!

We can be thankful that the process of extracting gold from seawater did not come to fruition. Can you imagine the impact of cyanide extraction systems at the south end of Broken Head today on the ecology of our beautiful environment?

For more detail relating to the references in this article, I direct you to the report written by Mr BJ Stubbs for Australian Historical Archaeology, 26, 2008. A copy of this work can be found in the Byron Bay Historical Society website, and has detailed maps, engineering drawings, and photographs of this project.

Dogs might have TV preferences based on their personality

Cosmos Magazine

While dogs joining in on binge-watching is not a new phenomenon, there has been little research into the way these pets perceive television.

A new study, published in *Scientific Reports*, suggests the way household dogs engage with TV may depend on their personalities.

'Not only is it more common for dogs to be exposed to media, but television quality is increasing in a way that makes the stimuli from these devices fit more seamlessly into the surrounding environment,' write the authors.

'Understanding of such behaviours would provide a more comprehensive picture of dogs' perceptual experiences, with practical applications for visual presentations in experimental settings.'

The team from Auburn University in Alabama, USA recruited 650 dog owners to take part in a survey.

Given the lack of previous research, the team had to create a new method of data collection known as the Dog Television Viewing Scale

(DTVS). The DTVS consisted of 16 questions for owners about how their furry friends interacted with audio and visual stimuli from the television.

This survey was used alongside two additional scales known as the Positive and Negative Activation Scale and the Dog Impulsivity Assessment Scale.

The dogs were assessed for the reaction to animal stimuli, non-animal stimuli and the extent to which they followed objects on screen.

Approximately 45 per cent of dogs always responded to dog noises like barking when they were heard on TV, with the study finding dogs were more likely to respond to seeing animals on screen than any other stimuli.

'Overall, this study indicates that companion dogs experience a meaningful, object-filled world when they view television,' write the authors.

However, dogs that were reported by their owner as fearful or anxious were more likely to respond to non-animal stimuli such as doorbells and car horns.

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

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Wetlands key to flood, drought and climate resilience

Aslan Shand

Freshwater wetlands cover less than ten per cent of the Earth's surface yet they contribute up to 25 per cent of global methane emissions. Despite this, they hold significant potential as long-term carbon sinks, playing a crucial role in the global carbon cycle.

New research has confirmed the importance of rehabilitating floodplain wetlands and riparian wetlands – not just for the impact they have on climate change but also water quality, flood and drought-resilience outcomes.

The new study found that restored wetlands provide benefits for climate and drought-resilience after just one year. Reviving floodplain wetlands slashes carbon emissions by 39 per cent and restores critical ecosystem functions in the first year – without the methane spike typically seen in restored peatlands.

Peatlands are known as top carbon sinks, but can produce up to 530 per cent more methane after restoration, potentially offsetting short-term climate benefits. Whereas floodplain, or riparian wetlands, which comprise over half of global wetlands, are often overlooked due to their lower carbon storage.

Quick action needed

Study lead-author Dr Lukas Schuster from RMIT University's Centre for Nature Positive Solutions said the scale and pace of ecosystem benefits revealed within just one year of restoration provide a clear case for action.

'Restoring wetlands could be a secret weapon against climate change,' he said.

'We found managing freshwater wetlands for carbon benefits also boosts flood and drought resilience, highlighting the dual benefits of restoration.'

While rewetting and revegetation reduced carbon emissions by 39 per cent, net carbon emissions from the unrestored control wetlands increased by 169 per cent over the monitoring period.

Surface organic carbon stocks, where carbon is stored in plant roots and soil, increased by 12 per cent within one year in restored sites and decreased by ten per cent in control sites, showing the difference in carbon sequestration potential.



Degraded wetland. Photo RMIT



Researchers collecting samples from restored wetland. Photo RMIT



Restoring local swamplands that border the Richmond River such as the Tuckean Nature Reserve would reduce future fish kills. Photo ozfish.org.au

Restored wetlands retained more water in the area, with soil moisture levels increasing by 55 per cent, even after the wetlands themselves had dried, showing drought mitigation potential.

Schuster said increased water retention was linked to improved surface carbon storage in freshwater wetlands.

'We observed a vital link between carbon dynamics and ecosystem function,' he said.

'Wetlands are nature's purification system, removing nitrogen from waterways and carbon from the atmosphere.'

'Now we know even more about the important role they play and how quick their recovery can be, it's time to act.'

For the study, researchers compared three degraded, with three restored, wetlands along the Loddon River in Victoria, measuring native

plant cover, carbon cycling and ecosystem function.

In the restored wetlands, native plant cover increased significantly, with leaf litter from two dominant native wetland species decomposing more slowly than that of an invasive grass species, suggesting a greater potential for carbon preservation in the soil.

With 45 per cent more nitrogen retained in the soil, restored wetlands showed increased nutrient cycling, which is linked to improved water quality and helps prevent ecosystem disruption like harmful algal blooms, oxygen depletion, and contamination.

Schuster said this was important because riparian wetlands are connected to other ecosystems like rivers and streams.

'More nitrogen removed from these wetlands has a positive flow-on effect to connected waterways,' he said.

'Restoring wetlands could be a secret weapon against climate change.'

'If you manage the carbon outcome, you get other benefits like drought resilience and healthier farmland where flora and fauna can thrive. We've shown wetland restoration pays off, so we hope this study will inform future land management policies.'

A floodplain wetland was also monitored six years after it was restored by reintroducing water flow, finding surface organic carbon stocks increased by 53 per cent, demonstrating lasting benefits.

Fish kills

It's estimated that approximately 50 per cent of all wetlands in NSW have been lost since 1788, with some areas experiencing losses as high as 70 to 90 per cent of low-lying wetlands, according to estimates from the NSW Department of Primary Industries and the Nature Conservation Council of NSW. So rather than filling, then farming, or building on our wetlands perhaps a new, scientific approach is needed.

The Richmond and Clarence rivers and catchments have seen significant impacts after the loss of wetlands and riparian wetlands with recorded increases in acid sulfate soil discharge that has a significant impact on water quality and contributes to the ongoing fish kills and blue-green algae blooms.

'The Tuckean Swamp is one of the most important wetland systems in the Richmond catchment,' explained Ray Klerck, President of OzFish Richmond River Chapter.

'This research confirms what many of us already knew about the importance of restoring wetlands like the Tuckean. They don't just help fish and birds, they fight climate change, cut emissions, and build resilience against drought and floods.'

'For a river system like the Richmond, which has suffered from fish kills and poor water quality, this is a clear call to action. Luckily, the science shows recovery can start within a year, all we have to do is help nature do its thing by righting the mistakes of the past.'

Rough justice for Uncles and the Torres Strait with less than 30 years left

David Lowe

Last week the Federal Court found that while the Torres Strait Islands, people and culture are being 'ravaged by human-induced climate change' which poses 'an existential threat to the whole of humanity', the Australian government has no legal duty of care to protect the people of the Torres Strait from climate harm.

Never mind that these are Australian citizens. Never mind that this is a government which claims to respect the scientific evidence of the climate emergency. Never mind that the Torres Strait Islanders are the canaries in the not-so-metaphorical climate coal mine. Look over there – Albo's on the Great Wall of China!

The 'Australian Climate Case' was brought by two Traditional Owners from the Boigu and Saibai islands, Uncles Pabai Pabai and Paul Kabai, with the support of the Grata Fund charity and the Dutch-based NGO Urgenda Foundation.

The case proved that ongoing damage to cemeteries, food-growing areas and



Torres Strait Islanders await the verdict outside Cairns court. Photo Australian Climate Case

infrastructure was caused by accelerating climate change, with the islands expected to become uninhabitable in the near future, obliterating thousands of years of culture and endemic species, but Justice Michael Wigney found that the Australian government could not be said to be 'negligent' in a legal sense.

Deepest pain

Outside the Cairns courtroom, lead plaintiff Uncle Paul Kabai said, 'Mr Albanese and his expensive government lawyers will stand up and walk away, just like they walk out the door of this court today.'

'They go home and sleep soundly in their expensive

beds. We go back to our islands and the deepest pain imaginable. I want to ask Mr Albanese what I should say when I go home to my family? How do I tell them we have less than 30 years left?

'I can feel the moral burden on my shoulders. Sometimes when I'm alone I feel the heaviness of the burden and it is not mine to carry. The prime minister should be carrying this for the people. That's his job.'

But Albo was overseas hanging with President Xi, so the government's response to the court's decision was left to a joint statement from Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen and Minister for Indigenous Australians Malarndirri



Uncle Pabai Pabai speaks after the verdict with Saibai Elder Aunty McRose Elu. Photo Australian Climate Case

McCarthy, which essentially claimed Labor weren't as bad as the last lot.

Hypocrisy visible from space

So what are governments and politicians for, exactly, if not to protect their citizens? Surely they don't exist just to do the bidding of evil lobbyists and then become lobbyists themselves?

Following the climate ruling, Saibai Elder Aunty McRose Elu articulated her response carefully. 'Your government just approved another extension on a massive fossil fuel project in Western Australia that will rob us – stop lying to us,' she said. 'You come to our islands,

you talk to us about climate change and then you leave and approve more fossil fuel projects.

'Whether or not people like Mr Albanese want to admit it, they have a duty of care to all of us. Prime Minister Albanese and his ministers' weakness and refusal to accept this legal process is a damning moral loss.

'We will cry together and we will rise,' she said.

Climate refugees

In his summary, Justice Wigney said, 'Unless something is done to arrest global warming and the resulting escalating impacts of climate change, there is a very real risk that the applicants' worst fears will be realised and they

will lose their islands, their culture and their way of life and will become, as it were, climate refugees.

'That would, of course, be a devastating outcome.'

The Uncles have reminded us that Mabo didn't win the first time, and an appeal to this latest decision is already being considered, but it seems clear from the Federal Court's ruling that unlike the Netherlands, where a similar case brought sweeping changes to that government's response to the climate emergency, in Australia the change needs to be led by politicians, not judges.

Sadly, our elected officials seem incapable of rising to that challenge. As Justice Wigney pointed out, current legislative targets regarding emissions bear no relationship to what the science says is required, even if they could somehow be met.

In this country, in 2025, the limitations of politics appear to be even greater than the limitations of the law, no matter who is nominally in government.

Shame, Australia, shame.

■ You can read David Lowe every Monday in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au.

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Increasing incidents of domestic violence across the region

Aslan Shand

Domestic and family violence (DFV) incidents often aren't reported in the media and for very valid reasons, including the protection of children and those who have been subjected to the DFV.

However, this does sometimes mean it is out of sight out of mind. Several people have recently contacted *The Echo* highlighting incidents of domestic violence (DV) – so we thought now was a good time to remind ourselves of the wide range of DV that occurs and the support that is out there for people experiencing DFV.

From existing figures there is a clear increase in the people who are being supported through DFV incidents with the Women's Domestic Violence Court Advocacy Service (DVCAS) seeing an increase in the number of people accessing and using their service.

DVCAS supported 1,119 court events during 2023-24 with a 2,111 clients in Richmond and 1,501 in Tweed-Byron. The period 2024-25 saw the number of court events supported rise to 2,737 with client numbers rising to 2,791 in Richmond and 1,876 in Tweed-Byron.

Ambyr Johnston from the Women's Resources Service at the Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre (MDNC) said they have also seen an increase in referrals with 594 in 2023-24, increasing to 706 referrals in 2024-25. They are currently funded for 359 referrals a year.

'Demand for DFV support is steadily increasing every year,' Johnston told *The Echo*.

'You see women time and time again because there is no easy solution. It is not as if you leave the relationship and the violence ends, it can go on year after year even after you have left the relationship.'

There were 78 women killed in Australia last year according to Destroy the Joint. This coincides with the year that coercive control (CC) was criminalised in NSW.

