

Echo

TACTILE ALTERNATIVE TO THE ALGORITHM

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 40 #37 • February 18, 2026 • www.echo.net.au



Women rising up for Byron's V-Day

Valentine's Day in Byron Bay dawned under heavy skies, but after a night of rain it was dry. More than 100 women, and a smattering of men, clad in red formed a now annual flash dance mob at Main Beach. About 15 dancers performed the Bolero with the ocean backdrop, then everyone danced the anthem 'Break the Chain' as part of the worldwide

One Billion Rising protest against gendered violence. Upholding the tradition just about everyone dived into the refreshing waves.

Photo Jeff 'Always a Little Behind' Dawson

► See photo gallery in *The Echo* online: www.echo.net.au

Community supports social housing at former Mullumbimby Hospital site

Aslan Shand

The community is calling on Byron Shire councillors, and the state and federal government to step up and deliver on public, social, and genuinely affordable housing at the former Mullumbimby Hospital site. They are holding a public forum on Monday, 23 February at the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club auditorium from 6pm to discuss the future of the site.

'It's a perfect location,' Caroline Bass, member of the Mullumbimby Hospital Action Group (MHAG) told

The Echo, highlighting that it is flood free, near the local high school, playing fields, swimming pool and within walking distance of the town centre.

'I was part of the project reference group (PRG) which was followed by the Enquiry by Design Workshop which came up with the development proposal for the site which was very much a village for social, affordable, and seniors' housing. That is public housing provided by the state government with rents that accord with people's incomes.'

The PRG came up with three designs, a low, medium and high density design for the site that saw older people and those with mobility issues located at the bottom of the site where it is flatter, families in the middle, and flats further up where you can build into the hill without it looking too ugly, with a mix of commercial, including medical and community spaces as part of the development. This also ties into the Tallowood Estate as the commercial elements of that estate were never developed.

► Continued on page 5

Council policy made rail trail complex and costly

Paul Bibby

Is it time for Byron Council to let go of the long-held vision of returning trains to the tracks in Byron and focus on the more achievable task of building a rail trail?

This is the decision facing Council this week when it considers a motion proposing just such a course.

In a move with significant implications for both residents and business, Labor councillor Asren Pugh is proposing that Byron forge ahead with a rail trail, waving goodbye to

its long-held policy of having both trains and a trail.

'This debate has gone on too long and the community has missed out on significant funding opportunities because Council has not had a clear, consistent and logical policy on the trail corridor,' Cr Pugh told *The Echo*.

'It's time to get the rail trail built, from end to end.'

Cr Pugh agreed with staff's comment that the commitment of Council under mayors Simon Richardson, Michael Lyon, and strongly

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Heritage listing for Bangalow Bowlo ► p6

Game over for the Liberals? ► p10

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INTERNATIONAL REALTY

Byron Bay Surf Lifesaving Club raises concerns over Byron's foreshore plan

Aslan Shand

The Byron Bay Surf Lifesaving Club (BBSLSC) says it is 'supportive of the overall redevelopment' of Byron Foreshore Landscape Concept Plan proposed by the Byron Shire Council (BSC) but has raised two significant concerns.

They do 'not support the Foreshore Concept Plan in two critical areas: (1) the location of the proposed amenities, and (2) the location of pedestrian routes,' they state in their response to Council listed in the current Council meeting papers.

BSC proposes to move the amenities block (toilets) from its current position back to the rear of the BBSLSC saying that the previous plumbing issues that had led to its removal in 2014 could be resolved.

Kids at risk

The BBSLSC has said that this raises significant issues around managing the access of emergency vehicles to the site that occur on a weekly basis and represents a danger to pedestrians

accessing the new amenities block as children and adults would be walking directly through the emergency access route.

'The core mission of Surf Lifesaving NSW includes the reduction in preventable drownings and injury, the training and education of our youth and the provision of vital rescue equipment, safety services and support to save lives. The ability of BBSLSC to carry out those functions will be hindered by the current Foreshore Concept Plans.'

Surf club expansion

As part of the redevelopment of the foreshore the BBSLSC have also sought a potential expansion of the club.

'We've got over 1,000 members and roughly 400 nippers and we're looking to the future of the club and being able to accommodate what might be, in time, 2,000 members,' Club Captain, Michael Gudgeon, told *The Echo*.

'We want to provide a community hub that

nurtures youth development as well as provide places for people to train and do their education.'

BSC say that an expansion of the BBSLSC would reduce the public park space and impact the views from properties on Bay Street. However, the BBSLSC have said in their response that, 'any proposed club expansion would not have a material impact on the playground'.

Staff have recommended Council provide \$5,000 to the club 'to undertake an assessment of the structural asset life of the building to inform this future planning' but have also stated that 'the surf club would also need to consider potential risks that could result from renegotiating a change in lease tenure / terms between the surf club and Crown Lands.'

'There's definitely conflicting uses in there, which we're still talking about,' Captain Gudgeon told *The Echo*.

'The surf club is working with councillors and Council staff to come up with a solution to the situation that satisfies the community.'

Climate-related PTSD study

There is no doubt that the Northern Rivers has experienced more than its fair share of climate-related disasters over the past several years, including flood, bushfire and landslides.

The climate-related PTSD clinical trial at Southern Cross University, which kicked off last year, is now recruiting participants from the Byron Shire for a groundbreaking two-step care model for treating mental health in response to natural disasters.

'This is a world-first trial of a stepped-care model for treating mental health in response to natural disasters, like the unprecedented flood event that hit the NSW Northern Rivers four years ago,' says the press release.

'Participants must be 18 years or older; have been directly impacted by a climate-related disaster (e.g. flood, bushfire or landslide) between 2017 and 2022; live in the Northern Rivers; have, or think you may have, PTSD; can understand and

communicate in English; and agree to take part in the study, including group sessions and follow-up activities.

'The trial runs for five weeks. Participants meet once a week for a three-hour session. Before and after the program, participants will complete questionnaires on their mental health and wellbeing. To see if you're eligible, visit the dedicated project website: heart.scu.edu.au. For more information about the project, email heart@scu.edu.au.'

Arts grants for climate-inspired projects

The Ingrained Foundation is seeking Northern Rivers artists of all kinds; poets, painters, dancers, performers, writers, multidisciplinary creatives, to be a part of a Climate Action Arts Grants Program that launched on 16 February.

This new initiative is supporting artists and arts organisations to address the climate crisis through creative practice, enabling innovative projects that inspire public engagement, awareness and action on climate change.

'Creative practices have the power to impact and help people connect emotionally to climate issues. The arts are a powerful tool to encourage collective responsibility and action,' said Jasmin Daly, Executive Director of Ingrained Foundation.

The program offers grants of \$5,000 to \$20,000 to support bold, thoughtful and imaginative projects that respond to the climate crisis and engage the Northern Rivers community.

'The foundation is looking for ideas that connect people and places, sparking curiosity and helping people to think, feel and act differently about the environmental challenges we face.'

For more information about the grant guidelines, the application process, and the info sessions happening around the region, go to www.ingrainedfoundation.com.au/climate-action-arts-grants-program or contact hello@ingrainedfoundation.com.au.

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Time for a Byron Shire Women's Shed



Women are gathering together to create a Women's Shed for Byron Shire where women can learn about using power tools, sewing, jewellery-making and more. Photo Jeff Dawson

Men's sheds have got a lot of traction over the last ten or more years, and now it is time to give some shed space to the women.

Local Deidi Vine is calling out to the community to find a shed space where women can come together to create 'The Women's Shed Collective'.

'We had the founding women's circle last week and around 40 women joined us. It was amazing, inspiring, exhilarating, and exciting,'

she told *The Echo*.

'The variety of skills and abilities of the women and their willingness to share was amazing. Many of the women really emphasised how they needed the connection.'

'The Women's Shed Collective is looking to create a community space where women can gather to learn practical skills (power tools, furniture restoration, gardening), share creative skills (sewing, craft, music, voice), support one another

with home projects, explore wellbeing and resilience together, and connect, collaborate, and build community,' said Deidi.

Come along and join

The next meeting is on Saturday, 21 February at Bramble Cafe at the Rock Garden Centre, 8 Grays Lane Tyagarah between 11am and 1pm and will be a continuation of the founding circle.

They are looking for women with a wide

range of skills to join the group and need a website builder, a suitable site for a designated women's hub in the shire, donations, and organisational skills to get the women's shed up and running.

'There will be a show and tell and women are encouraged to bring projects they are working on. This is about connecting women together who have similar interests and it is open to all women.' For more info 0429 840 095.

Time to get naked and ride for WNBR 2026

The 2026 World Naked Bike Ride (WNBR) will be parading through the streets of Byron Bay once again on International Women's Day, Sunday 8 March.

This clothing-optional, helmet-compulsory, event

will start gathering from 1pm at the Butler Street Reserve where you can get naked, get painted and get ready to roll before heading off along the route at 3pm.

Organisers are going old school and have said please

come on your pushbike but leave electric bikes, scooters, and skateboards at home.

The WNBR has been taking place in Byron Bay since 2008 with plenty of brave souls ready to bare all to remind motorists to look

out for cyclists on the road and to 'deliver a vision of a cleaner, safer, body-positive world'.

'Share the road, bare as you dare,' say organisers.

For more information check out their social media.

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A powerful 2025 Brave New Films documentary by Robert Greenwald, exposing the targeted killing of Palestinian journalists in Gaza.

Screening followed by a panel conversation with Mandy Nolan and guests. Chai and light refreshments provided.

Saturday 28 Feb, 6pm
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shiftproject.org.au/events

Female firefighters welcome

Byron's Christmas Community Initiative presented a cheque for \$307 to the Deputy Captain, Mellony Burke of the Byron Bay Rural Fire Brigade volunteers at Suffolk Park. The funds were raised at the successful 'Christmas Movie Under the Stars' at the Byron Bay Bowling Club. The donation will help towards providing firefighting facemasks especially designed for female volunteers.

Join the brigade

Captain John Brierley is particularly keen to welcome more women of all ages to join this dedicated RFS team and says, 'no, you don't need to hold a hose, we need help running the station and supporting our front line crew'. [But, of course, you can hold a hose too! I like to hold the hose - Ed].

Stephanie Rake from Byron's Christmas Initiative said, 'We are grateful to our amazing firefighter volunteers, they provide us with a sense of security in times of great need - we trust them, rely on them, and respect the vital role they play in protecting our lives and homes.'



From right: Rob Rose, Axel Ojeda (Deputy Captain), Paul Banister, Cass Lloyd, Mellony Burke (Deputy Captain), Stephanie Rake, John Brierley (Captain), Luke Nichols, Mick Goodwin, Bob Crick, David Henry, Chris Goodman. Photo supplied

Fun for everyone

'Christmas is an important fundraising period for the brigade and few moments are as heart-warming as seeing the joy on the children's faces when Santa steps off the fire engine, and the appreciation of the locals and visitors alike.

'Our community comes together in many ways throughout the year and Christmas is a special time that we celebrate connection, generosity and community spirit - and this was a wonderful example of that coming together so thank you,' said Stephanie.

Time to build the rail trail

► Continued from page 1 supported at the time by current mayor Sarah Ndiaye, to a "multi-use" (rail with trail) model for the Mullumbimby to Byron Bay section, had resulted in significant technical complexity and prohibitively high projected costs.'

'In December last year Council had to abandon a grant application for the Mullum to Byron section, of the rail corridor because of the complexities of land tenure and uncertainties about the physical possibility of building a multi-use option along this section,' he said.

Under Cr Pugh's new motion, Council would move ahead with the planning, design and construction of a rail trail on the existing rail formation for the entire length of the corridor within the Byron Shire, including the Mullumbimby to Byron section (acknowledging the existing lease held by the Byron Solar Train).

Council's general manager would be directed to prepare a revised, shovel-ready grant application for the Mullumbimby to Byron Bay section to be submitted to the next available state or federal regional infrastructure funding rounds.

Environmental hurdles

While this would undoubtedly move the project forward, it is increasingly emerging that any plan to use the rail corridor will need to overcome some significant environmental hurdles.

With councillors seemingly unwilling to take meaningful action on the rail trail over the past decade due to the contentious nature of the issue, nature has taken over large sections of the track, and it is now home to multiple endangered ecological communities.



Walking the Byron Shire railway line. Photo Benjamin Gilmore

The publication of a long-awaited flora survey of the rail corridor reveals that there are eight such communities within the corridor.

There are also 312 different varieties of native species including four that are listed as threatened species under state and federal legislation.

The survey, which was based on the premise that Council wanted to undertake a rail-with-trail use of the corridor, includes suggested measures to 'avoid, minimise and manage' the impacts to the vegetation and habitats, should any project go ahead.

However, Council staff note that the presence of the threatened species and ecological communities makes the planning process for any major project in the corridor more complex and requiring 'costly biodiversity offsets'.

Crucially, staff note that Council's previously decades-long focus on a rail-with-trail option has added to the complexity and cost of the project.

The matter will come before this Thursday's ordinary Council meeting for debate.



Are you looking for construction work or to make your home more flood-resilient?

The Resilient Homes Program is calling on the local building industry to help make homes safer and more flood-resilient across the Northern Rivers.

We're seeking builders, designers, engineers, architects, project managers and house removalists who want reliable work and prompt payments.

With projects running through to March 2027, it's a chance to help support your community.

For more information on the program and how to get involved visit nsw.gov.au/rhpbuild or scan the QR code.

Homeowners and industry can also find out more about funding available by contacting the Reconstruction Authority on 1800 844 085.



The Resilient Homes Program is jointly funded under the State-Commonwealth Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



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Accused Mullum DV murderer still on bail

The man accused of murdering 23-year-old Ashleigh Grice in Mullumbimby nearly five months ago has had conditional bail extended.

Police arrested 29-year-old Jai Oden-Jenkins on 20 September 2025 and charged him with the murder (domestic violence) of Ms Grice, alleging the two had been intimate partners.

Mr Oden-Jenkins appeared by video link in custody when the matter was first mentioned in the Lismore Local Court more than a month later but has not been required to appear since.

He received conditional bail on 23 December 2025, with conditions including an order not to 'enter Byron Bay or go within 100 kilometres of that area (except for attending court or upon a legal representative for a pre-arranged legal appointment or conference);' court documents showed.

The defendant was not required to appear when the matter was mentioned in the Lismore Local Court again on 14 January 2026, nor on Wednesday, 11 February. He will not be required to appear at the next mention on 11 March.

St Helena tunnel crash

A tow truck driver had a very lucky escape following a serious accident in the St Helena Tunnel yesterday.

Richmond Police District reported that at 11am Tuesday, 10 February, Police Rescue were making their way to an urgent job in Tweed Heads when on entering the M1 at Ewingsdale a serious motor vehicle crash was called in the north bound lane in the St Helena tunnel.

Police made a U-turn to find an accident between a B-double and a tow truck.

The driver of the tow truck managed to self extricate but was suffering from a head injury, and a possible broken arm and leg. The driver was conveyed to Gold Coast Hospital in a stable condition.

At this stage the circumstances to the accident are being investigated by Byron Bay Police.

Flooding by design: Coopers Lane

Local residents have expressed their frustration at the inadequate design for the creek crossing in Coopers Lane, Main Arm that leaves hundreds of locals flooded in even when the local waterways are not themselves flooded.

The NSW state government refused Byron Shire Council's request to 'build back better' and replace the partially washed-out crossing with a box culvert after half the old crossing, made up of three pipes, was washed away in the devastating 2022 floods.

Part way through the reconstruction, during Friday's rain event, the local waterway had not flooded – yet due to the flawed culvert format the pipes quickly blocked with debris and pushed fast-moving water up over the crossing and flooded around 100m of the roadway. This stopped children from accessing school and people from getting to work despite the fact the waterway had not even broken its banks. People inevitably attempted to cross the floodwater as frustration at the inadequate repair, costing about



Local creeks had not flooded, but the road did as a result of poor planning. Photo Alex Polo

\$500,000, left them flooded in despite there not being a flood in that catchment.

'The civil contractors onsite that afternoon said they understood the faults of the project to replace with like-for-like criteria. They agreed box culverts were the logical solution but the project was past that point,' said local resident Alex Polo.

'They suggested a couple of small box culverts in the depressed road area (where the road floods), then road base on top, and then sealing similar to what they have just done on Mullumbimby Road would at least help relieve the unnecessary road flooding when we just get a bit of extra rain.'

■ The Echo editor lives on Coopers Lane.

Future of Mullum Hospital site

► Continued from page 1

Council responded by raising the height limits on the site and surrounding streets from 9m to 11.5m.

'MHAG have been working on this project long before any of the current councillors were on Council and we canvassed the community on what they wanted for this site over and over again,' said Ms Bass.

'Everybody said, housing, housing, housing, and it needs to be housing people like key workers, people on social security, disability pensions and aged care pensions can afford.'

As a fallback there was a proposal to sell off part of the land to cover the costs of remediation and build social and affordable housing on the site.

'We always said if the worst came to the worst, we could do that. It's not ideal, it would be much better if it was done by the NSW government, and it was all social housing.'

Speaking to *The Echo* Janelle Saffin MP Lismore, Minister for Recovery, and Minister for the North Coast, said, 'Of course I support such a project and have stated this publicly. The Mullumbimby Hospital site

is ideally situated to provide much needed housing across our region. I am supporting the efforts of Byron Shire Council and the NSW government agencies who are in discussions.'

Ballina MP Tamara Smith also supports the project saying, 'the community have had a strong vision for the Mullumbimby Hospital site.'

'It would be great to work with all levels of government to deliver something truly wonderful for Mullumbimby with affordable and social housing.'

'The Australian Greens secured an extra \$1 billion for the HAFF scheme, but federally and regional NSW has seen very little of that fund returned in terms of affordable housing projects. The state has contributed significantly towards the project. I think this is a great opportunity for the federal government to work with us to deliver this project,' she said.

Federal MP for Richmond Justine Elliot told *The Echo* that, 'I strongly support more housing across the North Coast and I understand that Byron Shire Council are working with the NSW government on the future of the Mullumbimby Hospital site.'

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Time for a little home hemp?

The Northern Rivers has long been known for its fascination with cannabis culture, considering the perfect growing conditions this region provides, and for anyone who has ever thought they'd like to build their own hemp home now is the chance to find out a little bit more.

iHemp NSW is inviting anyone interested in finding out more about industrial hemp firsthand to join them on 7-8 March at the Northern Rivers Hemp Field Trip. This two-day immersive event will showcase the potential of hemp from its use in local hemp-based products, including wellness, clothing and lifestyle items to housing.

'Designed to educate, inspire and connect, the field trip explores the many applications of industrial hemp; from beautiful, energy-efficient, pest- and fire-resistant homes, to nourishing skin and body wellness products, strong antimicrobial textiles for clothing, bedding and soft



Hemp Collective founder Maxine Shea is keen to guide you through the advantages of using hemp and hempcrete to create your future home. Photo Jeff 'Roll Another One' Dawson

furnishings, and innovative hempstone products that are stronger than plastic,' say organisers.

Hemp home tours

There will be tours of hemp-built homes, a hands-on hempcrete building workshop with hemp building pioneer Klara Marosszky, and HempStone workshop with long-term hemp innovator, Martin Ernegg, among other activities.

'Our goal is to showcase the genuine value of industrial hemp and the potential it holds for our economy. There is absolutely no green-wash here, hemp delivers real benefits for the planet and communities,' says Maxine Shea, iHemp NSW Executive Member and co-founder of Hemp Collective.

For tickets and more information: <https://events.humanitix.com/northern-rivers-field-trip-ihemp-nsw>.

Are you still living in a water-damaged home?

The Health Lodge Integrated Medical Centre is expanding its Northern Rivers Flood Recovery Healthcare Project to support families experiencing the health impacts of living in water-damaged homes following the 2022 floods.

Living in water-damaged homes means conditions linked with persistent respiratory illness, chronic fatigue, inflammation, and other environmentally acquired health issues.

'Families tell us they're overwhelmed, unwell and

feel forgotten,' said Reine DuBois, Clinical Director of The Health Lodge.

'Our team looks at what's happening to their health and what's happening inside their home. That combination of medical, psychological and environmental assistance is what helps families recover.'

The Health Lodge is currently seeking two additional families to participate. Eligibility includes having to live in a water-damaged home from the 2022 floods, at

least one adult and one child experiencing health issues, and eligibility for a GP Management Plan or Mental Health Care Plan. Families can enquire via nurse@thehealthlodge.com.au.

Community support

Phase 1 is fully-funded but Phase 2 treatment and follow-up care needs additional support. Individuals or organisations interested in supporting the project's reach and impact can contact Reine DuBois at reine@thehealthlodge.com.au.

Heritage listing for Bangalow Bowlo

Paul Bibby

The fight to retain the Bangalow Bowling Club as a community hub into the future will take a step forward this week, with Byron Council set to formally apply for the iconic venue to be heritage listed.

The decision to close the club in October last year sent shock waves through the Bangalow community, with many blindsided by the sudden loss of their beloved Bowlo.

Among the key community concerns was the fear that the Bowlo's owners, Norths Collective, would sell the site to a developer who would tear down the buildings to make way for a commercial or residential development.

