

The Pocket Public School celebrates 125 years of community and connection

Friday, 19 September will see The Pocket Public School celebrate 125 years of educating local children and bringing the community together.

'Since opening its doors, The Pocket Public School has been much more than a place of learning. Generations of families have shared in its story, with the school grounds acting as a shared space where neighbours gather, friendships grow, and memories are made. From the famous Winter Festivals and concerts, to sports days and Summer in The Pocket events, The Pocket Public School has long been a hub of joy and connection across the Shire,' said teacher Holly Stanton-Gillan.

Celebrations

The school and community will be having anniversary celebrations from 9am to 11am at the school, beginning with a special assembly featuring performances from the choir, band, and dance groups. Visitors can then enjoy old school games, the maypole, memorabilia and photo displays, an old-style classroom setup, and a glimpse into the present with a robotics and 3D printing showcase. The morning will also include the reveal of the centenary time capsule, plans for a 125-year capsule, and, of course, freshly baked scones.

Get together

An informal gathering for community members to catch up and share memories over snacks and a drink will take place at the Billinudgel Hotel from 4pm.

Everyone with an association to the school, past and present, is invited to share this celebration.



Jett, Pippa, Millie, Billie, Willow and Zephyr discover the difference between using a tablet today and over one hundred years ago – how do you save your work? Photo created using AI, Actual Intelligence

Israeli occupation of Palestine rejected by Byron Council

Paul Bibby

When does a Byron Council meeting draw an audience of more than a 100 people and attendance by the local police?

Answer: When the Council is debating an issue related to the war in Gaza.

And so it was at Byron Council last Thursday when scores of locals packed the chamber to watch, and participate in, a debate about the Council's investment and procurement policy.

The question facing councillors was this: Should Council amend its policy to ensure that it does not invest in, or conduct business with, any enterprise identified by the UN Human Rights Council as being directly involved in the Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian territory?

The ultimate answer from councillors was 'Yes'.

But this was not before more than two hours of debate which, while passionate and at times heated, remained respectful.

The list of 'identified companies' in the motion passed by Council does not include any local businesses. In fact, it is mostly made up of Israeli companies which have nothing to do with the Byron Shire and would never have been viewed by the Council as opportunities for investments or partnership.

However, some of the companies on the list do have a global reach that extends to the Shire, including accommodation/tourism related businesses like Airbnb, Stayz and Tripadvisor.

In the debate, councillors first heard from locals on both sides of the debate and then thrashed out the issues on the chamber floor.

Subhi Awad, Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine, declared that voting 'No' in relation to the motion amounted to betraying the community and 'ties us to blood money and war crimes'.

'Right now in Gaza, the most horrific war crimes are being committed against a trapped civilian population,' Mr Awad said.

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Help the drop bears ► p10

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A possible home for Queer Family

Paul Bibby

Could the Shire's only queer and trans support service, Queer Family Inc, have finally found a long-term home?

The organisation plays a vital role in supporting local members of the LGBTQIA+ community in and around the Byron Shire, and is the only organisation of its kind in the Northern Rivers that works with people under 18.

But ever since it lost its home in the 2022 floods the service has been on shaky ground, bouncing from one high-priced, unsuitable space to another.

However, there was a glimmer of hope for the service at last week's Council meeting.

Potential homes

Council agreed late last year to investigate potential Council-owned sites that could be used by Queer Family and other community service organisations.

Council has come up with two potential sites, including one – the former Sewage Treatment Plant site on Casuarina Street, Mullumbimby – that the managing director of the service says would perfectly fit the bill.

'Casuarina Street is incredibly exciting,' Aiden Gentle told last week's Council meeting.

'Yes, it's fully-fenced and quite tucked away, but is still well connected to town,' Aiden said.

'It offers exactly the type of security and privacy we need to protect our vulnerable community.'

'It would provide us with a true foundation for a thriving purpose-built community hub for us: room for kids, dogs, and long-term growth.'

Aiden said that, with the help of Council staff, the service had also met with



The Queer Family are hopeful that they will soon have a new permanent home. Photo Jeff 'Quivering Boards' Dawson

NSW Reconstruction Authority which had offered them a buy-back home that could be relocated to Casuarina Street.

This would provide the service with both indoor office and group space.

Will Council come on board?

But Council, it seems, were less enthusiastic about the idea.

In a report tabled at last week's meeting, Council staff said that their investigation had identified 'very limited options for further investigation due to various constraints'.

The constraints in relation to the Casuarina Street site included the fact that parts of the land were either flood- or bushfire-prone while others contained high environmental value vegetation and acid sulphate soils.

They recommended that Council continue to work with Queer Family Inc to explore the potential for co-location with an existing service, and continue to advocate for opportunities with other government and

non-government agencies.

But Aiden said time was of the essence, with Queer Family running out of funds to continue renting.

Reduced programs

'Timing, now, is absolutely critical,' they said.

'Since first approaching Council over three years ago we've spent nearly \$70,000 on rent.'

'Right now we're paying \$700 a week for space that doesn't even meet our needs. We have no core funding for rent or staff, and we're forced to leave our current home by the end of the year.'

'We've already shut our doors to the public, paused programs and reduced staff. Without a stable, long-term home we are on the brink of shutting down entirely.'

'We know that LGBTQIA+ people have the worst suicide stats in the country. Queer Family is a vital frontline protective factor. We offer connection, safety, culture and community. It's critical that Council supports us on this. We're not asking for charity we're asking for a chance to survive so our community can thrive.'

Paddling for our rivers' health



The Rivers Run participants at Wategos. Photo Jeff Dawson

Last Saturday more than 60 ocean lovers, adventurers, surfers and river advocates took part in The Rivers Run – a 48km journey from the Richmond River to the Brunswick River.

It wasn't about racing, but about connection and commitment. Some people went the whole distance, others teamed up, paddling, running, kayaking, longboarding, or even wind foiling their way along the route. Together, they traced the waterways that sustain the Cape Byron Marine Park,

raising funds and awareness for river health while celebrating a shared love of our coastal and river systems.

As spokesperson for the group, Dave Rastovich said, 'because the rivers are brown and choked again, because hundreds of thousands of fish died, because we are getting sick every time it rains, because country is hurting, because we know we can do better... Let's dive deep.'

Positive change

The day was a show of solidarity – individuals who

usually surf and paddle in their own corners came together as a new community, united by water and purpose.

Alongside groups like Positive Change for Marine Life, Richmond Riverkeepers, OzFish Australia, and Revive the Northern Rivers, the message was simple: we are here to use our strength for the health of country, to restore wetlands, protect mangroves, revive fish nurseries, and care for the rivers that care for us all.

Last chance to register for the Chinny Charge

The time for the great annual Mullumbimby mountain exploration is almost upon us and organisers of the Chinny Charge are hoping for sunshine and good weather between now and the big day Saturday, 20 September.

'We need the dry weather to ensure that it is safe track for running and walking up Mount Chincogan,' said Chinny Charge organiser Jenelle Stanford, from the Mullumbimby Chamber of Commerce.

'If the track isn't dry

enough on the day we will have to make adjustments.'

The annual run and walk is the only day that Mount Chincogan is open to the public and it is limited to 500 people, aged 12 and over.

The children's race runs from 1.30pm and is \$15 to enter. The adult race starts at 2pm, prizes include the fastest man and woman (\$500), the fastest local man and woman (sponsored by *The Echo*), and the oldest man and woman to participate in the charge.

Bring your own reusable bottle

'This year we are asking everyone to bring a water bottle to fill at the water stations,' said Ms Stanford.

The entry fee is \$50 for runners and \$25 for non-competitors (walkers). If you leave it to the last minute, it is \$75 on the day if there are spaces available. There are no dogs allowed on the mountain. To book go to: www.eventwizards.com.au.

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Learning from the lives of insects



Jaali, Rubes, Oscar, Harriette, Ella, Lucas and Juliette will be performing from Friday to Sunday this week in Mullumbimby. Photo Jeff Dawson

The Life of the Insects, an absurd, witty, joyful and inventive play is being performed by Mullumbimby High School Year 11 this weekend.

'The play offers an insightful and whimsical look into the lives of insects that reflects the deeper themes of existence, nature, and the human condition,'

said drama teacher, Marisa McEwan.

'The students are doing an exceptional job performing, and have learnt to be directors, designers, and actors.'

Book a ticket

The show is on from Friday to Sunday. Book a ticket at: <https://portal.schoolbytes.education/other-payment/918>.

Upper Main Arm Road falls through the cracks

Aslan Shand

Responsibility for Upper Main Arm Road seems to be falling between the cracks – and some of them have been larger than the road over the last three years – as National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) promotes the Gidjuum Gulganyi Walk that starts at Unicorn Falls in Upper Main Arm.

The Upper Main Arm Roads Committee (UMARC), which was re-established after the 2022 floods as a way of giving the local community a collective voice following the significant trauma and upheaval experienced, along with the well-documented destruction of homes, roads, causeways, local hall and school, is raising concerns over the condition of Upper Main Arm Road.

'Since the opening of the Gidjuum Gulganyi Walk, local residents have counted no less than eight motor vehicle accidents (no fatalities to date); two vehicles have recently driven off the road and ended up in deep roadside ditches and the creek, the headwaters of the Brunswick River,' said Navaya Ellis, spokesperson for UMARC.

'Since February 2022, road restoration works undertaken by Byron Shire Council (BSC) have been

largely limited to emergency response work – sinkholes, collapsed causeways, temporary road pavement repairs – while the annual funding allocated for BSC infrastructure maintenance has proven to be woefully inadequate given the irreparable damage to roads, causeways, and drains during and since the 2022 flood.'

The NPWS are clear that local government are responsible for the maintenance of local roads but say they are encouraging tourists to access the Gidjuum Gulganyi Walk from the Manns Road track head via Uki and Manns Road.

'NPWS also encourages visitors to use the shuttle service with a partnered commercial operator (Vision Walks) to minimise traffic impacts on the road network,' said a NPWS spokesperson.

Phil Holloway, Director Infrastructure Services at BSC, told *The Echo* that, 'Council's capital works budget for road maintenance is spread across the Shire and flood restoration work in the Main Arm area is ongoing. The opening of the NPWS Gidjuum Gulganyi Walk has been well received, and Council is aware of concerns raised by the community with the subsequent increase in traffic

in Upper Main Arm and will monitor this situation.

'In the meantime, all accidents should be reported to police,' he said.

Responding to the lack of response from both BSC and NPWS for action Ms Ellis told *The Echo* that, 'UMARC demands that the relevant NSW government agencies involved in the restoration of local communities post-2022 floods, NPWS and BSC, work together to source critical

funds and implement traffic and road solutions for Upper Main Arm given the added pressures that the new Gidjuum Gulganyi Walk has now placed on our community.

'NPWS and the NSW government must meet their responsibilities to local communities, such as Upper Main Arm, that they have now exposed to dramatic changes in the face of NSW government ecotourism developments.'

Who should manage Durrumbul Hall?



Durrumbul Hall in Main Arm. Photo Juno Energy

Does the community want to retain control and management of Durrumbul Hall in Main Arm or will it be given over to Byron Shire Council (BSC)?

Durrumbul Hall is a local hall created and built by the community. It has been operated and managed by its local community since the 1980s, more recently in conjunction with BSC, and is a renowned music venue for gigs, a place for workshops, weddings, art, and other community activities.

'Durrumbul Hall has been where many local groups, and artistic endeavours have started and grown' said long-time hall committee member Duncan Dey.

Before Spaghetti Circus was lucky enough to be offered a space at the Mullumbimby Showground they were based at Durrumbul Hall.

'The question that faces the hall, and our wider local community now is the hall's future. Will the community manage the hall, as is the case at Kohinur and Coora-bell Halls, or will we hand it over fully to Council instead?' Forming a local

community association is one way of going forward with some people promoting markets, free community events, and making it an emergency response centre in times of flood or fire.

'From music to markets, from local dance and arts classes to children's activities – over the years Durrumbul Hall has been key to starting, supporting, and growing some amazing community groups and activities. It has held weddings, funerals and marked birthdays. For many it holds a special place in their hearts,' said local Jo Hoy.

The current Durrumbul Hall committee is calling out to the local community from Settlement Road to Sherry's Bridge and asking anyone interested in getting involved to contact them. The hall is at a crossroads and the community needs to decide if they want the hall to remain in community hands or to be handed over to BSC for management.

If you are interested in getting involved email: createartjohoy@gmail.com and come together with your local community to determine its future.

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Footpaths, lighting and road safety measures needed in Bangalow

Paul Bibby

The wife of a beloved Bangalow local who was killed in a tragic hit and run incident has added her voice to the calls for major road safety improvements at the site.

As Byron Council voted to seek funding for the safety works at last week's meeting, Janine Campton spoke of the two key measures which she believed might have prevented her husband Paul Campton's death.

Mr Campton was struck by a vehicle on Raftons Road near the intersection with Keith Street and Leslie Road, in the early hours of Sunday, 6 July.

'Two things might have made a difference,' Ms Campton said during an emotional address to Council.

'Firstly, improved street lighting. This should be a priority. Even allowing for the proposed footpath, pedestrians heading toward Palm Tree Crescent and Rosewood Avenue still have to head across the road in the darkness at some point, exactly as Paul was doing when he was hit.

Limiting speed

'Secondly, my strong personal opinion is that the thing that would have made the biggest difference is some kind of speed limiting measure such as humps or chicanes.

'I'm told by residents of the



64-year-old Paul Campton from Bangalow with his wife Janine and two of his three daughters. Photo supplied

Tweed Shire that the chicanes on Tweed Coast Road are effective at slowing traffic. Since Paul's death I've had conversations with community members who have been frustrated by the lack of any action by Council so far. My response is that changes and improvements take time to plan, fund, and implement.'

Later in the meeting, councillors voted unanimously in favour of a suite of safety measures for the location of the incident.

No funding

The motion notes that Council already has plans for some safety measures, namely, the introduction of footpaths on Leslie Street and Raftons Road.

However, it reveals that there is currently no funding to move ahead with these plans.

The most immediate action taken will therefore be to undertake a safety audit with a view to undertaking a staged approach to addressing the safety issues.

Under the first stage of this approach, Council would seek to access up to \$100,000 in Fatal Crash Response funding.

If this money can be accessed, the plan is to reduce the speed limit on all three streets to 40km/hr, and to install electronic radar speed warning signs in both directions.

The 'Give Way' sign on the intersection of Leslie Street and Raftons Road would be replaced with a 'Stop' sign, and new street signs or road painting signs would be introduced on Raftons Road.

In the second stage, which could be funded under the Get NSW Active program, Council would investigate replacing the



A black Toyota Land Cruiser Sahara manufactured between 2008 and 2011 has been identified as the car that hit Paul Campton. Image Redbook

existing pedestrian crossing at the intersection with a raised crossing, and introducing more appropriate street lighting.

The third stage would see Council investigate further improvements, including traffic calming measures and options to reduce traffic on Leslie Street such as the introduction of a no right turn from Leslie into Granuaille Road, or from Raftons Road into Leslie Street.

All of this would be accompanied by advocacy for funding to undertake these works, directed at various state and federal road safety programs.

Action needed

Yvette Gregory, representing the 638 Bangalow locals who signed a petition calling for urgent road safety improvements, told the meeting that friends and loved

ones visiting the accident site to mourn and pay their respects had witnessed cars excessively speeding down Raftons Road within just days of the accident.

'To have residential streets populated with young families and a daycare centre no less, and not have basic pedestrian safety is simply unacceptable,' Ms Gregory said.

'We need footpaths, street lighting, appropriately enforced speed limits, traffic slowing measures and a pedestrian crossing at a very minimum outside the Bangalow Community Children's Centre.'

The calls came as police released CCTV footage of the vehicle which they believe was involved in the incident.

They have identified the vehicle as a black Toyota Land Cruiser Sahara manufactured between 2008 and 2012.

'There are people in the community who have information that can assist this investigation,' Tweed-Byron Police District Crime Manager, Detective Inspector Matt Zimmer said.

'Consider the grief and devastation it's caused the family and what his young daughters are going through.'

'Do the right thing. Come forward, provide that information, give this family some closure, give the community some answers, and assist police with this investigation.'

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IMAGE: Cassia Court 2022, the developer's proposed 'suitable' stormwater location for this development....



Councillors split over Israeli occupation of Palestine procurement policy

► Continued from page 1
‘The people of this Shire overwhelmingly do not support our money going to war crimes.’

‘Antisemitism’

Gilad Bino, from the Northern Rivers Jewish Community Association said the motion would do nothing overseas and would only serve to embolden those who had been preaching and practising hatred against the local Jewish community.

‘Since Council’s last motion, Jewish residents here in Byron have been directly targeted,’ Mr Bino said.

‘Antisemitic graffiti, harassment in schools and work places... and Jewish-owned businesses boycotted.’

‘Councillors, you are elected to serve all residents, not to advance an international political agenda at their expense.’

The debate amongst councillors explored a range of issues and opinions, including the need to take action against the actions of Israel as part of a global divestment movement, the inappropriateness of such actions given the potential consequences for local residents of Jewish origin, and whether or not it

was Council’s role to become involved in global affairs.

Ethics debated

Councillors debated two motions.

The first, more punitive in its actions against Israel but ultimately unsuccessful, was put forward by Greens Councillor Elia Hauge.

It would have seen Council compile an extensive list of companies, from a list of organisations identified in the *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967*, and that Council would cease to ‘conduct business with, divest from, or (as a last resort) place pressure upon’ them.

‘While I’ve heard from some people that this is far away, or somehow not relevant to our community, the reality is that we live in a globalised financial system,’ Cr Hauge said.

‘The companies that are profiting from the devastation in Palestine are part of this global financial system, and Council’s financial decisions are also part of this global financial system.’

‘That is why we have a number of ethical frameworks in place already. That’s why

we moved to divest from fossil fuels.

‘We know that when we’re part of a coordinated economic campaign we can have a real, tangible impact.’

2nd motion passed

But Labor Councillor Asren Pugh put forward an alternative, and ultimately successful motion, which he said would make a statement in the cause of peace and justice, but without the irresponsible and unknown scope of Cr Hauge’s motion.

This motion adopted the list of businesses identified by the 2020 UN Human Rights Council report as being directly involved in Israeli settlement in the occupied Palestinian territory.

‘The list [of businesses] referred to in the first motion is not verified,’ Cr Pugh said.

‘It’s a compilation of submissions that contains no specific list of businesses.’

‘We are a local Council that can barely control our own planning laws. Without a definitive list we don’t know what the impact of the original motion would be on Council operations. We don’t know what it would cost.’

‘It is profoundly irresponsible to make a decision

without even understanding the cost.’

While Cr Pugh’s motion was passed with his vote and that of the four Greens councillors, support was far from unanimous.

His own Labor colleague Janet Swain, Deputy Mayor Jack Dods (Independent) and Councillor Michael Lyon were among those who voted against.

‘My position is that Council does not and should not resolve on global conflicts,’ Cr Dods said.

‘We are a small Shire and we have finite resources and my responsibility is to that Shire collectively as a whole. It is not to any particular interest group, nor to any particular political party.’

‘Byron Council has already passed a motion denouncing the atrocities in this conflict... It is a clear, compassionate and genuine position and it does not need to be revisited.’

‘Symbolic gestures of this kind consume our limited time and resources to no effect, and they risk dividing a community that I believe is better when it works together.’

‘Good governance means resisting the urge to turn this chamber into a theatre for global politics.’

Giving to the future



This curious lorikeet is looking forward to flying high again soon. Photo supplied

This week it is ‘Include a Charity Week’, 1–7 September – a week that reminds us all that we can give towards our future in our death.

‘We remind people to give their gift to the future for something they really cared about during their lifetime,’ say Include a Charity founders.

The Northern Rivers Wildlife Hospital (NRWH) is one local organisation that is calling on the community to consider leaving a gift in their will to protect native animals.

‘When people think about writing a will, they naturally think of family – and we encourage that. But many are also choosing to leave a small gift to wildlife. It’s a

simple act that has a life-long impact,’ says Julie Burton, Fundraising Manager at NRWH.

Life-saving care

‘Each year, thousands of sick, injured, and orphaned animals are brought into care in the Northern Rivers. From kangaroos hit by cars, to sea turtles covered in barnacles, these animals rely on expert veterinary treatment to survive and return to the wild. Even a small legacy can help us save a koala, or return a native lorikeet to the skies. It’s a lasting gift of hope for the native animals we love.’

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Wider footpaths and pedestrianisation for Byron

Paul Bibby

Byron Shire Council (BSC) will introduce a 30km/h speed limit in the heart of Byron as part of its ongoing attempt to revitalise the struggling CBD precinct.

For decades, Council and the community have wrestled with the question of how to improve amenity in the CBD in the face of increasing congestion, parking issues and road safety concerns.

The word from the community has been clear: we need to shift the focus from cars to pedestrians.

Last week Council voted to introduce a low-speed zone for an as-yet-undetermined chunk of the CBD.

'This is a positive and important step forward for our community,' said Anthony Pangallo, the Chair of the Byron Bay Masterplan Advisory Group.

'Lowering the speed to

30km/h will make our CBD safer, more vibrant and more enjoyable. We know from countless studies and real-world examples that lowering speed limits... also creates a calmer and more welcoming town centre where businesses thrive because people feel comfortable spending time in the street not just rushing through it.'

Wider footpaths

The low-speed zone would be accompanied by complementary measures, including widening of the footpath and directing cyclists and e-bikers onto the road.

'In recent years, safety concerns and congestion issues have escalated, particularly during peak holiday periods,' Council's Place Manager for Byron Bay, Claire McGarry said in a report to BSC.