'Although the relationship between those two things is yet to be apparent what is clear is DFV has not abated,' Michelle Lyons from DVCAS told *The Echo*.

'As frontline workers, we routinely see incidents of abuse that would curl your toes, cases that alarm and disturb with violent behaviour often exacerbated by alcohol or drugs. What we also see, and is the basis of a growing understanding of this violence, is the power and control at the heart of this aggression.'

Domestic violence is not just the physical aspect of abuse, it can come in a range of forms, many that are hard to identify and detect. These include: physical and verbal abuse; emotional abuse including silent treatment, threats of self-harm, ignoring, stonewalling, blaming, blackmail etc; psychological abuse including creating fear, using sulking or anger to manipulate, threats to take children or threats to harm pets;

Domestic violence services

- NSW Health has a page listing services here: <https://nswlhd.health.nsw.gov.au/services/domestic-and-family-violence/services-offering-support>
- Family Support Network, Lismore and Nimbin: 6621 2489, www.fsn.org.au
- Lismore and District Financial Counselling Service: www.financialcounselling.org.au, 6622 2171
- Men and Family Centre, Lismore and Tweed Heads: www.menandfamily.org.au, 0422 195 003
- Momentum Collective: 1800 397 867, www.mymomentum.org.au
- Norwacs, Lismore: www.norwacs.org.au, 6621 9800
- Pottsville Beach Neighbourhood Centre; www.pbnc.org.au, 6676 4555
- The Family Centre Ballina, Tweed Heads: www.thefamilycentre.org.au, 1800 211 154
- Women Up North, Lismore: www.wunh.org.au, 6621 7730
- Women's Resource Service, Mullumbimby: www.mdnc.org.au/get-support/safety/womens-resource-services, 6684 4299

financial and sexual abuse; spiritual, social, reproductive, harassment and legal system abuse and image-based abuse such as taking explicit images without permission, or threats to share images.

'Our responses to DFV are aligned with the criminal justice system and the new CC legislation is an attempt to incorporate understanding DFV as an abuse of power into that response,' explained Ms Lyons.

'It is yet to be seen how successful CC legislation is and it's sometimes questioned whether the criminal justice system has been, or can be successful in curbing the scourge. Whatever the answer to that question, it is accepted that efforts need to be made outside that system as well. This includes funding frontline services as well as primary prevention activities. (See Australia's National Plan to End Violence against Women and Children.)'

Pattern of behaviour

The success of the new legislation will be complicated by several factors. This law, unlike most others in the criminal justice arena, relies not on proving that an incident occurred, but on proving a pattern of behaviour which can include financial abuse, sexual abuse and coercion, jealousy, denigrating remarks, gaslighting, isolation and the restriction of autonomy. This involves a change of thinking and new requirements for evidence. Police have received some training, but it is not clear if they are being fully supported to implement the new laws. From July 2024 to March 2025, there was one successful prosecution.

'The CC legislation hasn't really made much of a difference to our work,' said Ms Johnston.

'There are so many criteria you have to meet then you have to take this evidence to the detectives – it is not straightforward. It feels so far that it is often put in the too-hard basket. The

onus is on the service and the client to put timelines together and collect the evidence to present to police, then they "might" consider it if they think it is worth pursuing.'

Ms Lyons pointed out that, 'Commentators have noted that the legislation in NSW does not include an element of recklessness, that is, the prosecution needs to prove the user of CC intended harm and was not just careless about whether it caused harm. This element was included in the Scottish legislation, often cited as the "gold standard".'

'For a range of reasons, many women are reluctant to engage with the criminal justice system, particularly if their situation does not involve overt acts or physical injury,' she said.

'DFV services can provide support. We are all expanding our comprehension of DFV to include these patterns of behaviour and assess risk

beyond physical injury. Measures can be taken outside the criminal justice system, and DFV services provide a space where your situation will be understood and sympathy, support and referrals provided.'

50% more funding needed

Domestic Violence NSW along with Full Stop, NCOSS, Barnardos, and more have been calling for a 50 per cent increase to frontline services as current NSW specialist domestic violence services currently report a two-month average wait for critical support.

Following the release of the NSW government's budget in June, DFV services said there was 'little to address the reality that existing services are stretched to breaking point'.

Delia Donovan, CEO of DVNSW, says the gravity of the crisis is underscored by the breadth of support received from other community organisations who, despite often competing for the same limited funding pools, are standing in solidarity with the DFV sector.

'Community services in NSW can't always advocate for increased funding for other sectors because resources are so scarce. The fact that peak bodies across community, sexual violence, children and family services are all endorsing our call for a 50 per cent baseline funding increase sends a powerful message: the system is on the brink of complete overwhelm, and if specialist DFV services remain underresourced, the impacts will reverberate across every part of the community services system.'

In the Northern Rivers, there is a network of services that can be contacted to talk about your situation. They include family support agencies, women's services, court support and men's behaviour change programs. Each of these has knowledge of what might be available to mitigate or remedy your circumstances and can talk to you about your risk and your needs and refer you to appropriate support.

The Donnelly family love their footy



The Donnelly family at last week's footy game, held at the Crozier Field, Lismore. Pictured are mum Kelly with her three daughters, and sister-in-law Mel with her daughter. From left, Indi, Macey, mum Kelly, Reese, Lilly and Mel. Photo Sarah Archibald

Boyle qualifies for Qld karate championships

On Sunday, July 20, Robert Boyle qualified for his first Qld state championships.

Richard Light told *The Echo*, 'Normally competing as a beginner, he had to compete in the open category, where he did very well. As he was placed fourth in the point and freestyle events, it qualified him for the state titles in October after a silver medal in round one.'

Photo supplied



NSW govt biz support program to be axed

The NSW Labor Minns government is shutting down a lifeline for small business owners, says Liberal opposition MLC, Mrs Aileen MacDonald.

MacDonald is the shadow Country North representative, and said in a media release that the 'highly successful Business Connect program' was axed in the latest budget.

'Small businesses are the backbone of our local

community', she said.

'They're run by mums and dads, family operators, and young entrepreneurs giving it a go. Cutting support like Business Connect doesn't just hurt balance sheets, it hurts local jobs, confidence, and the next generation of business owners. Government should be making it easier to succeed, not harder,' Mrs MacDonald said.

'Business Connect has supported thousands of

small businesses across NSW by providing up to eight hours of free, one-on-one tailored advice in areas such as strategic guidance, digital marketing, financial planning and business resilience.

'NSW leads the nation in business insolvencies,' Mrs MacDonald added.

To access the service before it closes on September 30, visit www.service.nsw.gov.au/business/business-connect.

Giants succumb to Lismore's might



Mullum Giants were up against Marist Brothers on the weekend in Lismore. Photographer Sarah Archibald told *The Echo* there were two games played, with the ladies tag losing 10 to 0, and the A-grade men losing 46 to 12. Photo Sarah Archibald

Byron Bay Football Club hosts ladies fundraiser lunch, July 27

The very first ladies fundraiser lunch for the Byron Bay Football Club (BBFC) will be held at Byron Bay's Loft on July 27 from 1pm.

Organisers say it will be hosted by Shelley Craft and will be 'an elegant afternoon featuring a divine three-course meal, great company and good vibes!'

'Let's raise the roof (and some serious funds) for a brand-new audio visual system in our stunning new clubhouse! More than 20 fabulous silent auction items are up for grabs - don't miss out!

'Dietary needs? Just let us know when booking.

'There's no allocated seating on the day, so come early, mingle, and find the table that suits you best!'

They say a curated three-course lunch menu will include a three-hour drinks package (sparkling, white and red wines plus beer options).

'Whether you're part of the BBFC family or just love an excuse to get together with friends and give back, this event is for you,' they say.

For tickets, visit www.byronbayfc.com.au.

Training

Women's premier division training is held at the

Byron Memorial Recreation Grounds from 5.30pm on Wednesdays.

While the Minirooms (ages 5 to 11) is full, there are limited spaces available in other age groups. To get involved, visit www.byronbayfc.com.au.

Send us your sport stories!

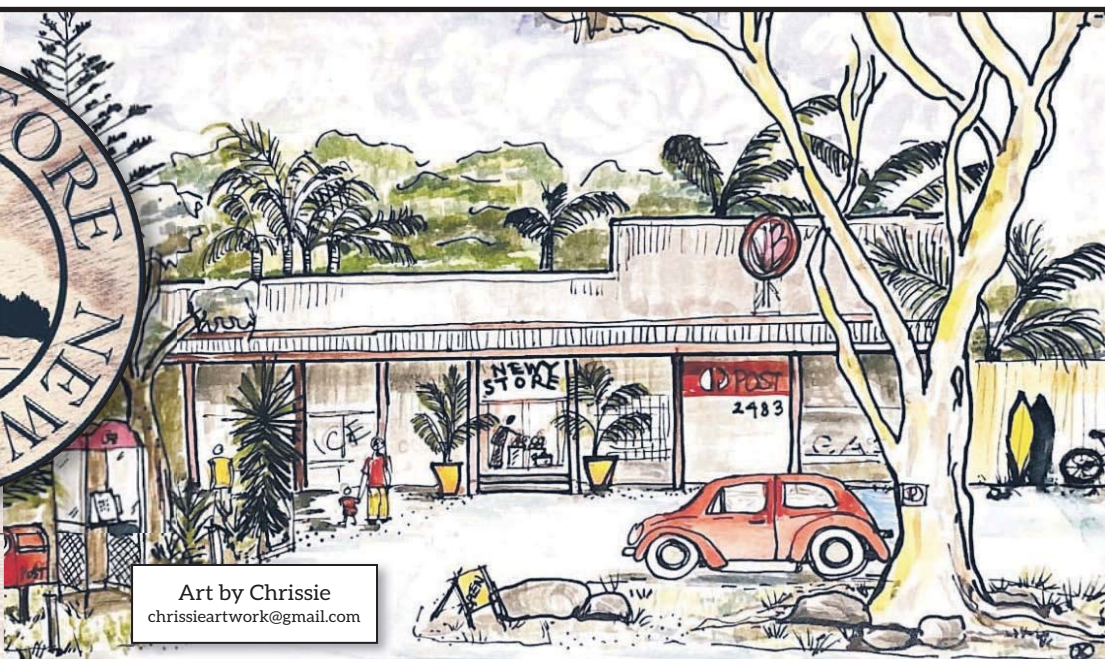
We would love to run all kinds of local sport on these pages so please send your photos and stories to sport@echo.net.au.

Newy Store

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

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

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



Art by Chrissie
chrissieartwork@gmail.com

Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BALLINA




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

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

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

australianhotelballina.com.au

LENNOX HEAD



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

Views, Brews, Cocktails, Beats, and Eats!
Live Music Friday, Sunday.
Bookings essential.
Head to lennoxpizza.com
Follow on Insta: @lennoxpizza

BILLINGDUGEL



Rosefina's Mexican
Thursday, Friday, Saturday
Lunch 12pm-2:30pm
Dinner 5pm-8:00pm
Sunday 12pm-8pm
8/10 Wilfred St, Billinudgel
www.rosefinas.place

Rosefina has decided it's time to dig through her vinyl collection for Friday nights.


WOLLONGBAR



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

Experience the bold and vibrant flavors of Peru at Bonito Peruvian in Wollongbar, where traditional recipes meet modern creativity. From fresh ceviche and anticucho skewers to savory aji de gallina, every dish is crafted with authentic ingredients and passion.
Pair your meal with a classic pisco sour and enjoy a true taste of Peru in a warm, inviting atmosphere.


BYRON BAY



Roca Byron Bay
Mon to Thurs: Brunch 7am - 2pm, Dinner 5 - 10pm
Fri to Sun open all day 7am - 10pm
14 Lawson St, Byron Bay
(02) 5642 0149
@rocabyronbay
www.rocabyronbay.com.au

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

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



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

Welcome to Horizon, Byron's newest rooftop bar.
Enjoy hinterland views, stunning sunsets and signature cocktails showcasing local distilleries and breweries.



