

Echo

'THE TIME IS ALWAYS RIGHT TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT' - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR
The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 40 #34 • January 28, 2026 • www.echo.net.au

Celebrating Australia's Survival Day 2026



Survival Day at the Byron beachfront always draws an enthusiastic crowd. Cr Delta Kay delivered a positive and inspiring speech, and is pictured here with her partner Jason and her daughters and grand-jarjums.



Meanwhile in Brunswick Heads, the spectacular sight of the gigantic, silk, Aboriginal flags floating in the breeze never fail to delight. The flags grace the Bruns bridge which leads to the Torakina Reserve where the Bundjalung Minjungbal Jugun crew hold Connection Day exploration of culture, connection to country and celebration through story, music and dance. Pictured is Minjungbal, Uncle Bulagun. Photos Jeff Dawson

Refused DA at 8 Marvell Street, Byron heads to Land and Environment Court

Aslan Shand

Byron Shire Council (BSC) refused the mixed-use development application (DA) for 8 Marvell Street, Byron Bay on 15 October. The developer has now taken Council to the Land and Environment Court (L&EC) and a L&EC conciliation meeting is taking place this Friday, 30 January.

The DA for the demolition of the

existing single-storey cottage on the site to be replaced by ground floor retail uses and 12 residential apartments above was refused on nine grounds by BSC.

The refusal letter stated that, 'the application does not demonstrate that the proposed development makes provision of essential services, flood planning, stormwater management or waste management and the design of the

proposed development is suitable with regards the scale and nature of the proposed development.'

Not in the public interest

It was also refused on the basis that 'the consent authority cannot be satisfied that the application provides sufficient information to demonstrate that the proposed development is in the public interest and meets the objects of

the Act to facilitate ecologically sustainable development by integrating relevant economic, environmental and social considerations; to promote the orderly and economic use and development of land; and to promote good design and amenity of the built environment' and that, 'the consent authority, cannot be satisfied that the application provides sufficient information to demonstrate

that the proposed development is acceptable with consideration for relevant issues raised in public submissions.'

Local residents objected to the DA, saying it significantly exceeds the height limit of 11.5m with its proposed 14.95m height, as well as its proposed use of 'every millimetre of the site' and it 'does not incorporate any setbacks'.

► Continued on page 4

Ceramics take centre stage in Mullum ► p4

Refugee sisters given the chance to shine ► p7

Budding litterateurs' entries in our short story comp ► p10

Making Spaces – home improvement extraordinaires ► p16

Byron's Arts & Industry is well worth a look ► p18

All sorts of gigs in Seven ► p20

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The power of art in a climate-changed world

Paul Bibby

It was during a quick tour of the Lismore Regional Gallery late last year that the reality of making and exhibiting art in a climate-changed world truly hit home for Courtney Gibson.

As the Mullumbimby resident, who was stepping in as the acting director of the newly-rebuilt gallery, walked around she noticed a large and unusually-designed window 13 metres above the ground.

'I said "What's the story with that window?"; Ms Gibson recounts.

'And Ashley [Ralph], who I've temporarily taken over from, just said "Oh, that's the boat window where a boat will come and rescue you if there's another flood"'

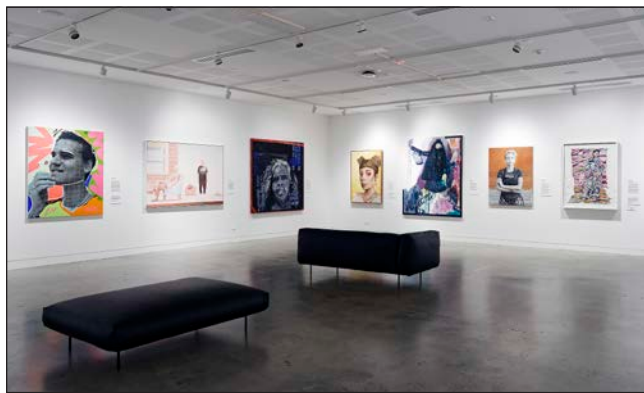
'That definitely galvanised my attention in terms of what it means to be operating in a climate-changed world with that ever-present threat... and in a community that lives with that knowledge.'

Four years since 2022 floods

As the fourth anniversary of the Northern Rivers floods approaches, the Lismore Regional Gallery stands as a symbol of the region's response to those life-changing events.

The gallery is a remarkable example of adaptation, resilience, and the power of art and creativity to bring people together and help them understand their world.

A key part of this is a



The Lismore Regional Gallery became a critical hub for connection and healing, and for understanding what happened during the 2022 flood. Photos supplied

clear-eyed acknowledgment of the need to be ready for whatever the future may bring.

'Looking at it now, it's quite hard to even conceptualise that the whole place was rinsed,' the gallery's curator Ineke Dane says.

'It's a two-storey building and the floods went nearly to the top of the second floor... 14.4 metres... There's actually a marker on one edge of the building which shows how far up it went.'

'The collection was stored on site and so it was obviously catastrophic for that.'

Four years and \$5.1 million later, it's clear from even a quick walk-through that, while the vibrant creativity

of the gallery remains, the physical space has changed significantly.

The sealed concrete and epoxy floors give the space a freshly-waxed quality, perfect not only for withstanding water exposure but also for facilitating quick exits for the precious artworks and other materials.

'It's not just a case of whipping everything upstairs because that's not above the flood level,' Courtney says.

'All of the shelving and furniture is on wheels. It's like a speedway. If there is another flood incident we're ready to get everything out of there quickly.'

These physical changes are just part of the



adaptations that have taken place at the gallery.

Creating pathways forward

In many ways, the venue is at the cutting edge of research and development into making and exhibiting art in the age of climate change.

'A whole lot of good things came out of the wreckage and lessons were learnt in terms of what it means to be operating a gallery in a climate-changed world,' Ms Dane says.

This includes creating a new emergency manual, storing the gallery's permanent collection at a

climate-controlled facility off-site, and choosing works to suit the environment.

'We're also showing much more video work, especially during the cyclone season because those works are much easier to ship in and out,' Ms Gibson says.

A key theme throughout has been the vital role that art plays in understanding the world and healing from trauma.

'Almost immediately after the initial clean-up, what came through was the value and importance of art and creativity in the aftermath of a life-changing catastrophe,' Ms Dane says.

'It was about helping to build community wellbeing

through creativity... Giving people an opportunity to express themselves creatively and also helping people to understand and conceptualise what happened.'

Within a couple of months of the waters clearing the gallery was collaborating with other locals to put on nights featuring experimental art, music, and performance.

Soon after, a temporary gallery space was set up on Magellan Street, which hosted exhibitions and events, including a regular 'Collage Club'.

'In the aftermath of the floods the gallery became a critical hub,' Ms Gibson says.

'People were coming in who might not have spoken to other people for days. But they came and connected with other people. It became a very strong centre for social cohesion for healing and recovery. People really needed one another... That's the power of art and the esteem in which a gallery like ours is held.'

'We're back in the building now, but we've retained those support networks and relationships within the new space.'

The gallery is also keen to attract visitors from the wider Northern Rivers community and beyond.

'We are really a gallery for the whole Northern Rivers region,' Ms Gibson says. 'The Quad is back. We've got the Library, NORPA's new space, and the Conservatorium. We have a powerful role and it's way beyond just a gallery.'



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Australian solidarity against antisemitism



Byron Lighthouse usually emits light to warn of danger. Last Thursday the landmark was itself illuminated from the outside as a memorial to those killed in the Bondi Massacre a month before. After one minute of silence at 7.01pm the lighthouse began to glow as the sun set. Photos Jeff Dawson

Get colourful this Sunday in Brunswick Heads

Local community group Together She Thrives is hosting a traditional Indian Holi Festival of Colour at Banner Park, Brunswick Heads on Sunday, 1 February for women and girls.

'Holi is a traditional Indian festival celebrating joy, unity and new beginnings.

It is known as the Festival of Colour and is now celebrated worldwide as a fun, uplifting way to bring communities together,' explained organiser Di Browne.

Free event

'This free community event is for women and girls,

with children up to eight years old welcome.

Safe colours

'Come together to throw colour, dance, laugh and celebrate connection in a safe, inclusive space. Wear a white T-shirt and sunglasses and be ready

to get colourful.'

The Holi colour powder used is made from 100 per cent natural ingredients including corn starch and natural-coloured dyes and is non-toxic, gluten-free, and safe to use. For more information see: www.togethershethrives.org.au.

Water quality concerns raised for Clarkes Beach, Byron

Aslan Shand

The Echo was contacted by concerned residents over the 'brown and frothy' storm water at the outlet on Clarkes Beach, which drains from the new Sandhills Wetlands site.

Local George Graham, who has been alerting Byron Shire Council (BSC) to the condition of the drain since 2009, said that he has had it tested twice in the past two years.

'Environmental Analysis Laboratory Lismore have advised on both occasions "High levels of E. coli bacteria" and "water is unsuitable for swimming",' he told The Echo.

Mr Graham said that the drain was likely installed illegally during the era when sandmining was taking place at Byron Bay's foreshore. He believes that the drain should be blocked as part of the Sandhills Wetland project.

Responding to questions over the outlet a



Drone shot of the Clarkes Beach stormwater outlet. Photo Jeff Dawson

spokesperson for BSC told The Echo that, 'One of the aims of the Sandhills Wetlands project was to improve the quality of storm water flowing from the area to the Clarkes Beach storm water outlet.'

'In February, Council will start a testing project to gather data on the water quality in the cells in the wetlands. Testing will also

be done on the water at the Clarkes Beach stormwater outlet.

Water testing

'While Council will be able to determine the quality of water leaving the wetlands system, another pipe from the Recreation Grounds area also drains to Clarkes Beach outlet and this could, at times, compromise overall

water quality.

'Staff currently regularly test the quality of water in the ocean at Clarkes Beach, along with other beaches and waterways in the Shire. For more information see: <https://www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Environment-Resilience/Environmental-Hazards/Water-Quality-Pollution/Water-quality-of-our-beaches-and-waterways>.'

Australia Day celebrated at Mullumbimby pool

For the sixth consecutive year, Mullumbimby Rotary proudly hosted a vibrant community celebration on Australia Day at the Mullumbimby Memorial Petria Thomas Swimming Pool.

Rotary secretary Helen Carpenter told The Echo,

'Guests enjoyed a full day of fun on the inflatables, along with a free sausage sizzle and icy poles, creating a relaxed and joyful atmosphere for families of all ages.

'The feedback on the day was overwhelmingly positive, with many attendees

commenting on what a wonderful event it was.'

'We sincerely thank the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club, and Woolworths Mullumbimby whose generous support helped make the day a success. Their contribution played a key role in ensuring

the event remained free and accessible for everyone.

'This heartwarming event has become an annual tradition celebrating the spirit of unity, culture, and community that makes Mullumbimby so special', Helen added.

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8 Marvell Street goes to conciliation

► Continued from page 1

Affordable housing?

According to Planit Consulting's statement of environmental effects the extra height and bulk was justified under the State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021 because of the affordable housing component. However, BSC rejected this, stating that, 'the application does not demonstrate compliance with State Environmental Planning Policy (Housing) 2021.'



A Land And Environment Court conciliation will be taking place this Friday. Image Byron Shire Council DA

Fails to meet DCP

'As a community group, and as co-founders of People of Byron (PoB), we believe this development fails to meet the prescriptive measures outlined in DCP E10 for the Byron Town Centre, which requires that "buildings be designed to respond appropriately to the environmental and built characteristics of Byron Bay"; a spokesperson for PoB told *The Echo*.

'The proposal far exceeds the height limit, does not demonstrate a sustainable footprint, and fails to enhance the streetscape.

'Developments in coastal areas as scenically gifted as

Byron Bay, and in such close proximity to the natural environment, should respond meaningfully to climate, landscape, social fabric, and the scenic characteristics of place.

'There appears to be an unhealthy reliance on concrete – a highly unsustainable material responsible for approximately eight per cent of global carbon emissions. It is time to rethink the built environment of this town and to demand development that aligns with community values, respects Byron Bay's low-scale character, and responds appropriately to the subtropical climate in which we live.'

Commercial vacancies

Submissions also highlighted the 'numerous vacant commercial spaces throughout the town' and said the developer should spend 'some time in the town of Byron Bay before re-submitting' to ensure they appreciate 'Byron Bay's climate, environment, social fabric and scenic character' and not build 'a behemoth casting shadows over its single-storey neighbour and towering over the streetscape and nearby developments.'

Ceramics take centre stage in Mullum



Artists Jo Norton, Stephanie Outridge-Field, and Venessa Skye. Photo Jeff Dawson

Aslan Shand

It was shuffling room only at last Friday's opening of the SURFACE 2026 North Coast Ceramic Art Awards at the Civic Art Space and the Mullumbimby Civic Centre Hall.

Far from a quiet gallery opening, the night was a high-energy celebration of Australian ceramics that refuse to stay in a box, showcasing everything from 'bizarre' conceptual juxtapositions to

raw, iconoclastic sculptures.

'This year, the award transitioned to its new identity – SURFACE – stripping away restrictive themes to give artists the radical freedom to experiment with form, texture, and the elemental power of clay,' organiser and ceramacist Suvira MacDonald told *The Echo*.

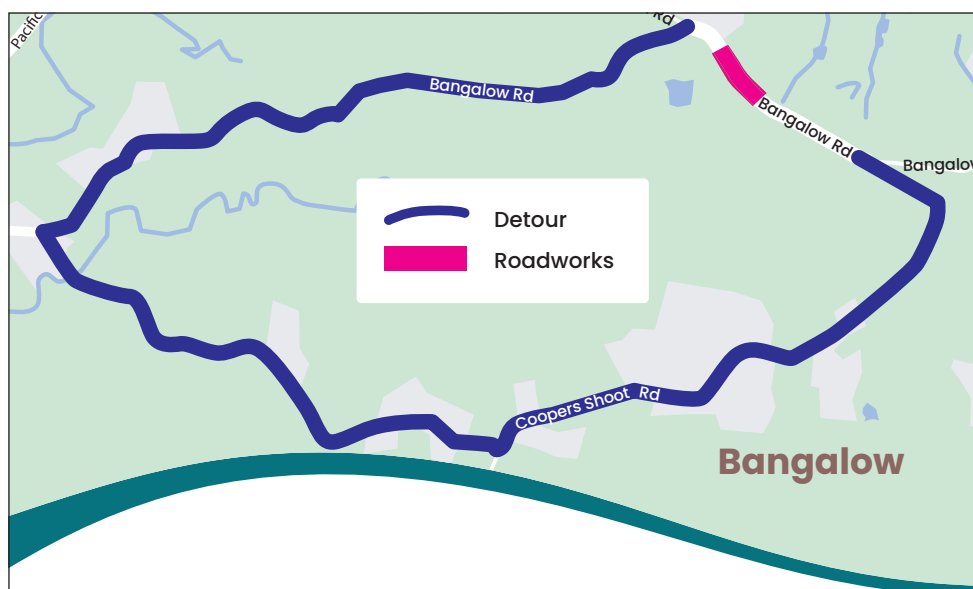
Winners

The \$3,000 Excellence Prize was awarded to Sandy

Lockwood and the Emerging Artist Prize went to Aleesha Darke.

'This is a "slow burn" exhibition for a community that values the handmade and the authentic. Whether you are drawn to delicate porcelain or rough-hewn stone, SURFACE 2026 offers a defiant look at how we shape our world,' said Suvira.

The exhibition runs daily until Sunday, 1 February 10am to 4pm.



Road closed and changed traffic conditions – Bangalow Rd Hayters Hill

The following traffic changes will take place:

- **9 February** – One lane closed. Traffic control.
- **10 February** – Bangalow Rd closed between St Helena Rd and Coopers Shoot Road. Detour via Coopers Shoot Rd
- **11 February to 24 March** – One lane closed. Traffic control.
- **25 March** – Bangalow Rd closed between St Helena Rd and Coopers Shoot Rd. Detour via Coopers Shoot Road.

Please note this work schedule may change due to weather conditions.

More information

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NORPA's *Prima Facie* to open at Byron Theatre



Matilda Ridgway as Tessa Ensler, Director Heather Fairbairn and NORPA artistic Director Julian Louis. Photo Jeff Dawson

► For more info see page 23

It is time to get to the theatre and enjoy the performance of a brilliant defence lawyer forced to confront the justice system she once championed.

Suzie Miller's internationally acclaimed play, *Prima Facie*, that is being put on by NORPA (Northern Rivers Performing Arts) opens at Byron Theatre on

Thursday, 12 February.

Performed by renowned actor Matilda Ridgway and directed by Heather Fairbairn, this powerful one-woman work will tour across the Northern Rivers, to Byron Bay, Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, Kyogle, Grafton and Lismore, this February as part of NORPA's new Village Circuit.

While *Prima Facie* has captivated audiences from Sydney to the West End and Broadway, becoming a global phenomenon and earning Olivier and Tony Awards, NORPA's production is set to spotlight local and Australian-based creatives. For more information and to book tickets: norpa.org.au/events/prima-facie.

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Police seize firearms from Banora home

A 50-year-old man is to face court in March charged with alleged firearms offences. Tweed-Byron Police say they carried out a search warrant at a home in Banora Point around 5.55pm on Wednesday, 21 January.

Council calls on public to nominate more women for Aus Day Honours List

The Council of the Order of Australia is calling for more nominations of women to be included in future Order of Australia's annual Australia Day Honours List. The Council has issued a statement congratulating this year's 680 Australians recognised in the list after their recommendation to the Governor-General, saying it's the highest number since Australia Day 2024.

Motorbike rider airlifted to hospital

A motorbike rider was airlifted to Lismore Base Hospital on Saturday after surviving a crash northwest of Grafton. Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service staff said they responded to a request for help from NSW Ambulance around 9am Saturday, 24 January.

New NSW Crime Commissioner Stephen Dametto appointed

Stephen Dametto has been appointed as the new Commissioner of the NSW Crime Commission, to lead its important work of tackling serious and organised crime.

Channon residents call to halt Standing Street footpath

Residents of The Channon are calling on Lismore City Council to halt plans to construct a footpath on Standing Street, a proposal the community has consistently opposed since 2023.

Lismore's Whian Whian Rd undergoes roadworks

Whian Whian Road will be temporarily closed to heavy combination vehicles, such as semi-trailers, from Monday, 9 February to Monday, 16 February, says Lismore City Council, as part of ongoing works to restore Simes Bridge.

www.echo.net.au

Marine Rescue NSW volunteer recognised in Australia Day Honours List

Marine Rescue Point Danger volunteer, Nicole Lockie, has been awarded the Emergency Services Medal (ESM) in the 2026 Australia Day Honours List.

In a media release by Marine Rescue NSW, they say, 'Nicole has dedicated more than 24 years to the NSW community, having volunteered with VRA Marine Division (a precursor to Marine Rescue NSW) from 1995 to 2005'.

'After spending six years volunteering in QLD, Nicole returned to volunteering in NSW and became a member of Marine Rescue NSW in 2011'.

'As one of only a few female Marine Rescue NSW Coxswains, Nicole has accumulated hundreds of hours of sea time.

'She makes herself



Tweed-based Marine Rescue NSW volunteer, Nicole Lockie. Photo supplied

available around the clock to respond to emergencies on the water, personally conducting numerous rescue missions, often in dark and dangerous conditions.