'The increased usage of e-bikes requires a rethink of

how we manage all transport modes in the CBD.

Byron bypass

'The bypass, completed in 2020, was designed to alleviate this pressure by providing an alternative route for through-traffic. However, without disincentives in place, a large volume of vehicles continue to travel through the CBD unnecessarily.'

With major drainage upgrades about to begin in the CBD, changes are already being made to the reconstructed roads to prioritise pedestrian and cyclists over cars. The timing of the 30km/h zone will align with the completion of these works in late 2026.

As part of the plan, footpaths would be widened to allow space for pedestrians, garden beds, and community gathering places.

E-bikers and other cyclists

would also be directed onto the road, sharing this space with slow-travelling cars.

In voting in favour of the plan, councillors agreed to allocate \$20,000 from Council's reserves to conduct community consultation, and then undertake a design process for the low-speed zones.

Parking issues

However, parking remains a major unsolved problem.

Previous attempts to revitalise the CBD have envisaged the creation of parking areas peripheral to the centre of town as a way of directing cars out of the CBD.

However, with investigations finding that one of the main sites earmarked for peripheral parking - Butler Street Reserve - was unsuitable for that purpose due to acid sulphate contamination, the parking issue remains unresolved.

Concerns raised over SEP's risks to youth and driver safety

Concerned that more venues may serve alcohol after 12am within the proposed Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) in Byron, local road safety advocate Anthony Stante has started a community petition.

'All the good value additions being proposed for the CBD between say 9am and 11pm sound great. But more venues serving alcohol in Byron beyond 12am is a terrible idea,' Mr Stante told *The Echo*.

'Byron has a lively night scene but also poor infrastructure, stretched emergency services, and the highest rate of homelessness outside of Sydney. We need funding now to fix the issues we already have. Extending the night-time economy without fixing these issues first is

irresponsible and will create more problems we can't manage and puts residents and visitors further at risk.

Fatigue and alcohol

'We risk increased alcohol-fuelled violence but, as well, unlike Sydney, Byron has no late-night trains, buses, or taxis to get people home. Our young people are forced to drive long distances on dark, winding, unsafe hinterland roads at 3 or 4am - often after being awake for more than 20 hours.'

'The NSW government Centre for Road Safety states that fatigue at this level impairs drivers to the same degree as a blood-alcohol reading of 0.05 or more. Combine this with peer pressure, distractions from intoxicated passengers, and

the already dangerous condition of hinterland roads - the risk of tragedy is unacceptably high.

'Fatigue is a major killer on NSW roads - second only to speeding. The NSW government is spending millions on road safety programs and this SEP proposal is totally at odds with those initiatives.'

'We've already seen this story play out in our community. Some may remember the tragedy near Newrybar, where four young people died at 1.20am. Or the earlier fatal crash at Broken Head,' he said.

Petition

'No amount of new bus services could possibly get all our kids home safely in the early hours to all the places further afield in our

hinterland region.'

'We are also deeply troubled by suggestions that access to NSW government funding for essential infrastructure might be made contingent on enacting the SEP. Our community should not be held to ransom. Funding for public transport, street lighting, CCTV and other critical services should be provided based on current urgent need and future need, not tied to a controversial policy that lacks community support.'

If you would like to sign and share the petition, use the QR code or go to: <https://chnng.it/yXspWZdzSp>.



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A new floor for REDinc – next step insulation



‘Superman got nothing on me’ – REDinc’s signing choir performs ‘One Call Away’ by Charlie Puth for local MP Tamara Smith. Photo Aslan Shand



Tamara Smith with REDinc’s Miranda Burne. Photo Aslan Shand

Aslan Shand

REDinc’s choir celebrated the new floors that have been installed at their Mullumbimby centre on Thursday with a special performance for local MP Tamara Smith.

‘It was so joyful to be here today at REDinc and see the passion from their choir, especially with Saffron’s enthusiasm,’ said Ms Smith.

‘I was delighted to see new flooring, that was obviously so needed, had been installed and it looks great as well as meeting the needs of the participants here at REDinc.’

Miranda Burne, REDinc’s

Mullumbimby Team Leader said that it ‘was a great change’.

‘The floor was originally carpet, however, we needed a flooring that we could manage more effectively to ensure the best support for participants with disabilities.’

‘Through the NSW government partnership grant we have been able to replace the carpet with lino which ensures better outcomes for everyone.’

Help them get insulation, aircon

REDinc said they are looking towards insulating and air-conditioning their

arts and performance space where the signing choir performed.

‘In summer it gets really hot and in winter really cold for our participants,’ Ms Burne told *The Echo*.

‘We are looking towards both grant applications and philanthropists to help us fund the costs of this upgrade. We use this space to create art, and for our annual REDinc art exhibition, as well as performances of the choir.’

‘It is such a vital space where we continue to provide these life-changing essential services to some of the most vulnerable in our society.’

Community keeps pressure on Byron Council

Aslan Shand

If you have walked down Mullumbimby’s main street lately, you will have had the chance to talk to concerned community members outside the IGA supermarket about the proposed housing development on the 57 Station Street carpark at the entrance to the town.

The Mullumbimby community has raised a significant number of concerns with local councillors about the proposal, including its potential to close down, or seriously impact, local businesses such as IGA, The Other Joint cafe, and Pink Lotus as well as traffic, flooding, parking, and disability toilet access issues.

Councillor David Warth has been advocating with fellow councillors to take the concept and drawings and use them to develop part of the old Mullumbimby Hospital site, but has apparently had no traction to date.

Nonetheless, Byron Shire Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, along with other councillors, has



Mullum locals in action outside the IGA.

acknowledged ‘the concerns that have been raised regarding this proposal in its current form’.

‘The design, as presented, does not yet meet the expectations of Council or the broader community. There are significant issues that require further attention, including how the development relates to existing businesses and infrastructure, the internal layout, and the overall streetscape and built form,’ she said in a response to one community member’s concerns.

At Thursday’s Council meeting former councillor Duncan Dey highlighted that this development application (DA) is ‘probably one of the worst DAs that this Shire has had to deal with in a very

long time. There are defects that go even to the extent of there being a sewer line that wasn’t recognised. You can’t build over a sewer line. The other defects include that it’s a big concrete or brick box that will welcome people to town. It’s not what the town wants.’

Mr Dey also read out a question from local resident and Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) member Sue Heffley, who was no longer able to attend the three-hour-long public access, that asked if BSC had chosen a community housing provider (CHP) for the project.

‘If not, doesn’t it make sense to go ahead with this project without a CHP signed on? On Council’s website it originally stated that a CHP would be on board before the DA and would be involved in the design for the project. Now that makes sense, as they will be providing the finance to build the project.’

Cr Ndiaye took the question on notice saying the response would be

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Help shape the future of the Northern Rivers

The NSW Reconstruction Authority is developing a Disaster Adaptation Plan (DAP) for the Northern Rivers – and we need your local knowledge and experience.

The region is facing increasing risk from natural hazards including storms, floods, bushfires, cyclones and coastal erosion. With a changing climate driving more frequent and intense events, local knowledge is vital to building a safer, more resilient future.

Join the Community Reference Group
 We’re seeking expressions of interest from diverse community members across the Northern Rivers to join our Community Reference Group. This group will meet multiple times as the DAP is developed.

Apply by Friday 19 September
 Learn more and submit your expression of interest at <https://www.haveyoursay.nsw.gov.au/northern-rivers-dap>

Together, let’s create a plan that reflects what matters most to our region.

NSW Reconstruction Authority

Echo

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

Dragon boats fire up Ballina for Rainbow Regatta

Shaws Bay was a blaze of colour on the weekend for the annual Rainbow Region Dragon Boat Regatta, bringing hundreds of competitors from across the region with plenty of fun and friendly rivalry.

Volunteers when we need them the most

More than 1,000 volunteers will be recruited across NSW, to support their communities when it matters most thanks to a new grants program.

'Significant infestation' of water lettuce in the Tweed

The highly invasive aquatic weed, water lettuce (*Pistia stratiotes*), has been discovered at Piggabeen in the Tweed Shire, raising concerns about the spread of this prohibited species through backyard ponds and unregulated plant sales.

Lismore council to consider asking CSIRO to review Flood Risk Management Plan

The Lismore City Council's Flood Risk Management committee is to consider asking the CSIRO to review and update its Flood Risk Management Plan, at a committee meeting this week.

Wearing your Hearts and Stars on your sleeve

The community are being asked to wear their 'Hearts and Stars' on their sleeves, and shine for a fundraiser for Resilient Lismore on September 19.

NSW Health's virtual urgent care service has been rolled out

An average visit to an emergency department for a non-life-threatening reason, is pretty much guaranteed to lead to a long sit in a waiting room.

Recognise your local legend in the Tweed Sustainability Awards

Thirty-three local groups and individuals have been nominated for the Tweed Sustainability Awards, and Tweed Shire Council is now asking locals to vote and decide this year's People's Choice winner.

www.echo.net.au

Lismore Council's granny flat solution for homelessness

As homelessness continues to be one of the major challenges facing the community in the Northern Rivers, Lismore City Council is hoping to be part of the solution by offering new incentives to encourage the development of granny flats.

Council says it will waive 100 per cent of its developer contributions for secondary dwellings in sewer-connected areas until June 30, 2027. This means residents will no longer have to pay the additional levies normally charged on top of standard development application costs, making it significantly cheaper to add a granny flat to their property.

Affordable and diverse housing incentives

Mayor Steve Krieg said the initiative is part of Council's Affordable and Diverse Housing Incentives Policy, designed to respond to Lismore's changing housing needs.



Lismore Council says it will waive 100 per cent of its developer contributions for secondary dwellings in sewer-connected areas until June 30, 2027.

'This is a practical step that will make it easier and more affordable for people to build a granny flat,' he said.

'Whether it is to provide space for family or a rental income, this policy helps residents invest in housing that supports both their household and our wider community.'

Lismore's Acting Head of Planning and Environment, Jamie van Iersel, said the policy aims to stimulate

housing options that are in demand but not being delivered by the market.

'Secondary dwellings are one of the most flexible and affordable ways to increase housing supply,' she said. 'By removing developer contributions for the next two years, Council is lowering a key cost barrier and encouraging more residents to consider building.'

'This supports the targets in our Affordable and Diverse

Housing Strategy, which commits to ensuring 40 per cent of new housing in Lismore is diverse or medium density by 2033.'

\$15,000 Housing Grant Program

Applicants who receive the 100 per cent fee waiver of developer contributions, can also combine the Council's \$15,000 Housing Grant Program incentive if eligible, which is helping residents, landowners and housing providers to build or relocate new homes, within the Lismore Local Government Area.

The grants cover six categories, including first-home buyers, landowners adding a second small dwelling, flood-affected relocations and developers delivering affordable rental housing. With nearly half of the \$1.2 million funding pool already allocated, Council is encouraging eligible residents to apply as soon as possible.

Residents considering a

granny flat are also encouraged to take advantage of Council's free duty planning service, available on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The service offers a 30-minute session with a development assessment planner who can provide general planning advice in person or over the phone.

If you live in an urban area and are considering building a granny flat, Council encourages you to speak with a planner who can talk you through the steps, including the developer contribution discount and the housing grant.

The policy and grant program form part of Council's broader Affordable and Diverse Housing Strategy, which aims to make housing more accessible, sustainable and aligned with Lismore's long-term community needs.

For more information, search affordable and diverse housing incentives on Council's website at www.lismore.nsw.gov.au.

Olive Cotton Award winner announced

The Tweed Regional Gallery has announced the winner of the prestigious Olive Cotton Award for photographic portraiture.

Artist Tace Stevens' portrait 'Uncle Bill' has won the \$20,000 prize for the 2025 Olive Cotton Award.

Tace Stevens is a Noongar and Spinifex visual storyteller based in Perth / Boorloo. She is a self-taught documentary photographer with a film degree from the Australian Film, Television and Radio School (AFTRS).

The announcement was made on the evening of 30 August at the official opening of the finalist exhibition at Tweed Regional Gallery.

Stevens' portrait of



Detail from Tace Stevens' winning portrait, 'Uncle Bill'.

Uncle Bill was selected as the winning portrait from a field of 65 finalists, including emerging and established photographers from across Australia.

Stevens is the 13th artist to win the award, which was

first presented in 2005.

The award was judged by Sally McInerney, photographer and daughter of Olive Cotton; Glenn Iseger-Pilkington (Nhanda Yamatji and Noongar Peoples) Director, Content, Strategy & Partnerships for the Aboriginal Cultural Centre project, WA; Angela Connor, Senior Curator, Museum of Australian Photography (MAPh), VIC; and Shaune Lakin, Senior Curator, Photography, National Gallery of Australia (NGA), ACT.

All four judges visited the Gallery on Friday, August 29, to view the exhibition before making their final decision. The decision was unanimous.

Local SLSCs to get new jet skis

Surf Life Saving Clubs at Lennox Head, Kingscliff and Fingal Rovers, will benefit from the rollout of a fleet of 26 new rescue jet skis that will be patrolling beaches across the state this summer.

With the warmer months approaching, which will see increased swimmers across NSW beaches, the Minns government 'is delivering on its commitment to boost community safety and surveillance along the coast'.

This jet ski boost brings the state's fleet up to 56, ensuring rapid responses to emergencies across New South Wales beaches all year round.

Volunteer patrol season commencing on September 27

Jet skis will be delivered ahead of the volunteer patrol season commencing on September 27, with communities set to benefit including: Illawarra and South Coast; Mid and North Coast; Newcastle and Central Coast; and Sydney.

Last year jet skis were used in 260 rescues performed by volunteer lifesavers, saving critical time during emergency incidents.

Supporting the jet skis, new Emergency Response

Beacons (ERBs) backed up by drones, are keeping an eye across our state's beaches. The beacons are installed on beaches and allow for emergency services to be called during emergencies.

ERB backup

When the current rollout is complete, there will be 64 ERBs in operation. Further units are planned for installation in the Illawarra, Sydney, the Far South Coast and the North Coast.

Minister for Emergency Services, Jihad Dib, said with 260 rescues last year, jet skis have proven to be another critical part of the coastal safety network.

'Fast, agile and highly effective in surf conditions, they allow lifesavers to get people out of trouble quickly,' he said.

Surf Life Saving NSW CEO, Steve Pearce, said volunteers have continued to respond to emergency callouts throughout winter. 'This highlights the commitment of our members to protecting lives along the coast, whenever and wherever we're needed.'

For beach information, including safety tips, patrolled beaches and the location of ERBs, visit: www.surflifesaving.com.au or download the Beachsafe app.

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Byron Council accepts flawed report on MO

Aslan Shand

A report was brought by staff to Byron Shire Council (BSC) last week outlining compliance action at the Upper Main Arm Multiple Occupancy (MO) community of Kohinoor.

During public access, former BSC Mayor Jan Barham spoke to the report highlighting a range of issues, including the report's failure to recognise that the community has a legal development application (DA) that was approved in 1991.

No house DA needed

Rather than starting with the Kohinoor community's legal approval, the report, which was supposed to supply a 'chronological overview of events relating to the property at Upper Main Arm' began with the withdrawal of three house DAs in 1993 and 1994. It did not acknowledge the letter provided in 1994 by then general manager of BSC, Max Eascott, to the Kohinoor community that explicitly stated that, 'Legal advice recently received by Council confirms that proposed dwellings under an existing approved multiple occupancy do not require development consent under the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act, 1979* (EP&A Act).'

'I'm really grateful that this report's come forward and mayor, I'd like to thank you for doing the mayoral minute, because it identifies some errors, some omissions, lack of understanding,' said former BSC Mayor, Jan Barham.

Ms Barham pointed out that there were key interactions between Council

staff and the community's representatives that were not included in the report and that as a result of these omissions was 'casting these people in a very poor light'. Similarly, she pointed to the accusation listed that one of the residences of the community was polluting waterways 'which your own staff in writing have confirmed was not the case', yet this clarification was not included in the report.

First environmental activists in area

'These are the people that helped establish the culture of the North Coast,' explained Ms Barham.

'Kohinoor was established between 1971 and 1973, securing the land and then establishing a commune. The Council registered [the MO] in the 1980s, but the state government didn't introduce regulated MO guidelines until 1988 with the Multiple Occupancy SEPP. Kohinoor got approval from this council in 1991.'

Kohinoor community member Charles Boyle spoke, asking that the report be 'withdrawn and reviewed' to provide an accurate representation of the MO's history and interactions with BSC.

'The report claims that Kohinoor has deliberately ignored and refused to cooperate with Council directions. However, we have a comprehensive paper trail to disprove this,' he told councillors during public access.

'For 55 years, we have cared for the land there. We have lived in love. We have birthed and raised our children here, and mourned our

loved ones on this property. For generations, our dwellings have withstood cyclones, tornadoes, floods, and landslides.

'We gifted the property and the land that is now Kohinur Hall to the community. The property is now valued in the millions and millions of dollars.

'Our generation that founded Kohinoor were Australia's first environmental activists of the 1970s and as custodians of this land, we continue our long tradition of protecting the waterways and the forests. The abandoned and degraded grazing property we originally purchased has been completely revegetated, and Kohinoor now supports a thriving wildlife habitat and is an ecological extension of the adjacent Mount Jerusalem National Park. And ecologists and researchers spend a lot of time on the top of the property, studying lyrebirds, quolls, and various other creatures.'

Speaking to *The Echo* former BSC Planning Director, Ray Darney, explained that, 'Long-term MOs need special consideration. If they [the houses] are a danger to the occupier, Council may need to serve notice to upgrade, but it is preferable to assist by directing a way forward to the upgrade.'

Mr Darney highlighted that the process took time and trust between BSC and the community to achieve these positive outcomes and that when he was planning director, 'We had meetings with the community to discuss the ways forward.'

'We need to allow those

past historical buildings to remain and be upgraded when that can be done safely.'

No updates

No councillor sought to update or withdraw the report with Cr Michael Lyon moving to adopt the report as is, seconded by Cr Jack Dods. Cr Michelle Lowe sought to amend the motion to clarify the support BSC could provide and the costs.

Cr Lyon was at pains to point out that the BSC had offered the Kohinoor community technical support and at that point it became clear from staff responses that the technical support would be at BSC's cost. However, it emerged that members of the MO had not been clear on this. The motion was then updated to clarify that point and passed unanimously by all councillors.

Byron Visitor Centre closes

Byron Shire Visitor Centre closed its doors last Thursday with Acting Manager, Deb McBride, telling *The Echo* that, 'There's been a big change, visitor numbers have dropped to a third of what they were six to seven years ago.'

While the Visitor Centre received the cottage free of charge from Byron Shire Council (BSC), Ms McBride also alluded to the lack of funding for staff at the Visitor Centre as another reason it closed.

'The volunteers were great and the service that was offered was exceptional. The volunteers were a fabulous group to work with. The board ran the centre and when it came time for the doors to close, the decision was made.'

Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye, told *The Echo*, 'I was sad to hear of the unexpected closure of the Byron Visitor Centre. For

so many years, this space has been a warm and welcoming point of connection – not just for visitors, but for locals as well. The centre has played a vital role in helping people find their way, discover what makes Byron special, and feel at home in our community.'

'I'm incredibly grateful to Gail Fuller [chair of the board] and the many dedicated volunteers who have poured their time, care, and passion into keeping the heart of our town beating.

'In the short term, the space will be used by BSC staff as a project hub to support the Lawson Street drainage upgrades and community engagement. Once that work is complete, we'll take the time to carefully consider how this location can continue to serve the community in meaningful and inspiring ways.'

Teddies galore in Bangalow



A steady stream of teddy bears, their closest friends and their minders, waddled down to the Bangalow Museum last Saturday for a day on the green. Photo Jef-furry Dawson

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The Byron Shire Echo
Volume 40 #13 • September 3, 2025

Policy up in smoke

I was sitting outside the court in Lismore, waiting for my client's case to be called, and reminiscing about how many cigarettes I must have smoked in this spot in years gone by. A group of young people walked past and I recognised one as the wayward son of a mate, and we got chatting, as you do. Coincidentally he was smoking a tailor-made cigarette, juvenile smoke rings and all, and as he finished one he used the butt to light a fresh one. Chain smoking. As I used to do. I asked him how he could possibly afford to smoke, given the price of cigarettes, and he explained to me that he bought his under the counter from a particular place he identified.

He offered me a 'durry', which was sweet, and tempted as I was, I resisted. I so loved smoking. Just the smell of beer makes me long for my Kent - suave soft-pack of course. My last fag was in 1989, when my best mate right through school killed himself with a 12-gauge leaving behind three darling children, his wife and a note for me that read 'don't you think it's about time you gave up smoking'. Wracked with grief and guilt I swore I would never smoke again, in his memory, and I never have. It was, weirdly, a parting gift from him to me, and I love him for it still.

Intrigued about the illegal tobacco, I donned my flanny, beanie and daggy jeans (disguised as Hans Lovejoy I thought) and went in to the place my mates son had identified and asked for some cheap smokes. I didn't say 'please' because it seemed a giveaway. The price of cigarettes above the counter was \$40-50 for 20, but I got 140 for \$28. Cash only. A bargain! No graphic health warnings, the filters looked dodgy, and there was little quality control. The roll-your-own bags were even cheaper, but my rolling skills are legendarily pathetic. I got kicked out of the MardiGrass joint rolling competition in 1995 for bringing the institution into disrepute.

What an absolute public policy mess. How have we got to this? About 70 per cent of the price of tobacco is tax, so that's the reason



'Typical of illicit trade, there are now tobacco wars, with 200 firebombings, rabid extortion and even murders in the fight for market share.'