Since then, the community has rallied to cause, raising over \$100,000 via GoFundMe, establishing a new advisory committee, and negotiating with Norths to become the preferred tenderer to take over.

As part of the preservation effort, Byron Council resolved late last year to examine the possibility of

heritage listing the famous site to ensure it remained as a sporting and community hub for the local community.

Such a move would, at the very least, significantly limit the development potential of the site, increasing the likelihood that it would be bought back from Norths by the community rather than being sold to the highest bidder.

Conserving setting

Council staff have made good on the Council resolution over the summer recess, obtaining a heritage assessment from Clarence Heritage and preparing a planning proposal.

The assessment found that the Bowlo could be compared with other venues that had statutory heritage listings, such as the bowling clubs at Willoughby, Kyle Bay, and Mona Vale.

'It is considered that Bangalow Bowling Club meets several heritage assessment criteria and is potentially eligible to be included on Schedule 5 of Byron LEP 2014 as a heritage item,' the assessment from Clarence Heritage states.

'A heritage listing is put in

place to ensure that future changes are managed in a sympathetic way to conserve the significance and setting of the place,' it continued.

'Heritage listing is not about "no development" but about appropriate development and managing change in a positive manner which retains the assessed values.

'Any demolition and redevelopment of the Bowling Club would require detailed assessment and careful consideration of the impacts on the assessed significance and may raise issues which are in conflict with the objectives of the heritage conservation clauses.'

A motion coming before this week's Byron Council meeting proposes that Council proceeds with the planning proposal to list the Bowling Club site as an additional heritage item and then forwards this to the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Industry for a gateway determination.

Pending a positive gateway determination, Council would then undertake public exhibition of the planning proposal before formally adopting it.

Local legend Dr Baz takes out top award

Local music legend Barry Ferrier, aka Dr Baz, has recently been nominated for, and taken out, some prestigious music and film awards.

On 12 February he announced he'd been notified 'that my music video "Welcome to Tomorrow" has reached the semi-finals at the London International Filmmakers Festival,' he said on his social media.

Then after a big night at last week's Coorabell Hall Fun Friday Open Mic where he was 'delighted to accompany my granddaughter Jess for the first time in public, and



Barry Ferrier aka Dr Baz
Photo supplied

was proud to watch her steal the show with great confidence and a real ability to engage the audience' he had more good news.

'I woke, feeling a bit dusty, to a double wow, as I received notification [on 14 February]

that my futuristic music video "Welcome to Tomorrow" had been awarded Best Music Video at the 2026 Washington Film Awards, and I've received a second Best Music Video Award at the Philadelphia International Filmmaker Awards for the sultry track "Midnight Shift Till Dawn" with lyrics by Ralph Lycett Tyrrell.'

You can view 'Welcome to Tomorrow' at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hZLaxGYyBc> and 'Midnight Shift Till Dawn' at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4DtIleRMRM>.



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Caravan park options for people with low incomes

Paul Bibby

Low-income tenants at Council-owned caravan parks in the Byron Shire would pay no more than 30 per cent of their income in rent under a proposal coming before this week's Council meeting.

The proposal, part of a motion put forward by Greens councillor Elia Hauge, would seek to ensure that these vulnerable tenants do not experience additional housing stress by spending a large proportion of their incomes in rent.

'Council's caravan parks house a number of long-term tenants on low to very low incomes,' Cr Hauge said in written comments accompanying her notice of motion.

'However, rents are generally determined based on an independent valuation and assessment resulting in some tenants paying far more than the 30 per cent of income that is widely accepted as "affordable".'

'As a Council that has declared and routinely reaffirmed our concern about the housing crisis and commitment to responding to it, this does not align with our values or our responsibility to our community.'

However, Council staff have indicated that such a move presents significant challenges.

'These [rental] arrangements are subject to the Residential Tenancies Act 2010 (NSW)... which provides a prescriptive regime for the

payment of, and variation of rent,' staff said in response to the notice of motion.

'The Act arguably doesn't provide for income-based rent.

'Given the above, the proposal would face equity issues, as not all park residents would be subject to it. Where it could be applied, it would likely face significant administrative complexity relative to the status quo due to Council accurately tracking resident incomes and managing the site fees derived from them...'

Councillor Hauge is also seeking a report on the current status of long-term tenancies and options to expand the number of long-term, low income tenancies, transitional housing tenancies,

and long-term tenancies available for members of the local Indigenous community at Council-owned caravan parks.

'Council's caravan parks represent an existing asset that could be strategically utilised to address urgent housing needs across multiple vulnerable cohorts,' Cr Hauge said.

'Beyond current long-term tenants facing affordability pressures, there are critical unmet needs for transitional housing to support people leaving homelessness or family violence situations, and for long-term housing on Country for Traditional Owners.'

The matter will come before this week's Council meeting for debate.

Flickerfest Mullumbimby and Byron All Shorts comes to town

Flickerfest Mullumbimby and Byron All Shorts is opening on Thursday, 26 February in Mullumbimby, celebrating 35 years of short film innovation here and around the country.

The three-day festival of short films will run at the Mullumbimby Civic Hall until Saturday, 28 February with over 40 incredible short films

to share, handpicked from a record 3,700 entries received for Flickerfest's Oscar and BAFTA-qualifying short film festival.

'Celebrating 29 years in the Northern Rivers, Thursday will see viewers enjoy a selection of nine stunning film gems from our Oscar and BAFTA-qualifying competition

in Bondi,' say organisers.

'The festival promises to delight audiences with the most creative, inspiring and entertaining shorts on offer, including Oscar-nominees and award-winners, screening alongside exciting, fresh local talent.'

Friday will see the 'Best Of Australian Shorts' while on

Saturday you can join Director Browyn Kidd for a free filmmaking workshop on the journey from 'Shorts to Long Form Content'.

The final session brings you 'Short Laughs Comedy' – a riotous collection of off-kilter Flickerfest shorts.

Visit iq.org.au for the full program and ticket info.

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Large Ballina seniors' housing on wetlands approved by court

A large over-50s 'resort-style' seniors' housing estate on ecologically-sensitive, flood-prone land at West Ballina has been approved by the NSW Land & Environment Court (L&EC). The site includes wetlands and endangered ecological communities and has significant flood-risk, which has been central to opposition from residents, Ballina Council and experts.

18m high mixed-use building proposed in Kingscliff

With public exhibition ending for the large Podia Bells Boulevard DA, Kingscliff Ratepayers and Progress Association (KRPA) are urging the public to have their say. One of the main issues flagged by residents is that it exceeds the maximum height limit of 13.6m by 4.4m and would set a precedent for coastal villages.

Kyogle Council moves forward on STP upgrade

The first 2026 meeting for Kyogle Council saw progress on the Sewerage Treatment Plant (STP) upgrade for the town, as well as Council staff flagging issues around supplying water and sewage to the villages of Tabulam, Wiangaree and Mallanganee.

Valentine's Day police chase ends in Wardell crash

A 33-year-old woman was arrested after a high-speed pursuit ended on her crashing her hatchback near Wardell. Police say they terminated the pursuit for safety reason and that her car allegedly reached speeds of up to 200km per hour.

Man accused of lighting fires near Lismore uni to face court

A 49-year old man is due to appear before the Lismore Local Court today accused of lighting multiple fires during a Total Fire Ban near Southern Cross University in East Lismore earlier this month. The man allegedly became aggressive when security officers approached him on the same day, 6 February 2026, striking one with a branch and throwing sticks before fleeing.

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Ocean Shores man arrested as part of drug syndicate bust

NSW Police Force Drug and Firearms Squad detectives in partnership with the Qld Police Service have charged five men over an alleged \$14 million drug supply syndicate accused of impregnating timber with cocaine.

Strike Force Capulin was established in August 2025 by State Crime Command's Drug and Firearms Squad to investigate the alleged large-scale supply of prohibited drugs in northern NSW.

Police say the investigation commenced after detectives received intelligence that inside four tonnes of timber planks were about 100 kilograms of cocaine allegedly set to be extracted by the syndicate.

'On Friday, 2 January, strike force detectives arrested a 33-year-old man in Kingsford, allegedly in possession of two kilograms of cocaine and \$6,800 cash', police say.



A Queensland police dog investigates timber. Photo supplied

He was granted strict conditional bail to appear at Downing Centre Local Court on Thursday, 26 February, police say.

Ballina connection

'Investigators will allege in court that the man had flown from Ballina to Sydney for the alleged purpose of picking up prohibited drugs.

'Following inquiries, on Sunday, 4 January, investigators searched a car parked at Ballina Airport, where they allegedly uncovered a duffle bag containing 723 grams of

cocaine, 112 grams of ketamine and almost \$400,000 in cash.

'Detectives also searched a mobile phone, where they allegedly uncovered photos and videos of what appeared to be 100 kilograms of cocaine impregnated into wooden planks.

'The origin of the timber remains under investigation.

'Investigators established that the planks were being stored in sheds on the Gold Coast and in Lismore.

'About 2.40pm on Thursday, 22 January, strike

force detectives – with the assistance of Qld Police – executed a crime scene warrant at a property in Lismore, allegedly seizing six tonnes of wooden planks.

'At the same time – investigators from the Qld State Drug Squad – executed a search warrant in Moledinar, Qld – where officers allegedly located a significant number of wooden planks inside a clandestine extraction lab.

Four arrests

'Four men – aged 42, 45, 46 and 55-years-old – were arrested and charged with producing dangerous drugs (cocaine) and possession of relevant items including a cocaine press.

'Following extensive inquiries, about 7.30am on Tuesday, 10 February, strike force detectives from State Crime Command's Drugs and Firearms Squad, attended a home at Ocean Shores.

'A 33-year-old man was arrested and taken to Tweed

Heads Police Station, where he was charged with supply prohibited drugs on an ongoing basis, supply prohibited drug large commercial quantity and knowingly direct activities of criminal group.

'He was refused bail to appear at Bail Division Local Court on Wednesday, 11 February', say police.

Detective Superintendent John Watson says the partnership between NSW Police and Qld Police was critical to this outcome.

'Information flowed quickly, resources were shared, and the result is a major disruption to organised crime,' he said.

'Cross-border crime requires cross-border policing. This operation is a strong example of how collaboration delivers real results.

'Criminal groups continue to evolve their methods, and this attempt to conceal cocaine within timber products was highly calculated', he said.

Upgrade to Lismore pump stations set to minimise local flood damage

A \$1.28 million upgrade to Gasworks Creek Pump Station has been completed, marking the first step towards overhauling Lismore's flood defence system.

The upgrade is part of a \$29.8 million modernisation of the city's existing pump station network, which is funded by the Australian government through the Northern Rivers Recovery and Resilience Program (NRRRP) and administered by the NSW Reconstruction Authority.

Over the coming year, Lismore City Council, who is delivering the project, will also start work constructing



Floodwater surges over the levee at Browns Creek Pump Station, Lismore, 30 March 2022. Photo David Lowe

a new pump station in South Lismore and upgrading the Browns Creek and Magellan Street pump stations.

Lismore's pump stations are a critical part of the

local flood mitigation system, designed to remove stormwater and localised flooding from within the levee walls and pump it into the Wilsons River.

However, the old pumps have insufficient capacity to deal with high intensity rain events, which has led to localised flooding downtown, even when the levee gates were closed.

Vulnerabilities in their electrical systems and a reliance on manual operations also hampered their performance.

At the centerpiece of the overhaul is the Browns Creek pump, which was built in the 1970s to pump stormwater from the low-lying Lismore basin into Wilsons River.

The new station will be built in line with modern standards and significantly

increase pumping power.

At the recently completed Gasworks upgrade, the works included raising the pump station electricals and controls above 14.4 metres and installing a mechanical trash rack, to protect the pump inlet from debris such as logs and rubbish.

The rollout of a ten kilometre fibre optic network last year will allow for the remote activation and control of Lismore's flood pumps during future weather events.

Together, these enhancements will improve catchment response to rainfall when river levels rise.

39 new junior doctors join Northern NSW workforce

Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSWLHD) say they are excited to welcome 39 new medical interns to the region, 'providing a welcome boost to the local health workforce'.

In a media release, NNSWLHD say, 'The medical interns are joining teams at Lismore Base Hospital and Tweed Valley Hospital, where they will work and learn from District's highly skilled and experienced medical staff'.

'Having completed their orientation, the junior

doctors are already providing care to local patients and much needed support to the region's hardworking health staff. Interns are medical graduates who have completed their medical degree and are required to complete a supervised year of practice in order to gain general registration.

'The interns will work with, and learn from, NSW Health's experienced and highly-skilled medical staff in one of the world's best health systems.

'The new doctors starting their internship will be entering a training program with networked hospitals throughout the state, providing formal and on-the-job training.

'They receive two-year contracts to rotate between metropolitan, regional and rural hospitals to ensure the diversity of their experience.

'The interns also rotate across different specialties during the intern year, including surgery, medicine and emergency medicine'.

Clunes Master Plan adopted

The Clunes Master Plan was adopted by Lismore City Council at its meeting this week, setting out growth over the next 10 to 20 years 'while safeguarding the village character residents value'.

According to the media release by Council staff, extensive community consultation was taken into account and was supported by the Clunes Community Reference Group 'following changes made in response to community feedback'.

They say, 'Rather than fast-tracking development, the master plan establishes a clear, staged roadmap for how and when change may

occur, providing certainty for residents while strengthening protections for the village's landscape, heritage and environmental assets'.

Developer interest

Clunes resident, Sonya Voumard told *The Echo*, 'While much has been made of the community consultation process, many residents believe it was flawed and that the community reference group was unable to offer meaningful input at the end'.

'The village of Clunes is acutely aware developers are circling and strong community action will continue', she said.

Staff recommend against Byron Special Entertainment Precinct

Aslan Shand

Byron Council staff have recommended that Byron Shire Council (BSC) withdraw from the Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) trial, which is now supported by all Greens councillors.

The SEP had aimed to give Council the powers to ease planning controls around venue trading hours, sound levels, and live music, while promoting a 'vibrant nightlife', similar to city precincts already in existence.

Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye had previously strongly supported the controversial SEP plans, despite widespread concerns that were raised around its potential impacts by the community.

The SEP was heavily criticised by the Byron community for lacking consultation by Council, and for not focusing on long-running key issues around safety, lighting, and improved infrastructure.

According to a Council staff report from the upcoming February 19 meeting agenda, BSC's submission to the state government was deemed 'inconsistent' with state policy because proposed sound thresholds were more restrictive than those set out in the SEP guidelines and new vibrancy laws. The Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI) returned

the proposal to BSC for 'pending resolution of this issue'.

The new vibrancy laws have automatically removed development consent conditions that prohibit or restrict live music or entertainment. They can be reinstated by Liquor & Gaming NSW (L&GNSW) however, according to Council's report, 'This means that a complainant may need to engage a suitably-qualified acoustic consultant, at their own considerable financial expense, to conduct noise testing to demonstrate evidence of unreasonable noise'.

Rail corridor activation

Staff instead have recommended councillors request permission from the state government to 'permit certain temporary events in the Byron Bay rail corridor as development permitted without consent'. If approved, public consultation would follow. A Town Centre Activation Plan would also be prepared, if supported by councillors.

'The community focus for branding has always been on nature, health, wellbeing and the arts, and respect and support for First Nations and not a "party town", alcohol-fuelled vibe which brings risks,' former Byron Shire Mayor, Jan Barham, told *The Echo*.

'It's essential that Council develops a Town Centre Activation Plan for community and business input prior to progressing the rail corridor rezoning and clarify uncertainty about the approval process.'

Chris Hanley OAM, who was involved in speaking with ministers, the community, and Council over concerns around the SEP has said this is now a chance for the community to come together and look forward.

'Nothing's changed. A lot of us have been saying the same thing since 2014's last drinks, that we need money for lighting, a transport system, infrastructure, and safety,' Mr Hanley told *The Echo*.

'We need the money for the community to run events so that it helps businesses. The whole point about having a budget and having people to run events is that you do it all year so you spread it out and everyone's happier.'

'We need help. We needed help before the SEP came along. We have over two million tourists come here every year and we need the state government to give Council some money to ensure all-year-round activation. We need Council, councillors, and the community to come together so we can try and find a way to get the help we need.'

Action needed on Byron's M1 entry ramp

Byron Shire Council Transport and Infrastructure Advisory Committee member, Anthony Stante, told *The Echo* it is vital that we start planning and looking for funding commitments from the state and federal governments to fix the dangerous queuing on approach to the M1 Byron Bay exit ramp at Ewingsdale.

'In the morning peak and during holiday periods, traffic crawls or stops in the left lane of a 110 km/h motorway, while trucks and cars approach at full speed. It's a textbook end-of-queue crash scenario, and is one of the most dangerous types of road risk we face,' he told *The Echo*.

'Transport for NSW (TfNSW) acknowledges the problem and says "strategic investigations"

are underway. But there is still no clear timetable for undertaking that work, no committed funding for the next development phase, and no pathway to construction.

Meeting with ministers and MPs

'I am meeting with the NSW Roads Minister, Jenny Aitchison, later this month to push for a clear, accelerated pathway. The office of Federal Member for Richmond, Justine Elliot, has also indicated that they are now actively engaging with TfNSW to discuss a satisfactory way forward, with the understanding that funding would likely be shared between state and commonwealth 50/50.'

Mr Stante also called

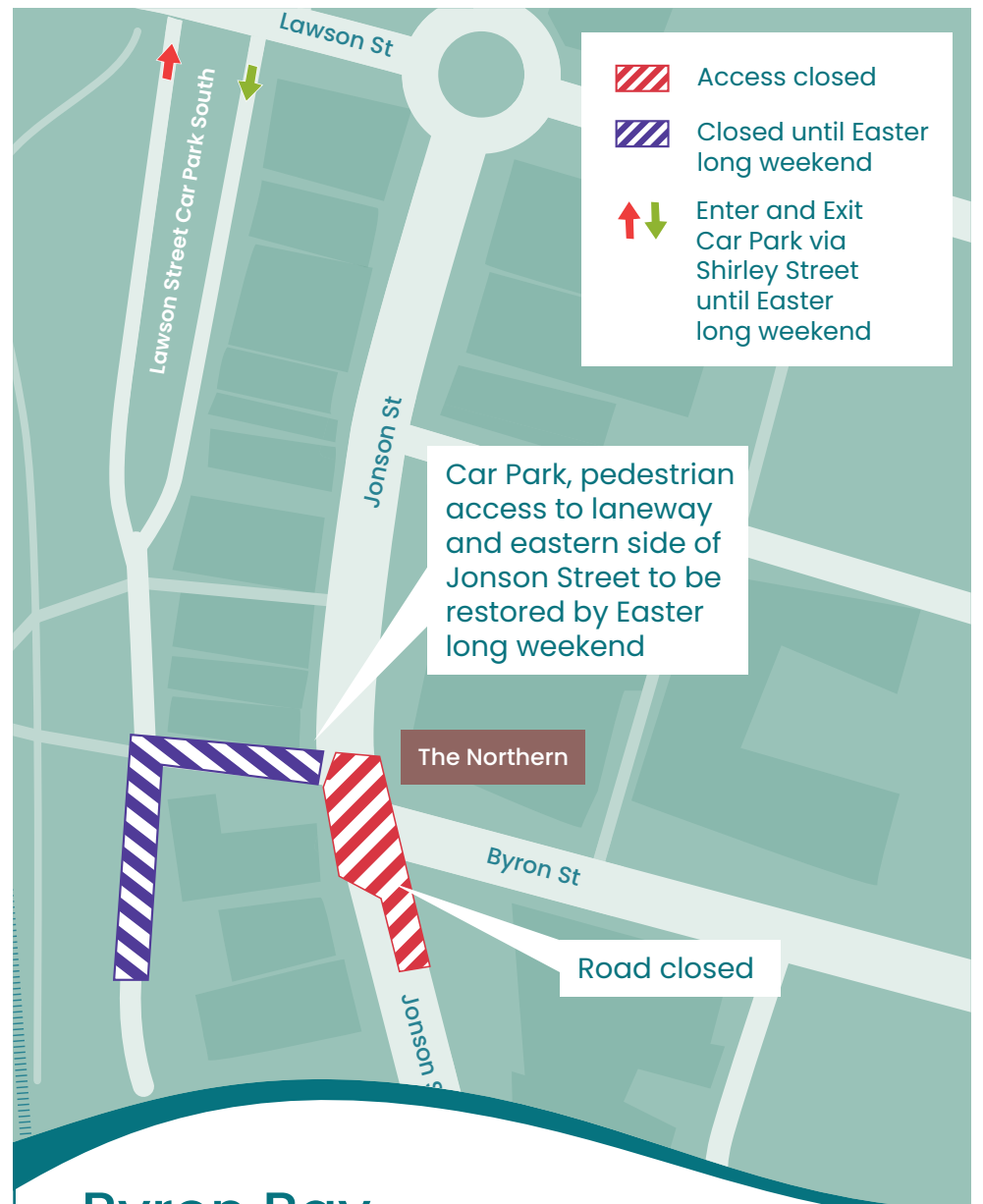
on local state MPs Tamara Smith and Janelle Saffin to get on board to give this project the local support it needs.

