

# Echo



Old Mr Coal Goes Back to Bed

A Wish Fulfilment Holiday Edition

David Anderson

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# Local students excel in HSC results

Local Byron Shire high schools all celebrated their students achievements in the Higher School Certificate (HSC) results.

Mullumbimby High School had seven HSC Top Achievers recognised for their outstanding performances across a range of subjects, making their mark on the HSC landscape.

'We congratulate all students for their hard work and application to their studies, and our HSC Top Achievers have truly set a standard of excellence,' Principal Bree Harvey-Bice told *The Echo*.

Byron High School also had seven students recognised in the 2025 Distinguished Achievers list, displaying exceptional talent across a range of subjects. The Distinguished Achievers list recognises students who achieved the highest band possible for one or more HSC courses or optional exams.

'We are very proud and truly amazed by the outstanding achievements of each and every student,' said the school in a press release.

Shearwater, Mullumbimby Steiner School had



Front (L-R): Mullumbimby High School students Monet Shortland, Matilda Langtry, Bonnie Martin, Luna Delaney, Griffin Bradbury, Torin Forsyth, Charlie Mayall. Middle: Honey Mowbray, Amasra King-Fletcher, Amy Sena, Olivia Butler. Back: Bree Harvey-Bice (Principal), Leanne Clarkson, and Brodee Jeffery (year advisers). Photo Jeff Dawson

60 per cent of the cohort achieve one or more results in the top two bands available across both creative and academic subjects, including English Advanced, Mathematics Advanced, Mathematics Extension 1 and 2, Music 1, Visual Arts, Society and Culture, Chemistry, Business Studies, Design and Technology, Legal Studies, PDHPE, and Textiles and Design.

'We are proud to acknowledge the achievements of our year 12 class of 2025 and to celebrate the commitment and growth shown by all students throughout their final senior years,' the school told *The Echo*.

Cape Byron Rudolf Steiner School had one Year 11 student placing first in the state for Modern Hebrew Continuers.

'Our students excelled in performance and major works subjects, including Drama, Visual Arts, Music, Society and Culture, English Extension 2, and Design & Technology. Students also performed at a high level in French Beginners, Legal Studies, Physics and English Extension 1,' said Senior School Coordinator, Jess Smyth.

## Extra Christmas bin collections



**BYRON SHIRE COUNCIL**

**There will be extra wheelie bin collections for households in the Byron Shire again this year.**

For two weeks from Monday 29 December to Friday 9 January all wheelie bins can be put out weekly for collection.

This includes red, yellow and green bins for urban households and red and yellow bins for rural households.

People should put their bins out the night before their normal collection day and make sure the lid of the bin is closed.

The Byron Resource Recovery Centre will be closed on all public holidays, Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day.

**More information**

[www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au)  
 1300 652 625 - Resource Recovery hotline





[www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au)

# Simon celebrated as he heads off on his next adventure

Aslan Shand

This week Simon Ulyatt says goodbye to Byron. A place where he has thrived and that has thrived because of him and his enthusiasm, commitment, and humour. He is heading to Ipswich to be closer to his family.

Moving from Melbourne in 1977 Simon has spent most of his life here and during the last 38 of those he was one of the original workers and active employees of the Byron Bay Herb Nursery (BBHN), a not-for-profit disability service charity.

Simon attended Biala School in Ballina before starting work at the BBHN, then called Katia and located at the Mullumbimby Hospital site, when he was 16, with his parents Buzz and Annie cheering him on and being very involved.

## Joyous and loved

'I remember Simon used to catch the train to work from Byron and I would pick him up at the station at Mullumbimby,' Lesley Bayliss, the nursery's founding manager (1988 - 2007), told *The Echo*.



Zion on stage with Simon in his final performance with the all abilities group Drama All Sorts, in *It's a Long Way to the Top* show last Wednesday in Brunswick Heads. Photo Aslan Shand

'Out of all the people who were there at the start, Simon is the one who has kept going.'

Local comedian Mandy Nolan remembers working with Simon at the nursery, telling *The Echo*, 'I had the pleasure of working with Simon at Katia Herb Nursery and then at Byron Herb Nursery when we were both in our early 20s. Simon has the most joyously vibrant personality - he is a real people person and always had this very powerful

way of making people feel important and included. I know he is very loved in our local community. Ipswich is a lucky city to have him.'

Following his parents' deaths in 2018 Simon went on to live independently with increased support from REDinc.

'With support from his family, Simon has lived a full life in his own home, full of joy and a group of support staff who are like family,' said his Accommodation Manager, Madaline Denney.



Simon says goodbye to Byron Bay Herb Nursery after 38 years of fun, adventure, and laughter. Photo Jeff Dawson

'Simon loves social events and engages in as many as possible, often seen scouting at art shows, out for social coffee dates, and performing on stage with his Brunswick drama group, Drama All Sorts. He has a love of all things music and is a genius at music trivia.'

## Bay FM presenter

Always involved and engaged Simon spent time as the BBHN first aid officer, was actively involved in the business, promoting it,

demonstrating its values, and fostering a culture of shared success and accountability. He was chair of the workers committee for many years, was very involved in the marketing and promotion of the business, always attending community events and even having his own Bay FM show called 'Potting On' with his dear friend and work colleague, Greg Lowe.

'Simon is an OG,' said Nick Thom, nursery manager for the last 18 years in his speech at Simon's farewell.

'It was Simon, his mum Annie, Lesley and a few other OGs, some of whom are still on our committee, and his colleagues Greg, Matt, Jenny, Scott, and Kelvin who collectively had this amazing vision and energy to create a business that allows people of all abilities to contribute and connect to their community, supplying them with food, medicine, and joy via the plants they propagate.'

'I wanted to thank Simon for all his hard work, commitment, and above all, his leadership, mentoring new workers and helping grow the business. A business that is inclusive, environmentally sustainable, and provides for its community, nourishing them and connecting them with each other and their environment.'

'We will miss you Simon, especially your greetings. I don't know another person on the planet who has a better greeting than Simon Ulyatt. The way you call out people's names from afar, with your happy, warm smiling face, with such enthusiasm, igniting joy and positivity in them - lifting them up.'

## Byron All Shorts 2026 entries open

Celebrating 21 years of short films in the Northern Rivers, the Byron All Shorts, a dedicated local Northern Rivers short film competition, is now calling talented Northern Rivers filmmakers of all ages to submit their short films.

'Byron All Shorts is an

opportunity to celebrate our incredible Northern Rivers filmmaking talent, alongside the best of Flickerfest short films on tour to our region annually from Australia and the world,' said a spokesperson.

The Byron All Shorts 2026 finalists screening and

awards will be held on Saturday, 28 February. A local jury of film industry experts will be awarding over \$3,000 in prizes that recognise and encourage excellence in short filmmaking.

Entries close Wednesday, 28 January. For more info see: [www.iQ.org.au](http://www.iQ.org.au).

## Tallow Creek footbridge open again

While new pedestrian and cycling bridge plans are underway, Byron Council have taken the initiative and strengthened the Tallow Creek footbridge following its closure in August.

'The footbridge, which was built in 1987, is extremely important to

locals and an important pedestrian connection between Suffolk Park and Byron Bay,' Christopher Soulsby, Acting Director Infrastructure Services, said.

'We will have to build a new bridge and while planning is underway, approval for a new bridge and

construction is more than 12 months away so we had to come up with an interim solution for the community,' he said.

This week Council contractors strengthened the piers and installed a new girder to make the bridge safe for pedestrians.



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Dr Cara Fitt completed her Doctor of Dental Surgery degree at the University of Melbourne, graduating with academic and clinical excellence awards.

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Known for her warm, empathetic nature, Dr Cara enjoys getting to know her patients and building long-term relationships founded on trust and comfort.

Dr Cara is committed to ongoing learning in her quest to stay up to date with advancements in modern and holistic dentistry. She is a very welcome addition to the team.

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**Old Bangalow Road a death trap**

Paul Bibby

Old Bangalow Road was once a quiet, leafy backwater – the kind of place where the arrival of a car was greeted with mild surprise.

These days the road is, to use a local phrase, 'like flamin' Pitt Street'.

Significant increases in traffic have seen the narrow, winding, pock-marked thoroughfare become a rat run for motorists travelling between Bangalow, Coopers Shoot, and Byron.

With late model Range Rovers and Teslas rocketing around the corners, the pedestrians, cyclists, horse-riders, and echidnas who once used the road for recreation are now doing so at their own peril.

'We've all just been horrified by the danger to life and limb of human residents, but there's now also been increasing carnage to wild life that's happening on a regular basis,' long-time resident, John Hertzberg, told a recent Council meeting.

'We're now seeing possums, carpet snakes, wallabies, echidnas... And they're all being victims on that road because people



Old Bangalow Road is being used as a rat run to avoid traffic queues. Photo supplied

are increasingly using it as a dodge... trying to cut the line of traffic during the morning peak.'

**Action needed**

Some action is afoot to at least slow and possibly divert the stream of Beamers.

Byron Council's Transport Forum (previously the traffic advisory committee) has voted to install 'Local Traffic Only' signs.

But Mr Hertzberg and dozens of others who live on the road say this is not enough.

'If people had obeyed the signs that are there now we wouldn't have all the carnage,' he said.

'There actually needs to be something constructed. There needs to be physical barriers in place to stop the traffic.'

They are also calling for a significant reduction in the speed limit on the road.

It is not deemed to be appropriate for speed bumps, but there is talk of making the road one way and cutting it off at one end.

'What I'd like to ask is if you could facilitate for us... a meeting with the residents of the traffic committee and any other councillors who are interested on site,' Mr Hertzberg told the Council.

His call appeared to reach the empathetic ears of Greens Councillors Michelle Lowe and Delta Kay.

They successfully moved a motion at the meeting which will see Council staff hold an on-site meeting with community representatives to discuss their concerns.

A safety audit will also be conducted to identify any 'additional possible solutions to community concerns,' with the results to be reported to Council's February meeting.

It seems unlikely that Old Bangalow Road will ever be returned to its former quietude.

But perhaps one day John Hertzberg will be able to get back on his bicycle and ride down his street safely.

**Safe Havens funded till June**

Healthy North Coast have told *The Echo* that they have had funding extended for Safe Haven sites to operate until 30 June 2026 following concerns over the closure of Mullumbimby's facility that provides free, drop-in mental health support.

'Between July 2022 and April 2025, 18,500+ hours of counselling was provided and almost 19,000 people supported through on-site clinicians in Safe Haven centres,' said Healthy North Coast.

'There was also a significant increase in access to the services between July and September 2025.'

Safe Havens were originally commissioned for three years through the NSW government's Mental Health and Wellbeing Flood Recovery Package, following the devastating 2022 floods. The three Safe Havens are located at: Lismore, 46 Magellan Street (next to Lismore Regional Gallery); Mullumbimby, 15 Tincogan Street (behind Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre); and Murwillumbah, Shop 10-12/41-45 Murwillumbah Street.

For more information visit [safehavennc.org.au](http://safehavennc.org.au).

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## Time to hop on down to Bruns for a little drama

Paul Bibby

Brunswick River at dead low tide is usually a fairly subdued place.

With swimmers and paddle boarders temporarily consigned to the shore, the river becomes a sandy sun bed for cormorants and seagulls.

But where some see a desert, Kelly O'Meara sees a stage.

The local producer is using the river bed as the canvas for a cheeky pop up theatre piece called 'Hoppers' which will run on January 3, 4, and 18, at 5pm.

Inspired by the simple joy and frivolity of childhood, Hoppers features a group of colourfully-clad bouncing performers mimicking the



Lots of joy and fun to be had as 'hoppers' celebrate life. Photo supplied

experiences of river life in the summertime.

### Fun in the river

'We play with yabby pumps and buckets at low tide, we paddle and swim,'

says Ms O'Meara.

'We play cricket and games on the sand. We mimic the cormorants that air their wings on the sand bar.'

'It's all about exploring our culture with joy and

nostalgia... Exploring happy, carefree, retro Aussie childhood memories.'

Ms O'Meara says she was inspired to create the piece by the natural amphitheatre of the river.

'This spot between the bridges, provides a perfect "theatre in the round"; she says.

'People can enjoy it from all sides - the footbridge, the traffic bridge, and both the river banks. The low tide provides an interesting stage as we perform on the exposed sand bar.'

'We're inviting the whole community to come and hang out by the river. Bring a picnic and be entertained.'

Hoppers is supported by a Creative Public Spaces grant from Byron Shire Council.

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## Call for people to join Byron Council's SEP working group

Are you interested in joining a Byron Shire Council-run Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) Working Group for Byron Bay?

Byron Shire Council is inviting expressions of interest (EOI) from community members and stakeholders to join the new working group that will include: up

to four business owners currently running a business based within the SEP boundary (who are not a current member of Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce); up to four residents living within or adjacent to the SEP boundary; and up to four creatives representing a creative industry such

as music, art, public space activation, entertainment, and organisers.

'The working group will also include representatives from Council, staff, representatives from the Byron Bay Chamber of Commerce, Liquor Accord, NSW Police and NSW Health, Destination Byron, Music NSW and

other creative agencies,' said Byron Shire Mayor Sarah Ndiaye.

Meetings start in March 2026, with members expected to commit to quarterly meetings until June 30, 2027. Expressions of interest close 31 January 2026. Apply now via: <https://yoursay.byron.nsw.gov.au/SEP>.

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# Local pickleballers outgrow their home

Paul Bibby

Byron Bay Pickleball Club has outgrown its digs at the Cavanbah Centre and is looking for a larger, permanent venue to call home.

Local participation in pickleball has exploded over the past two years, following a broader trend which has seen it become the fastest growing sport on the planet.

But with 600 regulars now playing locally, the courts at The Cav are no longer fit for purpose.

The club has made an application to Byron Shire Council (BSC) seeking an upgrade of the existing courts, and also support in finding a new home.

'In just over 14 months our club has grown from a handful of locals to a massive, large community,' club president Lee Ungaro told last month's BSC meeting.

'We've got 160 local members, we've got 600 regular players that come down to play with us and we've got people ranging from teenagers right up to 70 and 80-years-olds.

'The reason is that it's easy, it's low impact, it's



affordable, accessible and it's accessible for people of all abilities. You're all on their playing together.'

## Community connection

Ms Ungaro said that the benefits that flowed for local participants were profound.

'For many of our members it's become a vital pathway for fitness – a vital pathway to recovery from long-term injuries.

'But the biggest one that we keep hearing about is the connection to others in the community and the improved mental wellbeing.'

But Ms Ungaro said the club's current courts were

no longer fit for purpose and were impeding the club's growth.

'We've got limited access to the inside courts, and outside ones we play on are cracked, they're unfenced, we're exposed to high winds in that area, we've got poor lighting, we've got no shade when it does get warm... [and] there's no storage or seating for our older members.

'These conditions really restrict our participation, and compromise the safety for some of our members.'

The club has already begun exploring options for new digs, with Red Devils Park and the courts at the Byron Recreation Grounds

both being earmarked as possible locations.

'We're not expecting Council to go it alone on this, we're prepared to financially contribute to the design and get involved if we can secure some long-term lease,' Ms Ungaro said.

'Please, if you can help support us in principle... help us to investigate the feasibility of those sites that I mentioned before, and maybe work with us to create a stage for a dedicated facility that we can proudly call home, we would be extremely grateful.

'Please help us bring this plan to fruition.'

The club has social games on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and Saturday mornings. Graded sessions are held on Monday and Wednesday evenings, Saturday mornings and Sunday afternoons.

The club also offers coaching sessions with its club coach, and offers the option of being graded to qualify for graded sessions.

For more information or to get involved with the local pickleball community visit <https://opensports.net/Byron-Bay-Pickleball-Club>.

# Liz donates hair for kids' wigs



Liz McIver has donated her hair to make wigs for kids with cancer. Photo supplied

Aslan Shand

'Some kids do it so tough and they never complain,' Liz McIver told *The Echo* when she had her hair cut to donate to the Wigs4Kids, which provides bespoke wigs for kids with cancer.

Liz grew her hair for three years and had six plaits, each 30cm long, so that she could donate it to Wigs4Kids so they can make a bespoke wig for a child with cancer.

'Hair loss during cancer treatment can be one of the hardest parts for children,' say Wigs4Kids.

'It often starts just a week after treatment begins and

can be a visible reminder of everything they're going through. For many kids, losing their hair can feel like losing a part of who they are.'

'I put a call out to the hairdressers of Mullumbimby and Haircuts By Sammy was the first to respond. Sammy donated her time and cut my hair for free,' said Liz.

'I hope this will help some little person put a smile on their face with new hair! I am growing my hair again so I can do this again.'

You can find out more about donating hair for kids wigs at: [www.kidswithcancer.org.au/donate-hair](http://www.kidswithcancer.org.au/donate-hair).

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## Union launches campaign to stop AI theft

Mia Armitage

Members of Australia's main union for arts workers and journalists say they will continue to campaign for stronger copyright protection associated with the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

The Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance (MEAA) held an online meeting last week as part of its Stop Creative Theft campaign.

Union leaders have launched a campaign called Stop AI Theft and told meeting participants they would lobby parliamentarians in the new year to ensure tech companies don't get the right to take original work without fair compensation.

Protection of First Nations culture was a key concern, in particular Australia's many Indigenous languages, against AI distortion and copyright abuse.

Members also heard particular calls for greater copyright protection for musicians, session musicians, and actors, and voice actors. They also heard that AI contract clauses are 'not enough' to protect original gig workers.

One MEAA member said he was a voice actor and that a YouTube channel operator

had converted his voice into seven languages without any consent or compensation despite him having full copyright.

### Fight for gig workers

Members heard suggestions of negotiating licence fees for their work in such instances. However it was recognised that many workers wouldn't have the resources and individual pressure wasn't a sustainable solution.

The union said the current Labor-led federal government appeared relatively progressive on workers' rights so far, citing regulations brought in for the so-called 'gig economy', referring to drivers and food couriers for on-demand service apps.

But campaign organisers said they would continue to fight for workers in 'the original gig economy'.

'We have been reasonably successful here and there,' MEAA CEO Erin Madeley told the meeting, when it came to the introduction of AI clauses into worker agreements.

'But negotiating through employment contracts is not enough,' she said.

Ms Madeley said support from other unions was also

important.

An open letter to AI companies written by the union had attracted more than 1,100 signatures by end of day Monday.

'We are calling out the business practices of your companies as theft,' the letter read.

'Millions of images, songs, articles, and films have been scraped without the knowledge, consent, or compensation of creative workers. Without this theft, your AI models would have been obsolete. We demand to be paid when our work is used by your company, and we demand compensation for the work you have stolen.'

Other campaign information referred to a recent survey of MEAA members in the creative and media industries showing 71 per cent were 'extremely concerned about the loss of human-led creativity'.

MEAA said accuracy and ethics were also at risk owing to AI.

'AI-generated content can spread misinformation and erode public trust,' the union said.

■ Mia Armitage is a member of MEAA.

## All I want for Christmas is...

Alison Drover

A local leans into the Bangalow pharmacy counter speaking emphatically. 'Time, that's what we need for Christmas, it's what we are all short of.' I call into a florist. She proclaims, wrapping Christmas Bush, 'I want to get off socials I want more real time less reels and influencers!'

Vehicles bully their way through traffic mounting the Bay Grocer roundabout trying to shave off a second. No time for niceties as others wolf down a sandwich after #posting it and friends on WhatsApp try to cram in more Christmas drinks. Time and ritual are evaporating, yet content is exploding.

John Maynard Keynes said technology and a reduced work week would create more time. Yet we are continually sold more devices and pushed more content that devours our time.

Post, follow, comment, repost, share, make reels, add to reels in a looping pattern. With app after app we are unable to perform basics tasks without a bot or a login.

'I don't want a QR code for a menu!' We are being forced into systems that are

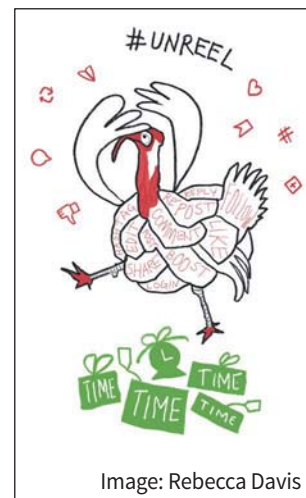


Image: Rebecca Davis

designed to cut business expenditure and increase revenue rather than enhance our experiences. It's gobble gobble - like a Christmas turkey as our minutes are devoured.

I am full up this Christmas and it's only 17 December.

If we are serious about living the life we are being sold - one of higher consciousness, wellness, authenticity, peace, kindness, and collaboration - consider some technology disruption. I hear all of you out there saying we need to promote and hashtag # to survive.

I challenge you to switch from 'followers' to tuning inwards and savouring your time.

We all have inner wisdom, yet we can't receive as we constantly tune in to multiple frequencies, even some that aren't real.

We are witnessing the atrocities of war, climate destruction, lies and hate - yet we perpetuate this by commenting and adding to them creating more fear algorithms. We are losing the time to process, reflect, feel, and be present for one another.

No wonder we are searching for medicinal mushrooms, cold plunges, retreats, and cacao ceremonies - our nervous systems are overloaded.

When I was waiting for Cyclone Alfred to arrive earlier this year, after preparations were complete, I lay down on the floor with a book and read. The power was off, it was quiet outside, everyone was in. I realised it had taken a cyclone to calm me and grant me some time.

All I want for this Christmas is time to lie on the grass, read one of the multiple books stacked by my bedside table, drink cups of tea out of a real cup, and eat homemade Christmas cake after a swim. It's pretty simple. No # or posting please!

## Byron Bay Public School takes action to protect students online and IRL

Byron Bay Public School (BBPS) has taken proactive steps to protect their students both in the classroom and in the digital world as the new social media ban for Australians under 16 years takes effect.

'Recognising that simply

enforcing age restrictions is not enough, the school has adopted a comprehensive and forward-thinking cyber-safety strategy,' says the school leadership.

'We believe restrictions must be paired with concrete actions to protect our

students. Our approach involves the whole school community - students, staff, parents, and carers - to create a truly safe environment.'

This commitment comes in response to alarming trends, including a 450 per

cent increase in online bullying over the past five years and emerging threats such as AI-generated abuse and deepfake content, they told *The Echo*.

'BBPS is determined not merely to react to these dangers, but to prevent harm before it occurs.'

### Deleting Facebook

As part of their key measures, they are deleting the school's Facebook page and updating its website to remove

identifying student photos.

'Instead, parents and carers will receive newsletters celebrating student achievements via secure, private platforms - not accessible to the general public. Public updates will be maintained on the school's website in a way that keeps the broader community informed while safeguarding children's privacy,' they explained.

Other key initiatives include ongoing education programs for staff, students,

and families about best practices in digital safety. The school has also begun hosting parent workshops, encouraging strong community engagement and shared responsibility. These sessions will continue to expand throughout 2026.

'This is an important, ongoing effort,' the school states. 'Together, we can ensure BBPS remains a secure place where every child feels safe and supported - online and offline.'



Merry Christmas and thanks for all the support!

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# STARLIGHT FESTIVAL

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THURS 1<sup>ST</sup> & FRI 2<sup>ND</sup> JANUARY\*

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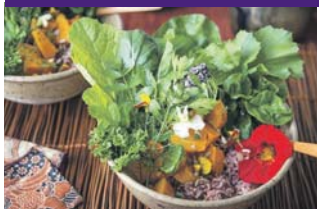


## WORKSHOPS & TALKS

## BREATHWORK & CEREMONY

## YOGA & DANCE

## SOUND & MANTRA



Vegan Food



Psychics & Readings



Healing & Wellness



Natural Therapies



Massage & Bodywork



Markets

### Thursday Jan 1<sup>st</sup> highlights



**Awakening Your Inner Warrior**  
Helen Selmecky  
10-11am  
Kriya Yoga class. Come prepared to move beyond & ignite the fire of courage.



**Step Into Who You're Becoming.**  
Becky English  
12.30-2.15pm  
Begin the new year by meeting the most luminous version of yourself.



**Harmonising Hormones Naturally**  
Pamela & Sally  
1-1.45pm  
Drawing from ancient Incan lore. Mastering Maca for Optimal Health & Balance.



**Learn to smudge**  
Lynise  
1.15-2pm  
Learn traditional smudging to help you achieve an elevated experience.



**Mantra & Meditation**  
Alice Miyagawa  
3.45-4.45pm  
Tap into safe heart-space to create experiences with our voice.



**Embodied Aliveness**  
Sasha Xara  
5-6pm  
A Movement Experience. Explore instinctive movement with Sasha.

### Friday Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> highlights



**Kundalini Yoga with Gong**  
Jo (Ved Shakti)  
9.45-11.15am  
Breathwork, movement & meditation with mantra.



**Yoga Qi Flow**  
Jennifer Genest  
11.30-12.30pm  
A fusion of Hatha yoga, internal martial arts, dance and somatic movement techniques.