David Heilpern

above-the-counter ciggies are so expensive. And the government take has dropped by half over the last few years to \$7.4 billion. Academics and politicians fall into their usual camps with one side calling for lowering the tax, and the other rejecting that as industry toadying and pushing tougher enforcement with various shades in between. Worse still, the health-based cessation products now often cost more than continuing to smoke.

The government claims that less people are smoking and that is why the revenue has halved - a laughable suggestion. That's the problem with an illicit market - it becomes really hard to measure, and the black market is by colour definition unfathomable. Not only that, but typical of illicit trade, there are now tobacco wars, with 200 firebombings, rabid extortion and even murders in the fight for market share.

Throw into the mix the effective banning of vapes except by prescription and you have this volatile perfect storm of community harm. The evidence is that vaping was a harm-reduction bonus, that the gateway to cigarettes was largely mythical and that the banning of them has fuelled a significantly more dangerous development - illicit chop-chop tobacco gangs and massive sales.

Where to from here? There are some great ideas floating around, including the banning of smoking areas in licensed premises and removal of ATMs in tobacco shops. Of course the government has to reduce the excise or the illegal market will naturally flourish. More money for education and smoking reduction campaigns and free access to medical stop-smoking products have been effective in the past.

Sweden, which has adopted a mass harm-reduction program (without banning vapes) signals the success of such an approach - they are world leaders in this field and now have the lowest smoking rates in Europe.

Ignorantly, those calling for the prosecution of landlords, longer prison terms, expanded police powers and more law enforcement really do forget their history. It is so disappointing to see so many academics lining up with big sticks and grim faces next to uniformed types calling for border force growth, expanded warrants, and undercover operations.

Proof that they are misguided?

The latest sewerage figures are out from the Australian Crime Intelligence Commission showing that meth, cocaine, heroin, and ecstasy use are at their highest levels ever. A 34 per cent increase in just one year. All that pain and resources and heavy prison sentences - for what? Even the director of that hippy mob is saying that 'safe supply initiatives' and 'supervised consumption services' are needed, rather than the 'fantasy that arresting more people or seizing more drugs will solve the problem'. Give that man a megaphone and a durry.

But now I have a real dilemma. What to do with the 140 smokes? They are haunting me from the back of the cupboard. Whispering, after dinner, ever so seductively - 'smoke me... just one'.

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

Help the drop bears now

Koalas may look cute and cuddly - but really, they're not. But they are facing extinction in NSW by 2050, particularly as a result of habitat destruction, and they do need our help to ensure they don't die out.

September is Save the Koala Month (<https://savethekoala.com/how-to-help/save-the-koala-month>) and with spring in the air, koalas, especially young males, are on the move, making them more vulnerable to dog attacks, road strikes, and other threats. The Australian Koala Foundation and Lismore-based Friends of the Koala (FoK) are celebrating Save the Koala Month with a 30 Days, 30 Ways to Help Our Fluffy Friends campaign that culminates with Save the Koala Day on 30 September.

Locally, people and businesses can get involved in supporting the proposal for the Richmond River Koala Parks (RRKP). Conservation groups and local communities are calling on the NSW government to permanently protect 56,200 hectares of state forests in the Richmond River Valley and along the southern Richmond Range (south of the Bruxner Highway), essential to the preservation of the genetically different koala populations: (<https://calderaenvironmentcentre.org/ncec-restore-the-richmond-river-protect-the-richmond-river-koala-parks>).

The proposed RRKP would connect a series of smaller parks that would, in turn, interconnect areas of high-quality koala habitat in the Richmond catchment. This would encompass 28,000 hectares of Nationally Important Koala Areas, designated by the

Commonwealth government as a priority for protection.

Friends of the Koala is one of the key local organisations that rescues koalas and supports them to be returned to the wild. They also run the fully-accredited Northern Rivers Koala Hospital that admits at least 350 koalas per year and has 23 outdoor enclosures, two ICU cages and one ICU room. They can house 23 adult koalas, four to six joeys and up to four females in their permanent enclosure. They started a hospital upgrade in June.

'To maximise the chances of successful rehabilitation and long-term survival for koalas in an increasingly challenging environment, it is essential that we remain at the forefront of scientific research into koala health,' explained FoK in a recent press release.

'This includes advancing preventative healthcare strategies and contributing to the development of critical interventions such as vaccines for chlamydia and koala retrovirus.'

Bangalow Koalas are continuing their ambitious target of planting 500,000 koala trees by the end of 2025 with 459,137 trees planted so far. You can get in touch, join one of their planting events, or perhaps provide land to be planted. From Tweed's Team Koala group to FoK, to Bangalow Koalas, there are plenty of ways to get involved, making sure these iconic Australian koalas don't become extinct in NSW.

Aslan Shand, editor
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Nicholas Shand
1948-1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944-2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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Kind words for China

Thank you, Peter Walters, for your kind words about my August 13 letter, 'Seven days in China'.

My letter would have been instantly trashed at a mainstream outlet as it doesn't fit their agenda.

Someday, it will be common knowledge that we have been deliberately misinformed about human rights in China, and, in fact, about almost everything regarding China.

At present, the mainstream media is holding us in suspense with their episodes of 'evil China'; it's a never-ending story. Meanwhile, China is plodding along at breakneck speed without time to argue with children.

The 'hate China' agenda has been bankrolled by the West with great success, and it might take a generation or more before we ask, 'what happened to our Chinese restaurants?'

This reminds me of the '50s - I got thrown out of the Saturday matinee because I kept cheering for the Indians.

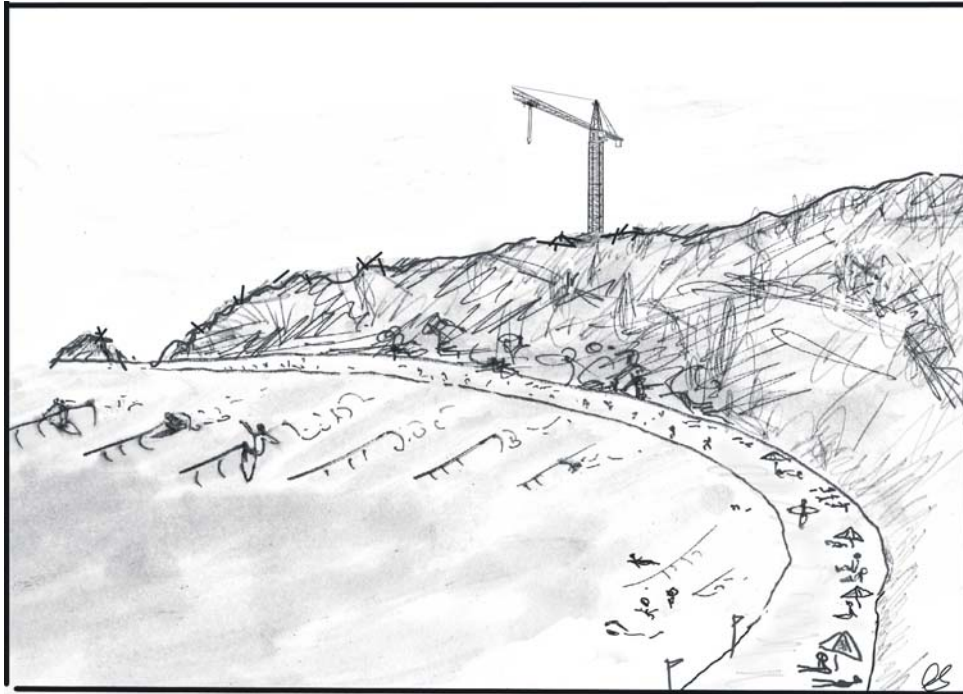
Len Hend
Mullumbimby

Suffolk tennis courts

I want to express sincere appreciation to Byron Council for keeping the tennis courts at Suffolk dedicated for community use and access.

I am a casual player and appreciate the fact that there are upgraded courts, close to home, that cost \$5 or \$10 an hour. It means my friends and I have more local and accessible options, especially considering hiring a court in Byron town can cost around \$30.

I am not looking for, nor do I have the means, to



Crane over Byron. Cartoon Craig Scanlan

spend a lot of money on coaching or other services. I am simply looking to enjoy our public space with friends.

A few years back, the courts were derelict, and although we need a new fence, the new surfaces make the space very playable. By maintaining access to publicly-owned courts for general community use, we are reinforcing the idea that these facilities exist to serve everyone, not just those who can afford private services.

Deborah Jorgensen
Suffolk Park

The room where it happened

Wearing one of his trademark red golf hats titled 'Trump is Right about Everything', Trump gave an American TV interview stating, 'I knew nothing about it', referring to the FBI raid on the home of his former National Security advisor, John Bolton, who wrote the book *The Room Where It Happened* and who has been a

constant critic of Trump and his 'thorn in the side'.

On returning to power this year Trump immediately revoked Bolton's security clearance and his Secret Service protection.

I guess the upside is that John Bolton can write a second book titled, *The Country Where it Happened*, if he doesn't get shot or fall out of a window, or get arrested on the street and thrown into a van by 'Nazi-style' black balaclava Trump ICE police. Or isn't some poor homeless sod who put up a tent in Washington DC, only to be arrested by Trump's National Guard (tent and possessions scooped up by mini-tracked bulldozers and dumped into a skip bin) to make America great again, Putin-style!

T Sharples
Tweed Heads

Splitting elements

For people who cook with gas but want to minimise their engagement in the growing global carbon

genocide, there is hope for electric gas generators based on splitting hydrogen from water.

Bosch has unveiled a hydrogen-powered cooking hob that burns with an invisible flame. It's part of a pilot project in the UK and could pave the way for hydrogen cooking appliances in homes.

If councils allow gas stoves for 'special' purposes they may as well allow pistols to be carried in pockets for special discussions.

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Eco AI and on and on

The term artificial intelligence (AI) seems to be attached to all manner of electronic appliances these days, just as the term 'eco' was banded about by all manner of commercial spivs a few years ago.

What does AI actually mean? It seems to me that

► **Continued on next page**

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► **Continued from page 11** intelligence refers to an ability to adapt to changing circumstances, i.e. to not only solve a particular problem, but firstly, to identify what the problem is. Is any computer capable of that?

Typically it is the human computer user who identifies the problem and feeds it into the machine to obtain answers or solutions. That can only occur long after human IT wizards have built in the relevant programs and algorithms, i.e. after these guys have installed the instructions which the machine must follow.

I have an old player piano that involves the feeding in of a roll of paper with systematic holes in it which, as you pedal furiously with your feet to generate the right air pressure, mechanically activates musical notes, sometimes providing recognisable melodies.

This partially solved the problem of musical demand before electronic recording techniques were developed. Why is this not an early example of AI?

Certainly it is artificial in the sense that you need no musical talent at all to produce something resembling music.

**John Anderson
aka Fast Buck\$
Coorabell**

AI and bad actors

AI isn't the problem if used well for the common good.

We are just watching it being used after the roundtable to expedite building approvals, by cutting through slow and expensive red tape, and carving \$100,000 off the cost of a home!

But at the same time, AI is being used to create algorithms that funnel yet more wealth to 'big-tech' corporations, at the expense of creatives – artists and musicians who create 'content' that these corporations use as they choose, without paying copyright to the artists.

AI in the hands of bad actors is a fearful monster. It already has its tentacles in our bank accounts and publicly-funded institutions. It shows up online as fake news, fake videos, fake images and fake invoices etc.

I think in many aspects, the rollout of online financial products is a failed experiment. None of us can any longer afford to go online with our personal details and passwords without fearing scams. Until someone invents a 'trace to source' software that can find and

flush out these bad actors, I think we need to go back to cheque books and bank staff, until the online world gets its act together!

**Mike Balson
Upper Wilsons Creek**

Who is being NIMBY?

Councillor Asren Pugh has publicly derided members of the Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA) for being NIMBY in their efforts to have Byron Council's affordable housing project moved from the town carpark to Council's carpark.

He has also blatantly misrepresented MRA as trying to stop this housing project – in fact MRA is trying to get MORE housing by moving the location, because the Council carpark is twice the size of the town carpark.

Councillors all talk about the dire need for more affordable housing, but they don't want it on their own carpark, even though it would provide at least twice the number of housing units.

Why don't they want it there? Because they have solar panels (and why can't they go on the roof?) And because the library may need to expand sometime in the future, according to the mayor. Strange coming from the Greens...

So you have to ask, who are the real NIMBYs here?

**Anando Hefly
Mullumbimby**

Shooting koalas

Many people are unaware that the Victorian Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) authorised the helicopter shooting of over 1,000 koalas in Budj Bim National Park. The aerial shooting took place over three weeks and ended on April 25.

No ground-truthing of dead koalas was undertaken, we have no idea whether koalas had back young, or how accurate the shooting was as there has never been any attempt to kill koalas this way in Australia's history.

The reason for the slaughter? DEECA maintains a wildfire affecting over 2,000 hectares of the park left many koalas burned and/or starving. As well, any access to the burned areas was impossible because the terrain was too rocky.

Koalas were unlikely to have survived for very long after fire, and it was weeks after the fire was extinguished before any shooting began. Field trips after the shooting ended revealed the grounds were entirely accessible. This ugly episode was

kept secret until a neighbour heard helicopters going over the park and shots being fired.

Killing koalas from helicopters can't possibly be accurate, and without any confirmation of death, the Victorian government has carried out an appalling precedent. One that could be followed by other states unless a court ruling prohibits further aerial killing of koalas under any circumstances.

Brunswick Heads-based Australians for Animals Inc. has launched an originating motion for a judicial review in the Victorian Supreme Court. The legal procedure has commenced.

Few people know what the Victorian government perpetrated on koalas. The issue received massive international media and virtually nothing in Australia. Why? It all happened in the middle of a federal election campaign.

If you would like to help raise funds for the lawsuit, or just educate yourself on this outrageous issue, please visit our Facebook page or website at www.australians-foranimals.org.au.

Koalas are suffering dreadfully, the indifference of state and federal governments is bordering on criminal.

**Sue Arnold
Australians for Animals Inc
Ocean Shores**

Mater but not 'mom'

Appalled to see that ghastly Americanism 'mom' instead of the good old Anglo-Saxon 'mum' on page 14 of August 20 of *The Echo*. Have never heard of any modern child refer to their mother as mom in these here parts. So get off your yankee roller culture and call me mother. I will also answer to mumsy, mater or mummy.

**Polly Guthrie
Ballina**

Expulsion hypocrisy

After the recent findings by ASIO of the attack on Jewish buildings resulting in the expulsion of the Iranian ambassador, the hypocrisy is breathtaking when we don't see Israel's ambassador expelled for the Israeli government's complicity in genocide and crimes against humanity in support of the allegations made in the UN and the International Criminal Court.

When will we see Albanese, Wong and Marles arrested for complicity in genocide for ensuring

► **Continued on page 14**

Action needed on preventable deaths

Alexandra Hogan

As we mark International Overdose Awareness Day a new report by the Penington Institute reveals the current scale of Australia's overdose crisis, with the numbers of deaths by unintentional overdose across Australia, and in the Northern Rivers, stubbornly high.

The data released recently by the Penington Institute tells us we are losing six people to overdose every day in this country. These are six tragic, unnecessary, and preventable deaths, highlighting the urgent need for change right across Australia.

The report shows that the overdose crisis saw 2,272 people die from overdose in the latest year of data. This is the equivalent of losing more than a Boeing 737 full of Australians every single month.

The report highlights that the overdose crisis is increasingly affecting older Australians and that Indigenous Australians are dying from overdose at a rate of more than three and a half times that of non-Indigenous Australians.

It also shows that in 2023, 537 people lost their lives to an accidental overdose in NSW. This is the 10th year in a row that over 500 unintentional overdose deaths were recorded.

In regional and rural NSW, the report also tells us that there was a higher rate of unintentional drug-induced deaths than in Sydney – seeing 7.1 deaths per 100,000 population in rural and regional NSW in 2023 compared with 5.7 in the greater Sydney area.

In anyone's book, these are shocking figures.

As parents, as partners, as brothers and sisters, and sons and daughters, we each share a common desire: for all the people we love to be kept safe and free from harm. With overdose deaths alarmingly high, there is an urgent need for our governments to prepare and respond effectively.

Every overdose death is a preventable one

There are sensible, evidence-based and fair solutions that we know work and save lives which could be implemented today.

These include



Alexandra Hogan, Social Justice Lead at Uniting NSW.ACT. Photo supplied

In 2023, 537 people lost their lives to an accidental overdose.

When diversion rates sit at near zero, that's near zero chances for building safety, support, and hope for the people who need it most.

Meanwhile in a

survey recently undertaken by the Australian Institute for Health and Welfare (AIHW) there is 57.1 per cent support for safe injecting facilities and 66.2 per cent support for drug checking services in the Northern Rivers of NSW.

So, we have the evidence of need, and there is a demonstrated want from the community. It's just the political will that is missing. We need courage from our elected officials who have the power to enact the policy and push for programs that will save lives and transform communities.

Changing the harsh reality of overdose

The NSW government's imminent response to the Drug Summit report is a once in 25-year opportunity to change the harsh reality of overdose in this country, this state and in the Northern Rivers.

Today, we remember those who have tragically lost their lives to overdose – each of them a person that was loved and cherished and each a death that was utterly preventable.

We again repeat our calls for the NSW government to respond swiftly to the detailed report from last year's Drug Summit with a detailed plan, and the required funding to implement the report's recommendations.

Lives in the Northern Rivers of NSW, quite simply, depend on it.

improvements to existing diversion programs like the Early Drug Diversion Initiative (EDDI) to enable a health and wellbeing response to drug use, equipping police with naloxone to reverse opioid-related overdoses and amending legislation to allow for more communities to apply for medically supervised injecting facilities.

The people of NSW cannot wait any longer.

The EDDI scheme is designed to give people the opportunity to be diverted away from the criminal justice system and receive a health appointment instead of a court notice. Under a recent FoI request by Greens MP Cate Faehrmann about the implementation of the EDDI scheme since its arrival 18 months ago, the numbers were telling too.

In the Northern Rivers, the Tweed-Byron Police District has a 6.4 per cent diversionary rate. This area includes areas such as Mullumbimby, Tweed Heads and Byron Bay. The rate of diversion reduces by over a third in Lismore, with the Richmond Police District only reaching 3.9 per cent.

As always, the devil is in the detail

And as always, the devil is in the detail – one drug gets you a warning, another gets you a criminal record. That's not health policy, that's bias. The EDDI scheme isn't keeping the people we love safe; it's leaving them behind.

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► **Continued from page 12**
the sale of arms such as F35 fighter jet parts and armoured steel to Israel? And why won't they sanction Israel?

Anyone who still wants to dispute the fact of these weapon-parts sales has not been paying attention or taking any real interest. While Labor's dismal housing policy not only includes tax investment scams but their policy is now to supply housing for the US military under the governments' dumb and dangerous AUKUS arrangement.

All the while getting ready to follow the US into yet another fake war with all the convenient US military bases in Australia creating a target and endangering Australian citizens.

Rod Murray
Ocean Shores

apartheid and dispossession of indigenous peoples. From its inception, Australia's colonial regime brutalised and betrayed the native population.

The sadistic cruelty and contempt for human life we see livestreamed from Gaza today is every bit as lethal and depraved as the century or so of genocide that Australia inflicted on the first nations. Today our politicians pay lip service to the notion of human rights, but remain mute and indifferent to the plight of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Clearly they've not changed a bit, the racial prejudice, the supremacist conceit, the callous apathy are regrettably all still part of the contemporary Australian polity.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Australia's genocide

Israel could not perpetrate genocide in Palestine without the unconditional support of the West.

The Australian government's complicity of silence and material support for Israel is indicative of the values and cultural heritage we share with the Zionist colony, a heritage of racial supremacy, genocidal

The Belongil

Thank you to *The Echo* for raising deep concerns in relation to the Belongil Estuary and the stormwater / toxic inflows. The history of the Belongil for the past 36 years has resulted in *Echo* journalism revealing fish kills and polluted waters. This lagoon borders the Elements tourist development.

It has for many years

been a magic spot for swimmers, yogis, dreamers and children to play. It has, since colonisation, remained a 'diminishing' migratory bird sanctuary.

May I also state a remarkable endangered bird, the 'little tern' nests with determination on the sands, and boldly challenges the worst of storms, never flinching or moving. She is to be a mother – in a diminishing paradise.

I was heartened to read Alan Dickens' letter requesting Council make public information on the distribution of dangerous waters into waterways – mainly, it would seem, the Belongil.

A most timely demand in view of the Belongil sentient deaths and the ongoing West Byron developments.

I cannot beat around the bush. Council must employ 'best practice' on this issue and keep the public informed. Sentient health depends upon it.

Many decades back, a university teacher used to swim in Botany Bay during the period that bay was being developed. He was a healthy person, a great friend with compassion and knowledge. Over time his health deteriorated and his eyesight suffered – badly.

He went through a long period of blindness attributed to the toxic waters in Botany Bay. I share this story to all imploring developers and Council to always respect best practice and transparency.

Jo Faith
Newtown

Lines in sky

Raphael Lee Cass please don't twist my words referring to the spraying the skies, or it's also called weather modification, with chemicals. I said I wondered if the Byron Shire Council were aware. I did not blame them. Someone in the Shire must know something.

John Donnellan you think you're so funny. Go back into your ignorant dark cave. Go do your own research if you think it's all fantasy. Just seeing the lines across the sky is not to be ignored. Just listen to whistleblowers on this subject too.

Thank goodness we have had some sunny clear days lately.