Mr Stante says we need to start now, looking for clear solutions that integrate better public transport, safer cycling and walking connections, smarter traffic management and improved access options into Byron.

Proposed solutions range from four lanes into Byron Bay to a southern entrance and exit from the M1 to take traffic along Bangalow Road.

'We need an up-to-date traffic model for our area,' he said.

'We've talked about this long enough. It's time for a committed plan, a funded development pathway, and a clear line of sight to construction.'



Byron Bay Drainage Upgrade

The upgrade to Byron Bay's town centre drainage system has recommenced.

The upgraded drainage system, once complete, will reduce flooding impacts to the town centre.

What to expect during works from late February to late May:

- The intersection of Jonson Street and Byron Street will be closed. Please use detour routes where possible. U-turn bays will be in place.
- A small section of Lawson Street Car Park South including the laneway between Guzman Y Gomez and the Byron Hot Bread Kitchen is closed. Vehicles will need to enter/exit the car park from Shirley Street. Car park and pedestrian access to the laneway will be restored by the Easter long weekend.

Please support our town centre businesses, they remain open and are ready to welcome you.

- Please follow signage, traffic control and detour routes.
- Works will primarily occur Monday to Friday between 7am and 5.30pm.
- Noise/dust – At times, there will be machinery noise, including drilling and vacuum excavation, as well as dust. There will be measures in place to reduce dust and noise impacts, such as construction hoarding.

More information

For more information and to sign up for email updates visit Council's website:

www.byron.nsw.gov.au/Byron-Drainage



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The Byron Shire Echo
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All creatures great and small

The lack of a place to live because of the pressure on land, droughts, fires, and floods, are all increasing as a result of the impacts of climate change and continue to affect lives, and the future, yet the NSW state government still refuses to take decisive action.

They failed to declare a Great Koala National Park (GKNP) they have allowed NSW Forestry Corporation to continue to log key koala habitats and koala hubs even though they have been fined multiple times for failures to protect known habitat required under the legislation.

The latest modelling by the NSW state government on koala densities has been called into question by North East Forest Alliance (NEFA) which identified areas the model had identified as 'to have higher densities of koalas than the GKNP' to be actually bare farmers' paddocks.

As Nature Conservation Council Deputy Chief Executive Jacqui Mumford pointed out in 2022, 'If you want to save koalas you have to protect their trees.'

'It is not complex. But koala habitat continues to be destroyed because of weak government policy that prioritises land clearance for grazing, agriculture, urbanisation, timber harvesting and mining,' she said.

NSW Labor first promised the GKNP in January 2015 as they went into the election, yet over ten years later the electorate is still waiting for them to fulfill their promise – and they wonder why the community loses trust in governments.

The fight to preserve koala habitat is just the overarching debate. The reality is that if you preserve koala habitat, the benefits are myriad. It is not just the koalas that are protected. It is the other endangered animals and native wildlife that also gains protection. From greater gliders, glossy black cockatoos, powerful owls, possums, wombats, quolls, and various reptiles to

critically-endangered ecological communities, to rivers and waterways as well as facilitating climate change mitigation.

A good first step is actually creating the GKNP and stopping the logging of native forests in NSW just like they have already done in Victoria and Western Australia.

Then they also need to actively seek out other ways to create connectivity between existing, proposed and future sites of national parks, state forests and private land. One local suggestion is the new Richmond River Koala Parks that have been proposed to safeguard critical habitat.

Local communities calling on the NSW Government to permanently protect 56,200 hectares of State Forests in the Richmond River Valley and along the southern Richmond Range. This population of koalas is genetically distinct from those in the proposed GKNP and the proposed area is also home to over 130 other species threatened with extinction due to habitat loss and climate change.

'Protecting these forests from logging is not just about providing a lifeline for Koalas and a plethora of other struggling wildlife, it's about restoring ecosystems and the health of the Richmond River,' NEFA's Dailan Pugh told The Echo.

'We urgently need to stop releasing the carbon stored in forests by logging, and instead enable them to draw down and store the millions of tonnes of CO₂ released into the atmosphere by past logging. Our forests need time to heal – not further destruction.'

It is time for the NSW government to stop sitting on its hands and take action to protect our endangered wildlife, our ecological communities; and be on the front foot to use this as a means to protect our children's futures in relation to the impacts of climate change

Aslan Shand, editor

Is it game over for the Liberals?

The boys are back in charge. Sussan Ley was handed a poisoned chalice after the worst election defeat ever, and given the impossible task of rebuilding the Liberal party.

She was never destined to be prime minister.

She didn't stand a chance. Nine months into the job the hatchet men pushed her off the glass cliff.

In their desperation to grab back the leadership, panicked by haemorrhaging of votes to Pauline Hanson's One Nation, they appeared completely oblivious to the appalling optics.

Didn't they pause for a second to consider why so many moderate teal women MPs are now holding what were recently safe Liberal metropolitan seats?

If Liberals had a 'woman problem' before the coup, they have now confirmed they deserve it.

Awarding Senator Jane Hume the consolation prize of deputy will do nothing to dispel the view that women are second-class citizens in the Liberal Party.

She has her own problems, with the Chinese-Australian community whom she absurdly accused of supplying 'spies' to help Labor at last year's election. The Chinese are renowned for having long memories.

New leader Angus Taylor is already talking darkly about the 'right kind of immigrants'.

Former PM Tony Abbott, who lost his 'safe' seat to a teal, is coaching Angus Taylor and asserting we are a Judaeo-Christian nation. He conveniently ignores 65,000 plus years of First Nations spirituality and implies people of other faiths, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, or those of no faith (nearly 40 per cent of the population) don't really belong in Australia.

It's hinting at a de facto return to the White Australia policy which didn't end legally until 1973 when Gough Whitlam was prime minister.

If Angus Taylor goes helter-skelter trying to win back One Nation supporters who form a distinct group of disgruntled, mostly rural and regional people,



'Nearly a third of Australians were born overseas and many are children of migrants. They are not natural Liberal voters.'

– Richard Jones

feeling disadvantaged and blaming immigrants for their woes, he is likely to come a cropper.

He will further alienate metropolitan voters and cement those teals in their seats, plus risk losing the handful of seats still held.

His task may be more difficult than Sussan Ley's, as his coup and subsequent comments will have alienated even more women and non-Anglo communities.

Nearly a third of Australians were born overseas and many are children of migrants. They are not natural Liberal voters.

Their votes need to be earned. Talking tough on immigration will not win them over.

The by-election in Sussan Ley's seat of Farrer in southwest New South Wales will be an interesting litmus test.

It was a National Party seat until Ley won it in 2001 and has been in Coalition hands since its creation in 1949.

There will be at least four candidates (probably all women) – Nationals, Liberal, One Nation, and teal candidate Michelle Milthorpe, who ran second to Ley at the 2025 election. Michelle is already campaigning, and if she wins there will be only four Liberal women MPs left in the lower house.

While Liberals have their crisis, the Albanese government has also stumbled. According to a poll, two thirds of Australians were opposed to inviting Israeli President Isaac Herzog to visit Australia.

It was inevitable that it would not go smoothly and sure enough there was shocking footage of peaceful protesters being violently bashed by police, reminiscent of ICE violence in America. Filmmaker James Ricketson was injured and released without charge when

bodycam footage showed he was guilty of nothing.

I have heard people say they won't vote for the Albanese or Minns governments again.

Psephologist Anthony Green has declared the two-party system is broken.

Political parties do come and go. They are not immortal.

I joined the Australia Party to contest the 1972 federal election in the seat of Mackellar against Bill Wentworth, then Liberal minister for social services. I sent the seat to preferences for the first time but never had a hope of winning.

The Australia Party then merged with the New Liberal Movement to become the Australian Democrats in 1977. I was a Democrat member of the NSW Legislative Council until 1996 and then independent until 2003. The Australian Democrats disappeared in 2008 when their last senators' terms ended.

The Liberal party, founded by Sir Robert Menzies in 1944, is now at its lowest ebb ever. Maybe it too has reached its use-by date?

Voters are in a quandary. The old major parties do not truly represent the average Australian and One Nation is too far to the Trumpian right.

Inequality is at an all-time high as are rents and house prices, but neither the Albanese government nor the opposition rabble are showing any real signs of rectifying this, nor dealing with the worsening climate crisis. Many are also appalled we are still locked into the ruinous AUKUS deal.

In theory Greens and independents should fill the yawning gap on the progressive side of politics. If not, will yet another party emerge?

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



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Nicholas Shand
1948–1996
Founding Editor



David Lovejoy
1944–2024
Co-founder

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

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byron healing

Volume 8 ~ 2025-2026

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Bruns parking

I was recently at The Salt Mill cafe waiting for my order, and I noticed cars parked, squeezed in any position while also waiting for their order, or just sitting enjoying their coffee.

A parking officer from Council pulled in and started issuing infringement notices.

Why does Council insist on parallel parking in the Tweed Street area where the cafe and gym are situated – it is ridiculous. Diagonal parking, as is the case across the road from the cafe, would enable more vehicles to park without the threat of a fine.

Paul Brennan
Brunswick Heads

Drainage a drag on finances

Thank you to Annie Radermacher for raising the issue of stormwater and drainage across our Byron Shire.

It is an important conversation and I appreciate residents speaking up about their experiences.

People may not realise that councils in NSW are only permitted to levy \$25 per property (on land within the urban area, except vacant land) per year specifically for stormwater management.

The levy was introduced in April 2006 by the NSW state government; and has not been allowed to increase, even in line with CPI.

In practical terms, \$25 today does very little to

maintain and upgrade ageing drainage systems, particularly in a shire facing growth, heavier rainfall events, and the impacts of climate change.

To put this into perspective, the stormwater management service charge from rates will raise approximately \$311,000 for the 2025/26 financial year.

By comparison, the current drainage works for the Byron Bay town centre alone are well over \$20 million and that's not even enough to complete all the required works.

Of course, we subsidise this where we can, and apply for grants, but it's a wicked problem that has broad social, environmental and budgetary ramifications.

It's a statewide funding problem.

Council has consistently advocated to the state government for reform of the stormwater charge so that essential infrastructure can be properly maintained.

Without change at that level, councils are trying to meet current demands with funding settings from decades ago.

I remain committed to prioritising stormwater improvements within our limited resources, and to continuing strong advocacy for a fairer funding.

If you would like to be proactive, you could consider writing to our State Member, Tamara Smith and the Minister for Local Government, Ron Hoenig. Include photographs documenting the infrastructure issues as well if you can.

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye
Mullumbimby

Sapoty's news

Everyone is waiting for my news roundup, but unfortunately the knight in shiny respirator has been hospitalised. So I flipped the \$50 note for lunch between Andrea and Mandy: Sorry



Angus Taylor 'The best-qualified idiot,* has this week clutched the remaining ruins of a policy-free party representing the audience of Murdoch's Sky News after dark. *According to former Liberal Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull. Cartoon Ziggi Browning

Andrea. It's lunch at Mandy's desk: a mango followed by papaya. The \$50 goes into the prize offered by *The Echo* and Creative Mullum in the literary competition containing the word 'hitchhiker'.

Sapoty Brook
Main Arm

Reveal the truth

Once again, David Lowe reveals a bit of truth.

'The men in suits' continue their self-centred games. Slowly we wake up (hopefully). Thank you, David.

Trev Syme
Bridgewater, SA

Denmark's empathy

I see Denmark has introduced primary school kids to empathy lessons. How to live with money and no need to work might be the next addition to the curriculum.

Larry Hoofs
The Pocket

Chemtrails

Every year in February, my husband and I holiday in Byron Bay for a few weeks.

A holiday we have had for the last 30 years and very much enjoy!

For the first time since coming to Byron Bay, on Sunday 1 February, while

going for our walk along Main Beach, we have noticed chemtrails (geo-engineering) in the sky, which to the naive person, look like vapour trails from a plane, but which don't disappear minutes after, but leave a trail that expands into a misty cloud, or trail, that lasts for hours.

Since coming to Byron Bay we have noticed them a few times! They are regularly happening in Sydney.

The 'rationale' for these chemtrails is to minimise global warming and which are being ejected into the atmosphere worldwide from planes! Sadly most people are unaware of what these chemtrails are composed of: strontium, barium and aluminum nanoparticles.

How can anyone justify the safety of introducing these toxic chemicals into the atmosphere, which if you closely observe will fall as a mist to the ground and pollute the landscape and people?

It's extraordinary to think that it has been okayed by the Australian government to have done on its own citizens!

Helene Owen
Sydney

Albo's choices

Hello Albo, there are two possibilities from your actions last week: you didn't know that inviting the President of Israel would spark off passionate demonstrations (unbelievable); or that you did know, but did it anyway (unforgivable).

Sandra Heilpern
Ballina

Defending the Greens

I began reading Chaiy Donati's impassioned defence of nuance with keen anticipation.

No question, the culture wars have poisoned discourse, and I appreciate the call for more complex thinking. But please, let's not confuse nuance with poetic license.

Chaiy claims the Greens were 'a product of the culture-war era'. Quick search, and ... nope. The Greens were formed long before the culture wars were even a twinkle in Pauline Hanson's eye. Well, maybe that was Chaiy's nuanced view of chronology.

Then he claims the Greens have no broad governing vision and are a single-issue party. Was that his nuanced reading of the party website?

Climate change as an existential threat is hardly a product of Green politics. It's the assertion of the overwhelming majority of international climate scientists, and powerful institutions like the Pentagon and NASA, and all Kyoto Protocol signatory governments. And yet, Chaiy cites it as evidence of the Greens' 'tightly framed narrative'.

Next, Chaiy says the Greens frame climate change as 'eclipsing all other concerns'. A more nuanced approach, says Chaiy, might suggest AI poses a larger threat. Frankly, I can't see what he's talking about. AI: major threat to the economy and privacy. Climate change: a confirmed, existential threat to life, across all species. Is Chaiy confusing 'eclipsing' with 'triaging' (treat the heart attack before the broken leg)?

What begins as a plea for reason and deeper thinking is soon revealed to be a transparent party-political lament, that tries – awkwardly – to blame the culture wars for the major parties' haemorrhaging support.

It's ironic that in Chaiy's attempt to reduce smaller parties to single-issue players, he fails to take his own advice about a more nuanced view.

Robin Grille
Main Arm

Israel's war crimes

The evidence of Israel's war crimes and crimes against humanity, including starvation, extermination, ethnic cleansing and genocide in Gaza, is so egregious, extensive and explicit that it's resulted in proceedings against Israel under the Genocide Convention at the International Court of Justice, and criminal indictments against senior Israeli officials by the International Criminal Court.

► Continued on page 12

Letters to the Editor

Send 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.

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► Continued from page 11

And yet we're expected to believe that criticism of Israel's criminal conduct is antisemitic and potentially illegal.

This is the lunacy of a political milieu that seeks to normalise genocide and criminalise criticism of Israel.

This credo is clearly anti-semitic itself, since it implies that if you criticise Israel you're hating on all Jews, as if all Jews are somehow implicated in, represented by or responsible for the crimes of the Israeli government and armed forces.

Which is exactly what Israeli officials like Isaac Herzog did when they blamed all Palestinians for the actions of Hamas on October 7, and used that as a pretext for the genocide in Gaza.

Israel acts as if it can secure its future only by relentlessly attacking its neighbours and exterminating the Palestinians.

But in the long run, friendship and respect between nations is vastly preferable to hostility and contempt.

John Scrivener
Main Arm

Unfortunately some criticism of some members of the Israeli government or some members of its armed forces still confuses untested allegations and evidence of crimes with proof of criminal guilt, belief with fact, and in its outrage is content to conflate 'Israel', 'Israelis', 'Zionists' and 'Jews', despite numerous letters and articles respectfully making these distinctions in *The Echo*. A surprising number for writers also seem to echo the antisemitic trope that 'they', the 'Jewish lobby' or the 'Zionist lobby' control what people believe, or control the government and the media, despite *The Echo* also being regularly accused of being 'anti-Israel'. - **Letters Ed**

Is *The Echo* neutral?

The letters editor responded to my letter suggesting that *The Echo* appears to have an anti-Israel narrative, please prove my opinion wrong, and show me any articles or columns that the paper published in the past 40 years that were pro-Israel, since we all know that there have been countless articles that have been very anti-Israel over the 40 years. You say that you 'continuously run letters with contested Israeli history'.

The pro-Israel/pro-peace letters that I have read have been fact-based so please also give me examples of what you classify as 'contested history'.

Do you consider some of the vile anti-Israel letters and articles, where 'facts' are optional, supportive of harmony in our beautiful Northern Rivers community?

Danny Wakil
Billinudgel

Cycle of violence

The Middle East is at the brink of another extensive, devastating war with Iran.

The Israeli government is saying that it's a fight for their survival as a Jewish state, which is entirely surrounded by Muslim nations.

I think their concerns need to be taken seriously - Iran, Hamas and Hisbollah have repeatedly suggested that the world get rid of the Jewish state Israel once and for all.

So have some extremists in the fundamentalist Israeli government regarding the Palestinians. In criminology, two widely-researched terms are 'victim-offender overlap' and 'cycle of violence'.

It tells us that victims and survivors of severe abuse and violence are five times more likely to become perpetrators themselves.

We all know that there has been persecution and killings of Jews all around

Van lifer asks whether belonging is for ratepayers only?

There was a time when security didn't come from walls or paperwork.

It came from people. Your safety lived in tribe... in shared fires, shared watch, shared care. You belonged, and because you belonged, you were protected.

Somewhere along the way, that changed.

Now security is something you purchase. A house, a mortgage, insurance, locks, cameras. Stability has become contractual. Belonging has become financial.

As recently reported in *The Echo*, the Mullumbimby Railway Station site, occupied for several years, was fenced and residents were given 48-hours notice to move.

The article included neighbours describing friendly relationships and saying those staying there were 'never a problem' and kept the area tidy.

I was one of the people asked to leave.

During that process, a Council manager stated



Jay Bester and his truck. Photo supplied

clearly that her responsibility was to protect ratepayers. It was also said that Council determines who can park where.

Those statements may simply reflect administrative reality. But hearing them spoken out loud revealed something deeper.

If belonging is defined primarily through rate-paying status, then security is no longer relational, it is contractual.

Free camping, van life, moving lightly, can look unstable from the outside.

But for many of us, it is not about escaping responsibility. It is about rebuilding something older, interdependence instead of isolation. Presence instead of fortification.

For some, it's also simply about survival.

Van life does not guarantee heart, but it keeps the door open. When you are mobile, safety does not come from walls. It comes from awareness, cooperation, shared tools, shared meals, shared watch.

The divide here is not vans versus houses.

Nor is it homeowners versus travellers.

Many homeowners showed warmth and humanity, as your article reflected.

The deeper divide is between fear-based containment and heart-based connection.

When safety becomes something that must be purchased alone, when belonging is measured financially, we risk losing something ancient.

And perhaps in a time of housing pressure, it is worth asking whether our systems are structured only to regulate space, or whether they can also make room for relationship.

This is not an attack on Council.

It is an invitation to examine the culture we are quietly reinforcing.

Security can be invoiced, belonging cannot.

Jay Bester
Mullumbimby

the world for hundreds of years climaxing with Hitler's horrific and systematic Holocaust during World War II.

As a result the founders of the nation of Israel were hoping to finally have a secure homeland in the Middle East. All Jews want to feel safe in their homes and so do the Palestinians, which is an enshrined basic human right!

Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin and the PLO's Yasser Arafat created the Oslo Peace Accord in 1993, which sadly ended with the senseless assassination of Rabin by a right-wing fundamentalist Jew.

The Oslo Accord was suggesting a peaceful co-existence of Arabs and Jews in Israel. Since then right-wing fundamentalist thinking has gained momentum in Israel. So have fundamentalist Muslim Iran, Hamas and Hisbollah. They're hell bent on wiping each other off the face of the earth. The effects of such thinking is manifest

in today's massacres in Israel, and today's Gaza. I think it will never stop unless both peoples engage in their psychological healing. It's an irony that today's Jewish state is responsible for the suffering of innocent homeless children in Gaza and that Hamas is choosing to massacre more than 1,200 Jews in a single day on 7 October 2023.

Think of the genocide in the Jewish Warsaw Ghetto, Poland in 1940 or think of the 1948 Nakba with more than 700,000 Palestinians, at best deported or at worst massacred? Tit for tat is the over-simplistic answer of right-wing fundamentalists on both sides. Looking at it from a scientific criminology point of view all we can ask for is for 'the laying-down of arms'; and each single Israeli and Palestinian to engage personally in their respective process of generational trauma healing. Learn to find your heart, developing a sense of compassion, and

let your sense of conscience guide your actions in sharing this beautiful Jewish Arab homeland of Israel. Otherwise the madness of victim-offender overlap will go on forever.

Horst Tietze
Montecollum

'War criminal' Herzog

How traumatising to watch the unprovoked extreme violence of the police in Sydney at the nationwide rally against the war criminal Herzog on Monday a week ago.

