

# Echo

'WHAT CREATES A WRITER IS HUGE, PSYCHOLOGICAL DYSFUNCTION' – KATHY LETTE

The Byron Shire Echo • Volume 40 #38 • February 25, 2026 • www.echo.net.au

## Pugh resigns from Byron Shire Council

Aslan Shand

Byron Shire Labor Councillor and Bangalow local Asren Pugh officially resigned from Council last Thursday, 19 February having announced the resignation in social media post the day before.

His resignation will be effective from 13 March, the last day he can resign before triggering a by-election. As a result the next councillor on the block will be decided by a countback. This recounts votes from the original election to fill the spot with the next eligible candidate from the same ticket who didn't win a seat and remains qualified and accepts the position.

Byron Shire's 2024 election term runs until late 2028.

## Swivel's moved on

The next person on the Labor ticket was former councillor and lawyer Mark Swivel, who swapped to the Labor ticket after former Mayor Michael Lyon was charged with domestic violence charges that were later dropped, followed by Byron branch Labor president Peter Doherty.

Swivel has now moved to Lismore and 'to my understanding he's not interested,' Asren told *The Echo*. Doherty is now the front runner to replace Asren on Council.

Asren had run for mayor in the last Council election and missed out to Greens Mayor Sarah Ndiaye.

Despite Asren rejecting the notion that not being elected

► Continued on page 6

## Byron Writers Festival moves home



Alexis Zahner, writer and Festival Communications Manager; Jessica Alice, Byron Writers Festival Artistic Director; Chris Hanley, festival founder and CEO of First National Byron; and Courtney Miller, Chair of Byron Writers Festival. Photo Jeff 'Write Off' Dawson

Aslan Shand

After last year's Byron Writers Festival was washed out, it was time to put the thinking caps on and work out a new plan – in this climate – impacted world how do you put a festival on that minimises the risk of it happening again?

Byron Writers Festival has announced that they will be moving from Bangalow to the centre of Byron this year 'creating a brand new festival precinct in the heart of town, using iconic Byron Bay venues,' Byron Writers Festival Artistic Director Jessica Alice told *The Echo*.

'It was always a goal of the original organisers to one day have

the festival in the town. We've done a lot of planning about the ideal site for the festival, and this is just a really wonderful opportunity to bring the festival into the heart of the community, and that's really what we're so excited about with this move.'

## Bringing the town alive

This year the festival will run from Friday, 14 to Sunday, 16 August, across three days, turning the town into a literary precinct bustling with writers, readers, big ideas, conversation and performance.

'Our vision for that weekend is that the whole town is just alive with books and writing and the

excitement that comes with the discussions of people really getting into culture and literary culture,' said Alice.

'We had to make changes after the devastating cancellation of the 2025 festival. In this region we understand the reality of climate change really acutely. Using iconic town venues allows Byron Writers Festival to be more sustainable, weather-resilient, accessible, and connected to local businesses and spaces including the world-famous Byron Bay foreshore. Literary lovers will be spoiled for choice.'

The Byron Writers Festival precinct will be two hubs, one on the foreshore and one in the heart of

► Continued on page 2

## Mullumbimby Hospital site – take action

Aslan Shand

Thursday saw all Byron Shire councillors pass a motion that 'commences work on the development of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Byron Shire Council and Homes NSW to establish a framework for collaboration on housing outcomes across the Byron Shire Local Government Area'. 'The purpose of the MoU is to expedite the delivery of new social and affordable housing, including renewed and accessible housing'.

This has particular relevance to the future development of the Mullumbimby Hospital site which the community has fought long and hard to retain in public hands. On Monday night the local community, made up of Mullumbimby Hospital Action Group (MHAG), Mullumbimby Residents Association (MRA), and Greens councillors, called a meeting to address concerns and gauge future community support for the site.

It quickly became clear that there is strong support and social licence for the site to provide public, social, Arakwal, and genuinely affordable housing with some members of the audience calling for the site to be funded exclusively for public housing.

Cr Elia Hauge was clear that the Development Control Plan (DCP) was where the community currently needs to focus its energy when it is released for comment in March.

'We are calling on the state

► Continued on page 6

Byron Council votes for rail trail ► p4

The inaugural Mullum Moth hits town ► p5

Reflecting on Bentley, *The Echo*, and community ► p7

All you need for making beautiful spaces ► p19

Spotlight on Habitat and Arts & Industry Estate ► p20



THE FERAMONES

THIS SATURDAY, 28 FEB AT 7PM

MARCH MADNESS

All Draws: 7pm

\$16000

IN CASH PRIZES!

OVER 3 SATURDAYS IN MARCH!

MEMBERS: CHOOSE WHICH PROMOTION SUITS YOU BEST:



BYRON BAY SERVICES CLUB Jonson Street, Byron Bay • 02 6685 6878 • www.byronbayservicesclub.com.au



## Bangalow Bowlo seeks heritage listing

Eve Jeffery

At Byron Shire Council's meeting last Thursday Cr Asren Pugh moved a motion to take steps to list the Bangalow Bowling Club site as a heritage-listed item under the Byron LEP 2014.

Public access speakers Ian Holmes and Sally Scofield both spoke in favour of the motion – Ms Scofield said the site is not simply a building.

'The Bangalow Bowling Club is a place of continuity and community. For decades the Bowlo has functioned as a common ground, a rare multi-purpose, multi-generational space, where sport, music, hospitality, celebration and connection has flourished – a third place outside of the comforts of home and the necessity of work,' she told public access.

'The heritage assessment identifies the Bowlo as a building with identifiable architectural features that bear the hallmarks of classic post-war community club development.'

Ian Holmes said that both he and Ms Schofield were members of the Bowlo steering committee.

'We are working through

the very complex process of returning the Bowlo to community ownership, following Norths Collective's decision to close the venue and to transfer the asset, all very abruptly.

### Long history

'The Bangalow Community Association strongly supports Cr Pugh's initiative to consider the Bowlo for heritage listing as the best way of formally validating the importance of the Bowlo as a community gathering space since 1910.'

Cr Pugh said that though he felt the Council report spoke for itself regarding the significance of the Bangalow Bowlo to the Bangalow community, 'I think it's important to look at the planning proposal that Council are putting in,' he said.

### Social significance

'Aesthetically, the clubhouse holds modest value being representative of a place for international style in its retained fabric. The bowling greens are aesthetically significant to the place and a visible element on the entry to Bangalow. But this is the important bit – the bowling club holds a high degree

of social significance to the Bangalow community as a long-established community sporting and leisure facility with a strong sense of community spirit.

'But the building is not the important thing. It's that it's a place where people meet. It's got that history of live music. It's got that history of community events. If you have a look at the Save Bangalow Bowlo Facebook page, there are some really important interviews with local residents about what the Bowlo means to them.'

Cr Elia Hauge, who thanked Cr Pugh for his work for the Bowlo, said she grew up in Bangalow. 'I went to school at Bangalow Primary School, and I have so many fond memories of exactly the kind of sporting, cultural, and community events that you're describing. I think it's important that we do what we can to protect, not necessarily the building in it in its exact form, as it is – we know it needs repairs and upgrades – but retain the site as the important community facility that it is.'

With no speakers against, the motion was passed unanimously.

## Byron Writers Festival back in Byron

► **Continued from page 1** town, with venues including the Byron Community Centre (Byron Theatre and Wategos Room), Byron Bay Surf Club, the Beach Hotel, Haven, and others to be announced. There will also be events at the Cavanbah Centre, and free programming for

readers of all ages presented on the Byron foreshore. Book signings and author appearances will take place at the official festival bookshop, The Book Room, on Fletcher Street, which will form the main pedestrian thoroughfare.

While the main event

will now be in Byron, Alice said they will still be hosting events throughout the year in Bangalow such as the upcoming 'Kathy Lette in conversation with Nell Schofield' on 6 March.

Early bird tickets for 2026 Byron Writers Festival will go on sale in April.

## Byron skydivers join third national strike

Some of the instructors of Skydive Byron Bay have again been on strike over the weekend as part of a national union call for a pay increase.

The Australian Workers' Union says their skydive instructing members haven't had a pay rise since 2022.

AWU National Organiser Jonathan Cook said last week members had taken days of strike in December and again earlier this month but that further strike action had 'become inevitable'.

Mr Cook said members would be 'on the grass' for another four days to send the message they 'want a deal that offers secure jobs, fair wage increases, and safe workplaces'.

### Replacing workers

The union has accused Experience Co, said to be Australia's biggest skydiving operator, of moving to replace local workforce with workers from overseas.

The company owns Skydive Australia jump sites



Byron skydivers in their first strike action over their pay and conditions last year. Photo Jeff Dawson

across the country, including in Byron Bay, and has reportedly proposed paying visa workers less than full-time employees.

The union said the company had also applied to the government for access to 37 overseas workers to fill the shoes of local tandem skydiving instructors after terminating a local training program.

However, Experience Co CEO John O'Sullivan has rejected Australian Workers Union assertions around

Skydive Australia and the small-scale use of foreign labour amongst its skydiving instructor workforce.

He said the union and the company are currently negotiating an enterprise agreement.

'The merging of these two issues is distracting from the core issue – our desire to reach an agreement over pay and conditions that gets our tandem masters back in the air doing the job they love'.

Read full stories in *The Echo* online: [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au).

## Byron Shire Council withdraws from SEP

Byron Shire councillors have withdrawn from the proposed Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP), after the NSW state government department rejected the sound and late-night trading restrictions that were proposed by Council after community consultation.

While there was significant community relief that the SEP is not going ahead, there was also frustration expressed that the process had led to a failure of the SEP.

Many locals were concerned over the risks to community cohesion, the potential safety risks with increased alcohol sales and late-night trading.

Councillors Asren Pugh and Michael Lyon both highlighted the failure of the process by which the SEP was managed, including engagement with the community and the minister.

'This was a wonderful victory for the community,' said local Chris Hanley OAM.

### Rail trail activation

Council has now gone ahead with rail corridor activation.

'As well as withdrawing from the SEP trial in this motion, we're also taking a step forward with some of the kinds of vibrancy and activations that the community were really supportive of through the community engagement process,' said Cr Elia Hauge who moved the motion.

NEW PATIENT OFFER



**O'MEARA DENTAL**  
NET ZERO SINCE 2019

**SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU SMILE**

**\$80 (\$195 WORTH OF VALUE)**

- ✓ NO GAP if you are in a Health Fund with dental cover
- ✓ In depth 45 minute consultation
- ✓ Inclusive of 2 diagnostic X rays
- ✓ Personalised treatment plan
- ✓ Periodontal Health Check
- ✓ Oral cancer screening

**Add a clean for an extra \$100**

**Byron Bay: 19/5 Easy St - 02 6694 3083**  
**Mullumbimby: 60 Stuart St - 02 5671 1909**  
**[omearadental.com.au](http://omearadental.com.au)**

# Life Changing Financial Advice

**Alana Pincombe**  
Senior Financial Planner

📞 0491 204 142



**VIRIDIAN ADVISORY**

Representative of Viridian Advisory Pty Ltd  
ABN 34 605 438 AFSL 476223



# Flickerfest celebrates 35 years of Aus filmmaking

Aslan Shand

Celebrating 35 years and a new baby on her hip, Flickerfest Festival Director Bronwyn Kidd said it is exciting to be bringing the opportunity to local and Australian filmmakers to showcase their films this weekend in Mullumbimby.

Flickerfest started on the grounds of the Balmain High School in 1991 as the only international short films festival in Australia. It moved to the Bondi Pavilion in 1996, then also began showing in the Northern Rivers in 1995 alongside Byron All Shorts, which focuses on local talent, with Bronwyn becoming festival director in 1997.

'I had been working on my SBS documentary *Walking With My Sisters* about the Arakwal people and their Native Title claim so I had been visiting the area since 1991,' she told *The Echo*.

'Flickerfest had been running for six years and I realised that this was something that I really wanted to do, so I stepped in as festival director. We then became accredited by the Oscars in 2002, with four awards, providing a pathway to the Oscars. This cemented the festival's reputation as a major platform for celebrating and discovering new talent.'



Aurelia StClair and Sharon Shostak respectively the lead actress and director of *Cool People Who Have Done Amazing Things*; Suzie Whitman and Andy Bambach director and producer of *Alchemy Of Eucalyptus*; Stanley Cook, writer director and producer of *My Friend Artemis*; festival organisers Jack, Bronwyn Kidd, and Shane Rennie – although Jack really didn't do much! and the fabulous Sam Clarke writer, director and producer of *Light In Dark Places*. Jeff 'I Don't Understand Moving Pictures' Dawson

## Bigger every year

This year they have had their highest-ever entries, with 3,750.

'It just keeps growing every year,' said Bronwyn.

'As Main Arm residents, bringing the festival home each year is always a highlight

of what Shane and I do. Supporting and seeing local filmmakers – from high school productions to those who go on to forge Australian film industry recognition – such as Jahvis Loveday – makes it extremely worthwhile. We love sharing the films and connecting our local community

through the event.' Flickerfest and Byron All Shorts open in Mullumbimby this Thursday with over 30 films being shown throughout the weekend. For tickets and more information, go to: <https://iq.org.au/flickerfest-mullumbimby-byron-allshorts-2026>.

# Man attacked in Brunswick Heads



Blood being scrubbed off the footpath. Photo Norman Sanders

Police have confirmed a man was attacked at a park in Brunswick Heads on Thursday, February 19.

The duty officer from Tweed Heads Police station told *The Echo*, 'It appears it was between two homeless people. One male was arrested that day, and it's still under investigation.'

Resident Norman Sanders told *The Echo*, 'I talked to

one of the cops standing over a bloodstain near the Footbridge Cafe. He said the victim headed for the police station, bleeding profusely all the way.'

'The men in the picture were scrubbing the walk in the doorway of the police station, apparently using water from the fire truck, which had been stationed next door.'

# Measles alert Byron Bay area

Northern NSW Local Health District is advising people to be alert for signs and symptoms of measles after being notified of a confirmed case who was infectious while visiting several locations in the Byron Bay area.

People who attended the following locations should watch for the development of symptoms. These locations do not pose an ongoing risk.

Monday, 9 February: Northern Rivers Football Academy fields, Ewingsdale

Road, Byron Bay, 7pm to 9.30pm; Tuesday, 10 and Wednesday 11 February businesses at 73-75 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate, all day, and Ms Ho Hot Rolls, 88 Centennial Circuit, Byron Bay Arts & Industry Estate, 1pm to 2.30pm; Friday, 13 February, Byron Central Hospital Emergency Department, 3pm to 6.10pm. There is currently an increased risk of measles in NSW, with 18 cases confirmed since 1 January 2026.

**Releaf**

**LOOKING FOR AN ALTERNATIVE SOLUTION TO YOUR HEALTH?**

**BOOK A FREE DISCOVERY CALL TODAY**

Visit [releaf.com.au](https://releaf.com.au) to book in today

International Women's Day

**GIVE TO GAIN ANNUAL FUNDRAISING LUNCH**

Friday 13th March  
Crystalbrook Byron Bay

11am - 2.30pm  
\$110

3 COURSE SHARED PLATTERS AND BUBBLES ON ARRIVAL!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER **JULES ALLEN**  
Social scientist  
Expert on anxiety and resilience

MC **MANDY NOLAN**  
FOUNDER **ANNE GOSLETT**  
LINEN SHIFT TEAM LEADER **TONI MORROW**

[shiftproject.org.au/events](https://shiftproject.org.au/events)

**GOOD TIMES & TAN LINES**

**mullum FARMERS MARKET FRIDAYS 7-11 AM**

**NEW BRIGHTON FARMERS MARKET TUESDAYS 8-11 AM**

Over \$140m worth of property sold in 2025.

*Selling in 2026? We've already met your buyer.*

BRAD ROGAN | 0420 529 112

Byron Bay | Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY

## Byron enjoys Yoga Pose



'Yoga Pose', a clay figure cast in bronze, by longtime Byron artist Laila Bell was unveiled in Jonson Lane mall (Browning Street and Jonson Street roundabout) last Friday. 'For me, this work is about resilience, about finding balance when life feels uncertain, and trusting that even when we are turned upside down, we can remain supported,' said Lila. 'I love that she now lives here among greenery, stone, and filtered light. My hope is that those who pass her might pause, even briefly. To breathe. To soften. And perhaps to see the world from another angle.' Photo Jeff 'More Brass Than Ass' Dawson

## Biggest Aussie Morning Tea

There are not many of us who have not been impacted by cancer either personally or via family and friends.

Registrations are now open for Australia's Biggest Morning Tea, the nation's iconic fundraiser hoping to turn a cuppa into a cure!

With one Australian diagnosed with cancer every five minutes, the same length as your average tea break, every cuppa makes a difference.

Since 1993, Australians have hosted tens of thousands of morning teas, raising over \$200 million for vital cancer research, prevention, support, and advocacy programs,' said Naomi Watson, from the Cancer Council.

'This year, we're aiming even higher. We want workplaces, sport teams, families, friends, and communities to come together and help us raise more than \$17 million.'

While the official day is Thursday, 21 May, people can raise a cuppa anytime in May or June. Turn morning tea into a powerful force for change, by registering an event or donating today at [biggestmorningtea.com.au](http://biggestmorningtea.com.au).

## Byron Council votes for rail trail

Eve Jeffery

One of the most divisive local issues in recent years has been the construction of the Byron Shire sections of the Northern Rivers Rail Trail (NRRT). Last Thursday, Byron Shire Council (BSC) bit the bullet and finally voted to go ahead and seek funding for an 'on-formation' trail, which would see the dismantling of the current rail line and the end of any proposed multi-use concepts.

Cr Asren Pugh moved a motion that included a mention of the significant social and economic success of current sections of the NRRT, while acknowledging that preliminary assessments and reports demonstrate that a multi-use trail - for Mullum to Byron - would result in significant technical complexity and environmental impacts.

The motion seeks funding to progress the planning, design, and implementation of an 'on-formation' rail trail, and with input from Cr Elia Hauge, that flora and fauna be included in the recommendations of the flora assessments and any environmental impact studies. The motion also said that Council would continue to advocate that the trail remains in public ownership.

During public access Cameron Arnold noted that there had been 315,505 rail trail visitors since March 2023, and that the completed sections through Tweed, Lismore, and Richmond Valley are already delivering substantial returns in visitor spend and local business activation.

'When the full 132kms is connected, Byron Shire will

be at the centre of that success story. Right now we're a gap in the middle of it, and that means accommodation, nights, cafe stops, events and visitor spending that are currently going elsewhere.'

Speaking against, Chris Sheridan said 'We haven't seen any of [the economic success] being proved. There's nothing to substantiate that claim at all.'

### Time to move forward

During the debate Cr Pugh said this has been a long-running issue.

'For 13 years we've been talking about this and very, very slowly changing Council's position and policy on it to something that's actually practical. I certainly understand those parts of the community that want a train back, that have concerns about public transport, and those are all real concerns, but the rail corridor is not the solution to those concerns. There is no chance of getting a train. There is no chance of extending the solar train. They've been very clear about that. Regardless of what we end up doing, the tracks will have to be ripped up. The bridges will have to be rebuilt.'

Speaking against the motion, Cr David Warth said he could totally understand how people want to get on with this. 'But, what we're looking at is planning for the future. And every day we drive in and out of Byron Bay and into Mullum, we're looking the future in the face; choked traffic. It's only going

to get worse.'

Also against removing the rail was Cr Michelle Lowe, who said that as much as she absolutely supports the rail trail, she also appreciates the importance of active transport. 'I am just so for light rail, and I really wish that that section between Byron and Mullumbimby could be for that. I feel like ripping up the tracks is something that can never, ever be recovered once they're gone - any opportunity to ever get rail back on there is completely squandered. And I feel like this is a real shame.'

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye said it's a really vexed issue that's had passionate people from all sides engaged for decades.

'I have previously advocated for the multi-modal [option] between here and Byron Bay. I saw it as a potential option, but I also went to the election saying that if it seemed as though that was going to impede going forward, I would not get in the way of the rail trail going ahead. And I'm a person of my word.'

Cr Pugh closed the debate by saying it would make a difference for Council to have a clear, unambiguous, practical policy on the whole of the rail trail.

'I think that will make a difference to how we get treated by those making decisions about grant applications - they will see us finally being serious about getting this rail trail done.'

The motion was passed with councillors Lyon, Kay, Hauge, Ndiaye, Swain and Pugh voting for, and councillors Warth and Lowe against.

## Get colourful this Sunday in Bruns

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

'Holi is a traditional Indian festival celebrating joy, unity and new beginnings. It is known as the Festival of Colour and is now celebrated worldwide as a fun, uplifting

way to bring communities together,' explained organiser Di Browne.


### Free community event for Bruns

'This free community event is for women and girls, with children up to eight years old welcome.

'Come together to throw colour, dance, laugh and

celebrate connection in a safe, inclusive space. Wear a white T-shirt and sunglasses and be ready to get colourful.'

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



**LIFE MEDICAL MULLUMBIMBY**

High level medical care with lifestyle medicine


NEW DOCTOR

**Dr Sam Gartland**  
(male)  
MRCP (UK) FRACGP FASLM

**Dr Sarah Cunningham**  
FRACGP Cert Women's Health  
IB Lifestyle Meds

**GP and Lifestyle Medicine Physicians**

- Lifestyle Medicine
- Women's Health
- Natural Therapies
- Menopause and Hormone Therapy
- Skin Checks
- Iron Infusions



113 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby NSW 2482 | [hello@lifemm.com.au](mailto:hello@lifemm.com.au)  
02 6680 2486 | [www.lifemedicalmullumbimby.com.au](http://www.lifemedicalmullumbimby.com.au)



Now personally delivering in the local area from our Murwillumbah depot.

**100% Independent, local family owned**

**Servicing your area**





**NO RENTAL FEES**

**Free Call: 1300 727 013**

[swapabottle@bigpond.com](mailto:swapabottle@bigpond.com)

[swapabottlegas.com](http://swapabottlegas.com)



## A new beginning for Ingrid

Ingrid is saying goodbye to Durrumbul Hall and looking at her next steps. Photo Tree Faerie

Eve Jeffery

All good things must come to an end, and Main Arm resident, Ingrid Manning is hoping that as one door closes, another will soon open.

Many locals will know Ingrid and her husband who were installed as caretakers at the Durrumbul Hall, Main Arm, 27 years ago – that’s almost three decades of mowing the surrounding acres, keeping the area tidy, cleaning the hall after one event and preparing the venue for the next – over the years the couple also took bookings and spent many,

many hours unblocking the toilet late on a Saturday night – something Ingrid says she won’t miss.

### Looking to the future

Sadly, Ingrid’s husband passed away nine years ago but she has been happy to forge ahead on her own since. However, the hall has had a caretaker since it began being built by the local community in 1983, but now the Byron Shire Council have revoked the right of the hall to have a caretaker on site – this means that Ingrid will need to move on some

time this year.

Ingrid has been living the quiet life for so long she is hoping to find a nice paddock somewhere that she can set up her two shipping containers and a verandah.

‘I just want a bit of land – a space that I can either pay a small rent on or do some light work for,’ she told *The Echo*.

Ingrid says one thing she is looking forward to is going away for a weekend. ‘I could never go away because there was always something to be here for.’

If you have a space that you could offer Ingrid, you can text her on 0423 303 635.

## The Mullum Moth is here!

Not just a winged insect symbolically representing transformation, hidden knowledge, and navigating through darkness. But a live presentation of spellbinding tales – written by locals, and told by locals!

The Moth is a New York mainstay, created by an author who wanted to recreate sultry summer evenings in his home state where moths were attracted to the light of his porch. In a way, we’re all moths attracted to the light of Mullumbimby!

Over the last few months the good folk from Creative Mullum have teamed up with *The Echo* to reignite their dormant chrysalis.

For years *The Echo* ran a popular short story competition. It was briefly revisited during Covid, fell into the

annals of local history. Things change, we get too busy, life pushes on, and sometimes we forget to stop and smell the roses, or even the moths!

So, as part of a shire-wide creative ignition, *The Echo* Short Story Comp has been reimagined, this time with a hook of ‘The Hitchhiker’ as an included totem or theme.

There are currently over 100 stories entered into the adult and Under-18s combined. It’s a remarkable effort. The moths have hatched, and they are flying to the light!

The judges for this competition are local author and writing mentor Alan Close, *Echo* general manager Simon Haslam, and author and writing coach Mandy Nolan.

When the competition closes at the end of February,

the judges will be busy selecting the chosen few who will read their stories for a live audience.

### Live readings

The Mullum Moth will be hosted by Mandy Nolan and will fly free at The Top Pub in Mullum on Monday, 30 March. With a first prize of \$1,000 sponsored by The Top Pub for the adult section and IGA sponsoring the under-18 prize of \$500, this is the beginning of what we hope is a flourishing storytelling scene! We certainly have the talent.

It will be judged on the night by guest judges (TBA) with encouragement from the audience. This show will sell out, so grab your tickets for \$15/20 now on [www.creativemullum.org.au](http://www.creativemullum.org.au).

## Cakes changing the world in Bangalow

Every last Saturday of the month, the best bakers in town fire up their ovens for the Bangalow CWA cake and produce stall.

Mixing up a selection of large and small iced cakes, with perennial favourites such as: passionfruit slice; Anzac biscuits; freshly baked

scone; gingerbread people; chocolate cakes; and delicious jams made from local seasonal fruit so good you’ll think you died and went to heaven as a piece of buttered toast!

Drop into the Bangalow CWA Rooms on the main street (31 Byron Street) on

Saturday, 28 February from 8am to 1pm. There’s often flowers and seasonal fruit, along with handmade baby and children’s clothes, and so much more.

In a time when people have given up on government, cake is still a reliable grassroots changemaker!

## BYRON EVENT ROOM

A purpose-built meeting room in the heart of Byron for **Board Meetings, Retreats, Training & Strategy Sessions**



[byroneventroom.com.au](http://byroneventroom.com.au) | (02) 5671 1000 | 7 Marvell St, Byron Bay | @byroneventroom

## Elements of Byron celebrates ten years

Elements of Byron has 'served 130,000 margaritas across the one million room nights guests have stayed since we opened ten years ago,' said owner Peggy Flannery.

Peggy and her husband Brian purchased the 82 hectare property in 2010 and have dedicated 60 per cent of their overall property to conservation zoning.

They are passionate about, and enjoy supporting, the community they are part of.



Elements of Byron owner Peggy Flannery celebrates ten years with Development Director Jeremy Holme. Photo Natalie Grono

## North Byron floodplain discussion continues

The Ocean Shores Community Association (OSCA) who are one part of the Marshalls Creek Flood Forum (MCFF) called a meeting on Monday, 16 February at the Ocean Shores Country Club to discuss one of the proposed options, ocean openings, put forward for assessment by the MCFF.

'While the focus was only on one of the options, it is also the most contentious. Particularly because the favoured site is in the middle of the Billinudgel Nature Reserve,' said MCFF member Catherine Lane following the meeting.

'Other measures put forward by the MCFF include: diminishing rock walls at Readings Bay, other dredging options, detention of flood water upstream of Billinudgel and adequate budgeting for effective ongoing maintenance of levees, drains, culverts and flapvalves.

### State government decision

'If the pros and cons of these strategies can be properly evaluated and costed with the help of

hydrologists, engineers, and ecologists then there will be an opportunity to enhance and support Council's efforts to secure funding to get the best outcome for the community.'

Speaking to *The Echo*, hydrologist and member of the MCFF, Duncan Dey said, 'Flood-prone communities need the full range of options and mechanisms to be investigated. And that is what happens under state-funded floodplain studies. Council is clamouring to get that started. Community support will make it happen.'

## Pugh steps back as Byron Shire Councillor

► Continued from page 1

mayor has affected his decision to resign he did say that, 'If I was mayor, I wouldn't be stepping away. It would have been a different level of commitment as that is your full-time job'.

'I've got to spend more time with my business and other projects, so I cannot dedicate the time I think is required to the work of Council and representing the community effectively. I'm a bit of an "all or nothing" person, and if I can't give it my all and give it the level of energy, the time commitment that I think is necessary to properly represent my community, then it's best if I let someone else.