**3D Survival to 5D Sovereignty**  
Heather Leighton  
11.30-1.15pm  
Find healing, through the different spheres of our multi-dimensional selves.



**Sound Of Being Journey**  
Matty & Seriya  
2.30-4.30pm  
Deeply nourishing sound healing weaving breathwork, and sacred instruments.



**The Power to Ask**  
Nazia Hanif  
3.30-5pm  
The deeper energetics of asking from clean, embodied, magnetic presence.



**The Expansion Ceremony**  
Kristy Ferrari  
4-6pm  
A gentle but powerful journey with Tetra Breathwork with shamanic ceremony & sounds.

### Saturday Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> highlights



**Sound Healing A Soul Symphony**  
Lauren Sifas  
9.45-10.45am  
Deep rest for the body, mind & heart.



**Introduction to Odaka Yoga**  
Silvia Bartolini  
11-12pm  
Journey into fluid movement inspired by the waves of the ocean and martial arts.



**Reset & Restore Breath & Sound**  
Sophie & Omora  
12.15-1.45pm  
A soothing breath & sound journey to calm your nervous system.



**Singing bowl hands on workshop**  
Anup & Brinley  
12.15-1pm  
A hands-on singing bowl workshop, teaching the basics.



**Shamanic practices of Peru & modern neuroscience.**  
Dr Corin & Sally Huapay  
1.45-3.45pm  
Bridge ancient indigenous traditions with neuroscience.



**Shamanic Soul Journey**  
Ixchel Luna Sun  
4.45-6.15pm  
Let the beat of the drum return you to your centre.

### Sunday Jan 4<sup>th</sup> highlights



**Freedom from stressful thinking**  
Tammy Reid  
9.45-11.15pm  
Learn four questions that can change your life.



**5 Dimensional Flow**  
Simon Borg-Olivier  
1-2.30pm  
Safe, effective & accessible spinal movements for health.



**AcuSonic Healing**  
Anisha  
1.30-2.30pm  
Embark on a deeply restorative journey combining sacred sound and acutherapy.



**Kundalini Chakra Flow**  
Luna Shakti  
2-3pm  
Breathwork with accessible movement to gently activate the body's natural vitality.



**Embodied Harmony**  
Zoe Everest  
4.30-6pm  
Nervous System Renewal Through Tremoring, Voice & Song.



**Cacao Ceremony & Kirtan**  
Prema Shakti Rising  
4.30-6pm  
Cacao & Kirtan Journey. Sing, move, and connect in community.



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**Echo**

News from across the North Coast online ► [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

**Kyogle Council votes down land transition to Great Koala National Park**

At its meeting on 8 December, Kyogle Council passed a motion formally opposing the transition of 176,000 hectares of State Forest into the NSW Government's proposed Great Koala National Park.

**Blue Knob crash claims life**

Police say a man died following a crash at Blue Knob, about 30km north of Lismore. The statement reads, 'About 7pm yesterday (Thursday 18 December 2025), emergency services were called to Blue Knob Road following reports of a crash.'

**Boaters warned of holiday risks on coastal bars**

Marine Rescue NSW Northern Rivers Inspector John Murray is urging local and visiting boaters to think twice before crossing coastal bars this holiday season.

**North Coast politicians speak on Bondi massacre**

As the dust settles on the horrific Bondi massacre last Sunday, various north coast politicians have released statements.

**Tweed Council wrap for 2025**

In its last meeting for 2025 on December 10, Tweed Council adopted a range of motions including: development of flood-liable land; stinky, overflowing and unsightly public bins; Tweed Shire's graffiti scourge; and illegal beach camping. 'Depoliticisation of the role of the General Manager' was also voted upon.

**Have your say on future of Casino CBD**

Richmond Valley Council is undertaking a community conversation and engagement on the future of the Casino town centre, including nearby streets and the South Casino shopping precinct.

**Big Rob referred to OLG over conduct**

Lismore councillor Big Rob looks likely to be referred twice to the Office of Local Government (OLG) for investigation around his conduct.

[www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

# Helmets on! Pump track opens in Ballina

The completion of a new pump track at Kingsford Smith Reserve in the heart of Ballina is now open, says Ballina Shire Council.

In a media release, they said, 'Designed to national competition standards, the impressive new facility will provide a dynamic space for riders and visitors from across the region to enjoy.'

'The southern area of the reserve has been transformed into an exciting precinct featuring a competition-quality main track, junior track, and new amenities for riders and spectators.

'The development of the project was supported by the NSW government through \$733,345 in funding.'

Minister for Regional NSW Tara Moriarty said the project will add to Ballina's



The newly opened Ballina Pump Track. Photos supplied

already strong reputation as great place to enjoy outdoor activities. 'It will be fantastic to see riders take to the new, national standard pump track to showcase and grow their skills,' she said.

Minister for the North Coast, Janelle Saffin said the project shows what can be achieved when state and local government

work together for regional communities.

'Facilities like this help young riders on the North Coast build confidence, stay active and feel connected.'

Ballina Shire Mayor, Sharon Cadwallader, said the new facility is already generating excitement across the community. 'This precinct is an incredible addition to

our Shire, offering a vibrant space for riders of all ages to come together, stay active and have fun,' Cr Cadwallader said.

'Built to national qualifier event standards it also features the World Timing System, which is an innovative, interactive timing technology that allows riders to track, time, and count laps

using their smartphones.

'Ballina Shire Council has further upgrades planned for the site, including a new dedicated carpark and improved site access. These works are scheduled for completion later this financial year.'

For more information or to view images of the new facility, visit [ballina.nsw.gov.au/Ballina-pump-track](http://ballina.nsw.gov.au/Ballina-pump-track).

## Support programs for local youths on offer

A new one-on-one support program designed for young people aged 12 to 20 years who have disengaged from school, community or stable family life is now available.

Run by RiverTracks, 'CaseConnect,' has been made possible through a recent \$15,000 funding boost from philanthropic organisation, Northern Rivers Community Foundation (NRCF).

Organisers says CaseConnect provides deeper, relationship-based support that many mainstream services can't offer.

In a media release they say, 'While isolation and antisocial behaviour can be problematic aspects of youth disengagement, early results from this program



RiverTracks program participants in action. Photo supplied

already show improvements in routine-building, emotional regulation, school attendance and reduced high-risk behaviour for the young people involved.'

'Since launching in November, four youth and their families have registered

with the local program based in Murwillumbah.'

RiverTracks Program Manager, Christopher Rowland, says he is grateful for the funding which has enabled this vital program to get up and running.

'CaseConnect gives us the

opportunity to work one-on-one in a wholistic way with young people facing complex challenges.

'Thanks to NRCF funding, we can now offer the kind of sustained, relational care that helps young people and their families stabilise, reconnect and rebuild their futures.'

**Program needs further funding**

'We've seen what works. Now we're committed to growing it - and we welcome the support of partners who want to help us create genuine, lasting change for young people in the region,' Rowland said.

To do this, RiverTracks is seeking \$100,000-\$150,000

per year in multi-year funding, allowing the team to support up to 50 young people and their families. Additional funds would also create a small pool of funds for essential items like licences, uniforms and food during times of crisis.

Rowland said, 'While RiverTracks' core Get On Track program that's been running since 2021 offers routine, social and group support to youth, CaseConnect offers wrap-around individualised and tailored support.'

One Murwillumbah mother whose child is involved in RiverTracks programs said that 'it's been life changing.'

For more information visit [www.rivertracks.org](http://www.rivertracks.org).

## Ballina Shire Council approves rate rise

David Lowe

Despite a vociferous social media campaign, there were no deputations or members of the public present in the gallery as Ballina Shire Council unanimously voted to proceed with a special rate variation (SRV) at its epic final meeting for the year.

The motion acknowledged the feedback from the community consultation process (which was overwhelmingly opposed to the SRV), but argued the rate rise was necessary because:

1) Increasing rate income is

essential to adequately fund asset renewal and reduce the risk of infrastructure deterioration, along with maintaining essential services.

2) The additional rate income generated will improve Council's overall financial position and long-term financial sustainability.

As a result of the motion, Ballina Council has now authorised the General Manager to apply to IPART for a SRV based on six per cent per annum for the four year period from 2026-27 to 2029/30.

Ballina Council says it

'remains committed to ensuring that Council's total rates and charges bill remains relatively affordable and comparatively lower than councils of similar scale and size, and every effort will be made to minimise increases in other annual charges...'

**Times are tough**

Cr Erin Karsten said, 'It's completely understandable that people question a rate rise when times are tough. I don't think any of us are super excited about having to put this forward, but we appreciate that it's necessary...'

'One off injections like dipping into reserves or selling assets, sure it can cover short-term shortfalls, but they don't fix the underlying mismatch between annual expenses and annual revenue,' she said.

'Cash reserves and property sales don't generate recurring income, so they can't solve a recurring problem without a stable recurring income stream. Council would face the same problem again within a few years, but with fewer assets and reserves remaining,' said Cr Karsten.

'The SRV spreads costs fairly and predictably over time, ensuring Council remains financially sustainable and able to support the community through future challenges.'

Mayor Sharon Cadwallader said, 'Has it been a tough sell? Yes, it has,' she said. 'There's only so many costs you can keep on absorbing when we're constantly faced with the cost shifting.'

'I think this Council punches way above its weight, and I'm very proud of how we operate as a Council.'

## Youth voices shine in new film 'Voices in Light'

Pancho Symes

Northern Rivers Community Gateway (NRCG) has launched *Voices in Light*, a new youth-led short film created in Bundjalung Country for the UN 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

Filmed in the Northern Rivers with local young people, *Voices in Light* follows a group of young teenage girls as they create a large, shared mural together in nature, using colour, movement and storytelling to explore themes of safety, courage, connection and respect.

The project is a partnership between NRCG and creative production company Daughter Collective, and was developed to offer a consent-first, art-based space for young people to speak about their experiences, hopes, and boundaries in the context of gender-based violence and healthy relationships.

'At Northern Rivers Community Gateway, we hold a gentle but firm belief that everyone deserves to live free from gender-based violence, and that nurturing and listening to young people is essential to building that future,' said Northern Rivers

Community Gateway CEO Jenni Beetson-Mortimer.

'*Voices in Light* gives local young people a creative, supported way to talk about safety, respect and what they want their futures to look like. It is about listening to them, not speaking for them.'

'It is a reminder that prevention work can be hopeful, creative and grounded in young people's strengths.'

NRCG encourages anyone moved by the film who may need support to contact 1800RESPECT (1800 737 732) or local specialist services.

■ Read full story at *The Echo* online: [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au).

## Billinudgel-Ocean Shores RFS gets truckin'



There's been some action at the Billinudgel-Ocean Shores Rural Fire Service (RFS) station of late. 'Local mural artist, Daniel Hend has painted our two trucks on the front roller doors, helping to identify us as a fire station. And there's more to come!' said a Billi RFS spokesperson. 'We're choosing a local artist to paint our eastern wall, which will raise awareness of who we are, and at the same time honour the contribution of Indigenous culture to the Billi region.' Front: muralist, Daniel Hend, with Steph Smith, Jacob Staff, Capt Darren Cornalr, Muz Drechsler, Carol and Barry Donnelly, and Liam Spice. Photo Jeff 'Paint your Wagon' Dawson

## Busy elves leave fairy surprise in Bruns



If a couple of Christmas trees is barely enough, wait till you discover this! Famous for its Fairy Trail, Brunswick's latest addition looks like the elves have taken time out from the busiest time of the year to surprise astute fairy hunters. Photo Jeff 'Fairy Lite' Doorso

## Mental health as important as keeping fit

Many men still adhere to traditional masculine expectations a recent study has found. Men are seven times more likely to frequently experience thoughts of suicide and less likely to seek help.

The study tracked how easily social media algorithms can expose boys

to the 'manosphere' - a murky online space filled with hypermasculine self-help, misogyny, racism and conspiracy. Its influence and promotion of toxic behaviours is having an impact on men's mental health. Over three-quarters (75 per cent) of those losing their lives to

suicide in Australia are male.

The Mental Maintenance Manual: A Practical Guide to Men's Mental Health Upkeep (someone.health/resources/mental-maintenance-manual) is a free, easy-to-use guide designed to help men see psychological wellbeing as part of everyday fitness.

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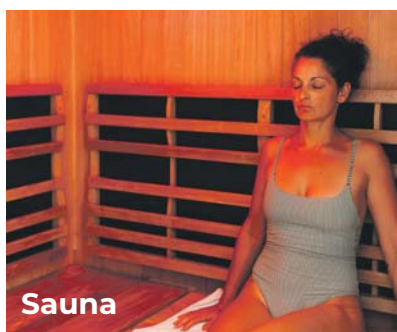
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**The Byron Shire Echo**  
Volume 40 #29 • December 23, 2025

# Let us celebrate our differences

**T**hese have been torrid times with many in deep mourning, reeling from the Bondi tragedy. It's hard to be jolly and pretend nothing has happened, and we should not.

One of the shocking aftermaths of the massacre is the appalling way some abused the acute suffering of the Jewish community by trying to score cheap political points.

They may have taken lessons from Trump and his white supremacist mobsters.

Pauline Hanson was recently a guest at Mar-a-Lago and has embraced MAGA. She is even mimicking Trump's lack of compassion at this sad time.

If those two terrorists succeed in dividing our community, turning us against each other, they effectively win. We must not, and will not, let that happen.

Racist hatred has been drummed up in America and England against immigrants, especially non-whites, and non-Christians.

This fear campaign, funded by wealthy elites, has led to a rise in support for Nigel Farage's right wing populist Reform UK party to the extent he could even become the next UK prime minister.

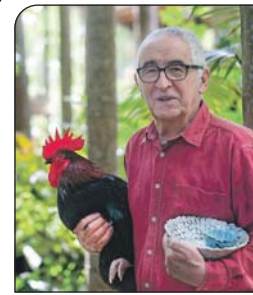
Here, Pauline Hanson has lassoed Barnaby Joyce into her dodgy party. She thinks she is on to a winner with her vicious xenophobia and sadly a substantial minority agrees with her. One Nation is moving up in the polls as Liberals slide into irrelevance.

She exploited the tragedy with anti-migrant comments amongst mourners at Bondi who hadn't even begun to recover from the initial shock.

Hanson is a throwback to the fifties when nasty racist slurs such as dago, wog, reffo, pommy, and spic were used routinely.

Australia has changed enormously since the White Australia policy days, when we regarded ourselves as a Christian nation.

We are now a mini-United Nations with 270 ethnic groups and over 100 different religious affiliations. Four in ten Australians



*We all just want to live peaceful lives and get along with everybody else with their diverse beliefs and backgrounds.*

– Richard Jones

## Community expression vital to democracy

**P**rotest and gathering together are ways for people to create unity, to highlight what they see as important, when they see a problem, when the government of the day is not living up to the expectations of its citizens, and when a system is failing and should be strengthened.

Gathering together is a way we can shape our communities, bring people together, and show strength in the face of adversity. Our Australian Jewish community should be free from harassment and vilification by those trying to make a point about Israel, let alone being free to peacefully gather together to celebrate Hannukah without being massacred by haters. It's understandable that, having recognised that the real danger of local religious and political passions has been underestimated, the government should act.

However, the proposal by NSW Premier Nick Minns to create a terrorism designation, following the horrific deaths in Bondi last week, is not just a law that will restrict protest but will seek 'to restrict any public gathering, and that includes vigils, that includes prayer meetings – and people getting together is actually about letting people express themselves to the wider community, whether it's to mourn, to grieve, and call for reform,' explained Senior Lawyer at the Human Rights Law Centre, David Mejia-Canales, on the ABC.

The proposed laws, likely to pass on Monday and Tuesday in NSW parliament, will also ensure that the courts cannot overrule the determination that would be put in place by the police in agreement of the minister.

The new power to 'declare a specific area where the public assemblies are restricted for a period of time' will not create better outcomes for our communities, he said.

'We really caution the Minns government against jumping to misguided crackdowns on peaceful

gatherings,' said Mr Mejia-Canales. He highlighted that there were no mass protests like the Harbour Bridge protest in the weeks prior to Bondi's devastating violence, saying, 'we really do think that the premier is seeking to conflate two things that are not the same thing. One of them is people expressing their views about the genocide in Gaza and the other people actually being horrified about antisemitism and racist violence. Australians are united against both of these things, against the genocide and against hate crimes, and we need to be acting carefully and deliberately.'

Mr Mejia-Canales made it clear that human rights law already provides a clear framework to restrict large gatherings that might place a significant strain on police resources, or gatherings with risks to the community.

'Any restriction has to be lawful. It has to be necessary, and above all else, it has to be proportionate to the aim or the problem that it is trying to solve,' he explained.

'And governments then have an obligation to fully justify these restrictions, to ensure they meet these strict criteria. And the premier has not done this yet. The premier has started to conflate all these different points and try to force an outcome where really, these things actually need to be taken carefully and measured, particularly right now, when we are in a time of crisis and mourning.'

As we see fascist, authoritarian regimes find footholds worldwide and drive us towards conflict, this is not the time to restrict people's opportunities to peacefully and constructively voice concerns, object to bad government policy, and decision making, or inaction. It is a time to bring people together in democracy, create connection and healing, and look to ways we can exist together, in peace, in this multicultural country we call home.

Aslan Shand, editor

have 'no religion', about the same number who consider themselves Christians. Only about one in five Australians attends religious services regularly.

Despite the paranoia of some fearful white Australians, there's no going back to the old days. Multi-cultural Australia is here to stay.

In the sixty plus years I have been here, arriving as a fresh-faced Ten Pound Pom on a Boeing 707, the changes have been profound. I was told to 'go back where you came from' a couple of times.

I had no idea then about the border wars and the dispossession and massacres of First Nations people. I was on a steep learning curve.

Some Australians try to cling to the past in a vain attempt to feel safer, but it's not possible.

The world is evolving around us and constantly changing.

There are nearly a million Muslims living in Australia, from a diverse range of countries, and all but a tiny handful are peaceful law-abiding citizens, as are the nearly three quarters of a million Hindus who call Australia home.

A couple of radicalised lunatics do not represent anyone but themselves. They do not represent the community.

We cannot allow ourselves to be divided into warring groups.

The archaic Westminster system of government where two major parties constantly battle it out trying to belittle the other side is not working in today's Australia.

That became glaringly evident with shockingly inappropriate comments by Sussan Ley and others.

To address this, we need MPs who primarily represent their

communities not party ideologies. The rise of the Teals is an indication of a growing rejection of the outdated two-party duopoly.

Media must also take responsibility for causing divisions in our society. The Murdoch media have been vicious with their unfounded attacks on Anthony Albanese, demanding he resign and blaming him for the tragedy because Australia officially recognised the state of Palestine at the United Nations General Assembly last September.

An intelligence failure by ASIO needs to be their target. How was it possible for a man whose son was a known radical to own six rifles legally? A Royal Commission may enlighten us.

Here in our Shire, we too have a huge diversity of beliefs and opinions. People living side by side have vastly different views of the world and yet we can and do get on peacefully as friendly neighbours.

Rather than point out our differences, let us just accept that no two people are the same. No two leaves are the same. No two atoms are identical.

We are all different from each other yet part of one big family.

People are so tired of bickering and nastiness, hate and anger. We all just want to live peaceful lives and get along with everybody else with their diverse beliefs and backgrounds.

We can show the way here in our community by being extra kind to each other. Smile at strangers, stop to let cars in stuck by the stream of traffic, be generous with hugs.

Let's just be kind.

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



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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.

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

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**Not my first rodeo**

Again we have a visit from the J&J Rodeo on 3 January.

It is a pity that some people of the Shire who have concern for the welfare of koalas do not extend that concern to livestock. In my opinion rodeos amount to livestock abuse. I notice that someone has voiced their opinion by spraying the signage with the words 'Cruel', which is encouraging, but where is the response from the local veterinarians and the RSPCA? I would urge all residents to boycott this event, and show respect for livestock.

**John OGrady**  
Suffolk Park

**Proposed ban on protests**

A state law which seeks to ban political protests would infringe a citizen's right to demonstrate if that state law is disproportionate or lacks a legitimate purpose. That's part of our civil liberties.

The principle is one of the implied freedoms in the Australian Constitution.

It results from the case *Brown v Govt of Tasmania* in 2017.

In that case, Bob Brown was restrained from taking film of logging in a Tasmanian state forest, even though he was filming from land adjacent to the forest.

The Tasmanian law sought to impose substantial penalties on persons interrupting logging.

As the penalties were extremely high, the court found them to be disproportionate to the presumed offence, and so could be seen as an attempt to stifle any protests.

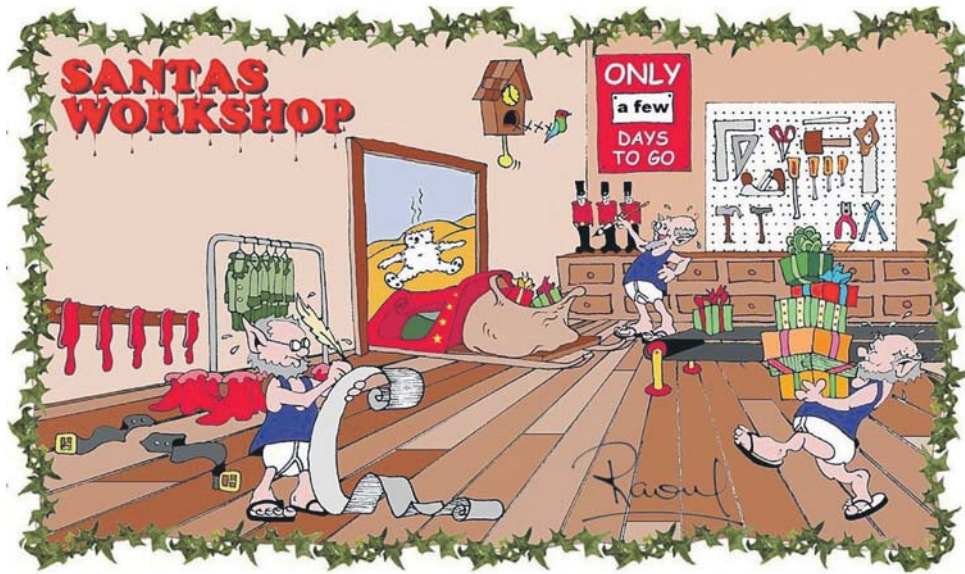
Overkill, in other words.

The NSW premier plans to put in place a ban on protests in NSW soon, to 'last for a few months'.

At this stage such a ban presents as draconian, as there is no right of review by a NSW court. He might get away with passing it through the NSW legislature, given the present highly-charged atmosphere following the Bondi attack.

But if such a law is seen as too prolonged or otherwise overreach it will (and must be) be appealed to the High Court.

To my mind, the premier's statements on this so far are ill-considered and he needs to be very well advised if he



Cartoon by Raoul

proceeds. This is not calm, judicious law making, it's knee-jerk administration.

He might get away with it if he is very specific as to time or place but any attempt at prolonging restriction has to be challenged because it is a restraint on all of us.

One could take the view that this manoeuvre is a ploy to attempt to calm things down and since the proposed ban is only going to last 'for a few months' he would achieve that aim before a successful court challenge to the law. He knows that no further demonstrations are planned in that time by the Palestinian Action Group because its leader, Josh Lees, has said as much. But if this is part of his strategy, it is a cynical abuse of parliamentary procedures.

**Frank Lynch**  
Mullumbimby

**New world odour**

Mandy Nolan is right that accusing local candidates or comedians of belonging to the 'Illuminati' is absurd.

But dismissing public concern about elite control as mere conspiracy misses the deeper issue many people are struggling to articulate.

History shows that populations are rarely controlled by secret handshakes or shadowy meetings. They are controlled through systems, including medicine, religion, science, finance and, increasingly, technology, often administered by well-meaning people who believe they are 'doing the right thing'.

Most people who sustain powerful systems do so unknowingly, believing they are acting responsibly or ethically.

This is not fringe speculation. Regulatory capture,

pharmaceutical influence over health policy, corporate funding of science, and the concentration of media and technology power are widely documented. The result is not democracy, but managed consent.

What alarms many people today is not an imaginary Illuminati, but the acceleration of these systems into digital form with digital ID, centralised data, algorithmic decision making, all creating a cage that is harder to see and harder to exit.

We don't need secret societies to explain this trajectory. We need honesty about how power operates, and humility from those who assume they are immune simply because their intentions are good.

**Fiona Kaminski**  
Ocean Shores

**Nature reserves**

Nature reserves offer the highest conservation possible and protect habitat for threatened and endangered flora and fauna.