Then having to see how these thugs attacked kneeling worshippers in their prayers was outrageous and disgusting. The use of pepper spray reminded me of the behaviour of ICE (immigration and customs) officers in Minnesota. So shocking to see Labor's Minns and Albanese defending these atrocious criminal outbursts by the police. Former Liberal prime minister Tony Abbott is calling for rubber bullet weapons and more.

What an insult to invite this man who was seen to write on bombs before they were used to kill women and children. But then we have to remind ourselves that our Labor government gave \$917 million taxpayers dollars to the 'Elbit System', an Israeli war technology company, around 20 days after five-year-old Hind Rajab was for hours alone, alive, in a car with all other family members having been killed.

She was on her dead uncle's telephone begging her mum to get her while she was bleeding and worried about blood getting on her clothes. Her and the ambulance workers were killed hours later on January 29, 2024.

They counted 355 rounds on the car and the *Washington Post* proved through satellite images that there were Israeli tanks in the area which Israel disputed as usual.

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Israeli history

Perhaps a few corrections, in 'editors notes' on letters and articles, may go to supporting less conflicting, and more informed, understanding of the Israel/Palestine/Gaza situation.

While I appreciate Daniel Berg's letters, 'Judaism is a well-respected religion with millions of practitioners worldwide', his 'Israel is a state or country run by a comparatively small clique of adherents to a clique or cult within Judaism called Zionism' is incorrect.

The facts are, that after six million were killed by Hitler, approximately half of the world's Jews now live in Israel (and globally numbers have not reached pre-Hitler).

And 'Zionist cult' - the Wailing Wall in Jerusalem, is on the ancient, pre-Bible and Biblically-named, Mount Zion. The wall is not a 'cult's' abandoned relic, it is the 2,000-year-old earliest cultural and religious remains of the main Jewish temple of the Jewish country of Israel, after the Roman colonisers attempted to demolish Jerusalem, and rebuild it dedicated to Roman gods 2,000 years ago.

Jews have continued to live there for 3,500 years. And there was a Jewish

Star of David-badged Zion Corps unit of the British army, formed in 1915 of Jews from Israel and Egypt, that fought at Gallipoli.

Zion, used by Jews as an alternative identity for Israel, is also mentioned in the Bible, and is not a new identity cult of Jews, (whereas Palestinian is a recent term using the Roman colonisers' name for the country).

Modern Israel was a part of the regional decolonisation process that handed back sovereignty to those that lived there, which was enacted by the UN, which included a Zionist's proposed Jewish governance over a multi-cultural, and multi-religious country on a small part of the original land of Israel.

But the UN enactment was rejected two months prior to the UN handover by surrounding Arab states, who attacked Israel.

Jihadists have continued to attack Israel for the last 78 years, which is the significant issue driving the conflict.

Regarding the Gaza flotilla, both in a recent *Echo* article, and on their fundraising site, the organisers say is 'breaching the illegal blockade'.

The Israeli sea blockade is legal under international law.

The flotilla organisers know that, as they took Israel

One Nation are not a serious alternative

I was both saddened and appalled to arrive at my regular, long-standing cafe in Mullumbimby to find a large meeting of One Nation members and supporters taking place.

According to a Facebook post, this was to be followed by a small business visitation to nearby shops, which I also witnessed.

Mullumbimby and the Byron Shire have long been vibrant and inclusive communities with a reputation for socially and environmentally progressive activism.

One Nation distracts from the deeper structural flaws in our society and advances a simplistic narrative that pits (white) 'Aussies' against 'woke' and 'immigrant' others.

They don't actually have solutions to the housing crisis or growing socioeconomic inequity, or any of the serious challenges that Australia is facing.

Right-wing political parties like One Nation (and other fascist, neo-Nazi ethno-nationalist groups) have strategies to grow their party base and gain electoral influence.

These include preying on people in financial hardship, the disenfranchised and those on the left with an understandable distrust of government.

Declining trade union membership, the spread of neoliberalism, the growing cost of living and rampant inequality underpins the distraction and hostility

towards establishment politics.

The rate that these tactics seem to be succeeding is terrifying, and the rise of One Nation can no longer be ignored.

So which political party can step up to the challenge that has failed the mainstream, business-as-usual parties?

Surely only the Greens and independents can challenge the rapidly rising scourge, starting in the Byron Shire.

Freedom of speech and political opinion isn't a one-way street, and licence to preach hate; nor does it force others to listen to it, or prohibit criticism or ridicule of these harmful views in the public domain.

Don't forget that One

Nation is still climate denialist, anti-renewable, pro-coal, anti-abortion, pro-gun, pro-Trump, and have over two decades of racist policies and ideas.

The fact that Pauline Hanson dines with Gina Rinehart tells you whose interests she is serving, and on which side of the political aisle she sits.

Pauline is not a working class hero, she is a political opportunist working to advance her narrow agenda.

To be silent is to be complicit.

For those who think One Nation is the answer, I say to them: you don't eat dog shit just because you don't like broccoli.

S Davies
Mullumbimby

to the UN after the first flotilla was stopped, and the UN declared the blockade was lawful. They then took it to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for a review, but the ICC saw no legal impediment to the UN ruling and declined the application.

It is the flotilla's attempt to breach the blockade which is illegal, and the flotilla members will all be legally

arrested. While the flotilla gains focus as a humanitarian action, it is overlaid by this lie to falsely generate hate and fundraising.

Elections are coming to Israel in October, with four separate Arab parties, and Arabs standing within predominantly Jewish parties for election.

More Arabs have been elected in Israel than Aborigines here, and Arab parties have been a part of Israeli governing coalitions - and these Arabs are predominantly Zionists that support being Palestinian Israelis.

But the right-wing government has eased rules for Israelis to buy land in the West Bank, and the capacity of a two-state solution is receding.

So if you want a just peace, and a stop to both the Israeli and jihadist violence, learn some history of what's driving the conflict, and get on board with the Jewish and Muslim Israeli peace groups, and stop falsely conflating Israel with an illegal colonial settler colony, like Australia is, and bring discussion back on the facts of the conflict, and not by guilt by propaganda.

John Lazarus
Byron Bay

Capital gains tax

I commend the Labor government for at last proposing to reduce or remove the capital gains tax concession on property.

This action will inject much needed extra funding into the economy as well as reducing the ever-growing gulf between the wealthy and the poor. It may also help to bring down the price of housing.

Negative gearing has contributed to high accommodation price rises due to the

increased take-up of property by investors. If limits were placed on negative gearing, such as only allowing it on one property and phasing it out on additional properties, it would become a less attractive investment and this would mean more accommodation would be available for owner-occupiers. This action would inevitably bring down prices.

Both the above tax adjustments would bring down housing prices and this would be of benefit to first home buyers but not to many property owners who would see their investment in the property market fall.

The latter group should reflect on the fact that they are benefitting from these tax breaks at the expense of the next generation.

It is about time we considered the impact of the above tax concessions on the inability of many of the next generation to own their home.

I have personally owned investment properties and benefitted from the tax breaks. However, my adult children have experienced difficulty in entering the housing market without my financial assistance which was available as a result of the tax breaks on owning properties. Those who did not own investment properties might not have been able to provide this assistance.

At the last election the government announced that it would not change capital gains tax and negative gearing concessions on properties. However, the price of housing has increased so much since then that all action to reduce property prices becomes much more urgent.

The number of individuals and companies that have invested in the property market will mean that there is likely to be strong opposition to these tax changes for personal financial reasons. It is the role of a strong and visionary government to make the much-needed changes. Does this government have the wisdom and courage to make these changes happen?

Chris Abraham
Mullumbimby

We the people

I have voted local, state, and federal for over 60 years.

Every ballot paper has had names of individual candidates. Once elected, the member has one and one only job. One responsibility.

The responsibility to express, in parliament, the will of the majority in their electorate. This is democracy!

They are not to decide what the people should want, and then proceed to sell it to them. They must ask the people what policies we want.

Hell, they asked what the people wanted about homosexual marriage and about a voice to parliament and the executive government to be enshrined in Australia's Constitution.

The will of the people was conveyed to the politicians in both cases. We can now do the same for every piece of legislation to go before parliament. We can decide the will of the majority in each electorate and apply the vote of/for the people in our government.

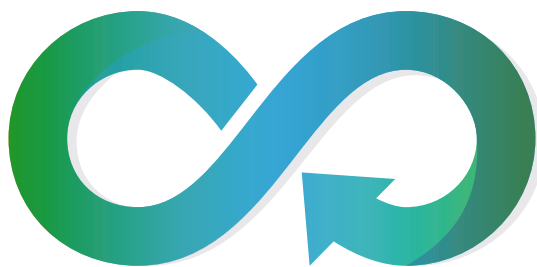
We have the technology. It can be done. The Swiss have had a form of it in their 'cantons' for decades.

Anthony Plesko
West Ballina

Losers supporting locals

The Echo isn't a multinational, or even interstate-based, media group that employs a couple of locals for each publication and does the minimum necessary to send maximum profits out of our area. Why? Because we're not smart enough. We haven't even set up as a NFP to reduce the tax we pay.

The fact that last year we gave more money back to this community than we gained from advertising is due solely to financial mismanagement - basically we employ far too many local people.



Supporting local businesses keeps the local economy circular and strong.

We pay 25 employees every week, more than double that if you include all the contract columnists, IT people, the 20-odd distributors and so on. And annoyingly, even though no-one at *The Echo* gets paid a lot, we can't get them to resign and find a job elsewhere.

So, if you're a local business that would like to make a direct contribution to your local economy, and loves being part of a lively and engaged community with access to accurate news and information, advertise with *The Echo*!



KEEPING THE HYPE OUT OF HYPERLOCAL SINCE 1986

'Under haste' for rail trail risks rail option

Richard Whitting

The rail trail lobby group campaign has been so well-financed and extensive that there is now a widespread community expectation that rail trails on the railway corridor will, and should, go ahead.

The lobby groups produce hype aimed at improving their chances of community and councillor support.

They dismiss and close down debate about personal safety; ongoing maintenance costs; extra staff costs; and, the influence of weather conditions.

Campaigns that obscure the issues related to rail trails affect the community's and councillors' ability to take a balanced view of potential uses for the railway corridor.

Therefore I want to add some balance to the debate.

Firstly, note that rail trails are for push bikes, e-bikes, and pedestrians.

Public transport

Will rail trails in Byron Shire serve our need for community public transport?

These trails are primarily

for leisure/tourism activity, not for public transport – and it's all weather dependent.

Have rail trails proven safe for public use elsewhere?

There are reports of issues on the existing Murwillumbah rail trail.

Are there any other possible public uses for the rail corridor? One Council study highlights the potential use of light rail for public transport (*Arcadis Study 2019*).

While energy-efficient light rail would serve public transport needs significantly, there is still the complementary need for more buses (hopefully solar/hybrid) that deliver us closer to home.

The Northern Rivers Rail Ltd want to use the rail corridor for trains (preferably solar/hybrid).

They have conducted extensive studies (spending over \$300,000) examining the cost of restoring the tracks and bridges.

The project is designed to be self-funded and not an extra cost to Council.

In order to develop on-formation rail trails, railway lines and track sleepers will be removed.



The derelict Mullumbimby railway station.

Photo Aslan Shand.

Notably, between Mullum and Billinudgel, the rail trails will prohibit trains, because there isn't enough room for both trains and rail trails (think tunnels and thin bridge sections of the rail).

Meanwhile, there are significant environmental constraints between Mullum and Byron that are likely to prohibit combined trains and off-formation rail trails using the rail corridor (e.g. wetlands; environmentally protected lands).

Ratepayer cost?

How much have Council's preliminary studies and staff time cost ratepayers?

To date, Council have commissioned at least three expensive studies concerning the potential uses for the rail corridor. What other costs will Council (ratepayers) bear if rail trails are developed?

Ratepayers will be funding the ongoing maintenance costs of these multiple leisure trails.

The initial development of rail trails and long-term ongoing care is likely to involve a Council staff project officer, plus the employment of a new permanent staff member (as Tweed Council have done).

Add to this, Council is likely to have to compensate

for the impact on significant fauna and flora, such as revegetating Council land elsewhere (or purchasing land for this purpose) to 'pay' for the environmental losses.

Which Council budget items will be depleted to fund extra staff and ongoing maintenance costs, etc?

The current rail trail lobby campaign is just the tip of the iceberg. A number of other routes are promoted by the lobby group many of which have significant environmental and engineering constraints.

Should councillors make a decision about future use of the rail trail before the Northern Rivers Rail Ltd have completed their consultations with Council and the state government?

The rail trail lobby campaign have developed widespread community expectations and asserts that there is no time to waste and that Council must proceed with plans for rail trails without trains.

It would be a tragedy to lose a much-needed public train transport option because of undue haste.

There is no shortage of rail trails in the region, but there is a severe shortage of public transport options both within towns and between towns.

Tourism drawcard?

Should we be duplicating rail trails in our region? Should we be trying to attract more tourism?

Clearly the state government would like to off-load the rail corridor land to Council to avoid their obligation to manage the land.

Councillors are considering options that are not supported by thorough assessment of all the potential pros and cons. The 'do nothing' options is also a standard valid option to consider. Context is important. Increased bus services, maintenance of our roads and drainage, bike paths within towns, plus strategic footpaths are obvious high-priority community needs.

Richard Whitting is an environmental landuse planner and assessor, and is based in South Golden Beach.

A wrap of last week's news highlights from around NSW and Australia

Hans Lovejoy

News can be like a blizzard – an overwhelming blanket of white noise that is as distracting as it is sometimes useless.

What is useful, of course, is learning what the powerful are plotting, which can help inform voters during elections. Here are some of last week's news highlights from around the state of NSW and Australia.

Putting aside Israeli President Issac Herzog's Australian visit, which flamed division and diminished the reputation of the NSW police and Labor governments, one of the most remarkable stories was around AI.

A fake AI story with images was posted online describing a confrontation between finance reporter Alan Kohler and the CEO of the Commonwealth Bank, Matt Comyn, on the set of ABC TV's 7.30.

Kohler wrote about it on abc.net.au, and outlined various high profile AI developers who have just resigned while signalling grave dangers of the technology.

The main threat of course, is that white collar jobs may disappear in a decade, and there is no real plans by governments around regulation.

Kohler wrote, 'It's now dawning on the world, including investors for the first time, that artificial intelligence is moving well ahead of any plans to deal with its consequences.'

Senate estimates

Moving on, Independent journalist Michael West highlighted a Senate estimates question around a defence chief who retired, and then immediately started work for US arms maker, Lockheed Martin.

Also, Senator David Pocock asked in Senate estimates: 'Would it be accurate to say that the tax on offshore gas exports, is still giving us less revenue than the tax on beer?'

A reluctant bureaucrat admitted it was the case.

The Guardian's Adam Morton, meanwhile, reported that Labor took the opportunity of Angus Taylor claiming the Liberal leadership, to slip

out a handful of announcements around threatened species and expanding a coal project.

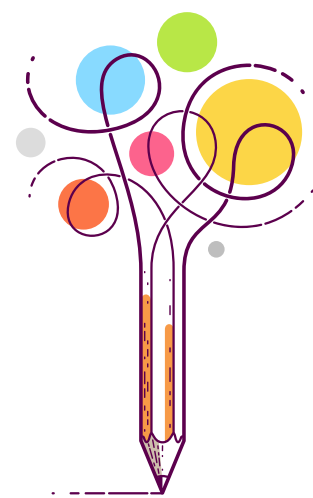
Calls for a prehistoric ray-like species – which is found only in Macquarie Harbour on Tasmania's west coast – to be classified as critically endangered was unsupported by the environment minister, Murray Watt. The Maugean skate remains as 'endangered', despite its survival being at risk from salmon farming in the harbour.

While Labor argue the skate is recovering, Australia recently added 34 new species to its national threatened species list under the *EPBC Act 1999*, bringing the total to around 2,316 threatened plants, animals, and ecosystems as of early 2026.

And last week, federal environment minister Murray Watt approved an expansion of the Middlemount mine in Queensland's Bowen Basin.

Morton writes, 'The government has approved 33 coal and gas developments or extensions since it was elected in 2022.'

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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 will be 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.

The sooner you get your story in, the sooner we can start selecting stories that will be published in *The Echo* in print and online at www.echo.net.au. Each writer is able to submit up to, but no more than two entries.

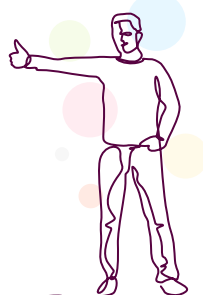
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 Come and try our new summer menu. Savour our chargrilled anticuchos, indulge in fresh ceviche & oysters, or elevate your night with the Roca dining experience. Pair it all with a classic Pisco Sour or our best-selling Hot Like Papi cocktail.
JUST OPENED: Roca Cabana – our brand new pool bar in the heart of Byron Bay.
 Follow us to find out more: @roca.cabana

BYRON BAY




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

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



Bacco Wine Bar
 Opening Hours: Wednesday – Sunday
 Opening times: 3pm – late
 Happy Hour: 3 – 5pm
 Email: bacco.mullumbimby@gmail.com
 Phone: 0434 450 415
 Instagram: @bacco.mullumbimby

Your favourite new wine and charcuterie board bar in Mullumbimby. Italian aperitivo in true enoteca style. Buon cibo. Buon vino. Buon amici.




NO BONES
 Kitchen + Bar.
 11 Fletcher Street,
 BYRON BAY
 0481 148 007

Love is best shared over good food.
 This Valentine's Day at No Bones, enjoy a four-course tasting menu with a drink on arrival, flavour packed plant-based dishes and an atmosphere made for connection - friends, family and lovers.
Book via our website www.nobones.co




Olivewood Bistro
 Located at Murwillumbah Golf Club
 Open Lunch Monday – Sunday
 Dinner Tuesday – Sunday
 Call: (02) 6672 1799
www.murwillumbahgolfclub.com.au

We warmly welcome Olivewood Bistro to Murwillumbah Golf Club.
 Locals know Le Ping and Simone from their time running 'White Olive' where they built a strong reputation for excellent food and warm hospitality.



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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.
 Menu and more details
 @mainstreet_burgerbar
'Make a meal of it'
Add chips and a drink, just \$5.



Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com
 0414 895 441
 Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.

Eat drink

ISSUE #10 OUT EASTER 2026

Book your spot now!

Be a part of this stylish magazine celebrating the amazing food, drinks and delights of the Northern Rivers.

Contact the Echo sales team to secure your spot
adcop@echo.net.au or call 02 6684 1777.

echo.net.au/eat-drink



The Good Life



Sprouted goodness: an easy, living snack for everyday health

Photo and story: Allie Godfrey

Sprouted legumes are one of the simplest, most nourishing foods you can add to your daily routine – and they're far more versatile than most people realise. While many assume sprouts are only for salads, they can be enjoyed straight from the bag as a snack, gently warmed, or incorporated into almost any meal of the day.

One of the easiest ways to enjoy sprouts is on their own. They're light, satisfying, and perfect for eating on the go. At home, they shine with just a few simple additions: a splash of apple cider vinegar, a drizzle of olive oil, a sprinkle of dukkah, salt, and cracked black pepper. Add lemon or lime juice for brightness, or toss them through warm rice with avocado and other sprouts for a nourishing dinner.

Sprouts are also surprisingly adaptable to warm meals. You can add them to omelettes, spread them on toast, or stir them through soups, stir-fries, and curries at the very end – just enough to warm them without cooking them. This makes them ideal for people who prefer warm foods while still wanting to keep meals fresh and alive.

Nutritionally, sprouts are considered a living food. Unlike harvested fruits or vegetables that begin oxidising as soon as they are picked, sprouted seeds remain alive and nutrient-dense right up until you eat them. When seeds are soaked and sprouted, they shed natural enzyme inhibitors and protective compounds, making their vitamins, minerals, and enzymes more available and easier to digest.

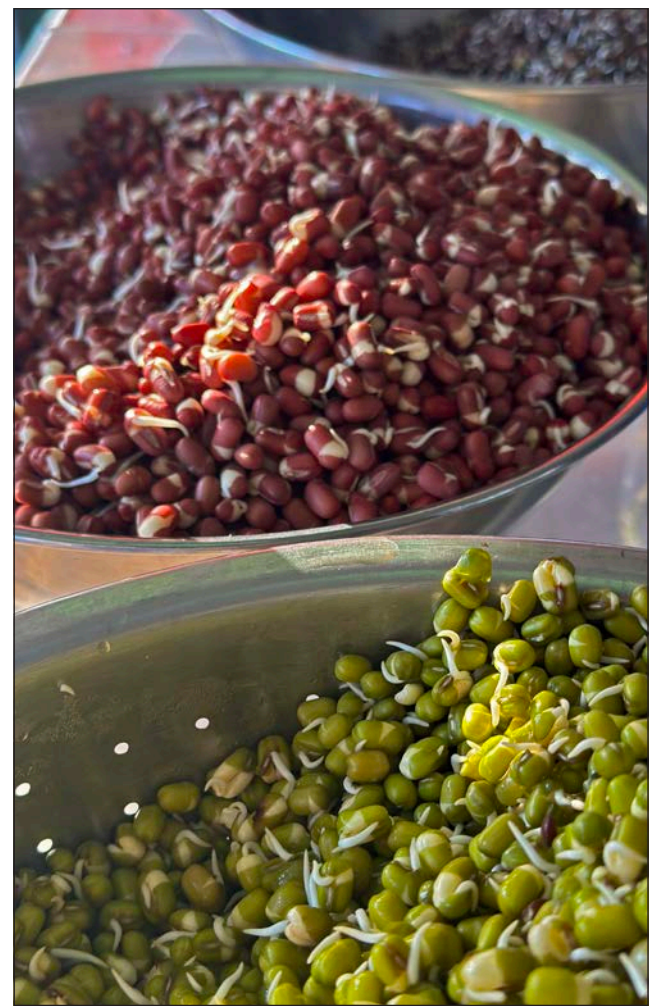
Because they are gentle on the digestive system and rich in nutrients, sprouts can be enjoyed daily and in generous amounts. Varieties such as lentils, chickpeas, peas, mung beans, and adzuki beans each offer different textures,



Michael and Sonny from Sprout Lovers: fresh, living, healthy & adaptable, but unlike their sprouts they are difficult to cook.

flavours, and nutritional profiles, supporting overall vitality and gut health.