'I am proud of the progress we have made during my time on Council. I'm particularly proud of being instrumental in changing Council's position in supporting the rail trail [which took place at his final Council meeting (see page 4)], and embedding Aboriginal housing on Country into Council policy.'

Asren has also been a driving force behind trying to return the Bangalow Bowlo back into community hands after Norths Collective closed the facility down in October 2025. At his final Council meeting he saw his proposal for recognition of heritage listing for parts of the site supported by all councillors (see page 2).



Asren Pugh has resigned from Byron Shire Council. Photo Jeff Dawson

### Contentious Mullum housing

Asren said he still stands behind the 57 Station Street carpark housing project in Mullumbimby, initiated by Council during former Greens mayor Simon Richardson's tenure as housing above car parks, despite the very strong community pushback against the proposal.

'But regardless, I think it's an important project to have,' he said.

'If as a Council you declare yourselves, and the Shire, to be in a housing emergency and constantly use the language like housing crisis then you have to respond in a way that's proportionate to that language. Otherwise, you're just the boy who cried wolf. An emergency requires strong action and probably decisions outside the norm that requires pushing through

things that you wouldn't in ordinary circumstances.

'We need the space for the artists, the creatives, and the crazies – you need somewhere for them to be able to live, otherwise, they're not in your town anymore. And you don't get someone in rainbow clothes doing a hula hoop outside shops anymore. You don't get that, that thing that makes Byron special.'

Pugh previously ran for the seat of Ballina in the 2019 state election with his preferences pushing Greens MP Tamara Smith across the line. Asked if he is resigning so that he can make another tilt at the state elections in either the lower or upper house that are likely to take place in March 2027, Asren said, 'We'll have to see. It's been a long time that I've been focused on Council and Labor won't be doing its pre-selections for a long time.'

'You've got to have a reason to do it. It's got to be an external reason and you have to have a drive to want to achieve certain things. Progress is not guaranteed as we've seen in America. To make positive change it requires people to engage in public life, in political discourse, in political campaigns.'

'It's not easy on the family. It's not easy on your finances, it's not easy on your mental health. So you and your family have to be ready for it.'

## What's your vision for the Mullum Hospital site?

► Continued from page 1

government to come to the table and be part of this project with us and potentially also the federal government with the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF),' said Cr Hauge.

'It is time for them to step up and deliver some public housing for this community, some social housing, Aboriginal housing, diverse housing, housing for families, and older people.'

### Comment on DCP

Cr Hauge explained that the DCP guides what will be built on the hospital site – from types of buildings and infrastructure to transport and access and tree cover.

Cr Hauge pointed out that the two key aspects of the DCP that people need to look at, and comment on, are the performance criteria and the prescriptive measures which actually detail what must be

achieved in the next stage of the development, the proposed development application (DA), and determine the specific criteria that the final DA will be measured against.

For example: how the intersection upgrade will be assessed; that the 'building that goes on the corner of Azalea Street and Left Bank Road should provide a landmark of some sort, so whether that is built for public art or even a small public space'; tree cover; green spaces; and whether water sensitive urban design should be included.

Mayor Sarah Ndiaye told the meeting that Council had very encouraging meeting with Homes NSW, the NSW Reconstruction Authority and the NSW Aboriginal Land Council about the future of the site.

'We have a really strong case,' she told the meeting. 'This is quite complex but

very, very important,' Dale Emerson from MRA reminded everyone that they are welcome to contact the MRA for support to understand the DCP and help get submissions in to Council.

'This is public land that should stay in public hands. So we are asking the community to sign the petition, write submissions, grow the conversation,' said Dale.

As the final audience member of the night who spoke said, 'I think tonight has been a very good informative night, and I'm very thankful that I was able to get here. I think it's been a fantastic explanation of everything.'

For more information contact the MRA at: mullumra@gmail.com or <https://mullumhospital.site.good.do/keepitpublic/keepitpublic>, or go to Byron Shire Council website: [www.byron.nsw.gov.au](http://www.byron.nsw.gov.au).

CREATIVE MULLUM & THE ECHO PRESENT

# THE MULLUM MOTH

## "The Hitchhiker"

Live readings of finalists from the Echo Short Story Comp  
MC Mandy Nolan

Monday 30th March, 7pm  
The Top Pub, Mullumbimby

Tickets \$15/20:  
[events.humanitix.com/mullum-moth](http://events.humanitix.com/mullum-moth)

creativemullum.org.au/event/mullum-moth  
facebook.com/events/2750377058466040

ADULTS 1ST PRIZE: **\$1,000**

UNDER 18S 1ST PRIZE: **\$500**

MAJOR EVENT SPONSORS

EST. 1988 • REBUILT 1982  
**TOP PUB** MULLUMBIMBY

Dino's **IGA**

EVENT SPONSORS

transform vka

**ECHO SHORT STORY COMP**

**FINAL ENTRIES DUE BY 28 FEB!**

ENTRIES & PUBLISHED STORIES HERE:  
[echo.net.au/short-story-comp](http://echo.net.au/short-story-comp)

Creative MULLUM **Echo**

# Reflecting on Bentley, *The Echo*, and defining our communities

In its 40th year, *The Echo* is revisiting the pivotal moments that have impacted and shaped the Northern Rivers region.

Eve Jeffery

The fight against CSG was a defining moment for many people in the Northern Rivers. *The Echo* was there to keep the community up-to-date – at that time *The Echo* online editor Chris Dobney was directing traffic and making sure the world knew what was happening, because many other news outlets were refusing to cover the story. At that time, *Echo* journalist and political commentator, David Lowe was working as a content creator for Lock The Gate and I was working for the online edition and the hardcopy *Echo*.

There had been a battle at Glenugie which saw the Lismore courthouse full of protesters, but it was when Chris sent me to Casino in a tincy wincy plane the size of a Mini Cooper that my time in the CSG field began, literally, on the Doubtful Creek campaign. The hard slog of Bentley was just beginning.

With David reporting directly to Chris, and me getting out to take photos when I could, we covered almost every aspect of the fight at the south-eastern end of Bentley on the Kyogle Road.

There were concerts with rock stars, confrontations with police, and a lot of fun to be had in between



There were concerts with rock stars, confrontations with police, and a lot of fun to be had in between digging in, climbing up, and locking on...



*Echo* photographer Jeff Dawson captured the Bentley protectors as they stood up and said 'frack off' to CSG mining in the Northern Rivers.

digging in, climbing up, and locking on, with the Knitting Nanas and the 'Godlike' voice of Drew Hutton urging us on and on – I even managed to convince that year's Nimbin Kombi Konvoy to make a detour past the blockade to lift the spirits of those hunkering down – I am pretty sure Oka were playing at Gate A at that moment in time.

It was when the police threatened to send in 800 officers that things got scary – I'd interviewed an elderly farmer who had previously put his body on the line by locking-on to Gate A. He said NSW Police had approached him to make a camp in his paddock. In a brave move he refused to let them on his property. Tensions grew – I decided that I was

no good to *The Echo* trapped in the expected lockdown, so David and I made sure the lines of communication were open and he began to feed me stories and photos in the lead up to the morning of Monday, 12 May, when the police were expected to storm the camp to let the machinery in – then, it didn't happen... A few days later the battle was won and it

was won by people power. The CSG issue saw friendships made and others broken, families were torn apart, other families finally made peace. Farmers stood side-by-side with 'ferals' and we did what we do best lifting community spirit as we sent Metgasco packing – and *The Echo* was there to help the community read all about it.



## BECOME AN ON-CALL FIREFIGHTER AT FIRE AND RESCUE NSW

- ✓ Help your community
- ✓ Learn new skills
- ✓ Get paid an hourly rate



FRNSW On-Call Recruitment





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

### Body parts found at Ballina

Police say they are awaiting the outcome of forensic analysis after human remains were discovered at Ballina on Monday afternoon. About 3.50pm on Monday 16 February 2026, police were called to the Richmond River, near Cherry Street, following reports possible human remains had been located. At the scene, officers located human remains on the northern bank of the river. Anyone with information about the incident is urged to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

### Grieve Crossing Bridge opens in Kyogle

The new Grieve Crossing Bridge was given an official opening this week by locals and politicians. The bridge is located at The Risk in Kyogle Council Shire,

### Former police officer faces costly cancer treatment

A Tweed-based former police officer who is diagnosed with a rare and aggressive cancer is seeking public help, owing to her treatment not being covered by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

### Have a say on the health of the Upper Richmond River catchment

Kyogle Council is calling on landowners, community groups, industry representatives and residents to have a say in safeguarding the health of the Upper Richmond River catchment.

In a media release they say, 'The call comes hot on the heels of the launch of Council's Upper Richmond River Waterway and Wetland Health Assessment and Action Plan'.

### Lismore to host Rumble on the River

Lismore will take centre stage in Australia's skateboarding scene this April when it hosts Rumble on the River, an official Skate Australia Olympic pathway event. In a media release by Lismore City Council, they say, 'Running from 16-19 April 2026, the competition is a key stop on the Rumble Pro Tour and one of only four national events to feature both Street and Park disciplines, showcasing Lismore's world-class skatepark as a premier venue for rising talent'.

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

# NASCA program for young men launches in Ballina

Story & photo David Lowe

The launch of the Young Men's Academy (YMA) at Ballina Coast High School is set to empower young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men to be the best they can be, according to NASCA, an Indigenous-led organisation with over 30 years of experience.

The announcement follows the local success of their Young Women's Academy.

The latest 12-month pilot program will provide equitable, culturally-grounded support at school for 50 young men, offering dedicated mentorship, cultural pride, and tools to improve school engagement, confidence and long-term resilience, guided by local Elders.

This is the first program of its kind for young men in Australia.

YMA Team Leader Abbey Orcher says NASCA works mainly with young women around Australia, with Ballina's pilot program being an 'immense success', having assisted 75 students over its first year.

She described the program as a 'wraparound service that uses culture to



Dancers at the YMA NASCA launch, Ballina Coast High School.

get our kids through the door.'

'Essentially, rather than walk in front of them or behind them, we're walking right alongside them every step of the way to get them over that retention line.'

The Indigenous non-profit organisation NASCA was founded in 1995 by Ngarabal man, change-maker and rugby league champion David Liddiard.

Initially there was a focus on sports, which has widened since to include broader education and cultural goals.

There are now 21 young women's academies across NSW, along with activities in primary schools interstate, with volunteers going into

nine communities across the Northern Territory.

Originally from Bourke, Abbey Orcher has been working with NASCA for five years.

'I've always wanted to work with youth, and I guess be somebody that I needed when I was younger.'

She says the young men's academy will include assistance with food, transport and whatever else is needed to help young men be successful at school.

'We run afternoon activities, camps - absolutely anything that supports them getting over that line.'

NASCA is supported by corporate and tax-deductible donations, and is getting great results, with almost 100 per

cent of participants graduating in recent years, a massive improvement on graduation rates without NASCA.

### Amazing outcomes

NASCA CEO Alison Bentick told *The Echo* the outcomes in Ballina's first year with the women's program were 'absolutely amazing'.

'I think there's something like a 66 per cent drop in suspensions last year,' she said. 'We thought, why can't we have that for the young men? So this particular site is our first Young Men's Academy.'

She says there are 76 enrolments of young First Nations boys at Ballina Coast High, with 50 places in the program at this stage.

'However, NASCA are keen to engage all 76 where we can'.

'We'll over-staff and make sure that they've all got the opportunity to participate, because everyone deserves a good education and to have that support.'

'Our programs are about education, so that means bums on seats in class, getting support to do assessments, and engaging local cultural content to keep the

kids up to the level that they need,' said Ms Bentick.

'That might mean getting out and cutting coolamons, or it could be doing language, or learning about their traditional lands and who their people are. It's very much an educational focus.'

### Australia is watching

Aaron McDonald is Ballina Coast High School's deputy principal in charge of Aboriginal education. 'I'm very privileged to be here as part of the pilot programs,' he said.

'The outcomes we've achieved already have been fantastic.'

Mr McDonald has two of his ex-students involved as NASCA team leaders. 'That makes me feel good, as an old teacher.'

Do you think the rest of Australia is watching?

'Yes, if we can replicate the outcomes that the girls' program has delivered, that will be a big thing for Ballina, and a really great thing for our school. And I can see it being a great thing for NASCA.'

'This could go Australia-wide, you never know.'

■ Full story online at [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au).

# Concerns raised over lack of transparency with large DA

Dr Richard Gates

It's now more than a year and a half since the Land & Environment Court of NSW (LEC) approved residential development at the controversial Iron Gates site at Evans Head, despite longstanding community opposition.

The approval included 121 residential sites and a community-controlled 'Shelter-in-Place' to accommodate residents in the event of fire and flood, despite the fact that state government policy deems them inappropriate for greenfield sites.

The judgement for the development included a 62-page annexure, with extensive conditions to be met by the developer prior to commencement.

Despite the fact that Richmond Valley Council objected to the development in the LEC, and at the prior Northern Regional Planning Panel (NRPP) hearing in August 2022, Council is now the arbiter of the conditions.

This raises serious question about the appropriateness of an objector being appointed to a



Iron Gates Bridge floods as shown in comparison picture on right. Flooded structures often have increased integrity risk problems. Photo Dr Richard Gates

decision-making role, and capacity for impartiality given what is known from bias research.

### Transcript refused

The community requested a copy of the transcript of the LEC trial but was refused.

The community was told to get its own copy, at considerable and unnecessary expense.

Part of the reason for the transcript was to review evidence given in court not available to the public at the time, because of sound problems during proceedings, and to allow the community the opportunity to review testimony against material they had not seen.

This refusal did not engender community trust



and confidence in Council, and added to concerns about potential bias in assessment of court conditions.

The flood- and fire-prone residential site, more than a kilometre from the village of Evans Head, is accessed by a 30-plus-year-old road and bridge for which Richmond Valley Council does not accept responsibility.

The LEC required a 'serviceability assessment' of the modular bridge, a concrete-decked timber structure known as a Doolan Deck Bridge, to be made before it could be used by heavy trucks taking fill to the flood-prone site.

The court also required a 'full structural inspection report' to be approved by Council and 'any recommendation from the structural

inspection report ... to be carried out'.

The community requested a copy of the bridge inspection report, but Council declined to make one available. We were told to make an application for a copy of the report under freedom of information legislation, the GIPA Act.

An application has been made for the report, which also notes that Council was placing an unnecessary burden - yet again - on the community for information which should be freely available to it.

This is also a delay tactic which begs the question why is Council going out of its way to keep information from the public just as it did the transcript of the trial?

The question must also be asked was prior opposition to the development a 'Claytons' objection in order to make it appear that there was opposition to the development, when in fact Council was in favour of the development all along? A political expedient to deal with longstanding public opposition to the development over more than 40 years.

### Richmond Valley Council replies

A Richmond Valley Council spokesperson told *The Echo*, 'The Land & Environment Court has approved this development, and Richmond Valley Council, as a NSW local government authority, has to, and will, respect that outcome'.

'We are dealing with this approved residential subdivision as we would do any other development, and it is inappropriate to provide a running commentary on this process in response to assertions by community groups.'

'The GIPA process provides access to government information, while providing appropriate management of privacy requirements and commercial in confidence information. The opportunity to view the bridge report has been provided to a local resident following a GIPA application. The transcript of the Land & Environment Court proceedings can be sought from that court.'

■ Dr Gates is a spokesperson for Evans Head Residents for Sustainable Development.

Dino's

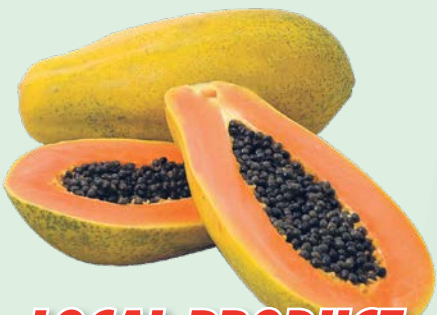


MULLUMBIMBY

ON SALE WEDNESDAY TO SUNDAY

FRESH PRODUCE

Red Paw Paw



LOCAL PRODUCT

\$8.99 kg

White Grapes



UNBELIEVABLE

\$4.50 kg

Keitt Mangoes



FRESH

\$2.99 each

Tomato Truss

BRILLIANT VALUE



\$5.99 kg

FROM THE DELI

Bangalow Ham

LOCAL PRODUCT



\$25.99 kg

Roast Beef sliced

GREAT PRICE



\$29.99 kg

MEAT SPECIALS

Mullum Merchant Bone Broth Chicken/beef

LOCAL PRODUCT



\$22.99 litre

Wagyu Rump Steak



BRILLIANT VALUE

\$54.50 kg



IGA COMMUNITY CHEST

WE STAND BEHIND OUR FRESH FOOD

We guarantee our fresh food will always be fresh, or we'll replace it and refund your money.\*

DINO'S IGA MULLUMBIMBY

62 BURRENBAR STREET • PH 6684 2207

\*Conditions apply. Specials available Wednesday 25/2/26 – Sunday 1/3/26. Limits may apply. We reserve the right to correct printing errors.



**The Byron Shire Echo**  
Volume 40 #38 • February 25, 2026

# Hooked on Roundup

## Driving our own path forward

Whether you agree with the community members who are listened to or not, it's a powerful vote of confidence in democracy when community voices are heard, and policy is changed, even at the local government level. Byron Shire Council has withdrawn from the Special Entertainment Precinct (SEP) proposal altogether, and signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Home NSW 'to expedite the delivery of new social and affordable housing, including renewed and accessible housing,' that should affect the future of the Mullumbimby Hospital site.

However Byron Shire Council can't take the credit – it failed to consult with community at the right time and in the right way, leaving the community to organise themselves to express their views.

The historical experience of the Byron Bay townsfolk in relation to alcohol-related violence and the failure of Council, state, and federal governments to address long-known issues around lighting, transport, and safety left the community frustrated and feeling unheard during the SEP process.

After years of community fighting, including '300 locals risking arrest' in 2010 to keep the Mullumbimby Hospital site in public hands, as described by Caroline Bass from the Mullumbimby Hospital Action Group (MHAG) at Monday's hospital site public meeting, the community were shocked when Council staff recommended selling the hospital site to developers last year.

There is now hope that the NSW Minister for Housing, Rose Jackson, and the federal minister for Housing, Minister for Homelessness, Clare O'Neil, will help the community drive well-planned and quickly delivered public, social, and affordable housing at the site rather than public land once again being sold off for short-term gain. The next step is responding to Council's proposed development control plan (DCP) (See front page).

While these issues have been challenging for councillors and the community to navigate, it is important to recognise that they have also brought the community together to express their ideas, to push back against the path laid out to them by the bureaucracy, and demonstrate the importance of how the community can come together.

Now it is a question of moving forward. For Byron Bay it is looking at how, not only activation of the rail corridor can be achieved (see page 2), but also how Council and community can work together to place pressure on the state and federal governments to address the need for improved lighting, safety and transport.

For almost 40 years young people have come through the doors of *The Echo* to do work experience and for all that time they have been telling our readers that they need transport. Our current general manager had to hitch to work at *The Echo* in Mullumbimby before he could afford a car! So now is the time for the NSW Minister for Transport, John Graham, and Minister for Youth, Rose Jackson, to step up and engage with our community, and region, to look at how they can provide safety, transport, and lighting to our community.

It takes you, the reader, to take action to shape your community. Talk to friends, family and colleagues about the issues you see facing your community. Take the chance to respond to the proposed DCP that Council will be putting out in March. Write those letters and emails to your local, state and federal representatives to remind them of the things that they need to be doing for you. Write letters to *The Echo* to make others aware of important issues.

Although we may see a world tearing itself apart, we can all work in our community to drive positive change that uplifts the least powerful of us. Take the opportunity to help shape our world in a positive way.

Aslan Shand, editor

It is hard to imagine that a shortage of the world's most widely used herbicide, glyphosate aka Roundup, could be a national defence emergency, but here we are with Trump's Executive Order (18 February, 2026): 'Promoting the National Defence by Ensuring an Adequate Supply of Elemental Phosphorous and Glyphosate-Based Herbicides'.

Like all things Trump, when you scratch the surface of his apparent concern for the nation's capacity to feed and defend itself, what you find is a scheme that enables Bayer, the sole manufacturer of glyphosate in the USA, to continue its business shielded from any further legal accountability.

Unsurprisingly Bayer also owns and operates active elemental phosphorous mines in the US which is a critical mineral in defence supply chains and a precursor to making glyphosate.

The Executive Order invokes the cold war era 'Defence Production Act' and delegates the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of War, '... To determine the proper nationwide priorities... to ensure a continued and adequate supply of elemental phosphorus and glyphosate-based herbicides'.

The noteworthy part is a handy clause that confers legal immunity on 'domestic producers of elemental phosphorous and glyphosate-based herbicides' and ensures 'no person shall be held liable' for 'any act' resulting from compliance with the Order.

Bayer, who bought Monsanto and its Roundup litigation nightmare in 2018 for \$63bn, is currently being hammered over its failure to warn people that glyphosate might cause them cancer.

To date they have paid out US\$10bn in settlements with a further US\$7.25bn proposal made recently by Bayer and attorneys for cancer patients to resolve the tens of thousands of remaining US lawsuits. There are ongoing lawsuits in other nations too.

So burdened is Bayer by the consequences of their chemical product, last year they threatened to stop producing it altogether in the US and



**'Never forget, Bayer was part of the Nazi-era IG Farben conglomerate that made the gas that killed millions of people in concentration camps'**

– Jo Immig

removed it from products used in the home and garden. They embarked on an aggressive lobbying campaign to curtail further litigation, throwing in a million-dollar donation for Donald Trump.

Bayer is once again appealing to the US Supreme Court, after a failed bid in 2022 to dismiss a \$25m award to Edwin Hardeman, a Californian man with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, which opened the floodgates to state-based litigation.

Bayer argues the federal EPA approval of glyphosate and its regulatory position that glyphosate is not carcinogenic, should bar state-level 'failure-to-warn' claims. The hearing is scheduled for late April, which is interesting timing given this Order.

Legal woes around glyphosate started in 2015 with the release of the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) scientific monograph on glyphosate which found it is a 'probable carcinogen' with 'sufficient evidence' that it causes cancer in experimental animals.

IARC also found 'strong' evidence that both glyphosate active ingredient and the formulated products are genotoxic, meaning it's destructive to genetic material such as DNA and chromosomes, leading to mutations, which can lead to cancer and inherited birth defects.

At the time pesticide regulators, including the APVMA in Australia, scrambled to come to terms with the findings. A vicious campaign against the IARC ensued but they never resiled from their findings and defended all criticisms with evidence.

In late 2025 another bombshell hit. A foundational and frequently cited paper used to justify the safety of glyphosate was retracted from the journal *Regulatory Toxicology and Pharmacology* due to 'serious ethical concerns'. The retraction notice explains the original paper

referenced unpublished studies and Monsanto had a secretive hand in sponsoring and writing the paper.

Concerns about the paper were first exposed in 2017 during legal action against Monsanto, but the journal suspiciously took another eight years to retract it. Meanwhile regulators continue to maintain glyphosate is 'safe if used according to label directions'.

You might be wondering what national defence has to do with all this? Me too. The pesticide industry and the military industrial complex go back a long way, so the mind boggles.

Never forget, Bayer was part of the Nazi-era IG Farben conglomerate that made the gas that killed millions of people in concentration camps. It was the allied forces that broke up that conglomerate after winning the war, establishing Bayer as an independent company.

Remember the Vietnam War and Agent Orange, the herbicide defoliant that denuded entire jungles and is still causing deformities in babies born today? It was primarily manufactured by Dow Chemical Company and Monsanto, under contract to the US Department of Defence.

Given the fact the industrial agricultural sector is now totally hooked on glyphosate with the introduction of genetically-modified Roundup Ready crops, it's no wonder any threat to its existence is framed as a threat to national food security, and national defence.

No regulator would dare to ban glyphosate-based herbicides at this point, which goes to show you just how far the sinister arm of the pesticide industry reaches.

■ Jo Immig is a former advisor to the NSW Legislative Council and coordinator of the National Toxics Network. She's currently a freelance writer and researcher.



**The Byron Shire Echo**  
Volume 40 #38 February 25, 2026  
Established 1986 • 22,000 copies every week

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

Phone: 02 6684 1777  
Editorial/news: [editor@echo.net.au](mailto:editor@echo.net.au)  
Advertising: [adcopy@echo.net.au](mailto:adcopy@echo.net.au)  
Office: 64 McGoughans Lane,  
Mullumbimby NSW 2482

General Manager: **Simon Haslam**  
Editor: **Aslan Shand**  
Deputy Editor: **Hans Lovejoy**  
Photographer: **Jeff Dawson**  
Advertising Manager: **Anna Coelho**  
Production Manager: **Ziggi Browning**



**Nicholas Shand**  
1948–1996  
Founding Editor



**David Lovejoy**  
1944–2024  
Co-founder

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

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

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

© 2026 Echo Publications Pty Ltd – ABN 86 004 000 239 Reg. by Aust. Post Pub. No. NBF9237

# byron healing

Volume 8 ~ 2025-2026

*Your free guide to the flourishing health and wellbeing industry of Byron and the Northern Rivers*

Read it online here: [byronhealing.com.au](http://byronhealing.com.au)

**Rail trail decision**

The decision by Byron Council to rescind the motion from 2023 which supported a multi-use rail corridor (MURC) between Byron Bay and Mullumbimby, will sadden a large section of our community who need better non-road public transport.

Two directors of local railway company, Northern Rivers Rail Ltd (NRRL), Chris Sheridan and myself, spoke in public access, to try to persuade councillors that having an extended rail service through the Byron (and Lismore) Shire will support the lives of a majority of residents and many of the two million visitors to Byron Bay each year.

Unfortunately, six councillors voted for the new motion, ignoring the *Moving Byron 2022-2042* report, which recommends rail as the answer to the growing traffic problems in Byron Shire, and the *Arcadis* report, commissioned by Council in 2019, stating that both rail with trail would provide the best financial outcomes (\$1.50 returned for every \$1 invested).

The good news is that NRRL, which has been working with the Northern Regional Railway Company (NRRC) for almost five years, has applied for a commercial licence to run trains on our Northern Rivers line between Lismore and through Byron Shire to Yelgun which, when approved, can override the Council decision.

We are convinced that having regular, climate-friendly, all-weather rail services and the potential of a recreational bike/walking path in the corridor will provide the very best outcomes for our region.

We are determined to continue with this project's four stages, the first being from Byron Bay to Mullumbimby.

Finding the funds to move forward with this state significant rail project is now our focus.

This short-sighted decision by Council attempts to counter what we have found through numerous surveys of individuals (over 85 per cent) and businesses (over 90 per cent) that show overwhelming support for passenger train services along our 72km of track.

Losing this crucial infrastructure would seriously harm the future sustainability of our region, so we are



Cartoon Jamie Hoile

putting together a package for local investors who see the incredible benefits of rail, for residents, visitors, the environment and our local economies!

**Lydia Kindred**  
Director/Secretary,  
Northern Rivers Rail Ltd

**Rail trail II**

Despite the community's decades-long campaign for upgraded train services on our multi-billion-dollar train line, in one of the busiest tourist regions in the country, with massive increases in population, the majority of Byron Shire councillors chose to ignore the need for public transport and voted to go along with the state government's plan to spend tens of millions of taxpayers' money to destroy the train line for a bike track!

This decision condemns Byron Shire towns to more traffic congestion, more parking problems and rising emissions.

How Green is that?

The cost of upgrading and maintaining roads is millions/billions more than getting the trains running and getting the monster gas guzzlers out of our towns. More taxpayer-subsidised empty buses stuck in traffic will do nothing to solve the problem.

Research shows little economic, social or environmental benefits have been provided from the millions spent on the Tweed section of bike track.

Research also shows more people use the Byron train than the bike track.

The Byron section of line cost less to repair per kilometre for a train than the cost of ripping up the

train line for the bike track. But hey, it's only taxpayers' money – who cares?