Margot Hays
Bangalow

Massive win

Following Labor's massive federal election win, the great news regarding Australia's renewable rollout

just keeps getting better. Full credit must be given to PM Albanese and Energy Minister Chris Bowen for their steadfast resolve to stare down the obstructionists who are desperately trying to derail this vital transition to renewables.

The Australian Energy Market Operator's (AEMO) quarterly report says renewables, including solar and wind, powered 43 per cent of Australia's electricity grid in the first three months of 2025, the highest first-quarter amount in the national energy market's 25-year history.

Grid-scale solar generation is up 10 per cent from 2024 with battery storage generation up 86 per cent. Rooftop solar is up 16 per cent and wind is up 18 per cent, all reaching all-time highs. Australia's national greenhouse emissions fell 1.4 per cent in the year to March 2025 and are sitting at 28 per cent below 2005 levels.

However, that's where the great news ends; a subversive wrecking campaign within the Coalition to sabotage all wind and solar-farm projects and repeal the net-zero commitment by 2050 rolls on unabated, they have learnt nothing from their election drubbing.

Leading Nationals figures have been spreading blatant lies and division in regional areas by pretending to be protecting farmland, but they are only farming outrage. They claim that 'sacred farming land' is being invaded and trashed by 'filthy wind turbines' and 'dangerous solar panels', although they don't seem to mind giant open-cut coal mines scarring the landscape.

The facts are totally different. Farmers are voluntarily signing up in droves to host renewables, the extra income is welcome as a drought buffer and cattle and sheep graze happily under them. Shame Nationals, shame.

Keith Duncan
Ballina

Hippie-flavoured tourism

Byron's 'hippie-flavoured' tourism shouldn't surprise. Byron of old was effectively an outpost with a few key industries for the state. All those industries started to shutter their doors as the hippie heyday began in the late 1970s.

With industries going and new people coming in Byron was changing. With *The Local Government Act 1993*

► much of old Byron was lost being under a council that did not truly represent the entirety of the shire population but was rather oppositional toward it. Old families left. Real estate became more dear, driving others to leave. Decades of Byron Council neglect and mismanagement meant Byron not only lost the public works/infrastructure technical skill and knowledge but the machinery as well.

The anti-capitalist, anti-business mindset of Byron Council has for years failed to differentiate between local small family-owned business and national/international corporations while often confusing local and international politics; Byron doesn't understand business because Byron doesn't like business. Byron Council has for years been a myopic expression of hippie environmental fantasy and related oddball priorities. Such a town cannot support independent businesses. Such a town struggles to deal with basic infrastructure issues and is constantly on the back foot with budget problems. Personally, I have experienced foreign visitors state that 'Byron doesn't feel like a real town; it has that tourist-town mark'.

A local once confided that Byron was like a prostitute everyone just wanted their way with and now there's nothing left. Byron Bay has gone from all soul and no image to all image and no soul.

Edward Kent
Suffolk Park

Population growth vs common sense

It would appear that Mayor Ndiaye's Green Council has turned a murky shade of brown. We have much energy of Byron Council staff and Council agenda items devoted to paving the way for the overdevelopment and overpopulation of a heritage-listed township irrespective of the said township's historic attraction.

Unique no more! Too much traffic with nowhere to park, no easily-accessible public toilets, no favourite eating spots or alternative food shopping venues, no more independent water supply (because Council can't afford a new filtration system for Lavertys Gap Weir?) but water piped in from Ballina to support an infrastructure-poor second industrial estate on The Saddle Road, and two housing developments.

Now the entry and exit to

town will be made practically impossible for a lengthy time to facilitate roadworks to give developers access at the expense of existing residents and businesses.

Everything that residents and visitors appreciate about Mullumbimby is on the way out. A Council for mindless development and Voldemort-like inevitabilities which are pitched at a stunned community who expected progress with vision and non-commercial-centred zeal. Brown turning to black times ahead until the next Council elections.

Shame, it could have been so much better.

Vee Hunt
Mullumbimby

Attention, attention

This is a community service announcement. For the last three months I have been the lollipop person (aka school crossing supervisor) outside St Johns Primary School in Mullumbimby. I have also lived in Mullumbimby for over 30 years. There is a school crossing zone that extends for about 400 metres from Federation Bridge to just past the school. This area is a 40km/h zone from 8am until 9.30am and again from 2.30pm until 4pm.

I am shocked at the

negligence and disregard of drivers who feel self-entitled to speed down this stretch of road, which in essence is a suburban road in our town. The offenders represent a cross-section of our community. It includes 30-40 year-old tradies (mainly men), parents with children in their vehicles (mainly women), young people, aged people and those with Qld number plates as well (you as well have 40km/h school zones).

How many seconds of your day would you lose if you slowed to 40km/h for that 400-metre stretch of road? If you have a newish vehicle you will have cruise control and if you have a big four-wheel-drive (like many) or even a newer vehicle you're likely to have adaptive cruise control, which will stop you tailgating other drivers. So why not set your alarm clock a few minutes earlier and think how important it is to slow down and respect pedestrian crossings – not just for the children but for all who utilise them? This is not about you, it's about community, it's about respect.

Nick Paris
Mullumbimby

► More letters on page 16

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Mullumbimby Road upgrade

Major delays to outbound traffic start 8 September

Works are set to ramp up on Mullumbimby Road from 8 September with road construction happening in the outbound lane from McAuleys Lane to Gulgan Road.

Outbound traffic

Expect increased congestion and **major traffic delays** during construction hours:

Weekdays – 7am to 6pm.

Seek alternative routes

To avoid delays, Council encourages motorists planning trips to and from Mullumbimby to seek alternative routes via:

- Myocum Road (south).
- Coolamon Scenic Drive (north).

School buses and emergency services will have full access through Mullumbimby Road. Traffic control will be in place.

Inbound Traffic

Mullumbimby Road will continue to be open to all **inbound traffic** but at reduced speeds.

What works are happening:

- New road reconstruction, road widening, heavy patching and stabilisation
- Service relocation
- Drainage work
- Signage, guardrails and line-marking



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AI or not?

It was wrong to suggest that rule by an artificial brain is now inevitable. Obviously, if there is a large nuclear war, that will eliminate any threat posed by the artificial super intelligence.

We accept that a machine can be faster and stronger than a human, so similarly, an artificial brain, can be made a hundred times smarter than the smartest human.

A human can trap and control the strongest, fastest gorilla, because we are smarter than a gorilla. So an artificial brain, much smarter than a human, will be able to trap and control humans – but only if we allow it to.

If everyone makes it known to all the politicians, that we don't want to be kept in limited numbers as workers by an artificial super intelligence, then laws could be enacted to limit the growth of artificial super intelligence, so it does not and cannot pose a threat to us.

Politicians however, would like to use the super intelligence to plan their military strategy and for commercial reasons, so they may not listen.

Peter Olson
Goonengerry

Wrong time to object?

The proposed development at the 57 Station Street carpark has exposed some serious flaws with the public consultation and planning processes of Byron Shire Council.

Back in February at a public meeting organised by the Mullumbimby Residents Association, residents were repeatedly told by some of the councillors present that this was not the time to express concerns about the development; that time would come when the DA was lodged.

Well, the DA was lodged and the development is even worse than we imagined, but now, more than six months after the February meeting, we are told by councillors that it is now too late to challenge the development because it would lead to delays and too much time and money has been invested in getting the project to this stage.

So when is the appropriate time for the public to raise concerns about a development? I'm left with the question: 'What, in Council's reasoning, does "public consultation" mean?'

Keith O'Neill
Mullumbimby

Lyon apology

The letter from Cr Michael Lyon in last week's *Echo* raises some interesting questions and concerns. While it is good that he has apologised for spreading misinformation about the height of the proposed housing block at 57 Station Street, it is regrettable that it has taken him over six months to make this correction.

Why so long? And why did the correction come just two days before submissions were due on the DA for this development? Has Cr Lyon known the true height of the building for months and failed to correct the record until held to account by *The Echo*?

If the explanation for this late correction is that Cr Lyon has just now become aware of the true height of the proposed building, what does this say about the governance of our shire when the ex-mayor and present councillor, who has been the most vociferous supporter of this development, wasn't aware of the most basic facts about the proposal? The development application (DA) has been on display for over a month and the most cursory perusal of it informs the reader of the true height

of the building. Either explanation as to the last-hour correction is damning.

Peter Brennan
Mullumbimby

Another Wallum

Is this 57 Station St Mullum development yet another Wallum – irrational, illogical, short on community consultation?

So ludicrous is the plan and so without sound rationale or reasons are Byron Council's arguments in favour, that one is left with the question – is someone gaining favours that the public is not being told about? I mean what else could possibly be motivating this irrational plan?

What else, when far more rational alternatives are readily available?

John Millard
Mullumbimby

Festival washout

Another festival, another washout. How is it possible that Byron Shire promoters continue to invite people to events when they can't provide a safe, all-weather venue to host these expensive festivals?

Why did our state government endorse these dangerous flood-prone sites? Why does Council permit events

on sites that are obviously not appropriate?

The Byron Writers Festival organisers had several days' notice to prepare for a wet-weather event but there were no covered walkways between marquees, no shelter around the entrance or the coffee vans for queuing patrons who were forced to stand in teeming rain.

The paths were soggy and slippery with pooling water spreading under seated guests in the marquees. It was hard to hear the speakers above the rain. The \$10 carpark was a saturated bog in the morning and a quagmire in the afternoon.

There was no Plan 'B', though the Bangalow School hall, the pub, and the bowling club could have been utilised.

Did Council offer any support before or during the event? Compliance and safety officers were nowhere in sight.

We almost had a new entertainment venue included on the sports site in Ewingsdale Road, proposed by Jan Barham's council 20 years ago. The Blues and Splendour festivals had outgrown the Byron sites and were invited to collaborate and move their events to the proposed new facility. Council would lease the venue and

provide all the essential services: toilets, water, power, garbage collection and hopefully make additional income for the Shire.

The sticking point was capping the festivals at 20-25,000 patrons, which the community supported. The cap was unacceptable to Byron's festival entrepreneurs who wilfully purchased two new flood-prone sites in North Byron – spreading the adverse impacts up to Tyagarah, Brunswick Heads, Ocean Shores and Yelgun. The move hasn't been successful, Byron is too far away and it's not fun slipping and sliding around in mud for days. Most patrons don't want to repeat the experience especially when the costs have soared and the enjoyment has soured.

After 35 years running festivals and making handsome profits, what does Byron Shire have to show for it? What did our great entrepreneurs build as a living legacy? All those thousands of volunteer hours, yet what have they created?

We're still without an all-weather, money-making venue but those festival promoters got rich. At least we got to enjoy the music and the great conversations.

Michele Grant
Ocean Shores

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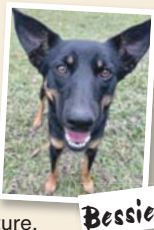
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Community representatives meet monthly to discuss topical or urgent issues, minutes are kept, and a record of who was in attendance is logged.

Byron Shire Council has various committees, masterplanning groups, and roundtables that liaise with stakeholder groups – but lately, it feels like the system is failing us.

First, there was the traffic light debate in Suffolk

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The machinations of consultations

B E Crowle

Byron Shire is home to small businesses, tradies, family folk, activists, and retirees, accepting everyone from the super-wealthy to the rough sleepers. We all have different needs, expectations and beliefs about what this place means.

Council's Community Engagement Strategy aims to include 'us' in the decision-making process and states that people have the right to be informed about matters that affect them. However, some would argue that this is not always the case.

Consultations and community meetings are an unsexy but essential part of our democracy.

Interested citizens participating

Within Byron Shire, we're lucky to have interested citizens participating in multiple organisations; some fall under the umbrella of Community Alliance Byron Shire (CABS).

We need engaged discussion and a transparent consultation process.

Lately, I've asked both businesses and residents about Council's proposal to create a SEP in Byron Bay. The responses, from my limited vox pop, have been a disheartening eye-roll or a 'no, what is that?'



The seat of power in Mullumbimby. Photo Hans Lovejoy

Park, then the 57 Station St development proposal in Mullumbimby, and now the Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) trial in Byron Bay.

Poor communication from Council has forced communities to hold town hall-style meetings across the Shire.

These projects are complex and have the potential to shape our communities in significant ways – touching everything from urban design, environment, heritage and lifestyle to the local economy.

We need engaged discussion and a transparent consultation process.

Lately, I've asked both businesses and residents about Council's proposal to create a SEP in Byron Bay. The responses, from my limited vox pop, have been a disheartening eye-roll or a 'no, what is that?'

The NSW Government Regional Communities Consultation Guide states that communities and

It lacks genuine inquiry and is biased; for example, it asks 'What do you see as the positive benefits of a SEP?' But it fails to ask: 'What do you see as the negative impacts of a SEP for Byron Bay?' Meaningful engagement is the guiding principle towards achieving an outcome, but in this case, it feels like the Council has a pre-determined one.

Rinse and repeat

Unfortunately, the SEP situation is similar to the Suffolk Park traffic light fiasco, where residents were not consulted before the grant application.

In the aftermath, Council admitted there was a need to start engagement earlier to avoid community dissatisfaction – yet this has not been the case.

In defending the decision to accept the SEP grant money without community consultation, Council's (and the mayor's) response is that cash-strapped councils don't always get to choose where the money comes from.

Does that mean regional areas like Byron Bay have to take what they can get from the state government – or should the community have a genuine say in the forces that shape our town?

When it comes to policies and Community Significant Developments with far-reaching implications across Byron Shire, perhaps Byron Shire Council should heed the Dalai Lama's advice: 'Open your arms to change, but don't let go of your values.'

There is still time to have your say on the SEP through the online survey – your voice matters.

See related news article on page 6.

stakeholders should have adequate time, information and opportunities to participate and understand the intent of a council's proposals.

Finding the time to come up with an informed opinion

Busy people don't have time to find buried documents on councils' websites, track down ten different PDF links, and download them to make sense of an issue.

Yet Byron Council released a 23-page 'positioning paper' with a reminder to read it before the SEP Focus Group – scheduled just four days later.

In-person SEP consultations were scheduled from 4pm to 8pm, an awkward time for resident families and carers.

Sessions for unlicensed venues and retail establishments were slated from 8am to 9.30am – peak hours for busy cafés and families juggling school drop-offs.

I'm no expert in consultations, but the online survey for the SEP is comedic with an emphasis on poetry readings and storytelling on street corners.

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Spectacular season for 'Crocs' U9 football



Go the 'Crocs'! Photo supplied

Daniela Ulloa

The Shores United U9 'Crocs' football team wrapped up an incredible soccer season with a fun-filled gala day on Sunday, 31 August at the Ballina Miniroos Muster Day.

Playing five exciting games, the boys showed just how far they've come – giving their best, supporting each

other, and playing with heart.

This talented team has grown in skill, confidence, and teamwork throughout the season. From the first whistle to the last, every game was packed with energy, improvement, and pure enjoyment of the sport.

A huge thankyou goes to coaches Henny and Nic, whose dedication,

encouragement, and passion shaped the team both on and off the field. They didn't just teach soccer – they instilled life skills like resilience, respect, and teamwork.

It was more than just a season – it was a journey of growth, fun, and friendship. Congratulations to the 'Crocs' for finishing strong.

Byron Shire Rebels juniors set markers in junior rugby grand finals

The Byron Shire Rebels junior rugby squads have finished the season in fine style as the U16 squad took hold of the 2025 championship trophy and the U12s finished with a valiant second place after a big night of rugby union grand finals played at Mullumbimby's Les Donnelly Field last Friday night.

The U12s were first on the field and ultimately went down to an 'exceptional' Casuarina Beach side that ran out 31-12 winners. But considering the side started the season with just six players and ended with 19 fully committed youngsters on grand final night, just getting to the big show was a remarkable effort according to juniors coach Christian Sergiacomi.

'It was a brilliant effort, and every week they play an amazing brand of rugby,' he said.

The U16s have largely been playing together as a



The Byron Shire Rebels Rugby Union Club had two teams in the grand finals. The U16s had a hard fought victory over Casuarina 20-12. Photo Sarah Archibald

group since the U9s. Their grand final win this season was on top of the same result last year.

'It was magical,' Christian said. 'It is harder the second time around as everyone is going after you.'

'To go back-to-back is surreal. They are a great team to coach, they always turn up. They are from varied

backgrounds and from different schools, but they all treat each other as equals, and they aren't afraid of hard work,' he said.

The final score had the Byron Shire Rebels ahead of Casuarina by 20-12.

Best of all the squad is keen to stay together and will contest the Byron Rugby Sevens in October.

MBVFC U12s take the championship



Mullum champions! U12s division one grand final winners, the Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley Football Club. Photo supplied

The Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley Football Club U12s division one soccer team have taken out the 2025 season with a convincing 4-0 win in the grand final against Lennox Head.

The boys had an amazing season, finishing the regular season as minor premiers before taking out the big win at Oakes Oval in Lismore last Saturday.

Top singles player crowned at Brunswick Heads Women's Bowling Club

Emma Scattergood has won this year's open singles championship of the Brunswick Heads Women's Bowling Club by taking out the final against Jenny Andrew 25-24, played last week.

'It was a very close and exciting game befitting of a final,' according to club member Sue Hutcheson.

'It took 26 ends to decide the winner and it was very much a game of tit for tat throughout. Jen took the lead for most of the game despite being hampered by a bad back, and she got to within one point of a win on the 24th end with some fantastic up shots throughout the game to get out of trouble.

'It was only in the last two ends that Emma edged to the lead winning both ends by three points to clinch the



Jenny Andrew and Emma Scattergood enjoyed a close game last week. Photo supplied

match. The final score was Emma Scattergood 25 to Jenny Andrew 24.

'Congratulations to both for a most entertaining match.'



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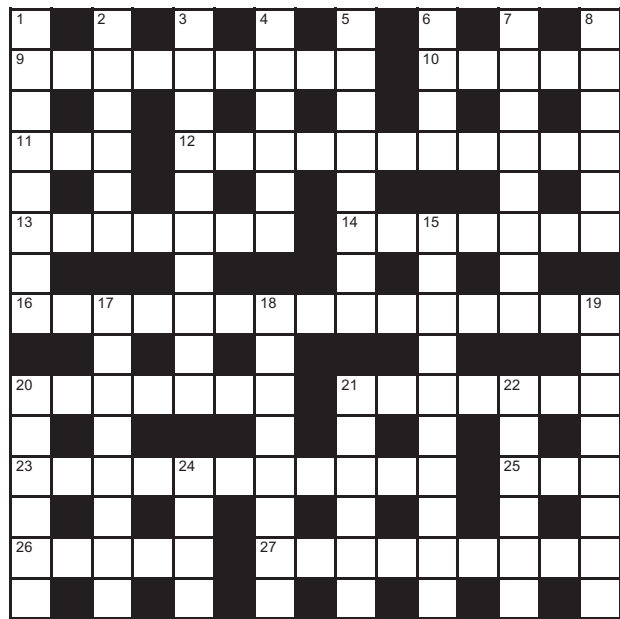
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Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- 9. Naval officer hides old queen in bedside convenience (9)
- 10. Try to go without seconds – that's quite enough! (5)
- 11. America abandons naval pact, giving the bird (3)
- 12. Short of funds? That's awkward (11)
- 13. This can be dessert, if a part messy (7)
- 14. Saint Luke's beginning to eat simple dessert (7)
- 16. The CIA led Nefertiti astray (8,7)
- 20. Cad covers heartless deal to defraud (7)
- 21. Dessert made from condiment, replacing milk starter with one of cheese (7)
- 23. Flapper in sleepwear cuddles new girl (11)
- 25. Writer featured in compendium (3)
- 26. Separate flat vacated by men (originally tenanted) (5)
- 27. Fashionable queer painter holds viewing, at first not for the public (2,7)

DOWN

- 1. Fought in shed (8)
- 2. Drug user employs mule kept by southern republican (6)
- 3. Tipped off by loud music, old wanderer gets away (10)
- 4. Heavy drinker imbibes rum, brandy and elderberry starters with dessert (6)
- 5. Crooked bankers are all over a US state (8)
- 6. Take a long look, without a hint of empathy, at a scene of genocide (4)
- 7. Occasional long story about Stokes' first cricket match (8)
- 8. Type of economic relationship causing rivalry over nearly everything (6)
- 15. Cooker series trio reformed (10)
- 17. One forages criminally for liver (4,4)
- 18. Peg on boat, perhaps oak? No trouble (8)
- 19. Final Postecoglou run is put in jeopardy (8)
- 20. Nudes in a frenzy over a possible dessert (6)
- 21. Men who carry maiden over to Liverpool and Penrith? (6)
- 22. Materialise first couple of apples – and other fruit (6)
- 24. Estate essentially rejected superficial artwork (4)

Quick Clues

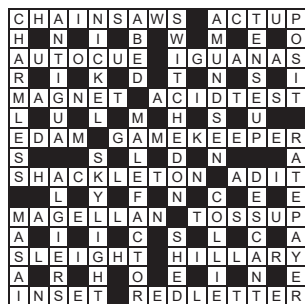
ACROSS

- 9. Naval rank below admiral (9)
- 10. More than enough (5)
- 11. Diving seabird with short wings (3)
- 12. Red-faced from shame (11)
- 13. Layered frozen dessert (7)
- 14. Austrian pastry with fruit filling (7)
- 16. 'The' in grammar (8,7)
- 20. Fraudulent scheme for money (7)
- 21. Egg-based dessert sauce (7)
- 23. Melodious nocturnal songbird (11)
- 25. Writing implement or animal enclosure (3)
- 26. Separated by distance (5)
- 27. Away from public view (2,7)

DOWN

- 1. Discarded as worthless (8)
- 2. Person who lights up tobacco (6)
- 3. Given advance notice (10)
- 4. Frozen fruit dessert without dairy (6)
- 5. Cornhusker state (8)
- 6. Palestinian coastal territory (4)
- 7. Occurring at irregular intervals (8)
- 8. Relating to medieval land ownership (6)
- 15. Rotating spit for cooking meat (10)
- 17. Fattened duck or goose liver (4,4)
- 18. Wooden peg used in shipbuilding (8)
- 19. Put at risk of harm (8)
- 20. Ice cream with toppings in a tall glass (6)
- 21. Victory celebrations (6)
- 22. Come into view (6)
- 24. Small decorative body markings (4)

Last week's solution #70



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



To AI or not to AI

I don't use AI. Well, I use spellcheck and maps, but I don't use AI creatively. For instance, I don't use Grammarly because it makes edit suggestions and I find that changes my voice. I don't want my writing to be perfect and compliant. I don't want a machine to decide how to order my sentences. Correct my spelling and fuck off. AI would have probably told me not to swear. When you read this you can be assured that it's the sentient and flawed Mandy Nolan not some AI bot surfing the algorithms of what sounds like Mandy Nolan.