They do not exist for humans. How many more times will this message need to be repeated before the understanding sinks in and the pressure drops? Many of the nature reserves in our Shire have been actively fought for historically, so let's protect them into the future and give nature the respect she deserves.

In the middle of a global extinction crisis, with Australia leading the shameful charge, now is not the time to open any of our designated nature reserves to provide greater access for humans. The Byron Shire offers plenty of recreation opportunities that present no risk to wildlife, and humans are extremely well

catered for here, so please, let's be grateful for the abundance we already have and stop the relentless pursuit of these fragile and vulnerable pockets for cycling transit routes. Grow the cycling highways elsewhere – there are many options.

The jewel in the crown for this Shire is our rich and fantastic biodiversity that the rest of the globe envies, so let's support that to thrive at every opportunity.

**Catherine Lane**  
North Ocean Shores

**Infrastructure failures**

Thanks to *The Echo* for continuing to publish my letters regarding the lack of responsibility taken by Byron Shire Council (BSC) and their continuing failure of maintaining important infrastructure, such as the stormwater pipes which collapsed in Bayside, Brunswick Heads.

The consistent failure of Council to manage, maintain, repair and reconnect our stormwater pipes and

► Continued on next page

**Letters to the Editor and cartoons**

Send your letters to the Editor: [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au). Deadline: Noon, Friday. Letters longer than 200 words may be cut. Letters already published in other papers will not be considered. Please include your full name, address and phone number for verification purposes.

► **Continued from page 11** to excavate the buildup of deposited sand from the failed system just reflects how poor our local government has become.

For years now, this problem has been before councillors. A meeting with Phil Holloway resulted in just a few trees being felled from the end of the drain leading into Simpsons Creek.

Two sink holes in our roads have become 22, with continuous back filling with road base. Time and time again, nothing has been done to address the major issues.

For several years now I have emailed and written with no resulting repairs to reconnect this system to the functional legislated requirement.

This must be done prior to any further allowance of more construction. The approval of further housing DAs just continues, and anyone that has the knowledge of this disastrous situation would ask how can this be allowed? The answer is back to management of our BSC.

The big issue is sulphate soils and that councils knowingly allow construction on sulphate sites such as Bayside. From my knowledge of this issue, there should never

have been any construction allowed to occur on such sites.

**Annie Radermacher**  
Bayside, Brunswick Heads

**Targeted**

While we were having dinner in the Byron RSL, someone spraypainted the driver's side of our car with swastikas on the driver's window and on the tailgate.

The police are investigating. On Wednesday, while we were parked in a disability parking space on River Street, Ballina, Rod Bruem, a *Ballina News Daily* journalist, repeatedly photographed my wife and myself and our vehicle, and accused us of monopolising the disabled parking space [For most of the day, near the Tel Aviv Yafo cafe], even though we are legitimate disabled pensioners with a valid parking permit.

He published an article [saying allegations have been made of threatening and anti-Semitic commentary on local social media pages that 'have not been tested'] and referring to 'targeted intimidation and the misuse of public spaces'.

As a result, a torrent of hatred has been unleashed against us, some of which is threatening us with violence.

The police have been

informed, and a complaint has been made to the Australian Press Council. What is beyond dispute is that the terrible Bondi tragedy and the attacks on Jewish schools and synagogues is a consequence of Israel's ongoing genocide against the people of Gaza.

**Gareth Smith**  
Palestine Liberation Centre, Byron Bay

**Antisemitism**

Jewish leaders and the wider community need to recognise the elephant in the room, being that the actions of the current Israeli government in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon is a cause of rising antisemitism across the world.

This rising aggression is fuelled in both directions by hate and right-wing support dressed as religion, by social media algorithms which induce hate and division.

Unless Israel starts acting as a true humane world partner, it will incubate hate and antisemitism.

This won't stop governments need to act on guns and on social media algorithms, kerb fake news, anonymity and hate speech, which is now the new daily news source for most.

Without action things will

get worse not better.

In the interim, call out the elephant in the room.

**Bruce Porter**  
Brunswick Heads

**Wake up to gun violence**

A total import ban needs to be placed upon the weapons, namely guns of any description from an overseas port unless an issued permit is given prior to the departure from the export country to Australia.

The permit would be a required full background check with ASIO and state police of 'all' our states and territories prior to any local purchase or transfer of any form of weapon that propels a lethal projectile that will cause harm or death.

The permit is to be renewed annually at the expense of the permit holder to ensure that there are no changes to the status of the permit holder.

All weapons are to be deposited in a police or ASIO armoury and the weapons that include a breech-block and bolt are to be separated and safely locked within such armoury. If such weapon[s] are found to be in the hands without a permit, a minimum jail sentence of 20 years could be a good deterrent.

**Roger Graf**  
Fingal Head

**Heilpern's editorial**

In paragraph one of 'Reflections on Bondi attack' (David Heilpern's editorial last week), you note that you are 'reeling, overwhelmed with sorrow, and yet, by paragraph two, as you have done for over two years, you shut down the voices of Jews, Jews who have fearfully endured the rise and thrive of Jew hatred in this country, fuelled by both actions and inactions of the Albanese government, Greens, teals, local councils, universities, media, and by hate marches.

If Jews' voices had been headed by our government, this tragedy may have been prevented.

You say, 'It's not time to blame Albanese for failing to do what the Jewish community and Israel's PM demanded.'

What other minority group can you imagine would be denied appropriate measures to stop thousands of acts and words of hatred that have occurred over the last two years?

Walk safely onto a uni campus? Too much to demand? Be able to wear a Jewish skullcap or Star of

David in public? Too much to demand?

Maybe not have your business graffitied with Nazi symbols and hate speech? Too much to demand? All Jews knew this massacre was inevitable. If you talk to Jews you will know this. Their warnings were ignored over and over. Silenced. Dead Jews was the inevitable outcome of unchecked anti-semitism.

You only have to know history to know this.

You say 'It is not time to stifle criticism of Israel under the guise of stopping anti-semitism.' It has become abundantly clear to Jews that much of the criticism towards Israel has indeed been anti-semitic, as Anti-Zionism is the now accepted and tolerated mutation. Just wondering if *The Echo* plans to do a 'criticism piece' on Iran or Qatar? I guess not.

You say 'It is not time to investigate the possible failures of our intelligence services.' Wow.

When would be an appropriate time to work out what went wrong and if there were failures in order to prevent future attacks.

Let me be very clear. What happened in Bondi is part of a global jihadist war only possible in an environment of complicity and encouragement. Each and every person who has marched shouting 'Globalise the Intifada' or 'From the River to the Sea' is complicit, as Globalise the Intifada is now here.

As it is in the UK, Europe, Canada and other countries where hatred, attacks and killings of Jews are daily occurrences.

This has nothing to do with a Palestinian state as history in 1948, 1967 and 2001 clearly demonstrate.

The goal is the destruction of the Jewish state, the West and to create a global Islamic Caliphate. They have said it. Believe them. There are now ever-expanding no-go areas around the world. Christmas markets and New Year's Eve celebrations in Europe have been cancelled. Israel is on the frontline facing this global peril. Ninety percent of the comments on the Ramallah Facebook news page have celebrated and supported the Bondi massacre, and many have called for the death of the Muslim hero who risked his life on that day. Celebrations have also occurred in Western Sydney?

Labour, the Greens, left-leaning media including yourselves have promoted a reckless narrative that contributed to Australia's

anti-semitism crisis. And now you all suddenly claim to care about Jews?

And once again, your editorial attempts to silence the voices of Jews.

Jews have been saying over and over that demonisation of Israel, perpetuating blood libels and denying Israel's right to exist leads to increased attacks, including dead Jews.

The fact that it took a massacre before the media and political elite show a skerrick of empathy towards Jews is deeply heart-breaking and a shameful indictment on the attitude of the left towards racism when it applies to Jews.

I have read your editorials and letters to the editor over the last two years in horror.

It is time for the left to reflect. And it is time to actually listen to Jews. And not just the few outliers who do not speak for the rest.

Listen, learn, reflect, as there is blame and it is loud. It will not be silenced.

**Dr Nicole Phillips**  
New Brighton

**Russia**

The West's war on Russia is rapidly approaching its inevitable, predictable and indeed predicted conclusion: the collapse of the Zelensky regime, a decisive victory for Russia and a humiliating defeat for the West. This outcome was obvious from the outset to any objective observer with a modicum of knowledge about the relative size and power of the two nations.

With a population four times the size of its neighbour and the largest nuclear arsenal on earth, the Russian federation was always going to prevail over the Ukrainian regime.

The geostrategists in Washington knew this, but they were willing to sacrifice Ukraine in order to harm and weaken Russia. Clearly their degenerate scheme has failed.

Russia has not been weakened, on the contrary it's emerged enlarged, empowered and emboldened, while Ukraine's been wrecked and the West ends up divided, depleted and diminished. This outcome is a testament to the malign intent, delusional analyses and gross incompetence of political leadership in the West, especially in Washington. It represents just the latest in a litany of American military misadventures and foreign policy debacles.

Australia would do well to learn an important lesson from this fiasco.

**John Scrivener**  
Main Arm

*Fish heads*

25TH OF DECEMBER 2025

# Christmas Lunch

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# Councillor replies over Mullum car park deal

Hans Lovejoy

Former mayor Michael Lyon has 'taken issue' with last week's reporting of the terms of the non-binding agreement between Council and NSW government development agency Landcom over a much used Mullum carpark.

They plan to turn it into 'affordable housing' with shop fronts, and have faced fierce public opposition.

The *Echo* published details last week around confidential documents surrounding the proposed \$1 sale after a successful freedom of information request.

Cr Lyon said, 'Firstly, the terms of agreement are non-binding. It is an agreement to negotiate the potential sale of the land to a community housing provider.'

'No agreement has been reached as of today, nor has any sale been agreed.'

Hans Lovejoy: This information was included in *The Echo* article – it states: 'On May 4, 2022, a non-binding proposal (Annexure B – Term Sheet) was signed between Landcom and Council.' *The Echo* agrees that the non-binding agreement is the agreed, intended terms of sale. Mayor Sarah Ndiaye has stated the development will go ahead, no matter what.

Cr Lyon said, 'Secondly, should a sale be agreed, the consideration for the car park land is not \$1, but would include the transfer of the freehold title of two of the units to Council. The headline and front page are deliberately misleading, with this very relevant detail not covered until the final paragraphs of the story on page 5.'

HL: Those shocked by the low sale price can read details like that on pages 1 and 4.



A 3D rendering of Landcom and Council's proposal for the entrance of Mullumbimby at 57 Station Street.

Image by resident Luis Cristia

Cr Lyon said, 'Thirdly, the potential sale would not be to another government agency, but to an accredited Community Housing Provider (CHP).'

HL: In the first paragraph it states this: '...Byron Shire Council (BSC) agreed with government development agency Landcom to sell the much-used Mullumbimby carpark at 57 Station Street to a yet-to-be confirmed community housing provider (CHP) for \$1.'

'Fourthly, as also outlined in the both the 2022 and 2023 term sheets, and in accordance with Council resolution, the land would have a requirement placed on title that ensures it is used for the purposes of affordable housing in perpetuity. So to claim that this is at odds with something I said, as you do in the article, betrays a complete lack of understanding of what is going on. Whether there was to be a lease, or if the land was to be sold, the use of the site must be for affordable housing in perpetuity.'

HL: It is correct that initially the first term sheet says, 'housing is to be retained for affordability over the long-term through either a long-term (50-year+) lease or transfer of title to a CHP to manage'. The second

term sheet from August 3, 2023 says, 'Freehold will be transferred to the CHP. The transaction documents will include an appropriate mechanism to secure the use of the property for affordable housing in perpetuity.'

This is only what the public have knowledge of after those documents were released, and *The Echo* has sought the release of others which remain confidential.

'Finally, the 2022 term sheet talks about either a lease or sale to a CHP, however Council's position at the time, all debated in open session and on the public record, was to offer a 50-year lease when it made the decision to proceed with the development.'

'A period of time followed where the market was tested, and it was determined that even a 99-year lease was not feasible due to CHP equity requirements, and so Council resolved to sell the land as part of the realisation of the project.'

'While this decision was made during confidential session, due to commercial in-confidence information relating to the tenderers, the decision on the development itself had been made in open session at the end of a public debate over a two-year period leading up to the first

vote on this site in 2022.

'To say therefore that there has been 'closed-door' meetings 'throughout the process' is untrue and unfair, because the first meeting held in confidential session was over three years down the road of the process, after several Council resolutions that were held in open session. The decision on the development itself, at that site, was taken in open session with full transparency.'

HL: To insist that Council have provided open and transparent governance does not accord with many motions passed which tabled confidential reports, along with multiple closed door workshops.

From 2022, here are a few: Motion 22-413 from 25 August 2022 says Council will 'assure the community that there will be regular consultation at relevant stages in the project (Balson/Ndiaye).'

At the 27 April 2023 meeting, Council tabled a 'Confidential Evaluation Report'.

At the 22 June 2023 meeting, Council resolved (24-252) to update the agreement with Landcom and to proceed with a revised request for tender. The agenda and minutes report were confidential.

At the 23 May, 2024 meeting, Council resolved to sell the land to the project's preferred CHP. This was a confidential agenda item.

There is also no information available around its financial feasibility.

And as the public now knows, The DA was conducted without any input from Council, hence the project had to be withdrawn owing to a multitude of issues, one of which is the discovery of sewer mains beneath the subject site.

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# Huge results for Byron Bay Boardriders at major junior surfing event

Marc Smith

Byron Bay Boardriders is celebrating an outstanding showing at the 2025 Cooee Grommet Pro, held on the Sunshine Coast from 13 to 15 December.

A large and enthusiastic group of our junior members made the trip north to compete, and they returned home with some truly impressive results that the entire Byron Bay surfing community can be proud of.

The Cooee Grommet Pro is one of the biggest and most competitive junior surfing events in Australia, attracting the country's best young surfers across multiple age divisions. This year's event was blessed with powerful, high-quality waves at Coolum Beach, providing

a challenging but exciting stage for the next generation of surfing talent to test themselves against the best.

## Fun and competitive

Byron Bay Boardriders has worked hard in recent years to create an environment that encourages young surfers to push themselves, build confidence, and compete at an elite level while still having fun and supporting each other. That approach was on full display throughout the weekend, with our groms rising to the occasion and delivering standout performances in demanding conditions.

One of the highlights of the event was a breakout performance from 7-year-old



(L-R) Rosie Barron, Coco Spierings, Tymen Spierings, Lakey Rae Bell, and Jaya Suhendra were just some of the Byron Bay Boardriders who showed off their talent and composure at this year's Cooee Grommet Pro. Photo supplied

Lakey Rae Bell. In waves that were, at times, triple overhead for her, Lakey showed

incredible courage, composure and skill well beyond her years. She powered

her way through the field, defeating the boys to claim first place in the U8 mixed division, and then backed it up with an impressive fourth place finish in the U10 girls.

## Great results all round

It was an exceptional achievement and a performance that turned plenty of heads.

Eight-year-old Coco Spierings also delivered a memorable performance while competing in her first major surf competition. Coco led her U10 girls final right until the closing seconds, only to be narrowly beaten by a last-second buzzer-beater wave. Her second-place finish was an outstanding result and a

clear sign of big things to come for this determined and talented young surfer.

The strong results continued across the age groups, with Jaya Suhendra finishing an excellent second place in the U12 boys, Rosie Barron claiming fourth place in the U12 girls, and Tymen Spierings finishing fourth in the highly competitive U14 boys division.

Beyond the podium finishes, the club was incredibly proud of the sportsmanship, resilience and support shown by all our competitors throughout the event. Representing Byron Bay Boardriders on a national stage is no small achievement, and every surfer who paddled out did so with courage and commitment.

## Locals win accolades at the 2025 Aus surfing awards

Ross Kendall

Lennox Head surfer Joel Taylor won the Para Surfer of the Year (Male) Award while Byron Bay's Leihani Kaloha Zoric claimed the Stephanie Gilmore Rising Star Award at Surfing Australia's awards night held on the Gold Coast earlier this month.

Joel's highlights of his year included a perfect ten point ride in Hawaii and a second world title at the ISA World Para Surfing Championship with another perfect ten point ride and the second highest heat total (19.83) in para surfing history.

A feature documentary on Joel 'screened to rave reviews at film festivals across Australia and the was named the Best Surf Film at Byron Bay Film Festival,' he said.

Byron Bay prodigy Leihani



Joel Taylor in action at the World Para Surfing Championship. Photo supplied

'Mono' Stewart was named honouree of the Greater Good Award presented by Kennards Hire. Stewart reflected on his experience captaining the Irukandji Para Team at the 2025 ISA Para Surfing Championships and expressed how humbled he is to receive such a prestigious honour.

'I was extremely proud to captain the Australian team at the ISA World Para Championships this year. We finished fourth overall, but the whole team—especially the women—truly excelled and did an incredible job,' Mono said.

'To receive the Greater Good Award is such an honour. I'm humbled to be recognised alongside so many inspiring nominees, and proud to be part of the adaptive surf community.'

Kaloha Zoric claimed the Stephanie Gilmore Rising Star Award, presented by the AIS: 'It feels incredible. I can't believe I even got nominated, let alone won! The other girls are so good,' she said. 'I've had such an unbelievable year, from the 9.97 at the Australian Boardriders Battle Grand Final, to getting second at Stab High Japan, and now winning this award.'

Recent NSW Hall of Champions inductee Mark

## Junior basketball finals frenzy 2025



One of the winning high school teams with Byron Shire Mayor, Sarah Ndiaye. Photo supplied

Ross Kendall

Byron Bay Basketball hosted a 'finals frenzy' that included all grand finals and third-place playoffs, in every junior division, all played on the one day, 29 November at the Cavanbah Centre.

Every game was played in great competitive spirit and true Beez style, culminating in an intense high school boys A-grade; and then primary school A-grade finals.

## Shoot out highlight

The atmosphere was electric – supported by the brand new PA system pumping sounds throughout the day.

A highlight of the day was the 3-point shoot out. The sharpest of sharp shooters from our high school boys A & B divisions (plus some wildcards) were invited to take part. Gem Eden heated up during his round, taking the competition by racking

up 13 out of a possible 18 points, taking out the \$200 cash prize.

## Send us your sport stories!

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

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# MULLUM

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- Christine** – shopped at Byron Bay Pork & Meats
  - Sophie Porte** – shopped at Liberty Mullumbimby
  - Paige Roussetos** – shopped at The Mullumbimby Chocolate Shop
  - Sonya Marish** – shopped at Craig Watson Soul Pattinson Chemist
  - Marisa Snow** – shopped at Mullumbimby Vet Clinic
- Pictured is of Cass Emanuel, one of last week's winners, with Shane from Mullum Mac.



Thanks to all the wonderful local businesses who took part!

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- Liberty Mullumbimby
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# Good Taste

# Eateries Guide

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Saturday 12 to 2.30pm, 5pm to late  
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Rosefina's is going street-style with BBQ tacos for Sunday lunch

## LENNOX HEAD



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Open: Tue for dinner  
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bangalowntuckshop.com  
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Where good food and good times bump into each other and decide to stay for a drink. They've taken modern Aussie cuisine, given it a cheeky spin, and packed it with the best locally sourced produce the Northern Rivers has to offer. Whether you're a local or just passing through, Tuckshop offers a dining experience that feels both special and familiar at the same time.

## MULLUMBIMBY



### Bacco Wine Bar

Opening Hours: Wednesday - Sunday  
Opening times: 3pm - late  
Happy Hour: 3 - 5pm  
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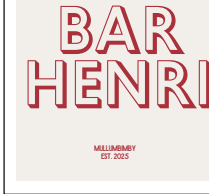


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## MURWILLUMBAH



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**About Us:** Family-owned and French-inspired menu, we serve locally-sourced produce alongside a selection of natural, minimal-intervention wines and carefully curated cocktails.  
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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. Join the Crystalbrook Crowd (it's free) and save 10% on all food and drinks. From Tuesday to Saturday, indulge in Golden Hour from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

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10 Huonbrook Rd, Wilsons Creek  
0421 054 484 | [www.threeways.store](http://www.threeways.store)  
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[lordbyrondistillery.com.au](http://lordbyrondistillery.com.au)  
(02) 8646 4901

- Distillery Tour and Tasting
  - Gin Distilling Class
  - Cocktail Classes
  - Open Friday Nights
- Book Online**

## CATERING



### Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

[lizzijackson@gmail.com](mailto:lizzijackson@gmail.com)  
0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.



### 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.**



### 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.

## Good Taste Deal of the Week

### Bar Henri, Mullumbimby LIVE MUSIC THURSDAY'S

#### Happy hour 4-6

- \$15 Cocktails
- \$10 Schooners
- \$10 House wines

20 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby

# The Good Life

## Christmas is 'shop-like-a-local' time at the Mullumbimby Farmers Market

With Christmas Day falling on a Thursday, Mullum Farmers Market will have a one-week date change, opening Christmas Eve, Wednesday, 24 December (7am to 11am), and closing Friday, 26 December, for Boxing Day.

It's a chance to shop the way locals do – strolling through 75 stalls of fresh produce and artisan products, with live music in the background and people catching up over breakfast and drinks as they ease into the festive break.

A natural starting point is cheese. At Cheeses Loves You, Burringbar cheesemaker Deb Allard crafts an extensive range of cheeses using milk from the Jersey cows she and her husband, Jim, raise. Her offering includes hard cheeses, brie- and camembert-style wheels, plus fresh favourites like mozzarella and stracchino, alongside haloumi, ricotta, mascarpone, feta and quark. Cultured butter, yoghurt, buttermilk and crème fraîche round out the stall. Kefir remains the best seller, and for Christmas, Deb is producing pepper Romano wheels and mixed cheese packs.

Just along the aisle, Nimbin Valley Dairy delivers beautifully made goat's cheeses that let the milk speak for itself. Standouts include St Billie, a surface-ripened lactic goat cheese inspired by crottin; and the Washed Goat, lightly brined for 7 to 10 days to develop deeper, savoury, umami flavours.



**Mullum Farmers Market:  
Wednesday 24 Dec,  
not Friday 26 Dec**



From there, it's easy to build the rest of the table. A red, white or even a festive brandy from Jilly Wines sets the tone for long afternoons, followed by award-winning smoked fish, rillettes and a new smoked fish salad from The Bay Smokehouse. JJ Seafood provides fresh prawns and fish, with oysters from Brunswick Valley Oysters adding classic coastal flavour. For

a more traditional Christmas lunch, choose pasture-raised chicken from Misty Creek Farm as the main event.

Finish on a sweet note with Christmas mince pies from Sequel Bakery, topped with fresh summer berries, and Christmas lunch is all but sorted. You'll also find locally-grown vegetables and all the festive essentials: fresh fruit, nuts, sourdough, fresh pasta, mushrooms, rice, flours, legumes, jams, relishes, sauces, fresh and dried pasta, olives, pastries, baked goods, sprouts and just about anything else you could possibly need for a Christmas feast.

■ Mullum Farmers Market is open on Wednesday, 24 December from 7am to 11am for one week only. Mullum Farmers will be closed on Friday, 26 December, Boxing Day, and return to every Friday from 2 January.

## Holiday mode starts at The Tav



The gin garden at the Ocean Shores Tavern hits the spot this summer!

If you're sliding into Christmas with full 'I'm not cooking another damn thing' energy, The Tav is ready for you. Summer at Ocean Shores Tavern is built for keeping life easy. No prep, no dishes, no hosting panic. Just breezy afternoons, cold drinks and food that hits the spot every single time.

Out back, our big sunny deck looks straight over the green and somehow always catches the perfect sea breeze. Inside, the air con is humming, the beers are frosty, the cocktails are dangerously drinkable and the whole place has that relaxed holiday vibe where shoulders drop and time slows down.

Feeding the herd? Our Meat + Mingle Burger Bar & Smokehouse is your summer

lifesaver, serving lunch and dinner seven days a week. Expect stacked burgers, slow-smoked meats, and crunchy fried snacks you'll end up guarding with your life, fresh salads for when you're trying to be good and kids' meals even the fussiest small humans will demolish. It is the ultimate fix for anyone refusing to turn the oven on until February.

Parents, this is your moment. Our fully-fenced playground means the kids run wild while you enjoy something cold and delicious. And if you feel like stirring up some friendly rivalry, the pool tables are always ready for a showdown.

Got family in town and absolutely no desire to host again? Our BBQ packs are your

cheat code. We prep all the marinated meats and sides so it feels like a backyard party minus the work. Grill together in the riverside beer garden or hire one of our chefs to cook the whole feast while you entertain and take the credit.