If the bike track was such a wonderful investment and providing great returns for investors, the private sector would be queuing up to build it – they're not.

You wouldn't trust any of these people to run a chook raffle.

Thank you to Cr Lowe and Cr Warth who have the decency and wisdom to spend taxpayers' money wisely and put the transport needs of the Byron community, now and into the future, first.

**Louise Doran**  
Ocean Shores

**Stormwater costs**

Thanks, mayor, for your informative letter to *The Echo* regarding stormwater funding [Feb 18].

Wow, \$20 million for Byron Bay, do you realise how many of us are over the continuing funding forever being spent on Byron Bay, because there certainly is the rest of the shire to consider.

Here in Bayside, I have circulated a petition to have our stormwater pipes remediated so we can have a fit-for-purpose functioning stormwater system.

We expect to have functional infrastructure when we submit our DAs, or purchase an existing home.

NSW state legislation requires this: especially when considering additional development, it is not lawful to place existing homes at further risk especially when they are already at risk.

I do agree that Byron Bay is also in dire straits as it too has approved multiple additional developments

We have no choice but to get media coverage to make ourselves heard.

I ask for Phil Holloway, all councillors and our mayor to take a walk and act as expected on our behalf.

**Annie Radermacher**  
Brunswick Heads

action, rather than the SEP debacle that left many in our community with significantly reduced trust in our elected mayor and many of our elected councillors.

**Elizabeth McCall**  
Byron Bay

**Byron nightlife & SEP**

I note in *The Echo* article, 'Staff recommend against Byron Special Entertainment Precinct' [page 9, 18/2/26], that while the journalist cites the original community concerns, the Byron Shire Council staff seemingly have not acknowledged the fact that it was the people of Byron who led the initial analysis of the potential harm to our community and advocated for rejecting the SEP.

To imply that it was Council staff who came to this decision independently (and very late in the day) without this acknowledgement is both disingenuous and does our intelligent, worldly community a great disservice, particularly as only four councillors voted against SEP implementation originally.

I would hope that any future planning for the so-called 'Town Centre Activation Plan' will proactively seek community opinions and feedback prior to any

**57 Station Street**

As we settle into our 2026 routine, let's reflect on what has happened with this controversial development idea.

It began with former Mayor Lyon's idea to turn a much-loved and well-used public asset into a massive concrete cube in the middle of Mullumbimby – and after backroom dealing a developer ended up being promised ownership of the site for a dollar on development.

Then deputy mayor, now Mayor Ndiaye, who would have known, or ought to have known, of this secret deal, doubled down of the development, insulting the Mullumbimby community who voted her in, rather than being transparent with her community.

Now despite strong community opposition the mayor has pushed forward with a development idea that will take years to complete, totally paralysing traffic flow at the beginning of the town.

► Continued on page 12

**Letters to the Editor and cartoons**

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

► Continued from page 11

The initial designs are incompatible with the site due to basic development standards not being met, so new designs are being prepared.

Designing something that doesn't comply with your own design standards — how incompetent can you be?

All the while no developer wants to touch the project because they can see the many obvious difficulties with it. So, Council is spending more money on a new design that no-one wants, on a site that no developer wants to touch.

Incredibly it seems that the best way forward now is for Council to do nothing more and let the idea fade away.

No-one wants it and no-one wants to build it.

**Tim Winton-Brown**  
Mullumbimby

**Unwanted history lesson**

Please spare us the history lesson, Mr Lazarus.

No amount of spin and weasel words can dismiss the fact that every international human rights body has accused the Israeli government of genocide and crimes against humanity going back decades.



Canberra live music venue, Dissent Cafe and Bar, is under investigation after a complaint about posters in the venue's front window (pictured). Police are pursuing the investigation under federal Labor's new hate-symbol provisions in the *Combating Antisemitism, Hate and Extremism (Criminal and Migration Laws) Act 2026*. It broadens offences for displaying prohibited hate symbols like Nazi imagery in public. The venue's owner, David Howe, and the artist, describe the works as clearly satirical and anti-fascist, arguing the action chills artistic and political expression. Photos: Dissent Cafe and Bar on Facebook

Further, that freedom flotillas in the past and more recently had full approval and support of every human rights organisation.

Also, you neglected to mention that they were illegally stopped, boarded and arrested in international waters while trying to deliver aid. Along with the 37 others aid agencies which have been recently prevented from entering what's left of Gaza.

Attitudes like yours are no consolation to child amputees or starving thousands.

Please show a bit more compassion and join the Greens.

**Rod Murray**  
Ocean Shores

**Why we care**

The situation in Gaza is appalling, Israel continues to escalate its attacks on the Palestinian people during what is supposed to be a ceasefire. It's an utter sham and disgusting. The UN and complicit western governments say or do nothing including our government.

There are shocking revelations emerging of how deceased Palestinians bodies cannot be found due to the lethal blast heat from bombs that exceeded 3,000 degrees, which completely vaporises human bodies owing to the deadly chemical composition in modern weaponry supplied by USA.

How is humanity evolving when the military industrial complex seeks more and more ways to mass kill people?

Why do I care? Because the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza is beyond belief and my moral compass says no this is wrong and we must act. Also, our freedom to speak and protest here in Australia has now being severely curtailed at the behest of Israel.

**Matt Wierzbicki**  
Tyagarah

**Train brain**

So, are you saying it's taken this long for Byron to consider 'no train', considering they are a middle section of a rail trail, seems that was forgone, or did they mean the absurdly heavy 'solar train'?

Anyway 6/2 that's gone, does that mean they start the design process or is that forgone as well and just lightweight cheap copies of Lismore after anything that can be sold for cash has been 'recycled'?

100-year-old timber bridges on Casino to Murwillumbah line beyond repair to support the weight of cyclists,

I think not. As to washout, reinforcing the suggestion to leave some rail edging and add more good quality railway ballast before top coat surface.

I see under documents a 149-page report on flowers!

Are you all girls over there at Byron Council?

Where's the engineering brainstorming?\*

Where's the maximum reuse of on-site materials, detach the rails from the sleepers and spread them to the full four metres width, as edging, then backfill, and top off, that metal boundary will demarcate and actually work as a boundary border, helping to preserve the endangered flora, please hope this is considered in the final assessment rather than just recycling recovery and state funding?

**Will Goode**  
East Lismore

\***Letters ed:** Women are underrepresented in this male-dominated profession, making up 14-16 per cent of the engineering workforce in Australia. Discouraging factors include societal stereotypes and a lack of visible role models.

**E-bike dangers**

This is a disaster just waiting to happen.

The injury statistics are mounting around the country but there continues to be a sense of apathy amongst the authorities.

E-bikes are effectively motorcycles. They are heavy, fast and completely unregulated. They usually have more than one person on board. Often the passenger is a young child.

Helmets are occasionally worn. They can be seen on the road or the footpath. There is little respect or knowledge of road rules.

Speeds usually seem to be around 50km/h. Most are supposedly speed-limited but this is easy to override.

There is no minimum age, there is no training, and no form of insurance.

Most e-bikes weigh 18-28kg which combined with the speed give them considerably more momentum than a standard bicycle. The potential for serious injury is high both for the rider and any pedestrian that may get in the way.

To get a standard motorcycle licence one has to be at least 17 years of age, have completed a rider training course and ride a registered motorcycle which therefore has CTP insurance.

If someone were to ride a standard motorcycle on a footpath, without a helmet

or with a young child as a pillion passenger, they would be pulled over, fined and potentially face court.

E-bikes need to be similarly regulated. Age limited. Compulsory rider training and all e-bikes should be registered.

Let's not wait for the injury tally to mount. Action is required now. It should be a simple matter of setting a date for the transition and advertising the changes. Fines should then apply.

**Dr Neil Meulman (Surgeon)**  
Bathurst

**Pedestrian-friendly CBD**

I noted recently, Paul Bibby's article on the proposed more pedestrian-friendly CBD [Echo, 28 January].

It seems a timely move; but I am dubious that this will be the outcome of the proposed changes. In print, they seem well enough: pedestrian crossing and a median strip proposed for Fletcher Street are certainly necessary. Fletcher Street has become another Byron 'rat run' and it is hazardous to negotiate. Vehicles emerging from all directions, often at speed.

Regarding the published quote, it's a proposal, 'that supports and integrates alternate modes of transport.' I am unsure what this implies, but I suspect it means that all the e-bikes, scooters, cycles, skateboards etc. will be 'sharing' with pedestrians. This in my opinion simply obviates the concept 'pedestrian-friendly'. Many of these riders are reckless and void of care to a degree that a Sydney paper's article on the problem described some riders as being of 'homicidal intent'.

A problem here is that any changes seem unable to be adequately policed. Even if there are changes to the law regarding the use of electric bikes, I don't anticipate an improvement in the current perilous nature of pedestrian footpaths and tracks in Byron Bay. It is a state of affairs that has grown exponentially in the years since the Covid pandemic. Particularly in the past couple of years here. Businesses selling and hiring the machines also seem to have increased. I believe the latter situation may have been a factor in there not having been a serious attempt to regulate the phenomenon.

It is my opinion that expecting shared pedestrian paths to be a safe 'pedestrian-friendly' aspect of a place is an expectation unlikely to be realised. In other words, it will not work.

**David Morris**  
Byron Bay



**BRIDGE LESSONS**  
Free beginner lessons



**7 and 14 March 2026, Marvell Hall, Byron Bay - 10am to 2pm**

Whether you're 18 or 80 bridge sharpens the mind in a supportive club environment.

**Spaces limited, register now:**  
Call 0416 355 292 for further information and to register.

Hosted by the club and sponsored by Byron Shire Council Community Grant.

[byronbay.bridgeaustralia.org](http://byronbay.bridgeaustralia.org)

Follow us on Insta


@byronshireecho



Bodhi  
LIVING

SUMMER  
SALE  
ON NOW

UP TO 40% OFF



1/18 CENTENNIAL CIRCUIT, BYRON BAY

**Oil, sweet oil**

After kidnapping the President of Venezuela, which has the world's largest oil reserves, our allies seem to have set their sights on stealing Iran's oil: the world's third-largest reserves.

Former Supreme Allied Commander of Europe and Four-Star General, Wesley Clark, revealed the Pentagon's plans to invade Iran, back in 2007 and those plans had nothing to do with human rights.

We say we care about the innocent Iranian protesters, but we looked the other way when Pol Pot murdered millions, and Suharto killed hundreds of thousands.

China has delivered to Iran, several units of the YLC-8B long-range, anti-stealth radar system, that can easily see American F-35 and B2 stealthy planes as far as 500 kilometres away and these radars have likely been integrated with Iranian S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems. The second US aircraft carrier will arrive near the Middle East in early March. The oil price would likely double or triple in the event of such a new war and the outcome of such a war is quite unpredictable.

**Peter Olson**  
Goonengerry

**Equal feeling**

If a force is applied on one side of a scale in balance, it then becomes unequal.

Being equal is a feeling, that only the individual can find for themselves, the equality exists at the individual level of feeling something, some other force makes life happen.

The leaders are pursuing the written and spoken words, to give society equality that will not be found, as the history confirms. So, a force is applied resulting in modern slavery. This then drives the division between people, and as it can be seen the banks and others keep the contest of division going to make billions of dollars in profit and power over others.

The foundation stone of inequality, legislated into law by the leaders of societies. A feeling can't be legislated; the individual learns equality as an individual.

Where is the legislation; to account for the learning force everyone relies on?

**Robert Podhajsky**  
Ocean Shores

**Syrian women**

Wow, our PM has stated that the women in Syria, who went there and now want to come back, have made their

**Wanted man seen in hinterland**

Tweed-Byron Police have confirmed that wanted man, Vaughan Cumming, approached a resident on their property in Upper Main Arm last week.

Cumming has been on the run for several months now, and is wanted on seven outstanding warrants. Police confirmed with *The Echo* that he moves between Upper Main Arm and Tumbulgum.

'He is considered dangerous', they said, and 'should not be approached'.

'If you know his current whereabouts, please contact



Murwillumbah Police Station on (02) 6672 9499 or Tweed Heads Police Station on (07) 5506 5499 and speak to an officer. In an emergency contact 000'.

beds and must lie in them.

Could someone please tell him that the cost-of-living crisis in Australia is the bed that he and his government have made... and we, the people, are having to wallow in it?

He of course has his multimillion-dollar property on the central coast to enjoy.

**Anthony Plesko**  
West Ballina

**NORPA praise**

How wonderful it was to experience the latest NORPA offering 'Prima Facie' at our beautiful Byron Theatre on the weekend!

This extraordinary production featured a world-class performance by a stunningly good actress (Matilda Ridgeway) and a very clever and complex set design and brilliant direction by Heather Fairburn.

It was at times very funny and at other times shockingly moving and the standing ovation was well deserved.

A big thank you to the NORPA team for touring outstanding theatre to our regional areas. Bringing such quality theatre to the doorsteps of our towns in the region is such a great concept and one I hope NORPA continues with. Accessible theatre in regional areas is a treasure to appreciate.

**Michael McDougall**  
Byron Bay

**Voiceless wildlife**

As a wildlife carer of almost 20 years (recently resigned), I am pleading to your readers to act and lobby for the protection of our diminishing and undervalued wildlife.

Within NSW in 2025, some 485,000 defenceless wildlife were legally harmed or killed, simply trying to just survive.

This is a national disgrace, and where are those people that call themselves 'true' Australians? I am fortunate enough to have been surrounded by the real patriots

for many decades... they are called wildlife carers.

For these altruistic citizens receive no funding from government, have to purchase all their supplies, and most often pay for veterinary treatment etc.

They are suffering from compassion fatigue/anxiety/stress and burnout, to put it mildly. Some can no longer endure the relentless assault on their hearts and hyper-vigilant brains.

Why are they rarely ever mentioned or awarded an OBE? They are forgotten heroes who ask for nothing, except maybe at least a tax deduction on their expenses which is denied.

So often I read or witness farmers using the same 'plague narrative' for kangaroos they have used for decades. Many Australians still aren't aware we have the largest terrestrial commercial slaughter of wildlife on Earth. Most Australians sadly continue to believe the long held post generational myth that kangaroos are an inevitable pest.

Few ever question what we should be farming where and when? The already serious impacts of climate change still hasn't deterred sheep or cattle farmers. So much of our wildlife is destroyed by 1080 baiting/trapping /shooting or poisoning. Barbed wire fences also contribute to the most agonising slow death for macropods.

Imagine if people could just stop eating meat, even for two or three meals a week. Cows actually stamp on koalas (incredible, I know) and often are so injured they have to be euthanised. Another reason not to eat meat.

One thing is indisputable and that is any species without a political voice is doomed.

**Lindy Stacker**  
Binna Burra

**BIG GIG**  
MC ELLEN BRIGGS | SUPPORT IAN DOWLING | FEATURE GREG SULLIVAN  
THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY  
7PM | FREE LIVE COMEDY 18+

**GOG**  
GAME ON GIRLS  
GIVE TO GAIN  
FRIDAY 6 MARCH, 2026  
From 11.30am to 2.30pm  
Mayor Sharon Cadwallader | Keynote Speaker Sophia Partland  
International Women's Day | Ballina Chamber of Commerce  
Supporting the Local Business Community  
TICKETS FROM \$77

**DIVAS SHE'S EVERY WOMAN!**  
SATURDAY 7 MARCH  
Tickets: \$45  
Doors: 7.30pm Show: 8.00pm  
STARRING BONNIE KILROE  
ONE WOMAN MUSICAL, COMEDY SHOW  
A 'farce' to be reckoned with

**NSW Seniors Festival EVENT**  
Thursday 12 March 2026  
Live life in colour  
Seniors Festival Luncheon \$20  
Entertainment: Dean Doyle with Sophistication & Headliners Chorus Plus Raffles & Door Prizes  
Doors: 9.30am Show: 10.30am

*Boardwalk*  
BALLINA RSL  
PRE SHOW DINING HERE | BOOK BEST SEATS HERE  
baltinarsl

# Wallum featured in Sydney art exhibition

A unique Wallum coastal ecosystem under threat from urbanisation in Brunswick Heads will feature in a major contemporary art exhibition at the National Trust, S.H. Ervin Gallery, at The Rocks in Sydney.

Organisers say, 'Holding Ground, opening 7 March and running until 3 May, brings together leading Australian artists to explore themes of land, ecology and responsibility'.

'Curated by Gavin Wilson, among the exhibition's highlights are ten large-scale photographic works documenting "Wallum" Brunswick Heads.

## Legal proceedings

'Since September 2023, the Byron Shire community in Northern NSW, on Bundjalung Country, has been at the heart of a powerful grassroots movement to protect the endangered Wallum ecosystem from destruction by a proposed 124-lot housing development.

'After months of legal proceedings and the presentation of significant expert evidence, the case has reached its final stage, with



A 'Grandmother Tree', a 300-year-old scribbly gum which is slated for removal. Photo Mac Maderski

a decision expected from the Federal Court in March 2026.

'One of the exhibition's hero works by Mac Maderski is 'Grandmother Tree', a commanding portrait of a

300-plus-year-old scribbly gum. The ancient tree, marked for bulldozing if the development proceeds, stands as a living witness to centuries of life. Its

inclusion in *Holding Ground* transforms it into both artwork and testimony, a pre-colonial wonder.

'Wallum Brunswick Heads supports more than 100 threatened and vulnerable species. Particularly poignant is another Maderski photograph, of a juvenile south-eastern glossy black cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus lathami lathami*) that arrived at Wallum after the 2023 bush fires, singed but surviving.

'Now the emblem of Save Wallum, this vulnerable species is listed under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and faces ongoing habitat threat.

'Featuring work by prominent Australian artists including Imants Tillers and Janet Laurence, *Holding Ground* brings a local conservation issue into a national cultural spotlight. The exhibition asks a timely question: what is truly at stake in Australia's remaining coastal ecosystems and what does it mean to hold ground in the face of accelerating biodiversity loss?'

For more info visit [www.shervingallery.com.au/event/holding-ground](http://www.shervingallery.com.au/event/holding-ground).

# Clunes agritourism DA lodged

Owners of a macadamia farm near Clunes have lodged a DA with Lismore City Council to expand their operations to include agritourism and occasional functions.

Located at 1610 Bangalow Road, Clunes, DA 5.2026.10.1 comes with an estimated cost of \$252,830.

The the proposal is described as a 'farm experience premises utilising the property for "functions" from time to time'.

Within the DA's statement of environmental effects, it reads, 'The site has an area of approximately 40.37ha and is irregular in shape'.

'Access to the property is via Bangalow Road.

'The site is an operational macadamia farm. The property contains the original farm dwelling house, a dwelling house built in 2018 and various farm outbuildings.

## Farm experience

'This application seeks development consent for the establishment of farm experience premises utilising the property for "functions" from time to time, based on the following parameters:

'[It would accommodate a] maximum of 100 visitors, over a maximum 35 days per year.

'The hours of operation proposed are from 8am till 6pm, Sunday to Thursday and public holidays, and from 8am to 11pm Friday and Saturday'.

Amplified music is also proposed, 'Limited to no later than 10pm and guests must be off-site no later than 11pm'.

'The site has two existing dwelling houses. The only short-term rental accommodation (STRA) use on the site is the STRA use of the dwelling house approved pursuant to DA017/187.

'Executive guests associated with functions are able to reside at that STRA-approved dwelling.

'The STRA registration is not used for any other type of STRA.

'No function kitchen or the like is proposed with the development. All food consumed on the site for functions is prepared elsewhere and brought to the site', the statement of environmental effects report says.

DA 5.2026.10.1 is available on Lismore City Council's website (DA tracker).

# Net zero claims by miner Santos upheld in court

The Federal Court has dismissed the Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility's (ACCR) 'greenwashing' case against Santos Ltd, finding that Santos did not engage in misleading or deceptive conduct with its key climate-related statements.

Justice Brigitte Markovic handed down her verdict for *Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility v Santos Ltd* this week.

The Environmental

Defenders Office (EDO), who were Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR)'s legal representatives, said it was the 'world's first legal challenge to an oil and gas company's net zero claims'.

'Investors, regulators, and companies around the world took notice of ACCR's case against Santos.

'ACCR argued that Santos breached the *Corporations Act* and Australian consumer law by allegedly engaging in

misleading or deceptive conduct over claims that natural gas was a "clean fuel", that hydrogen it produced with gas using carbon capture and storage was "zero emissions hydrogen", and that it had a "clear and credible" roadmap to achieve net zero by 2040.

'This is a disappointing result for our client. ACCR's work focuses on market integrity and ensuring rigour in disclosures. In that respect, the case has already helped

drive significant improvements in climate reporting in the Australian market and internationally.

'Since our client's case was filed, the Australian Institute of Company Directors - which accredits and trains Australian directors - has cited ACCR's case in training materials to educate directors about the legal risks of "greenwashing".


'We've also seen a wave of similar actions globally and stronger regulatory scrutiny.

The pendulum has swung towards clarity and transparency, and companies are now taking greater care with their climate disclosures'.

## Santos' position

The court accepted Santos' position, including that the net zero and emissions-reduction statements were expressions of current intention and aspirations, not firm promises or forecasts that net zero would in fact be achieved by 2040.

Additionally, Justice Markovic accepted a reasonable investor or reader would understand these as forward-looking, contingent on technology development, regulatory settings and market conditions; and that Santos had undertaken substantial work (e.g. CCS project development, climate transition planning) such that its claims about a pathway to net zero and the role of CCS were not without a reasonable basis.



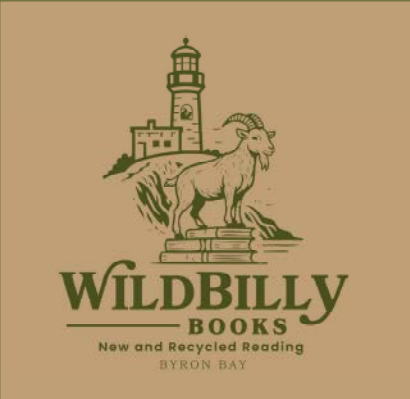
## KARATE CLASSES

**Mondays & Wednesdays**  
**Juniors (8-13yrs) 4-5pm**  
**Seniors (14+ yrs) 5:15-6:30pm**

First term classes commence  
**Wednesday 4th Feb.**

Register online for two free classes.  
[jinwukoonkarate.com.au](http://jinwukoonkarate.com.au)  
**0490 849 295**

Ewingsdale Community Hall  
*Bangalow 8 min, Brunswick 10 min,  
Mullumbimby 13 min.*



**WILDBILLY BOOKS**  
New and Recycled Reading  
BYRON BAY

**11 Fletcher St. Byron Bay**  
50 m from Surf Club down the path (next to No Bones Restaurant) and Brunsbooks, Fingal St Brunswick Heads.

**Head to the Echo's Service Directory for all your professional trade services**

- Mowing/Landscaping
- Electricians
- Painting
- Building
- Air Conditioning
- Concreting
- Cleaning
- Fencing

& much much more!

**Echo**  
In the paper each week and online at [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

Service Directory

## BMX freestyler Malakai Kopman wins gold

The Valentine's Day weekend saw local Mullumbimby BMX freestyle rider Malakai Kopman win gold at the National BMX Freestyle Championships in Victoria.

After a stellar run Malakai took out the gold medal in the amateur division, competing against 30 of the nation's top riders. Felix Stokes of Brunswick Heads also competed in the qualifying round.

'BMX freestyle is a dynamic sport with riders doing tricks that defy gravity; the focus is on creativity, style, bike control and technical difficulty,' explained Leora Sibony.

**Malakai Kopman in action.**  
Photo deadsailorssociety



## Council returns Suffolk tennis courts to community



From L: Cai, Hugo, Emre, Jasper and their biggest fans, jump for joy with the return of the Suffolk Park Tennis courts to community hands. Photo Ryan O'Hehir

In 2023 Byron Bay Community Tennis (BBCTA) took on management of the Suffolk Park Tennis courts. These were two derelict and neglected courts in poor condition. Over the following years the BBCTA members contributed to upgrading the facility, which included new lighting and court surface, while the coaching team on the ground, developed high-quality programming and nurtured the local community's love of tennis. The result was a flourishing facility with high participation and strong community engagement.

In August 2025, Byron Shire Council resumed management of the courts and applied Tennis NSW policies which heavily reduced the community's ability to access the programs they had been enjoying, pending an expression of interest (EOI) process to decide on future management of the tennis courts.

### Community action

Following overwhelming community support for the BBCTA and the associated coaching services, Byron Shire councillors unanimously voted to return the management of the courts to

the BBCTA, the association of members formerly managing the courts.

Ryan O'Hehir, self-described enthusiastic but somewhat average tennis player, told *The Echo*, 'The community response has been positive.'

'I am delighted that management of the Suffolk Park Tennis courts will be returned to the local community of members. I think we're all looking forward to the benefits this will bring, and to once again being able to access the sessions hosted by coach Tim.'

## Lennox and Cudgen junior surf state champs



Junior surf champs in action on day two. Photo supplied

Last weekend saw Lennox Head Alstonville SLSC shine at the 2026 NSW Age Surf Life Saving Championships, which culminated on Sunday, 22 February.

On day two, Nash Stewart from Lennox Head won three gold medals – first in the U9 Male Swim race, then in the U9 Male Board

where clubmate Tully Smith finished second, and lastly in a team race with both Tully and another Nash (Castel) in the U9 Board Relay.

'My amazing trainers help us through big waves and small waves and push me hard,' Nash Stewart said.

Livestreamed across the state via YouTube, there

were wins for Mostyn Brown (Yamba) in the U14 Male Beach Flags (4:51:49), and Lennox Head's Harley Dilger in the U13 Female Flags (4:53:14).

Cudgen Headland SLSC got amongst the medals as well, with Andie Prichard winning the U14 Female Flags (5:03:31).

## North Coast boardrider clubs prepare for ABB Grand Final

The Northern Rivers and NSW North Coast will be one of the most story-rich regions represented at the NRMA Insurance Australian Boardriders Battle (ABB) Grand Final, returning to Burleigh Heads, Gold Coast on March 7-8.

Byron Bay Boardriders Club returns as a wildcard but with a proven championship pedigree. Originally founded in 1977 as the Seahorse Boardriders Club, Byron Bay claimed the ABB Grand Final title in 2023 and knows exactly what it takes

to win in this format again.

Lennox Head-Ballina Boardriders (LEBA) continue to show why they're regarded as one of the region's strongest junior development clubs and most consistent team performers. Founded in 1981, LEBA's long-term approach paid off with a third-place finish at the 2024 ABB Grand Final.

Kingscliff Boardriders Club brings one of the most credentialed surfers in the entire field. Founded in 1963, Kingscliff has a long tradition of producing elite talent.

The event will be broadcast live and free on 9GO and mySURFtv YouTube, showcasing the best of Australian club surfing to a national audience.