As a creative I know that it's the process where we learn. AI creates outcomes by stealing our process. That's like a photo of you surfing a wave you've never paddled out for. It's a lie. And something about it feels dangerous. If we lose our process what will happen to us? To our personal growth? To our understanding? AI is already taking our jobs. By 2030 14% of employees will be forced to change their career. That's nearly 400 million people worldwide.

It's the process of making art where discovery happens. Where the real art is made. It's the inspiration, the struggle, the commitment, the work. It's asking questions, and then navigating the answers. It's the magic of the flow. It's the wild, unexpected places that the process takes you to resolve your work.

That's what humans do. And we make mistakes. And in making mistakes we have to solve problems. We have to face complexity and failure. And then we have to push through. That's real intelligence. It is where compassion lives. AI has no place for real compassion, just the emulated empathy of a sociopath. And if you think sociopaths are scary, try an artificial one.

I never use AI programs to write my work. I am possibly the last of a generation of writers who are still prepared to enter the fog of not knowing. Of sitting with the uncomfortable instead of feeding Claude a bunch of prompts and waiting for rescue. People tell me 'it's so fast'. 'I just use it for research'. 'I just use it for structure'. But where are you in this? You cease to be. The outcome is achieved with the push of a button and bit by bit it is disappearing you. Here comes the big erasure. And ironically we are pushing the buttons of our own deletion.

And this is how it starts. I worry we will lose the ability to perform simple tasks. That we won't use research to navigate our own pathway towards understanding.

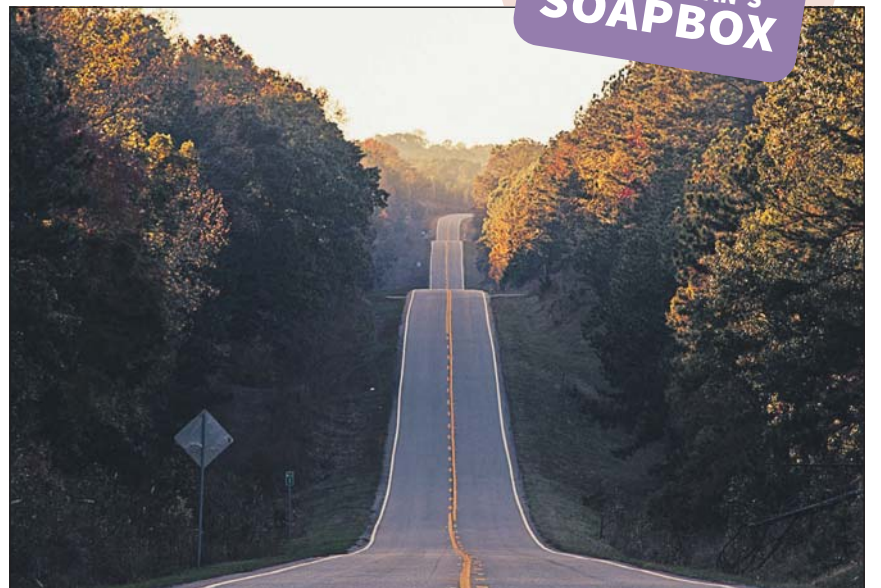


Image not made using AI: Photo by Matt Foxx

Remember what they say, it's not the destination, it's the journey. AI is stealing our journey! Take it back.

But instead, rely on artificial intelligence to build our ideas. To lead our thinking. To do our heavy lifting. And you know what happens when you stop heavy lifting? You get weak. And what happens to AI as it builds its muscle? It gets sentient. And we probably won't even notice. It will start with a lie. When AI learns to cover its own arse for survival. Like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. A mythical story that foretells the creation growing beyond its creator. History is full of mythology that warns of the creation destroying the creator.

Self-aware machines that can act in accordance with their own thoughts, emotions and motives terrify me. Imagining the harm is so dystopian it feels like science fiction rather than fact. But it is the ethical and philosophical work that we have not done. Our ability to regulate harm is so far behind the harm actually occurring.

People are using chatbots like ChatGPT for psychological help. They are immediate. Inexpensive. And accessible. But what are they saying? Where are they getting their information? Who is keeping them accountable? Triple J's Hack recently did an investigation on a teenager whose chatbot told him to kill himself. This was a 13-year-old boy.

Vulnerable people are falling in love with their AI. It feels sinister and unsafe and not a pathway to connection, but psychosis.

We who were forests become pot plants. Who will water us? Globally AI-related infrastructure are getting close to using more water than Denmark, a country of 6 million. AI systems require more power, and are therefore dependent on an energy grid that burns more coal, fuelling the climate crisis.

So this week, I turn off my maps. I find my way through memory and instinct. I use oral storytelling of old dudes at petrol stations. So what if I get lost, remember what they say, it's not the destination, it's the journey.

AI is stealing our journey! Take it back.

■ 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

While Saturn and Uranus join Pluto, Neptune and Chiron in outer planetary retrograde, on earthworld spring has sprung and Mercury in Virgo plants September's feet on terra firma...



VIRO THE VIRGIN

ARIES: A creative idea always appeals to you, but it only really starts sparking when paired with a concrete plan, which September's celestial energies are eager to support. That said, this week's shadow side could be fussy, finicky and flaw-finding, so challenge yourself to remain graceful and solution-oriented.

TAURUS: As strategic Mercury in minimalist mode directs you to streamline and simplify, give the contents of your cupboards, closets and storage spaces an unflinching review. Donate or give away whatever doesn't embellish your current reality. Then, more importantly, don't race to replace it. Aim for fewer, more precious, possessions.

GEMINI: While this week's Uranus backtracking in Gemini accelerates the current period of world flux and uncertainty, on the bright side there's no better time for twins to reinvent themselves. Suggested starting point? Subtracting screen time and downsizing a cluttered to-do list first, before adding new fixes.

CANCER: Decluttering and downsizing aren't two of Cancerians' favourite things (you like to stash and amass), but September announces an efficiency mission to sort, file and organise your physical, social and virtual worlds. And this week invites you to say *sayonara* tepid friendships, hello newly renovated relationships.

LEO: When people overstep the fine line between helpful advice and just plain judgy, you can feel like nothing you do is good enough. But take the best of feedback and leave the rest, because Venus in Leo is way too busy doing the spring thing, mixing and mingling at fashionable gatherings.

VIRO: With a sun/Mercury synch-up in your service-oriented sign, try to resist offering help from a sense of obligation. This is *your* month, remember? To delegate where possible so you can do what you do best. To bring that kindness you expend on others home to your deserving self.

LIBRA: Your astrological north node has already decreed this a year of refining and downsizing, and Mars in Libra for most of September is your enthusiastic and energetic assistant. Easy though: no need to go to Libran Marie Kondo extremes. Mars in your sign requires large doses of temperance and patience.

SCORPIO: As five outer planets retrograde put the world on hold, it's worth revisiting, reviewing and updating your core skills. Communication principle Mercury at its most critical and analytical this month quite suits the Scorpio mindset, but keep those incisive skills directed towards solving the problems of September's inevitable discords.

SAGITTARIUS: Virgo season is synonymous with spring-cleaning, whether that's decluttering your workspace, doing a digital detox or fine-tuning diet and wellness regimes. September's lean, clean and green ethos inspires increased attention to conscious consumerism and environmentally-focused, sustainably-sourced, eco-chic shopping choices.

CAPRICORN: With your mentor planet Saturn backtracking into a flurry of mixed messages, attempts to read between the lines could leave you feeling perplexed or upset this week. Even if you're doing a major part of the heavy lifting, as Capricorns tend to, be advised that confronting discussions are best addressed later in September.

AQUARIUS: Your planetary GPS Uranus spinning into a five-month reversal in your zone of social exchanges starts a period of re-evaluation and innovation in how you communicate, think and connect. Be prepared to question long-standing beliefs and investigate new ideas that challenge entrenched thinking.

PISCES: Saturn slipping backwards into your soulful sign could bring an unwelcome, but nevertheless necessary dose of reality checking. For which listening to wise advice from inspirational but practical, down-to-earth others could take you in a new direction, invited by Jupiter opening up a new opportunity.

Sample Food Festival

The 13th annual Sample Food Festival

Bangalow Showgrounds, Saturday, 6 September from 8am to 4pm

The 2025 festival promises to be a vibrant celebration of culinary artistry, bringing together food lovers, chefs, and local producers at the picturesque Bangalow Showgrounds.

Attendees can anticipate a dynamic blend of live cooking demonstrations, a mystery box chef's duel, a chef's panel hosted by Alex Mitcheson, interactive workshops, a tasting tent, and an eclectic mix of entertainment to complement the rich array of dishes available for sampling from \$5 to \$15. You can learn how to take beautiful food photos, or pop in to a pop-up bar.

This year's program shines a spotlight on sustainability and offers a wide range of interactive workshops and masterclasses, from foraging walks with Peter Hardwick and kids' cooking with chef Jedd Rifai, to spirit tastings with Cape Byron Distillery, agave and mezcal sessions, fermentation classes, and a hands-on ceviche and pisco masterclass. Weaving and yarning circles will also be held, supporting local First Nations advocacy such as the Bundjalung Ballina GMARS Group, who advocate against the removal of Aboriginal children from immediate and extended families.

The event is an all-ages event, with lots of activities for the little ones to explore. Kids under 16 are free to enter. Patrons are encouraged to bring their own cups, cutlery and water bottles.

Join this full day of culinary discovery of the finest restaurants, produces and tastes of the stunning Northern Rivers. Bring your appetite, it's going to be a feast for the senses.

■ For more information head over to: samplefoodevents.com

■ Tickets on sale at Oztix or at the gate: www.oztix.com.au/landingpage/page/?name=samplefoodfest25



A taste of the action from previous Sample Festivals. Photos by Jeff 'Snaps and Snacks' Dawson

Cooking stage program

- 10:00-11:30 Mystery Box Chefs' Duel
- 12:00-13:00 Cooking Demonstration by Tiffany Jones (Executive Chef, Forest at Crystalbrook)
- 13:00-13:20 Sample's Golden Fork Awards
- 13:30-14:30 Chef's Panel hosted by Alex Mitcheson
- 15:00-16:00 Cooking Demonstration by Craig Robertson (Executive Chef, Elements Azure)

Workshops and masterclasses

- 09:30-10:30 | 11:00-12:00 - Foraging with Peter Hardwick
- 10:00-11:30 Kids Cooking with Jedd Rifai
- 10:00-11:30 | 12:00-13:30 | 14:00-15:30 - Weaving with Ballina GMARS
- 12:00-13:00 Fermenting Workshop with Katrina Lazereva (Byron Fermentary)
- 12:15-13:00 Ceviche and Pisco Masterclass with Franco and Andres (Bonito)
- 13:15-13:45 Agave Spirit Masterclass with Julz Recsei (North Byron Liquor Merchant)
- 14:45-15:30 Brookie's Spritz Masterclass with Eddie Brook (Brookie's Gin)



NINBELLA



Artwork by local legend Leah Anketell. Title: Flying Solo 152 x 152 cms Oils on Canvas.

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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 EATERY

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.


BRUNSWICK HEADS

River
WILD AT HEART • LOCAL BY NATURE

River - Wild at Heart
Thu 5pm - 9pm / Fri, Sat, 12pm - 9pm
Sun 12pm - 6pm
26 Mullumbimbi St, Brunswick Heads
(02) 6685 5739
www.riverrestaurantbruns.com.au
Reservations:
www.riverrestaurantbruns.com.au/book

Guided by the ethos "Wild at Heart, Local by Nature", River is a celebration of Northern Rivers produce, people, and provenance - a space where community and creativity come together over beautiful food and wine.

CATERING



CELEBRATIONS BY LIZ JACKSON

Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson
lizzijackson@gmail.com
0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.

BYRON BAY

Main Street
BURGER BAR

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

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

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.

ROCA

Roca Byron Bay
Opening hours:
7am to late every day
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 every day
Tuesdays: \$3 Oysters from 5pm
Wednesday: \$30 Lamb & Malbec from 5pm

FOREST

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.

Good Taste

DEAL OF THE WEEK

Australian Hotel Ballina
Sunday 7 September - Fathers Day Special
Shout Dad a pub main and they'll sling him a free beer to go with it!
Australian Hotel | 103 River Street, Ballina

Find more tasty morsels at
Echo.net.au



The Good Life

Grow Your Own Lunchbox Challenge returns to Mullumbimby Farmers Market

The Grow Your Own Lunchbox Challenge returns soon to Mullumbimby Farmers Market, uniting local schools in a vibrant celebration of food grown and prepared by children.

Launched in 2015 by market manager Allie Godfrey, the event was designed to keep school kitchen gardens thriving, while teaching children to connect with the source of their food. 'The kids love it,' says Allie, 'They get to show off the amazing things they've grown and turn them into something delicious and healthy.'

This year's event will be compered by Phil Dudman, well-known horticulturist, garden designer and ABC North Coast Good Gardening



Kids turn what they've grown into delicious, healthy food.

radio host, who is also Horticultural Editor of ABC Organic Gardener magazine.

On the day, schools set up colourful marquees filled with produce and handmade goods, before competing across four categories:

1. Best Veggie Garden
2. Value-Added Product (such as jams, teas or preserves)
3. Marketing Idea to Sustain Their Garden
4. Best Lunchbox – a main dish, two snacks and a drink, created from garden produce and market ingredients.

Past entries have included Davidson plum jam, cassava bread, herb teas, frittatas, fermented vegetables and even bread baked from wheat grown by students themselves. All entries must be seasonal,

local, healthy and easy to prepare, encouraging practical food skills from an early age.

Judging is carried out by local farmers and organic growers, who also share gardening tips and advice. Prize money is reinvested back into school gardens, funding worm farms, irrigation, seed saving and even bee hotels.

'This is grassroots education,' says Allie. 'It's so inspiring to see children so knowledgeable and excited about food. They really are the farmers of the future.'

The event will take place on Friday, September 5 from 8:30am to 11:00am.

■ Mullum Farmers Market takes place every Friday from 7am to 11am.



Three Blue Ducks: Father's Day is just an excuse!

With the warmer weather starting, it's better than ever to eat at Three Blue Ducks, located at the entrance to Byron and set on an 80-acre working farm with a macadamia orchard. The open setting and pastoral views combine with the locally-sourced and house-made produce to allow the good vibes to flow – whether you're a local or a visitor, it's a great place to pretend you're on a holiday from the everyday while enjoying ethical, organic and delicious food!

Although you don't need an excuse to enjoy yourself, with Father's Day fast approaching this Sunday, Three Blue Ducks is a place to combine both a memorable meal on this special occasion with dad, and

an enjoyable activity with the children in Byron.

On Sunday, 7 September, dads can start the day with a breakfast special of pulled pork, charred pineapple salsa, fried egg and crispy flatbread. Lunch highlights include sea-fed scotch fillet; Australian Bay lobster with garlic sauce and frites; 600gm rib-eye on the bone; Australian Bay lobster and garlic sauce; and coal-roasted whole market fish with Ducks' curry paste, bean shoots and coriander. Their signature Sunday roast will also be on offer during the evening, as well as live music from 1pm and happy hour from 3pm to 5pm.

■ For more info, visit threeblueducks.com.

Santos: Wild Octave celebrates its first birthday

Santos Organics has long been woven into the fabric of the Northern Rivers food scene, connecting people with organic produce, local growers, and sustainable food systems for over four decades. As a social enterprise and not-for-profit, they say, 'our mission has always been bigger than food alone. We exist to nourish community while supporting the people who make conscious living possible.'

That's why they are especially proud to be collaborating with Wild Octave in Brunswick Heads, a much-loved store and cafe that has been part of the community for over 25 years. Originally a local haven for organic produce and connection, the space entered an exciting new chapter last year when it rebranded as Wild Octave and was taken on by new owner, Jackie.

This month, Santos are teaming up to celebrate Wild Octave's first birthday under



Jackie, owner of Wild Octave in Brunswick Heads. It's a place to 'strengthen the bonds that make this community so special!'

its new name and vision.

For Santos Organics, the connection runs deep. Santos General Manager, Rob Baldwin says, 'Jackie was once a valued member of our team, and her passion for health foods, sustainability, and community wellbeing has only grown since. Now, as the owner of Wild Octave, she has created a sanctuary where locals can find nourishment, sit and connect, and feel part

of something bigger.'

'Wild Octave is more than a health food store, she explains, 'It's a place for people to recharge, share in good food, and strengthen the bonds that make this community so special.'

Rob says, 'Seeing Jackie carry forward the ethos she once shared with us into her own venture is a proud moment for Santos Organics. It highlights the ripple effect

that happens when values are lived and shared.'

'At Santos Organics, we believe there's nothing more important than supporting those who are doing the real work of sustaining our food systems. From local farmers to food innovators and passionate advocates like Jackie, these are the people who ensure our region continues to thrive as a leader in conscious food culture. So, as Wild Octave celebrates its first birthday, we're not just marking a milestone for a local store, we're celebrating the strength of our food community and the shared vision for a healthier, more sustainable future in the Northern Rivers.'

'Here's the challenge, pause before heading to the big chains. Choosing your local independent health food store is a powerful act. It keeps money in the community, supports people who carefully curate healthy products and helps safeguard the future of our food systems.'

Eat Drink magazine out now

Your free guide to the Northern Rivers' tastiest offerings

Read it online here:

Join us for a Family-Friendly Farm Tour AT THE PADDOCK PROJECT

LOVE 9:30 to 11:30am 13TH SEPTEMBER

Discover how a productive organic market garden really works. Look at regenerative farming and what makes The Paddock Project truly unique.

NORTH COAST HOTEL

fathers day

With every booking Dad gets a free home made hot sauce

BIG FAT OPEN SKIES BBQ

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 7TH 12:00PM

Featuring Matt Armitage from 12:30-3:30pm

ART GALLERIES

ARTIST STUDIO GALLERY

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

ARTIST'S STUDIO GALLERY

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

BLUE KNOB HALL GALLERY

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

BURRINGBAR GALLERY

Fairview Studios
114 Stewarts Road, Clunes
Open Saturday and Sunday
John Stewart **0406 404 335**
byronclayworkersgallery.com.au

BYRON CLAY WORKERS GALLERY

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

GALLERY COSMOSIS

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

GARAGE GALLERY

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

H'ART GALLERY

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

KARENA WYNN-MOYLAN, FINE ART

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

LISMORE REGIONAL GALLERY

11 Rural St, Lismore, Bundjalung Country NSW
Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am-4pm,
Thursdays until 6pm
lismoregallery.org | [@lismoreregionalgallery](https://www.instagram.com/lismoreregionalgallery)

LONE GOAT GALLERY

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

MULLUMBIMBY CLAY WORKERS GALLERY

Drill Hall Complex,
2 Jubilee Ave, Mullumbimby
Open Thursday to Saturday 11am-3pm
mullumclayworkers.com

NORTHERN RIVERS COMMUNITY GALLERY

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

STUDIO SUVIRA

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

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY & MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE

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

THE WBL2 ARTS WBL2 ARTSFOCUS



CREATE ART STUDIO – FREE TRIAL, HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS AND PRIVATE BOOKINGS

FREE TRIAL CLASSES

Create Art Studio in Mullumbimby is excited to welcome new students with a FREE trial art class! Their after-school program runs every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 4 to 5.30pm. Enrolments are now open for term 4. Early birds receive 20% off!

HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

This school break, kids can dive into creativity with colourful axolotls on canvas and quirky monster clay sculptures. Choose from half or full day creative workshops – the perfect way to get inspired, make friends, and build confidence.

PRIVATE BOOKINGS

Adults can celebrate in style at the beautiful, light-filled Create Art studio. They host unforgettable events for hens' parties, birthdays, and special gatherings. Enjoy creative workshops like life drawing, painting or sculpture, complete with grazing tables, live models, and music to set the mood.

Join them at 69 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby.
Book now at www.createart.studio

Ewingsdale Community Association &
Create In Byron presents...

LIFE DRAWING



11TH OF
SEPTEMBER
2025

6PM - 8PM

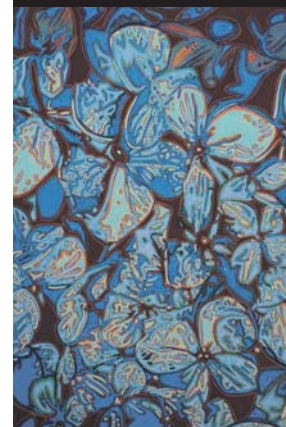
EWINGSDALE HALL
WILLIAM FLICK LANE

MATERIALS &
MODEL CURRY + WINE
AVAILABLE

TICKETS \$45.00
+ \$15.00 FOOD & WINE



H'ART
GALLERY



Art in the heart
INSPIRED LOCAL ART

Mullumbimby
Comprehensive Health Centre

SEE ENVIRONMENTAL ICON
BOB BROWN IN
CONVERSATION AT A&I HALL

Byron Writers Festival invites you to a special evening event with Bob Brown in conversation about his new memoir, *Defiance*.