'Among her many notable missions was the 2017 rescue

of a stricken trawler off Tweed Heads in what can only be described as a David and Goliath struggle.

'More recently, Nicole recorded the most rescues in one day. As skipper, her rescue vessel performed

seven separate rescues, three offshore and four inshore, setting a new record for the Marine Rescue Point Danger unit.

'In addition to her operational role, Nicole is a Marine Rescue NSW Trainer and Assessor, investing significant time in developing the skills and knowledge of her fellow volunteers.'

Experienced mariner

Marine Rescue NSW Acting Commissioner Todd Andrews said it was a privilege to have such an experienced female mariner within the organisation.

'Nicole is one of the longest serving operational female coxswains in Marine Rescue NSW', Andrews said.

'She is also a qualified

rescue watercraft (jet ski) operator and as an endorsed member of the Marine Rescue NSW State Operations Group, Nicole can be deployed to assist the NSW government response to severe weather events.

Dedicated volllie

'The awarding of the Emergency Services Medal to Nicole is a fitting tribute to a woman who has shown overwhelming dedication to volunteering, and to our mission of saving lives on the water,' Acting Commissioner Andrews said.

Marine Rescue NSW is a volunteer-based, not-for-profit professional organisation dedicated to keeping boaters safe on the water and supporting local communities.

To get involved, visit www.marinerescuensw.com.au.

Large Wollongbar office block on exhibition

A \$9.185m two-storey office block is proposed for Wollongbar on a large lot adjacent to the Alstonville bypass.

Development application (DA) 2025/506.1 is located at 186-190 Lismore Road, and was put forward by developer Newton Denny Chapelle.

The DA proposes 17 office spaces within the building, along with an atrium, open spaces, associated car parking, earthworks, landscaping and vegetation management works, and infrastructure servicing.

It is currently on exhibition on Ballina Council's website, and closes on 29 January.

The Wollongbar Community Action Network (WCAN)



Image from Development application (DA) 2025/506.1

said in a statement, 'As with any large DAs, WCAN's role is to ensure the community is informed and has the opportunity to have their say'.

'Unfortunately, as this DA was lodged over the holiday

period, it did not come to our attention earlier'.

'If you have an interest in this proposal, we encourage you to review the plans and make a submission directly to Council before the exhibition period closes'.

New rural Lismore landowners invited to regen event, Feb 26

A free barbecue, regeneration advice, and tips on biosecurity, land care, and connecting with your rural community for new rural landowners will be held Thursday, 26 February, at the Koonorigan Hall (Lismore City Shire) from 5.30pm.

Hosted by Local Land Services (LLS), the event will feature 'skilled bush regenerators' and will offer free native plants 'to start your regeneration project'.

Organisers say, 'It's a great chance to meet your neighbours, connect with local rural services, and learn more about caring for your land'.



Image from Local Land Services

'Looking after your land is important – good biosecurity and land management practices protect you, your property, and your neighbours.'

'Come along and be part of your local community!', says LLS.

To book, visit events.humanitix.com/welcome-neighbour-lismore-event-for-new-landholders-february.

Tweed Council launches cane toad challenge

Twweed residents are invited to join the annual Community Cane Toad Control Challenge, with toad-busting challenges this February and March.

The challenges are aimed at reducing the impact of cane toads on the local wildlife and environment, says Tweed Shire Council.

Council staff said in a media release, 'The challenges are timed for the warmer months when cane toads are most active. Each challenge has exciting prizes up for grabs for the teams who remove the most cane toads from their area during the week-long events'.

'Cane toads are damaging, invasive pests that have significant environmental and social impacts on Tweed's wildlife. They also have an extraordinary breeding capacity, with each female capable of laying up to 35,000 eggs per clutch and producing multiple clutches each year'.

Community-led

Council's Pest Animals Wildlife Protection Program Leader, Pamela Gray, said community-led toad control is currently one of the most effective ways for localised management of this pest.

'We can establish safe



havens for biodiversity in our backyards and free up food and breeding resources for native species'.

The media release says, 'In addition to the cane toad challenges, Council will be hosting a Cane Toad Control Information Webinar to give potential cane toad busters, and other members of the community, cane toad knowledge to help them protect their local environment'.

Humane euthanasia

'The webinar will include tips on how to identify cane toads, cane toad control methods and steps to follow for RSPCA-approved humane euthanasia. Information about the webinar will be added to Tweed Shire Council's cane toad webpage on Wednesday 28 January'.

'For the cane toad busting challenges, community members are encouraged to team up with friends and family.'

'The aim is to collect cane toads from their local area and then log the number of toads collected online to enter the draw for prizes. The team or individual who

collects the most cane toads wins. Get the kids outside and help protect our incredible environment together,' Ms Gray said.

'All cane toads collected can be delivered to designated drop-off points across the Tweed Shire or disposed of using humane euthanasia methods', Council staff say.

The Tweed Online Toad Busting Challenge #1 is on Friday, 30 January to Sunday, 8 February. Register by clicking 'Going' on Council's Facebook event page.

Tweed Online Toad Busting Challenge #2 is on Friday, 27 February till Sunday, 8 March. Find out more at tweed.nsw.gov.au/canetoads.

A pedestrian-friendly Byron CBD

Paul Bibby

Fletcher Street in the Byron CBD would undergo significant changes to make it more pedestrian-friendly under a draft plan produced by Byron Shire Council.

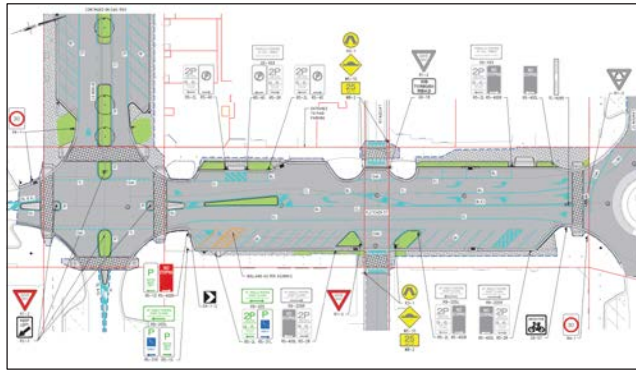
According to a report going before Council's Local Transport Forum next month, Council intends to upgrade the drainage under Fletcher Street under stage 2 of the Byron Bay drainage upgrade.

Pedestrians prioritised

It is taking the opportunity while these major works are happening to create a 'pedestrian prioritised' town centre that 'supports and integrates alternate modes of transport'.

Draft plans for the redesign have now been completed and will go to Council's Local Transport Forum meeting on 3 February.

Under the proposed redesign, Fletcher Street will have seven 'pedestrian prioritised' crossing points and a planted central median strip.



The blueprint illustrating the proposed redesign of Fletcher Street. Image Byron Shire Council and Engeny

The approach to the Lawson Street roundabout will be reduced from two lanes to one and there will be a shared turning median through the central intersection.

Speed reductions

'The reconstruction of this road is intended to coincide with a 30km/hr low speed zone through the whole town centre, so these treatments will provide visual cues that remind drivers they are travelling through a pedestrian prioritised zone,' Council staff said in the report.

They will seek feedback from the transport forum in relation to whether the proposed design achieves

a sufficient increase in pedestrian amenity and prioritisation, and whether it can facilitate safe vehicle movements through the central intersection.

Among other key CBD upgrades proposed to coincide with the drainage project are narrowed intersections to encourage drivers to slow down, and increased public space for impromptu socialising through the reclaiming of carparks for gardens, seating and bike racks.

There will also be several raised pedestrian safety crossings and shared zones, including on Jonson Street, Byron Lane, and Lateen Lane.

Refugee sisters given the chance to shine

Brunswick Heads sisters Sana and Ghina Bloudani have shown just what a refugee family can do if given the chance of a new life.

The girls and their parents, Ousama and Walaa, arrived in Australia 18 months ago after escaping war-torn Syria and living as refugees for 12 years. They were settled locally with the assistance of Northern Rivers for Refugees (NRFR).

Now Sana, 14, has won a prestigious national scholarship worth \$20,000 over four years. And Ghina has just been elected school captain for St John's Primary School, Mullumbimby.

Sana, who enters year 10 at Mullumbimby High School, hopes to use her Harding Miller Education Foundation (HMEF) Scholarship as a pathway to studying medicine.

The HMEF scholarship is for girls attending Australian public schools who demonstrate academic excellence, face financial barriers, and are highly motivated to succeed at school and pursue tertiary education.

The scholarship provides online IT support, high-speed internet, online



From top, Ousama, Sana, Ghina and Walaa Bloudani. Photo supplied

or face-to-face tutoring, online homework help, and financial support for essential school needs such as uniforms, textbooks, and school excursions.

Each scholar is allocated a personal coach who supports and guides them through the four years of the program.

HMEF also provides a Future Success program to guide students on career and tertiary education choices. The foundation is a registered charity in Australia, recognised as a public benevolent institution advancing the

cause of education.

'I hope one day to become a minister for education,' says Sana.

For livewire Ghina, life is a ball, demonstrated by the hilarious video she and her sister shot when campaigning to become school captain.

While the family still face employment challenges in the region, they love living here and are determined to put down roots after years of hiding and eking out a life.

For more information on local refugee settlement, contact www.nrfr.org.au.

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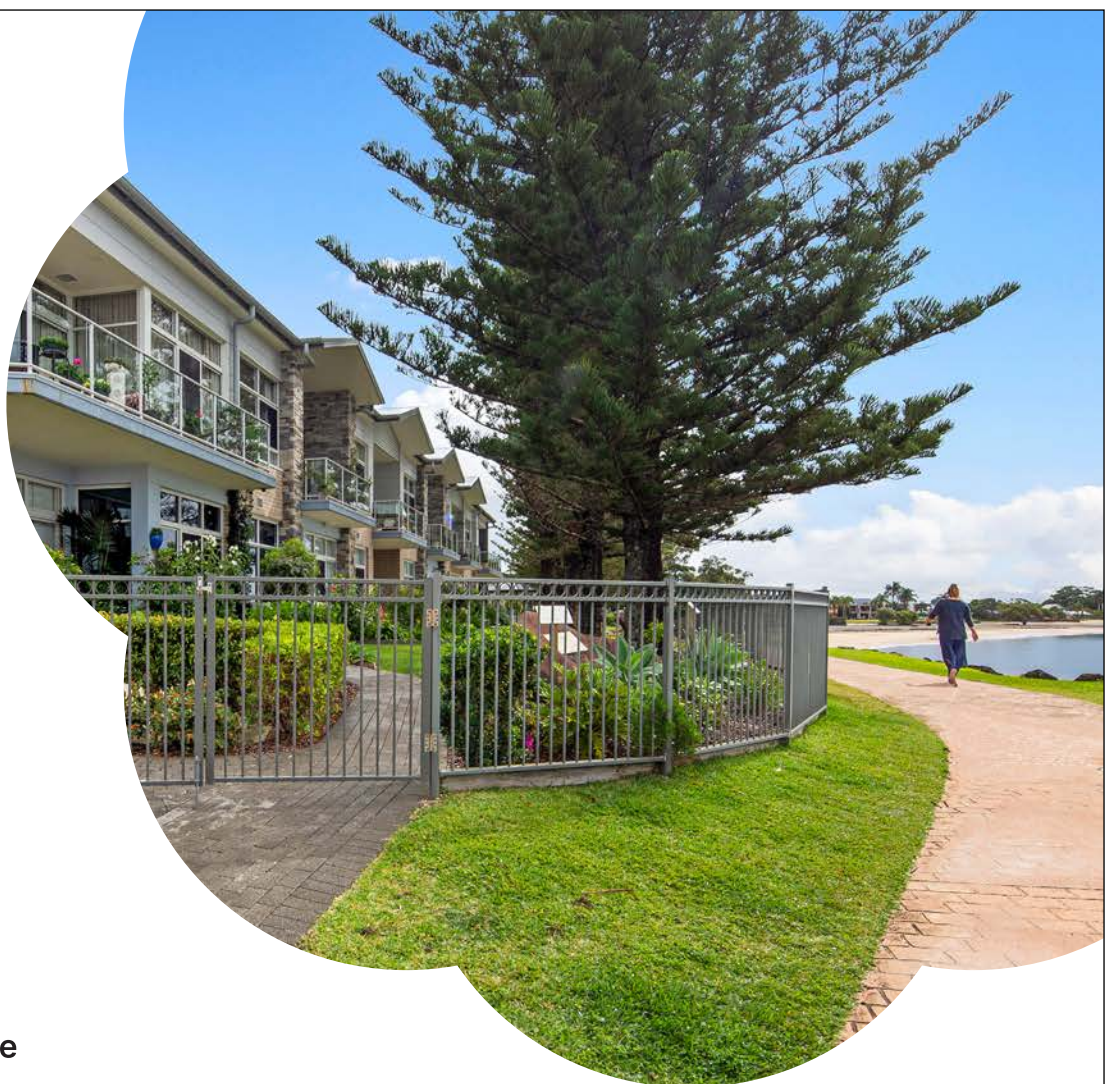
Explore our welcoming community and discover the lifestyle our residents love - right on the banks of the beautiful North Creek.

- ✗ Take a village tour
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- ✗ Enjoy a delicious morning tea

Date: Wednesday, 4th February 2026, 10am to 12pm

Location: RSL LifeCare Kokoda Retirement Village, 55 Owen Street, Ballina

Call 0484 923 436 or scan the QR Code to RSVP to our Open Day





The Byron Shire Echo
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Australia at the table or on the menu?

It is time for the Australian government to take a clear and firm stand for justice, equality and moral independence from the current US administration, as the US spirals further into chaos both internally and on the world stage.

The US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency is making unlawful arrests and shooting US citizens in the streets. Minnesota ICU nurse Alex Pretti is the most recent victim of five shootings in January involving federal agents, including the fatal shooting of Renee Good on 7 January.

In the meantime Donald Trump has been attempting to coerce unimpressed NATO allies into letting him take over Greenland, if necessary by force, with threats of tariffs. Trump has set up a farcical Board of Peace for Gaza, naming himself as its lifelong head (not the US President). Membership of the 'peace' board, which comes with a one billion dollar price tag, has been offered to dictatorial countries like Russia and Belarus. In a January 2026 interview with *The New York Times*, he told the world that his authority as commander in chief of the US is constrained only by his 'own morality' and 'own mind', dismissing the relevance of international law to his decision-making. Australia, historically an ally of the US, should clearly articulate the dangers of a 'might is right' world order.

The Prime Minister of Canada, Mark Carney cut through the rhetoric of appeasement recently. He told the crowd at Davos that the old order was dead, and in the new world middle powers needed

to stand up together against the bullying tactics Trump is using across both the US and the world. Trump promptly uninvited Canada from the Board of Peace, proving Carney's point that even historical 'friends' will be bullied by Trump.

The question is, where is Australia's voice for reality, justice, and equality? Where is our voice that says we are building alternative relationships throughout the world in trade, and calling for justice and equality that we are proud to stand up for?

Why are we not untying the knot that binds us to an increasingly destabilising power like the US? There is endless evidence of Trump's outright lies, including the denial of climate science by Trump even as Australians see floods wash cars into the ocean on the Great Ocean Road and Victorian residents are told to evacuate due to fire risk – all in the same week.

We need to decouple from the US, end AUKUS, and begin to secure our country by building values-based relationships with other countries who are able to, and willing to, take a stand and be a voice for reason. We need to stop passively supporting the US and look to taking an active role in a future in which we can stand strong against 'great powers', as Carney put it.

It is time to join in making 'a dense web of connections across trade, investment, culture on which we can draw for future challenges and opportunities,' as Carney proposed, so that 'middle powers act together, because if we're not at the table, we're on the menu.'

Aslan Shand, editor

Coalition implosion – again

The past week David Littleproud competed with Donald Trump for the worst of media headlines.

Who could burn the most bridges with friends? Who wins for thuggery? Donald Trump demanding Europe hand him a 'Big Piece of Ice'? Or David Littleproud announcing another Coalition split on the day of mourning victims of the Bondi massacre?

The main difference is Donald Trump is leader of the free world.

The LNP's task is to hold the Albanese government to account. They have failed our parliament by proving incapable of serving as an effective opposition.

It has been unedifying to watch the Nationals stomping all over their Liberal colleagues. They have shown zero respect for their Coalition partners. The Liberals share the blame for this because they lack the strength and authority required to control even the most mundane Nationals tantrum.

In fact the Liberals are courting even greater humiliation by caving into Littleproud's demand to dump their leader Sussan Ley. Politics really isn't fair is it? The only thing stopping them is they cannot agree on her replacement. They are split between Angus Taylor and Andrew Hastie – for now at least Sussan Ley may survive a little longer.

If and when the Libs and Nats reform the Coalition for the third time in 11 months, it will ensure they mathematically have enough MPs for a full Shadow Ministry.

But it won't repair the self-inflicted damage. Nor will Coalition 3.0 inspire voters to love them when they so clearly hate each other.

The fundamental problem stays unchanged – the absence of moderates who give the centre-right an actual centre, ensuring policy and candidates are palatable, even attractive, to normal people.

Fuelled by special interests, the Liberals' hard right have purged their party of Liberal moderates. Some 'moderates' have survived in name only by accepting the



'Liberal moderates surrendered on climate action... They have just voted against new gun control laws even though 92 per cent of Australians wanted reform.'

– Catherine Cusack

hegemony of the hard-right and complying with their agenda.

The highly organised hard-right campaign to destroy moderate membership in the Liberals included recruiting new members from anti-gay marriage petitions; enlisting the aid of Christian lobby groups; and even signing up patients in nursing homes.

Liberal moderates have been vilified as 'Labor lite'. The success of the campaign can be measured in the dramatic decline in Liberal membership.

Following the 1983 defeat of the Fraser government the Liberals' review 'Facing the Facts' reported NSW Liberal membership had slumped from a 1975 peak of 40,000 members to 10,000. Today NSW Liberal membership totals less than 5,000. This compares to say Ballina RSL's 27,000 members.

This broken party is choosing all the Liberal MPs who represent 8.2 million citizens of NSW in state and federal parliament – can you begin to see the problem here?

The Liberal moderates are all but extinct.

When Peter Dutton's Shadow Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Julian Leser took a principled position supporting the Voice, the so-called moderates abandoned him.

'Liberal moderates' surrendered on climate action and agreed to dump renewables and champion nuclear. They have just voted against new gun control laws even though 92 per cent of Australians wanted reform.

I cringed to see that Liberal Senator Sarah Henderson is still crusading against the ABC, over a 2021 ABC *Four Corners* report on the 6 January US Capitol riots. She feels Aunty was unfair to Mr Trump.

In the space of three months the LNP in Victoria, NSW, South

Australia and (probably) federally will have replaced their opposition leaders. What does this achieve?

Splitting, reshuffling, and reassembling the same cards does not yield better policies. We know this because it's all happened before.

The 'anti-Labor' parties first combined after Federation when the 'Free Trade' party and 'Protectionist' party combined into the 'Fusion' party. Then, as today, it worked well when they were attacking Labor. The problems started when they had to agree on positive policies. Eventually they split and in time a new anti-Labor coalition was formed.

The centre right has surged and fallen many times, until Sir Robert Menzies' Liberal Party. Its longevity has masked this process. Even though it has lasted longer, the Liberal-Nationals dominance has finally run its course.

I am not despondent – in fact I am optimistic.