### Send us your sport stories!

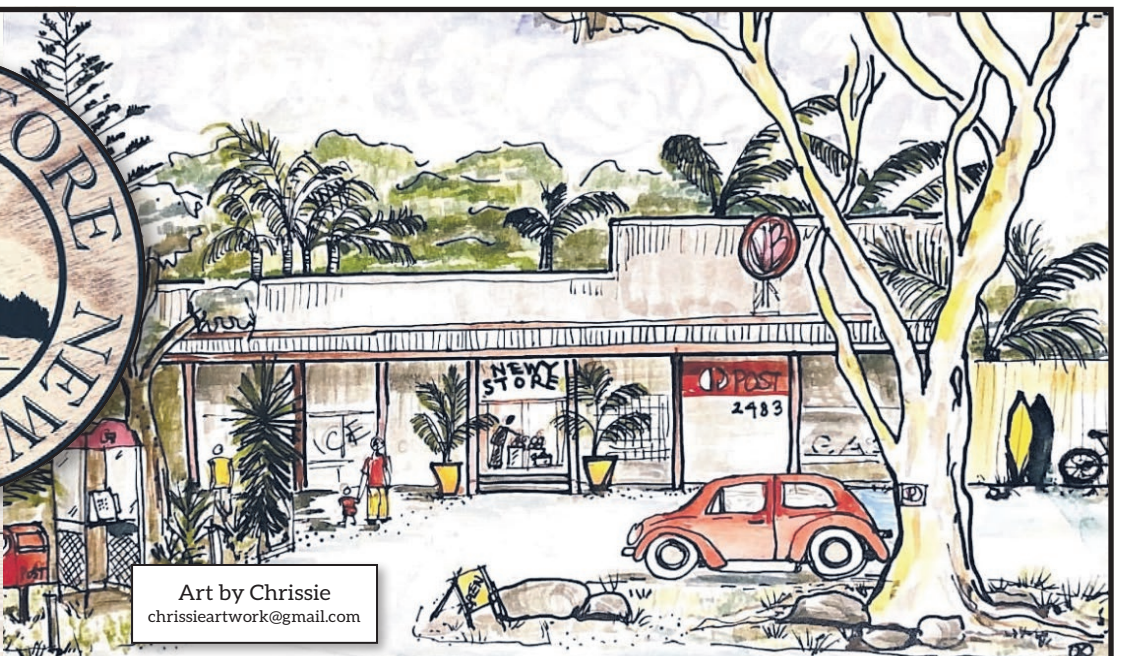
We would love to run all kinds of local sport on these pages so please send your photos and stories to [sport@echo.net.au](mailto:sport@echo.net.au).

## Newy Store

OPEN 7:30am – 6:00pm  
7 DAYS A WEEK

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

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



Art by Chrissie  
[chrissieartwork@gmail.com](mailto:chrissieartwork@gmail.com)

# Good Taste

## Culinary Spotlight

### BANGALOW



#### Bangalow Tuckshop

Open: Tue for dinner  
Wed to Sat for lunch and dinner  
43 Byron Street, Bangalow  
bangalowtuckshop.com  
hello@bangalowtuckshop.com.au  
@Bangalowtuckshop

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

### MURWILLUMBAH



#### 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.

### BILLINUDGEL



#### Rosefina's Mexican

Thursday/Friday open from 4pm to late  
Happy Hour 4pm to 5.30pm  
Saturday 12 to 2.30pm, 5pm to late  
Sunday 12.30 to 8pm

8/10 Wilfred St, Billinudgel  
www.rosefinas.place

Rosefina's is going street-style with BBQ tacos for Sunday lunch

### CATERING



#### Celebrations Cakes by Liz Jackson

lizzijackson@gmail.com

0414 895 441

Gluten free and special dietary needs catered for.

### BYRON BAY



#### NO BONES

Kitchen + Bar.  
11 Fletcher Street,  
BYRON BAY  
0481 148 007

Welcome to No Bones, where good vibes, bold flavours and unforgettable nights come together in the heart of Byron Bay. We're all about creative food, standout cocktails and making everyone feel welcome - locals, travelers, food lovers and friends.



#### Main Street

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

Open for takeaway daily, 12 midday until dinner.

Menu and more details  
@mainstreet\_burgerbar

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



#### Three Blue Ducks

Located at The Farm  
11 Ewingsdale Rd.  
(02) 6190 8966

Open  
Monday – Thursday: 7am – 4pm  
Friday – Sunday: 7am – 8:30pm

Exciting seasonal food – live music every Sunday between 1–4pm & 5–8pm

All day dining

Friday to Sunday 11:30am – 8:30pm

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



#### Roca Byron Bay

Open:  
Every day (except Wednesday)  
from 6:30am to late

14 Lawson St, Byron Bay  
(02) 5642 0149  
@rocabyronbay  
www.rocabyronbay.com.au

#### Latin fusion all-day dining

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



#### 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.

### MULLUMBIMBY



#### Bacco Wine Bar

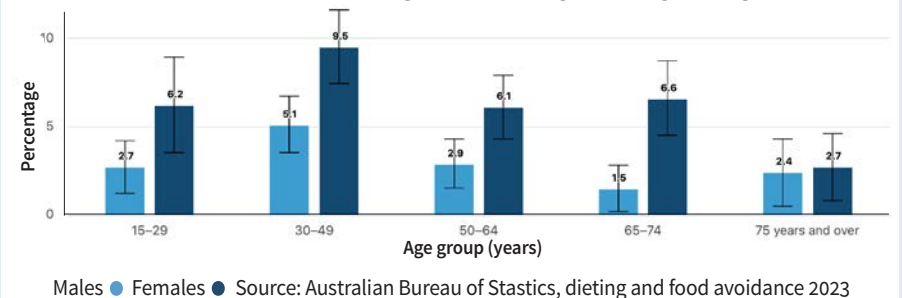
Opening Hours: Wednesday – Sunday  
Opening times: 3pm – late  
Happy Hour: 3 – 5pm  
Email: bacco.mullumbimby@gmail.com  
Phone: 0434 450 415  
Instagram: @bacco.mullumbimby

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

## Australian reduction in meat consumption here to stay

While being a vegan or vegetarian may be giving way to 'flexitarianism', it seems likely that an increasing number of people are reducing their meat consumption, and instead eating a heavily plant-based diet, a vegetarian diet (no meat or fish) or vegan (no meat, fish, dairy, eggs or honey, i.e. no animal-derived products).

Proportion of people who were vegetarian or vegan, by age and gender, 2023



According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2023) Among people 15 years and over:

- one in 20 (5.3%) people were vegetarian or vegan
- females were more likely to be vegetarian or vegan than males in every age group, except for those aged 75 years and over where the difference was not significant (2.7% and 2.4%)
- people aged 30 to 49 years were more likely than any other age group to be vegetarian or vegan (7.3%).

While India is the leading country for non-meat eaters in the world (around 25% of the population vegetarian in 2021) the proportion of the population actually identifying as vegan or vegetarian can be much lower (e.g. 2% in Romania). Beyond strict vegans, nearly 20% of Australian are reducing their meat consumption, driving demand for plant-based meat alternatives. While veganism is growing in eastern states and capital cities due to the availability of meat alternatives and restaurants, this is not the case in many regional and rural areas.

Australia's Healthdirect government website says plant-based diets 'help reduce your risk of chronic disease' such as heart

disease, high blood pressure, stroke, type-2 diabetes and obesity, some types of cancer, kidney disease, etc.

The rising cost of supermarket meat (beef prices in Australian supermarkets have seen a more than 50% rise in the last ten years due to overseas demand). Concerns about animal welfare are a factor influencing people to become vegan for ethical reasons, whereas the high cost of pioneering plant-based alternatives, and dissatisfaction with those products, has been a factor flattening the increase in vegan alternatives. However, whether you are buying a \$30 steak from the supermarket or a \$60 steak from a restaurant, meat is also expensive!

Environmental concerns are also driving the continuing trend to eat less meat. Eating meat, from ruminants (cows, sheep) contributes between 14% and 20% of global greenhouse gas emissions because livestock produce methane (a greenhouse gas 28-86 times stronger than CO<sub>2</sub>). In addition, livestock grazing causes deforestation. Although more than two-thirds of all agricultural land is devoted to growing feed for livestock, only 8% is used to grow food for direct human consumption (Stanford University).



# The Good Life

## In defence of fat

Dietary fat has long been misunderstood, often blamed for weight gain and poor health. In reality, fat is an essential macro-nutrient that plays critical roles in energy production, nutrient absorption, hormone regulation, and cellular health. The key distinction lies not in avoiding fat altogether, but in understanding the difference between different kinds of dietary fats, and how body fat itself functions in the human body.

Good dietary fats are primarily unsaturated fats, which include monounsaturated and polyunsaturated fats. These fats are generally liquid at room temperature and are associated with positive health outcomes, particularly for heart health.

Monounsaturated fats are found in foods such as olive oil, avocados, nuts, and seeds. They can help reduce levels of low-density lipoprotein (LDL), often referred to as 'bad' cholesterol, while maintaining or even increasing high-density lipoprotein (HDL), the 'good' cholesterol.

Polyunsaturated fats include omega-3 and omega-6 fatty acids, both of which are essential fats that the body cannot produce on its own. Omega-3 fats, found in oily fish (such as salmon and sardines), flax seeds, chia seeds, and walnuts, are especially beneficial.

They play a role in reducing inflammation, supporting brain function, and lowering the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Omega-6 fats, found in vegetable oils and nuts, are also important, though they are most beneficial when balanced with omega-3 intake.

### Bad fats!

Bad dietary fats are mainly trans fats and excessive amounts of certain saturated fats. Trans fats are industrially produced through hydrogenation and are commonly found in processed foods such as baked goods, fried foods, and some margarines.

These fats are particularly harmful because they increase LDL (low density lipoprotein) cholesterol while lowering HDL cholesterol, significantly raising the risk of heart disease and stroke. Many countries now regulate or ban trans fats, but they can still appear in highly processed foods.

Saturated fats, found in foods like butter, full-fat dairy products, fatty cuts of meat, and some tropical oils, are more controversial. While they are not inherently toxic, high intake has been linked to increased



cholesterol levels and cardiovascular risk.

Current dietary advice generally recommends moderation rather than complete elimination.

### More than an energy store

Beyond dietary fat, body fat itself plays an important physiological role. Adipose tissue is not merely stored energy; it is an active endocrine organ.

Body fat helps insulate the body, protect vital organs, and store energy for times of scarcity. It also produces hormones such as leptin, which regulates appetite and metabolism, and plays a role in immune function and reproductive health.

However, excess body fat – particularly visceral fat stored around the abdominal organs – is associated with increased risk of chronic conditions such as type-2 diabetes, heart disease, and certain cancers.

At the other extreme, having too little body fat can disrupt hormonal balance, weaken immunity, and impair normal bodily functions.

As with dietary fats, having the right amount of body fat is all about finding a sensible balance.

## Many benefits of farmers' markets

The question was recently raised on a Facebook community page asking if people shop at the farmers' market to save money. It brought a flurry of responses, mostly positive and citing many other benefits of shopping locally, so we asked the manager of Byron Farmers Market, Tom Carey, for his thoughts ...

'There isn't a simple yes or no answer to this question as there are so many variables, but there is no doubt that some produce at the farmers' market is cheaper than the alternatives at the supermarkets – not all, but some,' Tom says. 'Where price differences and the advantage of farmers' markets really come to the fore is in times of food crises.'

'For example, when there was a shortage of bananas a few years ago due to cyclone and storm damage, prices for bananas in supermarkets skyrocketed to around \$14 per kilo. At the farmers' market, there was no price gouging and prices remained stable (and still are) at around \$3 per kilo for bananas.'

Tom emphasised that there are so many other factors to consider than just price.

'During the floods and Covid, when food was being trucked into the region and couldn't get through, the supermarket shelves were bare. However, our farmers continued to grow and harvest locally, which meant that fresh supplies of food were available every week and we were able to continue to feed our community.'

'When you shop at the farmers' market you are



supporting your local farming families and keeping money in the local economy. You're also getting produce that is freshly harvested – not food that has been sitting in cool rooms and on shelves for long periods of time. And when you're buying produce that is super fresh, the nutrient content has not deteriorated, it lasts longer and has more flavour.'

Tom says the farmers' market also offers a great range of heirloom, and exotic, fruit and veg that you won't find in supermarkets, and that you get to know exactly where your food comes from.

'If you want to know how it was grown, how to store it or how to use it, you can ask the person who grew it. While some things may not be available year-round, this teaches us to eat by the seasons and enjoy and appreciate the changes in

what's available throughout the year. Just as nature intended.'

On top of all of that, the farmers' market also acts as a community hub for people to come together – and not just for customers.

'Farming can be isolating work, so coming together each week is a great opportunity for our farmers, to not only connect with the people buying their food, but also to connect with fellow farmers and producers,' Tom says.

'We feel very appreciative of our community and are always thankful for their support, whether they spend a little or a lot.'

■ Byron Farmers Market is held every Thursday from 7am to 11am at Butler St Reserve and Bangalow Farmers Market is held every Saturday from 7am to 11am in Piccabeen Park.



Open 6am – 12pm  
Monday – Saturday  
Shop 6/108 Stuart Street  
Mullumbimby.  
@bimbi\_coffee\_shop  
ALLPRESS ESPRESSO



# Eat drink

ISSUE #10 OUT EASTER 2026

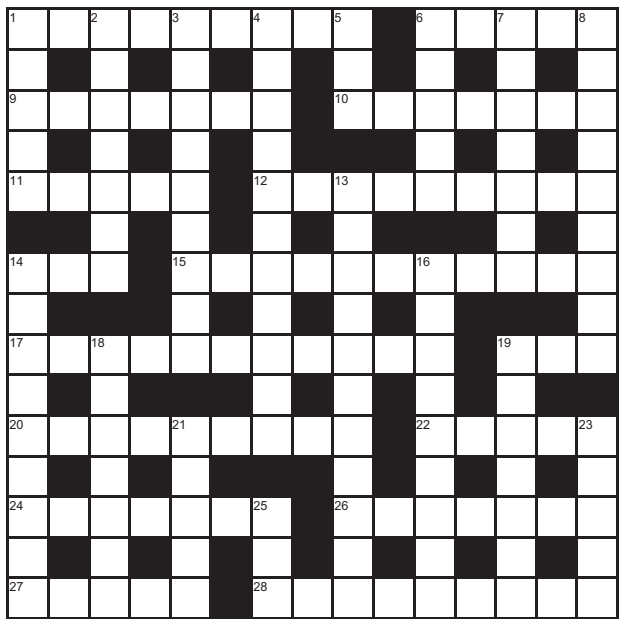
Book your spot now!

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  
adcopy@echo.net.au or call 02 6684 1777.

[echo.net.au/eat-drink](http://echo.net.au/eat-drink)





**Cryptic Clues**

**ACROSS**

- Dope to anaesthetise Kerry O'Keefe (9)
- Crash land in the trench (5)
- The group to overcome Monday (7)
- Back negative after sufferer – cause a flap! (7)
- Wrong measure in spa town (5)
- Pagan hero creates children's refuge (9)
- Directionless war god gets spoil (3)
- Commander suitable, first class, new, firm and all right – a great explorer (7,4)
- 15 across companion, Mary's man, Macquarie St George (6,5)
- Fill out tread (3)
- Send outcast back, fast; how repulsive! (9)
- Texan fort, in the style of Rene (5)
- Take control of the bowling and score (7)
- Stubborn P (3-4)
- Throws out second from run of losses (5)
- Attempt at accommodation for 15 and 17 across (9)

**DOWN**

- Take article back, and curtsy to potentate (5)
- Wander with setter and queen (7)
- Quiet acceptance of traffic controller (6,3)
- Goes on forever, but you can pull the plug! (11)
- Behead the pest in the meadow (3)
- Thanks after being guided up the river plain (5)
- Storm ripped a party (7)
- Man played amorously around the past, and became an unhappy husband! (9)
- Mixed inputs covered with tartan is just what you'd expect from 1 across (5,6)
- Chief steward's main field of study: mood swings (5-4)
- Lost again; sadly it leads to homesickness (9)
- Diners for late meals (7)
- Peep under the position, but it provides no real benefit (7)
- Attracts the French around the old city (5)
- Command neatness (5)
- Born in a topless joint (3)

■ Crossword circa 2008

**Quick Clues**

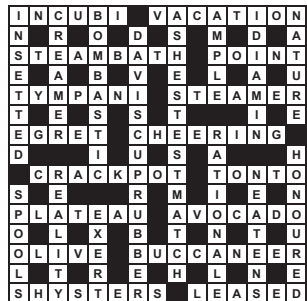
**ACROSS**

- Idiot, thick head (9)
- Discard, abandon (5)
- Popular quartet from the sixties (7)
- Movable flap of aircraft wing (7)
- Bath (German) (5)
- Home for children without parents (9)
- Spoil, deface (3)
- Commander of the *Endeavour* (7,4)
- Botanist on the *Endeavour* (6,5)
- Soft part of underpaw (3)
- Distasteful, repulsive (9)
- American fort, site of famous battle (5)
- Invade, swarm across (7)
- Stubborn person (3-4)
- Throws out, ejects (5)
- Try, attempt (9)

**DOWN**

- Indian potentate (5)
- Wander, take a winding course (7)
- Small traffic dome, also called poached egg (6,3)
- Cannot be halted (11)
- Meadow (3)
- Fourth letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- Cyclone, twister (7)
- Nagged by a woman, usually a wife (9)
- Just dumb (5,6)
- Head of household or concierge (5,4)
- Homesickness, longing for the past (9)
- Final meals for the day (7)
- Ineffectual medicine administered for psychological benefit (7)
- Tempts, attracts (5)
- Command, decree (5)
- Born (female, French) (3)

**Last week's solution #5**



# Wondering about Wuthering?

I loved *Wuthering Heights*. The book, and Fennell & Robbie's film. I don't write film reviews, in fact, never, but after observing some of the negativity slamming this contemporary reimagining of the Emily Bronte classic, I wanted to share my view, as someone who watched it with the fresh eyes of my 16-year-old daughter.

It's awkward watching a graphically sexual film with your teenage daughter – more for her than for me. I could feel her squirming next to me. The finger in the fish mouth. The woman in the horse bridle. The sex against the wall. But that was only in fragments. This dark and torturous tale moved quickly.

It was one of those films that left me feeling shattered and desolate. A sense of deep sadness and horror. It's exactly what gothic novels intend to deliver. There are no happy endings here. In fact 'happy' destroys these stories.

I was expecting Ivy to tell me she hated it. But instead she said, 'that's the best film I have seen in a long time.' I said, 'I agree.' And then started a long conversation about what it was to be a woman in the late 1700s. We talked about class, and agency. About what it has cost women to live to societal convention. We talked about the brutality of that era – the normalcy of hanging, and cruelty. Of the impact of the Industrial Revolution. Of abusive parents. Of suppressing your own wildness. Of having no choice that was ever your own. None of the women had choice. It was a currency of compromise to survive.

This is not a conversation Ivy and I have ever had after a film. Talking consent and coercion. About desire and destruction. That is a triumph for any filmmaker – to create something that just makes people combust – either loving or hating your content, but having the conversation. It's a powerful ignition. And I appreciated that we'd been made to feel uncomfortable and exposed. There was definitely something disruptive. The classic was torn asunder.

I love that this was a story by the most complex Bronte sister, the more poetic, harder-to-understand one. That the film was written, produced, and directed by women. That the score was by Charlie



**That is a triumph for any filmmaker – to create something that just makes people combust – either loving or hating your content, but having the conversation.**

XCX, a wild child herself, traversing the moors of her own dark yearnings.

This was never meant to be an accurate retelling of the book. Why would you make that again? This was an emotive reimagining of the deeper themes, the gothic stories that we as women still face. Men are still murdering us, we still live in a patriarchy, and there is so little space to hold our shadows.

This film gave me an insight that has lingered. Something that never occurred to me. What if Heathcliff wasn't real? What if he was part of Cathy's imaginings – her 'pet' that she kept under the bed? Her filthy illiterate but fiercely protective masculine? What if he was her? Named

after her dead brother, rescued from the street by her unredeemable alcoholic father, her twin spirit, the other half of her 'soul'. Not romantic unrequited love, but a split self? An unrequited self love?

It was the wildness and agency that had to be surrendered to live a curated life of wealth and privilege. He was her heart. He was her. She had to kill her shadow to live. But he came back. And made living a perfect lie unbearable. The violence is this separation from self. Isn't the true coercion here authored by the patriarchy? By class?

I loved that I thought back to the work of the poetic Emily with a new interpretation. And that my daughter could approach an old story with a contemporary lens. And I love that women made this. And they knew they would be criticised and hung high in the town square. They're too old. Too blonde. Too much like Barbie. Too different from the book... but they did it anyway. Unapologetic.

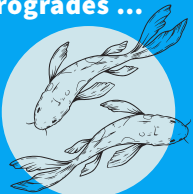
It made me realise why I have always found that bloody story so unsettling. Because I know what it is to be Cathy. That the darkness and shadow is not separate to me. It is me. I'm Cathy. I've come home.

(Only thing I would have added at the end was Kate Bush.)

■ 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

This week's good news is the sun, Venus and Mercury in imaginative, intuitive Pisces. Not so 'abfab' is Mercury beginning its first of this year's retrogrades ...



PISCES THE FISH

**ARIES:** Imaginative Neptune has taken up residence in Aries for the next 13 years, unleashing your artistic spirit. And now sensible, practical Saturn's arrival in your sign brings two years of powerful discipline and strategic guidance in directing Neptune's original ideas, and your creative passions, into increasingly productive channels.

**TAURUS:** Your astral guide Venus has departed from future planning mode for her fluid, oceanic domain. You'll want to cut through the fluff and find out what's really going on, but with Mercury retrograde, words could hit raw nerves. If feelings are unintentionally hurt, being first to apologise could save a friendship.

**GEMINI:** As Mercury turns retrograde for the first time this year, expect the usual crossed wires, misunderstandings and missed details. Even enthusiastic assurances and confirmations may change, so slow down and refrain from impulsive action. Gemini's most reliable ally for minimising stress? Maintaining your sense of fun and adventure.

**CANCER:** Venus in her tenderest place, aligned with Jupiter in your caring sign, is your ideal chance to be a safe space by accepting someone's whole messy, lovely self, no judgment. Small gestures count now, so organise a sweet spot this week that makes everyone feel seen and appreciated.

**LEO:** Argumentative Mars, opiated Uranus and combustible Pluto all in fixed signs could push your stubborn buttons this week, as tempers flare, egos clash and feelings get offended. If you're feeling too antsy to be diplomatic, breathe deep, keep cool and walk away from potential hot spots.

**VRIGO:** The current astrological energy is about endings and beginnings: about taking the first step into a new era, even while conditions still seem uncertain. Try making a practical roadmap anyway, and since we can't help but affect each other, this week's sensitive emotional currents suggest choosing your travelling companions wisely.

**LIBRA:** Just about ready to recharge your batteries, realign body, spirit and mind? Balance arrives with Venus quitting overthinking mode and slipping into her celestial siren persona to look with eyes of love on this week. Tune into your inner dialogue to access the healing words that could help others.

**SCORPIO:** If others find you a bit contradictory or unpredictable, well, you have a lot on, Scorpio. But kindness goes a long way this week, and doesn't take much: a compliment costs nothing and can change someone's day. A smile, a touch, a kind word could mean more than you know.

**SAGITTARIUS:** When your planet ruler Jupiter moves forward again next month, demanding action, you'll be supported to restore your connections with understanding and compassion, to share what you've learned with those who are ready to receive it. In the meantime, keep your vibe high and your humour handy this week.

**CAPRICORN:** The entrepreneurial energy of Capricorn's planetary captain Saturn ensconced in the sign of action, autonomy and personal agency for the next couple of years is tailor made for you movers and shakers. That said, if you really want to know what someone's thinking this week, best ask them outright.

**AQUARIUS:** With this week's celestial climate shifted into touchy-feely terrain, Aquarians need to remember that emotions operate less like logic, and more like weather patterns. Don't get stuck trying to rationalise and justify every detail; simply open up your channels to receive downloads even if they don't immediately make sense.

**PISCES:** Happy birthday Pisces tribe. Venus in your highly emotional, super-sensitive sign is a soft touch, so even if you can read a room quicker and more accurately than anyone, discretion and discrimination are recommended this week, because Mercury retro in your sign can cause confusing cross currents.

# Making SPACES

## Leaf It To Us - quality arborists – Byron Shire



110+ five-star Google reviews

Leaf It To Us is a specialist arborist company servicing Byron Shire and surrounding areas.

They are qualified arborists — not tree loppers. Their work is guided by industry best practice, structural tree science and a strong commitment to proper tree care.

Established in 2008, Leaf It To Us has built a reputation for quality workmanship, honest advice and reliable service. From precision pruning and canopy reduction to complex removals, every job is carried out with care, safety and attention to detail.

They understand Byron Shire's coastal conditions, native species and Council requirements — ensuring compliant, responsible and professional tree management.

If you're looking for experienced, quality arborists in Byron Shire, Leaf It To Us is the trusted choice.

**Kascha Wood**  
0402 487 213  
www.leafittous.com.au



## Protect Your home from humidity this season



With humidity levels soaring and rain potentially increasing, homeowners are being urged to think beyond cooling — and start thinking about protection.

Excess moisture in the air is the silent enemy of raw timber, natural fibres, clothing and soft furnishings. Left unchecked, it creates the perfect conditions for mould growth and that all-too-familiar musty smell.

Artisan Air recommends running your existing air-conditioning system on dehumidification mode as a first line of defence. Better airflow means less moisture, and less moisture means less mould.

For homes requiring more dedicated protection, Artisan Air can supply and install a purpose-built dehumidifier system, or design a tailored airflow solution to ensure every corner of your home stays fresh, dry and protected.

02 6680 9394  
hello@artisanair.com.au  
www.artisanair.com.au



## Sleep smarter, buy better at Beds R Us Byron Bay

Beds R Us Byron Bay makes choosing the right mattress simple, offering a wide range of high-quality Australian-made Sleepmaker and Sleepyhead mattresses designed to suit every comfort level and budget. Anna and the team provide friendly, expert guidance so customers can confidently select a mattress that supports better sleep for years to come. Locally-owned for over 25 years, with trusted brands, and finance options available to make upgrading easier, Beds R Us Byron Bay delivers a smooth, reliable shopping experience.

If you're ready for better sleep and better value, Beds R Us Byron Bay is the smart place to buy.

16 Brigantine Street  
Byron Arts & Industry Estate  
02 6685 5212  
bedsrus.com.au



## Eden At Byron

Planting a tree is the easiest way to create a shady garden haven.

Crepe Myrtles (*Lagerstroemias*) are gorgeous, with masses of flowers throughout summer. They are deciduous, so you can still enjoy the winter sun.

Ivory Curl trees (*Buckinghamia celsissima*) are local native trees, looking magnificent in full bloom right now. Another great native option is the grafted eucalypts, especially 'Summer Red'. It can grow to about 5m in height, and flowers profusely and from an early age through summer and into autumn. Individual deep red flowers with gold tips are massed in terminal clusters over the whole tree. After the flowers come the lovely, quintessentially Aussie gumnuts.

Let our friendly team help you choose the perfect tree for your garden.

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



## Konpak

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

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

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

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

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



## Swap a Bottle

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

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

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

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



## Working Windows



Are your windows and doors working?

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

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

With 10+ years experience in timber, aluminium and uPVC products, they pride themselves on always delivering top-quality, eco-friendly results that best benefit you and your environment.

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

Jake 0435 506 465  
Toby 0405 793 994  
workingwindows1@gmail.com  
workingwindows.com.au



## Bisque Traders



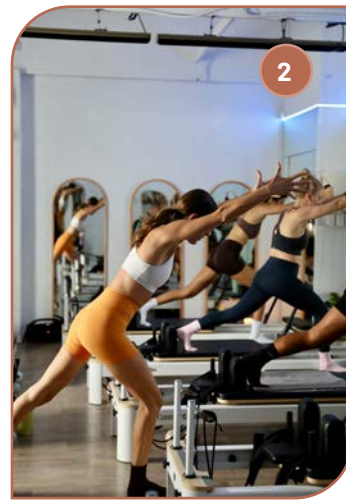
Bisque Traders is a destination for considered interiors, offering a curated collection of furniture, lighting, homewares, tiles, art and textiles, designed in-house and crafted by their team of skilled artisans. Each piece reflects quiet luxury, celebrating material honesty, craftsmanship and timeless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

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

Showroom Address: 3/21 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay  
(Dual access via Bayshore Drive)  
bisquetraders.com.au | @bisque\_



# BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE



## 1. BODHI LIVING

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

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

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

## 2. HEAT PILATES & YOGA

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

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

## 3. OUR PLACE BYRON

Our Place is Byron Bay's retail, events and creative hub. They stock brands including Salty Dagger jewellery and garments, Jim Banks surfboards, and partners with growing labels through its 3PL fulfilment services. Built for connection and community, Our Place blends retail and culture, offering a space to shop, create, collaborate and simply hang out in the heart of Byron.