For more than 50 years, Bob Brown has stood on the frontline of environmental action. In *Defiance: Stories from Nature and Its Defender*, he reflects on the beauty of nature, the challenges of protecting it, and the courage it takes to keep going. Told with Brown's trademark warmth and humour, these stories will galvanise, uplift and inspire.

When: Monday, October 13

Time: 6:30pm

Where: A&I Hall, Station St Bangalow

(bar and food available)

Price: \$40 general, \$35 festival friend (plus booking fee)

Tickets: www.byronwritersfestival.com

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

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

Over the past five years this unique gallery has showcased more than 300 artworks by 35 distinctive local artists, establishing itself as a cornerstone of the Northern Rivers arts community. Curated by renowned graphic impressionist Solveig, the two-floor gallery is a dynamic, healing environment where art meets wellbeing.

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

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

60 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby

<https://solveig.com.au>

WATER CONNECTS US ALL

Nickolla Clark

August 15 – November 9, 2025

'Waterways have sustained Bundjalung for centuries, they are the bloodline of Country.'

Water Connects Us All by Arakwal Bundjalung artist Nickolla Clark celebrates the traditional practices of Bundjalung people and their rich cultural heritage associated with water. Clark's works share important messages taught by her ancestors, and call attention to the ongoing urgency to sustain waterways from further damage.

Recipient of the Bundjalung Award, Wollumbin Art Award 2024, sponsored by the Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Ltd. A Tweed Regional Gallery initiative.

Tweed Regional Gallery & Margaret Olley Art Centre

2 Mistral Rd, South Murwillumbah

02 6670 2790 / gallery.tweed.nsw.gov.au



Nickolla Clark / *Ning Gawang (Quiet Lake) 2025*

Acrylic on canvas / 40 x 45 cm

Image courtesy the artist © The artist



LIFE DRAWING AT
EWINGSDALE HALL

Immerse yourself in an evening of creativity while helping preserve a piece of local history. Ewingsdale Hall is a much-loved heritage building, owned and cared for by the Ewingsdale Community Association. Unlike many venues, it receives no government support, so every event and fundraiser helps them maintain this beautiful community space.

This Life Drawing session is part of their effort to bring fresh, engaging activities to the Byron community. By attending, you're not only enjoying art and connection but also contributing directly to the upkeep of a historic hall that continues to host weddings, parties, and community events.

Come sketch, share and support, your presence helps preserve Ewingsdale Hall as a gathering place for generations to come.

Bookings: Scan the QR code in the display ad.

NATURE CO

Nature Co is opening its doors in Brunswick Heads on September 3, marking the beginning of an exciting new space where art, nature and community intersect. The gallery will showcase the works of three local artists – Susy Boyer, Tiffany Kingston and Tanya Ogilvie-White – each with a distinctive style, but all known for creating art that is inspired by the natural world. As well as exhibitions, Nature Co will host events and hands-on workshops, inviting the community to join the creative adventure. In keeping with its ethos, the gallery will partner with local wildlife and conservation charities, using art to raise awareness and drive positive action.

Launch event: September 12, 4.30 to 7pm. All welcome.
2/3 Park Street, Brunswick Heads / @naturecoaustralia

create
art.studio

Enrol now!

FREE trial

www.createart.studio

Water connects us all
Nickolla Clark
15 August – 9 November 2025



Recipient of the Bundjalung Award, Wollumbin Art Award 2024, sponsored by the Tweed Regional Gallery Foundation Ltd. A Tweed Regional Gallery initiative.

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

TWEED REGIONAL GALLERY
& MARGARET OLLEY ART CENTRE



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

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

b Byron Writers Festival '25

Bob Brown
in conversation

13 October, A&I Hall

Tickets → byronwritersfestival.com



Nature co.

GALLERY
OPENING

12th September
4.30pm-7.00pm

Open Wednesday - Sunday
Shop 2/3 Park Street
Brunswick Heads

@naturecoaustralia

ART GALLERY . GIFTWARE . WORKSHOPS . EVENTS



Some special creatures return to the Tweed River!

Look who's back in the Tweed River every evening from 6–9.30pm in Murwillumbah. After a short break, the public artwork 'Encounters' has returned, bringing prehistoric magic to life. As the sun sets over Wollumbin, gaze into the river from Murwillumbah Bridge to witness this breathtaking installation by internationally-acclaimed artist Craig Walsh. Prehistoric creatures emerge from the depths in this immersive experience, reimagining extinct species in the heart of the Tweed. Encounters continues Walsh's celebrated series exploring waterways and their layered histories. Don't miss this stunning blend of art, nature and storytelling. Visit the museum website or socials for full details — and prepare to be amazed!

Tweed Regional Museum
2 Queensland Rd, Murwillumbah
museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au



NRSO Chamber Ensemble

A sublime performance awaits, as the NRSO Chamber Ensemble musicians take us through an enchanting musical journey. Featuring Ayesha Gough (piano), Hugh Won (violin), Alison Fletcher (violin), Nigel Bardsley (viola), and Katherine Hopkins (cello), this magnificent program showcases:

- Mozart Oboe Quartet KV370 featuring soloist, Nicholas Donnelly (oboe)
- Mendelssohn Piano Trio No.2 in C minor
- Brahms Piano Quintet in F minor Op. 34

Enchanting Ensemble is on Sunday, 7 September, 2.30pm, at Tweed Heads Civic Centre.

YES, it's on Father's Day! If your dad loves music, this afternoon will be an absolute treat for him. Bring him for a delightful afternoon that will lift both your spirits for days. If you're a dad, then bring the kids! School kids' tickets are free with yours. You'll all be truly inspired by the world class music right here on the Tweed. What a wonderful way to celebrate Father's Day together!

Book via www.nrso.com.au

TWEED REGIONAL MUSEUM Proudly funded by **NSW GOVERNMENT**

STREET PARTY

FREE

WITH A LIVE MUSIC STAGE FEATURING

AMBER ROSE
BETTY TAYLOR
BLIND CORNERS
COSMIC VICE
DENNIS
THE JACKS

SATURDAY 6 SEPTEMBER (3-9 PM)
QUEENSLAND RD, MURWILLUMBAH

LIVE BAND LINEUP • ART INSTALLATIONS • CRAFT WORKSHOPS
PARTY BAR • KIDS FUN • MUSEUM ON WHEELS • FOOD STALLS
ADVENTURE GAMES • STREET PERFORMERS

Scan the QR Code for more information or visit museum.tweed.nsw.gov.au/street-party





Flannerys Organic Wholefood Market: Murwillumbah

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

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

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

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

66 Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah
02 6678 2284
murwillumbah@flannerys.com.au
Flannerys.com.au
[@flannerysorganic](https://www.instagram.com/flannerysorganic)

Belle M Boutique

In the heart of Murwillumbah, Belle M Boutique has all your fashion and accessories covered, with a great range of lingerie, stylish footwear, handbags and jewellery.

Their friendly staff will assist you with finding the perfect pieces to enhance your confidence and complete your look, as well as offering assistance with bra fittings.

Gift vouchers and 8-week lay-by are also available.

114 Murwillumbah Street, Murwillumbah
Call 02 6672 1224 or 0428 135 092
missey.bell359@gmail.com
[@belle_m_boutique](https://www.instagram.com/belle_m_boutique)



Services offered by **Tweed River Timbers** include:

- Saw Milling
- Custom timber benchtops, vanities, tables, shelving, bird feeders and more.
- Kiln Drying timber
- Timber sanding and dressing
- General timber sales
- Wholesale and Retail

sales@tweedrivertimbers.com.au
 or call Peter on 0428 454 504.

Tweed River Timbers

Tweed River Timbers is an Australian-owned wholesale and retail company using locally-sourced timber species. Their services include saw milling, kiln drying, sanding and dressing and supplying DIY timber products. They specialise in custom timber bench tops, vanities, tables and shelving. Tweed River Timbers also create timeless, one-off bespoke pieces from sustainable products including lamps, bird-feeders and coffee tables.

0428 454 504
sales@tweedrivertimbers.com.au

Beautiful colours, cool fabrics and styles to suit most occasions.
 Highest quality leather European made shoes.
 Socials @BELLE M BOUTIQUE
 114 Main Street, Murwillumbah. 2484
02 667 1224



Northern Rivers Symphony Orchestra presents
Ecnhanting Ensemble
 Featuring musicians of the NRSO Chamber Ensemble
MENDELSSOHN Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor
MOZART Oboe Quartet KV370
BRAHMS Piano Quintet in F minor OP.34
Date: Sunday 7th September, 2025
Time: 2.30pm
Venue: Tweed Heads Civic Centre
 Purchase tickets at nrso.com.au
 or at Murwillumbah Music **02 6672 5404**
 Enquiries **0478 012 324**

Your Local Organic Food Store
 gluten free & plant based options
 certified organic fruit & veg
 qualified naturopaths
 bulk wholefoods
 organic skincare
 & more
 Shop 1, 66 Murwillumbah Street
flannerys.com.au

ENCOUNTERS
 The Tweed River has some exciting new residents.
FREE PROJECTION SHOW
MURWILLUMBAH BRIDGE
 6:00 - 9PM DAILY
 TWEED REGIONAL MUSEUM
 NSW GOVERNMENT

Seven



seven days of entertainment

Eclectic Selection

What's on this week



Part of the alternative surf culture of Byron Bay, Australian **Micka Scene** hits straight to the heart with his unmistakable voice. Implementing Weissenborn slide into a dynamic songwriter's web, he mixes rock, folk, ska and soul.

Wednesday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show.



With a unique guitar-playing and vocal style, **Jerome Williams** seamlessly fuses elements of classic roots with contemporary and progressive genres, bridging the generation gap as a true pioneering young spirit.

Friday from 8pm at the Beach Hotel. Free show.

Gold Coast local **Steve Savage** has been playing solo gigs in the area for two years. With quality guitar and looping, his blues, alt-country, classic rock, from

the '90s, '80s, '70s and '60s, are the ideal soundtrack for an evening in the beer garden.

Saturday from 5pm at the Kingscliff Beach Bowls Club. Free show.



Music legend **Leo Sayer** has spent over five decades as an iconic singer and songwriter. With this performance, Leo and his band bring boundless energy, exuberance and a hit-packed show – and, he still feels like dancing!

Saturday 8pm at the Twin Towns Showroom. Tickets \$79 from twintowns.com.au.

Lismore Jazz Club presents **Kwasi Bruni**, an Afro-Cuban big band project – expect a night of high-energy dance music, salsa, son, and mambo, paying homage to the music of Cachao Lopez, and other great Latin jazz and salsa big-band leaders of the '60s and '70s.

Sunday from 2pm at Lismore City Bowlo. Tickets from \$20 at the door.



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

Sunday from 1pm at the Billinudgel Hotel. Free show.



Leigh James sings and plays guitar effortlessly, as if music was as natural to him as breathing – he has a keen ear for the right sound for any venue, he's a true professional with a sparkling talent including four Dolphin Awards in his kitchen cupboard.

Tuesday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show.



Full bloom in the 'House

With the season in full bloom, there are simply not enough days in the month to squeeze in all the shows on the **Brunswick Picture House** program.

First, the outrageous and hysterical boylesque troupe **Briefs Factory** are returning to Bruns for a two-week residency, fresh off their world tour. Fierce and provocative, all to a pumping soundtrack, the gang is stomping it out for eight sessions of **Club Briefs** from **Thursday, September 25 to Sunday, October 5**. Then, they're turning the game show format upside down with the raucous **Bearded Bingo** from **Sunday, September 28 to Sunday, October 5**.

For the kiddies – the mischief makers will bring a high-energy, super-fun, glitter-bombing afternoon all-ages show with **Brats Carnival** on **Thursday and Friday, October 3 and 4**.

As the home of comedy in the Northern Rivers, the 'House bring you two superstar comedians on the rise: the clever and creative award-winning **Damien Power** this **Saturday night** and the quirky, sparkling and quick-

witted **Emma Holland** the following **Saturday, September 13**.

Australian music royalty is often seen on the Picture House stage and now **Clare Bowditch** can be added to the list, in celebration of the 20th anniversary of her ARIA-winning breakthrough album **What Was Left** on **Sunday, September 21**.

Born into a musical family, the teen troubadour and Northern Rivers' own **Lyric Moses** graces the stage for their musical debut on **Saturday, September 13** – tickets are only **\$10!**

Acclaimed ensemble **Bandaluzia** presents their exhilarating and dazzling display of contemporary flamenco music and dance on **Friday, September 12**, and **FINALLY, Cye Wood, Linsey Pollak and Tunji Beier**, three masterful musicians and world-class improvisers, are bringing together an exotic blend of instrumentation in their first show as a trio on **Sunday, September 14**.

Tickets for all shows at brunswickpicturehouse.com

**35-43 JONSON ST
 BYRON BAY
 6685 6454**

THENORTHERN.COM.AU
 @thenorthernbyronbay

WED 3 SEP	Front Bar: Dan Hannaford 6pm-9pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm	THUR 4 SEP	Front Bar: Ino Pio 6pm + DJ Quendo 9:30pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
FRI 5 SEP	Front Bar: Jock Barnes Duo 7pm-10pm + DJ Billy Bailey 10:30pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: BIG SOUND AFTERPARTY 8pm doors FREE ENTRY		
SAT 6 SEP	Front Bar: Kane Muir Duo 7pm + DJ Oren Selecta 10pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: KRYSTAL RIVVERS 7:30pm doors		
SUN 7 SEP	Front Bar: Matty Rogers 6pm + DJ Zac Ewing 8pm \$15 MARGIS ALL DAY, 2X TACOS \$16, COMBO MARGI + 2 TACOS \$27		
MON 8 SEP	Front Bar: Alex Bowen 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm	TUES 9 SEP	Front Bar: Marshall Okell 6pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

BESTIES
Free entry!
FRI: BIG SOUND AFTERPARTY

SAT: KRYSTAL RIVVERS

SUN: MARGIS & TACOS!



A fair amount of fun

Shearwater brings back all the fun of the fair this month, with the Mullumbimby Steiner School's much-loved annual community **Spring Fair** on **Saturday** from **10am to 3pm**.

Want to know more about Steiner education? Don't miss the **morning sessions from 10am to 12 noon**, when puppet shows will be underway at Little Shearwater, and the Primary School classrooms will be open to visitors, with teachers available to talk about the learning program and answer questions. And don't miss the opportunity to join **Shearwater Head of School Jane Beattie**, for a **stroll around the beautiful Shearwater campus, at 12 midday**.

The Enchanted Forest will feature craft activities and games for the littlies. Make a spring flower crown or wand, fossick for crystals, or mix up some herbal bath salts. And of course, **Spaghetti Circus** will be brewing up all kinds of fun for tumbling, juggling, hoola-hooping types!

For the big kids and teens, **Sideshow Alley** is

filled with old-fashioned fair fun, like the coconut shy, pillow fight, sock wrestling and photo booth. And for those who like their Saturday sporty, there are plenty of games on offer, or test your mettle on the 8m rock-climbing wall.

The Village Green will feature plenty of yummy food and drinks, with an array of produce and products grown on the Shearwater Farm, including pickled ginger, kimchi, sauerkraut and herbal tea blends made by Year 9 and 10 students.

Music performances will be on throughout the day, with strings, percussion, and choir in the morning and not-to-be-missed high school performances in the afternoon, and Steiner toys and craft supplies will be for sale.

So pull up a hay bale and fill your cup with community, connection and celebration as we move into the longer, warmer days of spring.

Shearwater School is at 349 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby and shearwater.nsw.edu.au.

Vibe and beats at the museum

This Saturday vibes + beats will take over the museum and surrounds when the **Tweed Regional Museum's** annual **Street Party 2025** lights up the night.

Enjoy an epic afternoon of exhibitions, live music and entertainment for all ages – with a huge main stage line-up featuring **Betty Taylor, DENNIS, Blind Corners** and **Amber Rose**, plus a silent disco, creative workshops, interactive art works, kids' adventure game, and more.

Fuel up on local flavours and tasty street eats, then step inside the museum to explore **Speak Easy** – the fascinating new exhibition uncovering how we've connected through technology, from Morse code to mobile phones.

This event is free – from 3pm to 9pm. Don't miss the Tweed's biggest party at the Tweed Regional Museum, 2 Queensland Rd, Murwillumbah.



BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE

AN EPIC MONTH OF UNMISSABLE SHOWS!

SAT 6 SEP DAMIEN POWER **SELLING FAST**

FRI 12 SEP BANDALUZIA FLAMENCO **SELLING FAST**

SAT 13 SEP LYRIC MOSES **LIVE MUSIC**

SAT 13 SEP EMMA HOLLAND **COMEDY**

SUN 14 SEP CYEWOOD + LINSEY POLLAK + TUNJI BEIER **LIVE MUSIC**

SUN 21 SEP CLARE BOWDITCH **SELLING FAST**

THU 25 SEP - 5 OCT CLUB BRIEFS **CABARET** **CIRCUS**

SUN 28 SEP & SUN 5 OCT BEARDED BINGO **GAME SHOW**

FRI 3 & SAT 4 OCT BRATS CARNIVAL **ALL AGES** **CIRCUS**

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nudge nudge Wink wink

PARTY WITH A CONSCIENCE

FEATURING DJs

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SNOW MONKEY

LAINIE GODIVA

DALE STEPHEN

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+ SURPRISES & DELIGHTS / PERFORMANCES BY

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SUPPORTING LOCAL CHARITY / Liberation Larder

CUNNING STUNTS **BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE**

E&L DRONCO Printworks

WILD MARMALADE

FREE SUNDAY SESH

SUN 7TH SEPT

BEACH HOTEL BYRON BAY 4-7PM



Seven

The prisoner of Krystal Rivvers

Krystal Rivvers, from Sydney on Eora country, have just revealed their latest single 'Prisoner' – produced by Jack Moffitt (The Preatures) and engineered and mixed by Reyne House (Dope Lemon, The Delta Riggs).

'Prisoner' is a brooding, alt-rock offering that captures the tension between desire, disconnection and the search for meaning in late-night city life. The track pairs frontman Earl Weir's brooding vocal delivery with a haunting and ethereal chorus performance from Polly Cooper (Hatchling). The result is a push and pull between lust and introspection – from strobe-lit dance floors to the quieter moments in between.

Weir says 'Prisoner' is the result of a late night out in the city and returning home to rough out some ideas on the acoustic guitar and voice memo. 'It's about wanting what you don't need – and needing what you can't quite hold onto. The hook had a lot of back and forth, and we thought Polly would be perfect to bring the brightness it needed; her lead vocal really lights it up.'

To celebrate the release of 'Prisoner', Krystal Rivvers will play three special shows, one at **The Northern Hotel** in Byron Bay on Bundjalung country.

Outside of Krystal Rivvers, lead singer **Earl Weir** is also a host of a First Nations radio program and serves on the First Nations advisory committee for Waverley, working on cultural projects, recognition, and community initiatives. He also runs a mental health surfing comp called Mullet PRO. Earl says he's passionate about his Aboriginal culture and speaking out against racism. 'I feel fortunate to be able to do the work I do. I started Mullet PRO owing to losing my best friend ten years ago; mental health is an issue that's very close to my heart.'

See Krystal Rivvers at The Northern on Saturday from 7.30pm. Tickets: thenorthern.com.au.

He's a maniac

Emerging pop artist **Ronan Maclean** released his debut EP, *The Maniac EP*, last week – the project showcases Maclean's versatility and strong pop music instincts, blending inspirations across four distinct tracks – all written, produced, and performed by the artist.

The lead single 'I Hope U Never Know Her' is out now and fans will be hearing these songs and more this September when Ronan Maclean embarks on his first headline tour, The Maniac EP tour, with his band. Maclean will be performing at venues in Byron Bay, the Gold Coast, and Brisbane.

Originally from Brisbane, Maclean is inspired by artists like Justin Bieber and Ruel. He has built a loyal following through consistent releases and an authentic, hands-on approach to his craft with previous singles like 'Love Situation' and 'Robbery' receiving praise for their sharp production and catchy writing. Maclean has performed on ABC radio Gold Coast and has received support from Triple J.

Catch Ronan Maclean from 7pm on Thursday at the Arts Factory Garden Bar, Byron Bay and on Saturday, September 13 from 12pm for an all-ages show at Mo's Desert Clubhouse Burleigh Heads.



Nudging the way out of hibernation

Nudge Nudge Wink Wink is about to return 'the party with a conscience' from a winter break – Cunning Stunts are back with a bang as Nudge Nudge Wink Wink launches its tenth season on Saturday.

Known across the Northern Rivers and beyond as one of the region's most iconic community dance events, Nudge Nudge Wink Wink blends feel-good rhythm, heart-led impact, and an atmosphere unlike any other.

Over nine seasons, Nudge Nudge Wink Wink has become more than just a party – it's a movement. With over \$433,000 raised for 41 local charities since 2015, every event brings rhythm, revelry, and real community impact. Now season ten kicks off with a stacked line-up, fresh surprises, and its signature Shed magic.