Democracy can and does recalibrate and heal itself. Moderate Australian voters are finding alternatives by electing teals to federal and state parliament and independents like ACT Senator David Pocock. In Calare, former Nationals MP Andrew Gee quit to support the Voice and was then reelected as an independent.

There will be a lot of work to rebuild a credible political centre capable of winning. In the meantime Labor is in a fortunate position.

It is up to minor parties, independents, media, and citizens to fill the vacuum created by the broken LNP and keep them honest as best we can.

■ Lennox Head-based Catherine Cusack is a former NSW Liberal MLC.



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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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

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

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Planning rules

I'd like to suggest a simple change to state planning rules (and I've written to the minister).

If a developer decides to challenge the height, size or other planning restrictions set by a local council, they should be required to pay all legal costs – whether they win or lose. Why should taxpayers be left footing the bill when developers try to bend or rewrite rules that communities have often worked hard to put in place?

And Ed, one more thing – do you really need to mention councillors' political party affiliations every time you refer to them? It's good to know at election time but it feels like free advertising, and I'm not sure it adds much to discussions.

Tracey Ockert
Byron Bay

■ We refer to a councillor's political affiliation to inform the novice reader. – letters ed

Don't drink Djinn

The alcohol lobby has set its sights on our little bit of real estate and they want to buy us up.

And if the Sufis are right, the spirit of the Djinn lies waiting at the bottom of that bottle – and when you take your last swallow, it welcomes the invitation.

And we all know what happens when the Djinn takes over and that dark spirit inhabits someone we love. It's not a pretty sight.

And is that the best that we have to offer to our visitors and our children?

Let's put our minds and



'Labor was too slow... No, I mean too fast... Am I Martha or Arthur? Did the Nats quit? Did I fire them? What do we all do now? How will they vote for us? Oops'. Cartoon Jamie Hoile

hearts to bring in stronger, more creative and uplifting spirits than the Djinn.

How about asking the ancient spirits of Cavanbah, meeting place since time immemorial, what new dreaming is needed to set us alight? And what does the spiritual, inspirational and creative wealth of this community have to offer, towards that dreaming?

I propose a forum of big ideas: presented in the community centre, filmed and put online – let's vote on these ideas as a community. And let the new dreaming decide. Pause the Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP)!

Jane Armytage
Byron Bay

Empathy

Empathy is the ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

Maybe instead of

toughening anti-hate laws in a vain attempt to combat racism, antisemitism and Islamophobia, we could do what Denmark has done and teach empathy in school.

The United Nations' World Happiness Report placed Denmark in the top three happiest countries globally for seven years straight.

Many people point to wealth, healthcare and social security as the reasons.

But the Danes highlight something more unusual: they've been teaching empathy in schools as a required subject since 1993.

Every child between the ages of 6 and 16 spends one hour each week in a class called Klassens tid.

This is an hour dedicated to listening, sharing, and solving problems together. Teachers and students sit down to talk through issues, whether it's bullying, being left out, or even problems at home.

The class works as a group to find solutions built on respect and understanding. Researchers and educators say these empathy classes matter. A University of Michigan study found that US college students today show 40 per cent less empathy

than those in the 1980s and 1990s.

Experts believe this decline is linked to a rise in narcissism and worsening mental health.

Sounds familiar, doesn't it? Denmark has chosen the opposite path – building empathy into its national curriculum.

About 60 per cent of schoolwork is done collaboratively. Students are taught not to compete with each other but to help classmates who may struggle.

Danish schools don't hand out awards to top students. Instead, children are encouraged to compete only with themselves, focusing on improving their own abilities rather than beating others.

I think despite Trump's threat to invade, Greenlanders might be a lot happier continuing to live as a Danish dominion.

Michael Balson
Wilson's Creek

Echo praise

How special to have Aslan Shand, daughter of beloved *Echo* co-founder Nicholas, take over the reins as editor of our unique local paper – 40 years old and still going strong.

Rutile, bitou, Roundup

I've been reading the very good letters over the last two weeks on the unfortunate stockpiling of Roundup in the USA destined for Australia.

There have been many letters over many years complaining of Byron Shire Council still spraying. Won't they ever get the message? I fear for those young boys spraying along the river in Brunswick Heads, their shoes and clothes catching the green spray.

I have written many letters over a very long time, especially after Council gave permission for the beaches in Byron to be mined in early 1972/73 for the collection of rutile by the Department of Mineral Resources. There was also at the time much said about coastal erosion caused by the excessive damage to the whole of Tallow Beach,

Rose Fox
Byron Bay

▶ Continued on page 11

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Echo

In the paper each week and online at www.echo.net.au

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Letters to the Editor

■ Send your letters to the Editor: 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. Letters edited for length will be able to be read in full (if a reasonable length) online at: www.echo.net.au/letters.



Split Chisel Build

Ye Olde Stone School

Ye Olde Stone School returns to **The Farm** in Ewingsdale, Byron Bay, where willing participants of all skill levels will learn to *split, chisel* and *build* stone for a traditional style cottage.

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Expressions of Interest now open for the management of Tyagarah Hall.

This is an opportunity for community groups or individuals looking for space to meet, socialise or something else entirely.

More information

- www.byron.nsw.gov.au/EOI/Tyagarah-hall
- mrobertson@byron.nsw.gov.au
- Call Malcolm Robertson 02 6626 7000



The closing date for EOIs is Monday 9 February at 2pm.

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Calling young writers for the Echo Short Story Competition!

Telling stories is how we make meaning. It is a kind of social glue – a way we understand and experience the perspectives of another.

For young people staring down the barrel of a world of AI (artificial intelligence), story is their first line of defence in maintaining their creative flow.

The Echo in collaboration with Creative Mullum is hosting a storywriting competition with an under-18 section with first prize of \$500.

All submitted stories must include 'The Hitchhiker' as a story hook. The hook doesn't have to be central, the hitchhiker could be

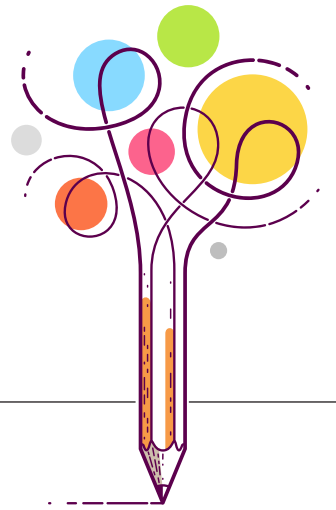
someone the protagonist sees in the distance, or a poster on a wall, or graffiti, or a story within a story. Or it could be the driving narrative.

Writers can submit up to two stories each with the final submission date on 28 February. Winners will be announced at a Mullum Moth live story reading on 1 April (you can

get a reader if you are too shy).

So why not get ready for that upcoming school year by trying a little story writing? Word length up to 1,500 words.

■ Submit your short stories to: www.creativemullum.org.au/short-story-comp.



The Coast Road

By Edie Foxglove

Lu hates parties.

Well, she hated that party, anyway. She dreams of attending big-city parties, far away from these people, this town. Away from Goon of Fortune in the backyards of ramshackle share houses. Books over bozos, wine over winos.

Leaving behind certain memories.

Lu will get her new life, but not tonight.

Tonight, she's 16, fringe swept over her eyes, sat in the back of Harry Taylor's shitbox '98 Commodore with its missing wing mirror. She's the only one wearing a seatbelt, silent as her friends scream along to the music.

Tonight, Lu's 16, Harry is 22, and the world feels impossibly small.

■ ■ ■ ■

'Turn it up,' Ellie screams from the front passenger seat. 'Harry! Turn it! Up!'

'God forbid you reach out and twist the knob yourself, hey Ell?'

That was Jackson, right behind her, next to Lu in the back seat. A wry smile creeps its way onto Lu's face before she can stop it.

That was quite clever, actually. Ha.

Lu turns her head, trying to catch Jackson's eye for some light-hearted fun. Nothing too mean, but you've got to admit it's all pretty funny, considering that possibility is the only reason they get driven around by Harry at all.

Jackson's drumming on his bare thighs, eyes closed. He probably doesn't get it, probably really did mean the volume. Lu can be such a bitch sometimes.

The Commodore drifts around a blind corner.

thecarisgoingtoofast.

Harry turns the volume up; it's this new album, *Wildlife*, from their favourite band, *La Dispute*. Harry's whiny as shit, mentally ill, and it's weird, isn't it, him wanting to spend so much time with year ten kids from the high school he dropped out of?

The house parties he takes them to scare the hell out of Lu, all dark rooms and sweaty bodies, nobody close to their age – but to his credit, the dude has great taste in music.

■ ■ ■ ■

thecarisgoingtoofast.

He's driving the three of them along The Coast Road.

Ellie, who embodies effervescence, hair like the first rays of summer sunlight, a laugh like a break in the rain. Ellie, who he knows he shouldn't love, but does, oh, how he does.

His cousin Jackson, clever Jackson, good-looking, sporty Jackson, who hasn't spent a weekend sober in years.

Ellie, with her long, thin legs.

Lu, fucking Lu, none of them ever seem to want to go anywhere without Lu, but she never eases up...

■ Full story online: www.echo.net.au.

Pages of a Book

By Pearl Bannister

I read a book once; it was a book about a man, he was lonesome and lost. I read half the book before turning the light off at a quarter to one. I never read it again. I don't really know why, I suppose it was because it brought an empty feeling to my bones, or maybe because it felt like the man had watched me in my dreams, I don't know.

My name is Jasper Wilson, I'm 14 years old and I live out of Kempsey. We moved to Kempsey two years ago, my mum never told me why. But as tears streamed down my face as we turned away from the tin-roofed house, I knew one thing. I could never forget it.

My dad works in the war, not as a soldier but as a coder, he sends Morse code to the soldiers in battle. I love looking at his badges and pins from all the years, every time he catches me, he says: 'I was a boy once travelling through my empty mind and searching through pins and badges looking for answers.'

I'm not sure what it means but he says it with a smile, a proud smile.

My mother is a chef; she works at her own restaurant called *Stonefish*. It's a fancy seafood restaurant where they serve you lobster with sea salt from the Himalayas and I'm expected to care.

Salt's salt. Every time I hear my

mum's best employee, Santiago tell countless people the salt story I always giggle.

My parents met in New Orleans. My mother was a journalist back then and my father was a man with a dream. If I ever ask them, they will say they met in a book, endless pages of two souls connected forever.

My mother is a quiet but humorous person, she has jet black hair and green eyes, she wears pleated skirts usually dusted with flour and maybe in her past time letters and words of observation.

My dad is a Spanish man, six foot four and broad. He has desert skin and brown eyes, sometimes I think of them as sandy yellow though.

Last night I was hopping into bed, hopefully to dream good dreams. The beige sheets were scattered, and the light illuminated a soft glow. I was happy to go to sleep but the moment I shut my eyes I saw a man, ragged with untamed hair. I jolted upright. This man! I'd seen him before. The book!

My thoughts grasped the man, tearing him away from my eyes. I hadn't seen the book in months; I scanned the room briefly searching the floor when I saw the book. How was it there?!

I glanced around the room and picked up the book, there was a creased page where I gotten up to, I slowly re-entered the book. I read almost to the end before I heard our

father clock strike 12. I better go to sleep I thought before putting the book down. The man didn't reappear but there was someone there, watching me.

In the morning, I awoke to sweat dripping down my head, dreams under my eyes, fleeing like people from war. I wiped my neck with my sheet and slowly got up. The rest of the day I was in a daydream of the book, like I was caught in the pages.

I got a D in math and an A minus in English even though I was caught in my mind. I occasionally write a poem here and there; stories sometimes cross my mind. My dad thinks they're amazing and I take after my mum.

When I got home, I looked up the book, there were comments, reviews, secondhand sales, but no author. I was scared, what was this book? Was it haunted? Then I thought – was I being haunted?

The next morning, I woke up, I was tired from scarring dreams, and I knew I had to tell my mum. I walked downstairs; mum had laid out a scrumptious breakfast of eggs like the summer sun, and bacon like heaven had just winked at me. I praised her for breakfast then I realised dad hadn't come down yet. I asked mum where dad was...

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

■ Pearl Bannister is 12 years old.



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► **Continued from page 9** from Broken Head to Cosy Corner. Jonson Street was set up to process the sand and remove the rutile.

The '80s saw a great deal of damage to Tallow Beach. So, after this, the sand miners planted bitou bush to regenerate the very soft sand now lacking the heavy metal rutile which had been removed. The bitou bush took off and supposedly held the sand together. By 1989 there was so much growth and every attempt to remove it failed, working bees were organised in Suffolk Park.

Byron Council finally resorted to spraying which was successful. In 2009 it was still being sprayed by another young man who was quite unaware that a cyclone was coming down the coast.

The wind was excessive, he was dressed in full white overalls, the spray going everywhere. My husband said to this young man, 'You should not be doing this today'. He told my husband to get a job; my husband had been one of Byron's first residential solicitors.

The young man continued to spray, the spray not only killed two nesting pheasants, but also the good surrounding vegetation. The spray caught my husband's leg. I rang the works department of the Byron Shire Council, they said it was a mixture of Metsulfuron Methyl and Roundup. My husband died a very unfortunate death in 2012 at the age of 69.

Ginny Black
Suffolk Park

\$50 suggestion Part I

My suggestion to Sapoty Brook is to donate the \$50 to *The Echo* and to submit a short story to the competition with the word, or theme, 'Hitchhiker'.

Ari Ehrlich
Limpinwood

\$50 Part II

Burn it ceremonially under the full moon, scatter the ashes in the Brunswick, then spend six hours in consensus with three facilitators, a drum circle, and someone's dog about whether money is real. If unresolved, buy chai, blame capitalism, feel cleansed, \$50 poorer.

Mark Collinson
Ocean Shores

\$50 Part III

Dear Sapoty, please use the hitchhiker's \$50 to buy 'Roundup on Creeks' Sally bush regeneration weeding tools so that her family and neighbours feel empowered to do something about the traumatising menacing green

dye and 'lead the way to an organic Australia', themselves so that another decade doesn't pass by.

Helen Highwater
Billinudgel

\$50 Part IV

After a long list of ideas and a lot of indecisiveness, I think you should buy the ugliest outfit you can and then walk around Byron complimenting strangers on their outfits.

Or ask strangers to perform for it.

Sophie Scott
Bangalow

Bondi

It is sickening that even after the murder of 15 innocent people at Bondi, some locals continue to double down on Nazi and antisemitic tropes, that have been regular on Byron Shire Community pages. Do they not understand that hateful language, anti-Zionist language and Nazi memes have real-world consequences? For example: 'Zionists should all die'; 'Eradicate the Zionist element'; 'Jews are a cancer that will be cut out of our society' and much more which I have documented.

This is how violence is normalised, and how innocent children like Matilda are lost.

A repulsive meme, posted this morning on the Byron Community Page, was accompanied by a Holocaust-denial video.

Despite being reported to the page administrators, my horror was mocked, and the content remained online, unchallenged. It was even met with numerous 'likes' from others endorsing the same vile hatred.

What will it take for people to stop the hate speech that leads to hateful, violent actions, resulting in the death of our beautiful children?

Marianne McCormack
Billinudgel

Contested commentary

Thank you John Lazarus and Vivi Royston, for both expressing views that many people share regarding the recent comments made by Randa Abdel-Fattah.

I strongly disagree with her comments and find them deeply unhelpful to constructive discussion.

John Lazarus has demonstrated a genuine understanding of the complex history of the region and the very real suffering experienced by both Israelis and Palestinians. His efforts to promote dialogue and a lasting, peaceful solution deserve recognition.

Too often, debate in this space is driven by superficial commentary and social media soundbites rather than a serious engagement with the historical and political realities of the Middle East.

The Echo frequently speaks about supporting 'justice and peace,' but how many articles have you published in your 40 years on the Israeli perspective?

In publishing John's letter, the editorial response included an endorsement of Abdel-Fattah's views and quoted opinions that are highly contested. In my view, this raises legitimate questions about balance and whether the paper risks reinforcing a single anti-Israel narrative.

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

■ The editorial comment was not an 'endorsement' of her view that Zionists have no right to cultural safety, cited by Mr Lazarus in his letter. We pointed out that while Abdel-Fattah considers that Zionism is a 'settler colonialism' political ideology, more importantly, she says you can be Zionist without being Jewish, or be an anti-Zionist Jew. We think this is important, as rhetoric often conflates Jews, Zionists and supporters of the current right-wing Israeli government. And as for accusing *The Echo* of running an anti-Israel narrative, we continually run letters with contested Israeli history and pro-Zionist perspectives such as yours, including the two letters last week which you applauded. – Ed

Go veggie

Every opinion poll shows that the principal concern of Australians is the escalating cost of living.

But here's good news from Dieticians Australia, the peak body for nutrition and dietetic professionals.

Their latest research shows that 'eating a diet based on whole and fresh foods is still the cheapest option for most Australian families.'

Many people are unaware (due to the secrecy of the big animal agriculture corporations) that it also results in horrific suffering such as pigs being gassed to death, chickens boiled alive in defeathering tanks and calves being ripped from their mothers at a few days old and sent, hungry and terrified, to their gruesome death.

Dr Desmond Bellamy
Sydney

► Find more letters published online this week: www.echo.net.au/letters.

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Local swimmer to tackle Lake Tekapo

Northern Rivers endurance swimmer Edward 'Ed' Mason is preparing for a 26km open-water swim across New Zealand's glacial Lake Tekapo in February.

If successful, Ed will become only the third person in the world to conquer Lake Tekapo.

Make-A-Wish

Ed is attempting this rare alpine challenge to raise funds for Make-A-Wish Australia and help grant life-changing wishes for children with critical illness.

The Lake Tekapo swim is no small feat. Only two swimmers worldwide have ever successfully completed this crossing. Swimming 26km through glacial water averaging 15-17°C demands months of disciplined training, exceptional mental resilience, and the ability to manage cold exposure, fatigue, and rapidly changing alpine conditions.

'Swimming 26km in 15-degree water your body wants to quit,' Ed said. 'But when I think about the kids fighting critical illness and their families, it puts it all in perspective. This is for them.'



Ed is busy training for his massive alpine swim. Photo supplied

Ed is no stranger to high-pressure open-water endurance. In 2025, he completed an unbelievable 40.2km crossing of Lake Taupō in 14 hours and 34 minutes, battling exhaustion, freezing temperatures and severe 'swim shoulder' pain. The effort raised \$2,893 for Make-A-Wish Australia and was recognised by Make-A-Wish as an extreme sport fundraiser, with coverage in Stuff.co.nz.

Ed is training under the guidance of respected open-water coach Philip Rush, a New Zealand marathon swimming legend inducted

into the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame in 1985 and recognised internationally for his English Channel achievements and long-distance endurance records.

Ed is calling on the Northern Rivers community and local businesses to get behind him by donating to his Make-A-Wish fundraising page, with all donations of \$2 or more tax deductible.

Donations can be made online via Ed Mason's official Make-A-Wish fundraising page: fundraise.makeawish.org.au/fundraisers/edmason.

Ducatti racing team ready to keep winning in 2026

Ross Kendall

Byron Bay's own team of Ducatti motorcycle enthusiasts have made a habit of winning on the country's historic racing circuit and are looking for partners to take their success further in 2026.

The team consisting mainly of Michael Berti, Jim Knight, and Bob Garner specialise in racing Ducatti TT2s in what historic racing calls 'the forgotten era' of 1973 to 1985.