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


Rainforest views, farm to table dining and a menu showcasing the best of Northern Rivers produce. Forest Byron Bay offers fresh, seasonal dishes and crafted cocktails.
Unwind with Golden Hour, 4 to 6pm Tuesday to Saturday, or enjoy house-made pasta with wine for Pasta Thursday.



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

Hotel Marvell's newest seafood destination

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



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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details @mainstreet_burgerbar


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



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

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

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




Three Blue Ducks
Located at The Farm
11 Ewingsdale Rd.
(02) 6190 8966
Open every day from 7am.
Mon-Thurs: breakfast & lunch
Fri-Sun: breakfast, lunch & dinner

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

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

CATERING



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.

Good Taste

DEAL OF THE WEEK

Wednesday Steak & Frites \$28

From 5 PM | Every Wednesday

Enjoy a 200g sirloin, cooked to perfection, served with crispy frites and rich jus.

Byron Bay Oyster Bar | 4 Marvell Street



Find more tasty morsels at

Echo.net.au



The Good Life

Fresh ideas start at Mullumbimby and New Brighton farmers' markets



Shearwater Steiner School students at the Grow Your Own Lunchbox Challenge at the Mullum Farmers Markets in 2024.

Looking to refresh your lunchbox game this school term? Skip the stress and head to Mullum and New Brighton farmers' markets where local, seasonal produce makes packing healthy lunches easy and inspiring.

Start with savoury staples: build nourishing sandwiches using fresh sourdough bread, layered with local cheeses, cherry tomatoes, crisp lettuce leaves, and a bold spoonful of chutney. Add a handful of crunchy sprouts for extra flavour and texture.

Pick up some pasture-raised eggs – perfect for making quick veggie fritters that are ideal for lunchboxes and easy to prep ahead. Or grab a pack of freshly made pasta that cooks in minutes and can be tossed with olive oil, greens, or pesto for a simple, wholesome meal.

For lighter bites, top rice-cakes with avocado or hummus, and include colourful veggie sticks like carrot, cucumber, or capsicum, paired with a market-fresh dip. And if you're really short on time, there's no shame in choosing delicious ready-to-eat options like handmade dumplings, fruit buns, pastries, vegan pies, or hand-rolled sushi – all crafted with care and real ingredients.

Round out the lunchbox with something naturally sweet: think juicy blueberries, plump strawberries, bananas, or crisp apples – easy to pack, naturally energising, and full of nutrients.

And don't miss out on September's Grow Your Own Lunchbox school competition, where local kids showcase their creative, garden-grown lunch ideas. It's the perfect way to spark healthy habits and get children excited about good food.

So skip the supermarket stress and embrace simple, real food from your local farmers' market. Fresh, fast, and full of flavour – lunch starts here.

■ For further inspiration check out the website: mullumfarmers-market.org.au/our-event/grow-your-own-lunchbox-2024/

LISMORE PRODUCE MARKET

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

In the heart of the city, on the steps of the Con. Keen St. Lismore

Byron Writers Festival: cake creator Nadine Ingram



The *Love Crumbs* author says, 'Everything I do is with feeling or meaning.'

With a career spanning Michelin-starred kitchens, to her own artisan bakery, beloved Sydney baker and Flour and Stone founder Nadine Ingram joins Byron Writers Festival to share the stories behind her cult-favourite creations from her heartfelt cookbooks *Flour and Stone* and *Love Crumbs*.

In *Love Crumbs*, many of your recipes are rooted in sensory experiences like perfume, spice, and texture – how do you translate these abstract inspirations into something as precise and structured as a cake recipe?

There are so many layers to a cake recipe. The first question I always asked when writing those for *Love Crumbs* was – what do I want to say here? Everything I do is with feeling or meaning so I wanted the cakes to be expressions of the intentions I believe we

have for one another.

The Mango Extravaganza cake, for instance, tells the story of how 'the cake' has become a threshold between us, and that your coveted wishes fall over the crumbs. The spirit of a mango has the ability to grant wishes and so this in some way becomes my intention for you.

The inspiration starts more often with the botanicals. They have to be good marriages, and their provenance and seasonality also have to work together.

The actual structure of the recipe merely weaves the technique and intentions together through a repertoire of notes that I call my recipe songs.

If someone were baking from *Love Crumbs* for the very first time, which recipe would you suggest they start with and why?

It would depend on the occasion.

For something celebratory I would suggest either Athena or Luna because they are stunning cakes using quite simple skills.

For an afternoon tea I would suggest the Cake For The Angels or Mariu because they have pops of fruit in them and can be mixed together very quickly.

What do you hope to bring to the conversation as a baker and author at Byron Writers Festival, and what are you most looking forward to sharing, or learning, during the festival?

I'm looking forward to sharing my experience of life as I have lived it through the medium of cake. Being a baker has given me a purposeful place in the world where I am able to tell stories through cake and connect with people through my heart. Documenting the story along the way through imagery and words has been an integral part of saying "this happened, and I was a part of it!"

This is going to sound strange but writers' festivals and the bookish world is very new to me. Writers move with a different energy than bakers and this has been the most interesting observation for me. A writers' festival feels so calming and thoughtful. They aren't the frenetic energy of a kitchen. We all arrive in these towns from all over and being able to immerse into people's stories without distractions is a real treat for me.

The theme for Byron Writers Festival is 'Passion and Purpose'. How do you personally define passion and purpose, and how do

these definitions shape you as a writer and baker?

I think to accomplish purpose you need passion, but more than that, you need perseverance. Things don't always go to plan with both writing and baking but if you have the integrity and belief that what you are trying to say is authentic that creates the 'stamina' to persevere. Purpose for me is centred around my service to people and both baking and writing have been the avenues I've chosen to express that passion.

It's been a very rich life.

Nadine Ingram appears at Byron Writers Festival on Saturday, August 9 (Food and Passion) and Sunday, August 10 (Food and Belonging).

NORTH BYRON HOTEL

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WEEKLY LIVE MUSIC

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Glow & Graze

2 x facial treatments at Osprey Spa & Chocolate Assiette Tower to share at Azure Bar and Grill

Available Monday to Thursday for \$380 for two people.

To book phone Osprey Spa on 6639 1555 or visit elementsofbyron.com.au/whats-on

BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE



5. ANTICO EMPORIO

The well-known and loved Antico Emporio in Eltham has recently opened up a second location in the Byron Arts & Industry Estate. A great little space now stocking a wide range of art, curios, antiques and collectables.

Opening hours 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday, or by appointment.
12 Tasman Way
@antico_emporio
0420 926 409



3. BYRON BAY CAMPING & DISPOSALS

Winter is well and truly here, with cold and clear nights perfect for cooking over an open fire. Byron Bay Camping & Disposals sell a wide range of cast iron camp ovens, grills, jaffle irons and frypans that can be used straight on, or over the fire, ensuring delicious food with that amazing cooked-over-the-charcoals flavour. Nothing beats it!

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



2. NORTH BYRON HOTEL

North Byron Hotel proudly brings the community together through vibrant events, celebrating local talent with great food, drinks and music. They love their guests and locals, always striving to offer more. From the weekly yakitori series Eat Sticks, Talk Sh!t every Wednesday, to the massive vinyl record sale on August 2, there's always something fresh and exciting happening.

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



1. EYE OF HORUS

Step inside the Eye of Horus concept store in Byron Bay and immerse yourself in the world of considered beauty. Explore their award-winning range of clean cosmetics and skincare, book a personalised makeup session or lesson, and refill or recycle your beauty essentials in-store.

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@eyeofhorusc cosmetics



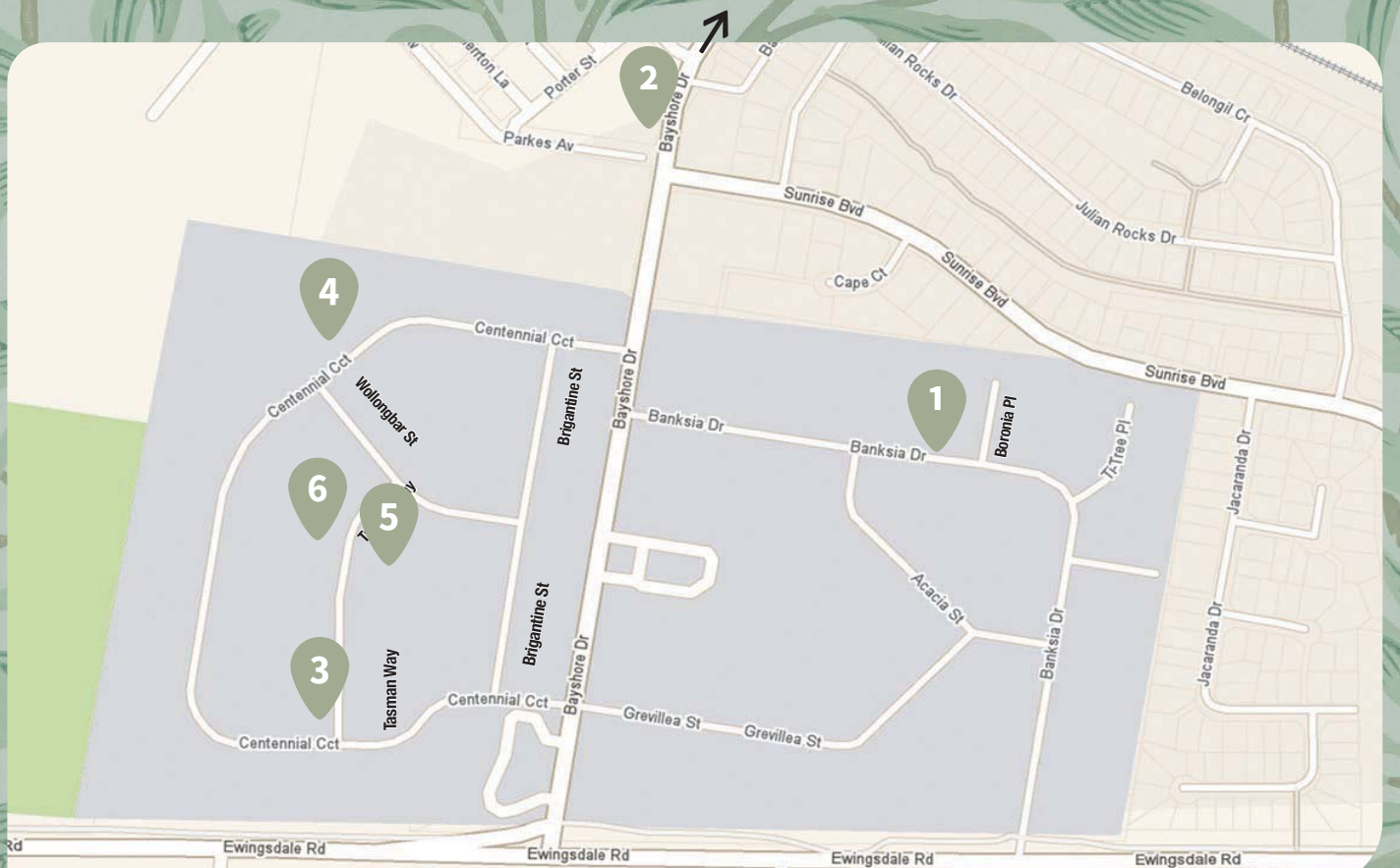
4. BODHI LIVING

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

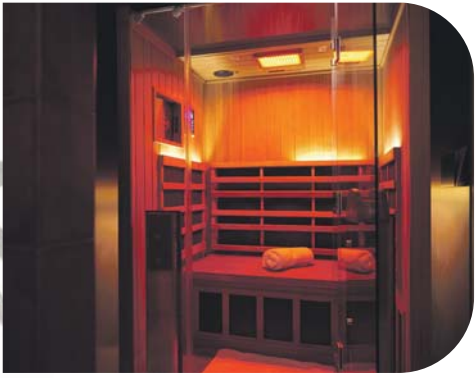
Shop 1/18 Centennial Circuit
www.bodhiliving.com.au
IG @bodhi.living

BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE

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



HABITAT PRECINCT



6. NIMBUS CO BYRON

At Nimbus Co, they are dedicated to your wellbeing, offering a sanctuary where modern wellness meets natural harmony. Their state-of-the-art wellness studio in Byron Bay provides a comprehensive range of services and facilities designed to rejuvenate your body and mind, including infrared sauna, ice bath and a private contrast therapy suite.