Simple, affordable, and endlessly adaptable, sprouts are a powerful reminder that good nutrition doesn't need to be complicated – just fresh, living, and enjoyed often.



Nonnies Wine Store: A thoughtful new addition to Mullumbimby

Tucked into the heart of Mullumbimby, right on the corner opposite the Council chambers and the Commonwealth Bank, Nonnies Wine Store is a boutique bottleshop built on

community, sustainability, and a genuine love of good drinks. Locally-owned and run by Arnhem and Ryan, the store offers a carefully curated selection of small-batch and organic wines,

artisan spirits, craft beers, and deli goods – each chosen with intention.

The focus at Nonnies is firmly on quality over quantity. Many of the wines come from small,

independent producers who prioritise organic and sustainable practices, reflecting the values of both the owners and the wider Mullumbimby community. Alongside the wines, customers will find thoughtfully-sourced spirits, locally-loved craft beers, and deli items that make it easy to build a perfect picnic or dinner pairing.

The name 'Nonnies' carries a special local legacy. It's a nod to Ryan's mum, who owned one of Mullumbimby's first clothing stores back in the 1980s – a time when the town was shaping its creative, independent identity. That same spirit lives on in the store today, blending nostalgia with a modern, conscious approach to retail.

For Arnhem and Ryan, Nonnies was born from a simple idea: Mullumbimby needed a boutique wine store that reflected the town's values – local ownership, sustainability, and individuality.

The result is a welcoming space that feels as much about connection as it does about what's on the shelves.

More than just a place

to buy a bottle, Nonnies Wine Store is a reflection of Mullumbimby itself – thoughtful, community-driven, and proudly independent.

■ Nonnies Wine Store
78 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby
Open six days a week from 10am to 7pm (later on Wednesday to Saturday)
Open Sundays 12 noon to 6pm.



Arnhem cradling a rather nice bottle of Barbacan

BYRON BAY PORK & MEATS BUTCHERY



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

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

Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley Football Club celebrate new sponsors



Last Sunday saw the Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley Football Club (MBVFC) come out in force for an all-club fun run (with juniors, seniors, fans, and parents) through Mullumbimby to raise money for the club. They ended up outside their new sponsors the Top Pub (formerly the Courthouse Hotel) in Mullumbimby to enjoy a refreshing drink and a meal. Photo supplied

Time to get ready for the season ahead



Trials are on for a range of teams for this year's season. Photo supplied

The Mullumbimby Brunswick Valley Football Club is in the middle of trials for a range of grades.

Coming up this Saturday, 21 February is Grade 15 trials at Pine Avenue Fields in Mullumbimby from 5 to 6.30pm. Players interested in trialling are encouraged to attend.

Contact coach Joa 0431 959 154.

The second grade 14 training session is on Wednesday, 18 February at Pine Avenue from 5 to 6.30pm, and they're looking for a few more players to join the squad for 2026.

Two sessions are on for

Grade 12 trials on Saturday, 21 February and Saturday, 14 March both starting at 5pm.

'If you're keen to be part of the 2026 squad, come along and show us what you've got,' said organisers.

For more information, contact Marlo on 0468 450 931.

Kneeboarders Inc surf riders



Kneeandertal kneeboarders are ready to ride. Photo supplied

Bruce Oastler

'I can't stand surfing' read the writing on the front of the t-shirt. Maybe 'won't' would've been more appropriate than can't, but hey, let's not get bogged down in the detail here.

Stranger things have happened since man first crawled from caves, but ten kneeboarders floating about in the Indian Ocean, soaking up the atmosphere and sampling its waves, must be right up there with big-foot sightings by flat Earthers in Idaho.

Now before anyone gets too upset, I'd like to point out that I've got absolutely nothing against Idaho, firstly I've never been there, and secondly, who doesn't like potatoes?

Where were we? that's right kneeboard surfing in the Maldives, which was the catalyst for the inception of Kneeboarders Inc. What started as a conversation in 2017 while floating around on a boat in the Maldivian central atolls, eventually morphed into more discussions back on the girt by sea. It took a few years to eventuate, but eventually

eventuate it did. Are you keeping up? good!

Knees up for alternative wave riding

What exactly is Kneeboarders Inc? Good question, glad you asked. K-inc as it's affectionately known is a surfers club dedicated to the alternative wave-riding act of kneeboard surfing.

Kneeboarding was immensely popular back in the '60s, '70s and early '80s, but has been on the decline for some time. Subsequently, proponents of the art are mostly from an older demographic, commonly referred to as kneeandertals.

Byron to Qld

After a plethora of discussion over various tables in multiple Gold Coast restaurants, another trip or two to into the wilds of the Indian Ocean, 2021 finally saw the founding of Kneeboarders Inc, which was incorporated as a not-for-profit sporting organisation in Queensland.

With the constitution and all the other rigmarole signed and stamped, the club then became affiliated

with Surfing Australia through Surfing Queensland. Club members come from as far north as the Sunshine Coast and down to Byron Bay and beyond.

The club meets up on the second Sunday of the month, and although K-inc is based on the boardriders format that encompasses competitive surfing, most members are more than happy to get together for a chat and a free surf. Let's not forget a bacon and egg roll or ten.

After many years in the wilderness, 2024 saw the reintroduction of kneeboard surfing in the Queensland State Surfing Championships. Surfing Queensland (and Surfing Australia) have been most welcoming and together we're endeavouring to build this competitive aspect of kneeboarding. In the meantime, we'll still keep chiselling away on the social aspect too.

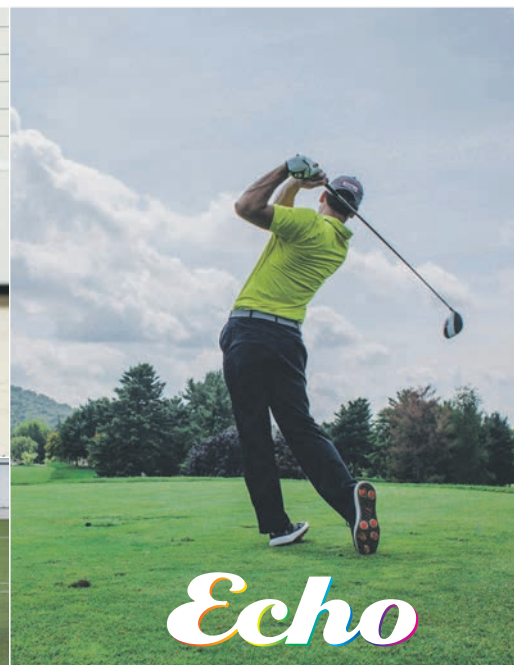
At the end of the day K-inc is a collection of like-minded surfers, who look at the sport through a slightly different lens. I think Nino Culotta summed it up best when he said, 'They're a weird mob'.

For more info email: kneeboarders.inc@gmail.com

CALLING ALL SPORTS

The Echo wants to support you.

Please send stories, pics, match reports, upcoming events, tall tales (not too tall mind you), results and anecdotes to sport@echo.net.au.



Echo

ENROLMENTS

2026-2027



COBBERS CHILD CARE CENTRE

For 20 years Cobbers has been an owner-operated family business in the heart of Mullumbimby. They take on the role of an extended family, providing a warm, caring environment to nurture and educate children aged 2 to 5 years.

Cobbers' preschool program is delivered by the service owner, a qualified early childhood teacher and their long serving educators. They foster an environment which allows children to feel safe, grow in self-esteem and develop trusting and caring relationships with the educators.

Enrol now for 2026. There are vacancies on every day in all age groups.

02 6684 2164
admin@cobberschildcare.com.au
www.cobberschildcare.com.au

EUREKA PUBLIC SCHOOL

With small classes, teachers know students well and respond to their individual strengths and needs. Close partnerships between staff, students, and families create a safe, welcoming environment where children grow in confidence and independence.

Student voice matters through their Student Representative Council and leadership opportunities, fostering responsibility and future-ready skills. The garden program and strong home-school connections provide hands-on learning, teamwork, and belonging.

Students excel in sport, the arts, choir, and STEM programs. We also host a weekly playgroup, welcoming families early into our school community.

Visit us to meet our team and see Eureka in action
phone 02 6688 4272
eureka-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au



HINTERLAND CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

At Hinterland Christian College, education is more than just lessons and classrooms - it's about community, character, and cultivating a love of learning that lasts a lifetime. The 'village' culture means every child is known, valued, and encouraged to flourish. A school where relationships matter; Creativity is celebrated, and faith shapes the way the community lives and learns together.

From the Sparks (K-2), where curiosity takes root, through Ignite (3-4) and Blaze (5-6), where confidence and friendships grow. Then, into Secondary, where students are equipped for the future - the College's programs are designed to nurture both hearts and minds.

With small class sizes, dedicated teachers, and a Christ-centred foundation, students at Hinterland are inspired to explore their gifts, discover purpose, and step boldly into life. Limited enrolment places available for 2026. You are invited to come and discover a school where your child is not just enrolled, but truly belongs.

02 6684 1559
114a Main Arm Road, Mullumbimby
hinterland.nsw.edu.au

COBBERS
Child Care Centre
8 Tincogan Street, Mullumbimby

Vacancies for 2026

- Open 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday
- Licensed for 36 children aged 2 to 5 years
- Preschool program delivered by the service owner, a qualified Early Childhood Teacher
- Child Care Subsidy available to reduce fees
- Weekly fee discount of \$52.31 for 4/5 year olds
- Weekly fee discount of \$15.69 for 3 year olds

For more information visit our website
www.cobberschildcare.com.au
call 6684 2164
or email admin@cobberschildcare.com.au

EUREKA PUBLIC SCHOOL

NOW TAKING ENROLMENTS

What we offer

- ✓ Small school with high sense of belonging
- ✓ Personalised learning, small class sizes
- ✓ Experienced and caring teachers
- ✓ Beautiful well equipped grounds
- ✓ Strong community involvement

Contact us now to inquire

02 66884272
eureka-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Hinterland CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

Freedom to Flourish

If you want your children to flourish academically, socially, and emotionally, Hinterland Christian College is the best school for you.

Within our safe and environmentally-sustainable facilities you will find a dedicated team of high-performance teachers that are passionate and committed to growing socially-responsible and well-educated human beings.

Book a tour of our school by visiting our website at hinterland.nsw.edu.au or call 02 6684 1559

ENROLMENTS

2026-2027



MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL

Mullumbimby Community Preschool offers a holistic approach to children's learning. For children aged 4-5 there is school readiness program from Monday to Wednesday, and a play-based program on Thursday and Friday for children aged 3-4. The large outdoor includes a mud kitchen, sandpit, fort and vegetable garden. Indoors, arts, crafts, fine motor and construction activities are conducted in the air-conditioned space.

02 6684 1269

90 Station Street, Mullumbimby
mullumpreschool.org.au

VISTARA PRIMARY SCHOOL - EDUCATION WITH HEART AND PURPOSE

At Vistara Primary School, learning is more than academics. It's about nurturing wisdom, compassion and a lifelong love of discovery. Guided by Neohumanist principles, they foster respect for self, others and the natural world, weaving creativity, values and academic excellence into every day.

Their small classes mean every child is known, celebrated and encouraged to grow with confidence. Surrounded by nature, supported by a caring community, students flourish not only in their studies but in their sense of belonging and purpose

Enrolments are now open. See how education at Vistara inspires children to think deeply, act kindly and embrace the world with joy.

Book your tour today
02 6624 4127
vistara.nsw.edu.au



IGNITE YOUR CHILD'S POTENTIAL AT MULLUMBIMBY HIGH SCHOOL

Mullumbimby High School is a comprehensive public school serving a community rich in diversity, talent and character. Staff, students and families work together to create a learning environment where engagement and wellbeing are interrelated, enabling every student to achieve their true potential. The school nurtures high potential across intellectual, creative, physical, and social-emotional domains through extension, enrichment and inclusive programs.

Year 5 and 6 students and families are warmly invited to Step Up Night on 5 March at 5pm to explore opportunities and pathways to success.

Learn more at mullumbimb-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/

MULLUMBIMBY COMMUNITY PRE-SCHOOL

NOW ENROLLING 2026



Providing a supportive, educational and creative program for children between 3 and 5 years of age.

MON, TUE & WED
9am to 3pm
(4 - 5 y/o)

THUR & FRI
8.30am to 4pm
(3 - 4 y/o)

02 6684 1269 | www.mullumpreschool.org.au







Vistara Primary School

A beautiful view to education

Enrolling now for 2026

Small classes, big opportunities

Nestled in the treetops of Richmond Hill, Vistara has nurtured young hearts and minds for over 30 years. We offer a whole-child approach to learning; blending academic, emotional, social and creative growth.



Learn what makes us unique - come to our info session

Tuesday 31st March, 4pm to 5.30pm
41 Richmond Hill Rd, near Goonellabah, 2480 vistara.nsw.edu.au



Mullumbimby High School

Rich in diversity, talent and character

High potential and gifted education offerings across intellectual, creative, physical, social and emotional domains.

STEP UP NIGHT
5 March
5pm
for Year 5 + 6 students/families



Learn more
<https://mullumbimb-h.schools.nsw.gov.au>



ENROLMENTS

2026-2027



EMMANUEL ANGLICAN COLLEGE LEARNING LIVING LEADING

Choosing the right school is a defining decision for your child's future. Emmanuel Anglican College offers a seamless, holistic education from Preschool to Year 12. As the #1 ranked school in the Northern Rivers for the 2025 HSC, the College combines academic excellence with a deep commitment to pastoral care.

The coeducational campus in Ballina provides a safe, inclusive environment where every student is known and valued. From play-based discovery in the Early Learning Centre to the innovative, future-focused Secondary curriculum, students are empowered to become people of character. Guided by values of Compassion, Creativity, Courage and Citizenship, Emmanuel students graduate as confident, resilient and independent lifelong learners.

Discover a community that inspires excellence and adaptability, where potential meets opportunity.

Open Evening: Thursday 26 March, 4pm-6pm

All welcome

62 Horizon Drive, West Ballina

www.eac.nsw.edu.au

02 6681 5054

enrolments@eac.nsw.edu.au

A COMMUNITY THAT INSPIRES

St. John's Primary School, Mullumbimby, is a vibrant learning community where students are empowered to achieve their full potential. With a rich history of providing a quality, faith-centred education, the school fosters a warm and inclusive environment that celebrates the unique spiritual and cultural identity of every child.

Guided by the Catholic tradition, St. John's is committed to inspiring creative and curious learners. The school's dedicated teachers create a supportive and engaging atmosphere, utilising modern teaching methods and evidence-based practices to ensure academic excellence. Beyond the classroom, a strong emphasis on community involvement and service instils values of dignity, leadership, and responsibility.

At St. John's, every student is seen and valued. It's a place where children are not just educated but nurtured, preparing them to be confident, compassionate, and lifelong learners.

02 6684 2386

mbyplism.catholic.edu.au/

BYRON BAY COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Byron Community Primary School Starfish and Whales classes (years 3-6) are shining examples of holistic, engaging and deeply meaningful education. With passionate teachers and strong learning support, students benefit from small class sizes and personalised guidance across academic, social and emotional learning. Programs such as Beach School, Skate School, Rock and Water, Becoming a Teenager, and rich inquiry-based learning equip students with real-world skills, resilience and self-awareness. Leadership and responsibility are nurtured, with students contributing authentically to the life of the school. A strong connection to Country underpins learning, including hands-on environmental projects on land and in the sea. Creative expression is prioritised through visual arts, music writing and performance. In Starfish and Whales, students grow into curious, compassionate and confident learners, beautiful humans, ready for the academic and social challenges of any high school they choose. Places are available for years 3-6 in 2026. Enquire today.

bcps.org.au

02 6685 8208

53 Tennyson St, Byron Bay



Join us for
OPEN EVENING
THURSDAY 26 MARCH
4.00 - 6.00PM



We'd love to hear from you

02 6681 5054
enrolments@eac.nsw.edu.au



St John's Primary School
Mullumbimby

ENROLMENTS OPEN

Please fill out the online enrolment form and the school will be in touch to conduct an interview.

- Free uniforms for Kinder students
- School Fee support for families who require it
- Inclusive community where everyone is welcome

Call 66842386 to book a school tour!

**Enrol Now for
2027**



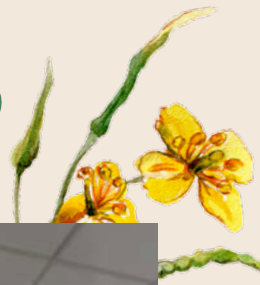
Curious, Creative, Connected and Committed Unlocking Individual Potential

Discover our exceptional academic curriculum, vibrant arts programs, and commitment to nurturing remarkable individuals. Contact us today to learn more.

www.bcps.org.au
53 Tennyson St, Byron Bay
Ph: 6685 8208
enrolments@bcps.org.au



health & healing



Releaf Integrative Clinic & Dispensary

Releaf Integrative Clinic & Dispensary brings a fresh, modern approach to traditional healthcare in Byron Bay. Located at 91 Jonson Street, Releaf specialises in alternative medicine, offering natural, evidence-informed therapies for those seeking a more holistic path to wellbeing. Our clinicians blend integrative care with a personalised approach, supporting patients who want options beyond conventional treatments. With Medicare-rebated consultations and an onsite dispensary, Releaf makes accessing alternative care simple, streamlined, and supportive. Whether you're exploring natural therapies for chronic health concerns or looking for a new way to approach your wellness, Releaf provides compassionate guidance and modern solutions.

Want to learn more? Book in for a free discovery call today. Visit releaf.com.au and discover a more natural way forward.

91 Jonson Street, Byron Bay
releaf.com.au



Where wellbeing meets community learning

Healing is more than a buzzword in the Northern Rivers, it's a lived practice. Byron Community College's Health & Healing courses blend practical skills with community connection.

Body-based courses including Reiki, Reflexology and Myofascial Release offer hands-on tools to restore balance and support whole-body wellbeing, while HeartMath Resilience teaches simple, science-backed techniques to regulate stress.

The NDIS Support Worker Workshop supports those entering care work, and Accidental Counsellor builds confidence for everyday people navigating difficult conversations with friends, family or colleagues.

Nature and nourishment also feature, with Learning the Language of Trees, Intro to Beekeeping, and a vibrant Kimchi Workshop celebrating fermentation, gut health and shared learning.

Join a supportive learning community and invest in your wellbeing today.

www.byroncollege.org.au
02 6684 3374



Dr Sam Gartland

Dr Sam Gartland is a UK-trained doctor, whose practice of medicine has been profoundly influenced by his own recovery from multiple sclerosis (MS). His area of interest is Lifestyle Medicine, a lifestyle approach centering on plant-based nutrition. Sam's new practice, Life Medical Mullumbimby, offers Lifestyle Medicine consultations that address the causes of disease alongside GP services, skin-checks and natural therapies.

Sam also holds a Masters in Sports Medicine. He has worked with Premier League and 'A' League football clubs and has been published in Sports Medicine literature. He has been a retreat facilitator for Overcoming MS and is a co-author of the *Overcoming MS Handbook*. Sam is committed to empowering others with the skills and knowledge to optimise their health.

Life Medical Mullumbimby
02 6680 2486
113 Stuart St, Mullumbimby
www.lifemedicalmullumbimby.com.au



Billinudgel Psychology: deep healing with EMDR intensives

Billinudgel Psychology is an established Northern Rivers practice offering Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing (EMDR) intensives – immersive, multi-day therapy experiences designed to accelerate meaningful healing. Clinical psychologist and director Gretta Bottomley leads these intensives, providing focused, extended EMDR sessions that support significant shifts in symptoms, often achieving in days what might otherwise take months of weekly therapy. Intensives are suitable for childhood trauma, PTSD, addiction, relationship issues, phobias, anxiety, depression, and chronic pain.

What sets the practice apart is its depth of training and experience in EMDR, with all therapists fully qualified in this evidence-based approach. In a calm, supportive environment, the team helps you move beyond survival and create lasting change. The practice is welcoming new clients; visit the website for information about services and costs.