Jim has been a mechanic at Desmo Headquarters, a Ducatti shop, for the last 21 years and teamed up with Berti, a Spanish-born and experienced motorbike racer.

The pair started racing and met additional partner Bob at the first outing on the track at Lakeside in Queensland.

Winners on multiple tracks

Since then the team has put together a slew of



The local team's Ducatti TT2 out in front again. Photo supplied

impressive results. In 2025 alone they won national championships at the Historic Racing Australian Championships, second place at the Queensland Historic Championships, first places at the three-series Australian Super Bike Masters, as well as top two finishes across various categories at the Masters of Moore Park racing event.

Sponsorship to keep the team going

The team are looking for

sponsorships and financial assistance to keep the engines running as fast as they can.

Michael's daughter, Daniela Berti has joined the team and is currently learning the trade of racing. She is a regular track rider these days - hoping to follow in her dad's footsteps and learning the ropes of the trade from Jim and Bob.

'We wish team TT2 every success to keep racing and keep doing what you are doing - happiness shows and it's contagious,' Jim said.

Northern Rivers senior representative footballers are going to the next level

The Northern Rivers Football Club (NRFC) will be running senior men's teams this year with hopes to reach the top Queensland grades over time, as the club tries to create a better pathway for the region's quality players.

Over the last few years a representative NRFC U18s team has been in action, but after that some of the area's best players felt they had to leave the Northern Rivers to fulfil their potential, often heading to the Gold Coast or Newcastle, if not the big cities.

'We want to stop that. We want to provide a regional team where good quality

young players can go to the next level, without moving out of the area,' the new coach of the senior side, Joel Rudgley said.

Sometimes quality players try and travel to play in the better sides north of the border, but it invariably is too much, especially if they work locally.

'This team will allow them to play better-quality football without moving away. It will also help to unite the different clubs across the region as they will have one team they can aspire to and follow,' Joel said.

Players will join NRFC from many of the local



L to R: head coach senior mens, Joel Rudgley; players, Johnny Stambolieff and Finley Black; technical director, Gavin Whitney; and head coach U23s, Albert Moses. Photo supplied

clubs that make up the current Football Far North Coast competition including Bangalow, Byron Bay,

Mullumbimby/Brunswick, South Lismore and the Richmond Rovers, to name a few. Players are also going to

join the senior teams, opens and U23s, from the junior side.

The club's home ground will be the Cavanbah Centre. The first game of the competition at home is scheduled for March 21, but there should be trial games before that.

The club is also supported by Beau Savage from Smart Energy.

'We are hoping to expand our sponsorship partners as we look to grow and expand the club,' Mr Rudgley said.

'We will start in Queensland fourth grade, QPL4, but hope to take the club to the top level of football in this country over time. We will

be looking for promotion to QPL3 in our first year. We will also be creating a documentary following the journey of the club.'

The NRFC already has a women's team playing in the Queensland competition.

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.

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Art by Chrissie
chrissieartwork@gmail.com

Heat Speech



Mandy Nolan

'Hot enough for ya? Where I grew up that was how people greeted each other on a sweltering summer's day. It was a tongue-in-cheek way of saying it's hot, can you take it? Is this the heat you ordered?

It was usually how we teased people from cold climates, those who come here to enjoy our sunshine. They have no idea of how hot it can get. And neither, as it turns out, do we.

It's not funny anymore. Talking about the weather isn't a banal conversation starter, it's a conversation about existence. And as a species, we're in trouble.

It's terrifying. Temperatures around the country are soaring as high as 48 degrees. Canberra just had a 40-degree day. Adelaide is hitting 43. While there's some reprieve on the coast, inland communities are expecting a week of temperatures in the 40s. As I write this there's six fires in Victoria doubling in size with their intensity expected to increase with consecutive days of record-breaking heat.

Heatstroke is deadly, and it occurs when the temperature in your body rises above 40 degrees. Symptoms are red, hot, or dry skin. Reduced or no sweating, a dry, swollen tongue, intense thirst, seizures, and then loss of consciousness. The body cannot regulate internal temperatures and eliminate heat gain, and this puts a strain on the body as it tries to cool itself. It puts pressure on heart and kidneys and can trigger events like heart attack or stroke or organ failure.

Heatwaves are particularly dangerous for elderly people or kids, or anyone with a compromised immune system, diabetes, kidney disease, lung disease, neurological disease heart disease or a mental illness.

We need a reality check. We've had four fatal shark attacks in the



Why aren't we culling big fossil fuels? Why aren't we holding our governments to account, for letting the real sharks into the water?

last few weeks, and there's a buzz on the news, and talk on social media groups, about nets and culls. Shark attacks are brutal and shocking, but the sea is the habitat of sharks. They're not lurking on our streets or in our homes. We can avoid shark deaths by avoiding the ocean.

The real killer, the biggest danger to human and environmental wellbeing is heat.

Heat stress is the leading cause of weather-related deaths. In an article published in *The Guardian*, they cite Monash researchers finding that from 2016 to 2019 in Australia, heatwaves caused 1,009 deaths.

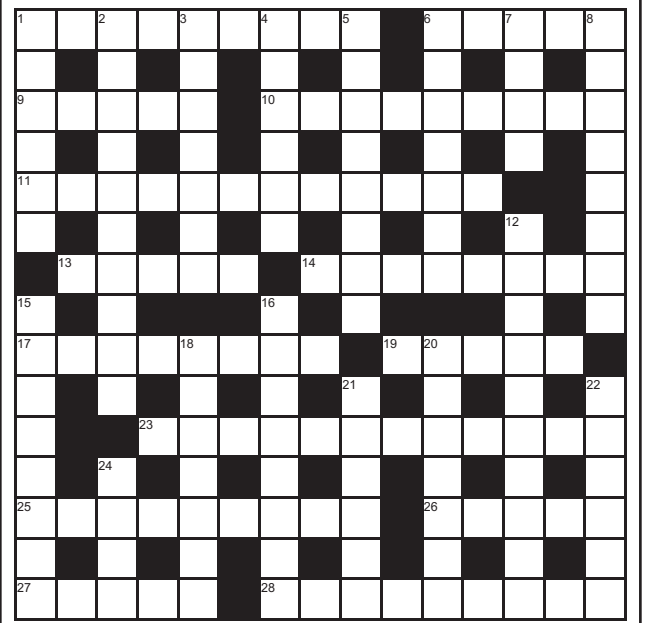
From 2010 to 2019 there have been 21 deaths by sharks. Yet it's sharks we're frightened of, not climate

change. Why aren't we culling big fossil fuels? Why aren't we holding our governments to account, for letting the real sharks into the water? The big profit-making polluters who are powering the climate catastrophe and authoring these record-breaking heat waves?

Because those sharks control the narrative. They bought it years ago.

■ *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.

Crossword by Mungo MacCallum #2



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- Step up to back charge after informal English concert (9)
- Trick produces an involuntary reaction (5)
- Large animal from low quarter (5)
- Broken heart, with line back to man - a crawler (9)
- Bactrian holds back lily-of-the-valley, for instance - right, it's sweet! (5,7)
- Abstainer in denial - that's neat! (5)
- Early English tongue twister? Lord Nose! (3,5)
- Insensible about resistance to flu outbreak - how horrible (8)
- Play with commercial return about sheep (5)
- Etcher grim if required for copper (5,7)
- Come together without five - put in 101 instead for the caretaker(9)
- Iodine trade is perfect (5)
- Animal sin (5)
- Death under fifty, young eternally (9)

DOWN

- Back up with vermin and scrubber (6)
- Magic kingdom has a single chook for protective shield (5,5)
- There's no secret about English article: be a glutton! (7)
- Turn up title 101, O'Neill's cometh (6)
- In most circumstances 22 down will grab a man after a number (8)
- Pain about Alpha, an ancient Greek (7)
- Warning about Otto (4)
- Iron pot is current among witches (4,4)
- Titan for the Middle East over America (10)
- Commercial vehicle with churches makes progress (8)
- I leave injured émigré under overturned bus; could sink. (8)
- He drives badly, loses energy and whirls (7)
- Magazine of little value; magazine for jazz (7)
- Rotten; aim to cause displeasure (6)
- Alternative friend, in a manner of speaking (6)
- Peacekeeper, and again; destroy! (4)

Quick Clues

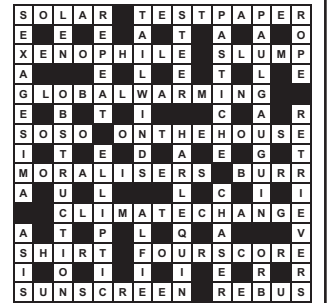
ACROSS

- Publicity, elevation (9)
- Caper, trick (5)
- North American elk (5)
- Annelid that improves gardens (9)
- European dairy dessert (5,7)
- Neat, well-dressed (5)
- Ancient Scandinavian language (3,5)
- Ghastly, frightful (8)
- Stage production (5)
- Lawman or vigilante (5,7)
- Doorman, caretaker (9)
- Model of perfection (5)
- Laziness (5)
- Without ceasing, forever (9)

DOWN

- Soft volcanic rock (6)
- Protective cover for the atmosphere (5,5)
- Gluttonise (7)
- Outdated deliverer of refrigeration (6)
- Usually (8)
- Iron age Greek (7)
- Sound of train or boat (4)
- Outdoor baking dish (4,4)
- Legendary figure who stole fire from the gods (10)
- Loans, goes forward (8)
- Sink, cover with liquid (8)
- Whirling sufi (7)
- Jazz tempo, especially for piano (7)
- Commit crime, insult (6)
- By mouth, through speech (6)
- Reverse, open (4)

Last week's solution #1



■ Crossword circa 2008

STARS BY LILITH

This week's breaking astro-news is nebulous Neptune moving into active, directional Aries for the next 13 years to ground progressive ideas into material reality...



AQUARIUS THE WATER-POURER

ARIES: The last Neptune-in-Aries cycle from 1862-75 was marked by rapid industrial growth and dramatic societal change, as this one will be. Neptune in your active sign requires a blending of authentic intelligence with empathy and initiative to bring courageous new ways of healing our embattled planet.

TAURUS: With five planets in the high-voltage sign of sudden, rule-breaking change, this week could bring a surge of determination that feels revolutionary. There aren't any one-size-fits-all rules, so use your creative talents to revitalise whatever's become a bit too predictable. Pro tip: innovative Uranus in Taurus rewards simplicity.

GEMINI: As this week's collective energies educate and enliven people to team up in the name of change, conversations and negotiations could tend to get intense, so choose your words with care. If you're not getting the information or results you want, what smarter questions might you ask?

CANCER: As the social rollercoaster throws up surprises, the fly in this week's celestial ointment is likely to be negative group-think influencers, serial fault finders, blamers and complainers. So direct conversations into positive, solution-oriented channels, then chill with close homies during the upcoming weekend's moon in Cancer.

LEO: With so many of this week's planets in the zodiac's most objective sign, you'll be able to keep a cool head if needed to work through the incoming whirlwind of conflicting opinions. Best strategy? Establish agreement on a common goal, then focus on finding a way forward that serves this.

VIRGO: This speedy week will benefit from regular destressing and unwinding, also careful pacing. Brace for unfiltered opinions, and pause before saying something from irritation or frustration that can't be unsaid. Be prepared to hold back on instant problem solving, because rushing could just make things more complicated.

LIBRA: Feeling inspired, wired, tired? Not surprising with the sun, Mars, Mercury, Pluto and your partnering planet Venus infusing this week's air with curiosity, connection and the unexpected. As celestial energetics begin bringing ideas out of the clouds and making creative dreams a reality, consistent action is this week's love language.

SCORPIO: As this week's group dynamics play out, expect the unexpected, because as alliances shift you may decide to revise your strategy. With your main motivator Mars joining a quartet of planets in the zodiac's most collaborative and enterprising sign, you could be quite the impressive agent of positive change.

SAGITTARIUS: Your ruling planet Jupiter's current placement is suggesting a review and reassessment of family roles and support systems is in order before making decisions or changes. Alternatively, it could mean a coming home to yourself for some urgent personal nurturing and a renewed sense of belonging.

CAPRICORN: The current combination of Saturn/Neptune energy in your base of operations could bring decisions to a head around restructuring your living situation. As social and community circles shift alliances and partnerships crystallise around shared goals, keep focused on a communal agenda with the best outcome for all concerned.

AQUARIUS: Aquarius is the astrological sign of revolution and with five planets in your sign, expect radical shifts in technology, finance and communications to be taking place. To avoid psychic whiplash, back your bold ideas with a solid plan, and think gradual acceleration by creating sustainable workflow systems.

PISCES: After 13 years in Pisces, its home base, your slow-moving outer planetary ruler Neptune makes a dramatic move this week into the zodiac's first and fiery, high-voltage sign, inviting you to step through an auspicious portal of opportunity that marks the beginning of a new chapter in all our lives.

Good Taste

Eateries Guide

BILLINUDGEL



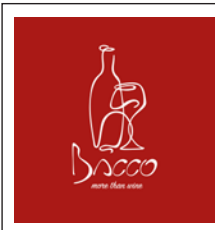
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Thursday/Friday open from 4pm to late
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CATERING

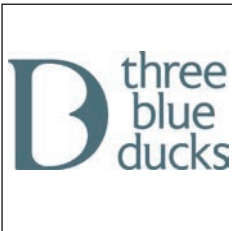


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www.rocabyronbay.com.au

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crystalbrookcollection.com/byron/forest

Rainforest views, farm-to-table dining, and a menu showcasing the best of Northern Rivers produce. Forest Byron Bay offers fresh, seasonal dishes and crafted cocktails. 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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The Good Life

No Bones: growing with our community

A message from the No Bones crew: 'As another year unfolds in Byron Bay, at No Bones we've been taking a moment to pause and reflect on what the past 12 months have meant for No Bones, not just as a business, but as part of this community we're proud to call home.'

'As a local female-owned restaurant, and one of the owners, Tahlia, being born and raised in Byron, our connection to this town runs deep. No Bones was built from the ground up with the belief that hospitality should feel inclusive, warm and unpretentious – a place where everyone feels comfortable the moment they walk in. That belief continues to guide every decision we make, from how we design our menus to how we support our team.'

'The past year has also been one of significant personal change for us both. Alongside running No Bones, Yasmina and Tahlia have each

become new mums – a new chapter that has reshaped how we view time, balance, and the future. Parenthood has added a new layer of meaning to the work we do, reinforcing our commitment to building a business that's sustainable.

'Looking after the planet remains an important part of who we are. From reducing food waste and composting locally, to making thoughtful choices about how we operate day-to-day, we're always working towards doing better



where we can. These efforts aren't about perfection, they're about progress and about contributing positively to the place we live and work in.

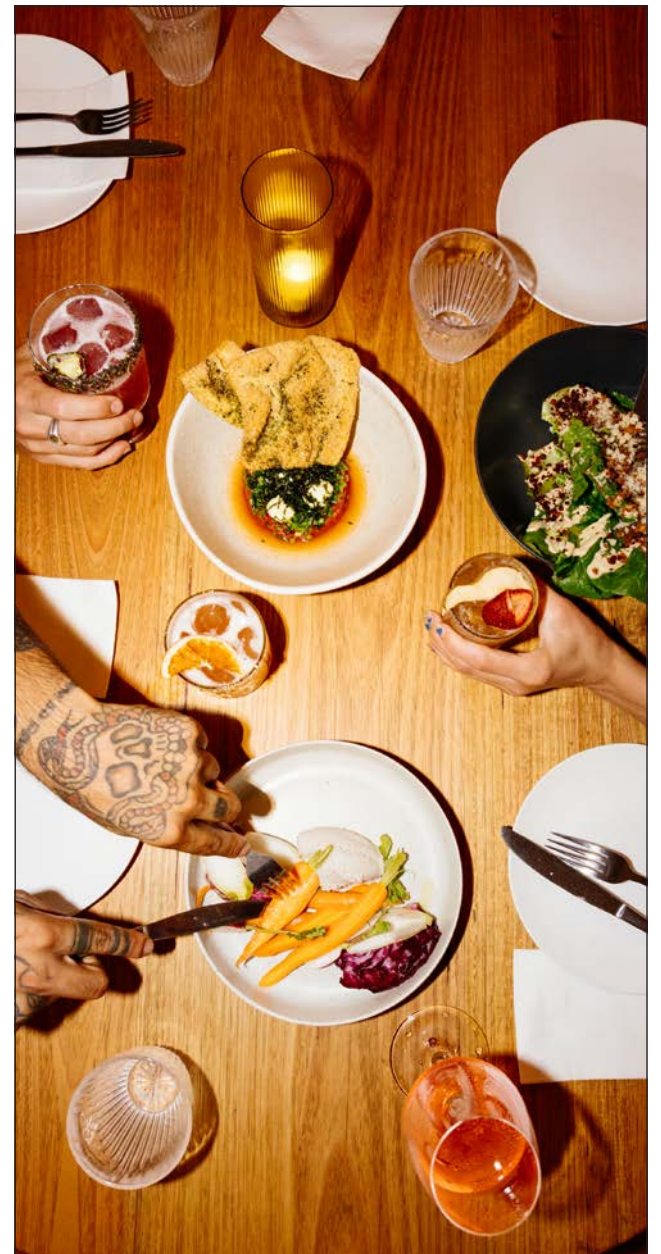
'As we move into the coming months, there's plenty to look forward to. Valentine's Day is just around the corner, and we're excited to welcome couples, friends and loved ones for a special night that celebrates connection, good food and shared moments. It's a reminder that the best celebrations are often the simplest ones.'

'We're also preparing for an exciting new chapter at No Bones, with brunch coming soon. It's something our local community has been asking for, and we can't wait to open our doors earlier in the day, creating space for long coffees, relaxed mornings and sun-soaked brunches.'

'Hospitality hasn't been without its challenges, but it remains a privilege. Every booking, every visit and every familiar face reminds us why we started. We're incredibly grateful to our team, our suppliers and our community for continuing to support No Bones.'

'As we look ahead, our focus stays the same: creating a welcoming space where good vibes meet great food.'

■ No Bones website is www.nobones.co.
Vegan restaurant and cocktail bar, 11 Fletcher St Byron Bay.



The weird, the wonderful, and how you eat them – the adventure continues

After a three-year hiatus, John Picone is back at the market, bringing with him

renewed curiosity, colour, and conversation. Known for his passion for the

weird and wonderful, John grows more than 300 fruit trees, spanning tropical, subtropical, native, and rare varieties. His stall is less about selling fruit and more about helping people understand how to eat what they've never seen before.

One of the most striking offerings is torch ginger. When the stem is young and tender, it can be sliced into fine strips and sprinkled over a finished dish – prawn dishes, curries, or salads – adding bright notes of ginger, galangal, and lime. Even the tender stem is

edible, ensuring nothing goes to waste.

Soursop is eaten much like a custard apple. Cut it in half and scoop out the soft white flesh, enjoying its gentle sweetness and slight tang. Green sapote is similarly simple, with rich, creamy flesh that's often compared to a dense avocado with caramel notes. Black sapote, commonly known as the 'chocolate pudding fruit,' is scooped straight from the skin when ripe, its smooth dark flesh tasting remarkably like dessert.

The delicious monster fruit (*monstera deliciosa*) is only eaten when fully ripe, once the hexagonal segments fall away, revealing sweet tropical flesh reminiscent of banana and pineapple. Wax jamba is crisp and refreshing, eaten fresh like an apple, lightly sweet and perfect for hot days.