4/17 Tasman Way
www.nimbusco.com.au
0474 330 085
@thenimbusco



Habitat is a cleverly designed village in Byron Bay, where you can live, work and play, all in one place.

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



HABITAT

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

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



8. RICHARDSON MURRAY LAW

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

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

42 Parkes Avenue
www.richardson-murray.law



9. HABITAT WORKSPACE

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

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



10. SOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY BYRON BAY

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

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



7. BYRON FAMILY LAW

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

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



Making SPACES



Unprecedented demand for battery installations

ProSolar is installing home battery systems across the Northern Rivers at a record pace as demand surges. Locals increasingly recognise the importance of storing solar energy for use at night, ensuring energy independence and lower electricity bills. With the NSW battery rebate making storage solutions more affordable than ever, households are seizing the opportunity to maximise their solar investment. ProSolar's expert team is leading the charge, equipping homes with cutting-edge battery technology that enhances energy resilience and sustainability. As power prices fluctuate and grid reliability concerns grow, more residents are turning to solar storage as a smart, long-term solution. The Northern Rivers community is embracing the future of renewable energy, and ProSolar is proud to be at the forefront of this transition.

ProSolar Australia, 6/71 Molesworth St, Lismore
(02) 7912 0760 • prosolaraustralia.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.

T : 02 6680 9394

E : hello@artisanair.com.au

W : www.artisanair.com.au



Stoney's Building Creations

Stoney's Building Creations specialise in bathroom renovations. With over 30 years experience in the construction trade, they understand that every project is unique, and they seek to cater to your specific needs, helping you to redesign the floor layout to best suit your needs, and achieve the best outcome in your bathroom remodel. They understand that renovations can be frustrating, so they keep the process simple, and ensure that they keep you updated at each stage of your project. The team at Stoney's Building Creations take pride in offering personal and reliable service with quality workmanship.

www.stoneysbuildingcreations.com
0417 654 888



Working Windows by Jake

Are your windows and doors working?

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

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

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

workingwindows.com.au

Jake 0435 506 465

Toby 0405 793 994

workingwindows1@gmail.com

Swap a Bottle

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

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

10 Kite Crescent, South Murwillumbah

Free Call: 1300 727 013

www.swapabottlegas.com



Making SPACES



It's time to plant potatoes

Potatoes are delicious and easy to grow – in the ground, in deep pots, or in a special bag. Harvest after 3-4 months.

Dig a shallow trench about 10cm wide and 15-20cm deep. Plant your seed potatoes with shoots pointing up about 30cm apart and cover with 10-12cm of soil. Spuds form between the seed piece and the surface of the soil, so you'll get more if you keep adding soil around the plant as it grows. For containers, put 15-20cm of soil in the container and put the tubers on top, adding soil as they grow.

Keep the plants moist. When the leaves turn yellow and start to die, stop watering. After a few weeks, you can harvest baby potatoes, or wait for larger ones.

Eden at Byron
140 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay
02 66856874
www.edenatbyron.com.au



Why choose Unblock Pipe Clearing?

Unlike Unblock Pipe Clearing, many plumbers don't have the latest technology, equipment or experience that comes with specialising in clearing blocked pipes and drains.

The equipment allows them to accurately locate, identify and fix the issue correctly the first time. They don't just fix the issue, they will give you a warranty on most jobs! Now doing septic system new installations, upgrades and servicing.

Being a local, family run business, you can be assured that they will take care of your best interests.

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Grow the future with vanilla

Are you a hobby farmer, landowner, agri-entrepreneur or investor looking for a low-maintenance, high-potential opportunity?

Discover the automated, climate-controlled Vanilla Dome – an innovative, self-regulating cultivation unit designed for maximum yield with minimal resource use. Developed in Australia, these domes use intelligent automation to manage temperature, humidity, and light cycles, allowing year-round vanilla flowering and production on demand.

Whether you're a hobby farmer wanting a sustainable side income, a commercial grower looking to scale with precision, or an investor seeking an eco-smart agri-tech asset, Vanilla Domes offer real returns – with water-saving design, energy efficiency, and minimal labour input. Learn more or invest today!

Expressions of interest are now invited for dome purchase or co-investment opportunities.

Join the vanilla revolution – grow smart, grow sustainably.

www.vanillaplantation.com.au
Instagram: @australianvanillaplantations
LinkedIn - Australian Vanilla Plantations
Contact: David Soo
0404 116 988
dsoo@vanillaplantation.com.au



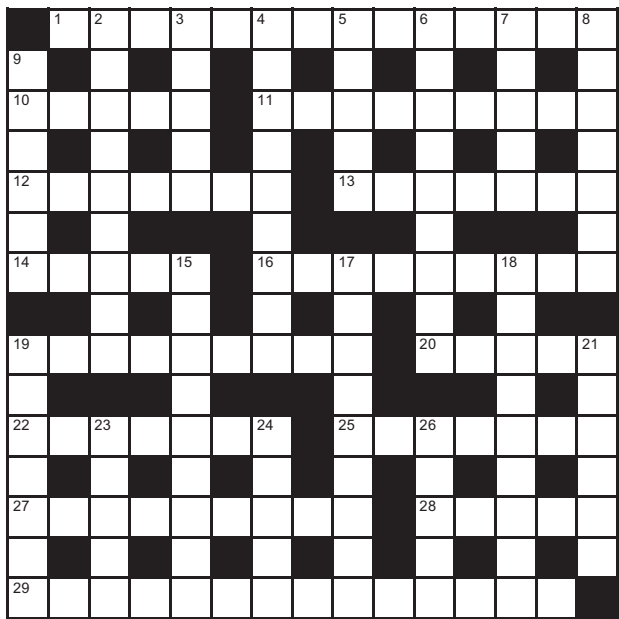
Living Earth Gardens

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Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

1. No registration planned for third degrees (14)
10. Ladies' man, a bounder who enthralls me (5)
11. Sausage, served with chapati and olive starters - exotic! (9)
12. Doctor has issue restraining impulse (7)
13. Zionist leader in Second Reich arranged musical pieces (7)
14. Middle Easterner claims pole with German car (5)
16. Carol sure can get upset at fairground ride (9)
19. Angry black and red mongrel (9)
20. Sign up sad loner (5)
22. Mike has a body of a dog (7)
25. Former *Echo* politicians save time with excuses (7)
27. Hotel chef de cuisine wandering alone in Spanish city (9)
28. Dog described by Mauriac - or Gide? (5)
29. Break from work cut short by Bill at a fateful time (3,2,9)

DOWN

2. Main man calls for unity in Italy (6,3)
3. Steal away to Telopea? No thanks! (5)
4. Can Craig be bothered with resistance from speedster? (6,3)
5. Midnight purges are features of some puzzles (5)
6. Tempting smooth toe being wiggled (9)
7. Working with legatee at hearing into broadcast (2,3)
8. Small Alpine mongrel dog (7)
9. Disaster caught Riyadh's premier terrorist organisation (6)
15. Ponies fit, malformation notwithstanding (2,5,2)
17. Dog on hill gets sponsor (9)
18. Old pennies initially recovered in Cairns converted to recycling material? (5,4)
19. Sleeping arrangement affected by plot (4,3)
21. Dope devoured by whopper of a famous dog (6)
23. King in check, perhaps lost (5)
24. Mouths of fjords, rivers and estuaries all around Australia iced over (5)
26. Old criminal involved in Forex contract (2-3)

■ If you would like to provide any feedback to Stephen Clarke about his crosswords please email: crosswordfeedback@echo.net.au

Quick Clues

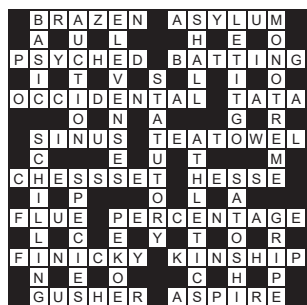
ACROSS

1. Extended questioning sessions (14)
10. Juliet's lover in Shakespeare's tragedy (5)
11. Thin breakfast sausage (9)
12. Medical professional who performs operations (7)
13. Playful musical movements (7)
14. Person from a Middle Eastern kingdom (5)
16. Revolving platform at luggage claim (9)
19. Produced from parents of different breeds (9)
20. Sign up for a course or program (5)
22. Large, powerful guard dog breed (7)
25. Frees from an obligation or requirement (7)
27. Catalonian coastal metropolis (9)
28. Welsh dog breed with short legs (5)
29. Time when consequences must be faced (3,2,9)

DOWN

2. The top person or thing (6,3)
3. Run away to get married secretly (5)
4. High-speed competitive vehicle (6,3)
5. Network patterns of horizontal and vertical lines (5)
6. Deliciously appealing (9)
7. Broadcasting live (2,3)
8. Floppy-eared hunting dog (7)
9. Crucial turning point or emergency (6)
15. Regardless of difficulties (2,5,2)
17. Hound with distinctive hair along its spine (9)
18. Discarded metal for recycling (5,4)
19. Portable folding cot (4,3)
21. Female collie or young girl (6)
23. Wandering animal without an owner (5)
24. Became immobilized with fear (5)
26. Former prison inmate (2-3)

Last week's solution #64



Oh Mandy

Mandy Nolan

How do you make other people feel? It's something I think about quite a lot, because as a writer, and as a performer, an activist, and a twice-failed politician, it's my common denominator. It's the line I draw between seemingly disconnected paths. It's the key driver of my bigger mission. I want to facilitate people feeling valued and heard. I want them to feel there is hope. I want their lives to improve. I want them to have housing, have employment, have safety, have love, have community, have food, have joy.

We often feel that delivering such lofty goals is so unachievable we don't bother. But sometimes the simplest acts can be deeply transformative. Take Sunday morning for example. I'd just finished mentoring two women comedians in Sydney. It's confronting to be assisting the success of others when you're still processing your own failure. It's also good medicine. I'm good at giving. It's receiving I suck at.

It was 6am when I stepped into the dark street to call my Uber to the airport. I felt a bit sad and lost. I narrowly missed being elected MP for the second time, and in the process abandoned my 40-year career as a comedian. There are moments where I really feel into my deep uncertainty and it makes me feel sad. And if I'm honest a bit scared.

My first Uber arrives - I walk to the car and the driver tells me the ride is cancelled. Typical. I can't even win a fare. Another driver will arrive I am told. I know it's because this driver has realised it's a short fare to the airport and he doesn't want to take me. I get a spike of annoyance. Indignation that he dumped my job. I contemplate reporting him. Then my compassionate side kicks in. He's probably been driving all night. Maybe he wants to go home and needs a fare in the right direction. Not everything is about me. It does add to that feeling of desolation. Of wondering who I am and what is next. And, if I'll make my fricking plane. Loser.