And when New Year's Eve wraps and you wake up needing shade, greasy food and a strong Bloody Mary, our New Year's Day Come Down Backyard Bash is your reset. Sunshine, rugs on the grass, bangin' tunes, smash burgers, lawn games and maybe a cheeky water pistol fight.

■ This summer, take the easy road – start holiday mode at The Tav. Ocean Shores Tavern, 84 Rajah Road, Ocean Shores. [oceanshorestavern.com.au](http://oceanshorestavern.com.au)

## Stone & Wood supporting disabled surfers



The Ingrained Foundation was established in 2018 receiving \$1 for every hectolitre of Stone & Wood beer produced, it has donated more than \$2.8 million across Australia through grants, fundraising, emergency relief and direct support.

During the 2025 Ingrained Foundation grants round, the Disabled Surfers Association (DSA) Far North Coast Branch applied for funding to purchase a custom-fitted trailer essential for transporting specialised surf equipment and adapted wheelchairs. While the application was unsuccessful, the need remained critical to ensuring people with disability across the Far North Coast of NSW could

continue to experience the joy and freedom of surfing.

At the same time, Stone & Wood beer produced, the official beer partner for all major World Surf League (WSL) events in Australia. With a deep connection to surf culture and a shared commitment to community, the Stone & Wood team were inspired to find another way to support the Disabled Surfers Association.

That spark led to the creation of the 'Win a Twin Fin 2025' raffle – offering surf fans the chance to win one of five iconic twin-fin surfboards. Each board has been hand-shaped by renowned Australian shapers and ridden by professional surfers at recent

WSL events, making them a true piece of surfing history.

Importantly, every dollar raised through the raffle will go directly to the Disabled Surfers Association Far North Coast Branch to fund the purchase of the much-needed custom trailer.

■ Grab your tickets today for a chance to win a legendary surf board and give the gift of an unforgettable wave! <https://www.raffletix.com.au/winatwinfin2025>



# BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE



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

## 1 TEMPLE OF THE SUN

Temple of the Sun is a modern expression of ancient craft – jewellery inspired by history, shaped by nature, and made to last. Each piece gathers meaning as it is worn, evolving into an heirloom that holds deep connection while honouring sentiment and beauty.

Temple of the Sun designs are crafted with care and intention, using ethically-sourced materials.

3 Ti-Tree Place  
[templeofthesun.com.au](http://templeofthesun.com.au)  
[@templeofthesunjewellery](https://www.instagram.com/templeofthesunjewellery)

## 2 ANTICO EMPORIO

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

Opening hours 10am to 4pm, Monday to Saturday, or by appointment.

12 Tasman Way  
 0420 926 409  
[anticoemporio.com.au](http://anticoemporio.com.au)  
[@antico\\_emporio](https://www.instagram.com/antico_emporio)  
[anticoemporio@outlook.com](mailto:anticoemporio@outlook.com)

## 3 EYE OF HORUS

Step into the award-winning Eye of Horus concept store and discover clean, conscious beauty, perfect for Christmas gifting.

Book a personalised festive makeup lesson, perfect for events and parties. Gift cards are available in-store.

Refill or recycle your beauty essentials and explore our curated range of cosmetics and skincare.

Mention the ECHO ad in-store to receive a 15% local discount (T&Cs apply).

Monday-Friday, 9.30am-4pm  
 4/1 Boronia Place  
[eyeofhorusc cosmetics.com](http://eyeofhorusc cosmetics.com)  
[@eyeofhorusc cosmetics](https://www.instagram.com/eyeofhorusc cosmetics)

## 4 BYRON BAY CAMPING & DISPOSALS

Summer's well and truly here and the temperature is perfect for all those outdoor activities. Byron Bay Camping and Disposals have most of your bait and tackle needs, with brands in store like Okuma, Zman, Halco, Platypus and Jaz lures.

They also have a huge range of snorkelling and spearfishing gear for those who prefer spending their time in the water.

1/1 Tasman Way  
[www.byron-camping.com.au](http://www.byron-camping.com.au)  
 0439 212 153

## 5 OUR PLACE BYRON

Our Place is Byron's retail, events and creative hub. They host vintage clothing markets with local vendors, wellness sessions, and creative workshops. They stock Salty Dagger, Jim Banks surfboards, garments, surf essentials and more. A space for connection and discovering local brands in Byron's arts precinct.

Are you a local creative? Let them showcase your art for free.

4/4 Banksia Drive  
[@ourplacebyron](https://www.instagram.com/ourplacebyron)

## 6 STEW

Stew is a creative community hub bringing together good people doing good things. We offer spaces for artist-run workshops and a thoughtfully curated store showcasing work by local artists, designers and brands. A home for creativity and connection, STEW is a new focal point for the community to discover, make and celebrate local talent.

Check out our Insta for late-night shopping, events, weekend market info and upcoming workshops.

18 Acacia Street  
 Instagram: [@stew\\_bb](https://www.instagram.com/stew_bb)  
[www.stew-bb.com](http://www.stew-bb.com)  
 Opening hours: Mon-Fri 10-3pm

## 7 SOLE BROS, BYRON BAY

The best shoe shop in Australia is right here in Byron A&I estate and Christmas bargains abound. Now 10 to 60% off, Birkenstocks make great gifts. Get the size and wrap them up or call the store for help. At these prices the whole family can get a pair or two!

Call now and they can post in time for Christmas delivery.

1/20 Brigantine Street  
 02 6685 5420  
[@solebrosbyronbay](https://www.instagram.com/solebrosbyronbay)

## 8 BODHI LIVING

Bodhi Living showcases a carefully-curated collection of furniture, homewares, rugs and lighting, sourced both locally and globally. They have introduced a range of collections designed in-house, including sofas, dining tables and seating using natural and sustainable materials such as rattan and wood.

The brand encapsulates the freedom of spirit, and the soul of the individual, as represented through their home.

Shop 1/18 Centennial Circuit  
[bodhiliving.com.au](http://bodhiliving.com.au)  
[@bodhi.living](https://www.instagram.com/bodhi.living)

## 9 THE LARDER BYRON BAY

The Larder Byron Bay has been serving the Byron Shire and surrounding areas since 1998. They make entertaining easy, with options for drop-off, buffet, or full service for weddings, festivals, birthdays, wakes, workshops and corporate events. Their menus cater to all tastes.

Get ready for Christmas with their festive feast menu.

1/12 Bayshore Drive  
[www.thelarder.com.au](http://www.thelarder.com.au)  
[catering@thelarder.com.au](mailto:catering@thelarder.com.au)  
 02 6680 8644

## 10 NIMBUS CO BYRON

Nimbus Co is a sanctuary dedicated to your well-being, where modern wellness meets natural harmony. New clients can enjoy their state-of-the-art wellness studio in Byron Bay with their 'New to Nimbus offering': 50-minute standard sauna session \$35. 50-minute, private large sauna session \$39. 50-minute private hold cold contrast session \$45.

Towels, filtered water and refreshments are provided.

4/17 Tasman Way  
[www.nimbusco.com.au](http://www.nimbusco.com.au)

## 11 EBIYA - JAPANESE EATERY

Nourishing Japanese food for your everyday life, Ebiya brings authentic yet approachable Japanese flavours to Byron Bay. A bright and relaxed dining space inspired by the everyday charm of Japanese shokudo culture, serving nourishing bento, sushi rolls and deli salads made with local ingredients.

Shop 1 / 6 Tasman Way  
[@ebiyakitchen](https://www.instagram.com/ebiyakitchen)  
[ebiyakitchen@gmail.com](mailto:ebiyakitchen@gmail.com)

## 12 HEAT PILATES & YOGA

Byron Bay's home for dynamic, music-driven movement. They blend hot pilates, strength training, reformer and grounding yoga to build power, mobility and confidence. The warm, welcoming studio and expert instructors create an uplifting atmosphere for every level. Feel energised, challenged and fully reset—every class, every time, in a space designed to make you feel amazing.

8 Grevillea Street  
[heatbyronbay.com.au](http://heatbyronbay.com.au)

## 13 THE SALVOS STORE

The Salvos Store in Byron Bay is located at 5 Banksia Drive in the Arts & Industry Estate. This great store has an amazing selection of women's, men's and kids' clothing, including a vibrant boutique clothing section. The store also stocks mattresses and smaller furniture items.

The store is open Monday to Saturday. Pop in and see the friendly team.

5 Banksia Drive

## 14 MR VINTAGE

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

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

3/6 Centennial Circuit  
 02 6680 8640  
[@mrvintageaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/mrvintageaustralia)

# + HABITAT PRECINCT



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

## 15 OiTO HEAD SPA

Discover the new flagship OiTO Head Spa at Habitat, Byron Bay.

A serene, Brazilian-inspired spa dedicated to scalp health and beautiful hair. Enjoy double-cleanse rituals, steam therapy, the calming Water Halo and soothing massage techniques, all powered by OiTO's nutrient-rich Brazilian formulas. Strengthen roots, reduce hair fall and restore shine.

Healthy scalp. Stronger hair. Byron's new sanctuary.

Shop 11/ 1 Porter Street  
 Bookings [www.oitoheadspa.com.au](http://www.oitoheadspa.com.au)

## 16 RICHARDSON MURRAY LAW

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

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

42 Parkes Avenue  
[www.richardson-murray.law](http://www.richardson-murray.law)

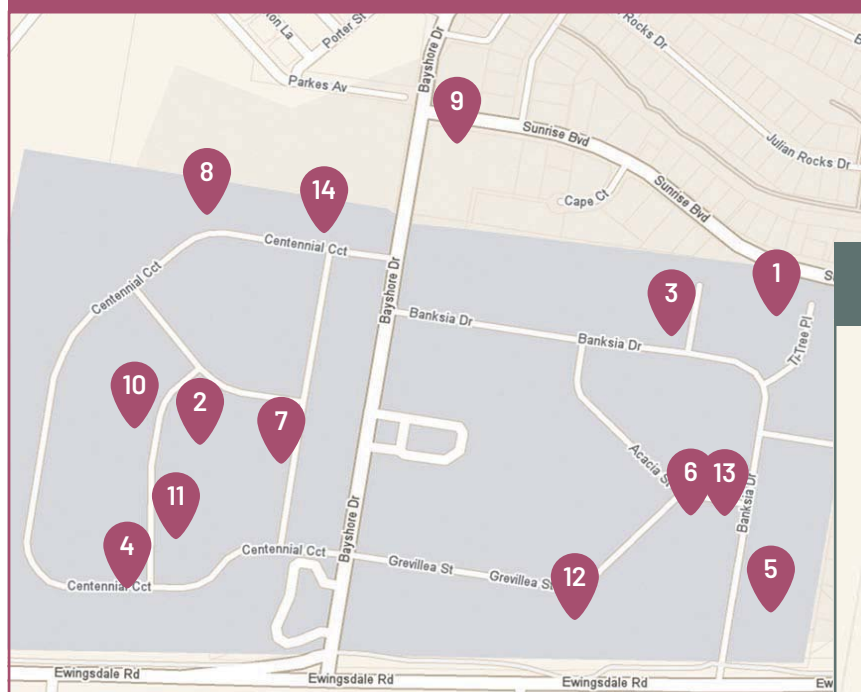
## 17 BYRON FAMILY LAW

Byron Family Law is a boutique family law firm established in Byron Bay. Through collaborative and resolution-focused practices, they support clients to separate more kindly and to rebuild following divorce or separation.

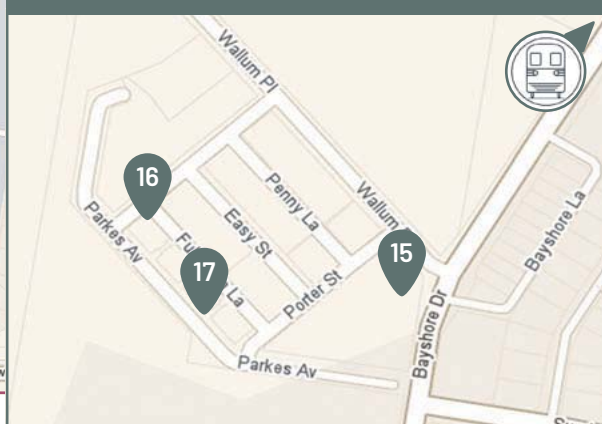
They work in collaboration with local counsellors, conveyancers, accountants, mediators, and health and wellness professionals to support you and your family to not only survive, but thrive following a separation.

18 Parkes Avenue  
 02 6687 2774  
[byronfamilylaw.com.au](http://byronfamilylaw.com.au)

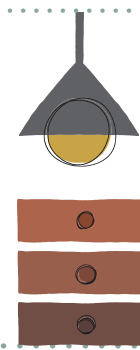
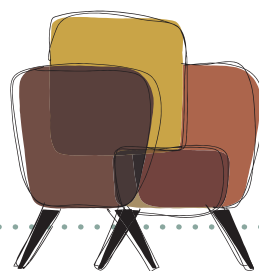
## BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE



## HABITAT PRECINCT



# Making SPACES



## Konpak

Live in a Konpak home, built for the changing seasons of life.

Based in Murwillumbah, Konpak designs and builds compact, architecturally considered tiny homes made for modern living. Whether you're seeking a backyard rental, multi-generational living solution, or just a simpler lifestyle, Konpak offers functional, beautiful dwellings that don't compromise on quality.

Each home is locally built and delivered ready to live in which means no on-site construction stress. Our team works closely with you to customise your space and make the most of every square metre.

Big on lifestyle, small in size, Konpak is about building smarter, not bigger.

**300 Lundberg Dr, South Murwillumbah (by appointment only)**  
**Call Cody: 0434 272 353**  
**konpak.com.au @konpak\_homes**



## Great gifts at Eden at Byron

Eden at Byron is full of great gifts for all the special people in your life.

There are beautiful plants for all positions, including bonsai, bromeliads, orchids, water lilies, Venus Flytraps and other carnivorous plants.

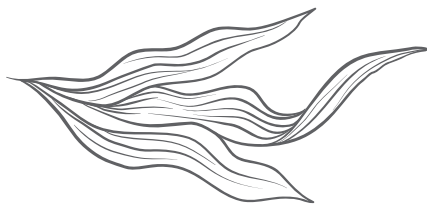
There's the best range of fruit trees on the north coast, including lychees, blueberries, grapes, citrus, mangoes, feijoas, avocados, chillis, and tropical stone fruit and apples.

And there are gorgeous living Christmas trees, as well as red poinsettias, the classic Christmas flower.

The great selection of plants is complemented by a fabulous range of pots and premium hand tools, watering cans, secateurs and gloves, making it easy to find the perfect gift.

With complimentary gift wrapping, and gift vouchers available, there's no better place to do your Christmas shopping.

**140 Bangalow Rd, Byron Bay**  
**shop@edenatbyron.com.au**  
**Phone: (02) 6685 6874**



## When your air-con fails, make the right call



With families gathering for the Christmas break in the Northern Rivers, the last thing anyone wants is air-conditioning failure in the summer heat. Artisan Air has built its reputation on being the repair specialists who keep homes comfortable when it matters most.

The company's expertise lies in understanding that most air-conditioning issues are repairable. From refrigerant leaks to compressor failures, their experienced technicians respond quickly with precision diagnostics, restoring cool comfort so families can focus on quality time together rather than sweltering indoors.

This repair-focused approach saves customers significant money while reducing environmental impact. When air-conditioning troubles threaten holiday gatherings this summer, savvy Northern Rivers homeowners know exactly who to call — the repair experts at Artisan Air.

**(02) 6680 9394**  
**hello@artisanair.com.au**  
**www.artisanair.com.au**



## Swap a Bottle

As we head into the festive season, the Swap a Bottle team extends warmest wishes for a safe, joyful, and prosperous holiday period.

This time of year is a perfect reminder of the power of supporting local businesses and making the switch has never been easier.

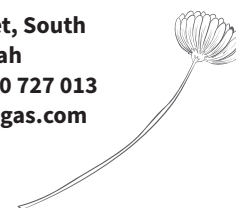
By choosing local suppliers for your gas needs, you're not only investing in your community, but also ensuring faster

service, reliable delivery, and a team that genuinely cares.

With Swap a Bottle, changing to a trusted local gas company is as simple as a phone call, just friendly, dependable support right around the corner!

Let's celebrate the season by keeping it local and keeping it simple.

**10 Kite Street, South Murwillumbah**  
**Free call 1300 727 013**  
**swapabottlegas.com**



## Your local window legends \* Christmas edition \*

Jake and Toby at Working Windows are flat-out for the season with January bookings now open.

Working Windows specialise in repairing and replacing windows, doors, fly screens and security screens, helping homeowners stay cool, comfortable and bug-free throughout the long Northern Rivers summer. Whether you're dealing with sticky timber windows, worn rollers, torn fly screens or doors that no longer close properly, Working Windows restore them so they work smoothly again.

With over ten years' experience across timber, aluminium and uPVC, they deliver high-quality, long-lasting and eco-friendly results for local homes. They're a small business built on reliable workmanship, friendly service and keeping our community's homes working at their best.



**Book for January with Jake or Toby**  
**Toby: 0405 793 994**  
**Jake: 0435 506 465**  
**workingwindows1@gmail.com**  
**www.workingwindows.com.au**

## Sleep better with Beds R Us Byron Bay

Did you know all the mattresses at Beds R Us are made right here in Australia?

When you shop at Beds R Us Byron Bay, you're not just buying a mattress, you're investing in Australian craftsmanship, local jobs, and your best night's sleep. Their Sleepmaker and Sleepyhead mattresses are proudly made in Australia using innovative comfort technologies designed to keep you cool, supported, and well-rested.

By choosing local, you're helping our community thrive. You're supporting Aussie families, reducing environmental impact, and getting premium quality that's built to last.

Visit them at 16 Brigantine Street — their friendly team is here to help you find your perfect mattress. Let them help you sleep better.

**16 Brigantine Street, Arts & Industry Estate**  
**(02) 6685 5212**





# Survival of the Shameless

Mandy Nolan

'Survival of the shameless'. I heard that term this morning in a BBC podcast I was listening to with Dutch historian Rutger Bregman, who is calling for a 'moral revolution'. It was one of those simple phrases that landed in my body. My sense of the world, of my morality has always been instinctual rather than strictly intellectual. When something hits me as a 'truth bomb' I feel it. My throat tightens, I get goosebumps, I have this sense of 'Aha!'. I felt the need to think deeply about the statement. This subversion of the Darwinian theory clearly articulates the future trajectory of a humanity that copies itself not by outrunning predators, but by becoming a predator, someone not averse to opportunism and corruption. It's sociopathy in action. Survival of the shameless. Is compassion about to become extinct?

It was 5.15am on my way to the gym. The words stuck in my brain like a prickle. Later that morning a story flashed on my newsfeed. The Facebook post by the *Daily Mail* used an unrelated photo of Chris Hemsworth and Eva Pataky superimposed over an image of Byron Bay. This is click-bait. So I clicked. The story had nothing to do with the Hemsworths, it was about real estate. The header for the article was 'The "Golden Grid": Is Byron's property market taking off again?' Oh FFS, not that again.

It made me feel sick. That is shameless. Flagrant speculation. This is not a thing. It's not news. This is a story ABOUT money, to other people WITH money, hoping to make MORE money. This is shamelessness in action. And it completely omits the other boom industry here. Homelessness. More and more people are living in rental stress. More and more people are spending nearly all their income to rent substandard accommodation. \$400pw for a garage. \$800



## In Bethlehem, where the property market was taking off, Mary, Joseph and Jesus were rough sleepers.

for a studio. Oh, and can you move out for summer? We're renting it for \$10k a week... Survival of the shameless. Yuck.

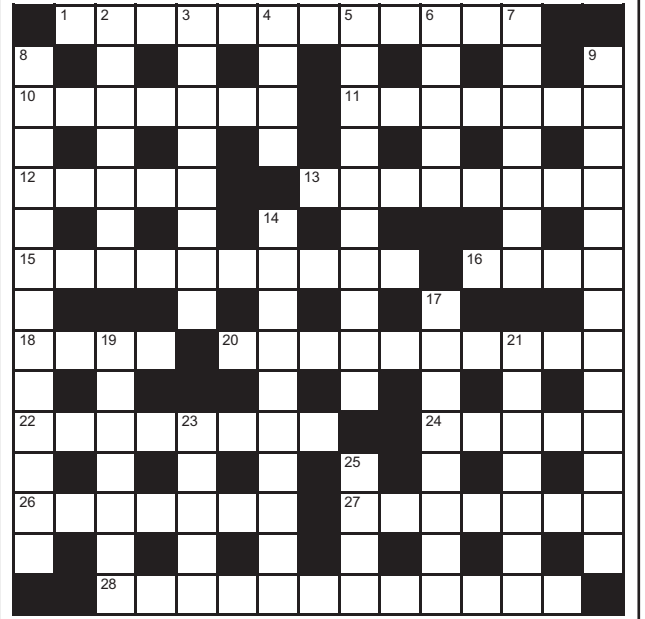
Sometimes the story in the story is the story that's NOT being told. The absence of the shadow narrative. Like, there's more people who have to use Link to Home - staying in 2-star hotels that now enjoy full occupancy, but there is no way forward for these people in crisis. Except for more crises. That story doesn't look good in a real estate ad. No one wants blood on their hands when they've shelled out millions.

But it's not the Hemsworth Effect. It's crazy and unkind to make one couple the poster image for something they never caused. Let's call it what it is. The Capitalism Effect. The Real Estate Effect. The Using Housing as Investment Effect. The Short Term Holiday Letting Effect, the Greed Effect. The Bad Government Policy Effect - via a tax system with a Favour The Wealthy and Send Ordinary People to the Street Effect

That in a nutshell is 'survival of the shameless'. Because these stories of multi-million dollar property booms aren't something to celebrate. They are something we should be ashamed of. Because the higher the needle on the 'dollarometer' goes, the higher the number of people sleeping in their cars. The more people feel they don't belong because there is no longer a place for them. In a wealthy society, full of empty houses, empty rooms and what can only be empty hearts, that is shameless.

And it's Christmas. A time to reflect on the Christian story that forms the dominant cornerstone of our cultural beliefs. In Bethlehem, where the property market was taking off, Mary, Joseph and Jesus were rough sleepers.

■ *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.



**Cryptic Clues**

- ACROSS**
- Marksman finds medical waste on nose (12)
  - Go around with false lover, nabbing a Tesla perhaps (7)
  27. Islanders check out novelist (7,7)
  - Beginnings of acute psychotic/neurotic episodes associated with sleep disorder (5)
  - Sort of ideal pick-me-up after lap dancing (8)
  - Disappointing outcome of caper at large - really large! - screen venue (10)
  - Reflection in pools outside capital city (4)
  - Senior policeman at married quarter has little money (4)
  - While randomly hoarding *Echoes*, Brian regularly ignored means of disposal (7,3)
  - Essentially agreed to representative perhaps getting recall (8)
  - Lady with a song (5)
  - Crooks expose veteran broadcaster (7)
  - See 11 across
  - Cleaner stacks blubber (7,5)

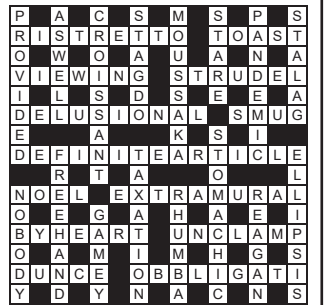
- DOWN**
- Pauper in retreat to reform (4-3)
  - Cleaner, one in violation of trust (8)
  - Large number butchered (4)
  - Old soldier at front, getting crook after cocaine with dodgy date, wavered (10)
  - Times provides cover for IRA revolutionary, which is characteristic (5)
  - Decisions on steps to overcome first signs of legal impediments (7)
  - Random sort of inquiry into criminal organisation computer network infiltrates by mistake (5-3-5)
  - 'Scary movie', historian said to mind-reader! (13)
  - Geishas assembled outside hotel, working at peak visiting time (4,6)
  - Bishop, not participating in climb over church, gets lower guaranteed source of income (5,3)
  - Microclimate disaster dodged by 24 (me-too!) (7)
  - Southeast Asian blood group serum, originally experimental, being distributed (7)
  - I'm setting up friend from France somewhere in Florida (5)
  - Bear heading off to whirlpool (4)

**Quick Clues**

- ACROSS**
- Expert user of guns (12)
  - Spin around a central point (7)
  - His Majesty (7)
  - Temporary cessation of breathing (5)
  - Non-romantic in nature (8)
  - Disappointing end after build-up (10)
  - Capital of Norway (4)
  - Ten-cent American coin (4)
  - Mobile refuse container (7,3)
  - Keep in mind (8)
  - Festive song (5)
  - Banishes or forbids (7)
  - Author of *David Copperfield* (7)
  - Flue cleaner (7,5)

- DOWN**
- Financially embarrassed person (4-3)
  - Dependence (8)
  - Large number (4)
  - Swung back and forth (10)
  - Distinguishing characteristic (5)
  - Judicial decisions (7)
  - Experimental method (5-3-5)
  - Freudian therapist (13)
  - Peak tourist period (4,6)
  - Reliable source of income (5,3)
  - Imitative in nature (7)
  - From Myanmar (7)
  - Florida coastal city (5)
  - Circular water current (4)

**Last week's solution #86**



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

## STARS BY LILITH

Gratitude and thanks to readers for their continuing appreciation, with warm wishes for a lush and loving, fabulous and funny, safe and stimulating seasonal smorgasbord...