Even cactus has its place. Nopales, the young pads of the prickly pear cactus, are sliced and cooked like a vegetable, with a slightly tangy flavour and excellent grilled or added to salads.

And of course, the prickly pears themselves are eaten once peeled, revealing jewel-coloured flesh that's sweet, juicy, and full of flavour.

John's return has been warmly welcomed – not just for the fruit he brings, but for the stories, guidance, and encouragement to taste something new. His stall is a reminder that food is an adventure, best enjoyed with curiosity and an open mind.

■ Find John Picone every Friday at Mullum Farmers Market from 7am to 11am at Mullumbimby Showground.



Taste something new with John Picone & Grace Ferrier.

eat drink

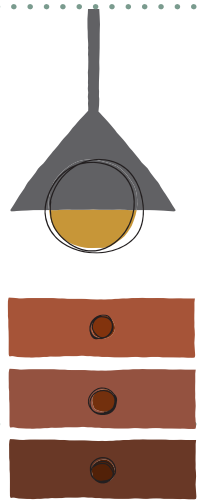
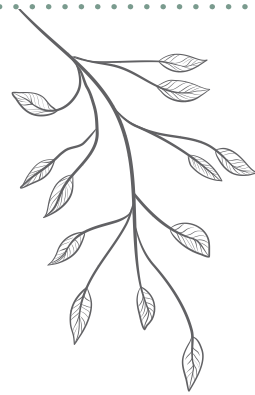
A celebration of the amazing food, drinks, and delights of the Northern Rivers

Digital magazine: echo.net.au/eat-drink

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Making SPACES



Gondwana Landscaping and Stone

With over 20 years of hands-on experience in both Australia and the UK, Gondwana Landscaping and Stone founder, Landscape Designer and Stone Mason Mark Smith brings a wealth of knowledge, creativity, and craftsmanship to every project he undertakes.

Mark is known for his ability to conceptualise distinctive and functional outdoor spaces that blend harmoniously with the natural environment of Byron Bay and its surrounds. Drawing inspiration from the local landscape, he incorporates native and endemic elements to craft gardens and stone features that feel deeply rooted in place.

A passionate designer with a commitment to integrity, quality workmanship, and transparent communication, Mark leads a team of dedicated professionals who share his drive for excellence. Together, they deliver exceptional landscaping solutions, on time and on budget – every time.

0447 216 116
gondwanalandscapingandstone.com.au
mark@gondwanalandscapingandstone.com.au



Swap a Bottle

As we welcome the new year, locals are being reminded that 2026 could be the perfect time to rethink their gas supply. Swap a Bottle continues to make changing suppliers simple. Offering a straightforward, hassle-free alternative for households and businesses alike.

The team at Swap a Bottle are proud to support the local community with dependable service and reliability.

Now may be your perfect time to make an easy change to a 100% local family business.

10 Kite Crescent, South Murwillumbah
Free Call: 1300 727 013
swapabottlegas.com

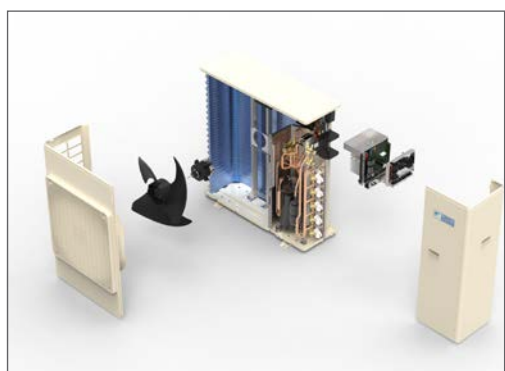
Smart cooling solutions this summer

As summer temperatures soar, Artisan Air reminds homeowners that a malfunctioning air conditioner doesn't always mean replacement is necessary. As industry leaders in diagnostics, breakdowns, and repairs, their company specialises in identifying cost-effective solutions that extend the life of existing systems.

Their expert technicians understand that repair is often the smarter choice – both financially and environmentally. By fixing rather than replacing units, customers reduce waste while keeping more money in their pockets. Artisan Air's comprehensive diagnostic approach ensures accurate identification of issues, preventing unnecessary expenditure on new equipment.

However, when replacement becomes unavoidable, Artisan Air provides complete installation services, guiding customers through every step. This summer, they encourage residents to consider repair first – a decision that benefits both household budgets and the planet.

02 6680 9394
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Working Windows

Are your windows and doors working?

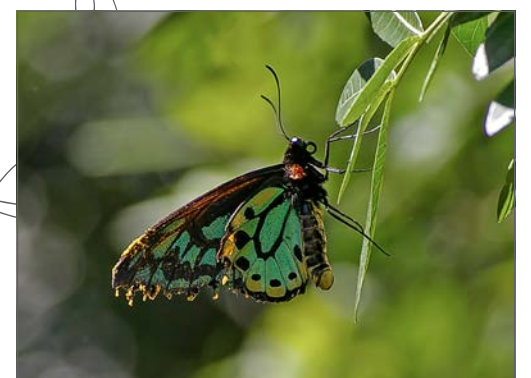
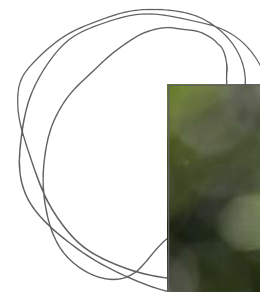
Are you prepared for the imminent arrival of winged friends carried by the breeze? Well, fret no more! Don't replace... REPAIR and SAVE with Working Windows.

Jake and Toby are local experts specialising in the repair and, if necessary, replacement of windows, doors, fly screens and security screens.

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Celebrate Australian plants

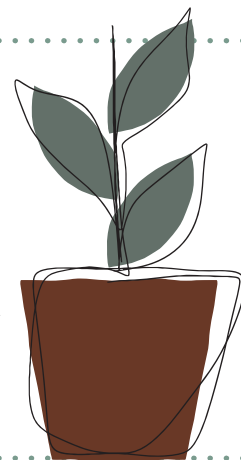
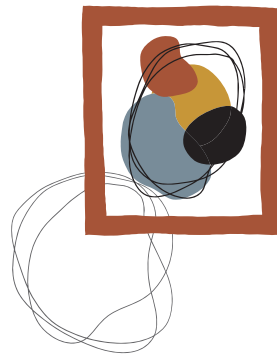
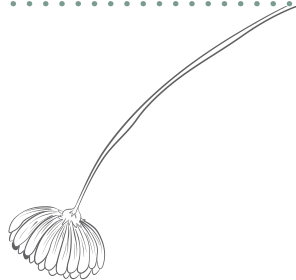
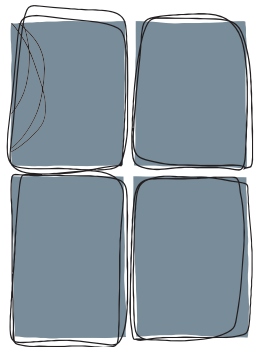
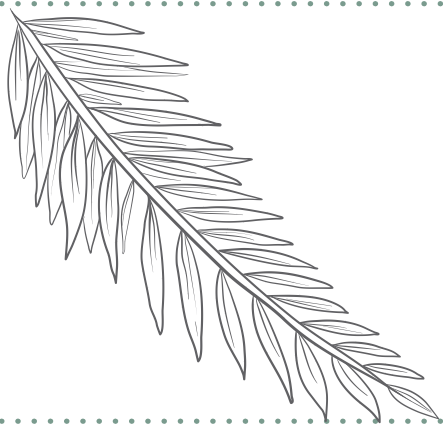
Australia has over 24,000 species of native plants. Thanks to the many different climatic conditions and soil types, there is great diversity in the native flora. Plants have adapted to survive in environments ranging from coastal heath, through rainforest to the arid outback.

So, wherever you are, there will be many native plants that will grow well in your garden, and some will even be quite happy to grow indoors.

Native plants are not only beautiful and productive, but they are essential for the survival of our native animals. While many native animals will happily feed on introduced species, some, like the larvae of the Richmond Birdwing Butterfly, will not.

Visit Eden at Byron to explore the great range of native plants suitable for our climate.

140 Bangalow Road, Byron Bay
shop@edenatbyron.com.au
02 6685 6874



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



Bisque Traders

Established in 2000, Bisque Traders inhabits a quietly refined corner of Byron Bay, where interiors are considered, tactile, and enduring. The newly reimagined showroom reflects a pared-back, wabi-sabi sensibility, showcasing in-house designed furniture, lighting, homewares and textiles crafted with care alongside our team of artisans. Each piece balances material honesty, craftsmanship and timeless form.

Soft, sculptural furniture, hand-crafted pendant lighting and richly textured décor and artwork sit naturally within contemporary, coastal spaces, layering warmth and texture.

Alongside the collection, Bisque Traders offers bespoke interior design services, collaborating with clients and designers to shape spaces that feel personal, considered and lived-in.

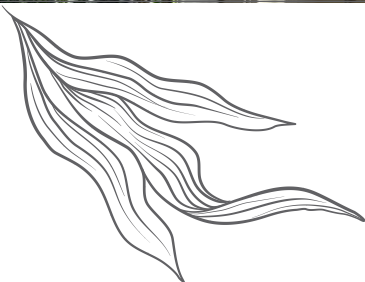
3/21 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay (dual access via Bayshore Drive)

www.bisque-traders.com.au

@bisque_

Sticky season.

Beat the heat before summer beats you!



Hotter summers, rising humidity and longer heatwaves are making it harder for homes to stay comfortable, especially in older coastal and hinterland houses not built for extreme temperatures.

As locals prepare for another intense summer, many are choosing to install or upgrade air-conditioning to protect their comfort, sleep and wellbeing.

Skip Air offers a trusted, local option. Local tradesman, Brock Skiperdene, brings more than ten years of industry experience.

Servicing homes across the Northern Rivers, Skip Air, has already earned a five-star rating, with customers praising reliability, clear advice and quality workmanship.

Book early and support a local business helping to keep skills and jobs within the community.

Feeling the heat? Call Skip Air today for a fast, free quote.

brock@skipair.com.au

0406 485 187

skipair.com.au

@skipair_ | FB Skip Air

Olde stone built new

With over 20 years of hands-on experience in both Australia and the UK, over three decades Ye Olde Stone School founder, Damian Cudmore, has restored old stone buildings and built new ones. At The Farm, Ewingsdale, Damian's 'students' (made up of home-owners, tradies, and youth of all ages and skill levels) are building a 19th century style cottage for the future use of The Farm's four-legged residents.

Many people tell Damian of their love for stone 'but they also see stone as mysterious, and perhaps beyond them. But it's not. The Ye Olde Stone Cottage here at The Farm, built by novices, is proof that the craft is attainable by anyone capable of grasping a chisel.'

Summer term runs from January 16 to February 28 (Fridays and Saturdays) 4-day, 10-day and daily classes available.

Bookings essential.

damian@yeoldestoneschool.com

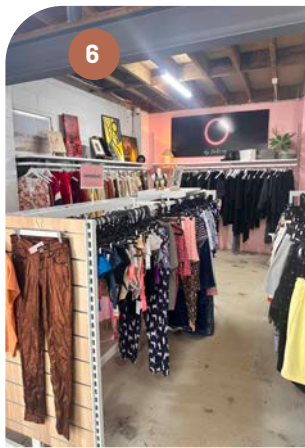
0425 212 852

www.truestonedesign.com.au

@true.stone.design



BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE



1. 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
[@bodhi.living](https://www.instagram.com/bodhi.living)

2. 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

3. 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)

4. 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
[@templeofthesunjewellery](https://www.instagram.com/templeofthesunjewellery)

5. THE LARDER BYRON BAY

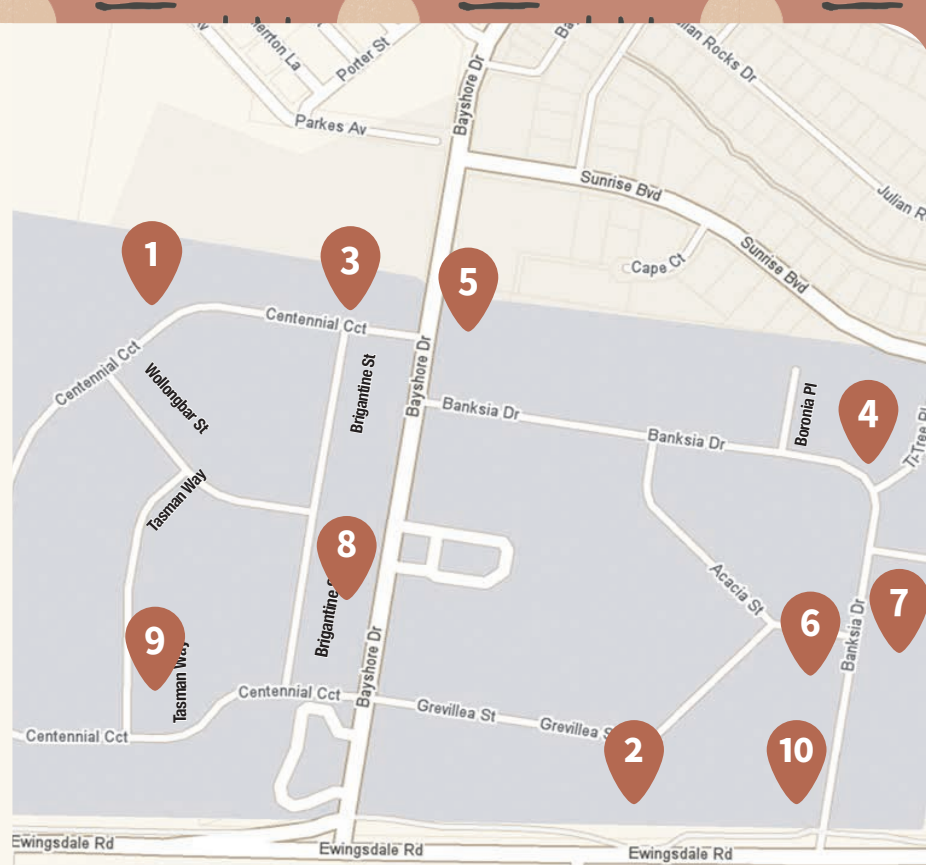
The Larder Byron Bay has been serving the Byron Shire and surrounding areas since 1998. They make entertaining easy, with options for drop-off, buffet, or full service for weddings, festivals, birthdays, wakes, workshops and corporate events. Their menus cater to all tastes.

Get ready for Christmas with their festive feast menu.

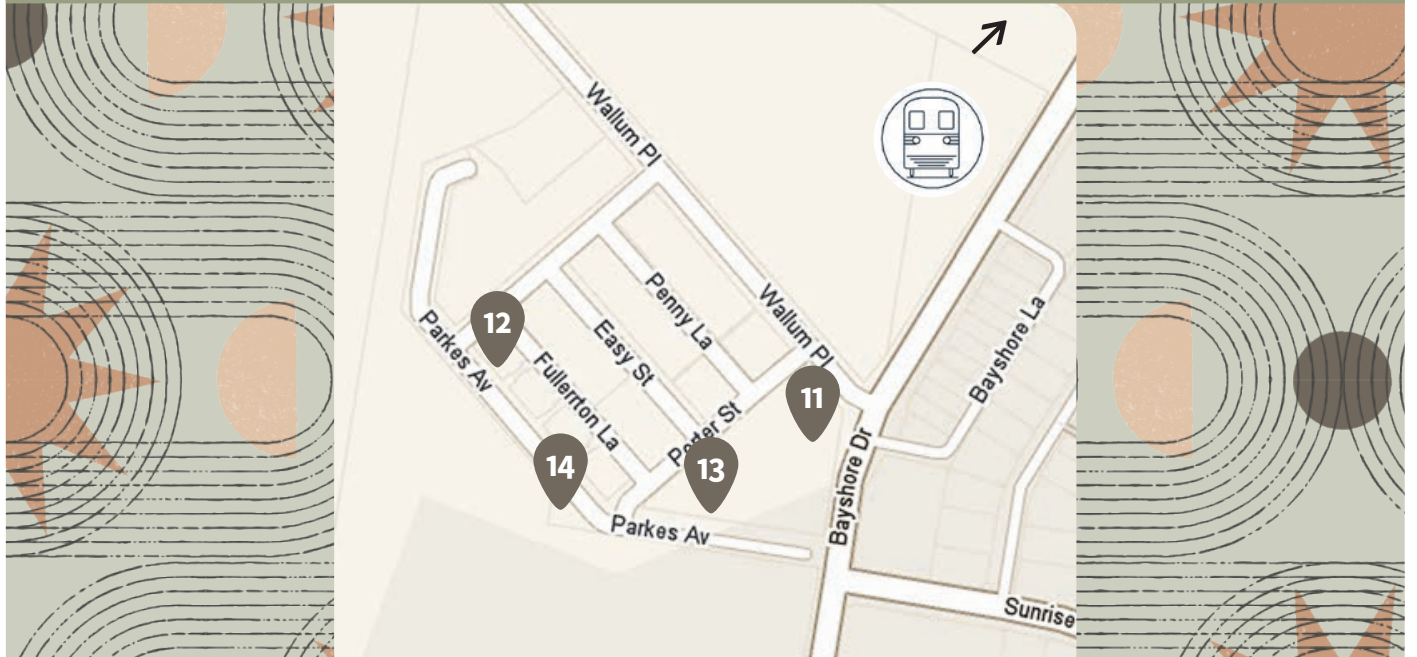
1/12 Bayshore Drive
www.thelarder.com.au
catering@thelarder.com.au
 02 6680 8644

BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE

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



HABITAT PRECINCT



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

6. 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

7. 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.

Local Creative? Let them showcase your art for free.

4/4 Banksia Drive
@ourplacebyron

8. BISQUE TRADERS

Bisque Traders is a destination for considered interiors, offering a curated collection of furniture, lighting, homewares, tiles, art and textiles designed in-house and crafted by their team of skilled artisans. Each piece reflects quiet luxury, celebrating material honesty, craftsmanship and timeless design.

They also offer bespoke interior design services, working closely with clients and interior designers to create harmonious, personalised spaces.

Showroom: 3/21 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay (dual access via Bayshore Drive)
www.bisque-traders.com.au
@bisque_

9. EBIYA

Ebiya Japanese Eatery brings the light, balanced flavours of Japanese everyday cooking to the Byron community. Inspired by Japan's 'shokudo' culture, Ebiya serves nourishing bowls, fresh daily sushi rolls, colourful deli salads, and 'today's special' dishes made with honest ingredients. It's a welcoming spot for wholesome, satisfying meals that fit easily into daily life.

@ebiyakitchen
shop phone: 0478 724 317
shop1 / 6 Tasman Way, Byron Bay

10. SOCIAL REMEDY

A considered approach to strength, mobility, and longevity. Social Remedy offers reformer pilates, personal training, intelligent group classes, and a world-class recovery centre including massage, sauna, infrared, and hyperbaric. Designed for efficiency and your long-term health: get everything you need in one place. So your routine stays consistent and your health goals stick.

23/1A Banksia Drive
hello@socialremedy.com.au
Insta: @socialremedy.byronbay

HABITAT

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

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

11. 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.oitohheadspa.com.au

12. 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

13. FLUIDE

Northern Rivers' sanctuary for flow and renewal.