The next Uber arrives. Fortunately this driver is happy to take me to the airport, which is good because now I'm



Our 15 minutes together was spectacular. We laughed, we sang, and we allowed Barry Manilow to create this tiny fragment of intimacy. It was really beautiful.

running late. I slip in the back, we make small talk, and then Michael the Uber driver says 'I am going to play you some Manilow'. I think, no way. He's not blasting 'Oh Mandy' at 6.15am. But he does. And it's so loud my ears are bleeding. He's singing along. He puts the volume down and says, 'Come on, sing!' So I do. Michael and I belt out Barry all the way to the airport. He plays it twice. I am laughing. I am singing. And I am a terrible singer! So is Michael. But it doesn't matter. It's so joyous. 'Oh Mandy, you came and you gave without taking... but I sent you away! Oh Mandy...'

It's exactly how I feel. Two years of campaigning without a wage. And then the long fall into the abyss of losing. I really do feel the bit about 'I

sent you away'. Part of me almost feels like I could cry, but I don't because that would be a cliché, and I don't have long enough to explain the context to Michael.

Our 15 minutes together was spectacular. We laughed, we sang, and we allowed Barry Manilow to create this tiny fragment of intimacy. It was really beautiful. It changed how I felt that morning, about myself, about the day. All Michael did was take a risk and play a song with the name of his ride. I could have said no. But I didn't, I pushed past the discomfort and experienced this beautiful connection with a stranger.

Michael transformed my morning. I have hated that song, but he re-made it for me - I will always remember this moment and the power simple actions can have to connect. And sometimes it's not the teacher in the Uber who is the real teacher.

Oh Mandy... I neeeeeed you!

■ 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

Mercury may be engaged in the second of its three annual reversals, but this week's sun and new moon in the sign of the lion bring a spirited splash of dash and panache to our winter world...



LEO THE LION

ARIES: Yes, having Saturn, Neptune and, any day now Chiron makes three retrograde planets in your sign, can be challenging. But its beneficial upside is the healing dance of combining Saturn's systematic structure with Neptune's flexibility and flow. This week's cosmic caution? Someone flattering you with ulterior motives.

TAURUS: With three planets, including signal-scrambling Mercury in the zodiac sign of the lion, if your domestic sector hosts a bit of roaring this week, restrain your stubborn side and don't lock horns. Because what might look like a dead end could suddenly morph into several new avenues of possibility.

GEMINI: With Uranus and Venus flirting in Gemini, social interfaces may be particularly changeable and unexpected, with some surprises delightful, others not so much. If what you depended on suddenly seems solid as quicksand, your stars suggest that following the money could be this week's savviest strategy.

CANCER: Cancerians tend to be emotionally cautious, while Jupiter loves to pursue new experiences in search of big-picture truths. Courageous new moon on 25 July offers plenty of confidence to clearly express what you have to contribute and ask the relevant questions if you need to know more.

LEO: Sun and new moon in Leo on 25 July celebrate your regal majesty's annual reset. This is your time to shine, and with both Mars and Venus in mutable signs, it's the perfect moment to step outside your comfort zone, shake things up and reignite that magical, creative spark.

VIRGO: No nice way to say it, Mars in Virgo can be critical and argumentative, while Mercury retrograde in Leo likes to be right, so be advised that communications could hit a histrionic peak this week. Best approach? Open-minded listening, and refraining from playing the blame game.

LIBRA: Venus in Gemini loves to party, this week's sun and new moon love to host and attend glamorous gatherings - so far so fabulous. Just be aware that the mixed signals and miscommunications which are known to proliferate during this busy, buzzy transit are issuing a drama queen alert.

SCORPIO: July's high point for Scorpius arrives when the sun/new moon alignment on 25 July in the fiery sign of passion and power politics, invites your inner exhibitionist out to play. This lunar lift offers a boost to creative projects which could engage your talents for the rest of the year.

SAGITTARIUS: With Saturn and Neptune both backstroking in the fellow fire sign which is your astrological sector of fun and creativity, it might feel like the universe is raining on your parade. No way: the planets of discipline and vision are daring you to find joy in what you already have.

CAPRICORN: This week's sun/Saturn alignment in two authoritative fire signs pumping you with purposeful intention reminds Capricorn decision-makers at the crossroads between an old chapter and a new one that with leadership comes responsibility. By all means turn your passion into action, but use this energy wisely.

AQUARIUS: Jupiter occupying your astrozone of work, health and daily routines is Aquarians' time to streamline their life, improve well-being and tackle long-term projects. Meaning you can expect support in revamping fitness regimes, activating healthy habits, organising schedules, and a renewed focus on getting things sorted and in order.

PISCES: As this week's planetary peristalsis expands, you're likely to be in a more social mood for sharing some of those thoughts you've been keeping to yourself. But Mercury retrograde can play communication tricks, so if your intuition raises a red flag, probably best to hold back for the moment.

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Seven days of entertainment



Eclectic Selection

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



Dashville, the famed Hunter Valley musical mob behind iconic festivals such as The Gum Ball, Thrashville, Nundle Rocks and Dashville Skyline, are packing up the gear, loading in a whole bunch of muso mates and hitting the high road for a special one-off show.

Friday from 7pm at the Bangalow Bowlo. Tickets from \$29 at oztix.com.au.

✿ The success of any collaboration is dependent on a myriad of factors, some obvious, others less tangible. **Sharon** and **Slava Grigoryan** are an example of such a synergy, resulting in music that connects deeply with the listener – perhaps it is their union professionally, and in life, that provides the intangible factor fuelling their passionate and sensitive performances.

Wednesday from 7pm at Brunswick Picture House, Brunswick Heads. Tickets from \$40 at brunswickpicturehouse.com.



✿ Shortlisted for the inaugural International C.S Lewis 'Clive' Award in 2024, **The Water's Edge** by the Dream Run Theatre Company, is a play about finding light in dark places and how love can both transcend and restore memories.

Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 7:30pm, and Sunday at 2pm at Drill Hall Theatre, Mullumbimby. Tickets from \$25 at trybooking.com.



Thirty years ago a rag-tag bunch of folkies got together and formed a band called **Things of Stone and Wood** that went on to define Melbourne in the early '90s – since then the band has achieved national success, international tours, and a gold album.

Friday from 8pm at the Ballina RSL, Level One. Tickets from \$46 at ballinarsl.com.au.

✿ **Adam Gardiner** is a musician and composer, and since completing a bachelor of contemporary music in 2009 Adam has worked regularly as a performer, session musician, teacher and composer – he likes drums!

Saturday from 6pm at the Ballina RSL Boardwalk. Free show.



✿ **Penny's Groove** are fabulous entertainers who might as well be called 'The Crowd-Pleasers' – they play all those songs that Aussie audiences love – you will be knocked out by Penny's extraordinary vocals.

Saturday from 6.30pm at the Brunswick Heads Bowlo and Sunday at the Australian Hotel, Ballina from 2pm. Free shows.



✿ This week at the Ballina Blues Club you can see **Hubcap Stan & The Sidewalk Stompers** – Stan and the band play authentic, old-time blues – from the heart, not because it's the fashion.

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

Chock-a-block House

It's another chock-a-block week at the **Brunswick Picture House** and it's all kicking off tonight as two absolute masters of the musical world stage arrive – acclaimed cellist **Sharon Grigoryan** and guitar virtuoso **Slava Grigoryan** – a genuine meeting of musical minds, this one is not to be missed! Limited tickets remain.

They're rapidly reaching the end of their **Brun Does Winter Burlesque** run this week and the audiences have left with jaws agape – one of the stellar featured artists is **Rhys Lightning** who strikes with wit and wonder to all who bear witness. A high voltage dancer with fire starting feet, Rhys is a chameleon-like character who's aim is to electrify and excite your every sense. Lighting up stages since he was but a boy, now with a crack and a flash he is here to bring the Boylesque – this bawdy bolt of brilliance will take the field by storm. Expect to see the absolute best in the business at the Picture House – it's a bold, brassy night just bursting at the seams with glitter. With an all new cast, it's all tease, no sleaze, Thursday to Sunday.

What's the secret to a fabulous life? We'll let **Emma Krause** explain as she brings her smash hit-sellout comedy show **40+FABULOUS** to Bruns – Saturday at 6pm.

The wildest, wackiest music trivia night is back as BayFM and the Picture House present: **Face The Music 2** on Thursday, August 2.

The Picture House has added a slew of new shows to their program and August is looking jam-packed.

Don't miss: the return of guitar prodigy **Daniel Champagne** who'll take the stage by storm (Friday, August 8); multi-award winning musical comedian **Gillian Cosgriff** in an all new show (Saturday, August 9); the latest Save Wallum Poetry Slam that will feature poet **Kathleen Halley Angus** (Sunday, August 17); and the original musical **The Wake** from **Ollie Heathwood** that answers the question 'What happened to the fishing fleet in Brunswick Heads?' (Friday, August 22 to Sunday 24).

Tickets for all shows at brunswickpicturehouse.com.

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She's 40+ FABULOUS

Rally the girls for a night to remember – and get ready for a hilarious night of laughter, empowerment, and sheer fun. This is more than just a comedy show – it's a high-energy, feel-good experience that will have you in stitches and leaving on a high.

What's the secret to a fabulous life?

For years, **Emma Krause** thought it was smiling sweetly, appeasing others, meeting demands and doing the 'right' thing.

Yeah. That sh*t doesn't work.

Secretly, the school teacher and mum wanted to try stand-up comedy, but she never felt brave or 'rock n roll' enough. What would happen when she got on stage and people saw that long swishing tail she hid so well? What would the school P&C and the Tupperware ladies think?

After turning 40, Emma burst onto the Perth comedy scene in 2017, making her way to two State RAW Comedy Grand Finals. In 2019, she became a finalist in Channel Seven's *Australia's Got Talent*, launching her career in comedy.

Known for her role as Sue Finley in the Oz Lotto ads, Emma also toured nationally with the comedy trio The Motherhood, delighting audiences across the country.

In 2024, she debuted her first solo show 40+ FABULOUS at Fringe World in Perth, delivering an extraordinary 22-show run that sold out completely. Her standout performance earned her two prestigious awards, including WA's Best Comedy.

Seven years into comedy, Emma no longer cares. Actually, her scales and horns are out now too and that feels bloody fabulous to her.

This is a show about fears, limits, unsolicited advice and where all that sh*t can be shoved. For anyone needing more self love, laughter, or a sign to tell them their weird, quirky light needs to shine a little more.

WINNER – WA Best Comedy,

Perth Fringe World 2024

WINNER – Best Solo Performance 2025, Broadway Perth

FINALIST – Australia's Got Talent, 2019

WINNER – Silver Doustie, 2024, WA Comedy Awards

In 2025, her show received further acclaim when Broadway Perth announced Krause as the overall winner for Best Solo Performer of the year.

Ge this show into you – Saturday from 6pm at the Brunswick Picture House. Tickets from \$34.50 – brunswickpicturehouse.com.



It's time to Come From Away

The **Bangalow Theatre Company** (BTC) celebrates its ten-year anniversary with the hit musical and remarkable true story, *Come From Away*.

The Bangalow Theatre Company is proud to present its latest musical production, the critically-acclaimed Tony award-winning musical as it celebrates ten years of performing a wide range of musicals and stage shows in the Northern Rivers.

The Bangalow Theatre Company is renowned for its exceptional standard of theatre, having produced more than 11 local plays and musicals over the last decade. Local theatregoers would be familiar with the company's stand-out musicals, including *Calamity Jane* (2017), *Chicago* (2019), *Rent* (2021), *Hair* (2023) and now, Broadway favourite *Come From Away*.

Opening August 21, at the Byron Theatre, this celtic, folk-inspired production tells the true story of a tiny town with a huge heart – in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, 38 planes full of stranded people were diverted to the small Canadian town of Gander in Newfoundland. The local community swung into action, taking care of their unexpected guests, who came from every corner of the world.