4/4 Banksia Drive  
[ourplacebyron.com](http://ourplacebyron.com)

## 4. TEMPLE OF THE SUN

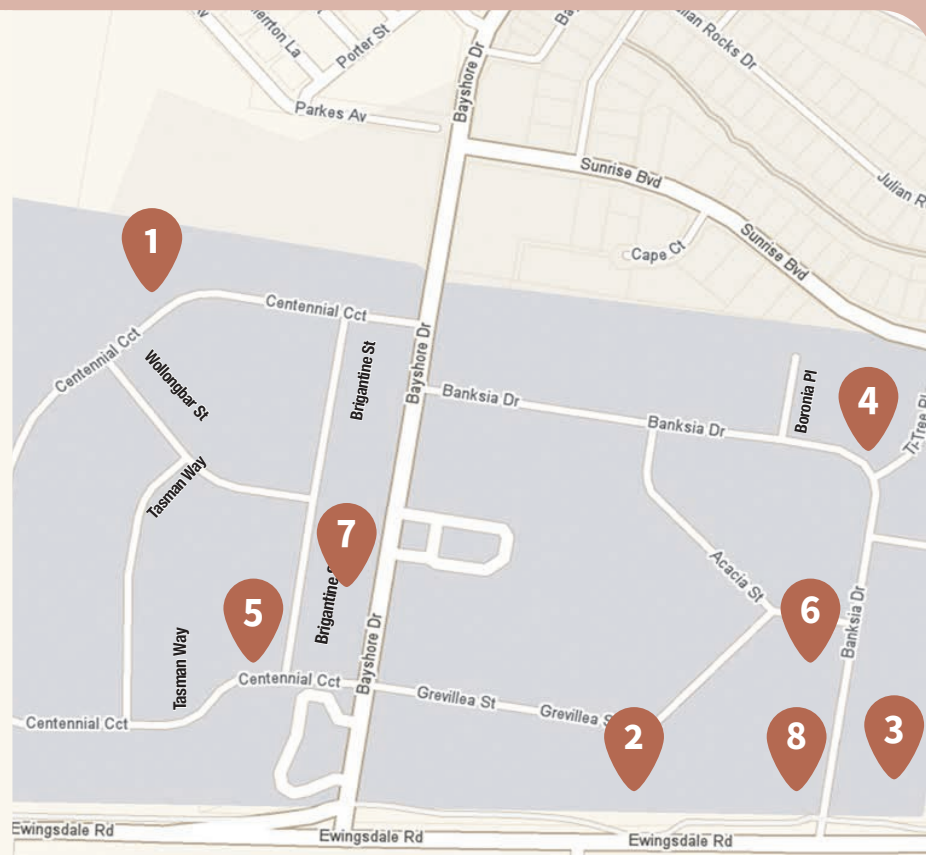
Temple of the Sun is a modern expression of ancient craft - jewellery inspired by history, shaped by nature, and made to last. Each piece gathers meaning as it is worn, evolving into an heirloom that holds deep connection while honouring sentiment and beauty.

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

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

# BYRON ARTS & INDUSTRY ESTATE

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



## 5. STONE KIN

Stonekin's first store is officially open.

Discover the full collection of organic cotton underwear. Try on the pieces, feel the fabrics, and explore the fits that have shaped the Stonekin brand. The space reflects their ethos: thoughtful design, natural materials, and comfort without compromise.

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

**2/97 Centennial Circuit**  
**02 6680 7667**  
**Mon - Fri / 10am to 4pm**

## 6. THE SALVOS STORE

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

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

**5 Banksia Drive**

## 7. BISQUE TRADERS

Established in 2000, Bisque Traders is a destination for considered interiors, offering a curated collection of furniture, lighting, homewares, tiles, art, and textiles, all designed in-house and crafted by skilled artisans. The Byron Bay showroom showcases soft, sculptural furniture, hand-crafted lighting, and richly textured décor. Bisque Traders also provides bespoke interior design services for residential, hospitality, and commercial projects.

**3/21 Brigantine Street, Byron Bay (dual access via Bayshore Drive)**  
**bisquetraders.com.au | @bisque**

## 8. SOCIAL REMEDY

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

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



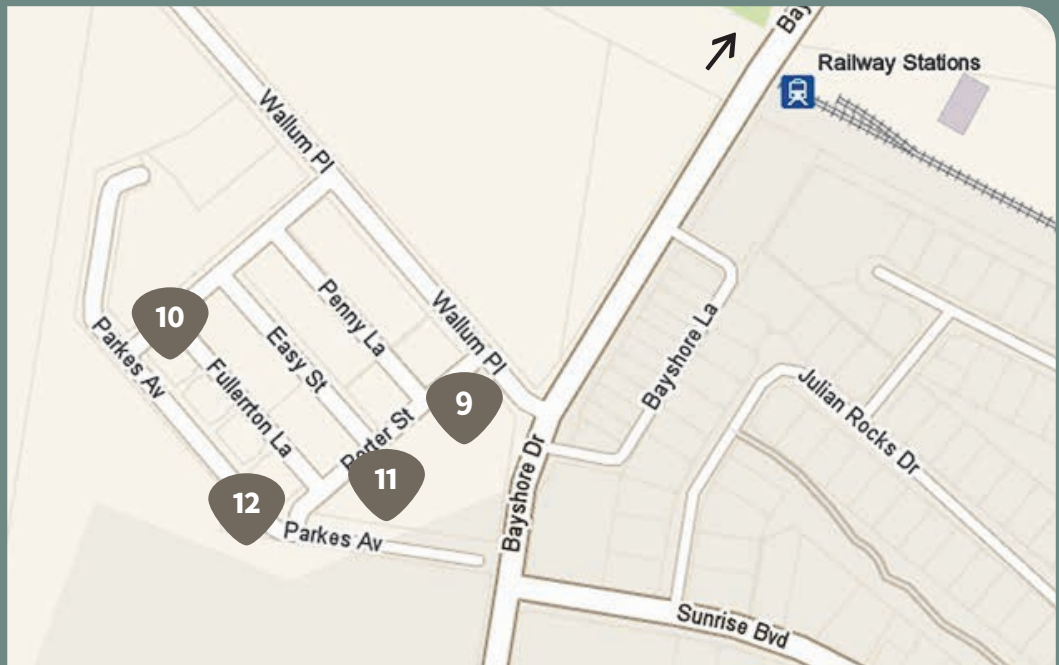
## HABITAT

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

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

**1 Porter Street**  
**habitatbyronbay.com**  
**@habitat\_byronbay"**

# HABITAT PRECINCT



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

## 9. OITO HEAD SPA

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

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

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

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

## 12. BYRON FAMILY LAW

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

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

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

## 10. RICHARDSON MURRAY LAW

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

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

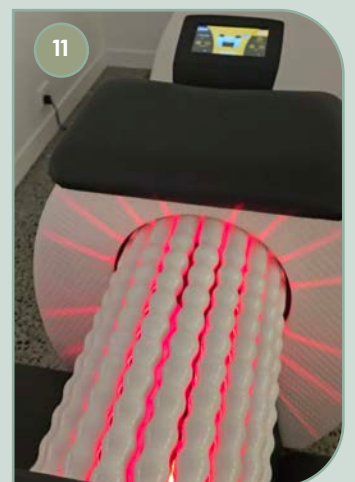
**42 Parkes Avenue**  
**[www.richardson-murray.law](http://www.richardson-murray.law)**

## 11. FLUIDE

Northern Rivers' sanctuary for flow and renewal.

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

**56/1 Porter Street**  
**Insta: @fluidebyron**  
**Bookings: [www.fluidebyron.com](http://www.fluidebyron.com)**



## Eclectic Selection

### What's on this week



**Marisa Anderson** channels the history of the guitar, and stretches the boundaries of tradition. Her playing is fluid, emotional, and masterful, featuring compositions and improvisations that reimagine the landscape of American music.

**Friday from 7.30pm at The Citadel, Murwillumbah. Tickets \$30 +bf at thecitadel.com.au.**



Two of Australian rock's leading forces – **Sarah McLeod** and **Dallas Frasca** have combined for an unforgettable run around Australia – **The Green Electric Tour**.

**Friday from 7pm at Mo's Desert Clubhouse, Burleigh Heads. Tickets from \$32 at mosdesertclubhouse.com.**

Landing just shy of the Full Worm Moon, two weeks into the bold new year of the Fire Horse, the **Temple of Boom** is a Mystic Valley themed gathering – blending mythological play, temple

mysticism and bass magic, featuring **DJs XUJA, Nu Free Soul, Apró, Rahel b2b with Jakob Jon, Rob Sydney** and **Sir Enity**.

**Saturday from 4pm at Durrumbul Hall, Main Arm. Tickets \$35 +bf at humanitix.com.**



Comedian **Danny Bhoys**' 'Dear World' is the sequel to his 2015 show 'Dear Epon...!', his favourite ever show. It's a hybrid of stand-up and theatre, but really that just means he gets to sit down for bits of it.

**Friday and Saturday from 7pm at the Brunswick Picture House, Brunswick Heads. Tickets from \$43 +bf at brunswickpicturehouse.com.**



**Shai Rose** is an indie folk singer, songwriter and composer based in Byron Bay – Shai moved to Australia two years ago in order to establish her music career here, and aims to spread her music internationally.

**Saturday from 4pm to 7pm at Bangalow Hotel. Free show.**



Since forming in 1998, **The Mojo Webb Band** has forged a unique path in the Australian music scene. Performing this weekend at the Ballina Blues Club with an original brand of blues and roots music, the trio of **Mojo Webb, Coojee Timms** and **JB Lewis** have toured the nation.

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



Brisbane indie rockers **Soft Treadly** perform a retrospective of iconic Talking Heads songs for a special encore of their 'Talking Heads Experience' tour.

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



### The flowers are in the (hot)house

**Hothouse Flowers** are an Irish rock band who combine traditional Irish music with influences from soul, gospel, and rock. Formed in 1985 in Dublin, they started as street performers. Their first album, *People* (1988), was the most successful debut album in Irish history, reaching No. 1 in Ireland and No. 2 in the UK. After two more albums and extensive touring, the group separated in 1994. Since getting back together in 1998, the band members have been sporadically issuing new songs and touring, but also pursuing solo careers.

The group first formed in 1985 when **Liam Ó Maonlaí** and **Fiachna Ó Braonáin**, who had known each other as children in an Irish-speaking school, Coláiste Eoin in Booterstown, Dublin, began performing as street musicians, busking, on the streets of

Dublin as The Incomparable Benzini Brothers. They were soon joined by Peter O'Toole and had won a street-entertainer award within a year. They renamed the group Hothouse Flowers (the name was suggested by singer Maria Doyle Kennedy during a brainstorming by band members and friends in the Trinity College Arts Block cafe) and began writing songs and performing throughout Ireland. *Rolling Stone* magazine called them 'the best-unsigned band in Europe.'

Skip forward 40-odd years from the streets of Dublin, and Hothouse Flowers are returning to the warm heart of Byron Bay!

**Catch them live from 8pm at The Northern on Saturday for an evening of wild emotion, soulful melody, and joy-filled rhythm. Tickets \$89.90 from Moshtix.**

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

**THENORTHERN.COM.AU**  
 @thenorthernbyronbay

<b>THUR 26 FEB</b>	Front Bar: Izzy Day 6pm DJ Quendo 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm <b>BACKROOM: REGURGITATOR</b>
<b>FRI 27 FEB</b>	Front Bar: JB Blues Breakers 7pm DJ Oren Selecta 10.30pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm <b>BACKROOM: PINK ZINC PRESENTS DONNY SHADES</b>
<b>SAT 28 FEB</b>	Front Bar: Milo Green Trio 7pm DJ Davi Bangma 10pm Duelling Piano Bar 8pm <b>BACKROOM: HOTHOUSE FLOWERS</b>
<b>SUN 01 MAR</b>	Front Bar: Trilla 5pm Vinyl Sunday 8pm <b>SIPPIN' SUNDAYS \$15 COCKTAILS</b> Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
<b>MON 02 MAR</b>	<b>BACKPACKER MONDAYS</b> Front Bar: Jerome Williams 6pm DJ Davi Bangma 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
<b>TUES 03 MAR</b>	Front Bar: Marshall Okell 6pm DJ Alice Q 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm
<b>WED 04 MAR</b>	Front Bar: Katie White 6pm DJ Oren Selecta 9pm Duelling Piano Bar 9pm

**THURSDAY  
REGURGITATOR**

**FRIDAY  
HOTHOUSE FLOWERS**



A FRIEND OF DOROTHY



CARCASSONNE-ACAPULCO

## The fun begins Thursday

Flickerfest and iQ inc are back for their 29th year, kicking off their three-day festival of short films at the **Mullumbimby Civic Hall on Thursday from 7pm** – raise a glass to 29 years of Flickerfest in the Northern Rivers at the festival's opening night party with delicious craft beer, organic wine, organic juices, and sumptuous snacks from Yaman.

Following, at **8pm**, Flickerfest will take you on a trip across the world with the **Best Of International Shorts** program. Among a host of international highlights enjoying their Australian premieres, is the Oscar-nominated *A Friend of*

*Dorothy*, starring UK acting royalty **Miriam Margolyes** and **Stephen Fry**, where friendship is found in the most unexpected places. Also hot off its Oscar nomination is the powerful and intimate *The Singers*. Joining them is the poignant Indonesian short *My Plastic Mother*, awarded Best International Short Film, and *Radix*, winner of the Yoram Gross Animation Award for best Australian animation.

On **Friday, 27 February from 8pm**, Australian films shine. 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 as a man whose world is fading – *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**.

On **Saturday, 28 February at 2pm**, join Flickerfest for a **free workshop** on the journey from shorts to features, and go behind the scenes with award-winning Flickerfest alumni who share their own career pathways.

At **4pm**, Flickerfest and iQ inc will again shine the spotlight on a host of local talent at the 21st year of **Byron All Shorts Competition**. Enjoy a selection of incredible Northern Rivers short films on the big screen, and meet the filmmakers on the day to introduce their films. Full program announced on 18 February.

On **Saturday at 8pm**, **Short Laughs Comedy** brings big laughs to the screen with a riotous collection of off-kilter Flickerfest shorts from Australia and around the world. Don't miss *Carcassonne-Acapulco*,

where a chance encounter at 30,000 feet sparks a surprisingly funny existential debate, *Baby Blues*, a sharply observed comedy that hilariously captures the anxieties, and emotional free-fall of new parenthood; and *Shrimp Fried Rice*, a warm and witty tale that finds humour in cultural misunderstandings, the emotional significance of a humble takeaway meal, and so much more!

**For the full Flickerfest Mullumbimby & Byron All Shorts program and tickets go to [www.iQ.org.au](http://www.iQ.org.au).**

THE ADVENTURES OF  
**Flickerfest**  
 THE CREAM OF SHORT FILMS

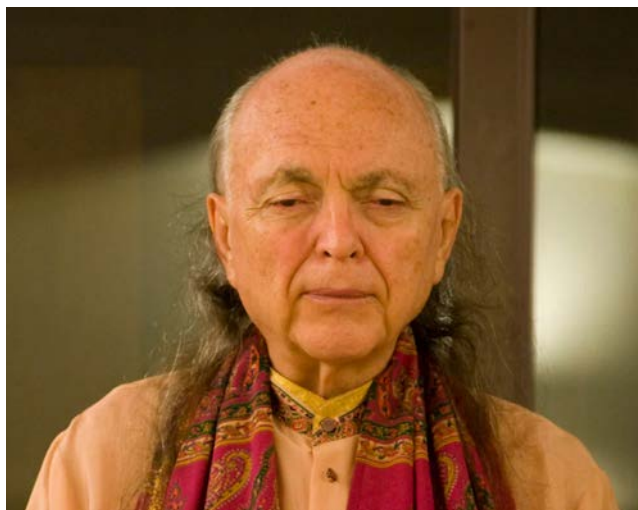
Catch some of the most innovative, provocative and wildly entertaining short films the world has to offer at Australia's leading short film Festival, handpicked from Flickerfest's Bondi competition programmes.

**26-28 FEB 2026 | MULLUM CIVIC HALL**  
 TICKETS ON SALE NOW  
[iQ.ORG.AU](http://iQ.ORG.AU)





Seven days of entertainment



## Conscious Light

The divine life and revelation of Avatar Adi Da Samraj, **Conscious Light** is an award-winning documentary that offers an intimate look into the life and enlightened teachings of Avatar Adi Da Samraj.

Drawing on rare archival film, photography, audio recordings, and interviews with long-term students, the film explores his work to establish a way of ultimate spiritual realisation for all.

Avatar Adi Da devoted his life to revealing the true nature of reality as conscious light – the 'Bright' – communicated not only through teachings, but through direct spiritual transmission. His great message affirms that humanity's deepest need is to transcend mortality and realise infinite love, perfect freedom, and boundless happiness, which he revealed as our true and inevitable destiny.

**Conscious Light is screening on Thursday, March 5 at the Star Court Theatre, Molesworth Arcade, Lismore at 7pm. Donation, \$10 at the door. This event will be hosted by senior renunciate devotee, Vanessa Kenoyer.**

## AMPLIFY YOUR VOLUNTEER IMPACT

BayFM local radio is vollies helping vollies. Every day we serve our community with messages from other not-for-profit services, many of which are also volunteer-run.

Whether you can help us with some admin, fundraising, production or design we'd love you to join us. Tech know-how and tradie skills most welcome!

If you can spare a couple of hours a week, email [frontdesk@bayfm.org](mailto:frontdesk@bayfm.org)



[bayfm.org](http://bayfm.org)  
Listen like a local

# REMEMBERING ROB AT BLUESFEST



## INTERVIEW

**Bluesfest regulars, the legendary Australian blues band, Backsliders return in a reinvented format – celebrating and paying tribute to long-time drummer and key songwriter, Rob Hirst, who passed away last month after a tremendous struggle with pancreatic cancer.**

**Guitarist, lead vocalist, founding member of the Backsliders, and good buddy to Hirst, Dom Turner says it was Rob's deep wish that the band continue to make great music, and Turner says that's the plan.**

**Seven spoke to Dom in an emotional interview last week from his home in Sydney.**

**Dom I'm, very, very sad for your loss – how are you travelling?**

Yeah, it's a big loss. I've had a lot of people pass over the years, over many years, but this is a really hard one...

I think part of it is, we knew it was inevitable – because it's incurable – pancreatic cancer was this kind of an endpoint coming, but it was a little quicker than we'd all expected, to be honest.

It was Bluesfest 2023. He was good that weekend. He was not complaining about feeling unwell. He was unusually worn out.

**You did do a show together not all that long ago, didn't you?**

Yeah, we did. We did a number of shows last year, because this was what Rob wanted to do. He wanted to do shows. Wanted to do gigs. I think personally, that the shows were like a goal for him, you know, that he would work towards. And in terms of, we don't normally rehearse at all, okay, but occasionally we do. But we were doing the odd rehearsal because we changed the format slightly.

**What's going to happen to the drum kit?**

I don't, actually, I don't know, but the Backslider drum kit, the special one, I don't know yet. It's just, it's yeah, well...

**This must be very hard for you doing interviews in a lead up to a show under the current circumstances?**

It is pretty hard. But it's a little bit cathartic, in a way.

**Tell me about the lineup for the bluesfest show.**

It's very exciting. My idea was to have two drummers, because you can't have one drummer – in this case, you need two and probably three!

We have Rosscoe Clark from the Foreday Riders who I've worked with for many years, and I have a great musical rapport with, which is critical for me in the

band, and Hamish Stuart, another Sydney drummer who goes back as far as Ayers Rock, from the '70s.

Hamish was very, very close to Rob, and in fact, recorded on the last EP that Rob did, which was with Jim Moginie, Hamish and Rob, and they did a few songs and recorded an EP and when Rob couldn't make the gig that I mentioned that we had to cancel, he said, 'Go ahead, get Hamish', and I said, 'No, we're not going ahead with this one. It's too soon.'

But Bluesfest will be Hamish and Rosscoe, also because of Rob's wonderful harmonies, Joe Glover, who played harmonica for the Backsliders for many years, has stepped up and is doing quite a lot of harmony stuff. But still, it's early days. So we've enlisted Gyan – lovely Gyan has a history with the band – in the '90s, she recorded on a number of the albums. So she's the first person that came to mind.

**It sounds like the show will go on?**

I can't explain what a massive loss it is, it is – but, it's really, it's kind of weirdly exciting. I can almost feel Rob standing over us – you know, because he loves both Hamish and Rosscoe.

The band has reinvented itself a number of times over the years. So we will go on, but it was just like we need a bit of time. And yes, Bluesfest was far enough out for us – it'll be the first gig back.

I spoke to Rob the morning that he died, and it was, you know, basically, aside from saying goodbyes, it was, 'Keep doing it, keep doing it,' yeah, that sort of thing.

We didn't talk about the two drum thing, but there's no other way to do it. No, you know, like – Keith Moon's dead.

**You can see this great show at Bluesfest on Saturday, April 4. For more info, visit: [bluesfest.com.au](http://bluesfest.com.au).**

Read full interview online [www.echo.net.au/entertainment](http://www.echo.net.au/entertainment)



## French Film Festival? But, of course!

The Alliance Française French Film Festival is making its grand return from 3 March to 15 April at Palace Cinemas in Byron Bay.

Get ready for an unforgettable cinematic journey featuring a spectacular selection of French films – from comedy, romance, and drama, to thrilling adventures.

The wonderful opening night film, *Colours of Time*, sees 30 people, in 2025, unexpectedly learn that they are linked by one shared ancestor, Adèle Meunier (**Suzanne Lindon**). The legacy awaiting them is unusual: a countryside home in Normandy, abandoned for decades and suspended in time.

Four of them, Seb (**Abraham Wapler**), Abdel (**Zinedine Soualem**, *Divertimento*), Céline (**Julia Piaton**, *Like a Prince*) and Guy (**Vincent Macaigne**, *Three Friends*), are sent to survey the estate. They enter the property expecting organisation, documentation and clear boundaries. The house replies with echoes.

As they uncover traces of Adèle's life, the story opens onto another era. In 1895, Adèle leaves Normandy at 20 and reappears in Paris, a city alive with invention, early photography and the rise of Impressionism. The film moves between 2025 and 1895, letting the past mirror the present. This dialogue across time gently challenges the relatives' certainties, inviting them to rethink identity, legacy and the future they carry without realising it.

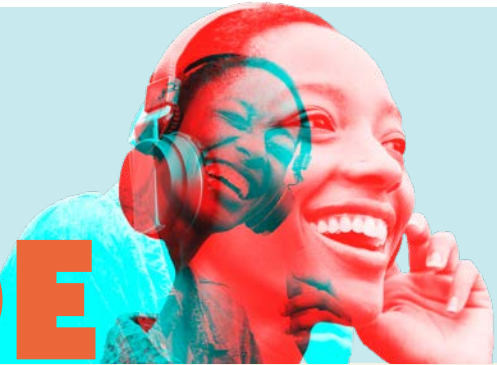
Other highlights include: *The Richest Woman in the World* – few modern scandals have captivated France as the astonishing events surrounding Liliane Bettencourt, the billionaire heiress to the L'Oréal fortune and doyenne of Parisian society. Now writer/director **Thierry Klifa** has freely adapted the incredible story into a captivating dark comedy, featuring a jaw-dropping, tailor-made role for one of France's most iconic stars; In *What is Love?* Marguerite (**Laure Calamy**, *How to Make a Killing*) sees no reason to refuse her ex-husband Fred (**Vincent Macaigne**, *Three Friends*) when he asks for an official Catholic Church annulment of their marriage. They share a child, she has since rebuilt her life with a new partner and a teen daughter, and she is even genuinely pleased to learn that Fred hopes to marry Chloé, the woman who now shares his life.

To satisfy the Church authorities, the former spouses must prove that their marriage was destined to fail from the beginning. What begins as a simple administrative formality slowly turns into an unexpected emotional journey. As Marguerite and Fred revisit old memories, moments of tenderness, and the cracks that once separated them, emotions they believe long-resolved, begin to resurface.

There are so many great films to see at this year's Alliance Française French Film Festival. Find out more at [palacecinemas.com.au](http://palacecinemas.com.au).