Tucked in the lush heart of Habitat Byron, a bespoke wellness space offering a fusion of lymphatic bodyroll and infrared sauna. Each session is a ritual of release; clearing toxins, emotions, and stagnation while sculpting the body and soothing the mind. Rediscover lightness, radiance, and calm. When your body moves, life does too.

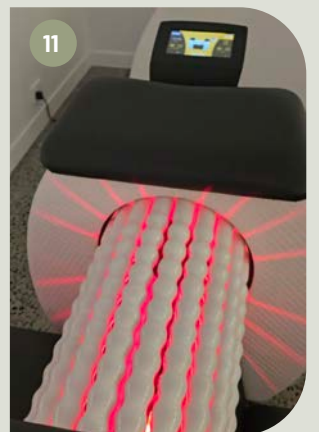
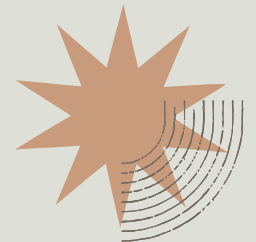
56/1 Porter Street
Insta: @fluidebyron
Bookings: www.fluidebyron.com

14. 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



INTERVIEW

Formed in Byron Bay in 2003, Parkway Drive have risen from teenage metal underdogs to global heavy music icons. In 2026, they return home for a defining moment, delivering their first ever hometown performance since their Byron Bay High School shows in 2014 – and their first ever Byron Bay festival performance.

Fronted by Winston McCall alongside guitarists Jeff Ling and Luke Kilpatrick, bassist Jia O'Connor, and drummer Ben Gordon, Parkway Drive have spent more than two decades redefining the sound, scale and spectacle of modern heavy music.

Seven caught up with McCall all the way from his home in Byron Bay.



PARKWAY DRIVE BRINGING IT HOME FOR BLUESFEST

Read full interview online www.echo.net.au/entertainment

How do you feel playing Bluesfest – you've gone from Byron High to becoming incredibly famous, and then playing at home?

It's really, really nice. It's been a long time since we've been able to play Byron, full stop, and basically, the last time we played Byron, we were playing the high school because we were putting on the shows there. We did two shows there, both sold out, and then the band basically grew to a size where we couldn't figure out how to put on a local show anymore. So to be able to play Bluesfest and for them to give us a shot to play a local show on a festival stage is so rad.

You started off at the YAC and places like that in Byron?

Yeah – like, I mean, originally, before the youth centre even came along, we'd play the Ewingsdale Hall, Broken Head Hall, the Scout Hall in town – basically, we put shows on, and we'd get one to two shows out of the venue before they were like, 'nah, we're not doing this anymore'. Noise complaints!

So back in 2003 when the band was getting together, did you ever imagine that you would do a slot at Bluesfest?

To be honest, we didn't anticipate doing anything that we are doing now – we started the band to play shows at the YAC for friends. That's it. Everything else fell into place by chance, and chances that we took that someone would see us and say 'Hey, you want to do a record with us?' And everything started rolling after that. The fact that it's all come back around to the Bluesy and the fact that the Bluesfest is still going, and is also expanding – the trajectories for both the festival and the band is one that none of us could ever have anticipated.

Byron was like the 'alternative' community – rebelling against their parents, and their parents thought their music was shit. Every generation does the same thing.

We're in strange position now as well – a bunch of the guys in the band are parents, and I'm 43 years old. We started this when we were in our 20s, and it was rebellious, that's the thing it was. 'We're doing this because the adults won't give us a place to put on all-ages gigs. So we'll do it ourselves.' And now we're at a position where we have friends, like so many friends with families who want to come because their five-year-old kids like the band, which is really, really, really crazy.

And how do you think the blues and the heavy metal fans are going to go together?

I think absolutely fine. I think there's probably a bit more of a misconception going for how people think the heavy fans will to interact with people who have an opinion about the metal fans. I think anyone who's never been to a, let's say, heavy music concert of any kind, I think it's one of the most caricatured and possibly misunderstood group of live music audiences that you can find – you'll find that they're some of the kindest, most genuine, most warm people that you can get.

Do you find musically you're searching for inspiration, or does it generally come quite easily to you?

It comes quite easily to me. I'm one of those people. It definitely doesn't go for everyone, because it doesn't go for the rest of the guys in the band, but I struggle to NOT create and NOT be inspired by things.

This is just the tip of the iceberg – you can read the rest at: www.echo.net.au Parkway Drive play Bluesfest on Thursday, April 3. Tickets at bluesfest.com.au

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EST. 1892

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BYRON BAY
6685 6454

THENORTHERN.COM.AU

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THUR
29 JAN

Front Bar: Ino Pio 6pm DJ Quendo 9pm
Duelling Piano Bar 8pm

FRI
30 JAN

Front Bar: Dan Hannaford Duo 7pm + DJ Alice Quiddington 10pm
Duelling Piano Bar 8pm

SAT
31 JAN

Front Bar: Record Breakers 7pm + DJ Oren Selectra 10pm
Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
BACKROOM: OCIE ELLIOT

SUN
01 FEB

Front Bar: Trilla 6pm + Vinyl Sundays 9pm
\$15 MARGIS & SPRITZERS ALL DAY
Duelling Piano Bar 6pm

MON
02 FEB

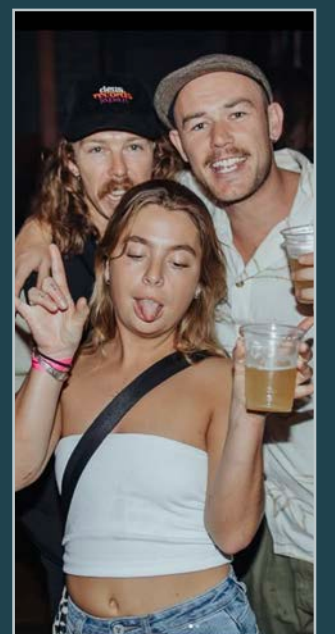
BACKPACKER MONDAYS
Front Bar: The Drop 6pm Jerome Williams 9pm
Duelling Piano Bar 8pm

TUES
03 FEB

Front Bar: Marshall OKell 6pm
Duelling Piano Bar 8pm

WED
04 FEB

Front Bar: Dan Hannaford 6pm
Duelling Piano Bar 8pm



Eclectic Selection

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK



Before he was an international television success story with the critically-acclaimed *Please Like Me* and *Everything's Gonna Be Okay*, **Josh Thomas** was a mainstay of the Australian stand-up comedy scene. He promises this new live show will be an hour of dumb, fun, and in no way 'important stand up.

Wednesday to Saturday from 6pm at the Brunswick Picture House. Tickets from \$32 at brunswickpicturehouse.com.



The Record Breakers enjoy playing music from all eras, but especially enjoy putting their own spin on classics from the '60s, '70s and '80s, and are most at home with close vocal harmonies and percussive rhythms.

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



Lucid Safari are a Brisbane/Meanjin band weaving indie-rock grit with dreamlike textures, balancing raw energy with melodic depth, leaning into intensity and connection.

Saturday from 7pm at the Billinudgel Hotel. Free show.



The Necks are one of the great cult bands of Australia and the world. Featuring lengthy pieces which slowly unravel in the most mesmerising fashion, frequently underpinned by an insistent deep groove – the deceptive simplicity of their music throws forth new charms on each hearing. Not entirely avant-garde, nor minimalist, nor ambient, nor jazz, it is totally unique in the world today.

Saturday 7pm at the Byron Theatre. Tickets \$67/\$57conc at byroncentre.com.au.



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

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



The Ninth Chapter is a seven-piece band known for their powerful ability to groove – blending elements of funk, blues, and folk, the band crafts dynamic, genre-bending songs that take audiences on a rich and diverse musical journey.

Sunday from 3pm at the Shaws Bay Hotel. Free show.



One of Melbourne's biggest and most dynamic party bands, **The Screamin' Eagles** deliver a high-performance rock show built on power, precision, and pure energy. Inspired by their Harley-Davidson high-performance namesake, this Australian rock powerhouse brings that same attitude to the stage—loud, polished, and relentlessly entertaining.

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

THE WORLDWIDE SMASH HIT TOURING AUSTRALIA

★★★★★ IMMERSIVE THEATRE AT ITS STARTLING BEST BEST OF THEATRE

★★★★★ SIDE-SPLITTING LAUGHTER GUARANTEED SCOTTISH FIELD

★★★★★ PERFECT FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY TO ENJOY SEE DO EAT

FAULTY TOWERS
Original
the Dining Experience

it Interactive Theatre

Brunswick Heads Bowling Club
107 Tweed St, Brunswick Heads NSW 2483

Thursday 5 March 2026
Arrival from 6:30pm; seating and show starts 7:00pm

\$75.00 pp, includes a 3-course meal and 2-hour interactive show
02 6685 1328 | www.brunswickbowlingclub.com

Seven days of entertainment

Local legend Dan

Byron Bay's local legend **Dan Hannaford** has opened Australian tour shows for the likes of Charlie Musselwhite, Donavon Frankenreiter, Charlie Parr, Tex Perkins, Ash Grunwald and The Black Sorrows.

His songs captivate, with quirkily-crafted lyrics and his outlaw, country-tinged blues-laced, rock 'n roll swagger – the likes of which are few and far between on our current music scene. He is busy gracing hundreds of stages around Australia including showcasing his talent at all the great Aussie festivals.

Born the son of a preacher, Dan Hannaford's love of music started with listening to hymns and playing the drums in church on Sunday mornings as a child. By his teens, he found rock 'n roll and formed his first punk band straight out of high school. He began writing songs and fronting pub rock gigs around Northern NSW. Since then he has earned a reputation as one of the hardest-working, independent solo musicians on the East Coast.

See Dan from 7pm on Friday at The Northern, Byron Bay. This is a free show.



Northern Rivers Conservatorium

What's on At The Con

15 February

Lyrical Masterpieces

A stunning program of French and German classics by remarkable violinist Doretta Balkizas and pianist Brieley Cutting.

14 March

RESTORED At The Con

Join us at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium for a day of music celebration & community as we unveil our beautifully restored building.

21 March

DUO AKI

Exploring the music of Australian female composers alongside expressions of Japanese folk song and original work.



www.events.nrcac.edu.au
Check out our events page for more info and to book

Northern Rivers Conservatorium
152 Keen St, Lismore





An uncompromising story

Independent publishing remains one of the few spaces where uncompromising stories can still be told and **Cyclops Press** has played a vital role in preserving these voices.

Founded by **John Ogden** in 1999, its catalogue reflects his long-standing commitment to documenting culture beyond the mainstream.

Ogden's career began as a photojournalist in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, before turning to filmmaking in the late 1970s.

Over the following decades he travelled the world as a director of photography, but after losing his right eye in a surfing accident, he turned his attention to writing and publishing. He is the author of ten books.

Stone Free, Ogden's latest work, tells the story of Warren 'Abdul' Anderson, a pioneer of surfing in Indonesia.

Following on from *Grajanan: Surfing in the Tiger's Lair* and the documentary *Sea of Darkness*, *Stone Free* delves deeper into the surfer-scammer pan-Pacific crime networks of the 1970s. Part biography, part social history, *Stone Free* captures a vanished world—an era shaped by risk, freedom, and lives lived at the edge.

The Cyclops Press Stone Free East Coast book tour comes to the Crawford Gallery, 3/2-4 Tasman Way, Byron Bay on Friday, January 30, starting at 6pm, the event is free, but filling quickly.

What's on at the Con

The Northern Rivers Conservatorium is kicking off 2026 with a lively program that celebrates great music, fresh ideas, and the long-awaited completion of the Conservatorium's building restoration.

February and March will see audiences welcomed back to the Con for a trio of performances that showcase the Con's musical range. From classical favourites, to contemporary and cross-cultural works, all in a space that has been carefully restored and is ready to play again.

The season begins on 15 February with *Lyrical Masterpieces*, featuring a stunning program of French and German classics performed by acclaimed **violinist Doretta Balkizas** and **pianist Brieley Cutting**. This concert offers warmth, elegance, and expressive musicianship, an ideal way to start the year and reconnect with live performance.

On **14 March**, the Conservatorium invites the community to celebrate at **'Restored at the Con'**, a special open day marking the completion of the building's restoration. This is a chance to step inside, enjoy live music, and experience the building fully reopened and re-energised. With stages lit, teaching rooms ready, and music echoing through

the halls once more, the day will be a joyful moment of reconnection and renewal.

The program concludes on **21 March** with *Duo Aki*, featuring **Eden Annesley and Lola Schuele**, a **violin, saxophone, shakuhachi (Japanese flute) and looper duo** working in the nexus of Australian and Japanese classical and contemporary music.

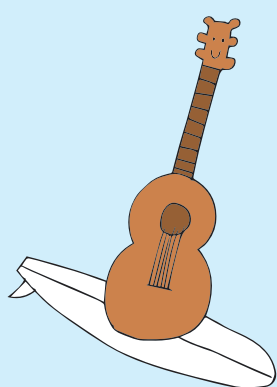
Their performance explores the works of Australian female composers alongside Japanese folk song influences and original compositions. Thoughtful, layered and quietly adventurous, *Duo Aki* reflects the Conservatorium's commitment to diverse voices, cross-cultural exchange and contemporary musical practice.

The restoration of the building marks an exciting new chapter for the Conservatorium. After years of challenge and change, the space is once again fully operational – welcoming students, audiences and musicians of all ages into an environment that is accessible, inclusive and designed for learning, collaboration and performance.

All events take place at the Northern Rivers Conservatorium, 152 Keen Street, Lismore.

Full event details and bookings are available via the Conservatorium website. With performances underway and the building restored, enrolments are now open across all Conservatorium programs. Whether you're enrolling a child, returning to music yourself, or trying something new, now is the perfect time to join in.

Visit the website: www.nrcac.edu.au to enrol and be part of a bright, music-filled year ahead.



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



SCREAMIN' EAGLES THE LIVE SHOW

ONE OF MELBOURNE'S BIGGEST PARTY BANDS PLAYING ALL YOUR FAVOURITE ROCK ANTHEMS

4:30PM
SUN 1 FEB



FREE SHOW

1 BAY STREET, BYRON BAY

A NORPA PRODUCTION

WRITTEN BY **Suzie Miller** DIRECTED BY **Heather Fairbairn**

PRIMA FACIE

The world's most talked about play, right on your doorstep.

12 — 28 February 2026

Byron Tweed M'bah Kyogle Grafton Lismore

BOOK NOW norpa.org.au

norpa



A first sight of NORPA's tour program

NORPA is taking one of the world's most-talked-about plays on the road across the Northern Rivers. The company will launch its brand-new touring program, the Village Circuit, with **Suzie Miller's** international sensation *Prima Facie*.

A gripping one-woman play, *Prima Facie* has captivated audiences from Sydney to Broadway and now NORPA's new production will play in six towns across the region – Byron, Tweed Heads, Murwillumbah, Kyogle, Grafton and Lismore.

When *Prima Facie* premiered at Sydney's Griffin Theatre in 2019, it stunned audiences with its raw power, precision and heart. This extraordinary play has travelled the world, earning Olivier and Tony awards along the way.

Featuring acclaimed actor **Matilda Ridgway** and directed by **Heather Fairbairn**, *Prima Facie* tells the story of a brilliant defence lawyer whose belief in the law shatters when she experiences firsthand how deeply the justice system fails victims of sexual assault. It's an unflinching piece of theatre that balances legal intellect with deep emotional truth.

For NORPA, *Prima Facie* also marks the beginning of something new. The Village Circuit is the company's fresh approach to regional touring. NORPA's Artistic Director, **Julian Louis**, says the **Village Circuit** is NORPA's new way of sharing theatre more widely. 'It's a summer tour that links our towns and centres through powerful, professional live performances. It's about bringing exceptional theatre to the heart of the Northern Rivers, giving everyone the chance to experience world-class storytelling close to home.'

BYRON BAY:
Thursday, February 12 to Saturday 14 – Byron Theatre.
TWEED HEADS:
Thursday, February 19 – Tweed Heads Civic Centre.
MURWILLUMBAH:
Friday, February 20 – Murwillumbah Civic Centre.
KYOGLA: Saturday, February 21 – Kyogle Memorial Hall.
GRAFTON: Wednesday, February 25 – Saraton Theatre.
LISMORE: Friday, February 27 and Saturday 28 – Star Court Theatre.

For more information and tickets for all show visit www.norpa.org.au.

GIG GUIDE

It's free to list your gigs in the gig guide.
e: gigs@echo.net.au
w: echo.net.au/gig-guide.
DEADLINE 5PM ON FRIDAYS



WEDNESDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **ANDY JANS-BROWN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TIM STOKES**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT** 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS** 9PM **DJ CUPID**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **JOSH THOMAS**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- LENNOX HOTEL 7PM **STONE FREE BOOK LAUNCH**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 6.30PM **KINGY COMEDY – FEAT KIRSTY WEBECK**

THURSDAY 29

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **HAYLEY GRACE DUO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JB'S BLUES BREAKERS**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **INO PIO**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS**, 9PM **DJ QUENDO**
- BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB 6PM **HEEL HOOK**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **OOZ**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **JOSH THOMAS**
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM **MONDO HUM**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **THURSDAY JAM NIGHT**
- KELP, BALLINA, 6PM **CHRIS JAMES**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6PM **BLUEGRASS JAM**
- LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM **THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND**
- LOVE STREET, COOLANGATTA, 6PM **STONE FREE BOOK LAUNCH**

FRIDAY 30

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **POLY & CO**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM **TITI + FRANCIS MERCIER**
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM **JOSH LEE HAMILTON**

- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5PM **DJ NAT WHITE**
- BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB 5PM **ROD MURRAY**
- CRAWFORD GALLERY, BYRON BAY, 6PM **STONE FREE BOOK LAUNCH**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM **DAN HANNAFOR DUO**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS** 10PM **ALICE QUIDDINGTON**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM **THE GROWLERS + THE GROGANS**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **JOSH THOMAS**, 8PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM **KRAPPYOKEE WITH JESS**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **DJ JAX FAE**

- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM **ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ LONDON**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **HARRY NICHOLS**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **MATT DAY**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM **LUKE YEAMAN**
- HOTEL LISMORE 5.30PM **ADAM GARDINER + DJ LAZY DOM**
- LISMORE WORKERS CLUB 6PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- POTTSVILLE BEACH SPORTS CLUB 6PM **STEPHEN LOVELIGHT**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **NATHAN KAYE**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5PM **STEPHEN WARD**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE HINDLEY STREET COUNTRY CLUB**
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7.30PM **TWO FIRES CHISEL BARNES SHOW**

SATURDAY 31

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **EPIC**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8.30PM **MY HAPPY PLACE**

- BYRON THEATRE 2PM **MALIK**, 7PM **THE NECKS**
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM **DJ AFRODISEA + JR DYNAMITE**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, **OCIE ELLIOT** 7PM **RECORD BREAKERS** 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS**, 10PM **DJ OREN SELECTA**,
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM **THE LYRICAL**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **JOSH THOMAS**, 8PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM **DJ LAINIE GODIVA**
- FLOCK TOGETHER CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 6.30PM **PHIL HOWELL**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 7PM **LUCID SAFARI**
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM **FLOORBURNERS**
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM **FUNKY FREQUENCIES VOL 5**
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM **HAYLEY GRACE**, LEVEL ONE 7PM **THE FABULOUS BLUES BROTHERS**
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM **CATH SIMES BAND**
- HOTEL LISMORE 9.30PM **PUSH**
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5PM **DAN HANNAFORD**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM **GREGG PETERSON**
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM **THE HINDLEY STREET COUNTRY CLUB**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 12PM **THE JACQUI WALKER BAND**, **BECS BRUCE DUO**, **MEGAN YOUNG AND STRANGE CREW**, **REBECCA MUINO AND SUGAR GAME**