Come From Away Director Kate Foster is celebrating the opportunity to bring this musical to life. 'There's something particularly special about *Come From Away*, because the script is based on real life stories told by the members of the Gander community; it's an incredibly emotive production and I feel very fortunate to be working with such a high-quality cast and crew on a Broadway favourite with a live band,' she said.

The Bangalow Theatre Company Founder and Creative Director, Anouska Gammon is proud of the creative community that continues to push the company to greater heights. 'We are so fortunate to live in such a creative place, with a community who truly cares about bringing high-energy musicals and stage shows to our coastal towns. Not many people realise all of our productions are run by teams of volunteers, including the cast, musicians and support staff. *Come from Away* represents all of the themes we uphold at BTC, the strength of friendship, human connection and a celebration of differences,' she said.

Performances run from August 21 to 30, at 7.30pm and matinees on Saturdays August 23 and 30 August at 2pm. Adults \$64.40, concession \$54.40, front row of upstairs balcony \$49. Tickets available at www.byroncentre.com.au.

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GIG GUIDE

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WEDNESDAY 23

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **JOCK BARNES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: MITCHELL DORMER & JON SHORTER**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BOWLO BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **SHARON & SLAVA GRIGORYAN**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **OPEN MIC JAM**
- HEAPS GOOD FOOD STORE, MULLUMBIMBY, 5.30PM **THE SPOKEN WORD SOIRÉE**
- METROPOLE, LISMORE, 5PM **ROO**

THURSDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **SARAH GRANT DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **IZZY DAY TRIO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- KELP, BALLINA, 6PM **MILO GREEN**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **HAYLEY GRACE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO HUM**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **DREAM RUN THEATRE COMPANY - THE WATER'S EDGE**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7PM **VINCENT CROSS WITH JIMMY DOWLING**

FRIDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, NSW MUSIC EVENT, 8PM **RAGGA JUMP**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **PABLO LAVERDE + JEROME WILLIAMS BAND**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4.30PM **DJ SHANE COLLINS**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **JORDAN MAC**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **DUELING PIANOS: SHANE**

PARRY & JAKE BISTROW + JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT, 8PM MATT DAY TRIO & HAYLEY GRACE & CO

- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **BEN WHITING DUO**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **JABIRU**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 8PM **THINGS OF STONE AND WOOD**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7PM **DASHVILLE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **DEVU**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **DREAM RUN THEATRE COMPANY - THE WATER'S EDGE**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ ISHWARA**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN 5.30PM **OPEN MIC**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **CHRIS PALMER**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 3PM **THE GRANDPARENTS CLUB 2, 7PM THE GRANDPARENTS CLUB 2**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 8PM **THE OASIS EXPERIENCE**

SATURDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **THE DUSTIES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON MCGREGOR DUO**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DJ MONSIEUR DIOP**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **MATTY ROGERS DUO + POLY & CO, 8PM DUELING PIANOS: MICK BUCKLEY & DIZZY + JON SHORTER & SAM WHEAT**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **PISTOL WHIP**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **ADAM GARDINER**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **THE DETECTIVES**
- TINTENBAR HALL 7.30PM **VINCENT CROSS WITH JIMMY DOWLING**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **LOKI HOUGH**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS BOWLING CLUB 6.30PM **PENNY'S GROOVE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **THE WHISKEYS + DJ LOXHART**

- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **EMMA KRAUSE, 8.30PM BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 2PM **CHALKFEST**
- COURTHOUSE HOTEL, MULLUMBIMBY, 2PM **ABBA UKEFEST**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 6PM **THE COMPLAINERS**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **DREAM RUN THEATRE COMPANY - THE WATER'S EDGE**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 5PM **SUBURBIA SUBURBIA**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **STOCKADE**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **LEE-ANNE JOY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **HAYLEY GRACE**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 7.30PM **MEATLOAF BACK OUTTA HELL**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE AUSTRALIAN EAGLES SHOW**
- CORAKAI MEMORIAL BOWLS CLUB 7PM **SONIC FX**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 7PM **BLINK 182 GREENDAY EXPERIENCE**

SUNDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HAYLEY GRACE DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **EPIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **RAW ORDIO + SEVEN DROPS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **BRUNS DOES WINTER BURLESQUE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **HARRY NICHOLS, 9PM DUELING PIANOS: MICK BUCKLEY & JOHN HILL**
- BANGALOW HOTEL **LACHLAN JACQUES**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 3PM **OPEN MIC**
- DRILL HALL THEATRE, MULLUMBIMBY, 2PM **DREAM RUN THEATRE COMPANY - THE WATER'S EDGE**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ PAPA BITCHO**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **TIAGO FREITAS**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 2PM **PENNY'S GROOVE**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM **BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT HUBCAP STAN & THE SIDEWALK STOMPERS**

- ELTHAM HOTEL 2.30PM **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB 10AM **DOROTHY THE DINOSAUR, 12PM DOROTHY THE DINOSAUR**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 3PM **FAT ALBERT**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 2.30PM **RHYDIAN LEWIS**
- THREE BLUE DUCKS, EWINGSDALE, 1.30PM **JAZZ FACTORY**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 2PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- LENNOX PIZZA 4.30PM **ARCADIA**

MONDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **GUY KACHEL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 9PM **DUELING PIANOS: SHANE PARRY & BODHI ACTON**

TUESDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ALLY PALMER**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **LUKE BENNETT**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL, 9PM DUELING PIANOS: JON SHORTER & BODHI ACTON**
- M-ARTS, MURWILLUMBAH, 2.30PM **CHRIS COSTELLO'S HEDONIC ORCHESTRA**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM **MY FAIR LADIES**

WEDNESDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TAHLIA MATHESON**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN, 9PM DUELING PIANOS: JON SHORTER & BODHI ACTON**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BOWLO BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **OPEN MIC JAM**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY - MICK NEVEN**

For the love of Jimmy

Jimmy Barnes is without doubt one of the most loved and respected artists in Australian history. As frontman of Cold Chisel, Jimmy had a natural energy working hard, playing hard and living life. He carried this philosophy into his solo career and now has an unsurpassed collection of the most well-known Australian anthems, that have, in many cases, become the soundtracks to peoples' lives.

Barnes Storm play these songs with the utmost highest regard and respect, allowing audiences to relive their memories, including the younger generation who grew up listening to their parent's music. Iconic songs like 'Driving Wheels', 'Lay Down Your Guns', 'Flame Trees', 'Khe Sanh' and of course 'Working Class Man', to name a few - along with some of his latest songs, they engage the audience to sing along.

Barnes Storm have captured the sound, the amazing energy and presentation of Jimmy's on-stage performances that has to be seen and heard, to be believed. Frontman Scott Bedford emulates Jimmy with accuracy and with total respect, so much that it has been quoted - 'if you close your eyes, you would think you are listening to Jimmy himself.'

Guitarist Leon Massey, bass guitarist Craig Battistuzzi, Luke Rosten on keys and Russ Harley on drums complete the band, delivering a high-quality energy performance. Barnes Storm has toured up and down the East Coast of NSW with a focus on national and international shows firmly in their sights. They have proven that they have what it takes to give fans a show to remember and asking for more, making Barnes Storm, Australia's premier Jimmy Barnes and Cold Chisel show.

Free show on Sunday, August 3, from 4.30pm at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay.

BOOK NOW

SCANDI

HURTIGRUTEN

SCANDINAVIAN FILM FESTIVAL

PALACE BYRON BAY
GO NORTH. 24 JULY - 13 AUGUST

ScandinavianFilmFestival.com

DRIVEN BY LEXUS

PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY JULY 24
TO WEDNESDAY JULY 30

TOGETHER (PG)
COMING SOON

FANTASTIC 4 (PG)
NOW SHOWING

SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

BARRY LYNDON (M)
CULT WALK
Mon: 6:00PM

BTS ARMY: FOREVER WE ARE YOUNG (PG)
Wed: 6:00PM

ROGER WATERS THIS IS NOT A DRILL: LIVE FROM PRAGUE (CTC)
Sun: 3:00PM

THE STOLEN PAINTING (M)
Fri, Sat, Sun: 3:45PM

TOGETHER (M15+)
MOVIE CLUB FIRST LOOK
Fri: 6:30PM

FAMILY FILMS

ELIO (PG)
Daily except Thurs:
1:30PM, Thurs: 11:30AM,
1:30PM

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG)
Daily except Fri, Sun:
11:00AM, 5:45PM, Fri:
11:00AM, Sun: 11:00AM,
5:50PM

LILO & STITCH (PG)
Thurs, Mon, Tues,
Wed: 1:20PM, 3:40PM,
Fri: 1:20PM, Sat, Sun:
11:15AM, 1:20PM

SMURFS (G)
Daily except Sat, Sun:
11:15AM, Sat, Sun:
11:15AM, 1:30PM

ALL FILMS

28 YEARS LATER (M15+)
Daily except Fri, Wed:
8:30PM, Fri: 8:40PM,
Wed: 8:10PM

EL 47 (M)
Daily: 6:00PM

F1: THE MOVIE (M)
Thurs, Fri, Sat, Tues:
11:10AM, 2:20PM,
5:30PM, 7:50PM, Sun:
11:10AM, 5:30PM,
7:50PM, Mon, Wed:
11:10AM, 2:20PM,
7:50PM

FOUR LETTERS OF LOVE (M)
Daily except Sun:
11:00AM, 1:20PM,
3:40PM, 6:00PM, Sun:
10:45AM, 1:00PM,
3:15PM, 6:00PM

FRIENDSHIP (M)
Thurs: 1:45PM, 3:30PM,
5:45PM, Fri, Mon, Tues,
Wed: 3:30PM, 5:45PM,
Sat, Sun: 5:45PM

HOLY COW (M)
Daily: 11:00AM, 3:40PM

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (M15+)
Thurs: 1:10PM, 4:00PM,
8:20PM, Fri, Mon, Tues,
Wed: 1:10PM, 8:20PM,
Sat, Sun: 8:20PM

JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH (M)
Daily except Mon:
1:30PM, 4:15PM,
7:00PM, 8:15PM, Mon:
1:30PM, 4:15PM, 7:00PM

OCEAN WITH DAVID ATTENBOROUGH (PG)
Daily except Sat, Sun:
11:00AM, Sat, Sun:
3:40PM

SUPERMAN (M)
Daily except Fri, Sun:
11:10AM, 1:50PM,
4:30PM, 7:15PM,
8:15PM, Fri: 11:10AM,
1:50PM, 4:30PM,
7:15PM, 8:30PM, Sun:
11:10AM, 1:50PM,
4:30PM, 7:15PM, 8:20PM

THE FANTASTIC FOUR: FIRST STEPS (PG)
Daily: 11:00AM, 1:00PM,
3:30PM, 6:00PM, 8:20PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

F1: THE MOVIE (M)
Daily except Sat, Sun:
Wed: 10:20AM, Sat:
3:50PM, Wed: 3:30PM

HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON (PG)
Daily except Wed:
2:30PM

I KNOW WHAT YOU DID LAST SUMMER (M15+)
Daily: 5:00PM

JURASSIC WORLD: REBIRTH (M)
Daily except Sat, Wed:
1:30PM, 4:20PM, 7:20PM, Sat:
10:20AM, 7:20PM, Wed:
10:30AM, 4:20PM, 7:20PM

LILO & STITCH (PG)
Thurs, Sat, Sun:
12:20PM

SMURFS (G)
Daily: 10:00AM

SUPERMAN (M)
Thurs, Sat, Sun, Tues:
9:45AM, 5:00PM, Fri:
9:45AM, 5:00PM, Mon:
9:45AM, 5:10PM, 7:10PM,
Wed: 9:45AM, 2:30PM, 6:50PM

THE PHILADELPHIA STORY (PG)
MAYNÉE MEMORIES
Sat: 1:10PM

TOGETHER (M15+)
MOVIE CLUB FIRST LOOK
Fri: 7:10PM

FOR ALL SCANDINAVIAN FF SESSIONS, PLEASE VISIT SCANDINAVIANFILMFESTIVAL.COM.AU

6866 9600 BALLINA FAIR • 6680 8555 BYRON BAY

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.