IT'S FREE TO LIST YOUR GIGS IN THE GIG GUIDE  
e: [gigs@echo.net.au](mailto:gigs@echo.net.au)  
w: [echo.net.au/gig-guide](http://echo.net.au/gig-guide)  
DEADLINE 5PM ON FRIDAYS

# GIG GUIDE



### WEDNESDAY 25

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, FELICITY LAWLESS
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM ADAM HARPAZ
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM DAN HANNAFORD + DJ ALICE Q + PIANO BAR
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM CURRY JAM
- OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM JB BLUES BREAKERS + OREN SELECTA + DUELLING PIANO BAR + DONNY SHADES
- BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB 5PM INO PIO
- ELEMENTS OF BYRON 7.30PM OLE FALCOR
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM DANNY BHOY
- OCEAN SHORES TAVERN 5.30PM OPEN MIC NIGHT
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ LOST BOY LUDO

### THURSDAY 26

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, SARAH GRANT DUO
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 8PM DEATH BY DENIM + YOURS TO KEEP
- BYRON THEATRE 7PM JOSH PYKE
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM IZZY DAY + DJ QUENDO, DUELLING PIANO BAR, 7.30PM REGURGITATOR
- BYRON BAY GOLF CLUB 6PM HEEL HOOK
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7.30PM REGURGITATOR
- SAINT MARIES, BRUNSWICK HEADS, 6PM MONDO JAZZ CATS
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 6PM DAN HANNAFORD
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM THE TIGER LILLIES
- MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL 7PM FLICKERFEST OPENING NIGHT PARTY + SCREENING: BEST OF INTERNATIONAL SHORTS PROGRAMME
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6PM BLUEGRASS JAM
- LISMORE CITY BOWL 7PM THE SUPPER CLUB SOUL BAND
- LENNOX HOTEL 5PM JORDAN MAC, 8PM THURSDAY JAM NIGHT
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM TY SEGALL
- ST JOHN'S SCHOOL HALL, MULLUMBIMBY, 7.30PM ECSTATIC DANCE MULLUM WITH DJ ISHWARA
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 8PM KRAPPYKOE WITH JESS
- MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL 8PM FLICKERFEST – BEST OF AUSTRALIAN SHORTS
- LENNOX HOTEL 9PM LEMON CHICKEN
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM ISAAC FRANKHAM
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM JEREMY SAMMUT
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 7PM THE COASTERS
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM JOE CONROY
- HOTEL ILLAWONG, EVANS HEAD, 7.30PM SONIC FX
- PEARCES CREEK HALL 7PM COLLAPSING STARS + GRACE BARR
- CONDONG BOWLS CLUB 6.30PM FEDERAL BLUES INC
- THE CITADEL, MURWILLUMBAH, 7.30PM MARISA ANDERSON
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM STEPHEN LOVELIGHT
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5.30PM JEROME WILLIAMS
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM SCORPIO
- SOUNDLOUNGE, CURRUMBIN, 7PM JOSH PYKE
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM SARAH MCLEOD AND DALLAS FRASCA

### FRIDAY 27

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, FAT ALBERT
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 5PM CHRIS DEL MAR + SALUTE + STREV ZAR + FAZZ B2B ZAC EWING
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM HARMONY AMIDST DESTRUCTION
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 4.30PM DJ NAT WHITE

### SATURDAY 28

- RAILWAY HOTEL, BYRON BAY, PEPPER LANE
- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 3PM ANIMAL VENTURA + JASON MCGRGOR DUO
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 7PM MILO GREEN TRIO + DJ DAVI BANGMA + DUELLING PIANO BAR
- BYRON THEATRE 6.30PM SCREENING + Q&A 500 DAYS IN THE WILD
- NORTH BYRON HOTEL 1.30PM DJ AFRODESIA + DANI QUAYLE MUSIC
- BYRON BAY SERVICES CLUB 7PM THE FERAMONES
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM SHAI ROSE
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4.30PM ERROL RENAUD 'C SOUL' + DJS YOLANDA AND JAYO
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 7PM DANNY BHOY
- MULLUMBIMBY CIVIC HALL 4PM BYRON ALL SHORTS, 8PM FLICKERFEST – SHORT LAUGHS COMEDY
- FLOCK TOGETHER CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 7PM LUKE BENNETT
- WANDANA BREWING CO., MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM DJ DARLAN
- DURRUMBUL HALL 4PM MYSTIC VALLEY – TEMPLE OF BOOM
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 7PM THE DUSTIES
- WILLIAMS STREET KITCHEN & BAR, LENNOX HEAD, 6PM PHANTOM LIMBZ
- CLUB LENNOX 7PM PISTOL WHIP
- LENNOX HOTEL 8PM BATTLE OF THE BANDS – FINAL
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 6PM OOOZ
- AUSTRALIAN HOTEL, BALLINA, 8PM DJ FRXSTY & MR MANA
- CHERRY STREET SPORTS CLUB, BALLINA, 8PM JABIRU
- KINGSCLIFF BEACH BOWLS 5PM GREGG PETERSON
- SALTBAR, KINGSCLIFF, 5PM ANDY V
- CLUB TWEED 7.30PM OFF THE GRID
- TWIN TOWNS, TWEED HEADS, THE SHOWROOM 8PM THE AUSTRALIAN VAN MORRISON SHOW
- IRON & RESIN, GOLD COAST, 3PM FLAMING HEART FEST FT. VOIID, THE LONESOMES, FUNGAS, TOMORROW'S FORECAST, VINTED VINEER, BRAVE DAISY + TRANSIT VENUS
- MO'S DESERT CLUBHOUSE, GOLD COAST, 7PM TOPS WITH SMERZ

### SUNDAY 1

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 4.03PM SOFT TREADLY + DJ MY HAPPY PLACE
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 5PM TRILLA + VINYL SUNDAYS + DUELLING PIANO BAR
- BANGALOW HOTEL 4PM LEE HOOKER
- HOTEL BRUNSWICK 4PM PAUL A. GEORGE
- BRUNSWICK HEADS PICTURE HOUSE 6PM SCREENING: WHAT IS FEAR
- MIDDLE PUB, MULLUMBIMBY, 3PM OPEN MIC WITH THE SWAMP CATS
- BILLINUDGEL HOTEL 1PM HUBCAP STAN & THE SIDEWALK STOMPERS
- BALLINA RSL BOARDWALK 10AM THE BALLINA COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB 2.30PM BALLINA BLUES CLUB FEAT MOJO WEBB BAND
- SHAW'S BAY HOTEL, BALLINA, 3PM JB'S BLUES BREAKERS
- WHARF BAR, BALLINA, 3PM THE FERAMONES
- ELTHAM HOTEL 4PM THE LONESOME BOATMEN
- BLAH BAR, LISMORE, 12PM MUNK AND PETAL
- CLUB TWEED 1PM DAVE GRAY + MR JOHN

### MONDAY 2

- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM JEROME WILLIAMS + DJ DAVI BANGMA + DUELLING PIANO BAR

### TUESDAY 3

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM LUKE PAULEY
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM MARSHALL OKELL + DJ ALICE Q + DUELLING PIANO BAR

### WEDNESDAY 4

- BEACH HOTEL, BYRON BAY, 6PM LUKE BENNETT
- BYRON THEATRE 1PM SCREENING NT LIVE: HAMLET
- THE NORTHERN, BYRON BAY, 6PM KATIE WHITE + OREN SELECTA + DUELLING PIANO BAR
- THE PADDOCK PROJECT, MULLUMBIMBY, 4PM CURRY JAM
- OTTILIES, MULLUMBIMBY, 6PM MONDO HUM JAZZ QUINTET
- ELTHAM HOTEL 6.30PM NOT QUITE FOLK JAM

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



It will appear in the paper, the online gig guide and on Bay FM  
email [gigs@echo.net.au](mailto:gigs@echo.net.au) with the details

PALACE CINEMAS  
BYRON BAY, BALLINA FAIR

SESSION TIMES  
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26  
TO WEDNESDAY MARCH 4



SCAN TO BOOK ONLINE

PALACE BYRON BAY

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

AURORA: WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EARTH? (IC) Wed: 8:00PM

BEETLEJUICE (M) Mon: 6:30PM

LA SCALA: COSI FAN TUTTE (IC) Sun: 1:00PM, Wed: 11:00AM

MIDWINTER BREAK (M) Sun: 2:30PM SPARKLING SESSION Wed: 1:00PM GOLDEN MEMBER PREVIEW

NT LIVE: HAMLET (IC) Sat, Sun: 3:00PM. Mon, Tues: 6:00PM

THE LORD OF THE RINGS MARATHON (EXTENDED EDITIONS) (M) Sat: 11:00AM

FAMILY FILMS

ZOOTOPIA 2 (PG) Daily: 11:00AM

ALL FILMS

CRIME 101 (M) Daily except Sun: 11:20AM, 2:20PM, 6:50PM. Sun: 11:20AM, 6:50PM

EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT (PG) Thurs, Fri, Sun, Wed: 11:10AM, 3:40PM, 5:50PM. Sat: 11:10AM, 3:40PM, 6:30PM. Mon, Tues: 11:10AM, 3:40PM

FACKHAM HALL (M) Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 11:00AM, 1:10PM. Sat: 10:50AM, 1:10PM. Sun: 10:45AM, 1:40PM. Wed: 1:30PM

HAMNET (M) Thurs, Fri: 11:00AM, 3:15PM, 8:00PM

Scream 7 (IC) Daily except Sat: 1:15PM, 4:20PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM, 8:30PM. Sat: 1:15PM, 4:20PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM, 8:45PM

Sat: 3:15PM, 8:30PM. Sun: 11:00AM, 6:40PM. Mon, Tues, Wed: 11:00AM, 3:15PM

JIMPA (MAIS-) Thurs, Tues, Wed: 11:10AM, 2:00PM, 6:00PM. Fri: 2:00PM, 6:00PM. Sat: 10:45AM, 2:00PM. Sun, Mon: 11:10AM, 2:00PM

MARTY SUPREME (M) Daily except Sat: 1:30PM, 4:30PM, 7:30PM. Sat: 1:00PM, 5:50PM

PILLION (R18+) Thurs, Fri, Tues: 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 8:20PM. Sat: 4:00PM, 8:30PM. Sun, Wed: 3:45PM, 8:20PM. Mon: 1:30PM, 3:45PM, 8:30PM

Scream 7 (IC) Daily except Sat: 1:15PM, 4:20PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM, 8:30PM. Sat: 1:15PM, 4:20PM, 5:15PM, 7:40PM, 8:45PM

SOLO MIO (PG) Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tues: 11:10AM, 1:15PM, 6:00PM. Sat: 10:45AM, 1:00PM, 6:20PM. Sun: 10:50AM, 1:00PM, 6:00PM. Wed: 11:00AM, 6:00PM

THE HOUSEMAID (MAIS-) Daily except Sat, Sun: 3:20PM

THE TESTAMENT OF ANN LEE (M) Daily: 11:00AM, 1:45PM, 4:30PM, 7:15PM

WUTHERING HEIGHTS (M) Daily except Sat: 11:15AM, 1:15PM, 4:00PM, 5:45PM, 6:45PM, 8:00PM. Sat: 11:15AM, 1:15PM, 4:00PM, 5:45PM, 6:45PM, 8:30PM

BALLINA FAIR CINEMAS

CRIME 101 (M) Daily: 12:15PM, 7:20PM

EPIC: ELVIS PRESLEY IN CONCERT (PG) Daily: 10:10AM, 2:50PM, 5:20PM

FACKHAM HALL (M) Daily except Sat, Sun: 10:10AM, 2:45PM. Sat, Sun: 2:45PM

JIMPA (MAIS-) Daily: 10:00AM

SCREAM 7 (IC) Daily: 12:20PM, 3:00PM, 5:00PM, 7:30PM

WUTHERING HEIGHTS (M) Daily: 12:10PM, 4:50PM, 7:20PM

ZOOTOPIA 2 (PG) Sat, Sun: 10:00AM

# ECHO CLASSIFIEDS – 6684 1777

## CLASSIFIED AD BOOKINGS

### PHONE ADS

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

### AT THE ECHO HEAD OFFICE

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

**Village Way, Stuart St, Mullumbimby**

### EMAIL ADS

Display (box ads) and line classifieds, email:

**classifieds@echo.net.au**

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

## DEADLINE TUES 12PM

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

## RATES & PAYMENT

### LINE ADS:

**\$17.00 for the first two lines**

**\$5.00 for each extra line**

\$17 for two lines is the minimum charge.

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

These prices include GST.

**Cash, cheque, Mastercard or Visa**

Prepayment is required for all ads.

## CLASSIFIEDS THAT WORK ALL WEEK!

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

# Echo

## TRADEWORK

### Septic Waste Removal Summerland Environmental

The Liquid Waste Specialists!

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

## TREE SERVICES

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

## DISCLAIMER

Advertisements placed in *The Byron Shire Echo* do not reflect the views or opinions of the editorial staff.

*The Byron Shire Echo* does not make any representations as to the accuracy or suitability of any content or information contained in advertising material nor does publication constitute in any way an endorsement by *The Byron Shire Echo* of the content or representations contained therein.

*The Byron Shire Echo* does not accept any liability for the representations or promises made in paid advertisements or for any loss or damage arising from reliance on such content, representations or promises.

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### SOUL SONG

Community-led uplifting devotional singing and short meditation. 1st and 3rd Sunday 10am Scout Hall Bangalow. 0402052457

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



**PROBLEMS WITH ALCOHOL...?**  
...THERE IS HELP  
TUESDAY NIGHTS 6:00PM  
73 BYRON ST, BANGALOW  
CONTACT: 0401 945 671

## LIFE CELEBRATIONS

### Ian David (Frog) McAllister



Friends and family of Ian David McAllister are invited to celebrate the life of this big-hearted, charismatic man on Saturday 28 February 12pm–8pm in Rosebank. Please text Cherie for venue details: 0407 855 273

## DEATH NOTICES

### DENIS JOSEPH HUTCHISON

Passed away peacefully on 12th February aged 85 at Byron Bay Hospital.

Dearly loved partner of Jan, beloved father of Martin, Liane and Shannon. Stepfather of Cathie and Gary. Loved by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Privately cremated.

## AGMs

WILSONS CREEK COMMUNITY PRESCHOOL AGM. Tues 10 March. 3:30pm at the Preschool. All welcome.

## HEALTH

### KINESIOLOGY

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

## HEALTH Cont.

### HYPNOSIS & EFT

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

### HYPNOSIS & NLP

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

### Relationship and Sexuality Sessions

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

Private sessions with Toni Makas

Love, relationships, and sexuality is where we hold our deepest conditioning – the core programming that keeps us stuck in repression, trauma, and suffering.

Toni Makas is an innovator in the field of psychology and spirituality. He is a relationship, embodiment-practice, and enlightenment (nonduality) teacher.

Individual and Couples sessions available.

To book a session – or for more information text 0429 617 009 or email tonimakas.sessions@gmail.com

### Mindfulness @ Work

Bring greater focus, clarity and calm into your workplace.

Certified Mindfulness Educator Paul Bibby  
0401 926 090

### Body Based Psychotherapy Somatic Practice

Julie Wells  
Anne Goslett (nee Mannix)

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

(02) 6685 5185  
9 Fletcher St, Byron Bay

## CHILDCARE

### Family Day Care Ocean Shores

**SPOT AVAILABLE Thursday and Friday**  
Over 2.5YO

Call NRCS: 07 5587 5300  
Text Dani: 0432 436 843

Registered with NRCS | Child Care Subsidy available for families | ONE spot - Get in touch today!

## SUMMERLAND TREE SERVICES

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

Byron Bay & Surrounding Areas  
**6681 3140**  
Mobile 0417 698 227

## HART TREE SERVICES

- 20 years local experience
- 19 inch chipper • Stump grinding • Cherry picker • Crane truck • Bob Cat

Fully insured • Free quotes  
**0427 347 380**

## WANTED

### TREE FERNS

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

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

## CARAVANS

### CARAVANS

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

## BUSINESS FOR SALE

### MOBILE COFFEE VAN

FULLY EQUIPPED 10 yrs est. business at local rest stop. Ph 0433704686 or Melissa 0404545375

## GARAGE SALES

### COLLECTIVE GARAGE SALE!

Men's, women's and teen clothes, bedding, great furniture, books, various household items, pavers and more. Plus a bake sale!

**11 Balem Drive, Ocean Shores. Saturday 8am.**

### Tip Runs & Rubbish Removal

**0408 210 772**

## Sales support/admin

The Echo needs a sales support/admin person four days per week, to work at our Mullumbimby office supporting the sales manager and our online/print sales team. Immediate start.

The role will include data input, order processing, developing and sending promotional materials, answering the phone, taking classified ads.

Essential: Good Excel and time management skills. Strong database and communication skills, accuracy, at least three years experience in a team support/admin role.

Desirable: Experience with Filemaker, MYOB.

Email: positions@echo.net.au



### ONYETT, WILLIAM JAMES (JIM)



6/2/1937 – 18/2/2026

Passed away peacefully at home in Ocean Shores. Partner of Margaret, stepfather of Paul and Mark (dec'd). Poppy to Tian, Shane and Stephen. Great Grand Pop to Ruby and Riley. Will be greatly missed. Private cremation.

## FUNERAL NOTICES

### JENKINS, HARRY.

July 4, 1927  
– February 23, 2026

Harry passed at Byron Bay Hospital.

Much loved husband of Daphne (dec). Loved father of Trevor & Margaret.

Family and friends are warmly invited to celebrate Harry's life on Monday March 2 at 10.30am at Mullumbimby Lawn Cemetery.

Harry will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Aged 98 years.

### BRUNSWICK VALLEY

FUNERALS  
6684 6232

## Calling all Bruns River Landholders! FREE Support to Help Restore your Patch of Paradise.

Positive Change for Marine Life is a local group working to reconnect the Bruns river from mountains to sea.

We are here to help you with:

- Riverbank restoration
- Weed and invasive vegetation control
- Wildlife habitat installation
- Resources for managing your land

Spots are limited! Email ljepson@pcfml.org.au or call Lucy on +61 476 403 629 today.



pcfml.org.au

## COMMUNITY HOT BRUNCH FREE

### FIRST SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH

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

### EVERYONE WELCOME

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

**10am to 12pm In the Ballina Presbyterian Hall**

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



## SHARE ACCOM.

**SUNRISE:** Room in 3 bdrm townhouse Avail. mid April. \$270pw incl bills. No pets. 66856760.

## TO LET

### LOCAL REMOVAL

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

### BALLINA SELF-STORAGE UNITS

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

## TO LEASE

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

## POSITIONS VACANT

**PRIVATE MODELLING**, young women 18-25yo. Express your naked beauty artistically in complete privacy/confidence, good pay, Andrew. Ph 0431393320

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

### TAXI DRIVERS WANTED

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



### Immediate start High School Project Lismore

We require the following

- Excavator Operators
- Grader Operators
- Dozer Operators
- Dump Truck Operators

Contact: **Matt Wells**  
0414 675 150  
matt@gandh.com.au

## WORK WANTED

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

### 1 or 2 MEN + UTE

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

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**Byron Bay Hospital Auxiliary** is a volunteer community service that helps raise funds for our local hospital.

Volunteers welcomed!

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

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

Contact **Maureen Weir**  
0266 853 162 for more information.



### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

YOUTH RECREATION, FOOD HUB SHOP ASSISTANT, COMMUNITY MEALS ASSISTANT

PLEASE, CONTACT US ON  
02 6672 3003 IF INTERESTED



Mullumbimby & District Neighbourhood Centre  
Connecting the Byron Shire Community

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Kitchen Hands -
- Retail Assistants -
- Drivers and Co-driver -
- Community Support Assistants -

MDNC is in need of dedicated volunteers to be part of a big loving family.

All skill sets welcome.

Contact **Sylvia - Volunteer Coordinator**  
Mon-Fri  
6684 1286

## TUITION

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

## Adobe Tutoring

Experienced Professional Trainer  
• Photoshop • Indesign  
• Illustrator

contact@thinkblinkdesign.com  
www.thinkblinkdesign.com

## BIRTHDAYS



Happy Birthday Katie  
Love the Echo Crew

## PETS

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



**MINT** is our 'wild child' kitten who is on the search for a family she can rule over! She's a beautiful dark tortoiseshell girl who is just one of many young cats & kittens we have at the shelter. To meet Mint & our other cats & kittens, please visit the Cat Adoption Centre at 124 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby.

OPEN: Tues 2.30-4.30pm  
Thurs 3-5pm | Sat 10am-12 noon  
Call AWL on 0436 845 542

Like us on Facebook!  
AWL NSW Rehoming Organisation  
Number: R251000222



## Byron Dog Rescue (CAWI)



**BEAR**

Meet Bear  
Aussie Shepherd Male De-sexed, 3 yrs old.  
Bear is big, bouncy and very fluffy! But don't let that fool you, he is a super intelligent dog that will thrive with ongoing training. He needs plenty of exercise and mental stimulation. Loves water and is a great soccer player! Very affectionate, loving dog looking for his forever human. Not suited to young children due to his size. Bear will need a strong secure fence.

Call **Julia on 0458 461 935** or apply via [byrondogrescue.org](http://byrondogrescue.org)  
MC: 991003001950459



**UTZ**  
Utz is a 6 month old, Staffy X. He has a lovely nature and is full of mischief. Utz can't wait to find a family of his own.  
M/C # 991003002920237  
Location: 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/>

Visit [friendsofthepound.com](http://friendsofthepound.com) to view other dogs and cats looking for a home.  
ABN 83 126 970 338



**TIMMY**

Timmy is an almost seven-year-old male Tonkinese with a calm, steady temperament. He is people-focused and prefers staying close to his owner rather than being alone. Affectionate without being demanding, he enjoys sitting beside you and seeking ear scratches. Best suited to a quiet home with consistent companionship, Timmy thrives indoors and would suit a single person or couple wanting a devoted, balanced companion who can offer stability and attention.

Mandatory Re-homing #R251 00 00 60



T: 6681 1860 E: [shelter@nras.org.au](mailto:shelter@nras.org.au)  
W: [www.nras.org.au](http://www.nras.org.au)

## SUN, MOON & TIDES - TIMES FOR NEXT 2 WEEKS

DATE (Feb/March)	DAY, MOON PHASE	SUN RISE / SET	MOON RISE / SET	HIGH TIDES, height (m)	LOW TIDES, height (m)
25	W	6:34 19:23	14:24	03:26 15:25	10:12 21:20
26	TH	6:35 19:22	15:29 0:33	04:52 17:09	11:51 22:47
27	F	6:36 19:21	16:26 1:36	06:08 18:32	13:01 0:51
28	SA	6:36 19:19	17:16 2:44	07:09 19:30	00:05 13:51
1	SU	6:37 19:18	17:58 3:52	08:00 20:19	01:07 14:32
2	M	6:38 19:17	18:35 4:59	08:45 21:02	01:58 15:08
3	TU	6:38 19:16	19:07 6:02	09:24 21:42	02:43 15:41
4	W	6:39 19:15	19:37 7:02	10:00 22:19	03:25 16:11
5	TH	6:40 19:14	20:06 8:00	10:32 22:56	04:05 16:40
6	F	6:40 19:13	20:35 8:57	11:02 23:30	04:45 17:06
7	SA	6:41 19:12	21:06 9:54	11:31 0:24	05:26 17:31
8	SU	6:42 19:11	21:39 10:51	12:00 1:31	06:09 17:59
9	M	6:42 19:10	22:16 11:48	12:32 2:32	06:57 18:29
10	TU	6:43 19:09	22:59 12:45	13:13 3:33	07:58 19:05
11	W	6:43 19:08	23:46 13:40	14:11 4:39	09:22 20:00

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



**DARA**

Meet Dara...a sweet and pretty little tabby, who's just over 1 years old. If you would like a quiet, reserved but affectionate little companion, then Dara is your girl. She's quite the sensitive little soul, which is most endearing as you get to know her. Her big eyes will just gaze into yours and win your heart!  
Desexed and vaccinated. D.O.B 12/11/24.  
Microchip 991003002552716.  
See more on our FB page!

To make an appointment  
0403 533 589 • Billinudgel  
[petsforlifeanimalshelter.net](http://petsforlifeanimalshelter.net)



### Who gives a Cluck?

**Adopt a Rooster.**  
This is Rusty. Rescued in early Feb after being dumped at Stotts Island nature reserve with his other rooboy friend Phoenix. Both Bigger boys and are good natured and friendly. Health checked and treated for lice, mites, worms. Please give him a home or share with someone who can.

Here's the link to adopt him (#56).  
[www.whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/](http://www.whogivesacluck.org/shop/roosters-to-adopt/)  
whogivesacluck.org | @whogivesacluck

## SOCIAL ESCORTS

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

## ONLY ADULTS

**MALE 2 MALE SENSUAL MASSAGE**  
Relaxation, stimulation, 4 Hand available  
Discreet. In & outcalls  
[www.male2massage.com.au](http://www.male2massage.com.au)  
0476069889

**CURIOS ABOUT PEGGING?**  
[ivs0.me/venus-knox](http://ivs0.me/venus-knox)

Need proper erotic relaxation?  
**Tantric Massage**  
Men, Women, Couples. Ph 0480779325

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

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

## LOST & FOUND

**FOUND**  
**DAMMING EVIDENCE IN THE LATEST RELEASE OF THE EPSTEIN FILES**  
... I ... is being ... with a very large ... and a substantial amount of ... without any idea of the ease in which ... and had no inkling it was a fruit. ... said ... wasn't long before ... required extraction ... before the effects ... only to find that the whole ... was made completely out of rubber!



## The Echo's Market Guide

Find it online: [www.echo.net.au/market-guide](http://www.echo.net.au/market-guide)

### MONTHLY MARKETS:

- 1<sup>st</sup> SAT: **Brunswick Heads Markets** - 8am-2pm
- 1<sup>st</sup> SUN: **Byron Community Market** - 8am-3pm  
**Pottsville Beach Markets** - 7am-1pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> SUN: **The Channon Craft Market** - 9am-3pm  
**Chillingham Markets** - 8am-1pm  
**Coolangatta Arts & Craft Markets** - 8am-2pm  
**Tabulam Community Market** - 9am-1pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SAT: **Mullumbimby Community Market** - 8am-2pm  
**Murwillumbah Makers & Finders Market** - 9am-2pm  
**Salt Beach Markets**, South Kingscliff/Casuarina - 8am-1pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SUN: **Federal Village Market** - 8am-2pm  
**Uki Buttery Bazaar Market** - 8am-2pm  
**Pottsville Beach Markets** - 7am-1pm  
**Lismore City Bowlo Markets** - 9am-1pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup> SUN (Dec & Jan): **Byron Community Market** - 8am-3pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> SAT: **Kyogle Bazaar** - 9am-2pm
- Last SAT: **Evans Head Rotary Market** - 8am-1pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> SUN: **Bangalow Market** - 8am-2.30pm  
**Nimbin Markets** - 9am-3pm  
**Murwillumbah Showground Market** - 8am-1pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> SUN (in a 5-Sunday month): **Coolangatta Arts & Crafts** - 8am-2pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> SUN: **Nimbin Markets** - 8.30am-3pm
- Seasonal: **Byron Beachside Market** - four times a year: Wed 7th Jan 2026, Easter, July and Sept

### FARMERS/WEEKLY MARKETS:

- Each TUE: **New Brighton Farmers Market** - 8am-11am  
**Lismore Organic Market** - 7.30am-10.30am
- Each WED: **Murwillumbah Farmers Market** - 7am-11am  
**Nimbin Farmers Market** - 3pm-6pm  
**Newrybar Hall Twilight Market** - 3pm-7.30pm
- Each THU: **Byron Bay Farmers Market** - 7am-11am  
**Lismore Produce Market** - 3pm-6pm
- Each FRI: **Mullumbimby Farmers Market** - 7am-11am  
**Evans Head Farmers Market** - 2.30pm-6.30pm
- Each SAT: **Bangalow Farmers Market** - 7am-11am  
**Duranbah Road Farmers Market** (Tropical Fruit World) 8am-11am  
**Uki Farmers Market** - 8am-1pm  
**Lismore Farmers Market** - 7.30am-11.30am  
**Byron Twilight Market** (October to April) 4pm-9pm
- Each SUN: **Ballina Farmers & Producers Market** - 7am-11am

The Echo updates this guide regularly, however sometimes markets change their routine without letting us know. Please get in touch if you want to advise us of a change.



## On The Horizon

### DEADLINE NOON FRIDAY

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

### Seniors celebration

The seniors celebration 2026 will be held at the Community Cabin on Carlyle St, Byron Bay, on 12 March from 10am till 2pm. It's a free event, but bring a plate to share for lunch. Drama, Tai Chi demo, storytelling, hula dance, lunch and dances of peace and other fun things. All welcome, bring cash for raffles and donations.

### 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. To book, visit <https://tinyurl.com/4x6h5n7s>. For more info contact [lyndall907@hotmail.com](mailto:lyndall907@hotmail.com) or 0424 427 077.

### Probus Club

The Brunswick Valley Probus Club meeting is on Tuesday, 3 March, from 10am at The Ocean Shores Country Club. There is no guest speaker this month. Morning tea is followed by our Annual General Meeting (AGM). Come along and vote for your favourite members. Visitors welcome. For Inquires and apologies, ring Margaret on 6680 3316.

### 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.

### Sexy Menopause

In celebration of International Women's Day, join us at Byron Bay Library for the event, *Sexy Menopause*, with author Lisa Fitzpatrick. A powerful and enlightening women's health talk focused on menopause. Ahead of her new book *Sexy Menopause*, Lisa reframes aging as an awakening and a time to step into your sensual, soulful and sovereign power. Thursday, 19 March at 3.30pm. Bookings online [www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au) 6685 8540.

### Royal Life Saving courses

Royal Life Saving will be conducting First Aid, Provide Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), and Pool Lifeguard courses in Murwillumbah in late February and early March. Course overview and enrolment links can be accessed via [www.drowningprevention.org.au/nswtrainingcalendar](http://www.drowningprevention.org.au/nswtrainingcalendar). For further information on any program of Royal Life Saving, contact the Northern Regional Office on 02 6651 6266.