SUNDAY 1

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MICKA SCENE**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM **SCREAMIN' EAGLES**
- BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB 2PM **INO PIO**

- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **TRILLA**, **DUELLING PIANOS**, 9PM **VINYL SUNDAYS**
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM **SUB-TRIBE**
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM **CHEEKY CABARET**
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM **PHIL & TILLEY**
- BALLINA RSL LEVEL ONE 10AM **THE BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB**
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM **THE NINTH CHAPTER**
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 1PM **JON J BRADLEY**
- CLUB TWEED 1PM **LAURA DOOLAN + CURT LUXTON**
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 6PM **BIANCA JAY**

MONDAY 2

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **OLE FALCOR**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **AKOVA**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **THE DROP IN**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS**, 9PM **JEROME WILLIAMS**

TUESDAY 3

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **LEIGH JAMES**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **BILL JACOBI**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **MARSHALL OKELL**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS**

WEDNESDAY 4

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, **MILO GREEN**
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM **JASON DELPHIN**
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM **DAN HANNAFORD**, 8PM **DUELLING PIANOS**
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM **CURRY JAM**
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM **NOT QUITE FOLK JAM**

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



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

PALACE CINEMAS

BYRON BAY - BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES
THURSDAY JANUARY 29
TO WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4



PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

LA SCALA: LADY MACBETH OF THE MTSSENSK DISTRICT (CTC)
Sun: 1:00PM, Wed: 11:00AM

FAMILY FILMS

ZOOPIA 2 (PG)
Daily except Fri, Sun, Wed: 10:30AM, 12:45PM.
Fri: 10:15AM, 12:30PM.
Sun: 10:30AM, 1:50PM.
Wed: 12:20PM

ALL FILMS

28 YEARS LATER: THE BONE TEMPLE (MA15+)
Daily: 3:30PM

ADDITION (M) (NFT)
Daily: 2:30PM, 4:30PM, 6:30PM

ANACONDA (M)
Daily except Thurs: 10:40AM, 8:30PM.
Thurs: 10:40AM, 8:10PM

AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH (2D) (M)
Daily: 12:30PM, 7:00PM

BLUE MOON (M) (NFT)
Daily except Thurs: 11:00AM, 3:50PM, 5:40PM.
Thurs: 2:00PM, 3:50PM, 5:40PM

HAMNET (M)
Daily: 10:40AM, 1:15PM, 4:10PM, 6:00PM

IRON LUNG (CTC) (NFT)
STARTS FRIDAY!
Daily except Thurs: 1:20PM, 8:10PM

IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT (M)
Daily: 10:15AM, 4:15PM, 6:20PM

MARTY SUPREME (M)
Daily: 10:45AM, 1:45PM, 4:45PM, 6:45PM, 7:45PM

MERCY (M)
Daily except Sun, Wed: 12:20PM

NO OTHER CHOICE (M)
Daily: 12:45PM

SEND HELP (MA15+) (NFT)
Daily: 1:10PM, 3:40PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM

SOMEBODY TO LOVE (M)
Daily except Thurs, Sun: 10:15AM, 2:10PM, 6:00PM.
Thurs: 10:15AM, 2:10PM, 6:00PM, 8:30PM.
Sun: 10:15AM, 12:20PM, 6:00PM

SONG SUNG BLUE (M)
Daily except Thurs: 4:15PM, 8:30PM.
Thurs: 11:15AM, 4:15PM, 8:30PM

THE HOUSEMAID (MA15+)
Daily except Sun: 10:30AM, 3:00PM, 8:20PM.
Sun: 10:30AM, 8:20PM

THE SECRET AGENT (MA15+)
Daily except Sun: 11:00AM, 7:50PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

ANACONDA (M)
Daily: 10:00AM

AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH (2D) (M)
Daily: 6:45PM

MARTY SUPREME (M)
Daily: 1:10PM, 4:15PM, 7:20PM

MERCY (M)
Daily: 2:40PM

PRIMATE (MA15+)
Daily: 4:50PM

SEND HELP (MA15+) (NFT)
Daily: 12:15PM, 5:20PM, 7:40PM

SONG SUNG BLUE (M)
Daily: 10:30AM, 12:00PM

THE HOUSEMAID (MA15+)
Daily: 2:40PM

ZOOPIA 2 (PG)
Daily: 10:00AM

ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

PHONE ADS

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

AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby

EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

classifieds@echo.net.au

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

DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

RATES & PAYMENT

LINE ADS:

\$17.00 for the first two lines

\$5.00 for each extra line

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa

Prepayment is required for all ads.

CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

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

Echo

POSITIONS VACANT

ADMIN/ RECEPTIONIST

wanted for busy, fun Byron Bay law firm. Full time, plenty of opportunity. Salary negotiable. Please send resume to sue@bvk.com.au

VET NURSE

Enthusiastic and compassionate vet nurse required for integrative vet practice Bangalow. FT or PT role delivering patient-centred, integrative vet care incl. surgery. Cert IV Vet Nursing, 2yrs exp & liking humans essential! Email Kim, admin@vitalityvetcare.com.au

KITCHENHAND needed: The Other Joint. Email resume: mullum@otherjoint.com

DISABILITY SUPPORT WORKERS, Must have minimum Cert 3 in Disability, Aged or Home Care, first aid and WWCC. Licence and reliable car essential. Must be available weekday mornings. Send resume to info@byronbaycare.com.au

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

TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Kitchen Hands -
 - Retail Assistants -
 - Drivers and Co-driver -
 - Community Support Assistants -
- MDNC is in need of dedicated volunteers to be part of a big loving family. All skill sets welcome.

Contact Sylvia - Volunteer Coordinator
Mon-Fri
6684 1286

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.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

- YOUTH RECREATION, FOOD HUB SHOP ASSISTANT, COMMUNITY MEALS ASSISTANT

PLEASE, CONTACT US ON 02 6672 3003 IF INTERESTED

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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 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



PROBLEMS WITH ALCOHOL...?

...THERE IS HELP

TUESDAY NIGHTS 6:00PM

73 BYRON ST, BANGALOW

CONTACT: 0401 945 671

IN MEMORIAM

Vale Phil Bailey



Much respected and appreciated Deputy Unit Commander, coxswain and radio operator.

He will be sorely missed by members of Marine Rescue Brunswick as a friend and colleague.

Thank you for your service Phil.



FUNERAL NOTICES

COLIN (COEN) ZWAN

19th August, 1934 – 28th December 2025



Father, husband, great-grandfather, RFS volunteer of 70+, and an all round great bloke.

Greatly loved and sadly missed by his wife Julie, and sons Michael, Mark, Gary, Pieter, Brendon, daughter Heather and 18 grand- and great-grandchildren.

A gathering to farewell Col will be held at The Ocean Shores Community Centre. Saturday 31st January at 11am. Light refreshments to follow.

HEALTH

MEN'S STYLIST - BYRON BAY NEZ THE CURATOR

Wardrobe edits * Personal styling
Confidence building * Wellbeing
Look good - feel good - do good
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Designed for your home or office. Infrared - traditional, flatpack or custom builds.

*
'Wellness, built into your space'
Designed for recovery + longevity.
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HAWAIIAN MASSAGE

Ocean Shores, Michaela, 0416332886

KARIN LUCIA GISLER COUNSELLING

Supporting youth, adults and families. "Navigate Life with Clarity" Ph 0415886113 karinlucigisler.com.au

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Clear subconscious sabotages. Reprogram patterns and beliefs. Restore vibrancy and physical health. De-stress. 0403125506 SANDRA DAVEY, Reg. Pract.

HYPNOSIS & EFT

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

HYPNOSIS & NLP

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

Body Based Psychotherapy Somatic Practice

Julie Wells
Anne Goslett (nee Mannix)

Dip.Som.Psych, Clinical PACFA Reg. Individual and Couple Therapy Supervision and Coaching

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9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay

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Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby
0401 926 090

Kate Messenger KINESIOLOGY

Supporting kids & babies (& parents!) with sleep, learning, anxiety, behaviour, healthy emotions & more...

0413 003 301

www.katemessengerkinesiology.com.au

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The Liquid Waste Specialists!

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

TREE SERVICES

SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

- Arborist • 15" Wood Chipper • Stump Grinding • 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

LEAF IT TO US - Tree Care Specialists
Local, qualified, insured, free quotes. Big to small we enjoy it all - 0402487213

WANTED

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

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

GARAGE SALES

MULLUM 26a Coolamon Scenic Drive, Opposite SES. Saturday - not before 8am.

Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

0408 210 772

CARAVANS

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

BUSINESS FOR SALE

BUSINESS CLOSURE.
Farm setup for sale and land for rent. We are closing our business and offering a complete farm setup, on a peaceful 2-acre farming plot (land for rent) at just \$220pw. Setup for sale: \$10,000 which includes: medium-sized coolroom (built in 2019 with new cooling unit); 200 established fruiting lime trees; farming tools. Located near Brunswick-Mullumbimby. This is a great opportunity for someone looking to step into small-scale farming with an already-established setup on affordable leased land. For more info call 0411087737

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

MULLUM UNIT 2, 12 Smith St 100 sqm floor + 45 sqm mezzanine. 0474729272

BEAUTIFUL THERAPY ROOMS

The Centre for Mind Body Wellness is welcoming new therapists to join our collective in the heart of Mullumbimby. To apply visit our website: centreformindbodywellness.com.au/join

OFFICE/WORKSPACE 42sqm \$350pw Billinudgel. Ph Lifestyle Group 66851206

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 or call Lucy on +61 476 403 629 today.

pcfml.org.au

COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH FREE

FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

EVERYONE WELCOME

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

10am to 12pm
In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall



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



WORK WANTED

WORDPRESS WEBSITE CREATION
Fair rates info@wordpressit.com.au

1 or 2 MEN + UTE
Furniture and rubbish removals
Over 15 years exp. Jarrod 0415 139 308

TUITION

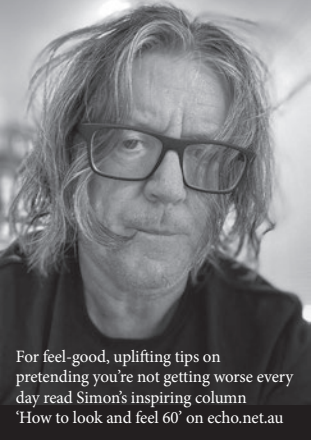
Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Trainer

- Photoshop
- Indesign
- Illustrator

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www.thinkblinkdesign.com

BIRTHDAYS



PETS

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

TRENT

Trent is a lovable, intelligent and endlessly happy Staffy x Mastiff bursting with affection and charm. Friendly, fun-loving and eager to please, he thrives on human connection and loves being part of the action. He's social, makes friends easily and walks well on a lead, responding to basic commands. Ongoing training and secure fencing will help this big-hearted boy reach his full potential.
Mandatory Re-homing #R251 00 00 60

NRAS
Northern Rivers Animal Services
T: 6681 1860 E: shelter@nras.org.au
W: www.nras.org.au

TAZZIE

Tazzie is a 6 month old, Border Collie/Kelpie X. He is a very smart, energetic young dog who will thrive in an active home.
Location: Murwillumbah
M/C # 991003002442498
For more information contact
Yvette on 0421 831 128.
Please complete our online adoption expression of interest.
https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/
Visit friendsofthepound.com to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.
ABN 83 126 970 338

SHANNON

Meet Shannon who's around 6 months old. She's sweet, affectionate, loves to play, and will also relax quietly in your arms. Possibly a future lap cat! With big blue eyes, and a creamy ginger coat, what's not to love about this little girl. Desexed, vaccinated and hoping for a loving new loving home!
Microchip 900164002373590.
Check our FB for more!

To make an appointment
0403 533 589 • Billinudgel
petsforlifeanimalshelter.net

LIVIA

Meet Livia! A beautiful tortie & white girl who loves affection but is also not too needy. Livia has lived with a dog & is fine with other cats. She's a little unsure of new people but soon settles once she knows she is loved.
To meet Livia & our other cats & kittens, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.
OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm
Thurs 3-5pm | Sat 10am-12 noon
Call AWL on 0436 845 542
Like us on Facebook!
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
Number: R251000222

MUSICAL NOTES

KEYS / SAX available for blues or jazz.
Older players. Ph 0488235179



SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 3 WEEKS

| DATE (Jan/Feb) | DAY, MOON PHASE | SUN RISE / SET | MOON RISE / SET | HIGH TIDES, height (m) | LOW TIDES, height (m) |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 28 | W | 6:13 19:44 | 15:24 0:49 | 05:05 1.52 16:56 1.07 | 11:38 0.63 22:58 0.38 |
| 29 | TH | 6:14 19:43 | 16:33 1:41 | 06:17 1.63 18:23 1.07 | 13:02 0.53 |
| 30 | F | 6:14 19:43 | 17:38 2:41 | 07:20 1.75 19:32 1.12 | 00:06 0.33 14:04 0.42 |
| 31 | SA | 6:15 19:42 | 18:35 3:49 | 08:15 1.85 20:28 1.18 | 01:08 0.27 14:53 0.33 |
| 1 | SU | 6:16 19:42 | 19:23 5:00 | 09:04 1.91 21:16 1.25 | 02:02 0.20 15:36 0.28 |
| 2 | M | 6:17 19:41 | 20:03 6:09 | 09:48 1.92 22:00 1.30 | 02:52 0.17 16:15 0.25 |
| 3 | TU | 6:18 19:41 | 20:38 7:16 | 10:30 1.89 22:43 1.34 | 03:38 0.17 16:51 0.25 |
| 4 | W | 6:19 19:40 | 21:09 8:18 | 11:06 1.80 23:23 1.36 | 04:21 0.22 17:25 0.28 |
| 5 | TH | 6:19 19:39 | 21:39 9:18 | 11:40 1.69 | 05:03 0.30 17:56 0.31 |
| 6 | F | 6:20 19:39 | 22:07 10:15 | 00:02 1.36 12:11 1.55 | 05:46 0.42 18:26 0.35 |
| 7 | SA | 6:21 19:38 | 22:37 11:11 | 00:44 1.35 12:41 1.41 | 06:30 0.54 18:55 0.40 |
| 8 | SU | 6:22 19:37 | 23:08 12:07 | 01:28 1.33 13:13 1.27 | 07:22 0.65 19:28 0.45 |
| 9 | M | 6:23 19:37 | 23:42 13:03 | 02:21 1.32 13:52 1.14 | 08:28 0.74 20:08 0.51 |
| 10 | TU | 6:23 19:36 | 24:00 14:00 | 03:30 1.31 14:51 1.02 | 10:00 0.78 21:03 0.56 |
| 11 | W | 6:24 19:35 | 0:21 14:56 | 04:47 1.35 16:20 0.96 | 11:39 0.75 22:15 0.58 |
| 12 | TH | 6:25 19:34 | 1:06 15:51 | 05:55 1.41 17:51 0.98 | 12:48 0.67 23:30 0.55 |
| 13 | F | 6:26 19:33 | 1:56 16:42 | 06:49 1.49 18:54 1.03 | 13:37 0.59 |
| 14 | SA | 6:26 19:33 | 2:51 17:29 | 07:35 1.58 19:41 1.11 | 00:30 0.49 14:15 0.51 |
| 15 | SU | 6:27 19:32 | 3:50 18:12 | 08:16 1.66 20:21 1.18 | 01:17 0.42 14:47 0.44 |
| 16 | M | 6:28 19:31 | 4:50 18:50 | 08:54 1.73 20:59 1.26 | 01:58 0.34 15:18 0.38 |
| 17 | TU | 6:29 19:30 | 5:51 19:24 | 09:30 1.77 21:36 1.33 | 02:36 0.28 15:49 0.33 |
| 18 | W | 6:29 19:29 | 6:52 19:56 | 10:04 1.79 22:15 1.40 | 03:15 0.24 16:20 0.28 |

Data sourced from Bureau of Meteorology. Times adjusted for Daylight Savings when applicable.

SOCIAL ESCORTS

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

ONLY ADULTS

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The Echo's Market Guide

Find it online: www.echo.net.au/market-guide

MONTHLY MARKETS:

1st SAT: **Brunswick Heads Markets** - 8am-2pm
1st SUN: **Byron Community Market** - 8am-3pm
Pottsville Beach Markets - 7am-1pm

2nd SUN: **The Channon Craft Market** - 9am-3pm
Chillingham Markets - 8am-1pm
Coolangatta Arts & Craft Markets - 8am-2pm
Tabulam Community Market - 9am-1pm

3rd SAT: **Mullumbimby Community Market** - 8am-2pm
Murwillumbah Makers & Finders Market - 9am-2pm
Salt Beach Markets, South Kingscliff/Casuarina - 8am-1pm

3rd SUN: **Federal Village Market** - 8am-2pm
Uki Buttery Bazaar Market - 8am-2pm
Pottsville Beach Markets - 7am-1pm
Lismore City Bowlo Markets - 9am-1pm

3rd SUN (Dec & Jan): **Byron Community Market** - 8am-3pm

4th SAT: **Kyogle Bazaar** - 9am-2pm
Last SAT: **Evans Head Rotary Market** - 8am-1pm

4th SUN: **Bangalow Market** - 8am-2.30pm
Nimbin Markets - 9am-3pm
Murwillumbah Showground Market - 8am-1pm

4th SUN (in a 5-Sunday month): **Coolangatta Arts & Crafts** - 8am-2pm

5th 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.

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

On The Horizon

DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

Card making at the library

Library lovers - make a card for a special someone. Who do you love? Join us for a mindful afternoon of artistic expression for adults as you use painting and collage to create a card for a special somebody. Thursday, 12 January from 3pm. Bookings essential: 6685 8540, or via www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au.

Free connecting generations event

Young families, teenagers and older members of the community are invited to come along to the Connecting Generations summer event at Bangalow Heritage House & Museum for a fun afternoon of activities such as art, craft, music and dancing. There will be free-face painting, a free sausage sizzle, an intergenerational drumming circle and open mic. Shorty Brown the Clown will pop along! When: 4pm to 6.30pm Saturday, February 7; Where: Bangalow Heritage House & Museum. Contact Ruth Winton-Brown 0413 261 011 or ruth@reclaimingjoy.com.

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.

Seniors activities at the Byron Community Cabin

Seniors activities at the Byron Community Cabin, Carlyle St - Byron Bay Seniors Chair Yoga on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10-11am. Contact Pippy 0421 9267 85 by donation. Senior's theatre group, Still Here Theatre - All ages are welcome to our fun drama and theatre workshops: Thursday's 10am to 12pm at the cabin. By donation. Contact Brin on 0423 120 280.

Brun U3A

Lifelong learning for retired folk in their 3rd age. Our 2026 groups are up and running. Tuesday forum, garden group, foodies, movie/lunch group, men's shed, French revisited, Scottish folk dance, mahjong, walkers and talkers, shabashi, table tennis, chess, debating group and Ukelele group. Contact Denise 0423 778 573 or info@bru3a.org.