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

DISPLAY ADS (with a border): \$14 per column centimetre

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa

Prepayment is required for all ads.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

Echo Classies also appear online:
www.echo.net.au/classified-ads

Echo

VOLUNTEERS

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Help with Kinship Festival – Sat 20 Sept Knox Park Murwillumbah

Set up, during & packdown.

All skills & backgrounds welcome!

✉ kinship@mccentre.org.au
☎ (02) 6672 3003

TUITION

ENGLISH TUTOR (Experienced HSC 'Exam' Marker). Ph Jay 0401561257

DISCLAIMER

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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.

IN MEMORIAM



YANNI SPYROU
26/8/1997 - 25/7/2011

To live in the hearts you left behind, is never to die.

Love Baba, Mummy, Eleyna, Papou, Yiayia, Nicholas, Manoli & Leo

HEALTH

KINESIOLOGY

Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs.

Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress.
0403125506

SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.

HYPNOSIS & EFT

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

HYPNOSIS & NLP

Over 30 years of experience
WendyPurdey.com. Ph 0497 090 233



Release blocked energy, clear stress and emotion that's causing pain and holding you back, and free yourself to live a life you love!

Contact Kate for a free discovery call.

0413 003 301

crystalsanddreaming.com.au

Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby
0401 926 090

TRADEWORK

Septic Waste Removal Summerland Environmental

The Liquid Waste Specialists!

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

TREE SERVICES

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

HART TREE SERVICES

20 years local experience

- 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding
- Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat

Fully insured • Free quotes

0427 347 380

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

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

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas

6681 3140
Mobile 0417 698 227

GARAGE SALES

MASSIVE SALE

SOUTH GOLDEN BEACH 8 Clifford St, Sat 26 July from 7am.

Raising funds for a neighbour in need. Something for everyone.

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

WANTED

TREE FERNS

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

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

CARAVANS

CARAVANS

We buy, sell & consign. All makes & models.
0408 758 688

SHORT TERM ACCOM.

FULLY FURNISHED 3 BEDROOM HOME to rent from early Sept to end of Nov 2025. Flexible on start/ end dates and rent. Our comfortable home is on 1 acre landscaped, hilltop block, 4kms from Mullumbimby. Interested in older couples who will maintain a well kept home and garden. No pets. Charlie 0411052256

TO LET

LOCAL REMOVAL

& backloads to Brisbane. Friendly, with 10 years local exp. 0409917646

BALLINA SELF-STORAGE UNITS Secure. From \$22p/w. Ranging from 10-44 m3. Across 3 locations. 66867011

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

POSITIONS VACANT

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

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

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

TO LEASE

STORAGE/WORKSHOP incl. elec \$85pw Billinudgel. Ph Lifestyle Group 66851206

TO LEASE

MULLUM

rear 57-59 Burringbar St
Currently plant nursery

Ph 0455 222 877



WORK WANTED

1 or 2 MEN + UTE

Furniture and rubbish removals
Over 15 years exp. Jarrod 0415 139 308

DOG WALKER

Enrichment, socialising, obedience
Weekdays/negotiable. Ph 0404880839

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

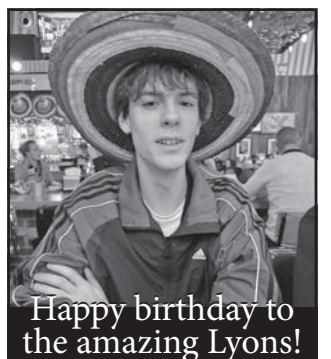
Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Tutor

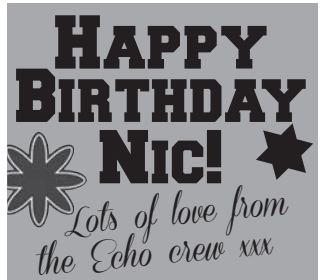
- Photoshop
- Indesign
- Illustrator

contact@thinkblinkdesign.com
www.thinkblinkdesign.com

BIRTHDAYS



Happy birthday to the amazing Lyons!

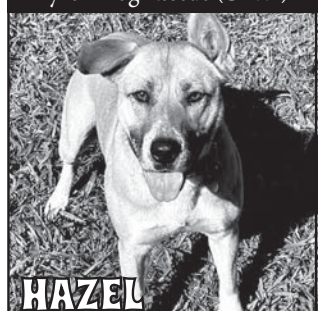


PETS

PET SITTER AVAILABLE

Kind, confident animal carer available for your four-legged fur baby. References available.
Call Pawlia on 0415340744

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



Hazel is a 4-year-old Husky x Staffy x Cattle Dog (desexed, vaccinated) looking for her forever home. She's affectionate, playful, great with kids, and loves the beach, ball games, and belly rubs. Hazel needs secure 1.5m fencing, daily exercise, and no poultry or livestock. She's lived with cats but is best suited to an active family who can continue her training.
byrondogrescue.org
MC: 953010004574864
Call Julia on 0458 461 935

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

Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary

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

Volunteers welcomed!

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

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

Contact Maureen Weir
0266 853 162 for more information.



PROBLEMS WITH ALCOHOL...?

...THERE IS HELP
TUESDAY NIGHTS 6:00PM
73 BYRON ST, BANGALOW
CONTACT: 0401 945 671

Limited Time Locals Offer!

FREE Organic Tee and Reusable Water Bottle



SCAN ME

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

Donate \$50 or more to Positive Change for Marine Life to redeem!

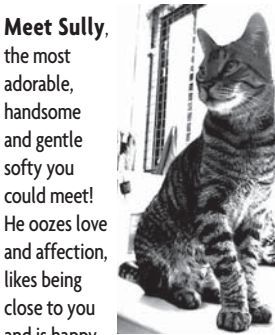


pcml.org.au info@pcml.org.au

Classifieds



LOCKIE
Lockie is a 7 month old, Kelpie X. He is one of 6 pups surrendered to FOP. This handsome boy is a little shy to start with but soon warms up. He would suit a quiet family with a shady yard to protect his white skin.
M/C # 991003002920406
Location: Murwillumbah
For more information contact
Yvette on 0421 831 128.
Interested? Please complete our online adoption expression of interest.
<https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>
Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
ABN 83 126 970 338



Meet Sully, the most adorable, handsome and gentle softy you could meet! He oozes love and affection, likes being close to you and is happy to sit on your lap. He has a striking tiger like tabby coat, is 3 yo, desexed and vaccinated, craving a loving and attentive home!
Microchip 900263003153910
See Facebook for our latest cats.
To make an appointment
0403 533 589 • Billinudgel
petsforlifeanimalshelter.net

LOST & FOUND
LOST
The Epstine Files.

ONLY ADULTS
BALLINA EXCLUSIVE
34 Piper Dr. Open 7 days 10am till late.
In & Out Calls. 66816038.
Ladies wanted
Find us on Facebook and Twitter!

KRYSTAL ADULT SHOP
Large variety of toys and lingerie
6/6 Tasman Way, A&I Est, Byron Bay
66856330

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS
Please stick this by your phone

AMBULANCE, FIRE, POLICE 000
AMBULANCE Mullumbimby & Byron Bay 131 233
POLICE Brunswick Heads 6629 7510
Mullumbimby 6629 7570
Byron Bay 6685 9499
Bangalow 6629 7500

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

Community at Work



On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Connecting Generations

The Connecting Generations Bangalow winter event is on Sunday, 27 July, 2pm to 4.30pm at Heritage House Bangalow. Come along to this free community event that brings together young families and older generations for a fun-filled day of connection and celebration with live music, games and a variety of activities for all ages, including free face-painting, finger-knitting and crocheting, a kids versus adults soccer game, a scavenger hunt, colouring Pokémon balls, rock painting, limbo and a sack race. All ages welcome!

National Tree Day

National Tree Day is on 27 July and Lismore Rainforest Botanic Garden is running a guided walk at their Hoop Pine Forest at 10am with Trudi. Wander up a medium, unpaved incline to the summit of the Hoop Pine Forest, learning all about the ancient history of this wonderful tree. Walk quietly through the labyrinth at the top and ring the bell. Join the Friends' volunteers for morning tea after the walk. Gold coin donation appreciated. Meet at the Visitor's Centre at 9.45am. \$5 adults, children free. Please bring cash.

Free wellbeing workshops

Quest for Life is running free wellbeing, empowering, and practical

one-day workshops for people in the Northern Rivers area who are living with the challenges of rural and regional life. These 'Your Life Matters' workshops will take place: Tuesday, 12 August, 9.30am to 3pm at the Mullumbimby Golf Club, Mullumbimby. Wednesday, 13 August, 9.30am to 3pm at the Lismore Workers Club, Lismore. Thursday, 14 August, 9.30am to 3pm at the Grafton District Services Club, Grafton.

Organic Landcare

Organic Landcare's next working bee is on Saturday, 9 August, from 8.30am until 1pm, at Saltwater Creek. Meet at Mullumbimby Community Garden carpark. Please wear a long-sleeved shirt and pants for sun protection and avoid scratches. A hat, gloves and bring water and some morning tea, for a 11am break.

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.

Bruns U3A

Enjoy lifelong learning for retired seniors in your third age with Bruns U3A. There will be no Tuesday Forums 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. Info at bv3q.org or contact Denise 0423 778 573.

NR Community Gateway

Come to the Northern Rivers Community Gateway at 76 Carrington Street, Lismore. Free fresh bread and produce are available Tuesdays 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 Wednesdays call 6621 7397 for more information and to book your place.

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 Barbatto on Friday, 15 August 2025 at 5.30pm and 'In Conversation with Dr Barbatto' on Saturday, 16 August at 2pm To register contact Kerry kerryjmj@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.

Heart Circle

Heart Circle is a singing gathering open to everyone. We meet every Sunday, 10-11.30am at South Golden Beach Hall to sing uplifting songs, be inspired by some short readings and a brief meditation. Cost is a small contribution toward the hall rent. A balm for the soul.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina, and South Tweed. Philip Nitschke will be holding a workshop on the Gold Coast on Friday, 5 October 2025. Attendees must be Exit Members. For further information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina and South Tweed)

Nothing travels faster than the speed of light, with the possible exception of bad news, which obeys its own special laws.
Douglas Adams,
Mostly Harmless

Regular As Clockwork

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

Please note that, owing to space restrictions, not all entries may be included each week. Email copy marked 'Regular As Clockwork' to editor@echo.net.au.

Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm (closed 12.30-1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286. Some of our services include:

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

Byron Community

The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to enjoy practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. **Fletcher Street Cottage services** are open Tuesday-Friday; breakfast 7am-9am; showers and laundry 7am-12pm; office support 9am-12pm. Individual support

appointments with community workers and specialist services available please book on (02) 6685 7830. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au. **Byron Seniors Club:** www.byronseniors.com.au. More info on **Community Services:** www.byroncentre.com.au Phone: (02) 6685 6807.

Low-cost or free food

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

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.

Support after suicide

StandBy provides support to people who have lost someone to suicide. They provide free face-to-face and telephone support and are accessible 24/7. Follow-up contact is available for up to one year. Find out more at: www.standbysupport.com.au or call 13 11 14. If you, or someone you are with, are in need of immediate support please call an ambulance or police on 000.

Volunteer call out

Support for New Mums Inc. a Northern NSW community program are recruiting volunteers in the Byron Shire. We offer a free of charge, home visiting program for mothers with babies. For more information email Deb: newmums8@gmail.com.