## ECHO SERVICE DIRECTORY RATES, PAYMENT & DEADLINE

**Deadline:** For additions and changes is **12pm Friday**  
**Line ads:** \$99 for 3 months or \$340 for 1 year prepaid  
**Display ads:** \$70 per week for colour display ad.  
 Minimum 8 week booking 4 weeks prepaid.  
 Please supply display ads 85mm wide, 38mm high.  
 New ads will be placed at end of section.  
**Contact:** 6684 1777 or [adcop@echo.net.au](mailto:adcop@echo.net.au)



### SERVICE DIRECTORY INDEX

Accountants & Bookkeepers	28	Handypersons	29
Acupuncture	28	Health	29
Air Conditioning & Refrigeration	28	Hire	29
Architects	28	Hypnotherapy	29
Automotive	28	Landscaping	29
Barber Shops	28	Locksmith	29
Blinds, Awnings, Curtains, Shutters	28	Pest Control	29
Bricklaying	28	Photography	29
Building Trades	28	Physiotherapy	29
Bush Regeneration & Weed Control	28	Picture Framing	29
Carpentry & Joinery	28	Plastering	29
Chimney Sweeping	28	Plumbers	30
Cleaning	28	Removalists	30
Computer Services	28	Rendering	30
Concreting & Paving	28	Roofing	30
Decks, Patios & Extensions	28	Rubbish Removal	30
Design & Drafting	28	Self Storage	30
Driveway Maintenance	29	Septic Systems	30
Earthmoving & Excavation	29	Solar Installation	30
Electricians	29	Television Services	30
Fencing	29	Tiling	30
Floor Sanding & Polishing	29	Tree Services	30
Garden & Property Maintenance	29	Transportation Services	30
Gas Fitters, Suppliers & Servicing	29	Upholstery	30
Guttering	29	Valuers	30
		Veterinary Surgeons	30
		Water Filters	30
		Welding	30
		Window Cleaning & Repairs	30
		Window Tinting	30

### ACCOUNTANTS & BOOKKEEPERS

**BYRON BOOKKEEPING** BAS, Payroll, AR/AP, Xero, QB, MYOB.....0415 639548  
**BOOKKEEPER** Reg BAS provider, payroll, A/P, A/R, Xero & MYOB. Local, reliable.....0410 206627  
**BLOOMING BOOKKEEPING** and BAS Agent..... Ph Leah 0434 121077

### ACUPUNCTURE

**ACUPUNCTURE CHINESE HERBAL MEDICINE** M Collis.....0490 022183

### AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION



– Sales – Installation – Repairs  
 – All Commercial Refrigeration  
 – Residential & Commercial Airconditioning  
 – Coolroom Design & Construction  
 – Freezer Rooms

45 Manns Road, Mullumbimby  
 Lic: 299433C ARC: AU40492

**6684 2783**

**COOLMAN AIR CONDITIONING** 23 yrs exp. Lic. 178464C AU30147.....0422 291433

**ARTISAN AIR** Airconditioning and refrigeration.....66809394

### ARCHITECTS

**OCEANARC ARCHITECTS** Reg. 6042 [www.oceanarc.com.au](http://www.oceanarc.com.au).....0412 251392

### AUTOMOTIVE

**WE PAY FOR UNWANTED CARS**  
**\$50-\$1500**  
 Free metal drop off  
 Locally owned **6684 5296**

### ABSOLUTELY FREE CAR BODY REMOVAL

**CASH ON THE SPOT GUARANTEE**  
**\$50-\$1000**  
 WE BUY UNWANTED CARS, UTES & VANS  
**PHONE 0466 113 333** 24/7  
 EMAIL: [enquires@adrians.com.au](mailto:enquires@adrians.com.au)

### BARBER SHOPS

PENSIONERS/KIDS FROM \$25 – ADULTS FROM \$30: 6 Brunswick Tce Mullum.....0421 679015

### BLINDS, AWNINGS, CURTAINS, SHUTTERS

BYRON BAY  
**BlindDESIGN**  
 BLINDS SHUTTERS AWNINGS CURTAINS

LOCAL **Luxaflex**  
 SHOWCASE DEALER SHOWROOM  
**6680 8862**  
**FREE MEASURE QUOTE**  
 ON OUR COMPLETE RANGE OF  
 INTERIOR & EXTERIOR  
 WINDOW TREATMENTS

1/84 Centennial Circuit Byron Bay  
 SPECIALISTS IN HOME AUTOMATION  
[www.blinddesignbyronbay.com.au](http://www.blinddesignbyronbay.com.au)

SUNSCREENS  
 CURTAINS  
 PLANTATION SHUTTERS  
 AWNINGS  
 ROLL BLINDS

Cheapest  
Guaranteed

### ZEN UPGRADES

SHUTTERS, BLINDS, CURTAINS, AWNINGS & MORE

**0407 902 869**

### BRICKLAYING

**BRICK/BLOCK LAYING** Contractors. Lic 291958C. Phone Mark.....0409 444268

### BUILDING TRADES

• DEPT OF FAIR TRADING: A licence is required for all residential building work where the reasonable market cost of the work to be done (labour and materials) exceeds \$5000 (including GST).

**B&B Timbers**  
 66867911  
 110 Teven Road, Ballina  
 New logo - Same quality & service  
**Structural - Landscaping**  
**Fencing - Composite Decking**  
**Hardwood - Pine - Hardware**  
[sales@bbtimbers.com.au](mailto:sales@bbtimbers.com.au) [www.bbtimbers.com.au](http://www.bbtimbers.com.au)

**BUILDER - JOHN MCGAURAN** Personalised Service. 20 yrs exp. Lic 170208C.....0415 793242

**HAVEN BUILDING** All aspects of building. Lic 326616C.....0432 565060

**FABRICA JOINERY** Quality kitchens/timber doors/windows. Lic 244652C.....66808162

**CARPENTER/JOINER** 30 years experience. Prompt efficient service. Fully insured. Other licensed trades avail, incl plastering/painting etc. 24/7 Emergency 4WD call-out avail. Lic 43794C.....0423 500693

**BUILDER** Extensions, maintenance, new homes, insurance, landscaping Lic19953Q.....0403 458177

**SEA LION BUILDERS:** All Building Works / Maintenance Lic #243734C.....Ph 0407 351720

**VIDLER BUILT** decks, extensions, bathrooms, kitchens, timber fencing Lic 304237C.....0413 502281

### BUSH REGENERATION & WEED CONTROL

**THE GREEN WAVE:** native reforestation and weed management.....(John) 0491 117656

### CARPENTRY & JOINERY

**LOCAL CARPENTER** small, medium or large jobs. Lic 207899c.....Ph 0431 048856

**ALL CARPENTRY** Doors & stairs, all repairs. Reliable. 20 years exp.....0437 202050

**BENNETT CARPENTRY** Construction & maintenance. [bennettcarpentry.com.au](http://bennettcarpentry.com.au).....0448 031221

**BYRON BAY CARPENTRY & CONSTR.** Decks, kitchen, bath, laundry. Lic 337421c.....0432 549082

### CHIMNEY SWEEPING

**BLACKS CHIMNEY SWEEPING & REPAIRS** AHHA member, insured. 3rd generation.....66771905

### CLEANING

Services List  
 (Low Pressure Softwashing)  
 Houses, Gutters, Roofs, Awnings,  
 Solar panels, Retaining walls  
 Driveways, Paths, Pavers,  
 Fences, Decks, Patios,  
 Pool areas.

**AQUA PRESSURE CLEANING**

Locally owned and Operated  
 Residential and Commercial  
 No job too big or small  
 Obligation free quote  
 Fully insured

**0426 119 550** [info@nraquapressurecleaning.com.au](mailto:info@nraquapressurecleaning.com.au) ABN: 47576013867

**Byron Bay 5 Stars**  
**CLEANING SERVICE**  
 CLEANS: Holiday, Residential, Bond, Commercial, Spring.  
**Phone Mick 0409 009 024**  
 Email: [mickbhl@gmail.com](mailto:mickbhl@gmail.com)

**BETTY'S CLEANING & HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES**.....Text 0476 984649

**PRESSURE WASH IT WASHING !!!**.....Text YOKO 0475040733

### COMPUTER SERVICES

One-on-one, patient, experienced teacher offering digital support for seniors needing help with phones, laptops and computers.

**Phone or email: 0420 235 624**  
[contact@thinkblinkdesign.com](mailto:contact@thinkblinkdesign.com)

**FLASH COMPUTERS** Mac & PC. Affordable & helpful. 77 Stuart Street, Mullumbimby..02 66844124

### CONCRETING & PAVING

**SALISBURY CONCRETING**  
**DARYL 0418 234 302**  
 Over 30 yrs' local experience.  
 All forms of concreting.  
 Residential - Civil - Industrial  
 Lic:136717c

**SHAKA CONCRETING** Driveways, sheds, slabs, p/ways, patios. Insured & Lic#391742C...0402 728207

**MIRO HALFORD BUILDING DESIGN** [mirohalforddesign.com](http://mirohalforddesign.com).....0402 613638

### DECKS, PATIOS & EXTENSIONS

**FCR**  
 DECK & ROOF RESTORATION  
 FULL CIRCLE REFINISHING  
 EASILY SAND OVER NAIL/SCREW HEADS!

**QUALITY DECK RESTORATION**  
**FREE QUOTE: 0455 573 554**  
[FULLCIRCLEREFINISHING.COM](http://FULLCIRCLEREFINISHING.COM)

**BYRON BAY FLOOR SANDING** by Chris Wallace. Quality assured. Best prices.....0408 536565

**DECK REFINISHING EVANS HEAD** Customer satisfaction guaranteed.....0413 786879

### DESIGN & DRAFTING

**MIRO HALFORD BUILDING DESIGN** [mirohalforddesign.com](http://mirohalforddesign.com).....0402 613638

**HOLM STUDIO** architectural drafting & planning services. [holmstudio.com.au](http://holmstudio.com.au).....0488 216555

## DRIVEWAY MAINTENANCE

**ALL ASPECTS OF ASPHALT & BITUMEN SERVICES**

**6677 1859**

SERVICING THE EAST COAST OF THE NSW NORTHERN RIVERS  
Burrumbidgee

admin@ecasphalt.com.au

MC2 RURAL Earthmoving, mulching, camphor/weeds, property maintenance ..... 0427 900701

## EARTHMOVING & EXCAVATION

**TINY EARTHWORKS**

**Philip Toovey**  
0409 799 909

various implements available for limited access projects

**360 EARTH**

**CONSCIOUS EARTHWORKS**

- DRAINAGE DESIGN • DRIVEWAYS • PADS • WATERWAYS
- ALL ASPECTS OF EARTHMOVING

Phone Zac: 0468 344 939 www.360earth.com.au

Drainage Consultation & Installation 5T Excavator & Skidsteer  
Landscaping Install & Supply 8 Tonne Tipper  
Retaining & Rockwalls Attachments:  
Bulk & Green Waste Removal Rock Grabber, Auger  
All Earthworks Requirements 350/450, Compactor

**GAIA EARTHWORKS**  
FROM THE GROUND UP, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED

BEN - 0499 985 555 License 479630C. Fully Insured.

NORTHERN RIVERS TRENCHING 65hp chain trencher, excavator, cable locating & tpr. 0402 716857

ANDREW FLANAGAN CONCRETING & EXCAVATION Lic 310498C ..... 0401 968173

## ELECTRICIANS

**COUGHRAN ELECTRICAL**

0439 624 945 AH 02 6680 4173

**DOMESTIC COMMERCIAL** ALL JOBS: SMALL OR LARGE  
24 HOUR SERVICE Lic: 154293c

**LEVEL 2 ASP ELECTRICIAN**  
DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL  
SERVICING: Tweed • Byron • Lismore • Kyogle

- Mains installs / alterations • Switchboard upgrades
- Meter queries • Tree maintenance near services

Matthew Rutland matt.positivelectrical@gmail.com

**0439 733 703**

NSW Lic# 312117 ASP Lic# 5547 AUTHORIZATION# 503808

**E4 Electrical Services**

Electrical Services for Byron Shire

- Commercial/Industrial & Domestic
- Power, Lighting, Networks & Starlink
- Security & Home Automation Solutions

jphipps@e4electrical.com.au  
**0410 502 060**  
Reliable & Responsive | All Size Jobs | # 116612C

JP ELECTRICAL All electrical. Level 2 ASP. Solar, data, TV, TV Antennas. Lic 133082C ..... 0432 289705

BEN FORSYTH, Electrician. Lic:240691C. Ocean Shores & surrounds. No job too small... 0422 136408

JIM LABELLE ELECTRICAL O.Shores, Mullum, Byron, Bruns. Lic 176417C..... 0415 126028

ATLEE ELECTRICAL Lennox/Ballina/Byron. All jobs Lic125138C..... 0499 456558

TOPAZ ELECTRICAL. All electrical work. Reliable. Lic No. 461605C..... Ph 0421 707380

www.echo.net.au

## FENCING

BYRON & BEYOND FENCING. Any fence, any time, prompt quotes ..... 0439 162 069 or 66802393

EDL FENCING Installations & repairs. Prompt service. .... 0432 107262

FLOW FENCING Pool fencing, timber/colourbond, local, professional and reliable..... 0416 424256

TOM'S FARM MAINTENANCE Fencing, orchards, cattle work. Experienced & reliable. 0412 860132

## FLOOR SANDING & POLISHING

THE FLOOR SANDER New & old floors, decks, non-toxic finishes, special effects, free quotes.. 0407 821690

## GARDEN & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

**ACREAGE MOWING**

0428856687  
bladerunnerbyron@gmail.com  
bladerunnermowing.com.au

**BYRON TRAILER WASTE REMOVAL**

**0475 053 124**

- Onsite waste collection
- Mower transport
- Goods and material transport

MULLUM.MOWING@gmail.com. Ride-on, large lawns & acreage. Ph Peter..... 0423 756394

GUTTERS CLEANED Solar panel cleaning, all areas, free quotes, fully insured. 66841778 or 0405 922839

A-Z Garden maintenance, acreage, gutters, rubbish removal, tip runs, top jobs ..... 0405 625697

LEAF IT TO US Tree care specialists & acreage mowing..... 0402 487213

TIP RUNS & RUBBISH REMOVALS 4m³ trailer..... 0408 210772

RICK'S PROPERTY MAINTENANCE Mowing, brushcutting, gardening, hedging..... 0424 805660

GREEN DINGO for all your mowing and gardening needs. Ph Michael ..... 0497 842442

BLADE RUNNER ACREAGE MOWING Local, reliable..... 0428 856687

BRUSH-CUTTING Whipnisp, clearing saw, light chain saw..... Rob 0455 587425

NORTHERN RIVERS SLASHING & LANDCARE..... Call Keni on 0417 509299

GW MOWING Ride-on /acreage. Tip runs ..... Call George on 0408 244820

GROWING WELL gardens residential lawns, hedging and design. 20 years experience .0413 459545

THE GREEN WAVE: Eco property and garden care ..... (John) 0491 117656

COAST & COUNTRY Acreage mowing, prop. maintenance, prof. reliable service... Mike 0413 812582

## GAS FITTERS, SUPPLIERS & SERVICING

Free Delivery  
No Rental  
Reliable

**EL GAS**

BRUNSWICK VALLEY GAS

www.brunswickvalleygas.com • 0408 760 609

**SWAP a Bottle**

Locally Owned  
No Rental Fees  
Servicing your area  
Free Call: 1300 727 013  
Email: swapabottle@bigpond.com

## GUTTERING

**SPOTLESSGUTTERS**  
The Gutter Guard Specialists

- ✓ Gutter guard
- ✓ Gutter cleaning
- ✓ Locally owned
- ✓ Fully insured
- ✓ Free quotes

Call Junior for friendly, genuine advice and service.  
www.spotlessgutters.com.au  
**0405 922 839** or AH 6684 1778 ABN 94 239 089 086

## HANDYPERSONS

HANDY ANDY Carpentry, plastering, welding..... 66884324 or 0476 600956

AWESOME REPAIRS Professional, commercial & domestic. Wayne..... 0423 218417

ABSOLUTE HANDYMAN Repairs, renovation, maintenance, painting. Call Mark..... 0402 281638

A HANDY GUY All trades & small construction. Bruns, Ocean, SGB & Mullum..... 0411 858201

PFM HANDYWORKS Repairs, pressure cleaning, maintenance ..... Call Aari 0484 729139

HOME MAINTENANCE Carpentry, painting, repairs, gardens, jet washing. Insured ..... 0434 705506

HIGHPOINT Repairs & handyman services. Painting, plastering & tiling ..... Michael 0421 896796

ALL CARPENTRY Doors & stairs, all repairs. Friendly, reliable. 20 years exp..... 0437 202050

AW WOODWORK Furniture, kitchens, carpentry, handyman services. Call Adam ..... 0455 813965

HANDYMAN 40 years experience in the building game. Call Paul ..... 0422 017072

THF SERVICES home maintenance, repairs, garden work ..... 0402 019625

## HEALTH

ACUPUNCTURE & COSMETIC MEDICINE Dr Adam Osborne ..... 66857366

MULLUMBIMBY HERBALS Naturopathic and herbal dispensary, consultations..... 66843002

AYURVEDA, NATUROPATH, Herbs, Jacinta McEwen - Om Healing..... 0422 387370

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE. Sports, remedial, Swedish. Discount rates. .... Mark 0448 441194

## HIRE

MULLUM HIRE Marquees & all event equipment. Tools & machinery. Pool supplies & service 66843003

## HYPNOTHERAPY

MOONLIGHT HYPNOTHERAPY QHHT, RTT for clarity, healing, insight, purpose. Teresa 0422 179941

## LANDSCAPING

**Waterscapes**  
BYRON BAY

Swim Ponds, Landscaping,  
Water Features, Earth Moving

0448 401 638

**GRACEWOOD LANDSCAPES**

Landscaping, Vegetation Control & Earthworks

- General Landscaping • Vegetation Control
- Excavations & Civil Residential

Call Paul 0403 316 711 gracewoodlandscapes.com.au Lic 474317C

LEMONTREELANDSCAPES.COM.AU Liam. Lic 277154C..... 0423 700853

## LOCKSMITH

Brendan Duggan Locksmith. Automotive car keys and lock installation/repair ..... 0412 764148

## PEST CONTROL

**sanctuary**  
pest & termite management  
A Rentokil Company

Book our Termite Inspection & Pest Control package this winter and receive 10% off. Protect your home and save money with this limited-time offer! Contact us today to schedule your appointment.

Phone 02 6685 4490 • Email: service@sanctuarypest.com.au

BRUNSWICK BYRON PEST CONTROL..... 66842018

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**Tree Faerie Fotos**  
Professional • Commercial • Personal

30+ years experience in commercial photography and photojournalism

www.treefaeriefotos.com • 0417 427 518

## PHYSIOTHERAPY

OCEAN SHORES PHYSIOTHERAPY Manual therapies, dry needling, custom orthotics, shock wave therapy, real time ultrasound. Nigel Pitman ..... 66803499

EWINGSDALE PHYSIO Matrix Therapy, all ages, massage, home visit. Renata ..... 0437 647137

PELVIC FLOOR PHYSIOTHERAPY Bangalow Mon & Wed. Lisa Fitzpatrick ..... 0422 993141

## PICTURE FRAMING

MULLUM PICTURE FRAMERS Studio located in Ocean Shores ..... 0403 734791

## PLASTERING

PLASTERER, TRADE QUALIFIED repairs, renovations, cornices, quality assured. Kurt 0431 015414

CAPE BYRON PLASTERING. Gyrock/Venetian. 27 yrs exp, free quotes, lic + insured. 0402 538155

## PLUMBERS

**Ben The Plumber**  
 Servicing Mullumbimby, Ocean Shores, Brunswick Heads, Byron Bay & Surrounds  
 30 years' experience  
 Lic: 321191C  
 Taking on work NOW!  
 0427 528 108 | benwilton74@icloud.com

**unblock** PIPE CLEARING  
 Drain clearing, inspections and repairs. Reliable family owned and operated local business with 30 years plumbing experience and the latest technology.  
 Phone James 0429 888 683  
 Lic 378040C

- ✓ CCTV camera and locators
- ✓ High pressure jet rodder
- ✓ Electric eel
- ✓ 1.7t and 3m tipper truck
- ✓ Blocked drain specialist
- ✓ 12 month guarantee on most jobs
- ✓ Fully insured

MARK STRATTON All plumbing & emergency. Sewer drain camera/locator. Lic 57803C.....0419 019035  
 BRAD EVELEIGH PLUMBING based in Ocean Shores, no job too small. Lic 257153C.....0438 140075  
 DAVE SPARKES Plumber Byron based, call out \$110 incl. first hour. Lic 209669C.....0418 167074

## REMOVALISTS

**SHIRE REMOVALS & FREIGHT CO**  
 From Middle Pocket to Middle Earth Just give us a ring  
 • Freight services to Brisbane weekly  
 • Carriers of fine art • Furniture removal  
 • E-bay pick up & delivery  
 0409 917 646

**LEAPFROG REMOVALS**  
 BYRON BAY'S LOCAL REMOVALIST  
 MOVING THE SHIRE FOR OVER 10 YEARS  
 0432 334 200 02 6680 8170  
 leapfrogremovals@yahoo.com.au

**MULLUMBIMBY RELIABLE REMOVALS**  
 SYDNEY • MELBOURNE • BRISBANE • GOLD COAST • BYRON BAY  
 • Sydney • Gold Coast • Brisbane • Melbourne  
 • North Qld • Country • Interstate • LOCAL  
 02 6684 2198 queries@mullumbimbyremovals.com.au

BENNY CAN MOVE IT!.....0402 199999  
 RYAN'S MINI MOVES.....0406 657 755

## RENDERING

RENDERING / SOLID PLASTERING 25 years experience. Free quotes..... Ph John 0406 673176

## ROOFING

FRC ROOF PAINTING - Local, 10 years in biz, 150 x 5-star reviews. Free quotes.....0419 789600

**Metal Roofing & Guttering Experts**  
 Serving from Ballina to Gold Coast.  
 - A Lifetime Warranty on Workmanship  
 - Double Satisfaction Checks  
 - Spotless Work Sites, Every Time  
 admin@oceanbluepr.com.au  
 0429 909 433  
 www.oceanbluepr.com.au License # QBCC: 15327621 NSW: 381929C

**BLUE SKY ROOFING NSW**  
 Roof repairs Replacements Gutters Downpipes  
 0450 659 114 Lic No. 304784C

## RUBBISH REMOVAL

OCEAN SHORES SKIPS Mini skip specialists.....0412 161564 or 66841232  
 TIP RUNS & RUBBISH REMOVAL 4m<sup>3</sup> trailer.....0408 210772  
 TIP RUNS & RUBBISH REMOVAL 7m<sup>3</sup> trailer. Prompt, reliable service.....0413 289443  
 BYRON SHIRE Rubbish and furniture removals.....0415 139308

## SELF STORAGE

BYRON BAY SELF STORAGE.....66858349

## SEPTIC SYSTEMS

**Say Goodbye to Septic Woes**  
 Tweed Valley SEPTICS & LIQUID WASTE MANAGEMENT  
 ■ Born & Bred Locals  
 ■ Qualified Plumbers  
 ■ Fully Insured  
 ■ FREE septic evaluation with EVERY pump-out  
 Contact Daniel and the Team 24/7 for ALL your Septic System needs 02 6672 1644 or 0418 751 765

TRINE SOLUTIONS Local sewerage specialists. Plumbers, drainers & gas fitters. Lic 138031C. 0407 439805  
 APPROVED COMPOST TOILETS, council reports, septic etc. www.poohsolutions.com.....0427 897496

## SOLAR INSTALLATION

Serving Northern NSW since 1998  
**SUNBEAM SOLAR**  
 Your local, qualified team  
 Specialists in standalone and grid interact system designs  
 0428 320 262 sunbeamsolar.com.au  
 team@sunbeamsolar.com.au

## TELEVISION SERVICES

DIGITAL ELECTRONICS REPAIR & SERVICE TV. Audio. Antennas.....66843575 or 0414 922786  
 INSTALL SERVICE: TV, WI-FI, AV, special pensioner/concession rate. ....Damian 0414 741233

## TILING

WALL & FLOOR TILER/WATERPROOFER/STONEMASON Lic 24418C. ....Ph Karl 0439 232434  
 AJ's TILING all aspects. Bathrooms, kitchens, walls, floors, waterproofing. Lic 239988C.....0416 345202

## TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

**BYRON BUS CO**  
 Door to Door Charter Services  
 Call 0490 183 424  
 arrive@byronbuscompany.com.au

Get a Quick Quote Now  
 Airport Transfers | Tours | Nights Out | Walks  
 Events | Parties | Weddings | Corporate | Festivals

## TREE SERVICES

**CHOPPY CHOP TREE SERVICES**  
 The Fully Insured Professionals  
 • Stump Grinding • Bobcat • Cherrypicker  
 • Crane Truck • 18" Chipper  
 Mark Linder Qualified Arborist  
 0408 202 184  
 choppychoptrees@bigpond.com

EST 2011  
**SENTINEL TREE CARE**  
 QUALITY, PROFESSIONAL ADVICE & EXPERTISE YOU CAN TRUST  
 Expert Pruning • Habitat Creation & Monitoring  
 Cleaning & Removal of Palms • Tree Removal  
 Phone or Text 0421 435 620  
 www.sentineltreecare.com.au

**HART TREE SERVICES**  
 PRUNING ~ REMOVALS ~ STUMP GRINDING  
 • 20 years local knowledge and experience • Fully insured / free quotes  
 • 19 inch chipper • Bobcat • Cherry picker • Crane truck  
 www.harttreeservices.com.au  
 0427 347 380

**Tallow TREE SERVICES**  
 ALL AREAS OF THE NORTHERN RIVERS & SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND  
 0401 208 797

- Professional Tree Removal, Surgery & Maintenance
- Stump Grinding
- Weed Control
- Arborist Reporting & Consultancy
- EWP Cherry Picker Hire
- Mulching of Green Waste
- 24 Hour Emergency Call-Out
- Professional, Reliable Service

**Martino TREE SERVICES**  
 Byron Bay & Beyond  
 0435 019 524

**TREE CARE SPECIALISTS**  
 • 4x4 truck with 19" chipper  
 • Qualified local arborists  
 • 110+ ★★★★★ Google reviews  
 Local • Reliable • Insured  
 Leaf it to us!  
 0402 487 213  
 leafittous.com.au • kascha@leafittous.com.au

**HIGH POINT TREE CARE**  
 17 Years Experience as an Arborist  
 Experienced crew ready to go.  
 Free Quotes | Insured | Amenity Tree Pruning  
 Removals | Chipping | Block Clearing  
 Council DA Assistance if required  
 Call Sam 0456 044602

BYRON TREE SERVICES AQF Level 5 consulting arborist, insured..... Call Alex 0402 364852  
 LEAF IT TO US 4x4 truck/chipper + crane truck. Local, qualified, insured. Free quotes .....0402 487213  
 LOCAL TREE GUYS 15m crane truck. 18 inch chipper. Bobcat..... Jason 0488 489159  
 OUT ON A LIMB TREE SERVICES Lucas Holland qualified arborist .....Luc 0402 191316

## UPHOLSTERY

BANGALOW UPHOLSTERY Now at Billinudgel. Re-covering specialists.....66805255

## VALUERS

BYRON BAY VALUERS NSW & QLD registerd. Chartered Valuers.....0431 245460 or 66857010

## VETERINARY SURGEONS

MULLUM VET CLINIC: Richard Gregory, Bec Wills, Heidi Jenal. After hours avail.....66843818  
 NORTH COAST VETERINARY SERVICES Dr Lauren Archer.....66840735

## WATER FILTERS

**The Water Filter Experts**  
 for home, commercial and rural properties  
 6680 8200 or 0418 108 181

## WELDING

WELDING & FABRICATION Structural, General, Repairs: Steel, Aluminium & Stainless..0408 410545

## WINDOW CLEANING AND REPAIRS

CLEAN VIEW Prompt, professional, insured. Phone David.....0421 906460

## WINDOW TINTING

SURFWAGON - Car/Home/Office tint. Lifetime Warranty. W/sale price.....0434 875009  
 SUNRISE window tinting, mobile Byron+ N. Rivers. Cars, homes, offices, etc.....0412 158478

# A Distinguished Legacy that Defines Luxury

Since 1766, the world-renowned Christies auction house has captivated a global audience of collectors, connoisseurs, and luxury enthusiasts. Christies has become synonymous with excellence, discretion, and extraordinary results.

Today, Christie's operates across 46 countries throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia Pacific, with flagship international sales hubs in New York, London, Hong Kong, Paris, Geneva and its historic St James's, London location – its home since 1823. Offering auctions and bespoke private sales across more than 80 categories – including fine art, jewellery, watches, collectibles, and luxury goods.

It is from this distinguished heritage that Christie's International Real Estate was born. Established to serve the property needs of discerning global clientele, the brand seamlessly unites the worlds of fine art, luxury lifestyle, and exceptional real estate. The result is a unique and powerful synergy – where prestige homes are presented and marketed with the same care, expertise, and global reach as the world's most coveted works of art.

### A brand like no other

Christie's International Real Estate is the world's preeminent luxury real estate brand, spanning nearly 50 countries and territories across six continents. Representing many of the world's leading brokerage firms and most accomplished real estate professionals, the network delivers incomparable service and results for high-net-worth clients seeking exceptional homes.

Much like the specialists at Christie's auction house, Christie's International Real Estate professionals are committed to the highest ethical standards and a deeply personalised approach. Passionate expertise, discretion, and refined client care underpin every interaction – ensuring each property is positioned and presented with precision to a truly global audience.