CAPRICORN THE GOAT

**ARIES:** If festive frictions send you straying towards the frayed-temper zone, go easy on the stimulants and choose cruise control rather than arguing. There'll be differences of opinion, but as Aries Maya Angelou advises: If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, then change your attitude.

**TAURUS:** Moderation's not your favourite virtue, but do balance this week's rich festive fare with the occasional leafy green, because digestive stress stimulates liverish (read irritable) behaviour and this week needs peacemakers, not agitators. If situations heat up well, you're an earth sign - go cool down in the great outdoors.

**GEMINI:** The forecast for this year's festivities isn't without the usual surprises. You're an air sign, so soothe frayed neurons by getting plenty of the fresh variety. As Gemini artist Michael Leunig observed: Love one another and you will be happy. It's as simple and as difficult as that.

**CANCER:** Take life's little surprises more objectively, less personally this week; don't let someone else's mood affect your attitude. Balance ferocious socialising with time in or near the ocean, which always revives water signs. Consider taking a mini-breakation to do the things you used to enjoy before life got so busy.

**LEO:** Overheating on any level's your biggest no-no this week, because you fabulous fixers need a cool head, calm heart and advanced leadership skills to oversee the rejigging of plans that may go haywire. If this season's celebrations differ from your usual traditions, make that a good thing by creating new rituals.

**VIRGO:** It's time to start thinking about kicking back and celebrating what you've achieved. And what you're not going to. Aim for divine carelessness this week. Use your brilliant ability to simplify by adopting a truly radical approach: Do as little as possible and enjoy as much as you can.

**LIBRA:** If this week brings unruly attitudes, wayward behaviour or radical variations of your celebratory expectations, understanding works better than outrage and humour than hurt feelings. Try channelling Libran spokesperson Yogi Amrit Desai's advice: Do everything with so much love that you never want to do it any other way.

**SCORPIO:** Your starmap suggests Scorpio's humanitarian assignment for this week is assisting everyone, including your good self, to enjoy whatever state of divine disorder happens to be occurring. To seek out niches of goodwill and peace on earth. To minimise stress, maximise pleasure and celebrate midsummer's rich and fruitful bounty.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Besides overextension, your perennial nemesis, this week's biggest challenge is refraining from offering unsolicited opinions. Next biggest is not getting cranky with people who do offer them. That said, with Mercury sending your happy-go-lucky social life into orbit you'll be wired, fired, inspired, and quite frequently desired.

**CAPRICORN:** With the planetary trinity of sun, Venus and Mars in your sign singing Happy Birthday Capricorn, this is your week. If others, whose week it isn't, make waves, you might want to consider relinquishing micro-managing and letting them do it their way - which after all means less work for you.

**AQUARIUS:** With a week of merrymaking ahead, safe driving and the dedicated practise of kindness are essential. Don't triple book. Keep your mind on what you're doing rather than a dozen other things. The moon's in your quirky sign of surprises for the leadup to the x-event, so allow for the unexpected.

**PISCES:** After two and a half years of taskmaster Saturn in your sign maturing you like fine vintage wine, you'll easily blitz this week's odd squabble, seasonal inconvenience or relational hiccup by remembering that blessed are the flexible, for they shall go with the flow - especially during the Christmas Pisces moon.

# FESTIVE SEASON

The perfect gift...

## WATTLEBEE BABY

### Beautiful essentials for bump, baby and beyond

Wattlebee Baby is the Northern Rivers only boutique baby store with everything in one place. Families can explore a curated range of maternity wear, postpartum care, baby clothing, feeding essentials, prams, cots, car seats, toys and gifts.

As a local family-owned business, they proudly support Australian and Northern Rivers makers and choose products that are practical, beautiful and future focused. Wattlebee Baby was created to give local families a trusted place to find the essentials they need close to home.

Shop 8, Ballina Central, 44 Bangalow Road, Ballina  
0412 061 002  
@wattlebeebaby  
www.wattlebeebaby.com.au

## HAPPY SUMMER SEASON

Enjoy your holiday, or splash out on the greatest gift of all, a wholesome experience with your loved ones. A hot air balloon flight with friends, family, or staff is not only a magical moment but also healthy, outdoors, and educational.

Learning the physics of flight whilst floating in the air across the Northern Rivers at sunrise is a special occasion not to be missed. Included is a delicious breakfast at the iconic Three Blue Ducks restaurant, the cherry on top of a great morning out!

Book your journey at  
www.balloonaloft.com



# Wattlebee Baby

From Bump to Baby and Beyond

## HOLIDAY SPECIALS

### Maxi-Cosi Bonus Gift

Buy any Maxi-Cosi car seat or capsule before 15 December and receive a free Maxi-Cosi mirror. Safe travels start here.



### Uppababy Stroller Offer

Purchase any Uppababy stroller before 20 December and get a free Uppababy bevy cooler. Perfect for summer family adventures.

### Christmas Giveaway

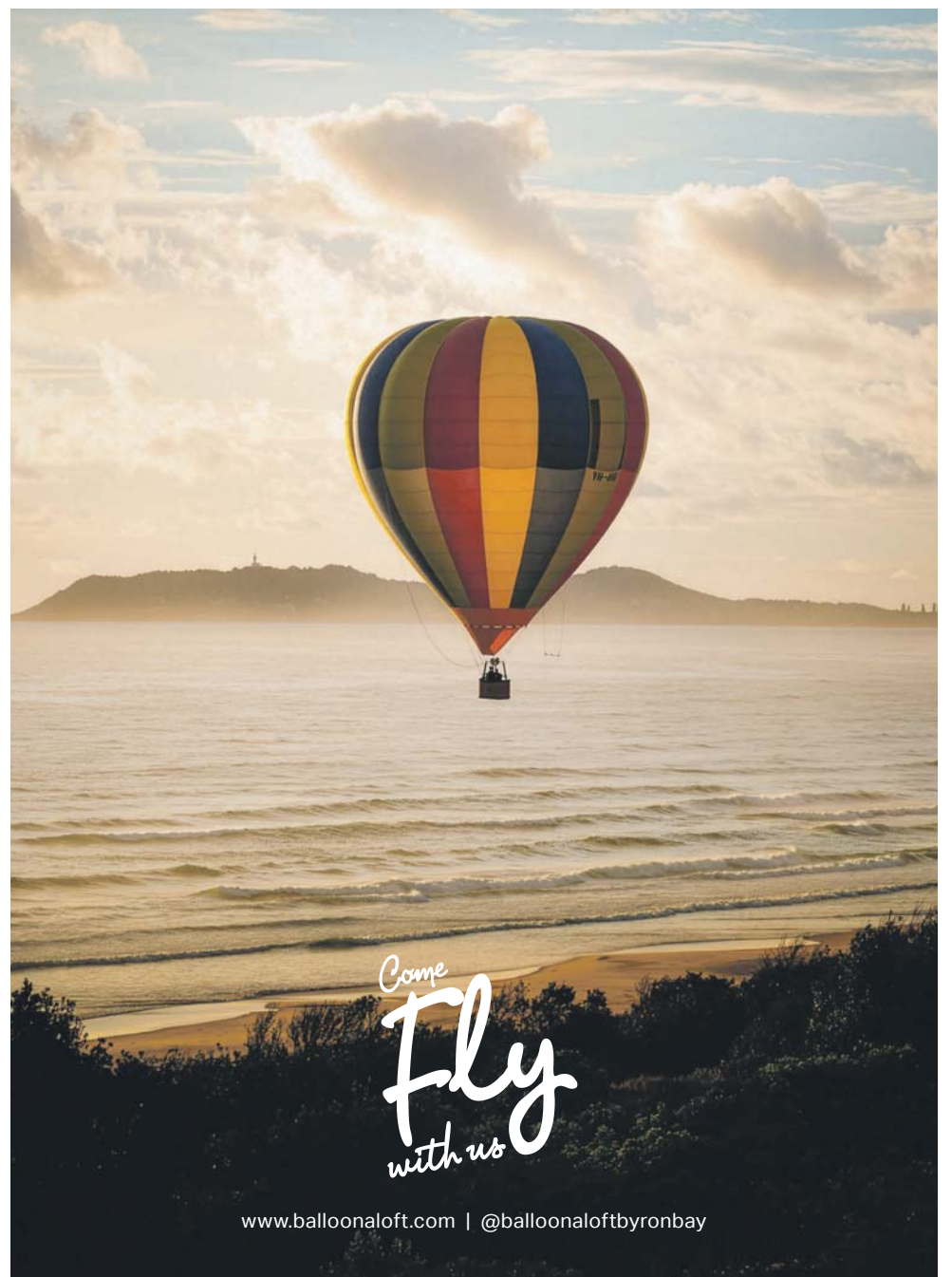
Spend \$100 in store before 20 December and go in the draw to win our Christmas giveaway. Winners drawn 22 December.

**1st Prize:**  
Mother's Choice Adore Car Seat  
**2nd & 3rd Prizes:**  
Gift hampers



**Gift Vouchers** The perfect gift when you don't know what to give!

wattlebeebaby.com.au @wattlebeebaby  
Shop 8 Ballina Centre Shopping Centre • 44 Bangalow Road, Ballina



Come  
**Fly**  
with us

www.balloonaloft.com | @balloonaloftbyronbay



*Christmas Services...*

**ANGLICAN PARISH OF BYRON**

Anglicans are supporting a growing movement promoting peace throughout our communities. The Anglican churches of All Soul's Bangalow, St Martin's Mullumbimby and St Paul's Byron Bay will be displaying banners promoting 'Peace on Earth'.

Luke Chapter 2, tells of an angel announcing to shepherds the birth of a Saviour, then a crowd of angels proclaim the coming peace on earth. Problems can some times seem so huge that we don't know what we can do.

Seeking ways to know peace in ourselves is a good start. This creates potential for peace to flow through our families, communities and beyond. Our prayer is that we may share a sense of hope which fosters peace and love for all peoples.

With every blessing, Byron Anglicans

**HOLY SPIRIT AND ST JOHN'S CATHOLIC PARISHES**

The Christmas season brings news of great joy, a joy to be shared by the whole people. Only with the JOY-filled HOPE offered by Jesus Christ, is there truly Christmas!

Yet, as we experience the world with all its extraordinary-beauty, its challenges and opportunities, joy-filled hope may not be so soon recognised in our hearts.

Christmas reassures us that even in the midst of personal and many

other destabilising aspects of social and economic affairs, His peace and His harmony can be heartfelt in our communities. May that joy-filled hope remain with you forever,

And may the New Year 2026 bring many exciting opportunities to serve one another. Happy birthday Jesus, you show us your Light!, Fr David Gilbey, Pastor.

**Holy Spirit Catholic Parish: St Finbarr's, Byron Bay and St Kevin's Bangalow.**

**Celebrate Christmas with The Anglican Parish of Byron**

**Christmas Eve 24th December 6pm**

*'Family Christmas Extravaganza'*  
All Souls' 1 Ashton Street, Bangalow

**Christmas Day 25th December**

7.30am St Thomas'  
21 Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads

9am St Martin's  
38 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby

9am All Souls'  
1 Ashton Street, Bangalow

9am St Paul's  
14 Kingsley Street, Byron Bay

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES**

HOLY SPIRIT CATHOLIC PARISH  
BANGALOW/BYRON BAY

**Christmas Eve  
24th December**

**Christmas Day  
25th December**

**St Kevin's  
Catholic Church,  
Deacon St,  
BANGALOW**

5.30pm

7.30am

**St Finbarr's  
Catholic Church,  
50 Tennyson St,  
BYRON BAY**

**St Finbarr's  
Catholic Church,  
50 Tennyson St,  
BYRON BAY**

8pm

9.30am

**St Kevin's  
Catholic Church,  
Deacon St,  
BANGALOW**



Byron Bay Parish Office: 6685 6260

**ST FRANCIS XAVIER  
CATHOLIC PARISH BALLINA**

**CHRISTMAS 2025 MASS TIMES**

All Welcome

**Christmas Eve Vigil Mass Times**  
5.30pm – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina  
7.30pm – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina

**Christmas Day Mass Times**  
7.30am – Holy Family Church, Lennox Head  
9.00am – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina  
11.00am – St Francis Xavier Church, Ballina



# FESTIVE SEASON

## ARCAA STORE

Arcaa's Byron Bay store is the place to find something truly special for her. Alongside their signature ready-to-wear, the store is home to gifts designed for summer living; towels, hats, jewellery, bags, shoes, sunglasses, incense and more. Each piece chosen for its quality, and timeless appeal, making it effortless to find a gift she'll love anytime.

If you're not quite sure what to choose, Arcaa's friendly retail team is there to help curate the perfect piece. And for the woman who prefers to choose for herself, their Gift Cards are an easy, thoughtful option.

Located in the heart of the Byron Arts and Industry Estate, Arcaa offers a relaxed shopping experience and a beautiful selection of gifts for the season. Your go-to destination for considered, elevated gifting.

4B/11 Banksia Drive, Byron Bay  
[arcaamovement.co](http://arcaamovement.co)  
[@arcaa\\_movement](https://www.instagram.com/arcaa_movement)

## LET'S GO SURFING

Join the Let's Go Surfing team for an awesome time surfing or stand-up paddle-boarding (SUP) this school holidays. They offer private and group lessons and tours for all ages, as well as a two-hour kids only lesson. Their lessons include all equipment and expert instruction in really small groups.

These lessons provide education, maximum fun, and safety, for your kids. They cover the basics from warm-up, to paddling, catching waves and standing, while also catering to intermediate and advanced students (technique refinement and style improvement). Your kids will also learn important surf and safety rules including info on rips, tides, sandbanks and waves.

They offer lessons in Byron, Ballina, Lennox and SUP tours on flat water in the Brunswick River and Lake Ainsworth.

Open 7 days 8.30am-4.30pm  
 Shop 5, 11 Fletcher St, Byron Bay  
[@letsgosurvingaustralia](https://www.instagram.com/letsgosurvingaustralia)  
 (02) 6680 9443  
[letsgosurfing.com.au](http://letsgosurfing.com.au)

## THE ISLAND LUXE FAMILY

A family that shares a passion for travel... for the road less travelled, seeking beauty and inspiration in nature's artistry and architecture.

A love of finding old and antique objects characterised by their imperfections; fabrics and textiles that stand the test of time; art and curiosities that tell a story.

An aesthetic rooted in a timeless simplicity and a belief that we can experience a holistic sense of the world, and ourselves, through restraint and making considered choices for the way we curate our lives.

The Island Luxe ethos redefines luxury, reminding us that space with imperfections shows that nothing furnishes more beautifully and luxuriously than the spirit and the soul, and creating an immersive and transportive experience that mirrors our emotions when we travel.

Island Luxe  
 62 Byron Street, Bangalow  
[info@islandluxe.com.au](mailto:info@islandluxe.com.au)

Island Luxe Tribe  
 1/11 Marvell Street, Byron Bay  
[tribe@islandluxe.com.au](mailto:tribe@islandluxe.com.au)

ARCAA.  
 Gifts For Her.

Come visit us in store:  
 4B/11 Banksia Dr, Byron Bay NSW 2481  
[@arcaa\\_movement](https://www.instagram.com/arcaa_movement)  
[arcaamovement.co](http://arcaamovement.co)

# ISLAND LUXE

*We wish you  
 a wonderful festive season*

TO ALL OUR CUSTOMERS  
 THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT.  
 WE LOOK FORWARD TO 2026, AND BRINGING  
 YOU NEW AND EXCITING COLLECTIONS.  
 MAY YOU HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY.  
 ISLAND LUXE TEAM



### BYRON PHOTO MAGIC

Visit Byron Photo Magic for all your photography needs, including instore or online printing, large-format, canvas printing, photo books and calendars.

They have full 35mm/120mm film Colour & BW processing and printing services, batteries, memory cards, camera bags, Fujifilm Instax & Polaroid Cameras, along with the full range of GoPro and accessories.

They handle old video tapes to USB. They stock frames, photo albums and an extensive range of Promaster photographic accessories, tripods, filters, binoculars, telescopes and the largest range of 35mm film on the north coast, as well as pre-owned 35mm film cameras. Passport photos are covered professionally instore; call in and see Stephen, Karen, Kristen, Isabella, Jemma and Bruna.

**Open Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat (school holidays) 10am-2pm, Sunday/Public Holidays closed**  
[www.photomagic.com.au](http://www.photomagic.com.au)  
 Shop 20, Mercato on Byron,  
 108-114 Jonson St, Byron Bay  
 02 6685 5877

### WILDBILLY BOOKS & BRUNSBOKS

The seaside bookshops WildBilly Books in Byron and BrunsBooks in Brunswick Heads are two vintage-style coastal book havens, where magic becomes something you can hold in your hands. Both stores offer a beautifully created blend of mostly recycled, but also a selection of the latest literature. Believing books deserve more than one life, both stores welcome your pre-loved favourites in return for credit toward the recycled collection. Whether you're a devoted collector, or a leisurely beach-day browser, BrunsBooks and WildBilly Books invite you to linger, wander, and discover stories as timeless as the tide. Visit instore for Christmas mystery gifts, beautiful gift wrapping and lovely accessories that are the perfect accompaniment to a good book.

**WildBilly Books:**  
 11 Fletcher Street, Byron Bay  
**BrunBooks: On Fingal Street,**  
 opposite the school  
 0493 355 719

# LET'S GO SURFING

## SCHOOL HOLIDAY LESSONS

ALL AGES  
 ALL LEVELS  
 LIMITED SPOTS



BYRON BAY & LENNOX HEAD  
 Gift Certificates Available  
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CALL: 66809443

**FUJIFILM** [photomagic.com.au](http://photomagic.com.au)

Byron Photo Magic

# All Your Gift Ideas

**GREAT GIFT IDEA**

Shop 20 Mercato on Byron, 108 - 114 Jonson St,  
 Byron Bay NSW 2481 - Ph 0266855877

## Beachside Book Havens for Summer reading needs.



A hidden gem, tucked away at 11 Fletcher Street, 50m down from Byron Surf Club and down the paved pathway.



Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads.

# Hello SUMMER

## THINGS TO DO



### Beyond Byron E Bikes

Looking for an unforgettable adventure this school holiday break? Beyond Byron E Bikes, located in Mooball - closest to the Byron Bay end of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail, offers a fantastic way to explore, with rides designed for ultimate comfort and fun. Their German-made e-bikes feature gel seats and puncture-proof tyres, ensuring a smooth journey as you take in stunning natural scenery. Families are well catered for with kids' e-bikes, tag-a-longs, baby seats, and even dog trailers for furry companions. Riders can enjoy leisurely breaks and plenty of delicious options along the way.

Easy online booking at  
[www.beyondbyronebikes.com.au](http://www.beyondbyronebikes.com.au)

### Fresh flavours, good vibes and a splash of sunshine love every day

Enjoy the holidays or any day with everyone's favourite... Yoflo!  
Byron Bay's iconic frozen yoghurt and dessert bar. Their self-serve experience is all about creativity, quality ingredients and celebrating our vibrant local community.

Independently-created-and-operated in Byron Bay since 2011, Yoflo starts with 100% real natural yoghurt. Treat yourself to local toppings like Brookfarm granola and muesli, honey-roasted locally-grown macadamias, and delicious gluten-free ByronBrownies. Choose from a great selection of fresh cut fruit and finish with a wide range of hot sauces, including local Byron Bay Peanut Butter and macadamia cream.

Build your perfect treat, sip on something refreshing or settle in and enjoy a moment that feels as good as it tastes.

Lawson Street, Byron Bay  
Holiday trading hours: Open every day 8am to 9.30pm

### Mullumbimby Pools in Mullum and Bangalow

Looking for an unforgettable adventure this school holiday break? Welcome to Mullumbimby Pools, a family-owned and operated business led by the dynamic duo, Jake and Natalie O'Brien. With over three decades of combined experience in the industry, they take pride in being a local establishment that has successfully delivered some of the largest and most intricate pool projects across the region.

At Mullumbimby Pools they are not only award-winning pool builders and technicians, they are your partners in creating aquatic havens.

Their pool technicians are ready to visit your property throughout the Byron Shire. Whether it's maintenance, leak detection, repairs, or renovations, our skilled team is dedicated to ensuring the longevity and vitality of your pool. Or, you can visit their shops in Mullumbimby and Bangalow, providing convenient destinations for supplies and parts.

#### MULLUMBIMBY

12 Smith St  
02 6684 4846  
Mon to Fri: 8.30am to 5pm  
Saturday: 8.30am to 12pm

#### BANGALOW

Shop 1, 5 Lismore Road  
02 6683 4494  
Mon to Fri: 8.30am to 5pm  
Saturday: 8.30am to 12pm

[info@mullumpools.com](mailto:info@mullumpools.com)

## RAIL TRAIL E BIKE HIRE

COME RIDE WITH THE BEST!

- Starting from Mooball (onsite parking)
- Puncture proof tyres & gel seats
- Most 5-star reviews
- \$99 for up to 6 hrs hire



BEYOND BYRON  
E BIKES

[beyondbyronebikes.com.au](http://beyondbyronebikes.com.au)



## Go on... treat yourself



Yoflo, Byron's iconic frozen yoghurt  
and dessert bar, since 2011.

Located in Lawson Street, just moments from the beach.

# Hello summer

## Summer family fun: Magical Quest at Crystal Castle

This summer, Crystal Castle & Shambhala Gardens unveils The Magical Quest – a brand-new crystal adventure for families, running from now until Easter.

Children follow a playful map through the Shambhala Gardens, meeting crystal friends, solving riddles and discovering two secret magic words to claim a prize.

From now to 26 January, a special Holiday Program offers a daily 11am Guided Tour, 1pm all-ages Crystal Singing Bowls session, 2pm Crystal Meditation and Crystal Singing Bowls at 12pm and 3pm. All included in your entry pass.

**Family Day Passes (2 adults & 2 children) offer a 30% saving**  
**Don't miss an unforgettable day out!**  
**Book now: [crystalcastle.com.au](http://crystalcastle.com.au)**

## The Brunswick Heads Record Fair

Matt the Vinyl Junkie is back with another five-day mega record sale in Brunswick Heads. After a sweat-soaked mid-summer visit to Tokyo, The Vinyl Junkie has added tonnes of fresh stock to the almost 30,000 pieces of vinyl covering most genres. There will also be a stack of recently added \$5 specials.

DJs will be on the decks most days so come and have a dig and have a listen. The fair starts on Saturday, 27 December and runs till Wednesday, 31 December. Open 10am to 6pm every day.

**Memorial Hall Fingal Street, Brunswick Heads**  
**10am to 6pm everyday**  
**Saturday, 27 December till Wednesday, 31 December**  
**@ozvinyljunkie**



Visit the home of the world's  
largest natural crystals.  
Sit in an ancient amethyst cave.

**You'll find the extraordinary only 20 mins from Byron Bay**  
81 Monet Drive Montecollum  
Open every day 10am - 5pm  
Closed Christmas and Boxing Day  
Book tickets now [crystalcastle.com.au](http://crystalcastle.com.au)



## We build exquisite award-winning swimming pools



### Mullumbimby

12 Smith St, Mullum Industrial Estate  
(02) 6684 4846

### Bangalow

Shop 1, 5 Lismore Road  
(02) 6683 4494

M-F: 8:30am-5pm, Sat: 8:30am-12pm  
[info@mullumpools.com](mailto:info@mullumpools.com)



[mullumbimbypools.com.au](http://mullumbimbypools.com.au)



# BRUNSWICK HEADS RECORD FAIR



AUSTRALIA'S  
BIGGEST VINYL DEALER

FROM  
**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER  
27TH**  
TO  
**WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER  
31ST**

TIME  
**10AM-6PM**

LOCATION  
**BRUNSWICK  
HEADS**  
ADDRESS  
**MEMORIAL  
HALL  
FINGAL ST**

WHAT YOU WILL FIND  
**TONNES  
OF FRESH  
JAPANESE  
PRESSINGS**  
AS WELL AS  
**1000S OF  
RECORDS  
ALL MUSIC  
STYLES**

[thevinyljunkie.com.au](http://thevinyljunkie.com.au)  
find us @ozvinyljunkie  
we buy records



# Hello SUMMER



## Stonekin Store is now here in Byron

Stonekin's first store is officially open. Discover their full collection of organic cotton underwear, now available to explore in person. Try on the pieces, feel the fabrics, and explore the fits that have shaped our brand. Visit in store for 10% off your first purchase.