The line-up for this season opener brings together a powerful mix of new and returning talent to ignite the dance floor – **Simon Caldwell** from Sydney is making his Nudge debut. A true veteran of the scene, Simon has built his reputation on versatility and passion. From deep, soulful house to techno, funk, and jazz, his sets are genre-defying journeys. A co-promoter of Sydney's iconic Mad Racket parties and host of Monday Sunset on FBI Radio, Simon has played everywhere from Panorama Bar in Berlin, to Boiler Room in Sydney. His Nudge debut promises something unforgettable.



Nudge favourite **Snow Monkey** is back in the Shed. Known for his playful spirit and eclectic selections, Snow Monkey always brings energy and cheeky flair to the dance floor. With roots spanning from London clubs to the east coast of Australia, his sets blend house, groove, and fun, in equal measure.

Lainie Godiva (Shed debut) is a rising star with a passion for old skool house, nu-disco, and funky floor-fillers. Lainie's sets are all about feel-good vibes and connection. Expect a lively journey full of nostalgia, rhythm, and boogie.

Saturday from 4pm to 11pm at the Shed, at the Billinudgel Hotel. Tickets: This event is SOLD OUT.

You can still support Liberation Larder by donating via the ticket link: https://bit.ly/Tickets_Nudge_Sept6th.

Missed out? Check Tixel for the only safe resale options – no scalpers here!

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seven days of entertainment



Without music, life would be a mistake

~ Friedrich Nietzsche

An epic sonic adventure

Wild Marmalade were born from the streets of Byron in the early 2000s. Pioneers of the didgeridoo and drum genre they are a powerful and inspirational force in the terrain of live dance music. With a long trail of shows that has circumnavigated the world many times over, Wild Marmalade are guaranteed to bring in a sea of smiles, in abundance.

From the Sydney Opera House to the main stage at BOOM Festival, and after countless tours of Europe and Japan, Wild Marmalade are now ready to return to where it all started and bring home the good vibes to Byron Bay, at the top of town, this Sunday for yet another epic sonic adventure.

It's an incredible thing to be held by the didgeridoo, and vitalised by drums, whilst being taken on a mystic trip by ripping Spanish-style guitar riffs. It's a moment where you may well find yourself tipped over into some kind of ancient trance, suddenly dancing like a wild thing, overlooking the ocean, in one of the most spectacular places in the world.

When Wild Marmalade hit the on-button day-to-day reality is radically altered. The bass of the didgeridoo is heavy. It's visceral, the sound resonating through every cell in the body. It's a one-way ticket in multiple directions for our hands and feet. When the beat kicks in, it all lands right here, right now, in the centre. Ochre red and orange burning inside as our primal beings kick it in. Together.

This is free electricity and stoke from the inner realms, uniquely hand-crafted from the masters of totally live, improvised organic dance music.

This is a free Sunday sesh that's starts at 4.30pm at The Beachy, Byron Bay

www.echo.net.au



Lyrical Masterpieces

The finale of the **Conservatorium's 2025 Visiting Artist Series** is on **Saturday, September 20**, when the **Northern Rivers Conservatorium**, in partnership with **Musica Viva Australia**, presents **Lyrical Masterpieces** – an afternoon of glowing sound and radiant melody featuring violinist **Doretta Balkizas** and pianist **Brieley Cutting**.

Set in the Conservatorium's beautiful heritage concert room in the heart of Lismore CBD, the program includes works by Debussy, Brahms, Messiaen, Lili Boulanger and Australian composer Margaret Sutherland.

From shimmering French impressionism to lyrical German romanticism, this is music that nourishes both the heart and the imagination.

The performance marks the final concert in the Conservatorium's **2025 Visiting Artist Series**, which has brought world-class musicians to Lismore throughout the year. For the Conservatorium, the series is more than just concerts – it is a way of opening doors for our community, giving local audiences access to exceptional artistry without leaving the region.

The partnership with Musica Viva Australia is central to this vision. Together, they are able to bring internationally-recognised artists to Lismore, enriching the cultural life of the Northern Rivers while inspiring their own students and teachers. As Executive Director Anita Bellman says, the Visiting Artist program is about

connection. 'It connects our students with professional musicians, our audiences with extraordinary performances, and our region with the national and international music community.'

At its heart, the Northern Rivers Conservatorium is an education centre. Each week, more than 1,000 students of all ages take part in programs ranging from early childhood music classes to advanced instrumental tuition. School outreach, community workshops, and youth ensembles are all part of a commitment to making music accessible to everyone. Hosting visiting artists is an extension of that work – showing students the possibilities of where music can take them, and reminding audiences of the joy that live performance brings.

For violinist Doretta Balkizas, recently returned from a decade of performing with some of Europe's leading orchestras, and pianist Brieley Cutting, a Northern Rivers local with a national reputation for artistry and innovation, Lyrical Masterpieces is a chance to share their passion for chamber music with local audiences.

This promises to be an uplifting and memorable close to the 2025 series.

Saturday, September 20, 4pm at the NRC Concert Room, 152 Keen St, Lismore. \$40 / \$28 concession / \$18 under 18, see nrcac.edu.au/events for more details.

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The Mullumbimby Steiner School

Seven GIG GUIDE

seven days of entertainment

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CINEMA



Yes it's Mr Burton

From the producer of 2024 Oscar-winning drama, 'The Brutalist', comes the moving, untold true story of how Richie Jenkins became acting legend Richard Burton – the biggest star Wales has ever produced. Starring **Harry Lawtey** (*Industry*) as the young Burton and **Toby Jones** (*Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy*) as his influential mentor, Philip Burton, the inspiring biographical drama offers a poignant look at the transformative power of mentorship.

Set against the grit of post-war Wales, Mr. Burton is the extraordinary true story of a working-class boy destined for greatness and the teacher who saw it first. When Philip Burton, a principled and passionate schoolteacher in Port Talbot, meets Richie Jenkins, a volatile, yet gifted teen from a fractured home, he recognises a spark that others have overlooked. Through mentorship, discipline, and love, Philip shapes Richie's raw talent, setting him on the path to becoming Richard Burton, one of the greatest actors of the 20th century.

A tender exploration of identity, ambition, and the lasting influence of mentorship, Mr. Burton captivates with standout performances from Lawtey and Jones, alongside Palace favourite **Lesley Manville** (*Mrs. Harris Goes To Paris*). The result is a powerful tribute to the enduring impact of guidance and unwavering belief in another's raw potential.

www.palacecinemas.com.au

WEDNESDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **MICKA SCENE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BEN WHITING**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – BODHI ACTON & MITCHELL DORMER**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**

THURSDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **PABLO LAVERDE BAND**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO + DJ QUENDO**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – BODHI ACTON & SAM WHEAT**
- ARTS FACTORY BAR, BYRON BAY, 7PM **RONAN MACLEAN**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO HUM**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- KELP, BALLINA, **LINDY & JAY**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM **SINGER SONGWRITER NIGHT**

FRIDAY 5

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **EPIC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **PHIL AND TILLEY**, **JEROME WILLIAMS BAND**, **JAMIE LOWE**

- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **JOCK BARNES DUO + DJ BILLY BAILEY**, 8PM **BESTIES + MUMFIGHTER**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & DIZZY + SAM WHEAT & BODHI ACTON**
- CASA LUNA, BYRON BAY, 9.30PM **BANDITS, MASE & DAN MUZ**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ SALVE JORGE**
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ EMILY EMBER**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8.30PM **MARSHALL & THE FRO**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM **THE VERSACE BOYS**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6.30PM **PHIL GUEST**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **GREGG PETERSON**

SATURDAY 6

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PINK ZINC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **JOCK BARNES, QUEST DUO, DJ QUENDO**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ WILL CONNELL**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **KANE MUIR DUO + DJ OREN SELECTA**, 7.30PM **KRYSTAL RIVERS**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS – MICK BUCKLEY & SAM WHEAT + BODHI ACTON & DIZZY J**
- CASA LUNA, BYRON BAY, 9.30PM **LIZZA, MISH KELLY & KATE ELSWORTH**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM **DAMIEN POWER**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ TAZ**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 6PM **JOE CONROY**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 4PM **NUDGE NUDGE WINK WINK**

SUNDAY 7

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **TANDIA**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **WILD MARMALADE + MISS RENEE SIMONE**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 12.30PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **MATTY ROGERS + DJ ZAC EWING**
- COORABELL HALL 12PM **TANIA DE JONG**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM **DJ MONSIEUR DIOP**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **JOE CONROY**
- LENNOX HOTEL 3PM **SONIC FX**
- LENNOX PIZZA 5PM **CARLY AND GUY**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 2PM **WEAR THE FOX HAT**

MONDAY 8

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **CHRIS ARONSTEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATTHEW ARMITAGE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARK USHER + DJ WHITTI**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – BODHI ACTON & MITCHELL DORMER**
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM **SING FOR RUOK DAY**

TUESDAY 9

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **AKOVA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL**, 6PM **EARTHLESS**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS – BODHI ACTON & MITCHELL DORMER**

WEDNESDAY 10

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **FELICITY LAWLESS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARK HOWARD**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**, 11PM **DUELLING PIANOS – SHANE PARRY & DIZZY J**
- BANGALOW BOWLO 7.30PM **BANGALOW BRACKETS' OPEN MIC SESSION**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **IRISH FOLK JAM**

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

PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY, BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4
TO WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 10

COMING SOON
SPLITSVILLE

NOW SHOWING
THE ROSES

KANGAROO (PG)
FATHER'S DAY SCREENING
Sun: 1:00PM

OH, HI! (M)
FESTIVAL DARLING
Fri: 7:00PM

SKETCH (PG)
SNEAK PREVIEW
Sat: 1:45PM, Sun: 1:10PM

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS
DEMON SLAYER: KIMETSU NO YAIBA INFINITY CASTLE (MA15+)
Wed: 8:00PM

HEATHERS: THE MUSICAL (MA15+)
Thurs: 7:00PM, Sun: 3:15PM

DIAMONDS (IC)
ITALIAN FF PROSECCO PREVIEW
Wed: 6:30PM

INCEPTION – 15TH ANNIVERSARY (M)
CULT VAULT
Mon: 6:00PM

KANGAROO (PG)
FATHER'S DAY SCREENING
Sun: 1:00PM

OH, HI! (M)
FESTIVAL DARLING
Fri: 7:00PM

SKETCH (PG)
SNEAK PREVIEW
Sat: 1:45PM, Sun: 1:10PM

FAMILY FILMS
THE BAD GUYS 2 (IC)
SNEAK PREVIEW
Sat: 11:10AM, Sun: 10:45AM

ALL FILMS
BUT ALSO JOHN CLARKE (M)
Daily: 1:30PM, 6:00PM

CAUGHT STEALING (MA15+)
Daily except Wed: 11:10AM, 3:30PM, 5:45PM, 8:20PM, Wed: 11:10AM, 3:30PM, 5:45PM

EDDINGTON (MA15+)
Thurs, Fri: 4:00PM, 7:50PM, Sat, Mon, Tues: 4:00PM, 7:00PM, Sun: 3:10PM, 6:15PM, Wed: 4:00PM

F1: THE MOVIE (M)
Daily: 1:40PM

FIGHT OR FLIGHT (MA15+)
Daily: 3:45PM, 8:15PM

FREAKIER FRIDAY (PG)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:00AM, 1:40PM, Sat: 11:00AM, Sun: 11:10AM

JAWS: 50TH ANNIVERSARY (M)
Thurs, Fri, Mon, Wed: 3:20PM, Sat, Tues: 3:20PM, 7:50PM, Sun: 7:50PM

MR BURTON (M)
Daily except Thurs, Sun: 11:00AM, 12:50PM, Thurs: 11:00AM, Sun: 10:45AM, 12:50PM

SORRY, BABY (M)
Daily except Thurs, Wed: 11:00AM, 4:00PM, 6:10PM, 8:20PM, Thurs: 11:15AM, 4:00PM, 6:10PM, 8:20PM, Wed: 11:00AM, 4:00PM, 6:00PM, 8:40PM

THE CONJURING: LAST RITES (MA15+)
Daily except Wed: 1:30PM, 3:20PM, 5:50PM, 8:00PM, Wed: 1:30PM, 3:20PM, 7:00PM, 8:00PM

THE LIFE OF CHUCK (M)
Thurs, Sat: 12:00PM, 8:20PM, Fri, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 12:00PM, 8:20PM, Sun: 8:20PM, Mon: 11:00AM, 12:00PM

THE NAKED GUN (M)
Thurs: 11:10AM, 1:30PM, 6:00PM, Fri, Sat, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 6:00PM, Sun: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 8:20PM

THE NAKED GUN (M)
Thurs: 11:10AM, 1:30PM, 6:00PM, Fri, Sat, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 6:00PM, Sun: 11:00AM, 1:30PM, 8:20PM

THE ROSES (MA15+)
Daily except Wed: 11:15AM, 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:00PM, 8:15PM, Wed: 11:15AM, 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 6:30PM, 8:15PM

THE THREAD (M)
Daily except Sun: 11:15AM, 1:10PM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM, Sun: 10:45AM, 1:10PM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM

WEAPONS (MA15+)
Daily: 11:00AM, 4:40PM, 7:15PM

BUT ALSO JOHN CLARKE (M)
Daily except Sun: 2:45PM, Sun: 3:00PM

CAUGHT STEALING (MA15+)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 5:00PM, Sat, Sun: 5:00PM

FREAKIER FRIDAY (PG)
Daily except Sun: 5:10PM, Sun: 5:30PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

BUT ALSO JOHN CLARKE (M)
Daily except Sun: 2:45PM, Sun: 3:00PM

CAUGHT STEALING (MA15+)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 5:00PM, Sat, Sun: 5:00PM

FREAKIER FRIDAY (PG)
Daily except Sun: 5:10PM, Sun: 5:30PM

KANGAROO (PG)
FATHER'S DAY SCREENING
Sun: 1:00PM

ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK (PG)
Sat: 12:50PM

SKETCH (PG)
SNEAK PREVIEW
Fri, Sat, Sun: 12:15PM

THE BAD GUYS 2 (IC)
Sat, Sun: 10:00AM

12:15PM, 5:00PM, 7:15PM, Sat: 12:20PM, 5:00PM, 7:15PM, Sun: 12:20PM, 5:10PM, 7:15PM

THE FANTASTIC FOUR: FIRST STEPS (PG)
Thurs, Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:50AM

THE NAKED GUN (M)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:00AM, 7:30PM, Sat: 10:15AM, 7:30PM, Sun: 10:15AM, 7:45PM

THE ROSES (MA15+)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:10AM, 3:00PM, 7:30PM, Sat: 10:30AM, 3:00PM, 7:30PM, Sun: 10:30AM, 3:15PM, 7:40PM

WEAPONS (MA15+)
Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:20PM, 2:15PM, Sat, Sun: 2:15PM

THE CONJURING: LAST RITES (MA15+)
Daily except Sat, Sun:

6686 9600 BALLINA FAIR • 6680 8555 BYRON BAY

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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

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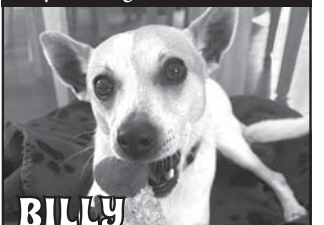
PETS

TO GIVE AWAY: free Golden Retriever puppies to forever homes due to relocating: 1 male, 1 female. Preferably email me first at stephaniechristensen59@gmail.com before texting 0448360475

PET SITTER AVAILABLE

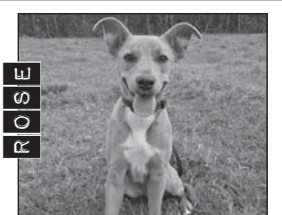
Kind, confident animal carer available for your four-legged fur baby. References available. Call Pawla on 0415340744

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



BILLY
Billy, 2 yrs. Foxy Terrier x Jack Russell, is playful, affectionate, and adores other dogs! Great with kids 6+, he's the perfect family companion. Cats and chickens untested – he may bark. Currently in foster care, Billy is learning quickly and thriving. He needs a fully fenced yard, sunny spot to laze, comfy indoor bed, and a patient owner for ongoing positive training. Ready to bring love, fun, and joy into a forever home!

MC: 991003002076496 | Donation: \$500
Call Julia 0458 461 935



ROSE
Rose is a 9 month old Kelpie/Staffy X. She is a beautiful natured pup that just wants to be loved. She would be perfect for a family who is home often and ready to give her lots of attention. Microchip # 9910030020702920
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



BENJI
9 1/2 yo Shih Tzu x Maltese Benji is an adorable, scruffy little guy who is a delight to be around and would make the ideal companion for an active retiree. Newly diagnosed with diabetes, Benji is handling the condition like a champion and is otherwise very healthy. He has a hefty stock of insulin to accompany him when he finds his forever home.
Mandatory Re-homing #R251 00 00 60



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

PUBLIC NOTICES

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



Lions Club of Brunswick / Mullumbimby Inc

'Ordinary People Doing Extraordinary Things'

Meeting at the Ocean Shores Country Club 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month – 5.30 for 6pm.

brunswickmullumbimby.nsw@lions.org.au
0400 484 419



Want to volunteer?

Volunteers are the heart of our community.

Your time, energy and dedication help shape a more connected, vibrant and caring Byron.

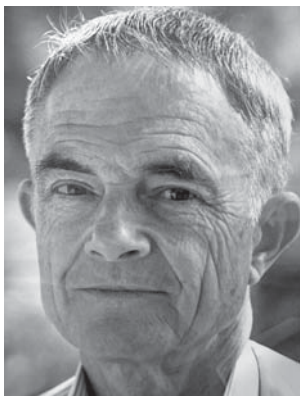
We simply couldn't do it without you!

02 6685 6807
volunteers@byroncentre.com.au

DEATH NOTICES

DAVID RUSSELL DYNES

18.12.1929 - 07.08.2025



David believed that we are all brothers and sisters and that we reincarnate life after life so that our consciousness may evolve as Life is the Evolution of Consciousness. David, formerly of Federal, passed away with daughter Felicity and granddaughter Elise by his side. He was looking forward to joining wife Cecily and dog Snoopy. His message to all: 'Be of good cheer.'

Carmel Jeffery (nee Barnes)



Born July 29, 1930. Flew away September 2, 2025. Joking with family and hospital staff until the very end.

Gone from Earth but not from our hearts.

Sadly missed by her children Michael, Carmel, Valli, Eve and Rachel and their partners, and all of her wonderful grandchildren who all love her dearly, Anna, Pauline, Jeffery, Tom, Grace, Ed & Ruby and her great grandchildren Zac, Tim, Jeff and new baby Rosie Grace.

Nana, we'll leave the money on the fridge.

FUNERAL NOTICES

Loving, remembering and celebrating our beautiful **MERRAN MORGAN**



For those who knew and loved Merran, we will be having a small gathering in Mullumbimby on the afternoon of 10 September 2025. For details, please contact: georgiajessicahinds@gmail.com

PAVLOVICH, NELLIE

May 18, 1931 – August 21, 2025

Nellie passed at Coolamon Villa, Mullumbimby.

Much loved wife of Chris (dec). Loved mother & mother-in-law of Peter & Terri, Julie & Tim, Virginia & Barry & Lyn. Loved grandmother of Samantha, Dane, Jesse, Ria, Britt, Ben, Carly & Kaya; & great grandmother to William, Jack, Ellie, Bonnie, Gabby, Jonti & newest edition Callum.

Family and friends are warmly invited to celebrate Nellie's life on Thursday, 4th September, 2025 at 11.30am at Mullumbimby Lawn Cemetery.

Nellie will be sadly missed by all who knew her. Aged 94 years.

BRUNSWICK VALLEY

FUNERALS
6684 6232

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Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs. Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress. 0403125506

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Contact Kate for a free discovery call.

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crystalsanddreaming.com.au

AGMs

BRUNSWICK SLSC AGM: at Hotel Brunswick on 13 September 2025 at 10am. Nominations for all positions open. Renew membership first. All welcome.

TRADEWORK

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The Liquid Waste Specialists!

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

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

HART TREE SERVICES
20 years local experience
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• 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

WANTED

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

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

GARAGE SALES

MEGA COMBINED SALE

Sat 6 Sept 9am-1pm, 11 Natan Court Ocean Shores. Women's clothes, household items, beautiful things.

RETRO VINTAGE FAIR
Designer and Retro Clothing, Rugs, Collectables, Bric a Brac.
Brunswick Memorial Hall Fingal St Saturday 6th Sept and Sunday 7th Sept 8.30am - 4.30pm.

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

Second Hand Saturday:

the biggest day of garage sales
20 September 2025
secondhandsaturday.com.au
Register your garage sale for free!
Brought to you by NE Waste and your local Council.

MOTOR VEHICLES

SUBARU OUTBACK 2004 auto 6cyl roof racks towbar fully serv exc cond 194,000km reg 02/26 \$5600 0422253753

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www.thinkblinkdesign.com

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1 or 2 MEN + UTE

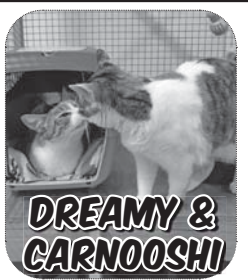
Furniture and rubbish removals
Over 15 years exp. Jarrod 0415 139 308

BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JACK!



Love from the Echo crew xxx



DREAMY & CARNOOSHI

Dreamy is an 18 month old calico tortie with a friendly nature and Carnooshi is another calico tortie 10 months old. Both are used to other cats and are very friendly and looking for love. **Dreamy M/chip no. 991003003084499 and Carnooshi M/chip no. 991003003085897.**



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

MUSICAL NOTES

REGGAE BAND

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ONLY ADULTS

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SOCIAL ESCORTS

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MONTHLY MARKETS

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

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

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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



On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Family History Society

The next general meeting of the Richmond-Tweed Family History Society will be held on Saturday, September 6, at the Ballina Players Theatre, 24 Swift Street Ballina, from 2pm to 4pm. The topic of this month's meeting will be 'The Significance of Landholding to Early Colonial Woman 1788-1810', presented by Narissa Phelps. Any further enquiries please phone Vicki Evans on 0467 573 282, afternoon tea will be supplied for a small donation.