This distinguished brand has now arrived in the Northern Rivers and Byron Bay. Senior Sales Executive Adrian Howe of Christie's International Real Estate, New South Wales, offers clients in the region a rare opportunity: to showcase their property globally while benefiting from dedicated local expertise. With a deep understanding of the region's lifestyle

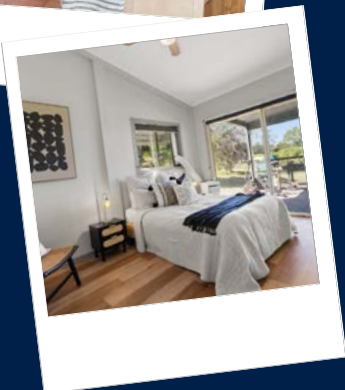


appeal and international buyer interest, Adrian provides a tailored, white-glove service from appraisal through to successful sale.

Connect with Adrian to discover how your property can be presented to the world with the prestige it deserves.

■ **Adrian Howe** | Christie's International Real Estate, New South Wales  
0437 956 407 | christiesrealestatensw.com.au

## Harcourts Northern Rivers



### This Is Your Dream Property

Blackwall Frangipani Farm, Space, Views, Lifestyle

Escape to your own private Northern Rivers sanctuary. Set on 23 hectares just minutes from Ballina beaches and shopping, this property offers the perfect balance of space, comfort, and rural freedom.

### Special Features:

- 23 hectares of private Northern Rivers land
- Just minutes from Ballina beaches and shopping
- Charming 3-bedroom cottage, ready to move in
- 4-bay shed for vehicles, projects, or hobbies
- Large dam and grazing paddocks
- Expansive open spaces for recreation and exploration
- Room to grow, space to play, and tranquil rural lifestyle

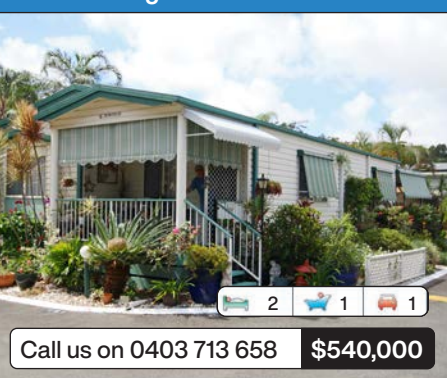


## Mr Property Services

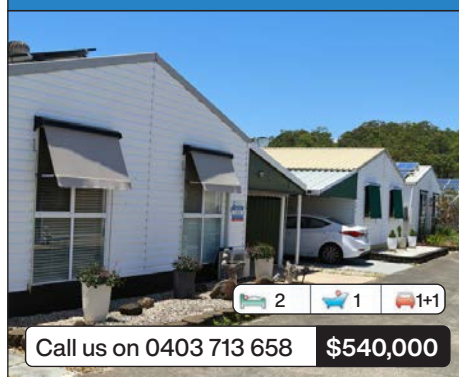
### Tweed Broadwater – Tweed Heads South



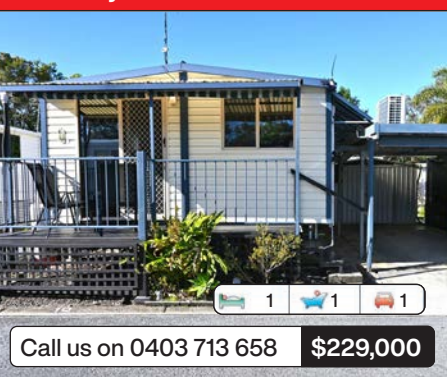
### Palms Village - Tweed Heads South



### Banksia Waters - Tweed Heads West



### Royal Pacific – Chinderah



View over 50 homes at [www.mrpropertyservices.com.au](http://www.mrpropertyservices.com.au)

Email: [enquiries@mrpropertyservices.com.au](mailto:enquiries@mrpropertyservices.com.au)

Phone: 07 5523 3431 Mobile: Heike Wilson 0403 713 658

Kelvin Price 0423 028 468

# align with a legacy *that defines luxury*

Born out of the iconic Christie's auction house Christie's International Real Estate is the world's preeminent luxury real estate brand. Our reputation is a testament to the expertise, discretion, and incomparable service that Christie's has delivered for more than 250 years. That legacy endures today, ensuring your property is represented with the highest standards of trust, excellence, and professionalism.

## LUXURY HOMES ARE NOT SIMPLY LISTED – THEY ARE CURATED

Through tailored marketing programs, intelligent buyer targeting and refined negotiation strategy, our Senior Sales Executive with Christie's International Real Estate – New South Wales, Adrian Howe combines deep local insight with the strength of a globally recognised luxury network.

## global reach *local knowledge*

50+

COUNTRIES &  
TERRITORIES

450+

BROKERAGE  
OFFICES

13K

ACTIVE  
LISTINGS

10K

LUXURY  
ADVISORS

Your listing is visible across affiliate networks  
& seen by buyers worldwide.

## A CONSIDERED APPROACH TO EXCEPTIONAL RESULTS

In the Northern Rivers and Byron Bay, luxury is defined not only by architecture — but by lifestyle, privacy and provenance.

As Senior Sales Executive with Christie's International Real Estate – New South Wales, Adrian Howe brings a considered, strategic approach to the sale of each residence, ensuring every property is presented with discretion, clarity and an unwavering focus on achieving the right result.

Adrian ensures each residence is aligned with the right audience and the right outcome. Positioning each property with precision, discretion and a truly world-class standard of service.

Adrian personally oversees every stage of the sales journey — attending each inspection and guiding the process with discretion, insight and strategic intent. Through tailored marketing initiatives and the quiet strength of a collaborative state-wide team, he unlocks opportunities across local and national markets. He also works closely with an established international network, connecting discerning global buyers and expatriates with exceptional Australian homes.

Your home will be represented by one of our finest ambassadors, Senior Sales Executive Adrian Howe.



Scan to discover more

ADRIAN HOWE - 0437 956 407

**CHRISTIE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE

— NEW SOUTH WALES —

a brand like no other

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



‘A perceptive negotiator, achieving strong results.’

VERIFIED VENDOR



‘I would give Adrian 10 stars if it were possible.’

VERIFIED VENDOR

ADRIAN HOWE

‘Being part of a globally recognised luxury network allows me to deliver exceptional outcomes for both buyers and sellers.’



## AUCTION

### "Eureka Hills" on Stony Creek

- 90 acres of rich elevated hinterland grazing and orchard country
- Big family residence offering amazing rural valley panoramas
- Pockets of unspoilt rainforest surround stunning swimming holes on Stony Ck
- Private country lane location

**Auction**  
14 March

**View**  
By Appointment

**Greg Price**  
0412 871 500  
greg.price@raywhite.com

4 🚗 2 🏠 3 🏡

## AUCTION THIS WEEK

### Charming Family Cottage

- Entry level opportunity into Byron Hinterland's most iconic town
- Attractive light filled home offering enormous character and appeal
- Peace and privacy in a quiet cul de sac position, backing onto a leafy reserve
- Stroll to parks, sports fields, markets

**Auction**  
27 February

**Greg Price**  
0412 871 500  
greg.price@raywhite.com

3 🚗 2 🏠 2 🏡



## AUCTION

### "Nutmac Farm" via Eureka

- Over 100 acres of Eureka Plateau's finest agricultural land
- Huge dam for irrigation and recreation
- Attractive brick family home on level landscaped house paddock
- Panoramic northerly views to the mountains

**Auction**  
14 March

**View**  
Saturday 11-11.30am  
1050 Lismore Road,  
Nashua

**Greg Price**  
0412 871 500  
greg.price@raywhite.com

5 🚗 2 🏠 2 🏡 1 🏠

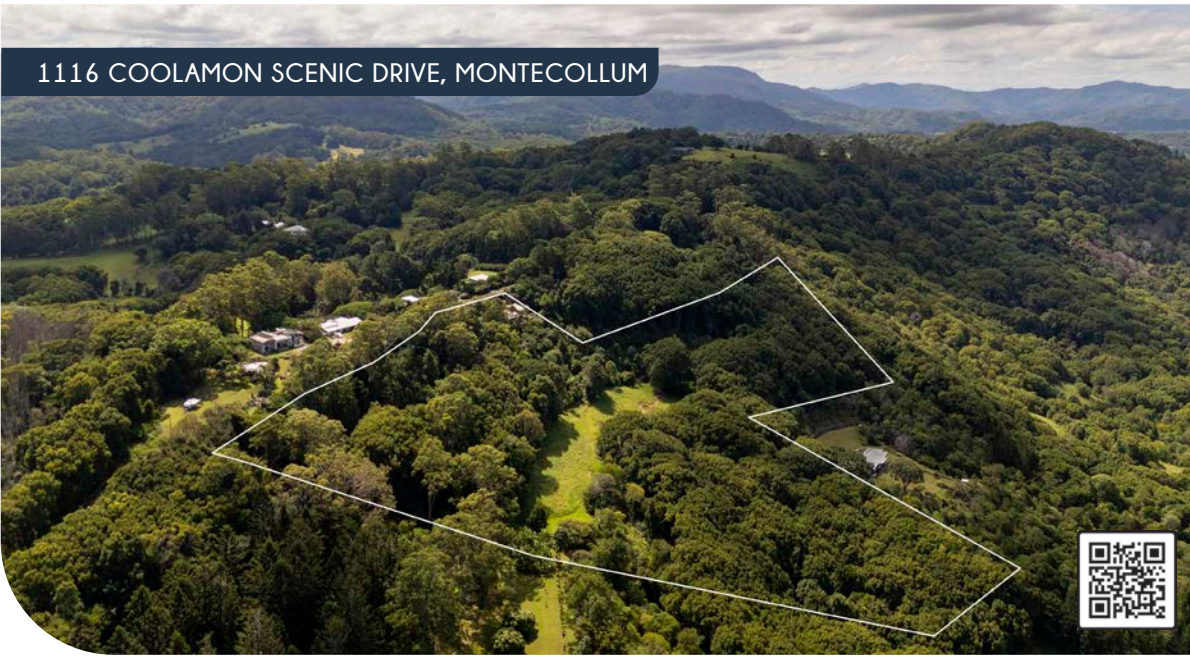
## Did you know?

Not only does *The Echo* have fantastic circulation and distribution figures, it also has the most attractive, interesting and talented readers.

Telling it like we think it is since 1986.



1116 COOLAMON SCENIC DRIVE, MONTECOLLUM



### Wake up to Stunning Ocean & Hinterland Views

3 1 2 2   
5.77HA

- Panoramic valley and ocean views from Lennox Head to Ocean Shores – never to be built out
- Character-filled timber home with high raked ceilings, exposed beams and sun-drenched interiors
- Expansive landholding with future potential – lower cleared section ideal for shed or secondary dwelling (STCA)
- 5 minutes to Mullumbimby, approximately 20 minutes to Byron Bay

PRICE | \$4.95M  
OPEN | By Appointment



Paul Prior  
0418 324 297



Sharon McInnes  
0408 659 649

20 OAKLAND COURT, BYRON BAY



### Tranquil Rainforest Retreat Near the Heart of Byron

3 1 3 2   
714M<sup>2</sup>

- Backing onto a tranquil nature reserve with lush rainforest surrounds
- Light-filled interiors with high ceilings and expansive screened garden room
- Two-bedroom main residence plus detached, self-contained studio with approved use
- Prime Byron Bay location on a quiet cul-de-sac, just minutes from the town centre

PRICE | \$2.1M - \$2.3M  
OPEN | Fri 27th February 11 - 11:30am



Su Reynolds  
0428 888 660



Anna Gilham  
0402 128 355

4/6 CANOWINDRA COURT, SOUTH GOLDEN BEACH



### Location, Location, Location! Best Value Property Minutes To The Beach

3 1 2 2   
155M<sup>2</sup>

- Architecturally designed townhouse in a boutique complex of just 8
- Spacious two-level design with soaring 2.7m ceilings & north-facing entertaining deck
- Private tropical courtyard with outdoor bath & shower
- Walk to beach and weekly farmers markets

ON SITE AUCTION | Thurs 19th March 12pm  
OPEN | Thurs 26th February 11 - 11:30am



Tara Torkkola  
0423 519 698



Lara Brauer  
0423 248 813

25/33-35 CHILDE STREET, BYRON BAY



### Resort Style Living at East on Byron

2 1 2 1   
148M<sup>2</sup>

- North-facing terrace with private courtyard and balcony
- Fully furnished with high-end kitchen appliances and reverse cycle AC
- Access to East on Byron resort's lagoon-style pool, heated spa, and tropical gardens
- Prime location: short walk to Belongil Beach, cafes, and Byron Bay town center

PRICE | Contact Agent  
OPEN | By Appointment



Luke Elwin  
0421 375 635



Eliza Fonstin  
0408 885 093

**FIRST NATIONAL BYRON**

www.byronbayfn.com.au | sales@byronbayfn.com | 35 Fletcher St, Byron Bay NSW 2481 | 02 6685 8466



# On Top Of The World

## Emerald Mountain



An exclusive release of just six 1-hectare lots, perched high on one of the Tweed Coast's most iconic mountain estates. North-east facing and elevated to capture panoramic views across the surrounding nature reserve and out to the ocean beyond. Only 3km to Cabarita Beach and 2km to the M1, this is where coastal living meets hinterland serenity.

**Titles are registered. Finally ready to build.**

Four of the six blocks offer proposed dual street access, providing exceptional flexibility for home design, secondary access, or future value enhancement.

Opportunities of this scale, elevation and proximity are rarely offered in such a tightly held location.

**Emerald Mountain View, Tanglewood NSW**

**AUCTION On-Site, Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2026, 1:30pm (NSW)**

Don't miss your chance to secure a piece of this pristine estate today!  
Please contact Exclusive Selling Agents:



**Brent Savage**

0477 122 559

brent@lsproperties.com.au



**COASTAL<sup>o</sup>**

**Jessica Murphy**

0434 644 238

jessica.murphy@coastal.com.au

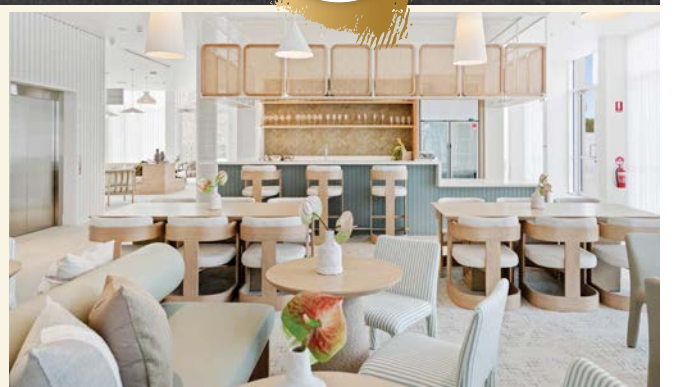


Scan for  
more  
information



# COASTAL COOL

Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove heralds the dawn of a new era in luxury over-50s resort style living with homes from \$999,000.



Palm Lake Resort Yamba Cove is a multi-award-winning destination for over-50s looking for the next rich and rewarding chapter of their lives. With architectural flair, premium finishes, and the world-class Vantage Country Club catering to all your wellness needs, this boutique community of just 78 homes is the pinnacle of luxury over-50s living in Yamba. Discover why 12,000 Australians call Palm Lake Resort home. This is your time.



1800 960 946  
palmakeresort.com.au  
THE BEST IN OVER-50s LIVING




## AGENTS



**TARA TORKKOLA**  
SALES  
0423 519 698  
tara@byronbayfn.com

@taratorkkolafirstnational  
@taratorkkola\_realestate  
www.byronbayfn.com.au

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON



**TIM MILLER**  
REAL ESTATE

0411 757 425  
tim@millerrealestate.com.au  
millerrealestate.com.au  
@timmiller\_realestate



Call today for an obligation free chat  
0418 123 393

**AGENT OF THE YEAR**  
agent of the year awards  
SUBURB WINNER  
2023

**BYRON BAY AGENT OF THE YEAR**  
Damien Smith  
Sales Director Ray White Byron Bay  
www.rwbyronbay.com




**PAUL PRIOR**  
SALES  
0418 324 297  
paulprior@byronbayfn.com



Professional and results driven with extensive knowledge. Servicing the Byron Shire and beyond.  
Call Paul for an appointment today.  
WWW.BYRONBAYFN.COM.AU

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON

**CAPE BYRON**  
PROPERTY



**SALES & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT**

Contact the team today on 0412 057 672



**REAL ESTATE OF DISTINCTION**

*Boutique, family-owned and proudly serving Byron Bay & beyond.*

Where personalised service isn't just a promise - it's our way of life.

**JANIS PERKINS**  
02 6680 8588 | 0438 841 122  
janis@reodbyron.com.au  
Shop 9/15-19 Fletcher St, Byron Bay  
www.reodbyron.com.au



**SHARON McINNES**  
SALES  
0408 659 649  
sharon@byronbayfn.com

FIRST NATIONAL BYRON



**Mike McCabe**  
0433 856 504  
mike@byronshirerealestate.com.au

Achieving the best possible results for his clients with honesty and integrity.

**BYRON SHIRE**  
REAL ESTATE



# Are you selling?

Have your property seen in the Echo newspaper and online at [echo.net.au](http://echo.net.au)

**UNBEATABLE  
ADVERTISING  
PACKAGES  
AVAILABLE  
NOW!**

Reach an engaged and affluent audience! Research shows that advertising is more effective placed within news content.

22,000 weekly *Echo* newspapers are distributed directly to homes and businesses across the Northern Rivers. Plus we have over 30,000 weekly readers online at [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au).



Contact us today for great advertising options in *The Echo* newspaper, monthly *Echo Property Magazine* and website.  
[adcop@echo.net.au](mailto:adcop@echo.net.au) • 02 6684 1777 • [www.echo.net.au](http://www.echo.net.au)

## CONVEYANCING

**BUYING and SELLING REAL ESTATE?**  
We are here to help

### NP CONVEYANCING

PHONE 6685 7436 FOR A QUOTE

**PERSONALISED APPOINTMENTS  
IN BYRON BAY NOW**

**NPC**

NOW OPERATING OUT OF CENTRAL OFFICE  
IN POTTSVILLE Lic No 06000098

**BANGALOW  
CONVEYANCING**

NSW & QLD Conveyancing, Leases,  
Business Sale & Purchase

P: 02 6687 0548 | hello@bangalowconveyancing.com.au

Conveyancing, Leases, Wills, Estates, Probate

**vka** vkalaw.com.au  
SOLICITORS  
ATTORNEYS

**VAN KEMPEN & ASSOCIATES**

Ocean Shores 02 6680 2888 Tweed Heads 07 5599 4456

**LAUREN  
DONNELLON** PH: 02 5602 5000

**SALT & STONE  
LAWYERS**

Conveyancing & Property Law  
Business Transfers & Succession  
Retail & Commercial Leases  
General Commercial Law  
Wills & Estates

Bringing 20 years of trusted local legal experience  
LENNOX, BYRON, BALLINA, BANGALOW & BEYOND

Conveyancing, Leases, Wills, Estates, Probate

**bvk** bvkalaw.com.au  
SOLICITORS  
ATTORNEYS

**QUALITY LEGAL ADVICE**  
in and around Byron Bay  
**02 6680 8522**

"Please pass on a huge thank you to Adam.  
Your office has been amazing to deal with as always."

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

## FINANCE

**ENTOURAGE**

Complimentary Home Loan Checks  
With Your Local Mortgage Team

Scan Here To Book

entourage.com.au | (02) 6678 1751  
Office | 3/6 Jonson Street, Byron Bay NSW  
Australian Credit Licence 475676

**ACCEPTANCE  
FINANCE**

The Shire's local  
finance expert

- Home Loans
- Investment Loans
- First Home Buyers
- Car Loans
- Debt Consolidation
- SMSF Lending
- Commercial Loans
- Development Funding

**Russel Shaw**  
Finance Broker

✉ russel@acceptancefinance.com.au  
☎ 0412 833 280

Acceptance Finance Australia Pty Ltd ABN 20 678 011 571  
Australian Credit Licence Number 391715 Credit Representative Number 395628

## Open For Inspection

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

### Ray White Rural Bangalow

- 1050 Lismore Road, Nashua. Sat 11-11.30am

### Mana

- 10 Gin Gin Crescent, Ocean Shores. Thurs 9.30-10am
- 1/21A Balemo Drive, Ocean Shores. Thurs 10.30-11am
- 1/16 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. 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
- 15 Nargoon Court, Ocean Shores. Sat 10-10.30am
- 23 Philip Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30pm
- 32 Gloria Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 33 Robin Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 14 Mitchell Street, Uki. Sat 12.30-1pm

### Lifestyle Group Brunswick Heads:

- 5 Gardenia Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 9-9.30am
- 2/3 Tathra Glen, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.10-10.30am
- 52 Yamble Drive, Ocean Shores. Sat 10.10-10.30am
- 23 Helen Street, South Golden Beach. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7 Tombonda Road, Murwillumbah. Sat 12.30-1pm

### First National

- 29/6-8 Browning Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 9.30-10am
- 4/6 Canowindra Court, South Golden Beach. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 2/6 Keats Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 11-11.30am
- 10/47-49 Shirley Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 12.30-1pm
- 2 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Thurs 12.30-1pm
- 10 Glasgow Street, Suffolk Park. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 7 Hayter Street, Suffolk Park. Thurs 2-2.30pm
- 1/113A Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Thurs 4-4.30pm
- 20 Oakland Court, Byron Bay. Fri 11-11.30am
- 119 Hunters Hill, Corndale. Fri 12-12.30pm

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

- 8 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby. Fri 2-2.30pm
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Fri 3-3.30pm
- 49 Granuaille Road, Bangalow. Sat 9-9.30am
- 1/6 Hazelwood Close, Suffolk Park. Sat 9-9.30am
- 178 Tyagarah Road, Myocum. Sat 9-9.30am
- 142 Phoenix Drive, Tintenbar. Sat 9.30-10am
- 2/122 Lighthouse Road, Byron Bay. Sat 9.30-10am
- 19 Armstrong Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 10-10.30am
- 8 Banksia Place, Mullumbimby. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7/37 Childe 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 10.30-11am
- 33 Caniaba Crescent, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 2 Palm Place, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 5 Botanic Court, Mullumbimby. Sat 11-11.30am
- 7 Hayter Street, Suffolk Park. Sat 11-11.30am
- 56 Ruskin Lane, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 234A Bangalow Road, Byron Bay. Sat 11-11.30am
- 134 Dalley Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 11.45am-12.15pm
- 1/113A Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 93 Paterson Street, Byron Bay. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 93 Station Street, Mullumbimby. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 1675 Dunoon Road, Dunoon. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 20 Billin Road, Myocum. Sat 2.15-2.45pm

### DJ Stringer Property Services

- 6/311 Golden Four Drive, Bilinga. Sat 9-9.30am
- 7/105 Golden Four Drive, Bilinga. Sat 9-9.30am
- 9/277 Golden Four Drive, Bilinga. Sat 10-10.30am
- 7/24 Recreation St, Tweed Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 16/19 Ivory Cres, Tweed Heads. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 25/37-43 Golden Four Drive, Bilinga. Sat 12-12.30pm
- 33 Inlet Drive, Tweed Heads West. Sat 1-1.30pm
- 169 Tweed Valley Way, South Murwillumbah. Sat 2-2.30pm

## PROJECT MANAGEMENT

**CA CONSTRUCTION  
MANAGEMENT**

We project manage building,  
development & fire safety  
measures.

**Craig Adams | Project Manager**  
0411 575 991  
craig@cacm.net.au

## PROPERTY STYLING

**cactus  
hill**

**PROPERTY STYLING**

Visit us at 69 Burringbar Street,  
Mullumbimby, or call for a free quote

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

"Manufacturer says..."

# CLEAR EXCESS STOCK!

**Huge Discounts** on Mattresses, Beds, Adjustable Beds and Bedroom Furniture

**Hurry!** Limited time!

AUTHORISED DEALER  
SleepMaker Sleepyhead

**Bed R Us Byron Bay**  
Cnr Brigantine St & Wollongbar St, Byron Arts & Industry Estate  
02 6685 5212 ♦ hotelandhome.com.au ♦ bedsrus.com.au

In news that will thrill One Nation's Pauline Hanson and Gina Rinehart, Trump Tower is coming to the Gold Coast! Property developer David Young plans to build a 91-storey Trump Tower according to the ABC. Young said he signed the deal with The Trump Organization at Mar-a-Lago, Florida, on February 14. Happy Valentine to Oz!

It turns out there is more than one reason for men to take Viagra. Taking Viagra increases blood circulation across the body and therefore can potentially help reduce stroke risk. Recent studies have also suggested that it can reduce cardiovascular disease and dementia in middle-aged men according to researchers at the University of Texas.

Concerns over the closure of the Safe Haven sites in Lismore, Mullumbimby and Murwillumbah that were established in response to the 2022 floods have seen extra funding allocated to keep the centres open and operating until 30 June 2026. Between July 2022 and April 2025, 18,500+ hours of counselling was provided and almost 19,000 people supported through on-site clinicians at Safe Haven centres.

The several piles of camphor logs piled on the riverbank below Mullumbimby's Federation Bridge at Casuarina Street next to St John's Primary School, have been removed say Byron Shire Council. Further work in reducing the height of stumps is underway and when this is complete it is



It's Chinese New Year, the year of the Fire Horse. For centuries the lion dance has heralded the Lunar New Year. This year this playful lion danced to drums and cymbals with a lion cubs flash mob at The Byron Community School and Red Ginger. Photo Leslie Ford

intended to plant 300 trees on the Casuarina Street side of the river to utilise the area now freed from camphor.

Orange Sky is a non-profit organisation providing free laundry, and connection to people in our communities experiencing homelessness or hardship. They have done 2,867 washes in the Northern Rivers in 2025 and are looking to connect with volunteers in the community. Check out: [www.orangesky.org.au/what-we-do](http://www.orangesky.org.au/what-we-do).

Grassroots campaigning movement 'Collective Shout: for a world free of sexploitation', is calling on Amazon CEO Andy Jassy to ban the sale of child sex abuse dolls from the platform after a Perth man who purchased them has been jailed for his plot to kidnap a child.

# Clarity through cards

# Balance through essences

Tarot Readings & Flower Essences

**The Mystic Seat**  
Book your reading: [themysticseat.com.au](http://themysticseat.com.au)

**MINDFULNESS @ WORK**

Bring greater clarity, focus, and wellbeing into your organisation through the practices of mindfulness.

- Tailored group mindfulness sessions.
- One-to-one coaching.
- Resources to support ongoing wellbeing.
- Live or online.

Enquiries and bookings: 0401 926 090

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

## ONE-ON-ONE LESSONS FOR SENIORS

Be tech savvy and learn how to use your phones, tablets, laptops and computers.  
*Regular lessons, one-off lessons. Tech help available for Apple devices*

GET HELP TO LEARN MORE ABOUT TECHNOLOGY?

**Qualified, patient and experienced teacher**  
Phone or email: 0420 235 624  
[contact@thinkblinkdesign.com](mailto:contact@thinkblinkdesign.com)

Now taking bookings for **Byron Bluesfest**  
*Get in early for best seats!*

Book one of our buses today  
[byronbuscompany.com.au](http://byronbuscompany.com.au)  
Call us on 0490 183 424

**Door to Door Charter Bus Services**  
Airport & Hiking Transfers | Tours | Nights Out  
Events | Parties | Weddings | Corporate | Festivals

# unblock PIPE CLEARING

- ✓ CCTV camera and locators
- ✓ High pressure jet rodder
- ✓ Electric eel
- ✓ 1.7t excavator and 3m tipper truck
- ✓ Septic systems
- ✓ Sewer treatment systems
- ✓ Reliable local family-run business
- ✓ 12 month guarantee on most jobs

Family owned and operated local business with 30 years of plumbing experience. Unblock Pipe Clearing has the latest technology and equipment for locating, eliminating and repairing all blockages – no matter what the size. Get the job done right the first time!

**Phone James on 0429 888 683**  
Lic 378040C