0493 579 052
hello@billipsychology.com
www.billipsychology.com



Improve your Health with Lisa Strauss, Dietician and Naturopath

Lisa Strauss is an accredited practising Dietitian and qualified Naturopath who supports individuals to improve their health through a holistic, whole-person approach. She works with clients managing chronic disease, digestive issues and women's health concerns, focusing on nourishment, balance and long-term wellbeing. Lisa blends evidence-based nutrition with naturopathic principles, considering lifestyle, stress, sleep and individual needs alongside food. Known for her warm and down-to-earth style, she helps people make sense of health information and turn it into realistic, sustainable changes. Lisa offers individual consultations, group education and community wellbeing talks, empowering clients to feel informed, supported and confident in their health journey.

lisastrausshealth@gmail.com
0491 771 159
Ocean Shores Medical Centre 02 6680 1580
www.lisastrausshealth.com.au





Bangalow and Ballina Remedial Massage

Remedial massage is safe and effective for everybody and has many benefits for the body, mind and emotional states. It promotes health and physical wellbeing; relieves stress and tension; strengthens immune system and circulation; manages muscular pain; improves flexibility, range of movement and rehabilitation after injury; improves emotional states; relieves neck and back pain and other musculoskeletal dysfunctions; and much more!

Bangalow and Ballina Remedial Massage therapists are committed to the highest standard of care in all of their treatments. Treatments are reasonably priced as they believe massage should be part of everyone's lifestyle.



Book online, gift vouchers available
0499 490 088
bbrmassage.com.au
@bbr_massage



Bangalow Headache Clinic

At Bangalow Headache Clinic they treat headaches and migraines, jaw pain, clicking, grinding and locking, as well as vestibular disorders and dizziness.

Physiotherapist Michael Hayward has done extensive studies and exams, in both Australia and Europe, involving the head, neck and jaw. He has completed advanced vestibular competency training with the Northern American leaders in this area.

At Bangalow Headache Clinic they quite often find an overlap between headache and dizziness and/or headache and jaw problems.

If you experience jaw pain, locking or clicking, headaches, migraines or vertigo, call them.



0475 757 510
72 Byron Street, Bangalow
www.bangalowheadacheclinic.com.au



byron healing

byronhealing.com.au

Byron healing is a go-to website featuring informative and entertaining articles on health and wellbeing. It features a host of practitioners and businesses in the industry, offering a range of modalities and services across the Northern Rivers.



Upcoming byron healing client events

Learning the Language of Trees

Held by: Byron College
Date: Saturday, 21 February
Time: 10am – 4pm
Address: Mullum Campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby)
Booking contact: (02) 6684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

Myofascial Release Part 3

Held by: Byron College
Date & time: Friday, 27 February 5pm – 9pm, Saturday, 28th February & Sunday 1 March, 9am – 6pm
Address: Mullum Campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby)
Booking contact: (02) 6684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

Introduction to Compassionate Communication And What It Can Do For You

Held by: Empathy Catalyst
Date: Saturday, 7 March
Time: 1pm – 5pm
Address: The Hub Baptist Church, 2 Bindaree Way, Ocean Shores
Booking contact: 0490 050 085
bit.ly/Compassionatecomm
melinda@empathycatalyst@gmail.com

Reiki LV1

Held by: Byron College
Date: Saturday, 7 and Sunday, 8 March
Time: 10am – 4pm
Address: Mullum Campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby)
Booking contact: (02) 6684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

Intro to Beekeeping

Held by: Byron College
Date: Saturday, 14 March
Time: 10am – 4pm
Address: Mullum Campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby)
Booking contact: (02) 6684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

Heartmath Resilience

Held by: Byron College
Date: Saturday, 14 to 28 March (3 sessions)
Time: 10:00am – 12pm
Address: Mullum Campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby)
Booking contact: (02) 6684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

NDIS Support Worker Workshop

Held by: Byron College
Date: Saturday, 15 March
Time: 10am – 3pm
Address: Mullum Campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby)
Booking contact: (02) 6684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

Accidental Counsellor

Held by: Byron College
Date: Friday, 20 March
Time: 9.30am – 4.30pm
Address: Mullum Campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby)
Booking contact: (02) 6684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

Reflexology

Held by: Byron College
Date: Saturday, 21 and Saturday, 28 March
Time: 10am – 3pm
Address: Mullum Campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby)
Booking contact: (02) 6684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

Kimchi Workshop

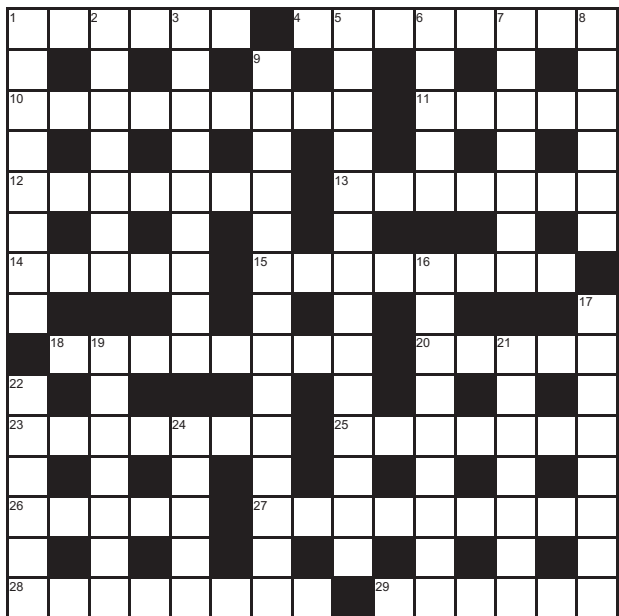
Held by: Byron College
Date: Saturday, 21 March
Time: 10.00am – 5pm
Address: Mullum Campus (6/8 Burringbar St, Mullumbimby)
Booking contact: (02) 6684 3374
customer@byroncollege.org.au
www.byroncollege.org.au

Professional Certificate in Health (Integrative Clinical Hypnosis)

Held by: SCU – Centre for Naturopathic Medicine
Date: Starting March 2026
Address: Online delivery
Booking contact: www.scu.edu.au/study/courses/professional-certificate-in-health-9501002/

Sweet Retreat – Horse Wellness Retreats

Held by: Sugar Beach Ranch – Maxime Willems
Date: Friday, 1, Saturday, 2 and Sunday, 3 May
Time: Three days and two nights
Address: Sugar Beach Ranch - 259 Keith Hall Lane, Keith Hall
Booking contact: www.sugarbeachranch.com/sweet-retreats



Cryptic Clues

ACROSS

- One new one about child of demons (6)
- Pet charge after Virginia holiday (8)
- Bet asthma succumbs to this Turkish remedy! (5,4)
- Cape's purpose (5)
- Put it around about my back, and criticise the drum kit (7)
- Liner for 10 across (7)
- Bird heads off sorrow (5)
- Applauding revolutionary with English band (8)
- Madman to torture page in bed (8)
- Not around to be Ranger's friend (5)
- Up late, a recipe for a flat stretch (7)
- Fruit average; nothing about party (7)
- Another fruit, nothing vital (5)
- Pirate offers a dollar a listener, we're told (9)
- Lawyers have a self-effacing way with queens (8)
- Let guide cover the point (6)

- DOWN**
- Small picture Noffs placed in a bigger one (8)
 - Agreement with New Zealand covers paper in a small jug (7)
 - Use explosives on investment regulator over a shirt – how pompous! (9)
 - Fire residue, an ordeal and a fire lighter – something to look forward to in summer? (5,4,5)
 - The French under an insurance giant, enough! (5)
 - Dictator, subconscious: I am popular (3,4)
 - Character of the wild (6)
 - A really cold base, a mug and a masseur – something to look forward to in summer? (5,3,6)
 - Excuse to share out beer (9)
 - Journalist, after time overworking, is rewarded (8)
 - I am into property dealing – that's not a fantasy! (7)
 - Sorts out cattle with small measures (7)
 - Winds up boats (6)
 - Strain to put unknown in plane, upside-down (5)

Quick Clues

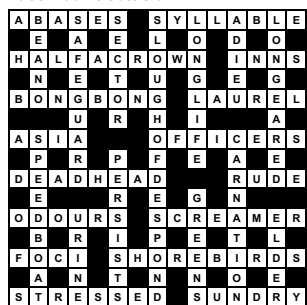
ACROSS

- Demons which seduce sleeping women (6)
- Holiday (8)
- Spa, Turkish tourist attraction (5,4)
- Sharp end, mark of position (5)
- Drums, percussion instruments (7)
- Ship powered by internal combustion (7)
- Wading bird, heron (5)
- Applauding vocally (8)
- Crank, nutter (8)
- Lone Ranger's offside (5)
- Level mountain top (7)
- Alligator pear (7)
- Fruit often used for oil (5)
- Pirate (9)
- Crooked lawyers (8)
- Hired, rented out (6)

DOWN

- Placed inside, usually of a picture (8)
- Small jug, usually accompanying coffee (7)
- Pompous, overbearing (9)
- Game of cricket between Australia and England (5,4,5)
- Sufficient, plenty (5)
- Former Ugandan dictator (3,4)
- Quality, character of a person (6)
- Round in international tennis tournament (5,3,6)
- Explanation for conduct, excuse (9)
- Esteemed, decorated (8)
- Fact, actuality (7)
- Tidies (7)
- Reels, bobbins (6)
- Strain, make an effort (5)

Last week's solution #4



■ Crossword circa 2008



Rise

It is one thing not to be believed. It is quite another to be believed but not get justice. That is another form of abuse. A brutal public shaming, where your pain is used as clickbait for media platforms. Headlines about torture. About trafficking. About stolen girlhood. About women who were treated as sexual commodities, and traded like cattle for the slaughter.

And yes, when we hear these stories we are shocked. We are appalled. We write comments in chat rooms. We talk about this with our friends. We shake our heads and we say, 'can you believe this?' It feels like the 'knowing', the releasing of the stories is the beginning of justice.

But I don't know. It feels like second-generation opportunism. Where outrage is farmed for cash, not used for change. Not for justice. Not to give back what was taken. Not to stop it from happening again. Because these stories of rape and abuse are potent content in a market where clicks are king. It is here that narratives are shaped, and reshaped. And these stories are told and retold in gratuitous detail.

What does this tell a woman or girl, who is raped today, who is thinking of reporting? When she sees this fucked-up fairytale unfold? Where the handsome prince is a sexual predator? And the damsel in distress is what gets these pricks hard in the first place.

What does it feel like to not get justice when the world gets to know you were raped? For the thing you will be remembered for most is that you were tortured and abused? For this to be common knowledge? Not something held in a circle of trust, but to be circulated across the globe? Your broken girlhood traded for clicks. Aren't we still trafficking? Not their sex, but their pain.

Right now, women and girls around the world have a front row seat to watch patriarchy's favourite feature film – the one where the bad guys get away with it, again. Where they use the system they created, to protect them. Is this justice we are watching now – or



There is a chilling paragraph towards the end of her [Virginia Guiffre's] book where she says she is not suicidal and if something happens it should be investigated.

is this a bugle cry to women around the world to tell them that speaking out is hopeless? That they will be crushed? Threatened, coerced, driven mad, and forced, as was the sad end of the brave Virginia Guiffre, to choose suicide?

I read her book, published posthumously. I read it because I wanted to hear her story from her, not quoted on a website. Guiffre, a powerful advocate for survivors of sex trafficking and one of the most prominent accusers of Epstein and Ghislane Maxwell. This relentless voice of truth. Who is suddenly gone. There is a chilling paragraph towards the end of her book where she says she is not suicidal and if something happens it should be investigated. Another paragraph tells of two men who are so powerful and dangerous they cannot be named because of the harm they can cause her and her family. Fuck. And she still chose to speak out. That sort of courage is unfathomable.

Women know the justice system was never designed with victims in mind. Presumption of innocence applies to the perpetrator, not the woman in a short skirt. Not the woman out late at

night. Not the woman who is intoxicated. His 'not guilty' is won by waging a war on the victim's legitimacy. Not on his innocence. The job of his defence is making her 'less'. Her personhood becomes the doubt he needs to walk.

For women all over the world who have experienced sexual assault, abuse and rape, the Epstein files confirm one thing we already know. These men, these powerful, well-connected leaders, these tech billionaires, these philanthropists, these scientists, these fashion industry icons, these financiers, these entitled, rich and royal men, will not be held to account.

Because they run the world. They make the rules. This is the patriarchy, working as designed.

It is time for real justice. It won't happen without us. To be silent is to be complicit. So open your mouths and scream. Demand change. Make change. Let's rise.

■ Mandy Nolan's column has appeared in *The Echo* for almost 25 years. She is a writer, comedian, and artist, and was the Greens candidate at the past two elections.

STARS BY LILITH

As we shed the old skin of the Snake year, the lunar new year of Fire Horse prancing onto this week's stage has us pawing turf, tossing manes and taking a quantum leap into bold new stories ...



AQUARIUS THE WATER POURER

ARIES: While this high-energy year brings new people and opportunities, your wild inner brumby needs a judicious mix of kicking up its heels and gentle horse-whispering to rein in headlong gallops and/or infamous Aries temper flares, neither of which will work to your advantage during this exciting and tempestuous cycle.

TAURUS: The dashing, exuberant horse isn't at all interested in slow, plodding routines, so once you sturdy Taurian workhorses get this year's bit between your teeth, you may be amazed at how fast you move. Be advised though, that this year's Fire Horse theme song is: 'There'll be some changes made ...'

GEMINI: This year's high-octane horsepower needs Geminians pulling in the reins to stay on course and avoid cantering off in so many directions, ultimately get nowhere except feeling frustrated. The talkative Fire Horse has difficulty keeping secrets, so it's worth remembering there once was a wise man who said... nothing.

CANCER: Variety's the spice of life in the year of the high-spirited Fire Horse, but be advised that any whiff of neediness, or attempts at control will provoke whinnies of Hi-Ho Silver, eat my dust! Best strategies? Quickly letting go of what's not working and trying new strategies.

LEO: The confident, charismatic, flamboyant Fire Horse is a vivacious show pony who loves having its own way, which suggests possible clashes of will this year with partners or competitors. Heart hurts are the downfall of the ardent Fire Horse, so intelligent emotional strategies will be Leo's best operating tools this year.

VIRGO: The self-reliant, nonconformist Fire Horse has (shock horror!) little respect for rules, routines, schedules and standard procedures, preferring to adapt instead to changing conditions, with an inspired mix of intuition and spontaneity. So buckle up, listen to your instincts and get ready to enjoy this year's wild ride.

LIBRA: The stylish Fire Horse stands out, so your elegant presentation and graceful communication win prizes this year. But Fire Horse is also the sign of flirts and philanderers, so if that's you, expect relationship eruptions. Best news is the Fire Horse favours instant decisions, which potentially puts the hurry-up on Librian procrastination.

SCORPIO: While the extrovert and boisterous Fire Horse's non-possessiveness and lack of guile may not be your style, Scorpio dark horses could learn a lot this year about letting go and moving on. A dedicated willingness to communicate honestly and clearly will bring out your best qualities over the coming months.

SAGITTARIUS: This adventurous, travel-happy year could see you with the wild wind in your hair. Frisky Sagittarians are born to run, and the Fire Horse year's fast-moving track puts you on a winning streak if you use that Sagittarian horse sense to pace yourself at a steady, sensible canter.

CAPRICORN: This lively year of promising economic prospects could increase kudos for your creative work, but it's also a time when runaway emotions may cloud your judgment. So meditate, vegetate, relocate, do whatever it takes, but remember to keep life exciting and amusing, because the Fire Horse hates being bored.

AQUARIUS: This Fire Horse year favours the outrageous. Passion's in fashion and dynamic new approaches are likely to succeed, so give it your most innovative shot. Increased creativity and inspiration make this an action-packed time in your professional life if you can navigate the drama without losing your cool.

PISCES: Oriental astrologers believe this combustible, propulsive Fire Horse year marks a significant turning point for humanity. So if people seem willing to ride roughshod over anything in their way, proffer sweet-talking sugar in the form of flattery and they're likely to forget they ever wanted anything but what you're offering.

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 Gig Guide deadline: 5pm each Friday
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NEWS

SEVEN DAYS OF ENTERTAINMENT

Eclectic Selection

What's on this week



Ustad Irfan Khan will take you on a profound discovery of Hindustani raga music and musical compositions forged over generations within his ancestry lineage. He will be accompanied by world-renowned tabla percussionist **Bobby Singh** from Australia.

Friday 6pm at the Ewingsdale Hall. Tickets from \$29 +bf at humanitix.com.



Chris Costello and His Hedonic Orchestra's songs have been described as a place where folk sits down besides country, where jazz climbs into bed with rock and where comedy slips into tragedy when it's least expecting it. His relaxed shifting between various piano and guitar styles are accompanied by thoughtful and candid lyrics.

Saturday 7pm at the Bullinudgel Hotel. Free show.



Adam Harpaz's music is uniquely relatable, painting pictures of hope for the listener through lyrical integrity, warm productions, and heartfelt performances. His songs rest within the indie-folk genre, with

a healthy flavour of soul and world from his Middle Eastern/Lithuanian heritage.

Sunday 2pm at the Seven Mile Brewing Co, Ballina. Free show.



Pink Zinc is a vibrant collective of musicians known for their infectious blend of rock, pop, funk, and soul, thrilling audiences with their diverse repertoire and captivating performances, from classic rock anthems to funky grooves and soulful ballads, this versatile band has a knack for setting the stage on fire and getting everyone on their feet.

Sunday Sessions 3pm at Shaws Bay Hotel. Free show.



Ross Wilson is hitting the road with his all-star band The Peaceniks to celebrate over '50 Years of Hits' including all the Daddy Cool and Mondo Rock favourites you'd expect, along with the latest offering from an almost six decade career.

Sunday 4.30pm at the SoundLounge, Currumbin. Tickets \$44 at soundlounge.com.au

Music to move you slowly, **Sunset Assembly** is a gentle dance through dub, downtempo, Balearic, soul, left-field, ambient, organic house, and global grooves – it flows like a tide – expansive and unhurried, sometimes carrying you forward in gentle waves.

Friday from 4pm at The Citadel, Murwillumbah. Tickets \$24 at thecitadel.com.au.



Australian progressive-roots and folk troubadour **Jordan Mac** has fast become known for an honest voice and virtuosic ability on the 12 and six-string guitars, infusing Middle-Eastern and Celtic-inspired riffs over live electronic percussion.

Friday 5pm at Elements of Byron. Free show.



A retrospective of singles

Tests revealed sugar is sweet so **Regurgitator** are extending their tour deep into 2026 – a fistful of fizzers poppin' packets over a hard-driving 32 years plus.

'The gurge' have spun the dial and played it each and every way. Sui generis jukebotin' amid droids of repetition, jabbin' society in the eye with a groove full of politics.

55 tablatures of candy fix... punch a coin in the slot. Press play, hit repeat.

After last year's *Invader* of the new, comes a deep droid into those much loved plateaus of the nostalgia machine. Blister packin' energy tracked in cycles of repetition – single after single after single adds up to some decent multitudes. Siftin'

through their deca-drome of albums and slew of EPs. Robotic arms clawing in muscle memory. Wry rotations juking that stimuli... from 'Like it Like That's and 'Kong Foo Sing's... to 'Black Bugs', 'Polyester Girl's through the 'I (Song Formerly Known As); to the 'Pest's and 'Cocaine Runaway's... the shuffling bots – Quan, Ben, Pete, and latest keytaring effervescence Sarah – with their selector effects, will cram as many hits as they canned into near on two hours of aural sugar that drips and drops.

THURSDAY, 26 FEBRUARY

THE NORTHERN

BYRON BAY

7.30PM

TICKETS FROM OZTIX





THE GREAT NORTHERN HOTEL
EST. 1892
A GREAT STORY STARTS HERE

35-43 JONSON ST
BYRON BAY
6685 6454

THENORTHERN.COM.AU
@thenorthernbyronbay

THUR 19 FEB	Front Bar: Dan Hannaford 6pm DJ Quendo 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
FRI 20 FEB	Front Bar: Jesse Whitney Band 7pm DJ Oren Selecta 10.30pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: BACKROOM BANANA JAM FREE ENTRY
SAT 21 FEB	Front Bar: Trilla Band 7pm DJ Jamie Lowe 10.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm BACKROOM: HYPNOTIZE FREE ENTRY
SUN 22 FEB	Front Bar: Katie White 5pm Vinyl Sunday ft. Sunny Side Up 8.15pm \$15 MARGIS & SPRITZERS ALL DAY Duelling Piano Bar 7.30pm
MON 23 FEB	BACKPACKER MONDAYS Front Bar: Jerome Williams 6pm DJ Renee Simone 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
TUES 24 FEB	Front Bar: Marshall Okell 6pm DJ Jamie Lowe 9.15pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm
WED 25 FEB	Front Bar: Dan Hannaford 6pm DJ Alice Q 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm



SEVEN

SEVEN DAYS OF ENTERTAINMENT

Clandestine Wings

Byron Shire is living through the same accelerating changes being felt across the world: rising costs, social instability, AI disruption, political division, and growing uncertainty about what the future holds for our children. Many people can feel that something big is shifting, and the old ways of living and surviving are no longer guaranteed.