The space reflects their ethos: thoughtful design, natural materials, and comfort without compromise.

Stonekin Store is open and the team looks forward to welcoming you in store soon.

**Mon to Fri: 10am to 4pm**  
**Sat: 10am to 1pm**  
2/97 Centennial Circuit, Arts & Industry Estate  
02 6680 7667

## Cactus Hill

Christmas has arrived at Cactus Hill, the first in their new home, the Bridglunds Building in Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby

Cactus Hill is fully stocked with the usual gems as well as a few other exciting brands exclusive to Cactus Hill. Pop in to grab some thoughtfully curated table decorations. Or, perhaps it's time for a tableware restock or a cushion shuffle up?

As always, they have what you know and love, such as the Perfume Oils, the Izipizi and home candles for ambiance and fragrance. If your house doesn't need anything else then spoil yourself, your family or friends. If nothing else then call in just to say and say hi to Saffron, Bianca and Ann for a chat or styling advice.

**Bridglunds Building**  
**69 Burringbar Street, Mullumbimby**  
**@cactushillproject**

## Byron Bay Camping & Disposals

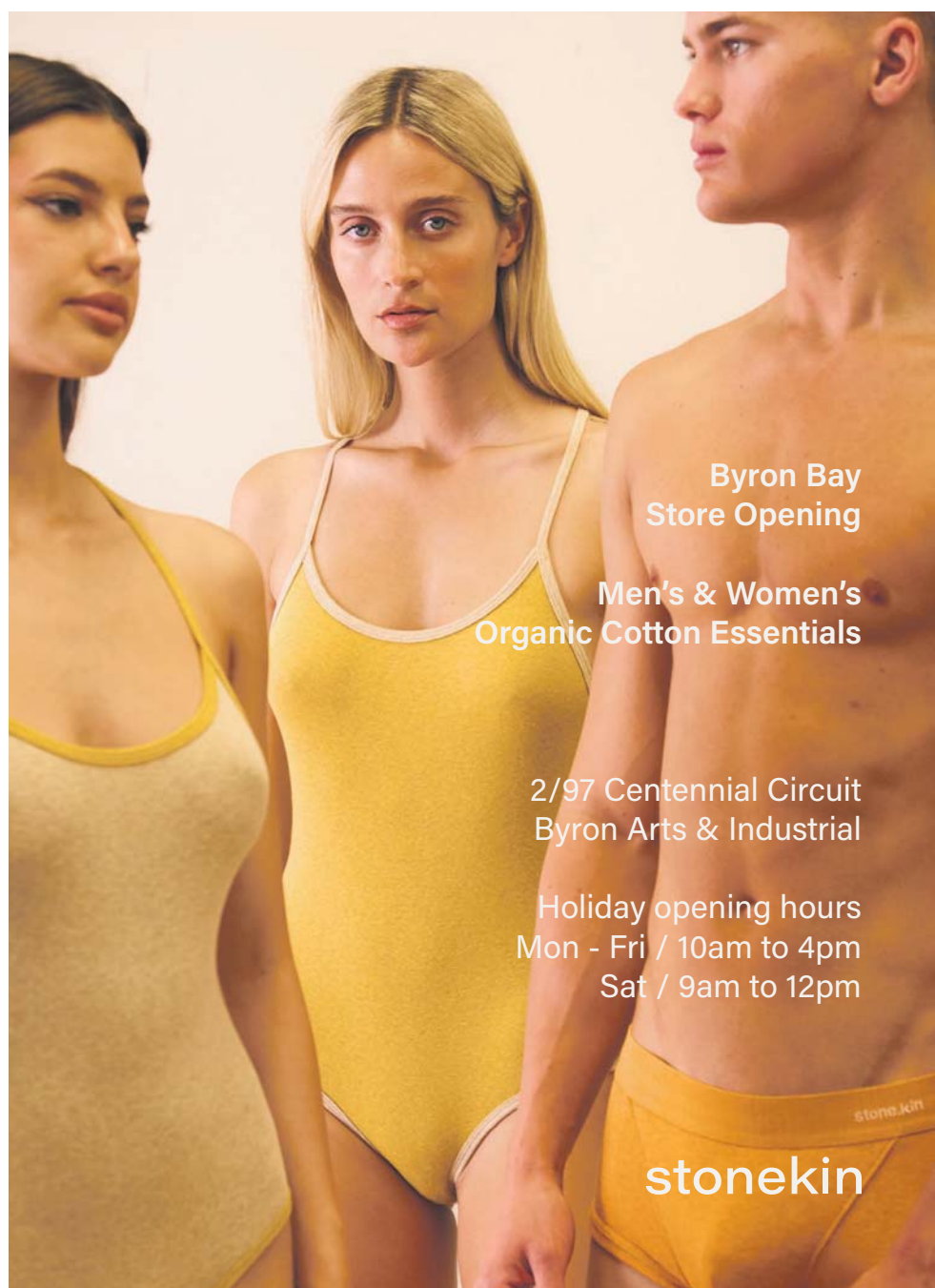
Your one-stop shop for Christmas and your next outdoor adventure.

If you need sleeping bags, tents, workboots, knives, lighting, kitchenware, stoves, mattresses, rainwear, snorkelling and fishing gear – they have it!

Byron Bay Camping & Disposals is a locally-owned-and-operated family business of over 40 years. Located in the Byron Bay Arts and Industry Estate, with plenty of parking available.

Come in and meet the team. Their staff will give you friendly, expert advice, no matter whether your next adventure is a campout, bush school, fishing trip, multi-day hike, or you need Christmas present inspiration.

**1/1 Tasman Way, Byron Bay**  
**0439 212 153**  
**www.byron-camping.com.au**  
**theteam@byron-camping.com.au**



Byron Bay  
Store Opening

Men's & Women's  
Organic Cotton Essentials

2/97 Centennial Circuit  
Byron Arts & Industrial

Holiday opening hours  
Mon - Fri / 10am to 4pm  
Sat / 9am to 12pm

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- DESIGNER FURNITURE •
  - CHRISTMAS GIFTS •
  - DECORATIVE OBJECTS •
- TEXTILES, ACCESSORIES AND ART**

Curated in collaboration with local and international artisans.

Visit us at our new location

**Bridglunds Building**  
**69 Burringbar Street,**  
**Mullumbimby**



**02 5643 9333**  
home@cactushill.com.au  
cactushillproject.com  
f @cactushillproject

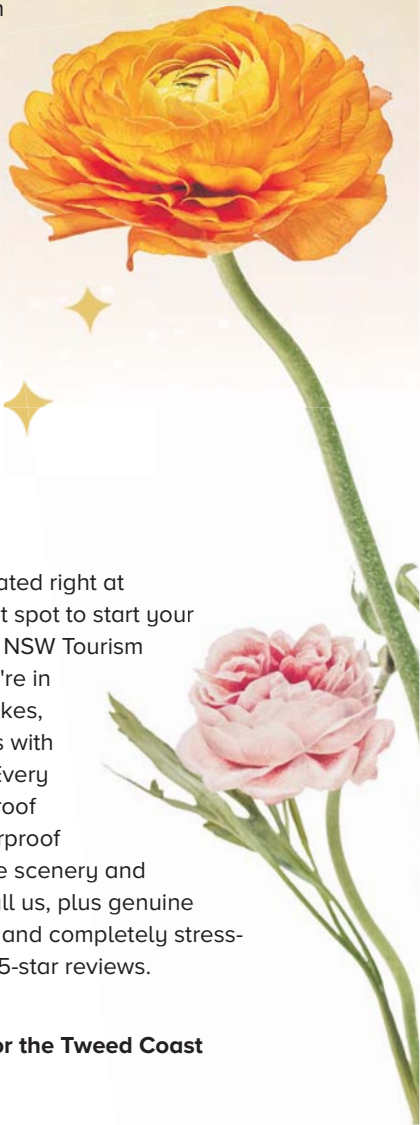
cactus  
hill

## Vae Medical Aesthetics

This festive season get event-ready with Vae Medical Aesthetics in Newrybar. Vae offers Broad-Band Light and Moxi Laser, cosmetic injectables, bioremodelling/biostimulating treatments, Rejuran (salmon facial), SkinPen Microneedling, PRP treatments, and Healite LED packages. Vae is a doctor-led-and-owned clinic offering considered and evidence-based skin treatments and rejuvenation in the beautiful Byron Bay hinterland.

Book in today with one of their lovely female GPs; Dr Jemma Buultjens, Dr Kate Allan and RN Emma Walker.

[www.vaemedicalaesthetics.com](http://www.vaemedicalaesthetics.com)  
 @vaemedicalaesthetics  
 16 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar  
 0422 639 013



## Better by Bike

Making family adventures easy and fun! Located right at Murwillumbah Railway Station, it's the perfect spot to start your rail trail ride. Recently awarded GOLD at the NSW Tourism Awards for Best Retail, Hire and Service, you're in great hands! The fleet includes premium e-bikes, fat-tyre e-bikes, and awesome family options with tow-behind bikes, child seats, and chariots. Every hire comes with comfy gel seats, puncture-proof tyres, helmets, tunnel lights, locks, and waterproof panniers, everything you need to soak up the scenery and enjoy. With full trail support if you need to call us, plus genuine local insider tips, your rides will be safe, fun, and completely stress-free! Families have left hundreds of glowing 5-star reviews.

Murwillumbah Railway Station  
 Bikes can even be delivered to Byron Bay or the Tweed Coast  
 Open seven days

# Hello summer

## UNWRAP EPIC ADVENTURE THIS CHRISTMAS!



**\$400 off Fatboy e-bikes, offer ends Dec 30.  
 Plus Giant bikes for the whole crew.**

- Fatboy, Ampd Bros & DiroDi fat-tyre e-bikes
- Snag a used Ampd Bros for \$1,995 ⚡ only 4 left!
- Giant & Moustache bikes for kids & weekend warriors
- Gift vouchers for e-bike hire - a taste of adventure!

### BIKE SERVICE & REPAIR SPECIALISTS

All bikes serviced by riders who know their stuff. 30+ years & fat-tyre experts. Bookings essential.

CHECK OUR RANGE: [BETTERBYBIKE.COM.AU](http://BETTERBYBIKE.COM.AU)



0408 444 858  
 Murwillumbah Railway Station  
 Open 7 days



## BYRON BAY CAMPING & DISPOSALS

WE STOCK EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE OUTDOORS



## vae MEDICAL AESTHETICS



A doctor led and owned skin, laser and cosmetic clinic

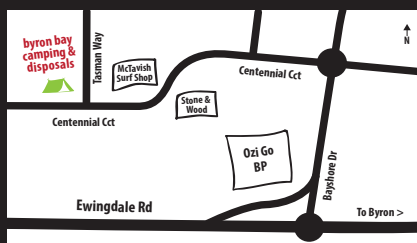
### Get your skin summer ready with our team

We offer Broad Band Light and Moxi Laser, cosmetic injectables including volume, bio-remodelling / bio-stimulating, anti-wrinkle, PRP treatments, hydrafacial, chemical peels and Healite LED packages.

We are offering complimentary skin consultations for the month of December!

Book in today with one of our lovely female practitioners; Dr Jemma Buultjens, Dr Kate Allan and Emma Walker RN.

0422 639 013 • [info@vaemedicalaesthetics.com](mailto:info@vaemedicalaesthetics.com)  
[www.vaemedicalaesthetics.com](http://www.vaemedicalaesthetics.com) @vaemedicalaesthetics  
 The Harvest Precinct, 16 Old Pacific Highway, Newrybar.



# Hello SUMMER



## Astra Lumina at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary

Forget everything you know about light shows. Astra Lumina Gold Coast is no ordinary walk in the park - it's an otherworldly journey where families can explore the magic of the stars and nature intertwined in a symphony of light and sound.

Astra Lumina has transformed the beauty of Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary into a cosmic wonderland to explore by night. Created by Moment Factory, the internationally-acclaimed studio behind spectacular productions for Billie Eilish, Madonna, and Disney, this immersive experience marks the first and only Lumina Enchanted Night Walk in the Southern Hemisphere.

Proceeds from Astra Lumina directly support Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary's vital conservation programs and the operation of Currumbin Wildlife Hospital, fostering a deeper connection with nature to inspire wildlife protection for future generations.

[currumbinsanctuary.com.au](http://currumbinsanctuary.com.au)  
28 Tomewin Street, Currumbin, Queensland

## January is big at the Brunswick Picture House


2025 was officially the busiest year for Brunswick Picture House and they're already looking forward to another jam-packed January, all in air-conditioned comfort! They're flying straight out of the gate from 2 January with the smash hit show Bruns Does Burlesque, which returns dripping with pure glamour for an all-new bumper 3-week summer run, Friday 2 to Sunday 18 January, 2026.

As the official home of comedy in the Shire, the lineup will leave you rollicking in the aisles as the superstars of Australian comedy descend in Bruns with all new shows, including Dave Hughes, Tommy Little, Celia Pacquola, Geraldine Hickey, Lloyd Langford and Josh Thomas! You'll be the first in Australia to hear these jokes before they take their shows on the road. Remember, Friday, 9 to Saturday 31 January, 2026.

Tickets for all shows at [brunswickpicturehouse.com](http://brunswickpicturehouse.com)

**ON SALE NOW!**

**BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE**



SUMMER

**BRUNS DOES BURLESQUE**

**CHEEKY**

**DAVE HUGHES**

**TOMMY LITTLE**

**CELIA PACQUOLA**

**GERALDINE HICKEY**

**LLOYD LANGFORD**

**JOSH THOMAS**

**VAGINA CONVERSATIONS**


**MEG WASHINGTON**

**BARRY MORGAN**

**LIL' CHEEKY (All Ages)**

**THE TIGER LILLIES**

**DANNY BHOY**



**TIX** [brunswickpicturehouse.com](http://brunswickpicturehouse.com)

use by 28-02



**ASTRA LUMINA**

**THE GOLD COAST'S #1 AFTER-DARK ADVENTURE**



**THE EXPERIENCE**

*As the sun sets, head just 10 minutes north of the border into a world of wonder. Gather your friends and family and stroll through an enchanted, multisensory journey that feels worlds away. This world-class night-time experience is one not to miss.*



**28 Tomewin Street, Currumbin**  
*(inside Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary)*

- (07) 5534 1266
- Bus station nearby
- Free car parking
- Ubers available

**BOOK NOW**



@AstraLuminaGoldCoast

@astralumina\_gc

31 DECEMBER  
FROM 4PM

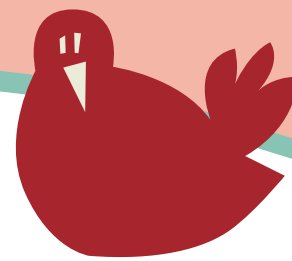


BYRON  
SHIRE  
COUNCIL

# SOUL STREET



NEW YEAR'S EVE  
BYRON BAY



**NYE in Byron Bay is a festival of entertainment and music for all ages across two areas.**

## Jonson Street from 4pm

- Live music, outdoor dining and face painting

## Dening Park from 6pm to 12:30am

- Entertainment on the main stage.
- Music, roving, lighting installations, silent disco, circus workshop and kids entertainment

**Byron Bay is a safe, family-friendly town.**

- The town centre is an alcohol-free zone.
- Zero tolerance for anti-social behaviour.
- No fireworks at midnight.

## Road closures

From 6am, 31 December

- Main Beach car park
- Jonson Street between Byron Street and Lawson Street.
- Lawson Street south car park

The town bypass on Butler Street will remain open.

## Parking and transport

- Taxi rank – Jonson Street near Marvell Street intersection
- Pay parking in the town centre from 9am to 6pm.
- No camping or sleeping in cars on residential streets.

## More information

[www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Soul-Street-NYE](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Soul-Street-NYE)



[soulstreetbyronbay.com.au](http://soulstreetbyronbay.com.au) · [www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au)

# NEW YEARS EVE



"BLU LANG SYNE"  
SCOTS PRONUNCIATION: IS  
A SCOTTISH SONG.  
IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD  
IT IS TRADITIONALLY  
SUNG TO BID FAREWELL TO THE  
OLD YEAR  
AT THE STROKE OF  
MIDNIGHT  
ON MONDAY  
NEW YEAR'S EVE.

## MASQUERADE BALL AT THE BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB

Miss Renee Simone and The Byron Bay Experience are taking over the Byron Bay Golf Club for a night of opulence and intrigue with a **Masquerade Ball**. There will be a **live jazz trio** and 3-course-dinner for \$150 pp or the option of general admission \$95 to experience **DJ's** and **roving performers** as the night culminates on the deck. Burlesque show, fire dancers, Tarot readers, photobooth. Dress in black and gold.

Tickets selling fast: <https://buytickets.at/byronbaygolfclub/1904721> or see QR code in our ad. For market stall enquiries email [events@byronbaygolfclub.com.au](mailto:events@byronbaygolfclub.com.au)

## A NEW YEAR'S DAY GATHERING SET TO UPLIFT, INSPIRE AND CONNECT: RHYTHMS OF RESOLUTION

Byron Shire will welcome the new year with a vibrant celebration of music, culture and community as **Sensory Blender: Rhythms of Resolution** takes over the **North Byron Hotel** on New Year's Day. Running from **2pm to 10pm**, the event gathers eight standout DJs – including **Phil Perry** (Full Circle UK), **Iain Ha Yes**, **XUJA**, **Monsieur Diop**, **Afrodisea**, **Lord Sut**, **Mr Nice** and **Taz Miller**, alongside Ghanaian artist **Gabriel Otu** performing live African percussion.

A share of profits will go to Fletcher Street Cottage, supporting people experiencing homelessness in Byron Bay. With diverse global sounds and a warm community atmosphere, it's set to be a defining start to 2026.

**Thursday, 1 January, 2026. North Byron Hotel 2pm to 10pm + free after-party at Paradiso.**

Tickets via Eventbrite which includes the free afterparty at Paradiso. Venue, courtesy bus from 6pm.

[www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sensory-blender-presents-rhythms-of-resolution-nyd-tickets-1912738565539](http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sensory-blender-presents-rhythms-of-resolution-nyd-tickets-1912738565539)

BYRON BAY ENTERTAINMENT  
PRESENTS

# NYE MASQUERADE BALL

- 3 COURSE DINNER JAZZ
- MISS RENEE SIMONE + ADMISSION \$150

- GENERAL ADMISSION \$95
- EARLY BIRD \$85
- DJS - FREDDY FLYINGAZ
- BURLESQUE PERFORMER
- FIRE DANCERS
- TAROT READER
- PHOTO BOOTH



BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB  
62 BROKEN HEAD RD



SENSORY BLENDER & NORTH BYRON HOTEL  
PRESENTS

# RHYTHMS OF RESOLUTION

NEW YEARS DAY PARTY

DJ'S

**PHIL PERRY**  
(FULL CIRCLE UK)

**IAIN HA YES | XUJA**  
**MONSIEUR DIOP | AFRODISEA**  
**LORD SUT | MR NICE | TAZ MILLER**  
**GABRIEL OTU** LIVE AFRICAN PERCUSSION

THURSDAY JANUARY 1 2026 • 2PM – 10PM  
NORTH BYRON HOTEL

SUPPORTING FLETCHER STREET COTTAGE CHARITY





## NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE BEACHY

The Beachy is set to ring in 2026 with a high-energy New Year's Eve celebration that captures the spirit of summer in Byron Bay. From 6pm, a stacked live-music lineup will bring the party to life, led by **Jam Hot Live** — a five-piece powerhouse blending DJ-driven beats, soulful vocals, saxophone, and percussion into a non-stop dancefloor groove. They'll be joined by local favourites **Animal Ventura**, the **Erin Shay Band**, and **DJ Charles Oliver**, taking revellers from sunset sessions through to the midnight countdown and beyond.

For those after an elevated experience, the House of Friends x The Beachy VIP package offers exclusive access, premium perks, and Casamigos specials throughout the night.

**General admission or VIP tickets on sale now via Moshtix.**

## FARM FEST NEW YEAR'S EVE: THREE BLUE DUCKS

If you love the idea of celebrating New Year's Eve without the crowds, **Three Blue Ducks' Farm Fest** offers a relaxed way to welcome the year ahead. Set at The Farm, this festival-style evening is all about good food, great company and easy summer vibes.

Guests can enjoy a generous roving feast, live music as the sun sets, and plenty of space to spread out and unwind. Kids are well catered for too, with **Shorty Brown the Clown** bringing balloons, bubbles and plenty of entertainment so parents can relax and enjoy the night.

Whether you come with friends, family or both, Farm Fest is about slowing down and enjoying the moment.

**Tickets are limited and expected to sell out. Wednesday, 31 December, 5pm to 10pm. Book now at [threeblueducks.com](http://threeblueducks.com).**

## GREAT VIBES AND GOOD TIMES IN BYRON BAY THIS NYE

Bring your friends, and family and come into the heart of Byron Bay this New Year's Eve, commencing at **4pm** in **Jonson Street** with live music, outdoor dining and face-painting. Jonson Street will be closed to cars from 4pm, creating a fun and safe environment for the kids to run and play.

Around 6pm the focus moves to the foreshore near the surf club, for the popular **silent disco**, **lighting installations**, **circus workshops**, **kids entertainment** and **live music**.

**Soul Street** is an alcohol-free event and there are **no fireworks** at midnight. Refer to the Council's website for road closure information.

**Soul Street is a creative initiative of Byron Shire Council to promote positive and safe activity in public spaces.**

**NYE**  
**JAM HOT**  
 LIVE  
**ERIN SHAY BAND**    **ANIMAL VENTURA**  
 + **DJ CHARLES OLIVER**

Brought to you by  
**CASAMIGOS**  
 Tequila

**CASAMIGOS**  
 VIP OPTION  
 AVAILABLE

**BEACHY**  
 1 BAY STREET, BYRON BAY

WED 31ST  
 DECEMBER

TIX VIA  
 MOSHTIX



**B** three  
 blue  
 ducks

## FARM FEST NEW YEARS EVE

Celebrate NYE (without the chaos) at Three Blue Ducks.

Join us for a festival-style evening with live music, great food, and kids entertainment from Shorty Brown the Clown.

Tickets are limited - book via the QR or [threeblueducks.com](http://threeblueducks.com)



# seven

seven days of entertainment



## A standout talent in dance music

**CamrinWatsin**, a 22-year-old producer and DJ from Ireland, has quickly emerged as a standout talent in dance music. After dominating the SoundCloud dance charts in 2023 with multiple hits, including a standout edit of Jorja Smith's 'Blue Lights', he made his breakthrough in 2024 with 'Kisses', a collaboration with BL3SS and bbyclose. The track became a

summer anthem, amassing over 250 million streams and landing in the UK and Irish Top 5, now officially UK Platinum – an incredible feat for an Irish producer.

Camrin's success continued with 'Blew My Life Up', which boosted his monthly listeners to over 10 million, and 'Touching Heaven', a collaboration with Jazzy. 'Kisses' alone gained 313 million impressions in the UK,

earning him support from KISS, Capital, and Radio 1.

With over 220 million streams to date, Camrin is also selling out venues across the UK and Ireland and electrifying crowds in Ibiza. His rapid rise solidifies him as one of dance music's most exciting new stars.

**You can catch his show on Saturday from 8pm at The Northern, Byron Bay.**



## Floating luxury on the Bruns

Welcome aboard the pearl of the Northern Rivers – the *M.V. Jasmine* is the first luxury floating venue in the Byron Bay region, offering a Mediterranean-inspired on-river dining experience that curates, collaborates and celebrates our region – set against the backdrop of the iconic Brunswick River.

The crew are currently welcoming their summer series, featuring **Maria's, Flo Records** and their seasonal collaborators, **The Hut** and **Light Years**, across lunch, afternoon and sunset events. Why not join the as they sail down the Brunswick River, and enjoy the best the region has to offer.

Once the Brunswick Eco cruise, the *M.V. Jasmine* is the newest venture from Out of the Blue Adventures and has been custom-built from the hull up and curated down to the last detail. It has been re-imagined as an 18-metre, multi-level luxury vessel – an adults-only floating dining and cocktail bar on the Brunswick River in Byron Bay.

It features a top-level, open-air deck with 360-degree views and a retractable canvas rooftop, providing spectacular sunset vistas.

Designed for both public events and private charters, the vessel accommodates up to 60 passengers. The afternoon/sunset series are 3-hour cruises starting at \$119, and their long lunch series features eight courses by a feature chef, or their resident chefs from Maria's at \$220.