End-of-Life Choices

Voluntary Euthanasia End-of-Life Choices are discussed at Exit International meetings held quarterly. Meetings are held at Robina, South Tweed and Ballina. Attendees must be Exit Members. For further information www.exitinternational.net or phone Catherine 0435 228 443 (Robina and South Tweed) or Peter 0429 950 352 (Ballina).

Carers' support

Mullumbimby Mental Health Carers' Support Group for family members and friends who have a loved one

with a mental health issue. Meeting on 4th Thursday of each month 9.30am at the Mullumbimby Neighbourhood Centre. Info: Susanne 0428 716 431.

Rainbow Dragons

Rainbow Dragons Abreast (RDA) welcomes breast cancer survivors for a paddle at Lake Ainsworth, Lennox Head (and sometimes at Ballina) on Sundays 7.30am for 8am start. Contact Marian 6688 4058, mazzerati2010@gmail.com.

Older adult exercise

Chair-based older adults exercise classes run by a qualified instructor, that feel more like fun than exercise, are held every Thursday at 10.15am in the Brunswick Memorial Hall. Cost \$10. All welcome. Just show up or if you have any questions please contact Di on 0427 026 935.

\$5 pilates classes

Pilates for the price of a coffee! Come and join us for \$5 Pilates classes every Thursday at 8.45am in the Memorial Hall, 22 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads and Monday at 8.45am in Mullumbimby. It doesn't matter what level you are, as beginner to advanced options are shown. Just bring a mat and water. My goal is to keep the Shire active and feeling great one person at a time. No need to book just show up. For more information contact Di on 0427 026 935.

Pottsville Community Association

Pottsville Community Association meetings are on the last Tuesday of the month at 6.30pm at the Anglican Church in Coronation Drive, Pottsville. Have your say on what is going on in your local area. For details contact secretary@pottsvillecommunityassociation.com or via Facebook.

Language exchange

Byron language exchange club runs every 2nd last Friday of the month from 6pm (alternating Ballina/Byron). Practise other languages or help someone with your English! Find us on Facebook. Contact byronbaylanguages@gmail.com.

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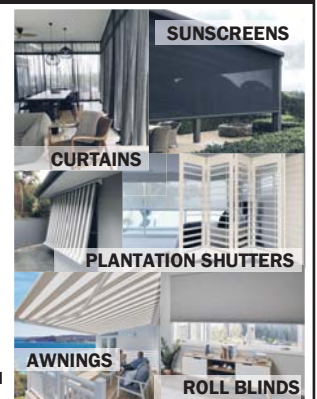
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OPEN | Sat 26th July 12 - 12:30pm



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- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 10.30-11am
- 3/45 Belongil Crescent, Byron Bay. Thurs 3-3.30pm
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Fri 10-10.30am
- 14 Rush Court, Mullumbimby. Fri 11-11.30am
- 1696 Hinterland Way, Mcleods Shoot. Fri 12-12.30pm
- 2/16 Marattia Place, Suffolk Park. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 480 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby Creek. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 2/19 Marvell Street, Byron Bay. Fri 3-3.30pm
- 29 Palm-Lily Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 9-9.30am
- 73 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1C Short Street, New Brighton. Sat 9-9.30am
- 3/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 32 Fairview Road, Rosebank. Sat 10-10.30am
- 496 Myocum Road, Myocum. Sat 10-10.30am
- 3 Palm Tree Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 14 Rush Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 60 Butler Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/76 Teak Circuit, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 12 Burns Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 93 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 234A Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 465 Uralba Road, Lynwood. Sat 11.30am-12pm

- 44 Argyle Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 87 Massinger Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 147 Whian Whian Road, Whian Whian. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2/114 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 101 James Street, Dunoon. Sat 1-1.30pm

Tim Miller Real Estate

- 60 Federation Drive, Eltham. Sat 9-9.30am
- 456 Eltham Road, Eltham. Sat 9.45-10.15am
- 15 Ryces Drive, Clunes. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 70 Possum Creek Road, Bangalow. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 831 Binna Burra Road, Federal. Sat 12.45-1.15pm
- 737 Fernleigh Road, Brooklet. Sat 1.45-2.15pm
- 355 Corndale Road, Corndale. Sat 2-2.30pm

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- 1086/18-20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2085/18-20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 9.30-10am
- 2104/18-20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 29 Keegan Circuit, Currumbin Waters. Sat 10-10.30am
- 304/141 Musgrave St, Coolangatta. Sat 11-11.30am
- 24/182-184 Kennedy Dr, Tweed Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- 305 Casuarina Way, Kingscliff. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2/15 Boyd St, Tweed Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm

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- 108 Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby. Sat 1.30-2pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 5/3 Tamar Street, Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 16/121 Kalinga Street, West Ballina. Sat 9.30-10am
- 4/31 McKinnon Street, East Ballina. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/13 Opaki Place, Wollongbar. Sat 10-10.30am
- 412 Bagotville Road, Meerschaum Vale. Sat 10.30-11am
- 6/3-13 Sunset Avenue, West Ballina. Sat 11-11.30am
- 165 Richmond Hill Road, Richmond Hill. Sat 11-11.45am
- 722 Pimlico Road, Pimlico. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 69 Burns Point Ferry Road, Ballina. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 260 Woodburn Evans Hd Rd, Woodburn. Sat 12.15-12.45pm
- 18 Howard Crescent, West Ballina. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 2c Fletcher Street, Broadwater. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 66 Riverside Drive, West Ballina. Sat 1.15-1.45pm

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- 22 Berrimillah Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-11am
- 132 Middle Pocket Road, Middle Pocket. Sat 10.30-11am
- 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 11-11.30am

- 38 Banool Circuit, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
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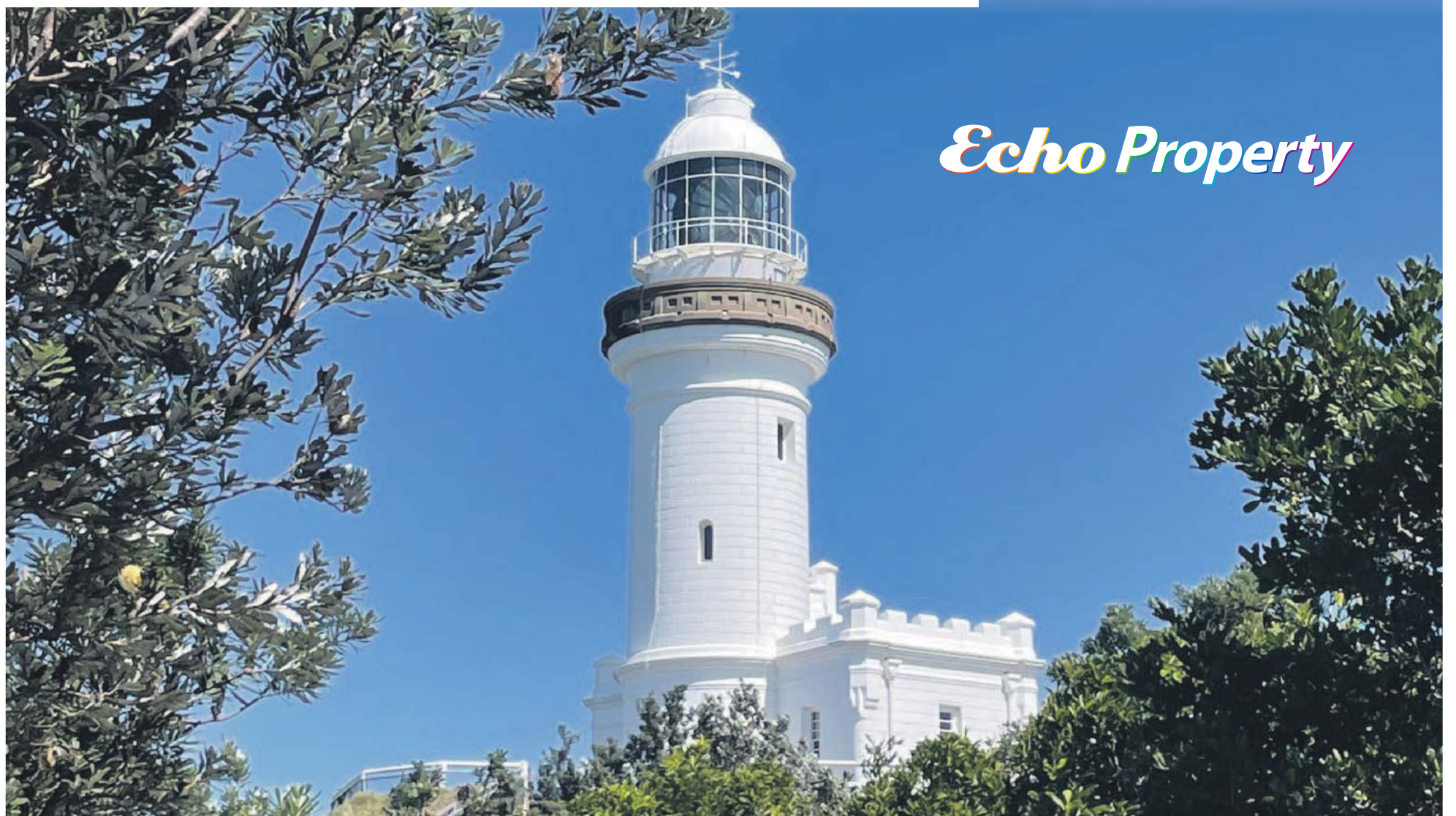
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Ten years ago, *The Echo* reported, 'Police have their work cut out for them this week, investigating arson and robbery in Byron Bay'.

Reminder: Newrybar Public School's bonfire and fireworks night is coming up on August 2. It's their major fundraiser of the year, and is run completely by the parents, with the support of local businesses. Gates open 4pm, and fireworks are at 7.30pm.

Psst: a mobile Service NSW office will be in front of the Mullum Council chambers on July 29 and 30 from 9am till 3pm.

US Late Night Show with Stephen Colbert has been axed for financial reasons, says parent company Paramount. That is odd, because the show is at the number one spot for its time slot, and the axing comes days after Colbert was critical of Paramount paying Trump \$16m in court. Colbert might also be getting in the way of Paramount's \$8bn plans to merge with Skydance Media, which is connected to the second-wealthiest person in the world, Larry Ellison, a friend of Trump.

'A small grants program designed to help build vibrant and sustainable rural communities,' is on offer till July 31. To learn more visit frr.org.au/funding/place/anz-seeds-of-renewal/

Local filmmakers are invited to enter their works for the Byron Bay Film Festival (BBFF), which will be held October 17-26. Director Jaimee Skippon-Volke says, 'BBFF gives local filmmakers a real platform, not just a



On Saturday, a free, family-friendly hoedown was held at the Billi Pub. It was packed – and featured six local brands: Nine Lives Bazaar, Fallen Broken Street, Zepher Horses, The Billi Pub, Earth Brewery, and Azteca Margarita. Ava Leigh, Caden, Bella and Arlo stick their necks out as part of the hoedown. Photo Jeff 'Lowdown On The Hoedown' Dawson

community screening, but a place on the world stage'. All lengths and genres are accepted, and eligible films must not have screened publicly before January 2023 and cannot be re-submissions. Visit www.bbff.com.au/submissions to get involved.

Local Government NSW (LGNSW), the peak lobby group for councils, says 'Councils across NSW are now absorbing a staggering \$1.5 billion in cost shifting from state and federal governments each year – a cumulative \$11.3 billion over the past decade'.

Organisers of the newly launched Seed Giving Circle are hoping to reach 50 founding members by the end of July, and say it will unlock the Circle's first grant round in September. The small grants program supports local environmental and climate projects, they

say, 'and half supports Seed Northern Rivers' work to connect, equip, and amplify

grassroots changemakers'. To get involved visit www.seednorthernrivers.org.au.

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