Brunswick Heads Women's Social Tennis

Starts February 16, Mondays 7.30-8.30am. All levels welcome. Just rock up - no need to book \$5 members, \$7 non. Cash only. Email brunstennis@gmail.com.

Brun backgammon

The Brun 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!

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 streets. 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.pbmedia.org/outreachhub. Contact: hello@pbmedia.org.

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open

Brun Probuss meeting

The Brunswick Valley Probuss Club meeting is on Tuesday, 3 February from 10am at the Ocean Shores Country Club. The guest speaker is Sally Giovanni, an Aged Care Specialist from Services Australia. This is our first meeting for the year, so come along and enjoy yourself. Visitors are always welcome. Inquires and apologies ring Margaret on 6680 3316.

Holi - festival of colour, women and girls community event

Join Together She Thrives for a joyful Holi celebration at Banner Park, Brunswick Heads on Sunday, 1 March from 10am to 11am. This free community event is for women and girls, with children up to eight years welcome. Come together to throw colour, dance, laugh and celebrate connection in a safe, inclusive space. Please wear a white T-shirt and sunglasses and be ready to get colourful. Registration is essential for both women and children. For more visit www.togethershethrives.org.au.

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Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open

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



SERVICE DIRECTORY INDEX

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|----|---------------------------|----|
| Accountants & Bookkeepers | 26 | Handypersons | 27 |
| Acupuncture | 26 | Health | 27 |
| Air Conditioning & Refrigeration | 26 | Hire | 27 |
| Architects | 26 | Hypnotherapy | 27 |
| Automotive | 26 | Landscaping | 27 |
| Barber Shops | 26 | Locksmith | 27 |
| Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters | 26 | Pest Control | 27 |
| Bricklaying | 26 | Photography | 27 |
| Building Trades | 26 | Physiotherapy | 27 |
| Bush Regeneration & Weed Control | 26 | Picture Framing | 27 |
| Carpeting & Joinery | 26 | Plastering | 27 |
| Chimney Sweeping | 26 | Plumbers | 27 |
| Cleaning | 26 | Removalists | 28 |
| Computer Services | 26 | Rendering | 28 |
| Concreting & Paving | 26 | Roofing | 28 |
| Decks, Patios & Extensions | 26 | Rubbish Removal | 28 |
| Design & Drafting | 26 | Self Storage | 28 |
| Driveway Maintenance | 27 | Septic Systems | 28 |
| Earthmoving & Excavation | 27 | Solar Installation | 28 |
| Electricians | 27 | Television Services | 28 |
| Fencing | 27 | Tiling | 28 |
| Floor Sanding & Polishing | 27 | Tree Services | 28 |
| Garden & Property Maintenance | 27 | Transportation Services | 28 |
| Gas Fitters, Suppliers & Servicing | 27 | Upholstery | 28 |
| Guttering | 27 | Valuers | 28 |
| | | Veterinary Surgeons | 28 |
| | | Water Filters | 28 |
| | | Welding | 28 |
| | | Window Cleaning & Repairs | 28 |
| | | Window Tinting | 28 |

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For some, that means more time to enjoy life, a community that welcomes you in, and a little luxury woven into every day. If that sounds like the life you've had in the past or been imagining, we'd like to introduce you to Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove.

For thousands of Australians over the age of 50, Palm Lake Resort has become more than just a home. It's where luxury meets a relaxed lifestyle, with beautifully-designed homes, award-winning amenities, and communities that foster connections with like-minded individuals, giving you the freedom to live your way, with ease, comfort, and connection at the heart of every day.

Single- and double-storey homes at Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove where luxury meets practicality.

Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove homes aren't just beautiful, they're designed to make life easier. Each home has been meticulously planned to provide a luxurious living experience without compromising on style or character – from spacious living areas and gourmet kitchens to high-end fixtures and

contemporary colour schemes. Oh, and they're pet-friendly, low-maintenance, and secure enough, so you can lock up and go wherever adventure calls.

Why people love lifestyle living

Over-50s living used to mean winding down. But now, for many Australians, it means reinvention: more time to explore, connect, and enjoy life your way. That's why Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove offers:

- Award-winning design and build quality – from stunning homes to the elegant Vantage Country Club, a place where sociable homeowners gather to enjoy shared sporting interests, creative hobbies, wellness pursuits and social gatherings.
- Everything you need, just steps away from your home – Milon gymnasium, cinema, pools,



Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove

wellness facilities, and more are within reach, so it's easy to stay active every day.

- Boutique community – only 78 homes foster connections that happen naturally with outings, activities and welcoming neighbours.



- Peace of mind – a secure, well-maintained community means fewer worries and more time for what matters.
- Coastal beach location – just beyond Byron Bay, Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove presents an unparalleled opportunity for

that luxury seaside lifestyle. Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove has been recognised nationally for its excellence, with Master Builders awards celebrating its architecture, interiors, and community facilities. These accolades aren't just for show; they're proof of the quality, craftsmanship, and care that go into the development, so you can live with confidence, comfort, and a touch of luxury every day.

So... is it for you? If you've been thinking about what comes next, whether that's finding a fresh start, or simply making life a little easier, Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove is worth a closer look.

Visit www.pallmlakeresort.com.au/yaba-cove or call 1800 960 946 to learn more.

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- Over 90 acres of Eureka Plateau's finest agricultural land
- Attractive brick family home on level landscaped house paddock with pool
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- Rich grazing land happily combined with productive orchard income
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Auction

Sat 28th Feb

View

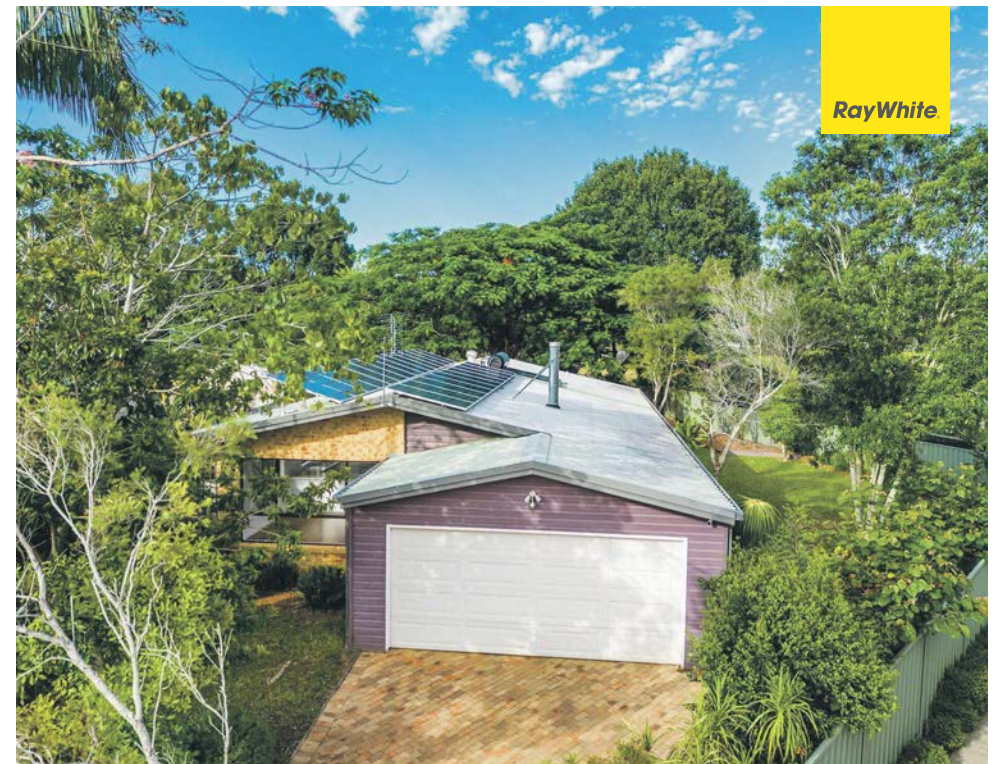
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AUCTION

Prime 90 Acre Farm at Federal

- Rich elevated hinterland grazing and orchard country
- Big family residence offering amazing rural valley panoramas
- Pockets of unspoilt rainforest surround stunning swimming holes on Stony Ck
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AUCTION

Deceased Estate Sale - Charming Family Cottage

- Entry level opportunity into Byron Hinterland's most iconic town
- Attractive, light filled home offering enormous character and appeal
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2 PALM PLACE, BYRON BAY

Spacious and Private Resort Style Home

4 beds 2 sofas 3 baths 2 cars

650M²

- Renovated, spacious layout with multiple living areas, office/study options and generous bedrooms
- Resort-style outdoor living with covered alfresco area and large saltwater pool
- North-east aspect providing plenty of natural light and the lush gardens provide complete privacy
- Park-front position in a tightly held Byron Bay pocket, close to beaches and town

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GUIDE | \$1.95M - \$2.1M
OPEN | Thurs 29th January 12 - 12:30pm
 Sat 31st January 9 - 9:30am



Su Reynolds
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1097M²

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- Resort-style outdoor living featuring landscaped gardens and solar-heated swimming pool

EOI | Closing 18th February 4pm
OPEN | Sat 31st January 10-10:30am



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7 beds 3 sofas 6 baths 7 cars

1012M²

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763M²

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- Elevated 763m² block with leafy treetop outlooks & excellent natural light
- Renovated four-bedroom home with spacious, functional family layout
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ON SITE AUCTION | Sat 14th Feb 10am
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 Sat 31st January 11 - 11:30am



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FOR AUCTION



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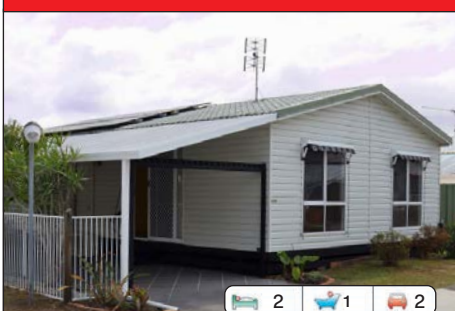
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- 2 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Thurs 12–12.30pm
- 7 Hayter Street, Suffolk Park. Thurs 1.30–2.00pm
- 142 Phoenix Drive, Tintenbar. Thurs 3.00–3.30pm
- 35 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Thurs 4.30–5pm
- 8 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby. Fri 10–10.30am
- 5 Botanic Court, Mullumbimby. Fri 10.45–11.15am
- 103 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Fri 12–12.30pm
- 10/47-49 Shirley Street, Byron Bay. Fri 12.30–1pm
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 3–3.30pm
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 43 McKenzie Road, Eltham. Sat 9–9.30am
- 47 Bulgoon Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 142 Phoenix Drive, Tintenbar. Sat 9–9.30am
- 2 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Sat 9–9.30am
- 7 Hayter Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 9.30–10am
- 8 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am
- 7/37 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 1452 Kyogle Road, Uki. Sat 10–10.30am

- 114 Orana Road, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 22 Burns Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10–10.30am
- 465 Uralba Road, Lynwood. Sat 10–10.30am
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Sat 10–10.30am
- 4 Ryces Drive, Clunes. Sat 10.30–11am
- 93 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 4 Wright Place, Bangalow. Sat 11–11.30am
- 5 Botanic Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 11–11.30am
- 234A Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 35 Shelley Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 11–11.30am
- 25 Byrne Road, Rosebank. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 93 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 2/113 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12–12.30pm
- 43 Lychee Drive, Rosebank. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 56 Ruskin Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 1–1.30pm
- 103 Federal Drive, Eureka. Sat 1.30–2pm
- 2/33 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Mon 9–9.30am

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- 8 Rosewood Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 10–10.30am

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- 4/6 Cawley Close, Alstonville. Sat 9.30–10am
- 16 Sand Street, Skennars Head. Sat 10–10.30am
- 2 Fitzroy Street, Wardell. Sat 11–11.30am
- 115 Dawson Street, Lismore. Sat 11.30am–12pm
- 9 King Parrot Parade, Gulmarrad Sat 12–12.30pm
- 35 Webster Street, South Lismore. Sat 12.15–12.45pm

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- 1/21A Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Thurs 11–11.30am
- 25 Flinders Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 10 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 9–9.30am
- 1/21A Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 16 Berrimbillah Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10–10.30am
- 32 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11–11.30am
- 33 Robin Street, Ocean Shores. Sat 11–11.30am
- 14 Mitchell Street, Uki. Sat 12.30–1pm
- 86 Tyalgum Ridge Road, Tyalgum. Sat 2–2.30pm

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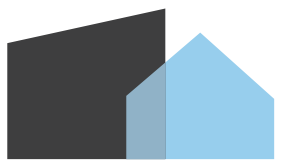
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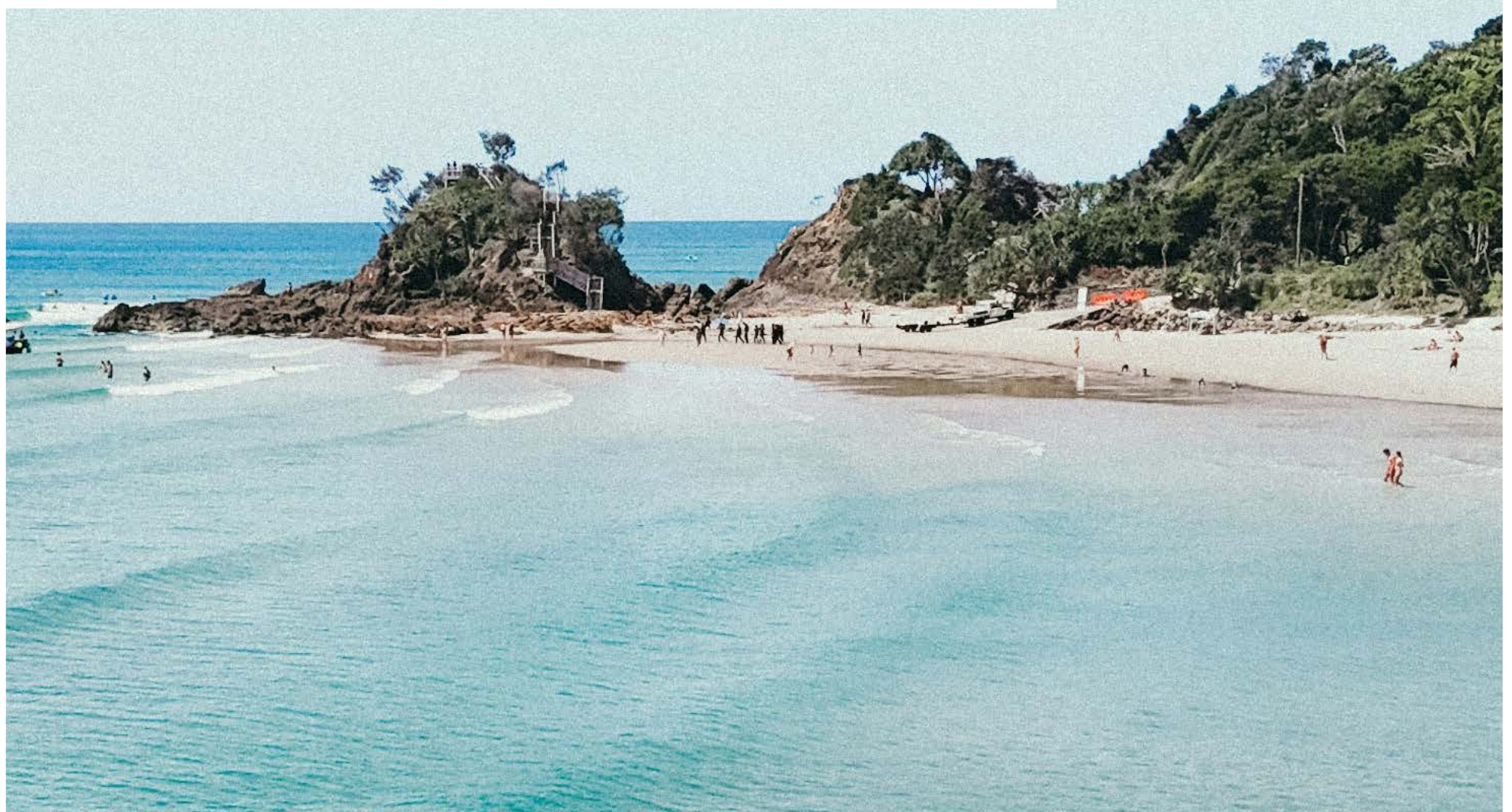
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The past year saw three quarters of struggling households in NSW & ACT experience food insecurity for the first time – yet the wealth of Australia’s top income earners grew by almost \$600,000 a day according to data from the *Foodbank Hunger Report 2025* and Oxfam Australia. So when is a good time to start taxing the rich?

There are 400 millionaires and billionaires from 24 countries who are calling on governments around the world to tax the rich. They have put together an open letter to Davos attendees saying, ‘We must win back our future. Leaders at Davos, tax the super rich. Decades of innovation have gone hand-in-hand with decades of inequality, environmental destruction, and wasted opportunity. The richest one per cent now own more than 95 per cent of the world’s population put together. Extreme wealth has led to extreme control for those who gamble with our safe future for their obscene gains. Now is the time to end that control and win back our future. Millionaires like us refuse to be silent. It is time to be counted. Tax us and make sure the next 50 years meet the promise of progress for everyone.’

The Natural Resources Access Regulator (NRAR) has begun a prosecution in the NSW Land and Environment Court over the alleged construction of an unapproved dam on the North Coast – the third dam-related case in the region in 12 months. Two farm owners from the Coffs Harbour area and an earthmoving contractor



Run Ferris run

Well known to Byron Shire locals, extreme marathong man Ferris Gump, AKA Ben Ferris ran through Byron last weekend on his way to Wollongong. Ferris plans to run, unsupported, from Sydney to Wollongong the long way, i.e. right around Australia. Ferris said ‘I Just love to run. I’ll be the first person to run right around Australia without any support team and the first to do it wearing thongs’. And, yes he will finish in Sydney. Photo Jeff ‘Run Out Of Town’ Dawson

are facing multiple charges under the NSW Water Management Act 2000. If found guilty, they could face combined fines of up to \$6.5 million.

Reducing annual alcohol consumption in Australia by one litre a person could significantly lower deaths from several major cancers, particularly among older Australians, a new study led by La Trobe University has found.

Family First is ‘worried it may be banned as a “hate group” after the Liberals backed Labor’s antisemitism, hate and extremism laws’. Well Family First, perhaps it is time for a little reflection on what you are representing in the community perhaps?

ECHO SHORT STORY COMP



The Echo is joining forces with Creative Mullum to run the Echo Short Story Competition. Select stories will be published in *The Byron Shire Echo* and www.echo.net.au.

Budding writers, old timers and first-time flyers are invited to submit a story of 500–1,500 words using the hook ‘The Hitchhiker’. The hook can be buried in a sentence, far off in the distance, it could be the name of a band playing at a pub, or it could be the centrepiece of your story!

Stories judged by local writers and industry experts. Submissions are open to anyone in the Northern Rivers. Selected finalists will be invited to present stories in a live story-telling performance at the very first ‘Mullum Moth’ hosted by Mandy Nolan and Creative Mullum, on 1 April 2026.

ENTRIES / DETAILS HERE:

creativemullum.org.au/short-story-comp



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Paul Bibby is a qualified local mindfulness and meditation educator who has helped organisations across the country boost their performance and wellbeing through the practical tools and strategies of mindfulness.

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