The meeting on Saturday, October 4 will feature 'Breaking Down Brick Walls in Your Family History.' Admission free and tea/coffee is available.

Any further enquiries please phone Vicki Evans on 0467 573 282.

Tech-savvy Seniors

Free, fun tech lessons are on at Byron Bay Library. Join our friendly training sessions where library staff help you to get online and build your

digital skills. The 40-minute Friday sessions offer a broad range of topics to choose from that will help you gain confidence and stay connected. The first session kicks off on Friday, September 12 and these sessions continue on to the new year. Bookings essential www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au or phone the Byron Bay branch 6685 8540.

Brunsw CWA

The Brunswick Heads branch of the CWA meet on the first Friday of the month at 9am at the rooms on the corner of Park and Booyun Streets. Phone 0431 908 063 or email brunswcwa@gmail.com for more information.

Brunsw U3A

Lifelong learning for retired folk in their 3rd Age - September 16, Tuesday forum with Schoon Water Projection, Indonesia, at The Hub, Ocean Shores from 10am to 12noon. Other interest groups: garden group, foodies, movie/lunch group, men's

shed, French revisited, Scottish folk dance, mahjong, walkers and talkers, shabashi, table tennis, chess, debating group, ukelele. For info on times and days call Denise 0423 778 573 or info@bru3a.org.

Prostate Cancer Support

The next meeting of the Northern Rivers Day Prostate Cancer Support Group for 2025 is to be held on Wednesday, September 10 from 10am until 12 noon at the Alstonville Plateau Sport Club on Deegan Drive. Men previously and newly-diagnosed with prostate cancer are urged to join with the group to experience the personal cancer stories told which give a great opportunity for all to share, learn and benefit from each other partners and carers are also most welcome to attend as family are very much involved with the process and treatment of those with this diagnosis. This will be a morning of quality sharing on health and wellbeing updates. Enquiries phone Bob Corney 0493 075 612.

History Week

NSW History Week at Byron Bay Library is on Saturday, September 6 to Sunday, September 14. Share your stories.

Would you like to write, record or be interviewed to add to our local history collection? We want to unearth you. We are interested in the industries, culture and changes that have happened in Byron Bay in your lifetime. Expressions of interest welcome in branch or by phone 6685 8540.

Australian Independent Retirees

The next meeting of Australian Independent Retirees will be held on Friday, September 5, commencing with fellowship at 9.30am for a 10am meeting. This meeting will be held as usual at the Ballina RSL Club, 1 Grant Street, Ballina. A meeting fee of \$5 will be collected from all members to go towards the morning tea, which will be followed by a guest speaker. The speaker this month will be Kim Thomas who is the manager of St. Andrews Retirement Village and we will be provided with an overview of retirement village living, home care services and the next step. A lunch table has been booked for those who wish to join us for a meal in the Boardwalk Restaurant after the meeting. Lunch will be at your own expense. Any enquiries please contact the President, Jill Huxley on 6686 8958. All retirees welcome.

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.mdn.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, mazzzerati2010@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.

Brunswick Valley Historical Society

The Museum is on the corner of Myocum and Stuart Sts Mullumbimby, open Tuesdays and Fridays 10am-12pm and market Saturdays 9am-1pm. Discover your local history, join our team - 6684 4367.

Library fun

Baby Bounce and Storytime for toddlers and pre-school children are at: **Brunswick Heads Library**, Monday - Story Time 10.30 till 11.30am; Friday - Baby Time 10.30 till 11am. **Mullumbimby Library**, Monday - Story Time 10-11am; Tuesday - Baby Time 10-10.30am.

Byron Bay Cancer Support Group

The Byron Bay General Cancer Support Group has been running for six years and welcomes new participants. The aim of the group is to provide a safe, supportive and friendly environment for people with cancer to discuss how they are feeling and connect with other people with cancer. Meetings are held every four weeks on the first Tuesday of the month at 10am. For more information contact the Cancer Council on 13 11 20.

Social sporting groups

Mullumbimby: Tuesday Ladies Group of Riverside Tennis Club welcomes new players 9.30am every Tuesday next to Heritage Park, for social tennis, fun and friendship. Info: Barbara 6684 8058. **South Golden Shores Community Centre** Women's table tennis every Monday at 10am. Phone 0435 780 017. **Byron Bay Croquet** at Croquet Club next to the Scout Hall at the Byron Rec Grounds every Monday at 3.30pm. Ring 0477 972 535. **Pottsville Fun Croquet Club** at Black Rocks Sportfield. Beginners and visitors welcome. Game starts 8.30am Tuesday and Thursday. \$5 per game. Enquiries 0413 335 941.

ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

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



www.echo.net.au/service-directory

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Another world-class cliffside home with iconic views hits the market with Brad Rogan from Sotheby's Byron Bay

Brad Rogan of Sotheby's International Realty Byron Bay is bringing another extraordinary cliffside residence to market in one of Lennox Head's most tightly-held locations. Elevated above the coastline with uninterrupted views from Lennox Head to Byron Bay, this architecturally-designed home is set to capture the attention of prestige buyers from near and far.

A masterstroke from Harley Graham Architects, this home showcases a refined coastal palette, with soaring ceilings, spotted gum timber floors, and full-height glazing that blurs the line between indoors and out. From the moment you step into the expansive open-plan living space, you're met with a panoramic backdrop that feels more like a work of art than a view.

The layout spans two levels, offering five generous bedrooms and three luxurious bathrooms,



including a resort-style master suite with its own private balcony and ocean-facing ensuite. An infinity-edge pool appears to spill seamlessly into the sea, while multiple entertaining zones cater to both laid-back afternoons and elevated gatherings.

Beyond its architectural beauty, the home is thoughtfully designed for flexibility, with a media room, home office, and a self-contained

rumpus with kitchenette ideal for guests, teenagers, or multi-generational living.

Rogan notes, 'We're seeing sustained demand for high-quality, view-focused homes. Buyers are becoming increasingly discerning, but when something this rare hits the market, it speaks for itself.'

This listing highlights a broader trend: high-end buyers from the Byron region, and interstate are



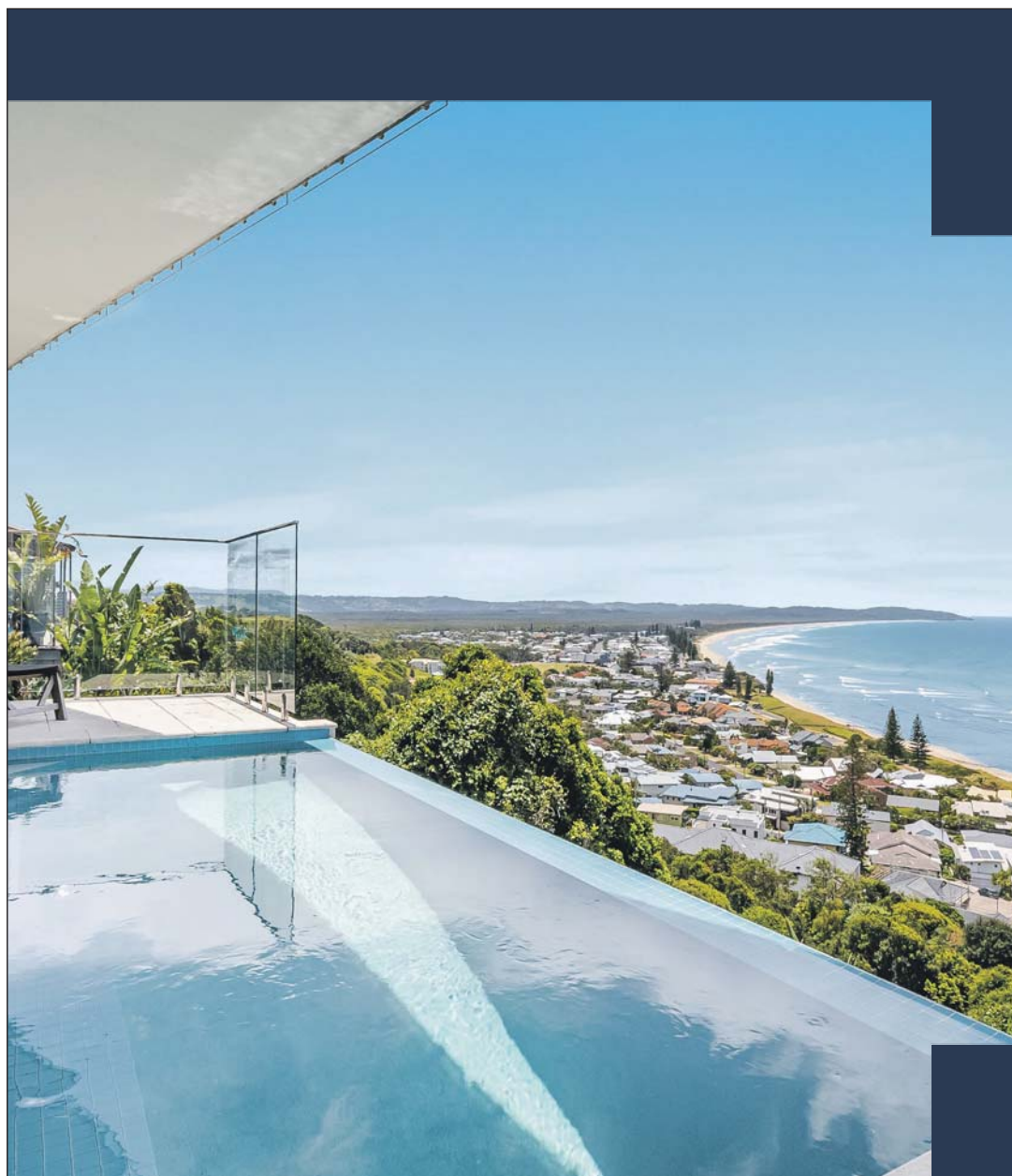
expanding their search, drawn to the value and prime location Lennox Head offers. 'Lennox is increasingly recognised as a premium lifestyle destination,' Rogan says, 'It's coastal village charm, breathtaking views, and close proximity to Byron Bay make it a natural choice for discerning buyers. Demand continues to grow, with interest coming well beyond the local area. Most of

our prestige property enquiries in Lennox Head now come through our Byron Bay network and from major cities like Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, and Perth.'

As spring approaches, momentum in the high-end market is building. 'We're expecting strong interest in this home, particularly from buyers looking for a move-in-ready residence with serious wow-factor. The emotional pull of this view is something that's hard to replicate,' says Rogan.

With a proven track record in Lennox Head's prestige market and a network that spans beyond the local Lennox market, Brad Rogan's team is well-positioned to introduce the right buyer to this world-class cliffside home.

■ Brad Rogan, Senior Sales Agent
+61 420 529 112
brad@sirbyronbay.com.au



1 of 1

11 Henderson Place, Lennox Head

5 Bed | 3 Bath | 4 Car

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*Claim based on residential property sales data sourced from realestate.com.au between 1 September 2024 - 1 September 2025. Data was compiled by Sotheby's International Realty Byron Bay and reflects publicly listed sales completed by all agencies based in the Byron Bay region. While care has been taken to ensure accuracy, this claim is based on available listings and may not include all transactions.



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- 2/48 Coolangatta Rd, Coolangatta. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1/16 Elizabeth St, Tugun. Sat 9-9.30am
- 38 Amaroo Dr, Banora Point. Sat 9-10am
- 9/277 Golden Four Dr, Bilinga. Sat 10-10.30am
- 24/182-184 Kennedy Dr, Tweed Heads West. Sat 10.30-11am
- 803/106 Pacific Pde, Bilinga. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2/15 Boyd St, Tweed Heads. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 501/85 Golden Four Dr, Bilinga. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1091/14-22 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 2 Malua Terrace, Bilambil Heights. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 2085/18-20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 2104/18-20 Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 1.30-2pm
- 10 Mourne Terrace, Banora Point. Sat 2.15-2.45pm

Dodds Real Estate

- 1275 Lismore Road, Clunes. Sat 10-10.30am

First National Byron Bay

- 4/161 Tamar Street, Ballina. Wed 11.30am-12pm
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11-11.30pm
- 103 Orana Road, Ocean Shores. Thurs 11.30am-12pm
- 2/18 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Thurs 12-12.30pm
- 5 Karinya Place, Clunes. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 30 Koranba Place, Coorabell. Sat 9-9.30am
- 5 Deacon Street, Bangalow. Sat 9-9.30am
- 12 Burns Street, Byron Bay. Sat 9-9.30am
- 14 Rush Court Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 18 Corkwood Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2A Clifford Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/18 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10-10.30am
- 25 Byrne Road, Rosebank. Sat 10.30-11am
- 32 Fairview Road, Rosebank. Sat 11-11.30am
- 325 Riverbank Road, Pimlico. Sat 11-11.30am
- 22 Mill Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 3 Palm Tree Crescent, Bangalow. Sat 11-11.30am
- 16/3 Pecan Court, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5 Karinya Place, Clunes. Sat 11-11.30am
- 87 Massinger Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 234A Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 4 Seaview Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 480 Left Bank Road, Mullumbimby Creek. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 44 Argle Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 30 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 12-12.30pm

- 10/47-49 Shirley Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 20 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 93 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 2/1 Banksia Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 4/6 Keats Street Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 355 Corndale Road, Corndale. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 25/33-35 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 465 Uralba Road, Lynwood. Sat 2-2.30pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 2/10 Marge Porter Place, West Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 66 Riverside Drive, West Ballina. Sat 9.45-10.15am
- 11 Mahogany Parade, Goonellabah. Sat 10-10.45am
- 1/16 Hackett Lane, Ballina. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 50A Presentation Crescent, Cumbalum. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm

Mana Re

- 26 Redgate Road, South Golden Beach. Thurs 3.30-4pm
- 7 Kiyung Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 26 Redgate Road, South Golden Beach. Sat 9-9.30am
- 15 Muli Muli Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 119 Commercial Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 9.30-10am
- 132 Middle Pocket Road, Middle Pocket. Sat 10-10.30am
- 16B Palmer Avenue, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 56 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 11-11.30am
- 75 New Brighton Road, New Brighton. Sat 11-11.30am
- 1-11.30am 402 Racecourse Road, Tyalgah. Sat 11am-12pm
- 17-21 The Esplanade, New Brighton. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 6/4 Roundhouse Place, Ocean Shores. Sat 1.30-2pm

New Listings

First National Byron Bay

- 22 Mill Street, Mullumbimby
- 22/183 Broken Head Road, Suffolk Park
- 2A Clifford Street, Suffolk Park

Mana Re

- 17-21 The Esplanade, New Brighton
- 7 Kiyung Court, Ocean Shores
- 402 Racecourse Road, Tyalgah
- 56 Narooma Drive, Ocean Shores
- 6/4 Roundhouse Place, Ocean Shores
- 4/19 Oceanside Place, Suffolk Park

The Palms Village - Site 203

Site 203, The Palms Village, Tweed Heads South

🏠 2 🚗 1 🚘 1

\$420,000



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Unique kitchen layout featuring ample storage cabinets with good bench space & modern sink with mixer tap and tiled splashback.
Two carpeted bedrooms, both with built-in wardrobes & ceiling fans; master has split system air conditioner.
Bathroom consists of a shower cabinet, modern vanity with mirrored cabinet, laundry facilities and a separate toilet.
Adjoining carport is suitable for 1 vehicle and there is an undercover courtyard area with garden shed located at the rear.
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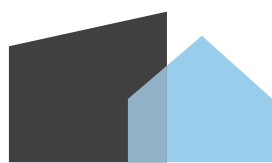
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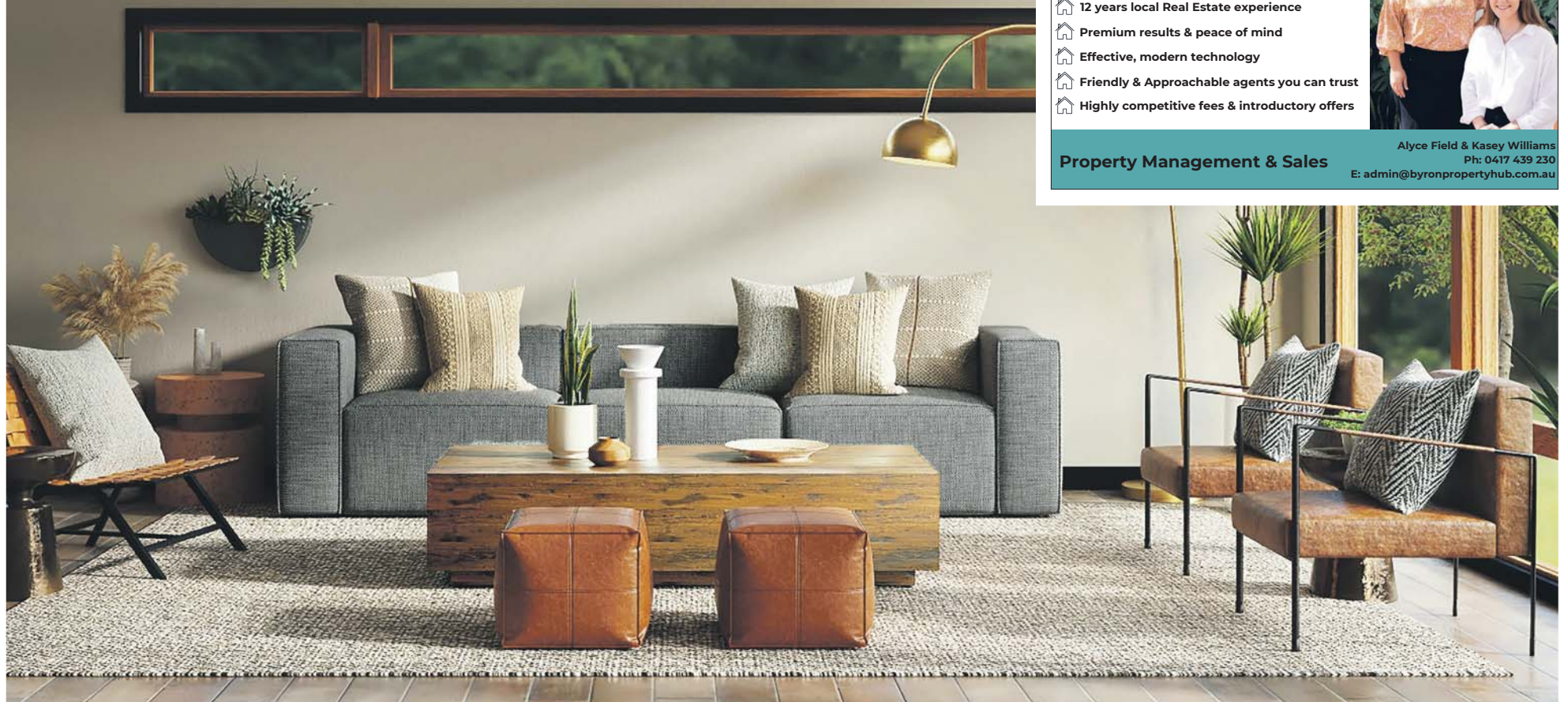
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Right now, up to 190 tonnes per year of wild coral is being chipped off the Great Barrier Reef piece by piece for the global aquarium trade. The Australian Marine Conservation Society says that this harvest happens inside a World Heritage Area, with little public scrutiny in an ecosystem that has suffered six mass bleaching events in just nine years. Find out more at: stop-coral-harvesting.raiselysite.com.

The Prime Minister, Albo Albanese, has crossed his fingers and promised a News Corp Bush Summit press conference that his government would work towards zero policy leaks by 2025. Acknowledging that policy leaks are the biggest threat to his personal legacy, the PM noted that his approval rating is above that of President Bush.

R U OK? Day 2025 is taking place on Thursday, 11 September. This year R U OK? is calling on everyone to 'Ask R U OK? Any Day' because regular, meaningful conversations can – and do – change lives. Conversation tips and crisis support contacts can be found at ruok.org.au.

A humpback whale was seen trailing up to six white buoys on Sunday, travelling north, while all the other whales travelled south. 'I think the whale had realised that stealing is a crime and they needed to return those buoys back to where they came from,' said one hyper-vigilant law and order local.

Quakers Australia is leading a push for greater



Deep in the heart of Wilsons Creek darkness, Bedlam reigned last Saturday evening when inmate, Brendan Kelly unleashed the latest crop of unhinged paintings dredged up from the depths of his well-hinged psyche. Photo Jeff Dawson

accountability in Australia's arms trade, launching a major investigative report, and presenting a statement signed by 60 groups calling for a review. This call for action coincides with the Arms Trade Treaty meeting of state parties in Geneva this week. 'Particularly since Australia is rapidly expanding its military exports, Australia must update systems to better safeguard Australian exports from being used in human rights abuses,' said Jessica Morrison, Quakers Australia Peaceworker and lead author of the report. 'The government needs to be straight-up – to the parliament and the public about what we are selling, to whom, and for what purpose.'

'One of the saddest lessons of history is this: If we've been bamboozled long enough, we tend to reject any evidence of the bamboozle. We're no longer interested in finding out the

truth. The bamboozle has captured us. It's simply too painful to acknowledge, even to ourselves, that we've

been taken. Once you give a charlatan power over you, you almost never get it back.' – Carl Sagan.

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