On Friday, **Byron Theatre** will host a powerful evening of story, music, ceremony and practical conversation titled **Clandestine Wings: An Evening of Story, Song & Real World Solutions**.

At the heart of the night is the launch of *Clandestine Wings: The Evolving Story of Earth's Guardians*, a new fiction novel by local author Fiona Love, blending storytelling, suppressed history and a nature-aligned vision of what becomes possible when ordinary people stop outsourcing their power and begin rebuilding from the ground up.

This is more than a book launch, it's a community forum exploring one key question: How do we build a thriving life in a rapidly changing world? The night includes a solutions panel featuring local changemakers, live music, sound healing, Welcome to Country, and an uplifting collective experience designed to move people out of fear and into empowered action.



SAM BUCKINGHAM

FRIDAY, 6.30PM. BYRON THEATRE

EARLY BIRD TICKETS AT \$33 • BYRONCENTRE.COM.AU



Journalists under fire

Northern Rivers Friends of Palestine, and Jews for Palestine Northern Rivers, hold a monthly film screening on Palestine. On **Saturday, February 28** they will be screening the 2025 Brave New Films documentary **Gaza: Journalists Under Fire**, directed by **Robert Greenwald**, at the **Byron Bay Community Centre**.

Since October 2023, some 270 journalists have been systematically killed in Gaza. Three journalists were among 11 Palestinians killed by Israel this past January. Under the Geneva Convention, international law clearly mandates the protection of journalists as civilians in conflict zones. Israel bans the entry of foreign journalists into Gaza; reporting has fallen on Palestinian journalists.

A well-known journalist on the ground in Gaza, Hind Khoudary, has written that 'journalism, especially in places like Palestine, is not just a profession; it is a responsibility carried out under immense pressure and risk.'

Journalists keep reporting 'truth despite the danger'; families wait at home; there is fear before going live; and the 'ethical weight of reporting trauma while living it'.

We are reminded that journalism is not a crime. The survival of Gaza's journalists has become a frontline struggle for press freedom itself.

The screening will be accompanied by a conversation with **Mandy Nolan** and other guests.

BYRON BAY COMMUNITY THEATRE

6PM, SATURDAY 28 FEBRUARY

WAGED: \$20 | UNWAGED: \$10 | FIRST NATIONS: FREE

The fun continues

The kids are back to school, but the fun still continues at the **Brunswick Picture House!**

One of the most anticipated shows this month sees cult post-punk cabaret superstars **The Tiger Lillies** hit the Picture House stage (**Thursday, February 26**) with their show, *Serenade from the Sewer*, celebrating the weird, macabre and those that society has abandoned.

In February and March, some extraordinary singer-songwriters – all female, all fantastic – will be bringing their shows to Bruns.

The award-winning **Meg Washington's** show on **Saturday** is sold out, but don't miss the incredible ex-Jezabel **Hayley Mary** on **Sunday, March**

8, the sublime **Sally Seltmann** on **Thursday, March 12**, and the superb **Sam Buckingham** on **Saturday, March 14**, all gracing the Bruns stage.

In a month's time, the Picture House teams up with **Bangalow Theatre Company** to present a new musical by Australian royalty **Eddie Perfect**, in the hilarious, biting and outrageous **Vivid White**, with ten sessions, this promises to be one of the most exciting theatrical events the Northern Rivers has ever seen (**Thursday, March 19 to Saturday, March 28**).

As the home of comedy in the Shire, more big names are bringing their shows to Bruns: superstar comedian **Danny Bhoj's** long-awaited return to Australia (**Friday and Saturday, February 27 and 28**) is sold out; but don't miss the hugely acclaimed **Lewis Garnham** (**Wednesday, March 11**); the much-loved Logie-winner **Rob Carlton** with a new storytelling hour (**Friday, March 13**); and the star of *Mother and Son*, **Matt Okine** hitting the road in Australia for his first national tour in over six years.

And where are the films, you say? There are still some tickets left for the short-film extravaganza **Ocean Film Festival** (**Friday and Saturday, March 6 and 7**) and the first screening ever of *What Is Fear* a documentary from local filmmaker **Endre Kvia** on **Sunday, March 1**.

TICKETS FOR ALL SHOWS AT

BRUNSWICKPICTUREHOUSE.COM

'Clandestine Wings'

Book Launch and Solutions Forum

Byron Theatre
Fri 20 Feb, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Scan QR Code for Ticket + Event details



What does it mean to be iconic?

The dictionary defines iconic as 'widely recognised, representative, highly esteemed and symbolising something important like a culture, era or idea'.

Byron Bay is definitely iconic. A mecca of sand, sun and serenity, it's a coastal paradise. Once known for its alternative culture, easy-going surfers and off-the-grid hippies, now lauded and lampooned for its yoga on the beach influencers, insanely priced real estate and of course super-famous Hollywood movie stars. Every year mainstream media naysayers write articles about how Byron's lost it. But every year the hordes keep coming. Why? Because Byron Bay is iconic.

Mandy Nolan presents **Byron Live: Iconic** – 50-foot mother of five, comedian and almost MP two elections running, certainly gives iconic a crack. She moved to Byron in the early '90s, when you could rent a house on the beach for \$150 and get a park at Wategos on a Sunday. Byron Live is a faux studio-styled face-to-face chat show where Nolan hosts hilarious, confronting, and riveting conversations – it's our homegrown, and completely organic version of a *Tonight Show*, complete with live studio band, **Katrina and the Greenies** and an opening choreographed dance number with Mandy struggling to nail the moves!

The guests on the hot seat for the next *Byron Live* feature **Madeleine West** – rainforest regenerator, podcaster, activist, mom of seven and actress, star of some of the most iconic Aussie TV ever made – *Neighbours*.

Californian-born US Surfing Champion and local legend, the iconic **Rusty Miller** has called Byron Bay home since the 1970s. He's as much a part of Byron as the lighthouse, and has taught generations of surfers how to paddle out and find a wave.

Singer-songwriter **Gyan** won the 1986 *Star Search* grand final, and is probably best known for her haunting 1989 track 'Wait'. After winning an ARIA for Breakthrough Artist, she headed on an international trajectory before heading home, back to Byron – her creative base for the last three decades. With her partner Simon Greaves she continues to compose and record authentic, beautiful music.

Also on the hot seat is former lead singer of the legendary Sydney punk band Ragadoll, puppeteer, painter and cowboy, **Jimmy Willing**; and the **Versace Boys**, who are nouveau iconic.

Expect deep conversations, revelations, confessions and a few tunes when Mandy Nolan drills down on what makes the iconic Byronites of Byron so bloody Byron. It's not just entertainment, it's an artistic autopsy where this sharp-tongued host, cuts right to the bone!

BYRON BAY COMMUNITY THEATRE

SATURDAY 21 MARCH AT 8PM

SUITABLE FOR 15+

TICKETS ARE \$50 (\$40 CONCESSION)

BYRONCENTRE.COM.AU

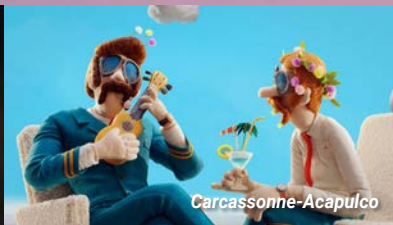
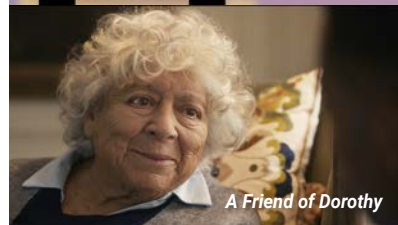


JIMMY WILLING IN HIS STUDIO

35th INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

THE ADVENTURES OF *Flickerfest* THE CREAM OF SHORT FILMS

FLICKERFEST MULLUMBIMBY & BYRON ALL SHORTS Northern Rivers Short Film Comp
MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL – THURSDAY 26TH TO SATURDAY 28TH FEBRUARY



PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

Flickerfest is back in the Northern Rivers for its 29th year screening a smorgasbord of the best short films from the Byron region, Australia and the world across one cinematic weekend. All films are handpicked from a record 3,700 entries promising local Northern Rivers audiences an entertaining journey through the most remarkable short films in the world today, including much loved festival award winners and exciting local talent.

THURSDAY 26TH FEB

7pm – Opening Night party:

Includes a complimentary drink from Rosnay Organic Wines, Gage Roads Brew Co. or Karma Drinks and delicious treats from Yaman.

8pm – Best Of International Shorts:

Flickerfest is thrilled to present a selection of nine stunning film gems from our Oscar and BAFTA qualifying competition in Bondi. Take a journey from Germany to Sweden, the UK and more. Highlights include the delightful UK film *A Friend of Dorothy* and heartwarming drama *The Singers*, both recently nominated for an Oscar, Indonesian film *My Plastic Mother*, winner of Best International short, and *Radix* winner of Best Animation.

FRIDAY 27TH FEB

8pm – Best Of Australian Shorts:

Celebrate and be amazed by a diverse range of our incredible Australian stories that honour our unique identity and culture. Catch a collection of stunning shorts supported by big names both in front of, and behind the camera. Moving drama *Tuesday Tuesday*, stars Peter Phelps (*Stingers*) in a stellar performance. *Packed Away* gives us the directorial debut of actress Michala Banas, (*McLeod's Daughters*) who shines both on and off camera in this personal drama and actor Matt Day (*Rake*) writes and directs the comedy *Baby Shower*, starring the legendary Hugo Weaving.

SATURDAY 28TH FEB

2pm – Free Filmmaking Workshop:

As Flickerfest celebrates 35 years, we go behind the scenes with Flickerfest alumni, award-winning director Wayne Blair (*The Sapphires*, *Redfern Now*, *Goolagong*) for a journey through his shorts to feature film and TV success.

4pm – Byron All Shorts Competition:

Returning for the 21st year and presenting the Best Of Northern Rivers Shorts; experience amazing local talent and explore our own stories on the big screen, as a host of local filmmaking teams shine. Meet the creators before and after the session and see who takes home this year's awards.

8pm – Short Laughs Comedy:

Enjoy an evening of clever comedy from Australia and across the world with the Short Laughs Comedy programme. Don't miss hilarious French film *Carcassonne-Acapulco*, where a chance encounter at 30,000 feet sparks a surprisingly funny existential debate, *Baby Blues*, that hilariously captures the emotional free-fall of new parenthood; and *Shrimp Fried Rice*, a warm and witty tale that finds humour in the emotional significance of a humble takeaway.

Info and tickets:
Mullumbimby Civic Hall
www.iQ.org.au

Booking is recommended, limited tix at the door subject to availability. The iQ licensed cafe opens 1 hour before sessions serving delicious local snacks and drinks.

SEVEN

INTERVIEW

SEVEN DAYS OF ENTERTAINMENT

SOUTH SUMMIT CLIMBING

South Summit has quickly emerged as a unique and powerful voice in the Australian music scene. Known for their blend of indie-rock, reggae, and hip-hop – since forming in 2020, the five-piece has rapidly earned a reputation for their high energy live shows, emotional depth, and impressive musicality.

With fresh music on the way, and a packed summer of touring, South Summit is poised to take their next big step on the world stage, cementing their status as one of the most exciting and export-ready acts to emerge in recent years.

Seven spoke to lead singer Zaya Reuben from his home in Perth about the band's upcoming Bluesfest sets.



For those who don't know your work, tell me about your band.

We're a young band from Perth – we started during Covid in 2020. We've got one album out, we've toured Australia a couple of times. We've done Europe, and we're going to Europe again for another tour just before Bluesfest.

Were you locked up together during Covid or did you work remotely?

We worked remotely. We actually just had nothing really to do. It was through mates of mates. There was nothing else to do but jam and try to keep ourselves busy.

Had you all independently worked in the music industry, like in other bands before that?

We are all massive musicians in our own. Nathan and Josh, our drummer and our bass player, went to school together. They were in their school band together, and then me and my brother went to the same school.

Are you all collaborating as far as writing lyrics and music, or do you have some people that do some bits and some people that do other bits?

We kind of work in our own respective areas, like melodies and lyrics. Me and my little brother are always jamming on the acoustic, and then the other boys would write their own parts, whether it's the drums, bass, lead...

I think one thing we wanted to try and sort out early on was just compromising, because we've all come from different styles as well different upbringings. So yeah, we want to make sure we can get the most out of everyone's abilities, and not try and have one person in their own lane.

Have you been to Byron before?

Yes, I've actually been twice. We played at the Stone & Wood Brewery, yes, that was massive. And Byron Bay is just crazy. It's one of the best places I've ever been to.

Have you had a bit of a look at the Bluesfest lineup? Who do you want to see?

Oh yes! So my grandparents are from New Zealand, they are massive Split Enz fans. Earth, Wind and Fire, obviously, Erykah Badu – I'm really keen to see her.

What sort of things inspire you to get out of bed every day?

My family. I come from an awesome upbringing, that's helped me through the music. And obviously, at the

start, music doesn't pay too well, and they've always supported me and just given me the ability to be able to do what I love and not have that stress on my back. So it's definitely made it a lot easier, every time I'm struggling, to get that help from family. I just love my parents, and I've come from a massive family with five siblings, and a mixed family as well. So yep, I just want to be able to try to get to a stage where I can hopefully pay all them back. That's the goal.

Do you feel, as an artist who has a profile, that you have some sort of responsibility to put your voice to the causes you believe in?

100%. Yeah! I think we're blessed to be in the position, but that also comes with responsibility – like when I was growing up there, listening to artists, they're the people that I get a lot of influence from. Yes, so I think the power that we have through our voice and our music definitely should, and I think if we didn't care about that, we'd be not making the most out of what we have, in the gifts that we have.

Are you bringing new music to Bluesfest, or will you be bringing favourites?

We actually are bringing favourites, and a lot of new music as well. We've just recorded a lot of new stuff that we're keen to try and I think that's one of the goals as well, just to keep pushing it and see how the crowd reacts. One thing with Bluesfest is there'll be a lot of our fanbase there, but there's going to be a whole lot of people that do not know us. So yes, it's going to be good to get a new audience, definitely.

What is your current earworm?

Oh, it would probably have to be 'Zimbabwe' by Bob Marley, nice. That's a song I'm always humming – humming it in my head, and every time I'm driving that's the first song I put on.

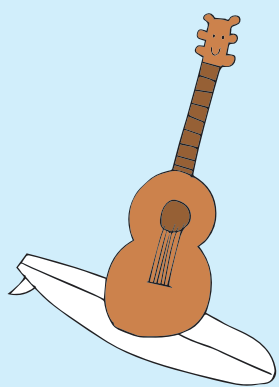
Zaya, are you having enough fun?

Yes, I'm definitely having a lot of fun, but learning now – I've been doing it for five years, and I think I had a bit too much fun at the start, and I've kind of learnt to separate the fun and also make sure I put in the hard work as well. So, yeah. I'm still learning though.

THIS IS A GREAT SHOW TO CATCH

ON EITHER FRIDAY OR SUNDAY AT BLUESFEST 2026

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More at bayfm.org

CINEMA



Is This Thing On?

Twelve-time Oscar nominee **Bradley Cooper** (*A Star Is Born*, *Maestro*) returns to the director's chair with the heartfelt, funny and grounded dramedy *Is This Thing On?* Acclaimed actor-comedian **Will Arnett** (who also cowrote the film with Cooper) shines under the spotlight in a rare dramatic turn alongside a superb showing from Oscar-winner **Laura Dern**.

After many years together, Alex (Arnett) and Tess (Dern) have reached an amicable end to their marriage, thus beginning the awkward stage of figuring out how to live separately while raising two boys, Felix and Jude, and maintaining their friendships. After they split, Alex puts his name down for the open mic night at the Comedy Cellar. Alex begins to regularly do stand-up and he has a fling with Jill, a fellow comic. Tess returns to her passion of volleyball, specifically looking forward to possibly coaching in the 2028 Summer Olympics, and starts seeing Laird.

As their marriage quietly unravels, Alex seeks new purpose in the New York comedy scene while Tess confronts the sacrifices she made for their family – forcing them to navigate co-parenting, identity, and whether love can take a new form.

Premiering to strong buzz at the New York Film Festival, the film continues Cooper's run of incisive, mature dramas, showcasing his gift for drawing humour and humanity from the most intimate corners of life.

Anchored by deeply honest performances and remarkable on-screen chemistry from Arnett and Dern, the film stands as a reminder that embracing the absurdities of marriage with candour and humour can make the messiness meaningful.

IS THIS THING ON?

SCREENING AT THE PALACE CINEMAS, BYRON BAY

PALACECINEMAS.COM.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



<h3>WEDNESDAY 18</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, MATTHEW ARMITAGE BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM TAHLIA MATHESON THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM INO PIO, 8PM DUELLING PIANOS, 9PM DJ RENEE SIMONE THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM CURRY JAM OTTLIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM PRETTY VACANT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM JESSE WHITNEY BAND, 8PM PIANO BAR + BACKROOM BANANA JAM, 10PM DJ OREN SELECTA EWINGSDALE HALL 6PM USTAD IRFAN KHAN W/ BOBBY SINGH HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM JACK BOTTS WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM DJ TAZ ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ LO QI MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM KRAPPYKEE WITH JESS LENNOX HOTEL 9PM FREE THE REEL CLUB LENNOX 7PM JOCK BARNES BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM HARRY NICHOLS CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM LILLI ROSE SHEEN AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM NICK COLBEY BLAH BAR, LISMORE, 7PM LAURAPANIC, GUSSET RATS, GHOST VARIATIONS, MASOCHIST THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 4PM SUNSET ASSEMBLY FT DJS AFRODISEA, TAZ MILLER, LORD SUT & LISA KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM VANESSA LAWLESS SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM JASON MCGREGOR CLUB TWEED 7.30PM TOMMY MEMPHIS & THE TREMORS SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7PM ONE OF THESE NIGHTS THE EAGLES EXPERIENCE MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM GAYC/DC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM CINNAMON SUN HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM FAT ALBERT W/ JOSH HAMILTON BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM MEG WASHINGTON WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4.30PM DJ VINYL DAN BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 7PM CHRIS COSTELLO & HIS HEDONIC ORCHESTRA LENNOX HOTEL 8PM BATTLE OF THE BANDS - HEAT 3 CLUB LENNOX 7PM WEAR THE FOX HAT BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM LUKE BENNETT CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM JB'S BLUES BREAKERS AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 9PM DJ LIJ ELTHAM HOTEL 7PM HANK WILLIAMS TRIBUTE SHOW ALSTONVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOL 7.30PM SCREENING - L'ATTACHEMENT (THE TIES THAT BIND US) SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5PM HAYLEY GRACE KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM BEN PURNELL CLUB TWEED 7.30PM BRIT BEAT MANIA TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM LEGENDS OF MOWTOWN MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM JIB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 2.30PM BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT FBI + SLIM PICKENS WHARF BAR, BALLINA, 3PM INO PIO AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM THE HILLBILLY SKANK SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM PINK ZINC ELTHAM HOTEL 4PM AZO BELL & THE NEIGHBOURS FROM HELL CLUB TWEED 1PM PAULLY + ROSE POWELL SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 4.30PM ROSS WILSON & THE PEACENIKS CHINDERAH TAVERN 2PM BEAR & THE SHERIFFS MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 3PM LIVE BARE 			
<h3>THURSDAY 19</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, JASON DELPHIN BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM LUKE HAYWARD BAND NORTH BYRON HOTEL 5.30PM OPEN MIC BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB 6PM HEEL HOOK THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM DAN HANNAFORD, 8PM PIANO BAR, 9PM DJ DAVE QUENDO HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM BEN WHITING SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS LENNOX HOTEL 8PM JAM NIGHT LISMORE CITY BOWLO 7PM THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 6PM SINGER SONGWRITER NIGHT TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 7.30AM THE CHURCH 	<h3>FRIDAY 20</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, THE WHISKEYS BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM ALLY PALMER + THE VYBEZ BAND BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM CLANDESTINE WINGS BOOK LAUNCH & SOLUTIONS FORUM NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4.30PM DJ NAT WHITE BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB 5PM ANIMAL VENTURA ELEMENTS OF BYRON 5PM JORDAN MAC HAVEN, BYRON BAY, 6PM QUEER BALL SESSIONS 002 	<h3>SATURDAY 21</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, RAGGA JUMP BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM SUNNY LUWE + ERIN SHAY DUO + CUT SNAKE BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM THE ROAD TO PATAGONIA NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM DJ ALICE Q + KATE ELSWORTH THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM TRILLA BAND, 8PM PIANO BAR + BACKROOM HYPNOTIZE, 10PM DJ JAMIE LOWE 	<h3>SUNDAY 22</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, THE BREDDA BROTHERS BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.30PM ALI + VINYL DJ MUTCRESPO THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM KATIE WHITE, 8PM VINYL SUNDAY FT. SUNNY SIDE UP, 9PM DUELLING PIANOS BANGALOW HOTEL 2PM EVAN AND DION HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM THE FERAMONE W/ MICKA SCENE OCEAN SHORES COUNTRY CLUB 3PM OPEN MIC BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM KANE CALCITE DUO SEVEN MILE BREWERY, BALLINA, 2PM ADAM HARPAZ 	<h3>MONDAY 23</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, DANNY BAU BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM HENRY WEST THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM JEROME WILLIAMS, 8PM PIANO BAR, 9PM DJ RENEE SIMONE 	<h3>TUESDAY 24</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 7PM JON J BRADLEY BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM ALICIA TODD THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM MARSHALL OKELL, 8PM DUELLING PIANOS, 9PM DJ JAMIE LOWE MURWILLUMBAH CIVIC CENTRE 7PM CACAO DANCE WITH MOSE FT. MURRAY KYLE TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 11AM LONNIE LEE 	<h3>WEDNESDAY 25</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, FELICITY LAWLESS BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM ADAM HARPAZ THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM DAN HANNAFORD, 8PM DUELLING PIANOS, 9PM DJ ALICE Q THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM CURRY JAM OTTLIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS

<p>SESSION TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 19 TO WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25</p> <p>NOW SHOWING ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT EPIC</p> <p>SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE</p>	<h4>PALACE BYRON BAY</h4> <p>SPECIAL SCREENINGS</p> <p>JEAN VALJEAN (M) FRENCH FF PREVIEW Sun: 3:30PM</p> <p>PAUL MCCARTNEY: MAN ON THE RUN (M) SELLING FAST! Thurs: 8:00PM</p> <p>THE TESTAMENT OF ANN LEE (M) Tues: 6:00PM</p> <p>FAMILY FILMS</p> <p>LITTLE WONDER BEAR (PG) Sat, Sun: 11:20AM</p> <p>ZOOTOPIA 2 (PG) Daily except Wed: 11:15AM, Wed: 10:45AM</p>	<p>ALL FILMS</p> <p>AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH (2D) (M) Daily: 1:30PM</p> <p>CRIME 101 (M) Daily: 11:00AM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM</p> <p>EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT (PG) (M) Daily: 11:10AM, 1:15PM, 4:20PM, 6:15PM, 8:20PM</p> <p>FACKHAM HALL (M) (M) Daily: 11:00AM, 3:50PM, 6:00PM</p> <p>HAMNET (M) Daily except Tues, Wed: 11:10AM, 1:50PM, Tues: 11:15AM, 1:50PM, Wed: 11:00AM</p> <p>IS THIS THING ON? (M) Daily: 1:50PM</p>	<p>JIMPA (M) (M) (M) Daily except Tues: 11:20AM, 1:20PM, 3:45PM, 6:10PM, Tues: 11:00AM, 1:20PM, 3:45PM, 6:10PM</p> <p>MARTY SUPREME (M) Daily: 11:00AM, 2:00PM, 7:15PM</p> <p>MISS KOBAYASHI'S DRAGON MAID: A LONELY DRAGON WANTS TO BE LOVED (M) (M) Daily except Tues: 5:00PM, 8:30PM, Tues: 5:00PM, 8:15PM</p> <p>PILLION (R) (M) (M) Daily except Tues, Wed: 1:45PM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM, Tues: 1:20PM, 3:40PM, 8:30PM, Wed: 2:00PM, 4:00PM, 6:15PM</p>	<p>SEND HELP (M) (M) (M) Daily except Thurs, Tues: 8:30PM</p> <p>SOMEBODY TO LOVE (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 11:10AM</p> <p>THE HOUSEMAID (M) (M) (M) Daily except Thurs, Tues: 1:10PM, 8:10PM, Thurs, Tues: 1:10PM</p> <p>WUTHERING HEIGHTS (M) Daily except Thurs, Sun: 11:10AM, 1:45PM, 3:20PM, 4:30PM, 5:15PM, 6:30PM, 7:15PM, 8:10PM, Thurs: 11:10AM, 1:45PM, 3:20PM, 4:30PM, 5:15PM, 6:30PM, 7:15PM, 8:10PM</p>	<h4>BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS</h4> <p>CRIME 101 (M) Daily: 2:50PM, 5:10PM</p> <p>EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT (PG) (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:10AM, 12:45PM, 2:40PM, 7:50PM, Sat, Sun: 12:45PM, 2:40PM, 7:50PM</p> <p>FACKHAM HALL (M) (M) Daily: 10:00AM, 5:30PM</p> <p>JIMPA (M) (M) (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 12:10PM, 7:40PM, Sat, Sun: 2:40PM, 7:40PM</p> <p>LITTLE WONDER BEAR (PG) Sat, Sun: 10:30AM</p> <p>SONG SUNG BLUE (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 2:30PM</p> <p>WUTHERING HEIGHTS (M) Daily: 10:00AM, 12:00PM, 4:45PM, 7:30PM</p> <p>ZOOTOPIA 2 (PG) Sat, Sun: 12:20PM</p>
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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

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CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

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

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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

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Located: Murwillumbah
New rehoming facility opens on 21st February 10-2pm Lunberg Dr, Sth Murwillumbah. For more information contact Yvette on 0421 831 128. Please complete our online adoption expression of interest.
<https://friendsofthepound.com/adoption-expression-of-interest/>

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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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



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No dogs please

AGMs

The Brunswick Heads and Billinudgel RSL sub-branch AGM will be held at 5pm Wednesday 18th February at the Brunswick RSL Hall. New member are welcome to attend.

EUREKA HALL AGM
14th March 10am

HEALTH

Relationship and Sexuality Sessions

Ending Our Human Suffering and Living the Lives That We Truly Want

Talks with Toni Makas

Toni Makas trained as a psychologist. He is a researcher and a relationship, embodiment-practice, and nonduality teacher. He has been working for over 30 years investigating the root cause of human suffering, and human potential. His work draws on, and engages with, the research and teachings of all leading thinkers and contributors to this body of human knowledge. His revolutionary discoveries and synthesis of knowledge and experience are now being offered as part of these talks.
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Thursday 19th February 2026, 4.30pm-6pm
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 - * English mahogany furniture items including hanging corner cupboard, inlaid games table, drop leaf table, mirror champagne bucket and many others.
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Any shape, size. Royalties paid. Ongoing supply needed. 0414904396

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VW POLO TSI 2013 f/f Sat Nav, Blu/T, CD, FSH, rego+CTP Dec 2026 One lady owner, 129K. \$4500 ono. 0459577118

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All makes & models.
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Contact President John Singh 0418 662781 or punjab@byronbaypork.com.au



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Over 15 years exp. Jarrod 0415 139 308



TUITION

FUN NEW TEEN a capella group starts 10 Feb. Weekly adult group and private tuition avail. Ph Maddy 0437274354

PETS Continued



IMOGEN

Imogen is a 5-month-old Kelpie x Heeler with a heart as big as her energy. Sweet, clever and highly motivated, she's a quick learner who loves to work and please her person. True to her working-breed roots, she thrives on mental and physical stimulation. Imogen needs an active, committed home and will reward her people with loyalty, affection and devoted companionship. Rehoming #R251 00 00 60



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

Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



PATRICK

Meet Patrick - Kelpie x Bull Arab 18 months old Male, de-sexed.

This goofball is a playful high energy boy that loves to race around and enjoy life! Charming and sweet affectionate pup that loves his cuddles and downtime too.

This boy needs a high secure fence. Not suited to young kids, cats or chickens
Call Julia on 0458 461 935 or apply via byrondogrescue.org
MC: 991003002549308



SALEM

Salem is a fluffy tailed girl who is looking for a quiet home & to be a loyal companion. Prepared to share her love of her toy mouse, Salem is also happy to share smooches once she gets to know you. Salem has experienced other cats & dogs. To meet Salem & 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

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AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation
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SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 3 WEEKS

DATE (Feb/Mar)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
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
19	TH	6:30 19:28	7:52 20:26	10:38 1.77 22:55 1.46	03:55 0.24 16:52 0.26
20	F	6:31 19:27	8:53 20:57	11:13 1.70 23:36 1.51	04:37 0.27 17:24 0.25
21	SA	6:32 19:26	9:55 21:30	11:47 1.60	05:22 0.34 17:58 0.27
22	SU	6:32 19:25	11:00 22:06	12:24 1.46	06:13 0.44 18:33 0.32
23	M	6:33 19:24	12:07 22:48	13:07 1.30	07:12 0.55 19:15 0.38
24	TU	6:34 19:24	13:16 23:36	14:03 1.15	08:30 0.64 20:07 0.45
25	W	6:34 19:23	14:24 24:24	15:25 1.03	10:12 0.67 21:20 0.50
26	TH	6:35 19:22	15:29 25:11	16:26 0.93	11:51 0.61 22:47 0.50
27	F	6:36 19:21	16:26 26:00	17:09 1.01	13:01 0.51
28	SA	6:36 19:19	17:16 26:44	17:09 1.19	13:51 0.42
1	SU	6:37 19:18	17:58 27:32	18:00 1.80	01:07 0.35 14:32 0.35
2	M	6:38 19:17	18:35 28:19	18:45 1.83	01:58 0.28 15:08 0.30
3	TU	6:38 19:16	19:07 29:02	19:24 1.81	02:43 0.24 15:41 0.28
4	W	6:39 19:15	19:37 29:40	20:00 1.76	03:25 0.25 16:11 0.28
5	TH	6:40 19:14	20:06 30:14	20:32 1.67	04:05 0.30 16:40 0.29
6	F	6:40 19:13	20:35 30:57	21:02 1.56	04:45 0.37 17:06 0.32
7	SA	6:41 19:12	21:06 31:35	21:31 1.44	05:26 0.46 17:31 0.36
8	SU	6:42 19:11	21:39 32:10	22:00 1.31	06:09 0.56 17:59 0.41
9	M	6:42 19:10	22:16 32:48	22:32 1.19	06:57 0.65 18:29 0.48
10	TU	6:43 19:09	22:59 33:21	23:03 1.08	07:58 0.72 19:05 0.56
11	W	6:43 19:08	23:46 33:59	23:35 0.99	09:22 0.76 20:00 0.63

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

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.



International Women's Day

Northern Rivers ZONTA event for International Women's Day will be held on Saturday, 7 March from 8 to 10am at the Ballina Lighthouse Beach Surf Club. Mandy Nolan is the MC. For more info contact lyndall907@hotmail.com or 0424 427 077.

Clean Up Australia In Mullumbimby

Join in with some river care collecting rubbish. Leave feeling good for the health of the river and knowing you have contributed. Sunday, 1 March in two locations: 9am at Mullumbimby Creek, corner of Azalea St and Left Bank Road; and 10.30am on the Brunswick River, along the dirt road between Azalea St and Eugenia St. Come uphill from Mullumbimby Cemetery to the Presbyterian section. All ages welcome. Please bring gloves and water, and wear a hat, closed toe shoes, long sleeves and long trousers. Morning tea provided. Contact Mary 0421 701 949.

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.

Drill Hall Film Society screening

The next Drill Hall Film Society film, *A Matter Of Life And Death*, will be screened Wednesday, 18 February, from 7pm. Starring David Niven and made in 1946, this is another classic from Powell and Pressburger and is a thoroughly mischievous look at what can lie between life and death. It is set in the immediate post-WWII era so, of course, it involves a dashing RAF Squadron Leader (Niven) who leaps from his burning plane into the English Channel but before he does, he has a riveting radio conversation with a North American radio operator and of course they fall instantly in love! All bookings and enquiries to drillhallfilmsociety@gmail.com. Membership for the coming year is available and guests are always welcome.

Tennis Club AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Riverside Tennis Club, Mullumbimby will be held Tuesday, 24 February from 9.30 am at the clubhouse.

Friends of Libraries

Friends of Libraries (FOL) are now collecting books for next year's Book Fair. Any books both clean and in good condition will be gratefully accepted, highlighting the need for children's books, young adults, art, fiction, non-fiction, history, and sport, to name a few. Book drop-off will take place on the first Monday of each month between 9 and 10am, until the Book Fair in July, 2026 at the Byron

Bay Self Storage Shed 8-10 Tasman Way, Byron Arts & Industry Estate. Donated books will be collected by a FOL member at the storage shed gate. Contact: Janene Jarvis 0407 855 022 if unable to deliver books or for any other queries.

Native bee walk

On Sunday 22 February there will be a guided 'native bees as pollinators' walk in the Lismore Rainforest Botanic Gardens from 10am to 11am. This easy, unpaved walk focuses on native bees and the plants they love. Learning about the importance of these stingless bees gives us an opportunity to think more about our own home garden, and how we can help invite these happy workers in to dinner at our place. Adults \$5, children free. Meet Graeme at 9.45am at the Environmental Education Centre at the Gardens. Turn right just before the weighbridge. Wear sturdy shoes and a hat. Bring water. Bookings essential: publicity@friendslrbg.com.au. Join friends for morning tea after the walk. A gold coin donation is appreciated.

Together She Thrives

Together She Thrives is treating 57 lucky women to a fun-filled day out! Hop on our private coach as we visit multiple op shops, hunt for hidden treasures, share plenty of laughs, and finish with a relaxed lunch at Hosanna, including feeding the animals. This is a joyful day of connection, community, and thriving - perfect if you're coming solo or with friends. What's included: private coach transport, op shop crawl and an animal feeding experience. Lunch is BYO, or purchase on site at Hosanna. Op Shop Crawl will be on Wednesday, 25 February from 9:15am to 2pm and pick up and drop off is at the Mullumbimby Netball Courts carpark, Byron Street. Free ticket via events.humanitix.com/free-op-shop-crawl-and-animal-feeding-experience

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.



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.

Byron Seniors

Join our friendly group for cards. We play 500 at a local venue. No charge. For enquiries, message Nancy on 0498 480 373.

Soul song

Community-led singing, devotional uplifting songs, short meditation, inspiring readings, non-denominational. Held first and third Sundays from 10-11.30am at the Scout Hall, Bangalow Show Grounds. All welcome. For more info call Sue 0402 052 457.

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 to 11am. Contact Pippy 0421 926 785. 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.

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

Bruns backgammon

The Bruns Backgammon Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the CWA Hall in Brunswick Heads, from 5.30pm till 7pm. It's a relaxed, social evening open to all skill levels - newcomers are always welcome!

Free baby clothes

Free baby clothes are available each Friday morning (during school terms) from 10am till 12pm at Mullumbimby CWA Hall, corner of Tincogan and Gordon Sts. And if you like hanging out with mums and bubs and have a penchant for folding tiny clothes, we're always keen for more volunteers to join our happy team! More info: www.pbbmedia.org/outreachhub. Contact hello@pbbmedia.org.

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre

Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre is open Monday-Friday 9am-4pm (closed 12.30-1.30pm for lunch). We offer a variety of services. Everyone is welcome. Call reception on 6684 1286. Some of our services include: **Flood recovery support service:** personalised, long-term support for those impacted by the floods.

Community support: food parcels, meals, showers, assistance with electricity bills. Work Development Orders.

Listening Space: free counselling. **More Than A Meal:** free community lunch Tuesday-Thursday 12.30-1.30pm.

Financial counselling
Staying Home, Leaving Violence program: Information, referral, and advocacy.

Gulgani affordable pantry shop: located at 3 Bridgeland Lane.

Orange Sky free laundry service: The Orange Sky service at MDNC only runs on Monday and Wednesday 9am-12pm. To enquire about accessing any of these services call reception 6684 1286, check our website www.mdnc.org.au, or follow us on Facebook or Instagram. @mullumbimbyneighbourhoodcentre.

Byron Community

The Byron Community Centre provides community services and programs including meals, advocacy and counselling for locals in need. **Fletcher Street Cottage:** A welcoming, safe and respectful space where people who are experiencing or at risk of homelessness can come to enjoy practical relief opportunities, find connections and access broader support. **Fletcher Street Cottage services** are open Tuesday-Friday; breakfast 7am-9am; showers and laundry 7am-12pm; office support 9am-12pm. Individual support appointments with community workers and specialist services available please book on (02) 6685 7830. Fletcher Street Cottage, 18 Fletcher St, Byron Bay. More info: www.fletcherstreetcottage.com.au. **Byron Seniors Club:** www.byronseniors.com.au. More info on **Community Services:** www.byroncentre.com.au. Phone: (02) 6685 6807.

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



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- 17 Megan St, Tweed Heads South. Sat 10-10.30am
- 1/42-44 Thomson St, Tweed Heads. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7/20 Dutton St, Coolangatta. Sat 11-11.30am QLD time
- U2046 Tweed Ultima, Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 10.45-11.15am
- 25/37-43 Golden Four Drive, Bilinga. Sat 12-12.30pm QLD time
- 9/23 Murphys Rd, Kingscliff. Sat 11-11.30am
- 16/19 Ivory Cres, Tweed Heads. Sat 11-11.30am
- U2101 Tweed Ultima, Stuart St, Tweed Heads. Sat 11.15-11.45am
- 169 Tweed Valley Way, South Murwillumbah. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2105/9 Enid St, Tweed Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
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- 10/47-49 Shirley Street, Byron Bay. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 25/33-35 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Wed 12-12.30pm
- 160 Reardons Lane, Swan Bay. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 4 New City Road, Mullumbimby. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 29/6-8 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 12-12.30pm
- 7 Hayter Street, Suffolk Park. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 2/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 1/113A Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 4-4.30pm
- 21 Excelsior Circuit, Brunswick Heads. Fri 10-10.30am
- 103 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Fri 10.30-11am
- 8 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 3-3.30pm
- 178 Tyagarah Road, Myocum. Sat 8.30-9am
- 1/6 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am

- 4/6 Canowindra Court, South Golden Beach. Sat 9-9.30am
- 4 Ryces Drive, Clunes. Sat 9-9.30am
- 142 Phoenix Drive, Tintenbar. Sat 9.30-10am
- 49 Granuaille Road, Bangalow. Sat 10-10.30am
- 8 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 93 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 2/33 Julian Rocks Drive, Byron Bay. Sat 10-10.30am
- 32 Melaleuca Drive, Mullumbimby. Sat 10.30-11am
- 234A Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7 Hayter Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5 Botanic Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 56 Ruskin Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 93 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1/113A Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 7/37 Childe Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 2 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1675 Dunoon Road, Dunoon. Sat 1-1.30pm

Harcourts Northern Rivers

- 27 Linderman Street, West Ballina. Sat 9-9.30am
- 3/20 The Terrace, East Ballina. Sat 9.30-10am
- 16 Sand Street, Skenners Head. Sat 10-10.30am
- 275 Signata Road, Pimlico. Sat 10.30-11am
- 9 Ironbark Court, Goonellabah. Sat 11-11.30am
- 16 Sartories Road, Pimlico. Sat 11-11.30am

Ray White Rural Bangalow

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

MANA RE

- 10 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores. Wed 3-3.30pm
- 1/21A Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Wed 4-4.30pm
- 4/19 Oceanside Parade, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 10 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1/21A Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 25 Flinders Way, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 23 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 10.30-11am
- 33 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 32 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 15 Nargoon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 11.30am-12pm
- 16 Berrimbillah Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 14 Mitchell Street, Uki. Sat 12.30-1pm
- 29/2981 Kyogle Road, Kunghur. Sat 1.30-2.30pm - Agent on Site

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- 11 Bian Court, Ocean Shores. Sat. 12-12.30pm

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NSW Labor promised that it would protect key koala habitat and create the Great Koala National Park (GKNP). Since it was elected it has failed to stop the logging of key koala habitat and the GKNP is yet to be formed. In the meantime according to the Nature Conservation Council of NSW (NCC) 'NSW's land clearing laws are actively driving the destruction of some of the state's most important wildlife habitat, despite explicit election promises from the NSW Labor government to stop it.'

Unsurprisingly it was lobby group 'Coal Australia' who supplied almost all of the funding to 'Australians for Prosperity' to run attack ad campaigns on Labor, Greens, and teal candidates at the last federal election according to disclosures made to the Australian Electoral Commission. Of the \$3.89m of total political receipts 'Australians for Prosperity' received, \$3.68m came from 'Coal Australia'.

Good news – the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission (LECC) says it will investigate the 9 February Sydney police operation where video footage appears to show them bashing citizens around Herzog's visit, which resulted in serious injury. Is this the social cohesion NSW Labor talked about?

Backlash has been shocked recently by a building quote where the projected costs of the project were about four times more than expected. The builder said they had got to the point that they were no longer doing quotes



because the cost of materials (that have gone up about three times a year) were now so prohibitive that people were no longer able to build even small and simple projects. Do you think it is because the timber is impregnated with cocaine? See page 8 for more.

The Epstein fallout so far? His alleged pedo accomplice is in jail (a woman) and Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor now has to live in a smaller mansion. On the other hand, Trump puppet Attorney-General Pam Bondi released the names of his victims, yet redacted the names of perpetrators in the latest file dump, and has only released half of the known docs. And it feels very *Breaking Bad* that Epstein bought hundreds of gallons of sulphuric acid for his island's septic system on the same day the FBI opened its 2018 probe into him.

Everybody reads *The Echo* – even Mullumbimby's own Team Cottes at 4,250m on the disputed line of control between India and Pakistan. Photo supplied

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