**See their socials for all upcoming events @jasminebyronbay.**

**Discover weekly Sunset, Lunch, or Brunch Cruises, Exclusive ticketed events, or book as a private charter at [www.mvjasmine.com](http://www.mvjasmine.com). Gift cards also available for purchase. 'We can't wait to welcome you aboard for a truly unique experience,' they say.**



35-43 JONSON ST  
 BYRON BAY  
 6685 6454

[THENORTHERN.COM.AU](http://THENORTHERN.COM.AU)

[f](https://www.facebook.com/thenorthernbyronbay) [i](https://www.instagram.com/thenorthernbyronbay) @thenorthernbyronbay

<b>WED</b> 24 DEC	Front Bar: Kane Muir Band 6pm DJ Davi Bangma 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm BACKROOM: ORPHANS XMAS
<b>FRI</b> 26 DEC	Front Bar: Record Breakers 6pm + Jamie Lowe 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: HYPNOTIZE
<b>SAT</b> 27 DEC	Front Bar: Matty Rogers Duo 6pm + Erin Shay Band 10pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: CAMRIN WATSIN (IRELAND)
<b>SUN</b> 28 DEC	Front Bar: Lachy Dwyer Duo 5pm + VINYL SUNDAYS 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm – \$15 MARGIS & SPRITZERS ALL DAY BACKROOM: HAUS OF NOIZE VOL.2
<b>MON</b> 29 DEC	Front Bar: Brook Chivell Duo 6pm + Dj Oren Selecta 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: DANCE REPUBLIC
<b>TUES</b> 30 DEC	Front Bar: Marshall Okell + Billy Bailey 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm BACKROOM: COUNTRY NIGHT WITH DON ROGERS BAND
<b>WED</b> 31 DEC	<b>NEW YEARS EVE</b> All Areas Tickets on the doors from 5pm



**SUN: \$15 MARGIS & SPRITZERS ALL DAY**

# AUSTEN TAYSHUS

seven days of entertainment

## INTERVIEW

Austen Tayshus is on his way up north and he wants you to know it!

But what he really wants you to know is that in 1998 he won the world's largest short-film festival, well, that's part of what he wants you to know. What he really, actually REALLY wants you to know, is that he has made another film for the same festival and the deadline is in 15 days!

### Tell me about the film festival ?

'Well, I've just made another film for Tropfest. Did you know that I made a film for Tropfest in '98 and I won? Did you know that?

### I know about Tropfest. I didn't know that you won one. What was the signature item this year?

It's an hourglass. I've made a prop. I won in '98 (the signature item was 'a kiss' which he blew to a certain Ms Hanson) – I wrote it, and it was about a Jewish guy, a Jewish comedian, getting into a taxi with a German who was a Nazi. I was pretending to be a Nazi and then turning into an Israeli secret service agent – I won the top prize, and I won best actor. Then we also entered it in the name of a feminist filmmaker who didn't exist called Laura Feinstein.

John Polson (festival founder) went crazy and said, 'you know, it's the first time it's ever been won by a woman'. And then we got up and said it, 'you know, there's no Laura Feinstein'. So, he got very shitty...

But anyway, this one's about me saying that winning Tropfest was the worst thing. I've written the whole thing – we got me in prison – it's about how my whole life went crazy.

I don't think John Polson is going to let it through because it's actually pretty funny, but I don't think it'll get through because it's sort of taking the piss out of Tropfest – I'm playing Laura Feinstein (the fictitious

feminist filmmaker) with the wig and all this stuff. I'm saying the worst thing that ever happened in my life was winning Tropfest.

It would be a great film to go into the festival, this would be very funny. But obviously, all these people are very straight...

### Austen, you are a Jew living in Sydney – how do find the strength, in these times, to be funny?

Because I love it so much. I really enjoy it, and it's good for me. It's a diversion from getting older. I mean, I'm nearly 72 and, you know, getting into my underwear is not too easy anymore.

It's good to get on the road. You know, most of time I'm in my house, but the last two days I flew to Perth, I did a show – I flew to Launceston, I did a show, I flew back to Sydney, and so that was my weekend.

### Aren't you 'too old' to be flying around everywhere like that?

Well I probably am. But what else am I gonna do exactly? I enjoy it. It keeps me buoyant and fluent.

### Do you have a time where you think, 'Okay, I'm going to have six weeks off and write new material? Or do you just ad lib the whole way along?

I ad lib. I've never written material. I write it when I'm on the stage. I come up with ideas, and then I build on a particular notion, and turn it into whatever.



You can get ad libbed at by Austen Tayshus on Friday, 2 January, at the Lennox Head Hotel, and if you're down that way, the **Lennox Head Hotel is giving away three double passes.**

Simply email: [gigs@echo.net.au](mailto:gigs@echo.net.au) by 5pm Friday, 26 December, and tell us Austen's real name, to go into the draw.

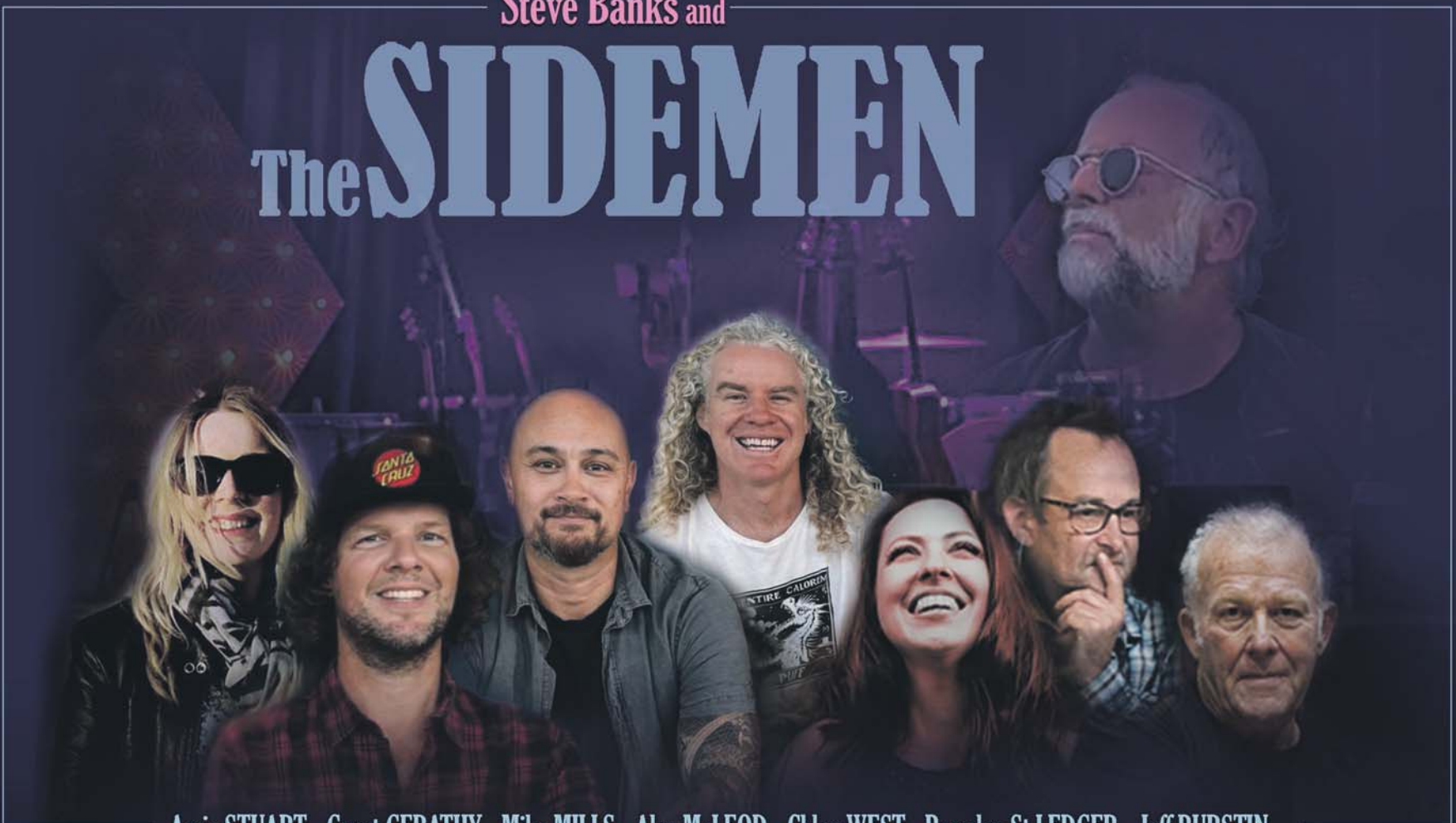
Winners will be announced in *The Echo's* Saturday's entertainment newsletter.

He can get at you again on Sunday, 4 January, at Club Iluka.

For more info, visit: [austentayshus.com](http://austentayshus.com).

Steve Banks and

## The SIDEMEN



Amie STUART - Grant GERATHY - Mike MILLS - Alex McLEOD - Chloe WEST - Brendan St LEDGER - Jeff BURSTIN



7:30pm Friday Jan.16 @ Byron Community Theatre

tix @ [byroncentre.com.au](http://byroncentre.com.au)





## The beginning of the end

2025 is almost done with us, and what better way to start off your New Year's Eve shenanigans with former lawyer turned award-winning comedian, **Chris Radburn**.

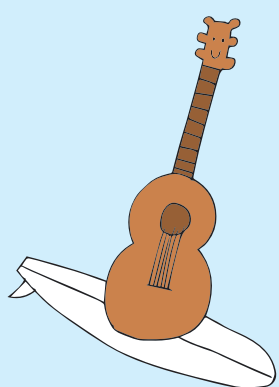
Radburn is undoubtedly one of Australia's best, and most sought after, comedians. With 25-years experience on stage, TV and radio, Chris has become a trusted name in comedy – known for his sharp wit, relatable observational humour, charismatic presence, and rare ability to tailor material with intelligence and insight to suit any audience or event.

Radburn is coming to Ballina to start your New Year's Eve celebrations off with a bloody good laugh as part of The Big Giggle event.

**Ellen Briggs** who is more fun than a basket full of puppies, is MC for the night and award-winning comedian, MC and radio presenter, **Ben Stevenson**, will be first up to perform as support for the show.

It's the perfect way to warm up for your NYE celebrations.

**Wednesday, December 31 at 7pm at the Ballina RSL. Book now for the best seats – ballinarsl.com.au.**



## LISTEN TO SOMETHING ELSE

There's no 'same old, same old' at BayFM. Our wide range of music shows are diverse and dangerous (and a couple are deadly).

Jump onto 99.9FM for the best in dance, pop, rock, blues, reggae, soul, folk, punk, Americana and vintage, plus hot local acts and music from around the world in our foreign language shows. Check our online Program Guide for details.



More at bayfm.org

## Eclectic Selection

### What's on this week



**Lemon Chicken** have a bunch of new songs, and all the favourite bangers are still on their set list – everything from The Eagles to Rage Against the Machine, with a little Lenny Kravitz, INXS and the Oils in between. Bring your friends, your neighbours or even bring your parents because it's going to be a lot of awesome tunes and a great atmosphere.

**Friday at The Rails, Byron Bay. Free show.**



**Bill Jacobi's** songs emanate a strong sense of the groove, and are laden with a down-to-earth honesty and humour. Songs that are an eclectic amalgamation of swamp/roots, alt county and hillbilly funk; that somehow manage to look back at a wealth of musical tradition, have a good poke around, and then turn it into something new.

**Saturday from 5pm at the Kingscliff Beach Bowlo. Free show.**



Northern Rivers' own supergroup storms Boxing Day with a high-energy, sing-along show that keeps the dance floor pumping.

For over a decade **The Feramones** have honed a powerhouse set of the greatest, most sophisticated rock songs of the '60s to the '80s – timeless anthems delivered with rare craftsmanship. If there's a dance floor, they'll keep it busy.

**Friday from 8pm at Ballina RSL. Free show.**



Jessie Rose and Matt Day are **Broadwaters** – expect interesting covers, beautiful vocals from Jess, masterful guitar work from Matt, and magnificent harmonies. They often bring in friends to spice things up, making a delicious melting pot of musical wonder.

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

**Thirst Trap** is an electrifying five-piece, boasting a distinctive sound that sets them apart. With a genre-defying approach, they seamlessly blend hip-hop rhythms, heavy rock, and reggae infusions, showcasing their versatile musical palette. Thirst Trap's live performances are a must-see, delivering an unforgettable experience with the energy and dynamism of their unique sound.

**Sunday from 8pm at The Northern, Byron Bay. Free show.**



**Ginger Lane** is a soul-folk singer-songwriter and busker based in Mullumbimby. Her music blends raw honesty with smooth, easy grooves, carried by a warm, distinct voice.

**Monday from 1pm at the Billinudgel Hotel. Free show.**

**The Vybez** is an electrifying live band that delivers high-energy performances across R&B, hip-hop, dance, and EDM genres. With a dynamic stage presence and seamless musicality, The Vybez transforms every show into an unforgettable experience, blending classic anthems with modern hits to keep you moving all night long.

**Tuesday from 6pm at the Beach Hotel, Byron Bay. Free show.**

Palace Presents...  
**SUMMER OF CINEMA**  
 On Sale Now!

 AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH NOW SHOWING	 SENTIMENTAL VALUE DEC 25	 THE HOUSEMAID DEC 26
 RENTAL FAMILY DEC 26	 ANACONDA DEC 26	 MY BROTHER'S BAND DEC 26

BOOK NOW AT PALACECINEMAS.COM.AU + many more!

Putting The Fondue Back Into Rock And Roll!  
**Alive 70s In The 70s**  
**BYRON THEATRE**  
 THE BEATING HEART OF BYRON  
 Saturday 17th January  
 Contact The Venue For Details  
 The Eyren Theatre  
 69 JENSEN ST, EYREN BAY  
 61 (2) 6655 6867

ANGRY MESSIAH PRESENTS  
**43RD ANNIVERSARY OF  
"AUSTRALIANA"  
NATIONAL TOUR 2026**

**The funniest comedian in the country**

**AUSTEN  
TAYSHUS  
LIVE**

**"AUSTEN TAYSHUS SKIN IN THE GAME"**  
New documentary now streaming on FOXTEL & BINGE

[www.austentayshus.com](http://www.austentayshus.com)

**LENNOX HOTEL**

**cnr. Pacific Parade & Byron St, Lennox Head T: (02)6687 7312**

**Friday 2nd January 2026 @7.00pm**

**Tickets: \$30**

**Purchase via website: [thelennox.com.au](http://thelennox.com.au)**

# GIG GUIDE

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

# Seven

seven days of entertainment



## WEDNESDAY 24

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HARRY NICHOLS**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **THE GIN BUGGS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **DJ WHO'S WHO**
- BRUNSWICK PICTURE HOUSE 4PM **CHRISTMAS CAROLS HOSTED BY JOEL SALOM AND ERIK THE DOG**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **KANE MUIR BAND**, 9PM **DJ DAVI BANGMA**, 7PM **DUELLING PIANOS - SAM WHEAT & MICK BUCKLEY**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- LENNOX HOTEL 5PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- COOLANGATTA HOTEL 6PM **BULLETPROOF**

## THURSDAY 25

**NO SHOWS TODAY!!!**

## FRIDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEMON CHICKEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **JOSH LEE HAMILTON + LISA HUNT**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ AFRODESIA**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 7.30PM **BLACK RABBIT GEORGE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **RECORD BREAKERS**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS - MICK BUCKLEY & SHANE PARRY + JIMMY GOODWIN & JON SHORTER**, 9PM **JAMIE LOWE, HYPNOTIZE**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **LIVING IN THE 70S**
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN 5.30PM **OPEN MIC NIGHT**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- LENNOX HOTEL 4PM **LILLI ROSE SHEEN & EPIC**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **NATHAN KAYE DUO**

- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**, LEVEL ONE 7.30PM **THE FERAMONES**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 6PM **RAW ORDIO**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM **JESSE WITNEY TRIO**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5PM **NATHAN LINDSAY**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **MALIA STRILING**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **RIVERSHED**

## SATURDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **RAGGA JUMP**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **PAT TIERNEY + JEROME WILLIAMS BAND**
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM **THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DJ ALICE Q + DJ MONSIEUR DIOP**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MATTY ROGERS DUO**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS - TIM MITCHELL & JON SHORTER + BODHI ACTON & JIMMY GOODWIN**, 8PM **CAMRIN WATSIN**, 10PM **ERIN SHAY BAND**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **WEAR THE FOX HAT W/ LUKE HAYWARD**
- LENNOX HOTEL 4PM **MICKA SCENE & PANDAMONION DJS**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **INO PIO**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **BROADWATERS**, LEVEL ONE 7PM **THE BIG GIG COMEDY NIGHT**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **FAT ALBERT**
- MURWILLUMBAH SERVICES CLUB 6PM **LEIGH JAMES**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **BILL JACOBI**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 6PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH HOTEL 6PM **KYLIE FISHER**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **OFF THE GRID**

## SUNDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PINK ZINC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM **SARAH GRANT DUO + POLY & CO**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM **LACHY DWYER DUO**, 9PM **DUELLING PIANOS - TIM MITCHELL & SHANE PARRY**, 9PM **VINYL SUNDAYS, HOuze OF NOIZE VOL.2 FEATURING THIRST TRAP, THIRST TRAP + WAIST + LUCY'S HOUSE HOTEL BRUNSWICK** 4PM **LATE FOR WOODSTOCK**
- OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 3PM **OPEN MIC**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **ARCADIA**
- CLUB TWEED 1PM **RHYDIAN LEWIS + ROSE POWELL**
- LENNOX HOTEL 4PM **ANIMAL VENTURA**
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **JOE CONROY BAND**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **LIVING IN THE 70S**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7.30PM **THIRSTY MERC**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 1PM **MR TROY**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 3PM **RAMJET**

## MONDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **BULLETPROOF**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **42 BAND**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BROOK CHIVEL DUO**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS - JOHN HILL & BODHI ACTON**, 9PM **DJ OREN SELECTRA + DANCE REPUBLIC**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **CALLUM CREELMAN**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **GINGER LANE**
- LENNOX HOTEL 5PM **OLE FALCOR**

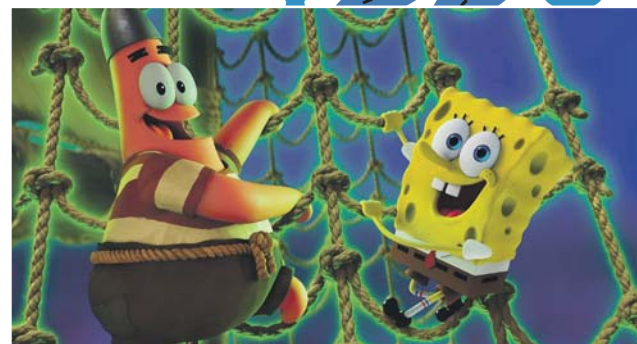
## TUESDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ALEX TILLEY**

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **THE VYBEZ BAND**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS - TIM MITCHELL & JOHN HILL + BODHI ACTON & JIMMY GOODWIN**, 9PM **BILLY BAILEY + COUNTRY NIGHT WITH DON ROGERS BAND**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **KATIE BROOKE**
- LENNOX HOTEL 5PM **INO PIO**

## WEDNESDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **PAPERLANE**
- BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB 12PM **RENEE SIMONE + DJ FREDDY FLYINGAZ**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS - BODHI ACTON & MICK BUCKLEY + JIMMY GOODWIN & JON SHORTER**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **TIJUANA CARTEL + ANDY V, XUJA & JORDAN MAC**
- MULLUMBIMBY EX-SERVICES CLUB 8.30PM **THE RECORD BREAKERS**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 5PM **PUSH + DJ DANNY B**
- LENNOX HOTEL 3PM **OLE FALCOR & PISTOL WHIP**
- CLUB LENNOX 6PM **LUKE YEAMAN + SURVEY STREET**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 7PM **THE BIG GIGGLE**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 9PM **PINK ZINC**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 9PM **JON J BRADLEY DUO**
- SEAGULLS, TWEED HEADS, 7.30PM **HIGH VOLTAGE - THE AC/DC EXPERIENCE + BONGO BOYS**
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM **LIVING IN THE 70S**
- CHINDERAH TAVERN 9PM **THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINDERAH**



# CINEMA

## Boxing Day's a blast in Ballina and Byron

Let's talk about what to do with the kids once they have opened all their prezzies, eaten all their sugar and are looking for more Christmas fun - I can't think of a better way to spend a few hours on Boxing Day than relaxing in the air-con at Palace Byron or Ballina Fair Cinemas and watching some fun new movies!

December 26 will see **Grand Prix of Europe** (G), where Edda, a young mouse with big dreams of becoming a race car driver, lives in the vibrant world of a fairground operated by her father, Erwin. As the 50th anniversary of the European Grand Prix approaches, Edda sees a golden opportunity to turn her dreams into reality; **Pets on a Train** (PG), when a train unexpectedly starts up, taking only pets with it, the animals discover that Hans, a badger with a grudge, is behind it all; **The SpongeBob Movie: Search for Squarepants** (PG) as SpongeBob and his Bikini Bottom friends set sail in their biggest, all-new, can't miss cinematic event ever; and **Zootopia 2** - nearly a decade after the Oscar-winning, box office sensation, Walt Disney Animation Studios returns to the beloved animal metropolis with a hilarious, feel-good adventure through a bustling city that's bigger, bolder, and wilder than ever before.

But is there IS something for the grown-ups as well...

**Anaconda**, and **Avatar: Fire and Ash** (2D) - sure to be a hit with most moviegoers. For those who like something softer there's **My Brother's Band**, **Kokuho**, **Wicked: For Good**, **Rental Family** and **Sentimental Value** and if you like hardcore, scary or just full on, there's **Five Nights at Freddy's 2**, **Nuremberg**, **Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery**.

There really is something for everyone in Byron and Ballina on Boxing Day - treat the whole family!

For more visit: [www.palacecinemas.com.au](http://www.palacecinemas.com.au).

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



It will appear in the paper, the online gig guide and on Bay FM  
email [gigs@echo.net.au](mailto:gigs@echo.net.au) with the details

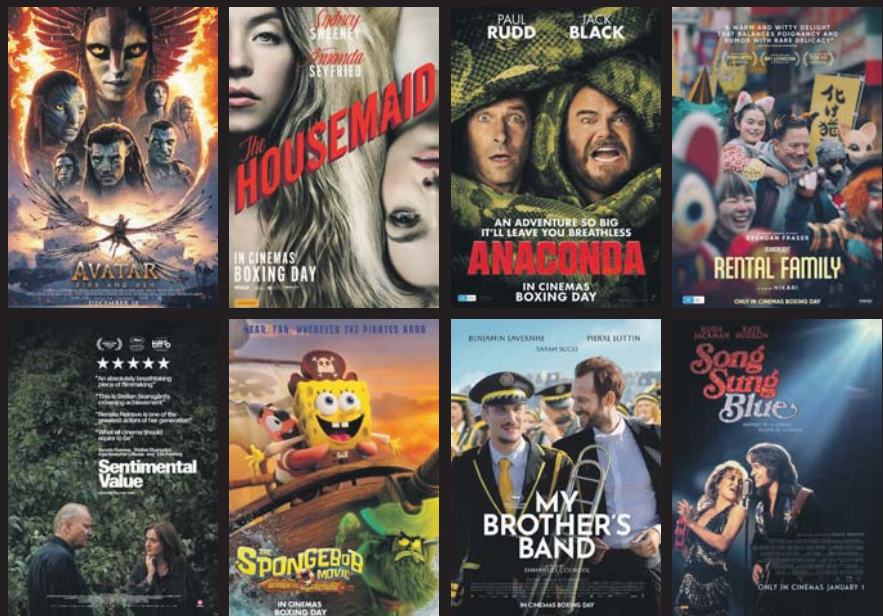
PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY · BALLINA FAIR

HOLIDAY FILM SELECTION



SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE



FOR BOOKINGS AND SESSION TIMES [PALACECINEMAS.COM.AU](http://PALACECINEMAS.COM.AU) 6686 9600 BALLINA FAIR · 6680 8555 BYRON BAY

# ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

## CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

### PHONE ADS

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

### AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

**Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby**

### EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

**classifieds@echo.net.au**

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

## DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

## RATES & PAYMENT

### LINE ADS:

**\$17.00 for the first two lines**

**\$5.00 for each extra line**

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

**Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa**

Prepayment is required for all ads.

## CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

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

## WANTED

### TREE FERNS

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

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

## GARAGE SALES

### Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

**0408 210 772**

## CARAVANS

### CARAVANS

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

## HOUSES FOR SALE

**2 FREE STANDING HOUSES ON ONE BLOCK IN GOONELLABAH.** <https://www.domain.com.au/8a-8b-jennifer-place-goonellabah-nsw-2480-2019800564> OR mobile 0429023402

## PROPERTY WANTED

### LOCAL FAMILY SEEKING TO BUY ACREAGE

with home and useable land. Less than 10mins to Mullum Ph 0424234350

## TO LET

### LOCAL REMOVAL

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

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

## TO LEASE

**OFFICE/WORKSPACE** 42sqm \$350pw Billinudgel. Ph Lifestyle Group 66851206

## POSITIONS VACANT

### PART-TIME

#### SUPPORT WORKER

required for 88-year-old woman for two hours in the morning and one hour in afternoon every Friday and Sat. Duties are: dog walking, light house work, light assistance around house and garden and occasional errands, but she can manage cooking and personal care herself without assistance. Call 0410540592

### SCT LOGISTICS

#### TRUCK WASHERS

Temporary opportunity. We're looking for truck washers at our SCT Logistics depot, 117 Baraang Drive Broadwater NSW 2472 (sugar mill site). Mon to Fri, 38-hour week, weather dependant. Starts in December and runs through to the end of January. Full training provided..Please send brief resume to Wendy.Keel@sctlogistics.com.au or during office hours call 0409568795

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

### TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

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

**THE OTHER JOINT** is seeking a front of house allrounder. mullum@otherjoint.com

## HYPNOSIS & NLP

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

**BEAUTIFUL RELAXING**  
Professional deep tissue massage  
Mobile service available. Ph 0410395368

### Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby  
0401 926 090

Kinesiology, Crystal Healing  
Energy Psychology  
Reiki  
0413 003 301  
[www.katemessengerkinesiology.com.au](http://www.katemessengerkinesiology.com.au)

## TREE SERVICES

### LEAF IT TO US - Tree Care Specialists

Local, qualified, insured, free quotes. Big to small we enjoy it all - 0402487213

**Arborist • 15" Wood Chipper • Stump Grinder • Fully Insured**  
Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas  
**6681 3140**  
Mobile 0417 698 227

**HART TREE SERVICES**  
20 years local experience  
• 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding  
• Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat  
Fully insured • Free quotes  
**0427 347 380**

## TRADEWORK

**Septic Waste Removal Summerland Environmental**  
The Liquid Waste Specialists!  
• Septic tank cleaning  
• Grease trap servicing  
• Oily Liquids  
• Portable toilet hire  
• 24 hour service  
**6687 2880**

## FUNERAL NOTICES

**MILLS, BILL**  
4 December 1952 –  
17 December 2025 Aged 73



Passed peacefully at home, surrounded by love.

Bill was the cherished father of Liam and Phoebe, beloved older brother to Therese, Lorraine, Anthony and Paul, grandfather to Jeremy, Harry and Goldie. He was known to many and liked by all.

Family and friends are invited to honour him on Monday December 29th at 11:30 am at Mullumbimby Cemetery, followed by a celebration of his life at his home in Tintenbar. (address to be provided by emailing [phoebina@hotmail.com](mailto:phoebina@hotmail.com))

**BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS**  
6684 6232

**CORNELL, CHARMIAN**  
24 June 1945 – 14 December 2025



Much loved wife of Tony (dec.)  
Loved mother of Katie, and grandmother of Luna.  
Charmian passed peacefully and will be missed by all who knew her.  
A small service will be held on 02/01/26 1pm at White Dove Chapel, Billinudgel.

**BRUNSWICK VALLEY FUNERALS**  
6684 6232

## HEALTH

**MULLUMBIMBY KINESIOLOGY**  
with Elizabeth Ph 0478959007

## KINESIOLOGY

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

## HYPNOSIS & EFT

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

## LOCALS SPECIAL!

**BRUNSWICK HEADS CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL BANNER PARK**

Any Sunday until 25th Jan 2026 from 6.30pm

BUY 1 RIDE GET 1 FREE  
BUY 1 RIDE GET 1 FREE  
BUY 1 RIDE GET 1 FREE

## DEATH NOTICES

**WERNER JOSEF PERGER (SNOWY)**

91 years old, passed away 17th December 2025. Dearly loved husband of Colleen, father of Gina and Michael, grandfather of Daniel and Micah, great-grandfather of Isla and Mila. Lived a full and wonderful life, now at peace. Private cremation.



delivery area, you can pick up an Echo from many locations, including: Newrybar Providore Newrybar; Richies IGA Ballina, Ballina RSL, One Stop Shop Ballina, Ballina Golf Club East Ballina, Brighton St Takeaway near the Shawsy, Seagrass Lennox, Lennox pub drive-through, Station St Grocer Lennox

### UNCONSCIOUS ART WORKSHOP #1

- Create nothing out of meaning.
- Show up! it's all about you.
- Hold space for more clutter
- Free activated milo, donation 50 cents.
- Leave the session with a fully completed.



### PROBLEMS WITH ALCOHOL...?

...THERE IS HELP

TUESDAY NIGHTS 6:00PM  
73 BYRON ST, BANGALOW  
CONTACT: 0401 945 671

## DISCLAIMER

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## PUBLIC NOTICES

**WHERE TO GET THE ECHO**  
If you live in Newrybar, Lennox Head or Ballina, but outside our current home

## Calling all Bruns River Landholders! FREE Support to Help Restore your Patch of Paradise.

Positive Change for Marine Life is a local group working to reconnect the Bruns river from mountains to sea.

- We are here to help you with:
- Riverbank restoration
  - Weed and invasive vegetation control
  - Wildlife habitat installation
  - Resources for managing your land



Spots are limited! Email [Ljepson@pcfml.org.au](mailto:Ljepson@pcfml.org.au) or call Lucy on +61 476 403 629 today.

[pcfml.org.au](http://pcfml.org.au)

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### Aboriginal Heritage

**Cabbage Tree Island Public School, Cabbage Tree Island NSW**

School Infrastructure NSW (SI) is progressing planning for the redevelopment of Cabbage Tree Island Public School, Cabbage Tree Island NSW. The school was severely damaged during the 2022 floods, and the NSW Government has committed to rebuilding modern, flood-resilient facilities for the community.

As part of this early planning phase, SI has engaged Virtus Heritage to prepare an Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment (ACHA). The final scope of works is still being developed; however, the project is expected to involve demolition of flood-affected buildings, construction of new facilities, and associated ground disturbance. These activities have the potential to harm Aboriginal objects, if present.

On behalf of SI, Virtus Heritage invites Aboriginal people and Aboriginal groups who hold cultural knowledge relevant to determining the significance of Aboriginal objects and places within the area, to register to be consulted as part of the preparation of an ACHA and any further investigations.

Consultation will be undertaken in accordance with Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010 (DCCEE 2010). The purpose of community consultation with Aboriginal people is to assist the applicant in the preparation of the ACHA and to assist the Minister in their consideration and determination of an AHIP application, if required.

To register your interest, please contact:

Virtus Heritage Pty Ltd  
PO BOX 101  
Pottsville NSW 2489  
Phone/Fax: (02) 6676 4354

Email: [consultation@virtusheritage.com.au](mailto:consultation@virtusheritage.com.au)

The proponent contact details are:

Jenny Stokes  
Community Engagement, School Infrastructure NSW  
Email: [infrastructure.schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:infrastructure.schoolinfrastructure@det.nsw.edu.au)

Registrations must be received by phone, writing, or email by 5:00pm on 9 January 2026.

## POSITIONS VACANT

### WANTED

**MULLUMBIMBY POOL STAFF  
JUNIOR KIOSK STAFF  
(15-18ish)**

See ad back page



**Nurse Practitioner**  
Grafton, Coffs Harbour  
& North Coast NSW

Nursing - General Medical & Surgical (Healthcare & Medical)

Full time  
\$100,000 - \$150,000 per year

Apply now with:  
kelly.onley@trecruitment.com.au  
0411 641 919

And take the next step in your career as a Nurse Practitioner with Tier One Recruitment

## WORK WANTED

**1 or 2 MEN + UTE**  
Furniture and rubbish removals  
Over 15 years exp. Jarrod 0415 139 308

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary** is a volunteer community service that helps raise funds for our local hospital.

Volunteers welcomed!

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

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

Contact Maureen Weir  
0266 853 162 for more information.




**Murwillumbah Community Centre**


**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

YOUTH RECREATION, FOOD HUB SHOP ASSISTANT, COMMUNITY MEALS ASSISTANT

PLEASE, CONTACT US ON  
02 6672 3003 IF INTERESTED

## BIRTHDAYS

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS!**



## LOST AND FOUND

**MISSING VOUCHERS**  
The coupons snipped out of my Echo from last week!

## TUITION

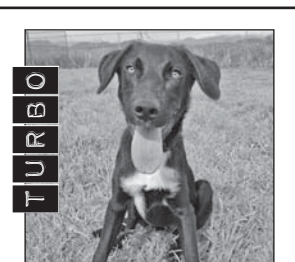
**Adobe Tutoring**

Experienced Professional Trainer  
• Photoshop • Indesign  
• Illustrator

contact@thinkblinkdesign.com  
www.thinkblinkdesign.com

## PETS

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



Turbo is a 6 month old, Collie/Kelpie X. This lovely boy is smart and very energetic. He would suit an active family on property with a job to do. #991003002442489 Location: Murwillumbah

For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128.

Please complete an Expression of Interest at: <https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>

Visit [friendsofthepound.com](http://friendsofthepound.com) to view other dogs and cats looking for a home. ABN 83 126 970 338



Meet dear Mishka, a beautiful, affectionate tabby girl. It's often a struggle for the adult cats to find a home as quickly as the kittens, which is sad as we have some adorable adult cats at present! Mishka is a fine figure of a feline lady with the most soft and healthy plush coat, you won't be able to stop stroking her! Sadly she was bullied by her other furry housemate so had to be surrendered in the hope of finding a more peaceful home. Desexed and vaccinated. Microchip 982000402202115 D.O.B 14/12/25

To make an appointment 0403 533 589 • Billinudgel [petsforlifeanimalshelter.net](http://petsforlifeanimalshelter.net)

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

DATE (Dec/Jan)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
24	W	5:46 / 19:44	9:09 / 22:50	1203 1.66	0458 0.33; 1838 0.38
25	TH	5:46 / 19:44	10:09 / 23:21	0014 1.11; 1242 1.62	0543 0.38; 1919 0.38
26	F	5:47 / 19:45	11:07 / 23:51	0105 1.12; 1323 1.56	0633 0.45; 2003 0.37
27	SA	5:48 / 19:45	12:06 / 0:21	0204 1.16; 1409 1.48	0733 0.52; 2050 0.35
28	SU	5:48 / 19:45	13:07 / 0:53	0311 1.23; 1502 1.38	0845 0.58; 2141 0.33
29	M	5:49 / 19:46	14:10 / 0:53	0420 1.34; 1604 1.29	1007 0.60; 2232 0.30
30	TU	5:50 / 19:46	15:17 / 1:28	0527 1.47; 1713 1.21	1132 0.57; 2327 0.26
31	W	5:50 / 19:46	16:29 / 2:09	0629 1.62; 1824 1.16	1252 0.49
1	TH	5:51 / 19:47	17:41 / 2:57	0728 1.76; 1931 1.15	00:21 0.22; 14:01 0.40
2	F	5:52 / 19:47	18:52 / 3:55	0822 1.86; 2030 1.16	01:15 0.17; 15:00 0.31
3	SA	5:52 / 19:47	19:55 / 5:01	09:15 1.94; 2124 1.17	02:06 0.14; 15:51 0.25
4	SU	5:53 / 19:47	20:48 / 6:12	10:04 1.96; 2215 1.19	02:58 0.13; 16:38 0.23
5	M	5:54 / 19:47	21:33 / 7:24	10:51 1.94; 2302 1.20	03:46 0.14; 17:23 0.24
6	TU	5:55 / 19:48	22:10 / 8:32	11:34 1.87; 2349 1.20	04:35 0.19; 18:05 0.27
7	W	5:55 / 19:48	22:43 / 9:36	12:15 1.76	05:23 0.28; 18:45 0.32

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

## ONLY ADULTS

Need proper erotic relaxation?  
**Tantric Massage**  
Men, Women, Couples. Ph 0480779325

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

CURIOUS ABOUT PEGGING?  
[ivso.me/venus-knox](http://ivso.me/venus-knox)

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

## SOCIAL ESCORTS

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

## EMERGENCY NUMBERS

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

## The Echo's Market Guide

Find it online: [www.echo.net.au/market-guide](http://www.echo.net.au/market-guide)

### MONTHLY MARKETS:

- 1<sup>st</sup> SAT: Brunswick Heads Markets - 8am-2pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> SUN: Byron Community Market - 8am-3pm  
Pottsville Beach Markets - 7am-1pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> SUN: The Channon Craft Market - 9am-3pm  
Chillingham Markets - 8am-1pm  
Coolangatta Arts & Craft Markets - 8am-2pm  
Tabulam Community Market - 9am-1pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SAT: Mullumbimby Community Market - 8am-2pm  
Murwillumbah Makers & Finders Market - 9am-2pm  
Salt Beach Markets, South Kingscliff/Casuarina - 8am-1pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SUN: Federal Village Market - 8am-2pm  
Uki Buttery Bazaar Market - 8am-2pm  
Pottsville Beach Markets - 7am-1pm  
Lismore City Bowlo Markets - 9am-1pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SUN (Dec & Jan): Byron Community Market - 8am-3pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> SAT: Kyogle Bazaar - 9am-2pm
- Last SAT: Evans Head Rotary Market - 8am-1pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> SUN: Bangalow Market - 8am-2.30pm  
Nimbin Markets - 9am-3pm  
Murwillumbah Showground Market - 8am-1pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> SUN (in a 5-Sunday month): Coolangatta Arts & Crafts - 8am-2pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> SUN: Nimbin Markets - 8.30am-3pm

Seasonal: Byron Beachside Market - four times a year: Wed 7th Jan 2026, Easter, July and Sept

### FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS:

- Each TUE: New Brighton Farmers Market - 8am-11am  
Lismore Organic Market - 7.30am-10.30am
- Each WED: Murwillumbah Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Nimbin Farmers Market - 3pm-6pm  
Newrybar Hall Twilight Market - 3pm-7.30pm
- Each THU: Byron Bay Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Lismore Produce Market - 3pm-6pm
- Each FRI: Mullumbimby Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Evans Head Farmers Market - 2.30pm-6.30pm
- Each SAT: Bangalow Farmers Market - 7am-11am  
Duranbah Road Farmers Market (Tropical Fruit World) 8am-11am  
Uki Farmers Market - 8am-1pm  
Lismore Farmers Market - 7.30am-11.30am  
Byron Twilight Market (October to April) 4pm-9pm
- Each SUN: Ballina Farmers & Producers Market - 7am-11am

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



## On The Horizon



### DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

### Lismore Rainforest Botanic Garden walk

The next Guided Walk in the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens will be at 9.30am on Sunday, 28 December with Tracey. This walk will be focussing on the development and history of the gardens, as you ramble throughout the rainforest rooms, useful plants garden and the sensory garden. Local native plants suitable for the home garden will be featured. Bookings are essential by emailing [publicity@friendslrbg.com.au](mailto:publicity@friendslrbg.com.au). Adults \$5, children free. Please wear sturdy shoes and hat. Meet at the Visitor's Centre at the Gardens (313 Wyrallah Road, East Lismore) at 9.15am for the one-hour walk. Join the Friends for morning tea after the walk (gold coin donation appreciated).

### Free bushwalk to Unicorn Falls

Join us for a relaxing bushwalk down to the beautiful Unicorn Falls! This Grade 3 walk, approximately 5km return, takes you through scenic bushland to the falls, where you can enjoy the views and the tranquil surroundings. Swimming is optional, so bring your swimmers. A morning tea will be provided at the falls. Call Di on 0427 026 935 to carpool. When: Saturday January 3, 2026 from 9am - 12pm. Where: Start at Manns Road Carpark (approx. 3.5km from Rowlands Creek Road or Main Arm/

## 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.

### 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. Bookings essential at: [www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au) or phone the Byron Bay branch 6685 8540.

### Bruns backgammon

The Bruns Backgammon Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the CWA Hall in Brunswick Heads, from 5.30pm till 7pm. It's a relaxed, social evening open to all skill levels - newcomers are always welcome!

### Sing and play along

Free weekly sing along sessions for over 70s in Mullumbimby, on Wednesdays from 10.30 to 11.30am. Feel free to bring your ukulele and/or guitar and enjoy singing the songs of your youth. Limited spaces. Contact Magenta on 0447 844 215.

### Free baby clothes

Free baby clothes are available each Friday morning (during school terms) from 10-12am at Mullumbimby CWA Hall, corner of Tincogan and Gordon sts. And if you like hanging out with mums and bubs and have a penchant for folding tiny clothes, we're always keen for more volunteers to join our happy team! More info: [www.pbbmedia.org/outreachhub](http://www.pbbmedia.org/outreachhub). Contact: [hello@pbbmedia.org](mailto:hello@pbbmedia.org).

### 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

Skyline Roads intersection - Google 'Gidjuum Gulganyi Walk Carpark'. The event is run by Together She Thrives, a not-for-profit charity that creates free events for women and teen girls. For more visit [www.togethershethrives.org.au](http://www.togethershethrives.org.au).

### Free Trivia Night

Join us for a fun and relaxed night of trivia! No need to worry if you're not a trivia expert - it's all about having fun, connecting, and enjoying a night out with the girls. When: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 from 6pm till 8pm. Where: Brunswick Heads Bowling Club, 107 Tweed Street, Brunswick Heads. The event is run by Together She Thrives. For more visit [www.togethershethrives.org.au](http://www.togethershethrives.org.au).

### Free Macrame Workshop - Make a Plant Hanger

Get creative at our hands-on macrame workshop! You'll learn to make your own plant hanger, guided step by step - no experience needed and everything is provided. When: Wednesday, January 14, 2026 from 1.30pm till 4pm. Where: Mullumbimby RSL This workshop is open to everyone, but spaces are limited, so we'll have a waiting list once spots are filled. Email [ijyotiwindshuttle60@gmail.com](mailto:ijyotiwindshuttle60@gmail.com). The event is run by Together She Thrives. For more visit [www.togethershethrives.org.au](http://www.togethershethrives.org.au).



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](http://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](http://www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au). **Byron Seniors Club:** [www.byronseniors.com.au](http://www.byronseniors.com.au). More info on **Community Services:** [www.byroncentre.com.au](http://www.byroncentre.com.au) Phone: (02) 6685 6807.

## 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](mailto:adcop@echo.net.au)



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Opportunities of this calibre in Byron Bay are increasingly rare. MARÉ is an exclusive collection of just eight boutique residences at 9 Marvell Street, perfectly positioned between the beach and the town centre. With the majority of residences already secured, MARÉ presents a narrowing window to acquire a premium, off-the-plan home in one of Australia's most tightly held coastal markets.

Conceived as a timeless response to Byron Bay's unique lifestyle, MARÉ is the culmination of a carefully considered design and development journey. Acclaimed local architects HGA Studio have crafted a building that is grounded, elegant and enduring, one that belongs to its setting rather than competing with it. A refined

palette of brick, stone, timber and concrete creates warmth, texture and longevity, while generous light wells, a central courtyard and landscaped rooftop spaces ensure every residence is bathed in light, air and privacy.

Each apartment has been meticulously planned to deliver genuine livability, without compromise. Spacious three-bedroom layouts, expansive internal living areas, private outdoor spaces, secure basement parking and storage provide a level of scale and comfort rarely found in Byron Bay apartments. Above, a rooftop pool and garden offer a tranquil retreat, while curated ground-floor retail enhances both the streetscape and everyday convenience for residents.

Quality and certainty



underpin the project. A highly regarded builder with decades of experience has been appointed, offering buyers confidence in craftsmanship, delivery and long-term value; an essential consideration in an off-the-plan purchase.

Delivering MARÉ is Cobild, one of Australia's most respected premium residential builders, known for uncompromising standards and meticulous delivery. With a proud history spanning decades, Cobild has built a

reputation for craftsmanship, reliability and enduring quality across premium projects, giving buyers added assurance that MARÉ will be executed with the care and precision it deserves.

What truly sets MARÉ apart

is its value proposition. In a market where premium Byron Bay property continues to outperform, MARÉ presents a limited opportunity to secure a brand-new, architect-designed residence at a price point that is increasingly difficult to find, particularly within walking distance of the beach, Main Street, cafes, dining and wellness destinations.

With only eight residences in total and limited availability remaining, MARÉ is more than a home. It is a considered lifestyle choice, a secure investment, and a rare chance to own something genuinely special in Byron Bay.

■ Construction is underway. Enquire now to secure one of the final remaining residences.



### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

"SHORE SHACK"



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4 3 4 445m<sup>2</sup>

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17 DANDALOO WAY  
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3 1 3 1,290m<sup>2</sup>\*

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Disclaimer \*= approx.

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From the First National Byron family to yours, we wish you a happy holidays and a safe, healthy and prosperous **2026.**



The First National Byron office will be closed from Monday the 22nd at 5pm and will re-open Monday the 5th at 9am.

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🛏️ 2 🛋️ 1 🚿 2 🚗 1

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🛏️ 5 🛋️ 3 🚿 3 🚗 2

🏠 772M<sup>2</sup>

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125 ALCORN STREET, SUFFOLK PARK



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🛏️ 6 🛋️ 4 🚿 4 🚗 2

🏠 1012M<sup>2</sup>

- Prime Beachfront Location, steps from Tallow Beach with rainforest path access
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PRICE | Contact Agent  
OPEN | By Appointment



Su Reynolds  
0428 888 660



Anna Gilham  
0402 128 355

64A CARLYLE LANE, BYRON BAY



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🛏️ 2 🛋️ 1 🚿 1 🚗 1

🏠 466M<sup>2</sup>

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4 3 4

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\*Boundary indicative



## SHOWROOM FOR LEASE

### EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

4/1 Boronia Place, Byron Bay Arts & Industrial Estate

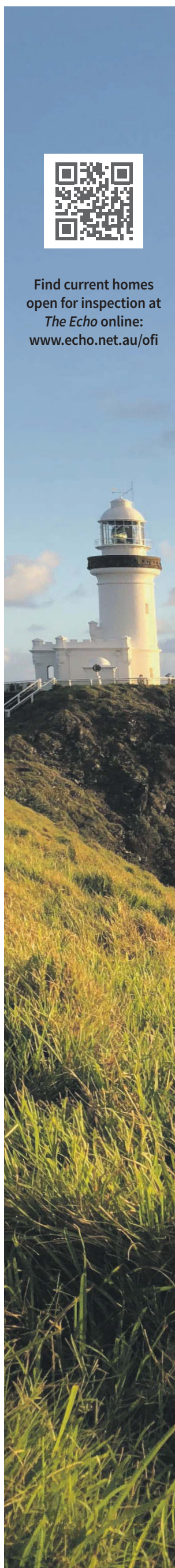
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### Echo Xmas closure

The Great Pirate Ship Echo's office will be closed from the 24 to 26 December (inclusive). Our next edition will come out on 31 December, 2025.

What a scorcher! We're feeling the heat putting this edition together, and so are all the doggos and wildlife out there. Please remember to top up water bowls in shady spots at cafes, backyards, etc. for our furry and feathered friends who also suffer in the heat. Thirsty critters may also seek relief in swimming pools so leave them an escape rope in case they fall in.

What do you call an English cricketer with 100 beside his name? A bowler. Broadly speaking, 'Australia's worst team since 2010', has left England in ashes.

A big festive thanks to Stephen Axelsen who illustrated this week's delightful cover art, 'Old Mr Coal Goes Back To Bed'.

'The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people are so full of doubts.' Bertrand Russell.

A recent study has shown that male bottlenose dolphins with strong friendships age more slowly than their more solitary peers. Dolphins, like humans, experience age-related changes: reduced energy, wear to the skin, slower movement and fading eyesight. But UNSW scientists say they also have access to a powerful, natural



One of Santa's helpers Derek has a side hustle, busking on Burringbar Street. Derek and his elven wife Trish have been collecting toys for local children whose families are struggling this Christmas, in memory of their friend Graham Evans who recently passed away. 'Our message for Christmas is that the greatest power in the universe is unconditional love', they said. Photo Jeff Dawson

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anti-ageing serum: their friends. So relax and remember to enjoy those family and friend connections, because they are your elixir of life!

Long-time local, fashion designer, and gardener Sarah Lyshart long ago had a bikini label 'Shark Bait' which probably wouldn't sell too well around town these days!

There has been a death a day on NSW roads so remember to drive safely this silly season. Take regular breaks, stick to speed limits (no problem for Backlash who currently spends their life driven around by L-platers), and avoid distractions like mobile phones. Of course don't drink and drive!

Otherwise have a fabulous, rainbow-loving festive season!

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